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letters

Vatican

The Edmonton Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler strongly opposes the Vatican's recent statement declaring that nothing can justify abortion - even risk to the mother's life.

Contrary to the Roman Catholic Church's declaration, the right of women to abortion is an integral part of the emancipation of women. The Committee shares the opinion of the majority of Canadians - the latest Gallup Poll shows that two out of three Canadians favour removing abortion from the Criminal Code, thus making it a matter between a woman and her doctor.

The Roman Catholic Church shows complete contempt for women by its position that the life of a fetus, which is only a potential human being, is more important or sacred than thy life of a woman. The Roman Catholic Church's position condemns thousands of women to back-alley butchers, or to bearing children against their will.

The Roman Catholic Church maintains this position while at the same time forbidding "artificial contraception such as the pill, even in cases where a direct threat to a woman's life is involved if she becomes pregnant." The Church thus condemns women to be mothers, as punishment for normal sexual activity.

The Committee defends the right of women who are Roman Catholics to not have abortions, if they so choose. However we deplore any attempt of the Church or the government to force particular religious or

moral opinions on society, by compelling women to bear children against their will. It must be up to each woman to decide for herself whether or not she will continue a pregnancy, or will terminate it through abortion.

The Edmonton Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler will continue to press for the repeal of all anti-abortion laws, and will defend all victims of this unjust law.

Angela Mueller

Flippant

The Women's Programme Centre would like to express support to Dr. R. Sydie, L. Courmier and "Science 2" for their concern regarding sexual assault, rape, voyeurism etc. on this campus. We feel that these are serious matters which reflect the inhumane and distorted attitudes towards women and sexuality which are prevalent in this society.

We should also like to criticize *The Gateway* for its flippant and irresponsible cartoons. We sincerely hope that the mentality demonstrated by these cartoons is not representative of the majority of the university population.

Women's Programme Centre

Meditation room?

What ever happened to the Meditation Room?

I speak for myself as well as hundred of other meditators when I say that it's becoming increasingly difficult to find a quiet place to practice meditation on this campus. A lot of us that have night classes have to go through the ritual of trying to find a place to meditate without being disturbed.

Trying to meditate in the SUB Meditation Room is like trying to skate in Maple-Leaf gardens. Usually the room is either booked by club or locked. When I approached the Building Manager about this, he asked if I had reserved the room ahead of time. There are thousands of persons on this campus involved with some sort of meditation technique, and I say it's time a meditation room was set aside that doesn't have to be "booked" in advance.

A Meditator
Education 4

Garden path

With all due respect to Chaplain Stewart, I feel he is naive and his article is leading us down the garden path. True, there are many foreigners who become permanent residents and make a vital contribution to this country. I agree some come here to acquire skills in one field or another, but contrary to Chaplain Stewart's views, a large proportion stay in the urban areas where they are paid well for their services. Substantial amounts of their income, however, never finds its way back into the Canadian economy, for it is sent back home to allegedly support relatives in their home country, thereby minimizing their personal taxes. By doing this, these foreigners are taking advantage of our tax laws, undermining the Canadian economy, and disrupting the foreign trade market.

I also find that Chaplain Stewart has failed to mention those foreigners who come to this country solely to go to university to acquire skills which enable them to get good jobs, not here, but in their homeland to which they return. When at university, they do little except study and dominate tables in SUB poolroom (for many their sole contribution to our economy other than necessities) where, like in most other places, they cluster and speak not the primary language of this province (which at last count I believe is still English), but the language of their home country.

Granted, they are probably more adept at their native language, but it would make man feel much better if they at least attempted the language of the land. Perhaps they want a Bill 22 in the province of Alberta, which, to many, is not as ridiculous as it may seem.

Roy Rampling
Commerce

Rebecca

In regards to Mr. Stewart's letter in Tuesday's *Gateway*, we are a little more than puzzled by some of his comments. He admits that the argument for foreign students paying higher tuition and limiting their enrolment numbers is basically sound, "until you notice that students are not the only immigrants from overseas." We feel that the status of "other immigrants" is irrelevant to the situation at the U of A.

In fact Mr. Stewart, if you were to question 100 students, walking through CAB, about

their feelings towards the large number of foreign students on campus, we feel the majority of replies would make thy graffiti in the SUB washroom look like it belonged in Rebecca of Sunnybrooke Farm.

Yours Collectively,
P. Pomietlarz
F. Reid
B Dickie
N. Lock
D. Livingston
T. Rudge
W. Perry

Inaccurate statements

Mr. Cook is correct in his statement that there is considerable question regarding government approval of a new Business Administration and Commerce Bldg. The Department of Advanced Education has indicated that it will review all university capital construction very critically.

However, a number of his other statements are inaccurate and even irresponsible.

He states that Commerce would likely expand into a refurbished Arts Bldg instead of a new building. What, Mr. Cook, is to be done with the people presently occupying that building?

He also asserts the need for a new general faculties' building to relieve space pressures. If the BAC building was put forward because of its "political appeal" and is still in danger of rejection, what chance would that building have? Moreover, information available indicates that there are other far more urgently needed buildings.

Finally, the university is condemned for piecemeal ad-hoc planning. While I share Mr. Cook's criticism, the fault is not wholly with the university. The university can only construct and renovate buildings for which it has money to do so. The government allocates such funds to the university on a yearly basis. Galloping inflation makes projections of even one or two years into the future almost meaningless.

The answer is not the "better long-range plan" that Mr. Cook advocates, but a better capital funding arrangement between the university and the government. The Board Building Committee has instructed the administration to pursue this with the Dept. of Advanced Education.

Gary J. Draper
Student member
Board of Governors,
Building Committee

Gateway

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Editor-in-chief: Bernie Fritze

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TELEPHONES

Editor's office
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All departments
432-5168
432-5750
Student Media
432-3423

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Berry wesGateway

* A combination of the cold weather and the upcoming exams tends to affect some people pretty strangely. For instance, last week-end the engineers had a Christmas party of sorts that broke the ice for a number of people who got rather bombed in the course of the evening. It seems this one guy in particular got up the nerve to invite this female classmate home with him to see his working model of the Titanic. One compromising position led to another and at the moment of final reckoning, he lamented, 'god, I've got no

condominiums!' 'That's OK' she said, 'I've just been fitted with a diagram.'

* Getting back to the cold weather, it reminds me of Hank's uncle who used to drink a quart of whiskey a day. I kept telling him his drinking would be the end of him, and sure enough last month he kicked off at the age of 94. Since the ground was too frozen to bury him until next spring, the family had him cremated. He burned for six days and nights.

* In case you haven't dropped

over to the new bar as yet, its finally open. Whoever submitted the name Tuck Shop II won the fifty bucks. She's expected to buy everyone free beer this Friday. Guy Lombardo didn't show up to do his number yet, but its rumored the Electric Light Orchestra will be here for a gig before the end of testweek.

* Getting back to the Christmas party, if there are any staffers who don't know when and where it is this Saturday, come on up to the office and find out. Santa Claus is reportedly going to streak the joint.

