

The debate continues on the abortion question

BY SHERI CRAIG
Style Editor

Inevitably, the heavy artillery of hysterical images gets dragged into any abortion debate.

Both sides have their favourites — distraught women, their bellies distended, parading awkwardly while garbage pails fill with unborn babies.

Conversation on abortion is hardly ever casual.

The debate last Wednesday at Erindale United Church, as part of the Women Aware series, was rather one-sided although no less impassioned.

Dr. Dawne Jubb appeared as a member of the Right to Life organization opposed to abortion. The Canadian Women's Coalition representative, in favour of abortion as a private matter and repeal of the abortion laws, discovered a last minute conflict in appointments and said she couldn't come.

ADVANTAGE

So the anti-abortionists had the advantage that rainy evening.

Dr. Jubb is a sensible, intelligent woman. She is a gynaecologist on the teaching staff at the Women's College Hospital and is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's medical school. She has been a doctor for 21 years, she doesn't have any children, and she doesn't believe in abortion under almost any circumstances.

"The only time," she pauses to think for a moment, "would perhaps be if I was treating a woman for cancer and this treatment might cause her baby to die."

"But that is a very rare instance," Dr. Jubb emphasizes. "Very rare. And that is the only time I would ever consider killing an unborn child."

"It is a scientific fact that new life begins at conception," Dr. Jubb tells the approximately 30 women in her audience.

"When we discuss abortion we are talking about life and death. And we have to decide on what basis people feel they have a right to interrupt life."

GRUESOME

Dr. Jubb shows some slides, gruesome pictures of aborted babies.

Abortion up to about 12 weeks after conception is usually performed by suction curettage. The cervix is dilated and the uterine

contents sucked up by a special tube attached to a vacuum pump. This is generally followed by curettage (scraping) to make sure there are no remaining fragments.

Later pregnancies, in the 16th to 20th or sometimes to the 24th week, are normally aborted by removing some fluid from the womb and replacing it with a salt solution to bring on a miscarriage usually within the next 24 to 48 hours. The fetus, in this case, is burned by the salt solution and appears bright red.

The slides are distressing and not easily dismissed.

And Dr. Jubb presses her advantage.

"It doesn't seem a fair trade to me to kill the baby for the comfort of the mother. Life is involved. We are not dealing just with tissue."

"In 1971," she states, "there were 6,000 abortions performed at Women's College Hospital. They cost \$250,000."

"A fair percentage of those abortions were paid by the general public covering costs for those who don't pay their own health premiums. Instead of using that \$250,000 to kill babies, we could provide the money to support life instead. We could help families who have financial problems and can't afford another child."

Dr. Jubb looks at her audience.

"I don't think the argument is valid that we shouldn't bring unwanted children into this world. Is it better to be dead or unwanted? Nobody has ever come back from the dead to say it is better there."

"At least if you are alive you can always change your status of being unwanted. Who can decide for the baby that he would be better dead than alive?"

Several of the women have their hands raised to ask questions.

"No," Dr. Jubb answers one lady. "I don't believe in abortion where rape is concerned. First of all, true rape is rare and if it is reported immediately the girl can be treated so that

there's no problem of pregnancy. Most girls only say they've been raped two or three months later when they discover they are pregnant."

"Rape," the doctor continues, "is a traumatic experience the girl will have to live with for the rest of her life. It's a second trauma when she discovers that she is pregnant and a third trauma to kill her child."

"Rapists, convicted by law, get only a 20 year sentence as a maximum penalty," she says. "It seems a little ridiculous to kill a baby for a crime committed by an adult."

"Once a pregnancy occurs it is a fact to be lived with. And it is a fallacy to pretend that an abortion will make that fact just melt away."

"Abortions are very disturbing experiences," Dr. Jubb is very definite about this.

DISAGREES

But Lorna Grant, executive secretary of the Canadian Women's Coalition, during a later interview, disagrees.

Lorna is 21. She also has no children.

"Having an abortion isn't always that traumatic," she says. "Recent studies in New York following the liberalization of abortion laws there in July, 1970 show that the trauma of having an abortion is usually less than the trauma of having to bear an unwanted baby."

"It's cruel to force a woman to bring an unwanted child into this world. It's unfair to the child, to the woman and to her family."

"A lot of women wouldn't want an abortion but I get very indignant with people who pretend to know what every woman is thinking."

"Who says women should just be baby-producing machines?"

