

## Pro-choice criticizes politicians

by Ken Lenz

Campus Pro-Choice representative Helene Schuld feels that Canadians do not have the freedom to make certain decisions in the Canadian medical environment.

"An ideal environment which supports its individuals in aspects of sexual and reproductive freedom should provide access to reproductive information, safe and effective birth control, alternative medicine, and abortion," she says.

Schuld says our system does not provide access to these.

"Instead it offers a virtual barrage of regulations and laws which, in effect, limit the range of choices Canadians should have, particularly in the light of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms," she says.

"What it boils down to," charges Schuld, "the doctors and politicians know what is best for the individual, not the individual."

"In terms of abortion, women are limited in their choice."

Says Schuld, "the way it is stated in the Criminal Code is that a pregnancy has to seriously affect the health of a woman in order to receive consent for an abortion."

"Many are forced to go south of the border."

Schuld is also upset over the state of sexual education courses in Alberta's schools.

"Right now, there is a growing campaign to exclude it (sexual education) from the schools, particularly Catholic schools," she says.

"Planned parenthood is also under attack in terms of its funding. For anyone to make a decision on sexuality they are going to have to have the proper information about birth control."

Schuld attributes this attitude to the "bible-belt conservatism" throughout Canada.

The Pro-choice statement of principles includes seeking universal access to "reproductive information, safe and effective birth control, and abortion."

A six week noon-hour lecture series is being planned by Pro-Choice for February and March. Topics featured will include midwifery, alternative medicine, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and sex education in the schools.

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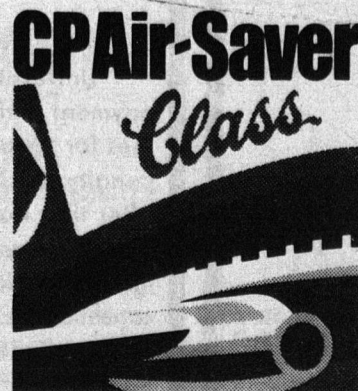
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