

Bearpit features abortion debate

Pro-abortion speakers face Pro-Life member

By STEVE HAIN

Last week's Bearpit session pitted pro-abortion supporters Ellie Kirzner and Patrice Merrin, from the Women's Coalition to Repeal Abortion Laws and Planned Parenthood respectively, against Greg Ross, on-campus representative of Pro-Life.

In her opening comments, Kirzner stated, "The Roman Catholic Church's argument against abortion is hypocritical when compared to its policies concerning the Moslems, the First and Second World Wars, and the bombing in Vietnam."

Merrin added that "abortion is an individual matter. It is a matter that should be dealt with by the mother and not society. In fact, abortion should be taken out of the criminal code."

Ross then related the Pro-Life position on the issue. "Abortion is basically the taking of human life. Pro-Life is a collection of individuals concerned with the molesting of human life in society, and because we are concerned individuals, we have the right to regulate abortion."

These comments set the tone for the

rest of the session.

A major part of the discussion was devoted to the question of birth control and birth control methods. When questioned about the lack of support given by women's groups to birth control, Kirzner replied that "birth control devices were not effective. These devices were not sophisticated enough and, in fact, one out of every fifteen women became pregnant even with the use of these aids."

Merrin countered with the fact that modern birth control methods were effective, but that due to misinformed individuals and general lack of contraceptive education, "women will still need pregnancy terminating methods."

Ross stated that "contraception was not the taking of human life, but that abortion is."

The question of availability of abortions was also raised. In Canada, a woman must first have an examination to determine whether she is positive or negative. Then, if she is approved by her doctor, she is presented to a board where it has to be proven that she is mentally or physically incapable of continuing with the pregnancy. But the determining factor is the doctor and the board. In other words, if they are liberal in granting abortions a woman can get one.

But whether or not abortions are legal, women will still seek them out. They will make the trip to New York

or else subject themselves to the butchers on Bleeker St.

The crowd in Central Square was mixed on the issue. One gentleman said a conference in Washington D.C. in 1967 agreed there was no point between conception and death where the entity is not a human life.

There were also those who shared the opinion that each pregnancy involves two separate types of life, and actual one and a potential one. Therefore, the mother should have the right to determine whether or not the potential life becomes an actual life, for whatever reasons.

There still remains the question of when the fetus is able to support itself independent of the mother. One

woman said the point cannot be clearly defined. Therapeutic abortions are performed up to sixteen weeks in Canada, while in the United States these abortions can be performed as late as twenty weeks into the pregnancy. Merrin said "no man can comment on abortion if he doesn't regularly use contraceptives. He has no right."

Kirzner concluded by saying that "abortion is a right that should be made available to all women. Women should not be made to feel guilty when seeking out an abortion. Instead, there should be an aura of respectability to make the rational choice."

Gillies says inflation high

At the present rate of inflation, the average cost of a house in Toronto in 1995 will be \$250,000, according to Jim Gillies, Conservative Member of Parliament for Don Valley.

Gillies, former dean of administrative studies at York and chief economic critic of the Conservative Party, spoke last Monday before 40 people at Osgoode Hall.

"Only Greece and Japan have higher rates of inflation," he said. "The parallels with 1928 are amazing. Canada could soon face a dangerous recession."

He said Canada's rate has risen from 2.7 per cent in 1970 to 8.5 per cent this year, but that the government has failed to act.

"The minister of finance says nothing can be done, that the problem is worldwide," Gillies said, "but if governments don't act, who will?"

He suggested a maximum 90 day freeze on wages and prices, a lower rate of increase in the money supply, and incomes policy that would limit profits to a level sufficient to attract capital, a true floating of the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar, lower interest rates, and reduced government expenditure.

On the energy crisis, Gillies said Canada has more oil than is needed, but that distribution is a problem. The immediate difficulty, he said, is getting energy from the west to the east. He said he believed the provinces should retain control of energy resources.

Gillies' visit was sponsored by the York Progressive Conservatives.

Psychobiology professor explains technique of split-brain operation

By BONNIE SANDISON

Dr. Roger Sperry can do strange things to one's movements and perceptions. Sperry has conducted extensive research in areas of the brain. His present work centers around the split-brain operation, which is given only to those suffering severe symptoms of epilepsy. It has given quite revolutionary results.

Sperry, professor of psychobiology at the California Institute of Technology, presented the third in the series of Gerstein Lectures in the Moot Court Room at Osgoode Nov. 20.

The left side of the brain controls the movements of the right side of the body, and the speech centre. The right side of the brain controls the left side of the body and special perception. The corpus callosum joins the two hemispheres of the brain together, allowing sensations and control from both sides to be connected.

In the split-brain operation, Sperry surgically severs the corpus callosum producing two separate areas for un-

related brain activity. The emotions and the activities of the patients are not radically changed, and everyday activities proceed as normal. Sometimes more can be achieved since there are two areas of control, and the right hand can function independently of the left.

There are however, some problems involved. Sperry has discovered, for example, that after an operation, a person can hold an object in his left hand and recognize the same object in a group, but is unable to express verbally what the object is. He is also un-

able to identify the object by touch with his right hand. Such tasks as assembling puzzles become difficult because one hand destroys the work of the other.

Sperry believes the conscious mind must be recognized as an essential part of the brain. Images and dreams should be seen as forms of control over the body functions. Free will must be recognized as evident. No longer can neuropsychologists deny the existence of free will, and give absolutely everything rational and logical explanations.

CYSF executives take time out to run Green Bush

By COLAN INGLIS

Rodger Shute, president of the Green Bush Inn, was a licensed beer salesman and on-campus representative for Formosa Spring Breweries until he resigned Nov. 15.

Shute, who is also chairman of McLaughlin College council and CYSF director of social and cultural affairs, was elected president of GBI Oct. 30. Prior to this, he sat on the GBI board of directors for about a year.

Shute said he was employed by Formosa on Oct. 1 and received his license from the LCBO Oct. 24. When asked about a possible conflict of interest, he replied that a beer salesman "doesn't actually sell beer" and that the LCBO would not have granted him a license if they thought there was a conflict.

Something's fishy here!

LIMA (CUP)Peruvians may be getting more than enough haddock stroganoff and roast tuna in the future. A West Germany laboratory commissioned by the government of Peru has succeeded in inventing a process that gives fish the taste and texture of beef.

Dr. Claudio Concoli, dean of the Peruvian College of Chemists, said the government was considering using the formula to provide a beef substitute for 10 million Peruvians who currently lack meat in their regular diet.

Concoli said the substitute would be richer in protein than beef. It would also save Peru, now suffering a meat shortage, from excessive beef imports.

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