"We don't believe abortion is the best answer," she continues. "Obviously there is a need for better birth control."

"But abortion is sometimes necessary. And it should be available to those who want it."

The CWC was founded last March at a women's conference in Winnipeg, as an organization neither opposed nor in favour of abortion, but committed to the repeal of abortion laws. The CWC feels that only the woman involved and her doctor should make a decision about abortion.

PRIVATE

"Abortion should be a private matter," Miss Grant stresses. "How can anyone else determine what anguish and hardship it might be for a woman to continue her pregnancy?"

"And who can say it isn't a traumatic experience to go through nine months of pregnancy and then give up

your child?"

In May, the CWC presented 77,000 signatures to the federal government asking for a repeal of the abortion laws. The organization hopes to present another 100,000 signatures by the end of this year.

"About 60 to 80 per cent of those approached sign the

petition," Miss Grant says. "Many women would never have an abortion themselves but believe it is a woman's right to choose."

"That's all we are arguing about."

Tonight is the final lecture in the Women Aware series designed to present discussions of interest to women.



Sara Williamson asks Dr. Dawne Jubb a question about abortions. Below, women in the audience at the Women Aware lecture on abortion listen to both sides of the argument.



Erindale



Linda Ginty
822-4964

Tonight at 8 p.m. in Erindale United Church, a representative from the Eleanor Fulcher modeling agency is the featured

speaker for Women Aware. Eleanor Fulcher's, located at 667 Yonge St. in Toronto, offers self-improvement courses as well as being a model school and agency.

This is the final evening of the six week Women Aware series sponsored by Project IDEA (Involvement Demands Energy and Awareness) a youth program funded by the provincial government. The energetic organizers of Women Aware are Debbie Field, 277-8363, and Pat Dunn, 279-2205.

CAMPERS

The Lamplighters Camping Club is holding a special meeting tonight at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, 8A Archibald Street in Brampton at 8:30 p.m. to deal with business regarding the national board of CFCF. All members are expected to

attend. Upcoming plans of the Lamplighters include a campout at the Albion Hills Conservation Area camp grounds at Highway 9 and 50 for Sept. 22 to 24 inclusive.

FAREWELL

Mr. and Mrs. D. Pringle hosted a farewell party recently for Mr. and Mrs. G. Denison who will be moving out of the neighbourhood. Among the guests were the R. Mitchells, the Bill Harpers and the Guy Des Ormeaux.

WEDDING

Aug. 26 is the date set for the exchange of wedding vows between Cathy Franklin, daughter of Ron and Gwen Franklin, and Stuart Towers, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Towers. The ceremony will take place in St. Hilary's Anglican Church on

Huronario Street at 7 p.m. with the reception following at the Lorelei Road home of the bride's parents. Cathy will be attended by Barbara Orom as maid of honour and Maureen Mulhgan, who is coming from Vancouver to be bridesmaid.

The groom's parents, who recently moved to Ottawa, were former residents of Southdown Road for about 15 years. The newlyweds will also make Ottawa their home since Stuart will be returning to play Junior A hockey for the Ottawa's 67's during the first week of September.

VACATION

Former Winnipeg residents Audrey and Ken Charles and family, of Westman Road, recently returned from their annual trailer holiday at West Hawk Lake. This year, as for the

past several, they met up with their friends and camped at West Hawk which is in the Whiteshell Provincial Park in Manitoba. In the group, some families are in trailers and others now own cottages in the park.

Undaunted by disappointingly cool weather, they got together for meals, played volleyball and tennis, had parties and card games for large groups. Families took turns hosting dinners. Forty attended the spaghetti dinner hosted by the Charles; 31 came to the duck and pheasant dinner provided by hunter Roy Hodgson of Winnipeg and on the last day, two families hosted a community breakfast.

The Charles were visited by Lorraine and Bob Good, of Homelands Drive, who

stayed in a cottage at Falcon Lake, one of several lakes that are in the Whiteshell area. The Charles also went to Winnipeg to visit their parents and saw the Blue Bombers play Calgary.

TALENT SHOW

The search is on for talented youngsters 14 years of age and under to perform in an outdoor show. For further information, please call 822-5344.

ON DRIVING

Those who have recently been vacation-bound or homeward-bound may agree with this new twist to an old adage: The shortest distance between two points is always under construction.

CYCLERS

The Mississauga Cyclers Club is now operational. For tours and racing, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 279-7600.