

If you want to be political ...

# The Gateway

Thursday, January 17, 1985

... don't work for the Students' Union.

Paul Alpern  
V. P. External



A group of about forty demonstrators greeted Dr. Henry Morgentaler (inset) at a press conference held on campus yesterday. Morgentaler speaks at SUB Theatre tonight.

**"Anti-abortionists are anti-women and anti-sex."**

## Morgentaler slams anti-abortionists

by Jim Herbert

Dr. Henry Morgentaler lashed out at anti-abortionists at a press conference Wednesday in the Law Centre, calling them a "right-wing and quasi-Fascist movement."

Morgentaler claimed that anti-abortionists have "nothing to say which is relevant. People don't believe in what they say."

Eighty-five to ninety per cent of Canadians support a women's right to an abortion, Morgentaler said.

The underlying philosophy of the pro-life movement is "anti-women and anti-sex," he said. They believe that if a woman "enjoys sex, she should pay for it."

Morgentaler charged that many of the men in the anti-abortion movement have no understanding of the problems of an unwanted pregnancy since they never find themselves in that situation. He added that many such men don't even have relationships with women—whether as husbands or fathers—that would help them

understand why an abortion is sometimes necessary.

Morgentaler had harsh words for the Roman Catholic Church which has "fanned anti-abortion sentiment" through its use of such "immoderate language as 'Killing of the child.'"

He ridiculed the Catholic Church's position that life begins at conception for being "scientifically absurd—one cell cannot make a child. It takes billions of cells to make a child."

Morgentaler called on the Church to cease its anti-abortion pronouncement and instead begin to "preach love and compassion, preach tolerance of other people's religions, preach freedom of conscience."

Morgentaler believes that access to abortion is far too limited in Canada, except in the province of Quebec. He says that many women—especially natives, the poor, and those who live in rural areas—simply can't get an abortion. Other women have to face dangerous waits of five to eight weeks before the operation or have to go to the United States.

For this, Morgentaler blames politicians, whom he calls "a bunch of cowards."

Despite the majority of people that support a women's right to have an abortion and despite the four juries that have acquitted him of charges of conspiring to procure an abortion, politicians have continued to strictly limit the number of abortions performed.

The only remedy for this, he says, is to go before juries and be pronounced innocent, thereby forcing politicians to recognize the right to an abortion.

Morgentaler intends to eventually establish an abortion clinic "in every province in Canada." Wednesday, he made "a public offer to establish a clinic for the Alberta government."

These plans may have to wait, however, because he faces new charges in Ontario and Manitoba.

Morgentaler admits to being concerned about threats to his personal safety from extreme anti-abortionists.

"It's possible someone will pump a few bullets in me," he said. But he added that his death would only make him a martyr for the principle of freedom of conscience.

The resort to violence by anti-abortionists only reflects the fact that "they've lost the battle for the hearts and minds of people," he concluded.

## Centre claims to speak for women

by Gilbert Bouchard

"No woman who goes through an abortion walks away from it," said Tanya Hughson, spokesperson for the Calgary Abortion Outreach Centre, yesterday afternoon in SUB.

Hughson, sponsored by the U of A Campus Right to Life said, "We're here to represent the woman's point of view."

"I myself had an abortion and through working with other women I realized how complex the issue is," said Hughson.

Hughson added that the Calgary Outreach Centre has been in operation for the last 8 years under various names, and that she personally has "had contact with 2,000 to 2,500 women."

"The Centre counsels women who've had abortions, these women's friends, family and their partners," said Hughson. "We help the women by helping their friends and family."

"Our voice adds to the Pro-Life stand that abortion is wrong, and

we are speaking for women. Pro-Life people have not been as aware of women as they should have been, but our group deals with women."

"Abortion is a vicious circle," said Hughson. "We keep on dealing with the symptoms of the problem, but never with the problem itself."

Hughson thinks people are conditioned by T.V. to expect quick solutions to all of life's problems, and now expect fast and easy solutions for everything. "But with all the solutions we have available to us people shouldn't latch on to abortion as the fast and easy solution."

"Abortion is more than just dealing with the sexual organs, and simple parts of the body," said Hughson. "Women who carry their pregnancy to term are less likely to have second and third unwanted pregnancies. Abortion doesn't deal with the problem of why the woman got pregnant in the first

place."

Hughson was also concerned with the rise in violence aimed at abortion clinics and the number of anti-abortion demonstrations turning violent.

"People feel frustrated and don't know how to direct this frustration in a more positive way."

Hughson also believes that you can't take the emotion out of the pro-life appeals because, "if you take the emotion out of it, I don't know what is left. Sex is emotional, pregnancy is emotional. We have

## Peaceful pro-lifers

by Neal Watson

There is "more protection for a blade of grass than the unborn in Canada" says Jane Hagerty, the spokesperson for the campus Right to Life club.

Society must come out and take a stand against abortion, says Hagerty, and then the rights of the unborn will be recognized by law.

"There is rarely a medical reason for abortion. Ninety-seven per cent of abortions are for convenience."

The Right to Life club is committed to educating students on the abortion issue. The club is sponsoring a candlelight observance for the unborn tonight to coincide with Dr. Henry Morgentaler's lecture at SUB Theatre.

Hagerty said her group wished to distance themselves from the extremist activities of some anti-abortion groups. Morgentaler was sprayed in the face with ketchup Tuesday when he arrived in Calgary night by a member of the Christians Concerned with Life group.

"We're hoping Edmontonians will display peaceful ways of deal-

to deal with abortion in an emotional way."

Hughson would also like to see a referendum, on abortion. "I don't think the politicians will have a choice but to take a stand on the subject. People are not going to tolerate fence sitting on this subject."

"No one can convince me that a woman reached out and said I want an abortion — I believe that a woman reached out for help, and someone said I'll give you an abortion, and then somebody charged her for it."

ing with the issue," said Hagerty.

The group is dedicated to ensuring the unborn's rights are protected from the point of conception.

"It is a human rights issue. The unborn is a unique human being. It's blood type is different from its mother, it may be male, said Hagerty. "Everything is determined at conception. The life is intruded upon (when an abortion is performed), no matter what the length of time."

The new advances in technology are making the arguments of the Right to Life groups stronger, said Hagerty.

"Society has to look at the problem and find new alternatives to the issue."

"People who weren't concerned with the issue before, are concerned now. Society has been bluffed into believing abortion is a safe, quick procedure."

Hagerty said there is always a physical threat to the women when an abortion is performed.

"No abortion is a safe procedure."

## No politics allowed

by Brian Receveur

Students employed by the University of Alberta Students' Union may not take part in student politics without permission from their SU executive, according to a recent amendment to the contract between the SU and CUPE local 1368.

The amendment proposed by VP External Paul Alpern and approved by CUPE representative Royal Harris and local president Ron Milne forbids SU employees from taking part in, "any activity in any campaign on the University of Alberta campus involving students of the University of Alberta," and bars them from participating on

any boards, committees, or task forces of the student union, faculty, or administration.

According to Alpern, the revision is a "further definition of what was meant in the original contract." The old contract simply states that "employees shall not become involved in student politics."

The clarification was felt to be necessary because of confusion generated by a campaign to impeach members of the SU executive last fall.

"At the time we did not even know that the people involved

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