aborted after suicide try suggest laws be changed

I believe that abortions should be legalized in this country.

My reasons for this are, to an extent, selfish, because three years ago, thanks to a co-operative hospital board, I was able to

It probably saved my life, and certainly saved my sanity.

Mine was quite an ordinary story in the first year university. I fell in love with a campus wheel. We both thought he was wonderful. He wasn't.

this, it was too late. He had grad. throughout the world." uated and left for another university to do graduate work, and I was spending my mornings in fact, most of my time -- throwing

So I took sleeping pills, Fortunately, I did not take enough, but when I woke up, I was in the hospital.

By this time, I was about eight weeks pregnant.

I was eighteen years old and had one year of university. I had been jilted, and the thought of having to carry his baby to term made me ill, physically and mentally.

I was, of course, seeing a psychiatrist - it's mandatory after a persuaded the hospital board of what was quite true . that I would either kill myself or go out of

After three weeks of entangle. ally wind up going to a hack. ments and arguments, it was ar-

I continued to see the psychiatrist cope with things again.

Many girls are, as I was, unable me that it is difficult enough when there to help you.

But when you are deserted and you as if you had let them down - months. if, indeed, they speak to you at all carry and of the man that left you,

may do so only in cases where the mother's life is threatened.

damage to girls who are too im- condemn the result. mature to bear children --especially illegitimately. It ignores traumatic moment in their lives. as Ortho-Novum. Some doctors will prescribe them. And it ignores special cases, such deformed.

It is time that this law was changed.

legal abortions are performed in abortion will be with us. Canada each year. Most are done way out of an intolerable situa.

women in Canada die of these formed safely. operations. Police can only estimate the numbers -- many die of hemorrhages that are never recognized as abortion attempts.

And the victims come from all ages and levels of society. Mothers who simply cannot afford more children, girls who have been raped, high-school students who, through lack of knowledge have become pregnant.

Modern contraceptive techniques may cause the growing abortion rate to slow, but unaided,

they cannot stop it. The only way to deal with the abortion racket is to legalize

But such a move would meet opposition on the part of many of the more vocal minorities, it is

Church groups, women's lea. second look at this problem.

DRIVING

Probably the most controversial topics to occupy the editorial columns of Canada's student press this year has been the legalization of abortions in this country.

EDITORS' NOTE

Last November, The Toronto Varsity published an account of a fourth-year woman student at the University of Toronto who became pregnant and, after she had attempted to commit suicide, was finally given a legal abortion.

Remarked The Varsity: "It points up a legal and social But by the time I discovered problem which effects more and more people every year

> An accompanying editorial comment, by The Varsity's Managing Editor, Robert Block, headlined "The Ovum and I" proposed that legalized abortions be provided "Those who genuinely need them for reasons of health and well-being."

Since November, the controversy has raged in the Varsity and in other student publication across the country. The Gazette presents the account of the Toronto senior and the Varsity's editorial:

The ovum and I

In today's Varsity, a woman student describes how she had to suicide attempt, they told me. He make a suicide attempt before she could get a legal abortion. She tells how she was jilted and eight weeks pregnant and so depressed that sleeping pills seemed to be the only way out.

Her story is a tragic one, but she was lucky compared to my mind before the baby was many women. Many pregnant and unmarried women spend frantic and fruitless weeks searching for a doctor to do the deed, and fin-An abortion performed in a hospital under and controlled con-

ditions by a competent surgeon using the Dilation and Curretage Shortly after, Ileft the hospital. method is considered fairly safe. An abortion performed by a little old lady, sometimes reeking

for two years, until I was able to of alcohol, by the "douche" method can and has resulted in death. The daily newspapers testify to this. We personally know of several women who have obtained abor-

to go through with the process of tions. Some were performed by doctors by the D and C method. bearing an illegitimate child. Others were performed by squirting a noxious fluid into the womb Married friends of mine have told through a tube - the douche method.

One of these women underwent 10 attempts at abortion by the you are married, when you want douche method. The strain on her was enormous. This was during the baby, and your husband is a period when it seemed that the newspapers carried an abortiondeath story every day.

Some time later, she suffered an acute attack of schizophrenia sick, when your parents speak to with accompanying delusions. She was hospitalized for over two

The problem is not simple. The law states that women may have when every time you move or abortions only if the life of the mother is threatened by childbirth. look in the mirror you are The law says nothing about the psyche of the mother or the condition reminded forcibly of the child you in which the baby may be born due to pre-natal influences. Should grounds for legal abortions be extended to include these

for many girls this becomes an latter categories? We regret to say we can only give a qualified yes. We would like to give an unqualified yes, for our entire sym-Hospital boards in Ontario are pathies are with the unfortunate young women who are plunged the only ones with power togrant into a world of despair and guilt because a simple and natural

abortions, and the law says they biological process has taken place.

may do so only in cases where the ... It would be simply unrealistic to expect people today to indulge in abstinence as a means of avoiding the problem. Our mores This law ignores psychic no longer demand abstinence before marriage. But our mores still

The best answer, of course, is to allow every woman access the victims of rape, who are to birth-control methods. It is not all that difficult right now for an forced to live with the product of unmarried woman to obtain a diaphragm or birth-control pills such

But obviously, many women don't get them. For one thing, as the recent thalidomide prob- many doctors are still leery about such things. For another, it is lem, when the chances are good embarassing for the woman, especially when she is frowned at that the child will be horribly by a druggist when he reads "Miss" on the prescription. For another, the law doesn't want women to know about such devices.

