

Hill seeks provincial NDP nomination

By SUSAN LATTE

Political pundits are expecting the Buchanan government to dissolve the legislature tomorrow and send Nova Scotians to the polls sometime in November. When the election writ arrives, former Dalhousie student union president Tim Hill expects to be at the starting line as a candidate for the NDP.

Hill plans to run against Tory education minister Terrence Donahoe in the Dalhousie riding of Halifax-Cornwallis on a pro-education platform.

"I don't deny that Terry will be stiff competition," says the 31-year-old Dal law student. "But in lieu of the area being composed of both transient and resident votes, the Halifax-Cornwallis constituency is a very volatile riding, and I am running to win."

Hill optimistically reminds doubters that the NDP took 26 per cent of the electorate in the riding in the 1981 election.

"The Conservative candidates in the districts are running on the coattails of the Mulroney bandwagon," says Hill. "People have recognized how effective the NDP are with just one member, and with more we really can undertake the task of representing the ordinary Nova Scotian."

Hill says students are now able to elect a responsible M.L.A. to represent them and their educational interests.

Post-secondary education may be Hill's primary focus in the campaign, but he maintains he is not a one-issue candidate. He demonstrates an active interest in offshore oil and energy resources and the status of women.

Hill says there is a need to create a dialogue on housing and employment, and is concerned that local issues should be given prominence in the campaign. Hill also says he thinks he can efficiently balance the areas between primary, secondary and post-secondary education in his campaign.

He says he hopes his involvement in the election will get students interested in the electoral process.

Hill will be seeking the NDP nomination in the riding October 1. At press time the nomination is unchallenged. □



Tim Hill takes the plunge. Former student union president hopes to tackle education minister in the provincial election. Hill hopes to make a real splash in this election. Dal Photo

Women not lemmings, says Maguire

By WENDY COOMBER

If Dr. Marjorie Maguire was going to be a little controversial, she was going to go all the way. A pro-choice feminist Catholic theologian, she spoke to audiences of students and the public Tuesday, lecturing about the most recent views of Catholics for a Free Choice.

Men seem to think legalizing abortion will make everyone want one, "as if women were just lemmings rushing to the sea, who have abortions merely because the law allows them," said Maguire.

The thought that women seek abortions without more thought than whether they're available, she said, is offensive. This is no easy choice for any woman, and those

who do decide to go through with it will have the abortion somehow, said Maguire.

In the United States abortions in clinics are legal. In the first trimester (up to three months) of the pregnancy, the woman can decide whether to abort the fetus. In the second trimester the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed the states to make the abortion laws as long as they support the rights of the woman. They cannot make laws for the fetus.

In the pregnancy's third trimester abortions are allowed only if the woman's health is in danger. However, Maguire says few, if any, abortions are performed at this stage, regardless of the woman's health, because most doctors are worried about being sued for malpractice.

UBC students win loto

VANCOUVER(CUP)—Getting a job used to be the way to pay for school. Now it's playing the lottery.

Financially strapped University of B.C. students can play to win with their student union's lottery, which offers a grand prize of \$1,450, the price of average tuition.

The student union plans to sell 10,000 tickets at \$1 a crack with half the proceeds going to tuition prizes and the other to its bursary fund.

Nancy Bradshaw, student union external affairs coordinator, says

she hopes the lottery will demonstrate how desperate students are and the need for a student loan system in B.C. which provides grants. The B.C. government recently abolished student grants in a bid to cut its spending.

"We hope to bring media attention to increasing tuition and the elimination of students grants which are causing inaccessibility to universities," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw has appeared on local talk shows to help sales. □

Maguire maintains that the present laws result in more illegal abortions. She says women have problems in obtaining the abortion which continues the pregnancy into the second trimester. These late abortions are harmful to the woman, says Maguire, and also bring the fetus closer to "personhood," raising more social problems. Maguire called these laws immoral.

Maguire said it was difficult to answer the abortion question with biology. Is the fetus a "person" at conception, as the Roman Catholic church proclaimed in 1869, or at birth, as other religions claim?

"Sociality is the touchstone of personhood," answered Maguire. A baby becomes a member of our human community (and reaches personhood) only when the woman actively relates to the baby in her body as a part of that community. Maguire said you could also passively accept the child by allowing the pregnancy to continue.

One man in the audience asked Maguire if he were a mother and changed his mind many times during the pregnancy upon whether he would accept the child, did he confer and revoke personhood.

Maguire said she meant a "sustained consent." After the child has been birthed, it is part of the social community whether the parents accept it.

"Life never begins, life continues," she said.

Maguire said the most common question she hears is how can a Catholic be pro-choice.

Her answer is simple, "We are the church."

In 1982 a poll was taken among Catholic women in the U.S. Out of those polled, 92 per cent said they

had never had an abortion. However, only 11 per cent said they disapproved of abortion under any circumstances (as the Roman Catholic doctrine's state), and over 50 per cent approved of it upon the request of the woman. The rest agreed in varying degrees.

Women usually seek abortions only after society has failed them, said Maguire, either through rape, abandonment, or poverty. Failed contraceptives are one of the biggest reasons for unplanned pregnancies, according to Maguire.

When one male in the audience called Maguire "paranoid" and wondered if she thought all men were out to "get" her, she told other listeners that men, in general, cannot understand what this decision/action means to a woman. Women don't usually like or want abortions, said Maguire—it's an invasion of their bodies—so when the decision is made, it has been well thought out.

Maguire said even for male feminists the path to understanding is long and arduous.

As to the current religious-political controversy in the United States, Maguire said Bishop Law of Boston, who compared the ideology behind Catholics for Pro Choice to Catholics for Apartheid, was typical of a corporate officer, whether they're church or business, to want his own laws followed.

She said although the American bishops, Law and O'Connor, have no right to tell the American people not to vote for pro-choice Catholic candidates, they are helping the pro-choice side by stirring reactions from those in support of choice. She says the abortion issue will be a much discussed subject long after the American elections are over. □