

Supreme Court to review abortion

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court set the stage Tuesday for an important election-year ruling on abortion but left open the question of whether it will broadly reconsider its 1973 abortion-legalizing decision.

The court said it will review a restrictive Pennsylvania law that has been substantially upheld by a federal appeals court.

Activists on both sides of the abortion debate said they expect the court to use the Pennsylvania case to undermine its landmark Roe vs. Wade ruling. They said the decision likely will make abortions far more difficult to obtain even if states are not allowed to outlaw virtually all abortions.

The Pennsylvania case will be argued in April with a decision expected by July.

The court was asked in competing appeals from Pennsylvania officials and abortion clinic operators to say point blank whether Roe vs. Wade remains the law of the land.

The court's brief order Tuesday was ambiguous. The justices said they will study the Pennsylvania law's provisions but did not say flatly they will examine the 1973 ruling.

The justices in 1989 allowed states to make it more difficult for women



to obtain abortions, but stopped short of reversing the 1973 ruling.

In the Pennsylvania case, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said recent high court rulings eroded the sweeping legal protection Roe vs.

Wade gave to women seeking abortions.

Abortion clinic operators appealed the appeals court ruling which allowed regulations requiring doctors to inform women seeking abortions

about fetal development and abortion alternatives, establishing a 24-hour waiting period before abortions can be performed and requiring doctors to keep detailed, public records of each abortion.

Japan tries to calm U.S.

TOKYO — A senior politician retracted his accusation that American workers are lazy and illiterate as Japan scrambled Tuesday to put out the latest brushfire in its increasingly heated relationship with its U.S. ally.

A government spokesman sought to soothe American tempers over comments by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and the head of Toyota Motor Corp. that appeared to back away from an agreement to buy more U.S. cars and auto parts.

The furor in America stunned many Japanese, who are unused to seeing Japan's chronic trade surplus given such a central role in U.S. politics as it has been in this presidential election year.

Japanese politicians and business leaders have made disparaging remarks about U.S. economic practices for years. The United States, preoccupied with the Cold War and economically healthier, paid less attention.

"Many Japanese tend to believe that Japanese is still a secret language and no foreigners can understand," said Seizaburo Sato, a political scientist and consultant. "But Japan is a big country now. What Japanese leaders say is easily translated into other languages. They should be more cautious."

Few Japanese seem to dispute negative characterizations of American work and business habits. Many say Americans have only themselves to blame for Japan's trade surplus with the United States, which the government said Tuesday rose 1.3 percent last year to \$38.5 billion.

United Nations tells Libya to extradite terrorists

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted an anti-terrorism resolution calling on Libya to hand over two men charged with blowing up Pan Am Flight 103.

The vote came after Libya told the 15-nation Security Council the British and U.S. indictments against the

men were baseless and the matter should be submitted to international arbitration.

It was believed to be the first time the Security Council has taken sides in a legal dispute among member states. Although the resolution did not use the word "extradition," that was clearly its intent.

The United States and Britain - sponsors of the resolution with France, which seeks four Libyans in another airline bombing - have said that if Libya defies the Security Council resolution, it will consider imposing economic sanctions within two weeks.

Possible sanctions could include denying landing rights to the Libyan

airline and prohibiting sales of aircraft and parts to the airline, diplomats said.

The resolution approved Tuesday condemns the 1988 bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people, and the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over North Africa in which 170 people died.

Russia prepares wish-list of aid for international relief conference

MOSCOW — On the eve of a 47-country conference to coordinate assistance bound for the former Soviet Union, officials here are making plans to handle the aid, stating their priorities and assuring the West that the donations won't be wasted.

Russia has already presented a tentative wish-list for the two-day conference that begins Wednesday in Washington, said Yevgeny Ivanov, chairman of President Boris Yeltsin's newly established humanitarian aid working group.

The needs include 2.5 million tons of meat, 1.5 million tons of sugar, and lesser quantities of dry milk, macaroni, cereals and edible oils, Ivanov said in an interview Tuesday.

The government also wants Western permission to auction off much of the donated food to commercial distributors so the proceeds would be available to supplement incomes of the neediest citizens, including retir-

ees, the disabled and large families, he said.

According to Ivanov, handing out Western food would mean much of it could be stolen or wind up in the wrong hands. Selling it gives officials more protection against waste and fraud while still making the products available to the public, he argued.

The Russian government projects 54 million of its citizens will have to be helped this winter because of skyrocketing prices, and shortages of food and medicine.

Up to \$5 billion in goods and loans will be required to cover the anticipated needs, Ivanov said. He met later in the day with Richard Armitage, State Department coordinator for humanitarian assistance to the former Soviet Union.

He also promised tough measures to combat theft of foreign donations, although he acknowledged the food distribution system is rife with corruption and black marketeering.

Raw weather limits number of raw bodies at Princeton's celebration of first snow

PRINCETON, N.J. — About 65 Princeton University students threw aside their books - and their clothes - for an annual romp in the snow early Tuesday.

In a two-decade tradition, students bared all but hats and footwear at the stroke of midnight to run amid the flakes of what they declared was the year's first significant snowfall.

The light dusting was enough for sophomore-class organizers, who had fretted that a mild winter would deprive them of the romp.

Participants promised there would be a repeat performance because of the low turnout in 20-

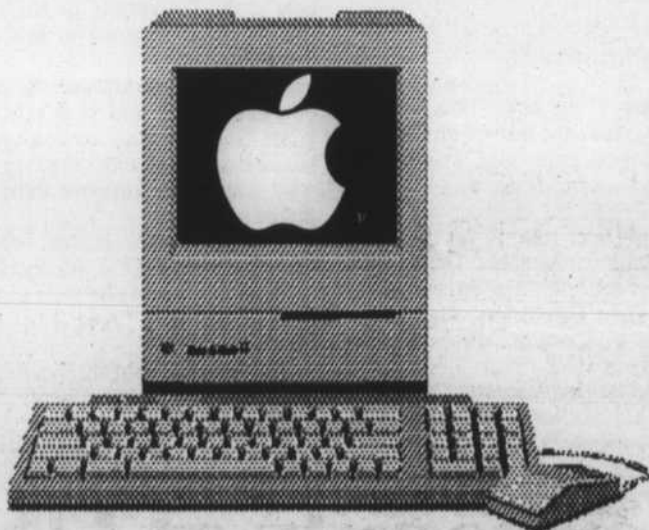
degree cold. Usually, several hundred of Princeton's 4,600 undergraduates cavort in the raw.

In-the-buff students ran laps around Holder Courtyard on campus and did calisthenics. Some ran downtown.

The event drew attention last fall, when worried parents of a prospective Princeton student wrote columnist Ann Landers. She advised that the tradition wasn't harmful.

The university administration generally looks the other way.

Apple on the move at UNL.



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