So until that happy day when the government comes around to the belief that if birth-control is good enough for other under-At present thousands of il- developed countries it's good enough for this one, the problem of

The arguments against abortion are philosophical, psychologin completely unsanitary sur- ical and physical. We can't discount the ideas of people who beroundings by unqualified women lieve that killing a fetus is killing a human being. We don't know . or disbarred doctors. They are to what extent women may be psychologically damaged by abortions. dangerous and expensive, but for We don't know what physical effects abortions may have in terms a steadily increasing number of of future pregnancies. We don't know of anyone else who knows the women, they seem to be the only full answers to these questions either.

Nevertheless, women are dying and cracking up because of illegal abortions. It is stupidity to force them to this if they are And every year hundreds of determined to have abortions, when a legal abortion could be per-

> We hesitate to drag out the old "prohibition didn't work" argument, because it is not strictly analogous. Liquor, like hard work, never killed anybody. But surely it is valid to some extent to say that if women are going to have abortions anyway, they don't deserve to die for it. We don't even kill murderers any more.

> Perhaps abortions shouldn't be doled out like smallpox vaccinations. But at least those who genuinely need them for reasons of health and well-being should be given them safely and legally.

gues are cited as unqualified op-

ponents of abortion. Yet those

groups which have any contact

with the problem realize that

something must be done, and

many are beginning to concede the

necessity of a new look at our out-

Surely it is time we all took a

moded laws on abortion.

J. Vees Drop Impromptu Match, 7-6

Dal defenders collide in front of Tigers' goalie. Dale Retallack in J.V. hockey action against Acadia. The visiting Axemen held on despite a late game surge by the Bengals to post a 7-6 win.

BY HARRY MacDONALD

The junior varsity Axemen clung to the ropes as the game died to eke out a 7-6 victory over the scrappy J V Hockey Tigers last Saturday afternoon.

Everything about the game was quite impromptu.

goalie, Dale Retaleck, just happened to be around ten minutes prior to game time when coach Don Bauld was looking for a goalie, so he was quickly pressed into service and played a fine game turning away 29 shots. The rink manager was informed of the contest around the same time, while in between periods, the few spectators pitched in to scrape the ice.

Both teams were rather unpolished, but they played an exciting brand of hockey. By the half-way mark of the first frame. The Acadians then slowly chopped away at this by playing better positional hockey so by 7:14 of the second stanza, they had jumped into a 4-3 lead. The Tigers tied it up but the visitors struck with even more determination for three more goals factor for the faultering Axemen. Brian Bauld led the Tiger

The Engineer's interfac attack with three markers while Doug Rowan notched two and Paul Clarke 1. The Acadian first line of Shynal, Archibald, and Neve fired 4 goals and picked up a collective 9 points on goals and assists. Other scorers for the Wolfville club were Baggs, Ironsides, and O'Connell. Wide-open hockey was the

order of the day as neither team could successfully contain the other. However, the Bengals tended to bunch together on the attack and this kind of thrust was not really too difficult for the Axemen to stop. The A-Dal had built up a 3-1 lead. cadians, on the other hand, did play their positions well and their passing was quite a bit sharper. This kind of opposition made the Bengals skate much harder on the defensive. The visitors were better conditioned by more practices while the Dal club has only had a limited until full time was the saving number of get-togethers. Typical of the excitement offered to the few fans who showed up, was the wild melee before the Acadian net just as the game ended when Dal was threatening to score the equalizer.

Junior Varsity Lose 69-High scorer for Dal and in the MT. A. : Chisholm 4, Hopkirk 10,

deficit to defeat the Dal JV's 69in five outings.

Bengals opened a ten point lead to put the game out of reach. mid-way through the first twenty minute period only to see the Hawk Jayvees close the gap in the The half time score was 39-35 Craig notched 15 of his teams Lacus and Frank Wilson had 9 charity line.

The Mount Allison Jayvees and 8 respectfully to lead Dal overcame a four point half time scorers. Early in the second period the

65 in a close hard fought game of Dal JV's outran and outscored basketball played at Sackville on their opposition in the early min-Friday evening. The win by Mt. utes as they upped their lead to A, avenged a previous loss sup- 10 points only to see their lead plied at the hands of the Tigers. vanish for the second time. The For coach Rutigliano's hard luck teams traded baskets for the betchargers it was their fourth loss ter of the period until the hometown squad scored on a couple of In the fast moving game the fast breaks in the dying minutes

