

TO ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON STUDENT VISAS

Find out how new immigration regulations affect you with regard to:

- (1) landed immigrant status.
- (2) obtaining temporary work permits for summer of part-time employment.

Those who already have work permits are also urged to attend.

Immigration officials will be on hand to explain the new regulations and to answer questions.

Theatre
TL B1
7:30 p.m.
Wed. March 21

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**abortion repeal
conference needs money**

grade 7

On January 22nd, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that restrictive abortion laws in 46 states were unconstitutional because they violated a woman's "right to privacy".

In a vote of 7 to 2, they decided that the foetus has no legal rights and that no state would be capable of prohibiting abortion before the last 10 weeks of pregnancy.

In the last 10 weeks, abortions must be legally available when they are in the interests of the woman's health. The U.S. Supreme Court defined "health" in the sense advocated by the World Health Organization as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of infirmity or disease."

Canada's Criminal Code leaves "health" undefined and this leads to substantial variation in interpretation of the law.

Concerning the hospital committee system of deciding appeals for abortions, the Supreme Court said, "Ingerposition of a hospital committee is unduly restrictive of the patient's rights."

This system is now in use in Canada under our "liberalized" abortion laws.

All over the world struggles for women's rights have been intensifying — and the right to control her own body is one of woman's basic rights which has long been denied her. Recently in France, almost 600 prominent women and men (including over 300 doctors) declared themselves "criminals" under France's restrictive abortion laws. Simone de Beauvoir, author of *The Second Sex* is one such "criminal".

In Canada, too, support for abortion law repeal is constantly growing. Nearly 10,000 Canadians have signed a petition demanding repeal of anti-abortion laws. Students on seventeen campuses voted overwhelmingly in favour of repeal in referenda held last year.

(At the U of A, the vote was well over 80% in favour).

Hundreds of Canadians have marched in the streets, attended rallies, bought and circulated *Spokeswoman* the newspaper of the Canadian Woman's Coalition for Abortion Law Repeal.

Opposition to present abortion laws has been expressed by such large and reputable organizations as the Canadian Medical Association, the Federation of Women Teachers Association, the New Democratic Party, and the United Church.

A recent Gallup Poll showed that 61% of Canadians favour making abortion a matter of private decision.

What is the reaction of the Canadian government to the recent U.S. decision and to pressure from Canadians? Immediately after hearing of the U.S. decision, Grace MacInnis (N.D.P. — Vancouver-Kingsway — once again raised the issue of debate on abortion law repeal in the

A report in the Edmonton Journal describes the response from Otto Lang, "The justice minister gave a one word answer — NO — to the New Democrat's query about possible Criminal Code

amendments on abortion being introduced during the current house session."

Otto Lang said, "We see no need for a debate on this matter."

The task of Canadian women is clear. We must open the government's eyes and force them to "see the need for debate". To this end the CWC has called a national Conference in Toronto for March 16, 17, and 18. Women from all across Canada will attend.

The Conference will open with a public rally to protest Canada's restrictive anti-abortion laws. Women will meet to plan future actions to make the need for repeal evident even to the "Minister of Justice".

They will discuss the idea of holding a National Tribunal (as well as Provincial Tribunals) on Abortion, Contraception and Forced Sterilization.

Women in B.C. held such a court last month and had no difficulty finding witnesses to testify to the injustice of present laws and practices in Canada.

The Conference will also consider launching a test case against the Canadian laws. Enthusiastic and optimistic lawyers have already expressed an interest in working on this case.

Roy Lucas, who was instrumental in winning repeal in the U.S., is willing to come to Canada to help with the work. The lawyers say that a good argument could be put that the present laws deny women their "right to freedom of religion". There is precedent for interpreting this right to mean the right to make moral decisions to have an abortion.

Although the Supreme Court of Canada does not have the legislative powers of the U.S. Supreme Court, still a test case would make the need for repeal evident and put pressure on the government to debate the matter.

Funds are urgently needed to help defray the costs of publicity and transportation. If you can make any contribution or if you wish further information, please call: Terry Mastell, 433-0743; Chris Bearchill, 436-3711; or Sheila Mawson, 433-4073.

Cheques may be sent to: Edmonton Chapt. of The C.W.C., c/o Ms. J. Cameron, 11610-90th Street.

Members of the Coalition would like to thank in advance all those who will be generous to us and to remind all women that the Conference is open to them and that we hope several Edmonton women will attend.

Charlotte MacDonald
U of A Committee for
Abortion Law Repeal

Did we just witness the election of the students' choices to the Students' Union Executive? Numerous candidates did see to it that we suffer their posters and propaganda which they aimed at a grade seven level. Were we to elect a grade seven level Students' Union Executive? And did we? Time will let us know as it has in terms gone by.

Yet if one was generally disappointed with the candidates, one has more of a disappointment in store if he looks at us, the electorate. What ever happened to us, the responsible voters? And to our free will, and our free choice? Has the media become supreme in directing our decision-making processes? If we, the 'future leaders of society', fail to examine the facts, the issues, and the candidates, can we expect society to? Is there responsible voting, or does the media always choose our representative governments for us?

Did we forget the sweeps that some political parties have made in the past, due to the blind support of the daily newspapers? Did we forget the 1972 Students' Union election, and the Gateway's opinions? This year our two university papers again correctly printed their unbiased opinions and conclusions, just prior to election day. Of course, each candidate received fair and equal treatment and exposure.

Did any of us fail to vote for the candidates that one of our papers suggested voting for? Did any of us vote for candidates that our papers correctly recognized as a protest candidate, or as a member of a poor slate, if they deserved recognition at all?

One thing is clearly witnessed, the power of the press has not died. What leadership have our papers given us? (For anyone below the grade seven level, that was what is commonly called a pun.)

Gary Harris
Arts 2

correction

Re. the article on Day Care in last week's Gateway, I would like to correct two statements of misinformation.

The capital costs for the building have been met entirely by the students with an interest free loan to be paid by the Centre. Operating costs come from the three levels of government plus parental fees which are based on the family income.

The maximum per diem rate is \$5.60 a day and not the minimum rate.

Thank you.

Dianne Dalley
Director

Letters to the Gateway on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Pseudonyms may be used for good cause. Keep letters short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words.

The Gateway is published bi-weekly by the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the person who expressed them.

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