

# old options REVIEWED

Spring is almost upon us and soon all the little animals in the kingdom of Dal will be feeling and answering the mating calls of nature. Unfortunately because of the incredible amounts of misinformation and lack of information there will probably be some casualties in the form of unwanted pregnancies. Now the Gazette is not presuming to give out advice on how, when, where and why you should conduct your sex lives. As a matter of fact we are not even going to advise you on whether or not you should have a sex life. But if you do and if something unforeseen happens then you will be faced with several options to correct the situation.

Actually the options open to someone in the situation of an unwanted pregnancy are not as limiting as they may seem, though basically it comes down to two things — the pregnancy is either terminated or completed. Abortion (i.e. termination) is the option most often pushed down our throats by friends, counsellors and other media. Marriage may be the option pushed down our throats by unthinking parents. Completion of pregnancy and ultimately adoption of the unwanted child is the one option that is rarely, if ever, mentioned.

Abortions are still not available on demand in Canada but are not as difficult to obtain as one might think. If an abortion cannot be obtained in Canada one can always fly to New York and have one there without parents, etc. any the wiser. Marriages forced on young adults by unthinking parents rarely work out and only compound what is already an unhappy predicament.

We do not want to get into the heavy moral question involved with abortion here — suffice it to say that it is a somewhat viable alternative.

The completion of an unwanted pregnancy is not really the bleak alternative it is made out to be. There are two ways it can be handled — openly or privately. In this age of emancipated young women (and men) it is a sad commentary on our society that unmarried mothers are still subjected to unwarranted criticism from their peer group as well as from older generations. Because of this it is often the choice

of both the couple involved and their families to handle the completion of an unexpected pregnancy privately. This is not really all that difficult to manage. Pregnancy is not really obvious until about fifth month so the mother-to-be can stay where she is till then. There are numerous "homes" for unwed mothers still thriving in various parts of Canada so after the fifth month it is quite simple for the young woman involved to take off for "travel", "work" or "visit relatives". The family honour is kept intact and various government agencies will help with the financing.

We actually support the option of handling the pregnancy openly. It is positively ludicrous that "unwed" mothers are still subject to criticism and alienation from today's "liberated" society. We condone or, at least abstain from criticism of premarital sex but we do not treat the repercussions of our liberated sexual mores in anywhere close to the same manner. Pregnancy is not a shameful or terrible condition for anyone to be in though it is often treated as such. This attitude reflects a hangover of one of the worst aspects of the Victorian era.

At the completion of pregnancy the mother can either keep the child or give it up for adoption. Adoption is certainly an alternative that should be considered. There are many well adjusted adults in this country, both married and unmarried, who would be extremely happy to adopt a child. Unfortunately they must often wait for many years before they can get a child, if they ever can.

Society's critical attitude towards the "unwed mother" is something that must be changed and changed immediately. If completion of pregnancy is to be considered a viable option then we must change the reactions of society to it. Not only should we tolerate the woman in the situation we must offer her moral and financial support. Discrimination against any group in our social structure is to be condemned but discrimination against members of society who are in a position where they need all the support they can get is an outrage.



## Letters

### Sorry, Bruce

Dear Gazette:

This is just a brief note of apology for my rather adverse attitude expressed at the Student Council meeting of March 16 in regards to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates and especially Bruce Russell and Ann Smiley. I apologize for that and wish to strongly express my great admiration and respect for Bruce Russell, having worked with him over the past year in the Union, and my admiration and belief in the competence and efficiency of Ann Smiley.

The reason for the low voter turn-out — 27% — was due in part to what I felt was the policy omission of some major issues — sport complex, student aid, etc. The major factor, which wasn't expressed at the meeting though, is that there were seven acclamations, which predominantly accounted for the Grad-

uate Students and Health Profession students not voting. This leaves only Arts and Science students to vote, and statistically, very few Arts and Science students ever vote in the Student Union elections.

I hope that I have dispelled the mistaken conclusion that I have no faith in Bruce and Ann as competent heads of the Student Union, and I apologize to Bruce and Ann for those impromptu remarks.

Cordially yours,  
Warren Meek

### Re: Howe Hall Rebuttal

To the Gazette:

I am writing in response to the entitled "Howe Hall rebuttal", which appeared in your March 6 edition. I only wish to say Missrs. Stephen Campbell and Les Kearney wrote what I thought was a very nice letter. They managed to keep their crayons between

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#### Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

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