

Quality of LIFE questioned

An anti-abortion rally was held this Saturday outside the Law Courts.

Advertising for this event that appeared on page A3 of the Edmonton Journal featured the words "Abortion Kills" in three-quarter inch type over a close-up photo of a fetus in utero. The fetus is eerily reminiscent of a photo of a sleeping baby — large head, perfectly formed ears and fingers. The photo was cropped to emphasize these features, these being the most advanced at this stage of pre-natal development.

The emotional impact of such a photo is carefully calculated by anti-abortion forces. Those who see photos like this will immediately recognize the essential humanity of the fetus, goes the argument, and will band together against those who wish to destroy it.

Yet I wonder if anyone who attended this anti-abortion rally carried large photos of abused children. Next to the angelic-looking fetuses, were there pictures of babies with cigarette burns all over their bodies, or children dead of broken necks from a parent's over-enthusiastic shaking?

No, I'm sure there were not. The slogan "Who will defend the defenceless?" seems to apply only to the unborn. Once a fetus becomes a child, the defenders are mute to its treatment.

Western society, with its guilt-laden, hatred/glorification of sex, should not be surprised when the majority of its people engage in pre- or extra-marital sex but deny the behaviour by not using birth control. Sex is glamorized, but birth control remains messy, inconvenient and socially taboo. Most teenagers have been sexually active for over a year before they begin using an effective form of birth control.

This attitude often comes from ignorance of basic biological facts — 80 per cent of women who have sex without any protection will become pregnant in one year.

Instead of fighting the forces of ignorance and hypocrisy that lie behind most unwanted pregnancies, "pro-lifers" try, by various terror tactics, to force women to continue their pregnancies to "save" the child. If the mother still desires the child, she can give it up for adoption, they say. Yet few women, once they've gone through with their pregnancy, give their babies up for adoption. Thus the "pro-lifers" have sentenced a helpless child to a life with a resentful and possibly abusive parent.

Why a three month fetus deserves to live while a three month baby deserves to be abused is not a question that "pro-lifers" care to consider. In an ideal world, they argue, these babies would be speedily adopted by loving parents, and abusive parents would recognize their unfitness and would willingly give up their children.

The world doesn't work like that, sadly, and until it does it seems the most heartless of cruelties to demand life in the womb for an unformed fetus while ignoring the quality of life it will confront when it is born. Better to abort a fetus that cannot think than to kill a child who can.

Roberta Franchuk

The Gateway

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome. If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words. Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUB, or drop them at any SJU information booth.

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LETTERS

Government must protect life

If we are to embrace the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the national struggle towards justice and equality inherent in it, we must accept the Supreme Court decision finding restriction of women's right to abortion unconstitutional. If we accept the judiciary as our vicarious champions in this struggle, then we must accept that their trained and reasoned findings are correct. Therefore this decision, which may directly or indirectly bring more girls and women to choose abortion, is a necessary evil in a truly free society.

But the new right of choosing abortion must be balanced with the unchanging responsibility of protecting life. If governments cannot prevent women from having abortions, it must encourage them by every means not to do so.

Michael Cenknor

Bible a valuable collection

Re: The Bible like any other literature (Feb. 4/88)

Those who say that the Bible is like any other piece of literature are often unaware of several interesting facts. The Bible was written over a 1600 year span (60 generations) by more than 40 different writers who ranged from kings to peasants, philosophers to uneducated fishermen. The Bible was written in times of war and times of peace in various places such as wilderness, palaces, and dungeons. The writers were dispersed across three continents (Asia, Africa, Europe), and wrote in three languages (Hebrew, Aramic, Greek), dealing with many controversial issues. Is it chance that 40 different authors, who were different in every possible way and lived in different generations, were able to deal with controversial issues in perfect harmony? Was it mere luck when the invasion and destruction of cities were predicted with amazing accuracy and detail, and events which ancient men prophesied are being fulfilled, even today? Is it an accident that no other book has been persecuted as much as the Bible, and yet no other book has such a vast number of surviving copies? The answer lies in II Timothy 3:16 which says, "All scripture is inspired by God..." The Bible was a love letter written by God, through men, to reach a mankind which has turned away from Him. In regard to the question of the

existence of God in a suffering world, God loves us so much that He gave us this world to look after and will not interfere with our management of it. If we decide, through our own actions, to leave the world in war, starvation, and hatred, God says He will not interfere with our decisions. He has given us the wisdom and resources to change the world, so how can we blame God for something which is our fault? God says that if we turn from Him and His advice, we will have to struggle and suffer on our own. The answers to the problems in the world and the problems in our own, personal lives lie in the Bible, the Work of God. Have you read your Bible today?

Galynne Howard

You're right, who cares?

Re: Get a Life (Gateway Feb. 4)

Mr. Noble, I agree with you unequivocally. Ms. Veran's comments were trivial and inconsequential. This editorial piece is not an appropriate forum to discuss such frivolous matters as the soccer altercation which occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Instead, it should be used as a theatre for discussion of more important matters like block heaters and atheism (Gateway Feb. 4/88). Who cares about a group of foreigners anyway? Canada should not be a country in which the rights of its citizens are respected, instead it should be a country in which clans of bullies insult and abuse those who are different. Canada needs more callous people like you and fewer people like Ms. Veran, who are offended by racial insults and violence.

Bryan J. Frantz

Kappa Sigma not racist

Re: Maria Veran's letter to the editor (January 25, Gateway)

I would like to comment on the points raised by Ms. Veran in reference to the fight which broke out after an intramural soccer game on Tuesday, January 25, 1988. The unfortunate incident occurred between playing members of Los Carajos soccer team and five supporters of the Kappa Sigma soccer team. While there were unfortunate comments made in reference to Los Carajos by one supporter, the comments were made in the heat of the moment and in reply to an aggressive violent act on the part of a Los Carajos

team player. Specifically, the Los Carajos player struck a Kappa Sigma supporter in the face without warning and without any physical provocation. Still, Kappa Sigma regrets the incident and hopes it will not be repeated in the future.

Ms. Veran, in her comments, also attributed aggressive and racist qualities to a whole group of Kappa Sigmas. These attributions are simply untrue. The fraternity, as a whole, is comprised of young men from many diverse backgrounds and cultures. Indeed, one brother happens to be of Latin descent. We pride ourselves on this diversity and ability to integrate our many brothers into a fine group of men who are positively involved in many campus, philanthropic and community activities. To accuse us of harbouring a racial nature is not only unfair, it is untrue.

Jon. Arnott
 President/Kappa Sigma

Hillel convention unrestricted

Re: Hillel Actions Surprising (Feb. 1 Gateway)

I am now going to state something which may surprise the writer of the letter yet further. Mr. Sharkawi, Hillel apologizes for poor wording of its advertisement in *The Gateway*. The ad was written and submitted to *The Gateway* without the consent of Hillel's president, vice-president, or executive council. The person who did submit the ad did so on the belief that his action was justified in such an action.

However, I must respond with the greatest cynicism to your claim that the Hillel/Network convention was "restricted" in any manner. At no time was the ad did so on the belief that its attending discouraged or excluded from entry. In fact, twelve of your colleagues attended our Middle East seminar on the second day of the convention and rightfully engaged in forthright questioning with the speaker and the audience. Also, I must apologize for disillusioning you, but you were not treated in a special manner when you were told that you should behave in a civil manner at the Convention. Because of the large group of persons with conflicting interests meeting at the Convention, there was a need to inform EVERYONE attending of the importance of acting with civility.