

Politicians guide to politics

The most respected politicians look dedicated because their brows are lined with deep grooves. This kind of politician looks as if he carries the country's problems on his forehead — or, more precisely, on his hairline (if he has one). Either Joe the Whiz hasn't worried enough or he hasn't read *The Canadian Politician's Guide*. Joe has lots to worry about — and for good reason — so I bet he hasn't read the *Guide*. If you had read it, dear reader, you would know how to become a politician, or at least how to look like a politician. All you have to do is practice arching your eye brows in front of the mirror every day for twenty

years. It beats the hell out of worrying for twenty years. Come to think of it, Joe hasn't seen enough water pass under the bridge to earn twenty years worth of worry grooves because his forehead has only the dinkiest of hairline fractures.

Oh well, all is not lost. There is still the crash course in the condensed *Guide* for young beginners. And guess what? To save you young spend-thrift — sorry — zero-based budget politicians the price of this guide I'll tell you what it says. Just attach two lengths of fishing line with scotch tape to your eye brows and run the lines over your crown, down the back of your neck, and along your shirt

sleeves — one line per shirt sleeve. Then hold each line in your hot little hands and pull when you want to make a point: gently if discussing Petro Can or something equally as trivial, not so gently if you're talking about important issues such as hemorrhoids or the price of potatoes, and really hard for life and death questions such as why your wife has a hyphenated last name. Hey! You leave my wife out of this!

See you in the House!

Ross Macdonald
Arts II

P.S. Use clear nylon line because it doesn't show up as badly under the glare of limelights.

Women count most in abortion

The issue of abortion being hotly debated in the *Gateway* as of late, is one that will be resolved neither by philosophical haranguing over the concept of conception nor by the callous capitulations over "loose" women", etc. In any leading hospital which maintains an abortion clinic operating under the present laws of this country, any one of my assiduous colleagues may discover the essential element of this issue, those women who seek the option of abortion.

Despite the voluminous media coverage suggesting that these clinics are filled with the growing statistics of fifteen year olds complaining of how "their boyfriends made them do it," I, like many of my mis-led and educated contemporaries was appalled to discover that these clinics, far from containing casualties of the free love society, are largely attended by women who are over thirty, married, with two or more children, and for whom readily accessible methods of birth control have failed.

A case in point; a thirty-five year old landed immigrant with eight children. She described her situation in the little English she knew: her husband was a seasonal labourer, presently unemployed; she was Catholic, highly family oriented, (they lived in an apartment with two other families), and she was terrified lest her priest or anyone else in her peer group discover she sought counselling, let alone an abortion. Another woman expressed an equally prevalent situation; "Look I've got three kids now, I'm divorced and I just got off welfare after six years. I got a job now and I can't have another kid, I'd lose my job." In her instance the pill had failed to prevent pregnancy.

The records of any abortion clinic will verify that these are not isolated cases amongst the thousands of women who seek the option of abortion; furthermore, for the majority of these women abortion is the only

option open to them. Consider the fact that for many women access to contraception, though not denied legally in this country, is still denied on religious and social grounds. When asked if they knew of the Planned Parenthood organization, the most common reaction was, who? Sterilization is often an unacceptable option for many women; again for religious and social reasons. The option of adoption is simply out of the question for these women; despite the obvious family and religious reasons that would prevent them from putting their child up for adoption, it should be noted that adoption agencies receive requests largely for infants who are white. (This statement is not intended to be derogatory in any way, it is

merely a statistical aspect of our society.) Finally, it cannot be reiterated enough, that despite their legality, birth control methods are not *ipso facto* accessible to all women in this country.

It remains a question then, of on what grounds we want to discriminate the abortion issue. Do we remain stagnant and continually debate over that relatively small population of the post-Spock era who so blatantly deny their education and refuse to practise contraception? Or do we face the fact of the larger population of women as I have described who seek the option of abortion on grounds of economic survival in the 20th Century?

P. Christopherson
Arts III

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