

**the bottom line  
is individual  
choice**

**To the Editor:**

Thanks for a very interesting women's supplement. The articles *Remaking Motherhood* and *Pregnancy for Profit* made some very good points, but I would like to point out another side to a few of them.

It is interesting to note that

the women who are objecting to surrogate motherhood and IVF seem to be generally women who can bear or have borne their own children. These women have no real conception of the impact of infertility, as men do not. While the stresses and dangers of IVF are certainly profound, the fact remains that for the few women who are successful, it is a miracle. The statement that "the vast majority said they were perfectly willing to adopt a child" is dangerously misleading unless accompanied by the recognition of the impossibility for most of doing so. At this time, most adoption in Canada is under the control of a repressive and antiquated Social Services system, and such factors as a past minor drug bust, moderate drinking habits, even both parents working, irrevocably rule out couples from adopting, even older or handicapped children.

Although success rates for IVF are low, new techniques such as embryo freezing hold promise for raising them. The overuse and ill-considered use of drugs is certainly the most disturbing aspect of the procedure, and this is common to all branches of medicine. Better counselling

and support systems, honesty about the real risks, and a total re-orienting of the medical establishment away from excessive drug use are cultural changes which would be much more appropriate than blanket decision of the fertile majority on what should and should not be allowed.

Similarly, those persons who agonize for Mary Beth Whitehead seem to ignore the fact that she signed a contract, and proposing that fees for surrogate motherhood be raised is simply expanding the potential for exploitation of underprivileged women, who will be more pres-



sured to sign contracts against their will if potential gains are greater. The situation could become similar to that in Latin America, where poor donors sell blood until they die. On the other hand, strictly limiting fees along with a cultural shift away from the sanctity of biological motherhood could create potential for a real humanitarian service in providing children for the large number of infertile couples unable to adopt. Again, a cultural shift away from the debate over the legal limiting or unavailability of abortion to counselling and approval for unwed mothers (among others) to give their babies for (private) adoption would be a service to all, abortion generally being highly traumatic and dangerous to future health. Today, the very high incidence of pelvic inflammatory disease among other factors has created a situation where almost every pregnant single woman knows an infertile couple or could be put in touch with one through family or friends. Unfortunately, cultural factors often prevent this mutually beneficial arrangement.

The bottom line must be individual choice. As O'Brien suggests, let us seize the means of reproduction.

**Anne Drew**

**Enough doom  
and gloom**

**To the Editor**

Good grief! I think I'm beginning to understand why some people's automatic reaction to the topic of feminism is an "I don't want to hear about it" groan.

Just what I didn't need in the last two weeks of term, with work up to my eyeballs and snow up to my knees — an entire "women's supplement" devoted to the doom & gloom of which, it seems, my existence as a woman is fated to consist!

I am not suggesting that one should adopt a Pollyanna attitude and ignore the injustices which are still very much a part of most (if not all) women's lives. However, it would have been nice to see one or two more positively worded articles included in the issue. For instance, I would have been interested to know what kinds of research women are working on here at Dalhousie. Or what about women in the peace movement, or the unionization of local day-cares, or . . .

**Isabel Fearon**

**Commerce  
fiscally  
responsible?**

**An open letter to Commerce students**

I am writing this letter as a concerned Commerce student. In the fall of 1983 a referendum was held to increase our society fee to \$30. The previous fee was \$10. The increase in the fee represented a \$3 increase in the operating fund and a \$17 contribution to a house fund for the acquisition of new facilities. This motion passed, but only by a few votes. Over 300 students voted in the referendum. With the zoning laws the way they are, it was virtually impossible to buy a house; therefore, nothing

was done with the money. In the spring of 1985 the outgoing council of the Commerce society made a motion to change the referendum from acquisition of new facilities to renovation of present facility. Unfortunately, I may be writing this letter a bit too late the change the situation. Thousands of dollars have been collected from the Commerce students over the years and perhaps we, as a body, have been too apathetic to look into the situation and into the way our money is being spent. In recent weeks the society has made motions and held a referendum to decide what should be done with the house fund money. As a result, approximately \$30,000 have been spent on our house on Seymour Street for renovations, which will soon be completed. Sadly, the Commerce society doesn't even have a long-term lease with the University for the use of the facility. The University could evict us, the Commerce society, with very little notice. To the best of my knowledge there is no written agreement with the University for the occupancy of the house. In fact, last summer they made our back yard into a number of parking spaces. The referendum was used to decide what the rest of the money should be spent on. All the proposals were passed at the referendum except for one — a fairly large contribution to the S.B.A (approximately \$12,000). This money will now revert to the capital expenditure fund, the old house fund. This fund will seem to grow forever, especially when the society receives this year's contribution from the students (\$30 from every Commerce student, over \$15,000). As Commerce students, are we going to be expected to pay the \$17 next year even though we are no longer going to buy a house? I should hope not! I feel rather outraged that few people are involved and few people care about the decisions a five-person executive are making by themselves. Large financial decisions for all Commerce students are being made. Why aren't you involved? Don't you care?

**A concerned Commerce student**

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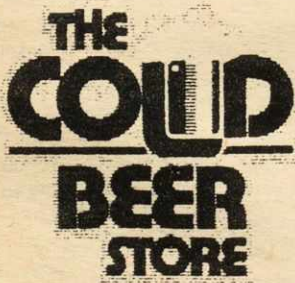
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