A decisive and perhaps deciding factor in the game was the free throw percentages of the last minute of the half in the teams. The hometown Jayvees brilliant shooting of Bill Craig. only made 24 field goals but clicked on 21 of 29 from the free throw in favour of the visiting Tigers. line. We tigers had 28 baskets from the floor while only scoring points in the half while Peter a poor 9 of 23 attempts from the

game was Lacus who made good Reid 10, Craig 19, Skinner 15, on 9 field goals and two free Rogers 7, Watt 1, Nichols 3 - 69. throws for 20 points. Alex Shaw and Carl Thomas had 11 and 12 respectively for the Tigers while Jerry Clarke and Frank Wilson added 8 points each. Top scorer for the winners was Craig with 19 points while Doug Skinner had The J V Bengals make their

next start tomorrow evening when they face N. S. Tech. The Tech Squad defeated Dal early in the year and are presently leading the city J. V. League. SCORERS DAL: Shaw 12, Thomas

11, Wilson 8, Carey 4. Lacus 20, Clarke 8, Longille 2 - 65

Carnival Sports

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

12:00-Go Cart Races, Dal Gym 12:00-Women's Basketball, Mt. St. Bernard's vs. Dal 1:00-Varsity Hockey, St. Thomas at Dal.

3:00-Varsity Basketball, St.

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Meds Shutout Commerce 19-0

BY HUNTER STENTAFORD Gazette Sports Editor MEDS DOWN COMMERCE 19-0

In three of the five games played in interfac hockey last week, the scores were ridiculously high and the games turned out to be an ugly nightmare for the goalies. The most fantastic scorers were Meds, who netted nineteen goals against Commerce. Almost as ridiculous scores were amassed by Engineers and Pharm, and Ed. who beat Arts 13-0 and Dents 10-2 respectively. In the other games Science downed Dents 5-3 and Law squeaked out a 2-1 win over Engineers.

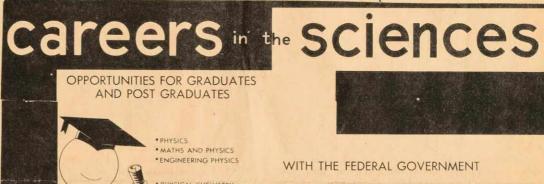
In the Engineers-Arts game, as he scored 5 of their 13 goals. Mal Murray scored 3, Craig Boyer 2 and Gary Mason, Bob Dixon and Larry Ehms got one

Meds started with 7 goals in the Feeney and John Roach.

first period, added 4 more in the second and they threw in 8 more in the third for good measure. Meds' scorers were Bill Buntain with 5 goals and 4 assists, Dave Murray with 5 goals and 3 assists, Harold Murray with 6 assists, Don Craig with 2, Dave Knickle 2, and Al Felix, Broxie Lantz, Frank Sim, Harry Callaghan and Steve Brown got one each.

The Law-Engineers game was noon as Law came out on top 2-1. In the third period Engineers did everything but put the puck in the net as Law tried desperately to add their insurance marker. Craig Boyer started the scoring for Engineers in the first period and it wasn't John Hines was the big scorer until late in the second that Ted Margeson tied it up for Law. In the third John Burns put Law ahead with an assist from Ted Margeson to finish the game.

The third game of the after-Mike Knight started Science noon was another goal studded off in the scoring in the first game when Pharm. & Ed. period and Bob Baillie scored trounced the Dents 10-2, Pharm. in the second. In the third period, & Ed. took a first period lead Don Feeney tied it up for Dents of 2-1 and from then on Dents by scoring two fast goals. Science could not close in on the stronger then rebounded to score three team. Terry Betik, Gordie Fermore by Paul Clarke, Andy Sher- guson, Wayne Patregan and Yvon wood and Don Ling. Brock Ron- Landry were the big guns for deau added another goal for Dents Pharm. & Ed., scoring two goals but time ran out with Science each and Mike Cummings and Ewan Taylor popped in the other In the Meds - Commerce game two. Dents' goals were by Don



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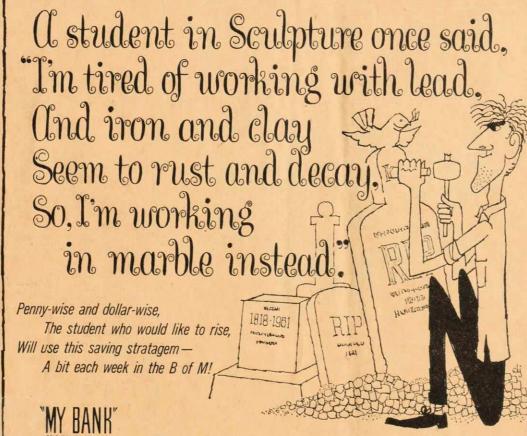
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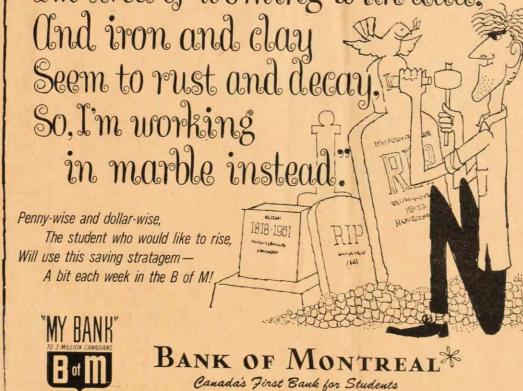


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