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Thursday, January 10

Write

We encourage everyone and anyone to write letters to the Gazette. Yes we will print your letter if it is typed double-spaced, 300 words or less and not racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous.

Questionable Stats

To the editor:

In the Nov. 22 Gazette Ms. Laura Currie wrote an article on the "Morgentaler debut in Newfoundland.'

Ms. Currie stated that "Morgentaler defended his clinics, saying that they have better safety records." She also quoted Morgentaler as stating that his clinics ...provide better quality services than hospitals. The clinics are 10 times better than any of the Canadian hospitals...'

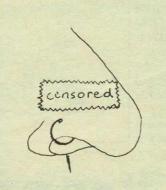
It seems that, once again, rhetoric is being used by this medical doctor to defend his clinics. These particular statements hold no water whatsoever. How can he make such comments about safety records, and compare the quality of his services with hospitals, when he knows himself that there is no such evidence or data to back up such remarks?

Morgentaler, himself, admitted in court this past summer that the complication rates (of his abortions) that he used to substantiate his own safety record were based on an article that he had written in 1973! He could not produce his own safety statistics for the past 17 years that he has been performing his "trade". How, then, can he make such general and sweeping statements about the superiority and safety of his clinics when the majority of his clinics were not operating in 1973 (if any). The rate of abortions have also since esca-

Consequently, this man does not even have grounds for statistical speculation; unless, of course, his utterances are simply rhetorical, 'press-eat-it-up-rhetoric" that is.

I would truly urge those who may be sitting on the fence, and observing the abortion controversy, to do their homework.

G.B. Stiller



Ring in new year

To the editor:

I am new to Halifax and my first impressions of the city have been mostly positive - it's clean, friendly and happening! One experience, however, was very disheartening. Like many other students I need to earn some extra cash, and being rather desperate I applied for the position of busperson (hardly my life long ambition) at Smitty's restaurant on Tower Road. The interview I had was horrible. The manager (who asked few questions relative to the job) shocked me by asking if I would be willing to take off my nose ring while on the job. I politely said I would not. Why the manager asked this question is beyond me - will the sight of a nose ring make people in Halifax cringe? Are they that close-minded? I have a feeling most people are not but it seems Smitty's is narrow-minded. The moral of the story being: if you support my cause, do me a favour and don't eat at Smitty's on Tower

Jody Warner

Kinder gentler Halifax

To the editor:

According to some of the letters your paper has received, the paranoia about women not being safe on the streets at night (as evidenced by the "Take Back the Night" march and related rhetoric) has also reached Dalhousie.

It is deplorably true that fourteen women students were killed in one violent act by a deranged man, and that women are attacked from time to time by other sick men, but that doesn't mean that men are generally violent or that the streets are generally unsafe.

I have no problem walking wherever I wish, at any hour, and many others do the same. (However, a male acquaintance who lived on my street was once

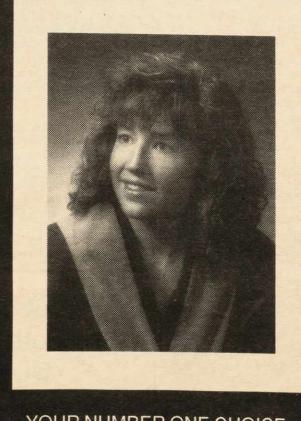
The paranoia which has accrued to such an exercise of freedom is predictable, given the mind-set of many of today's women, but most of it is unnecessary.

Charmaine Wood

CORRECTION

Amir Nevo's letter "Pity for All" (Gazette, Nov. 27), should read "16 community colleges" have been reopened in the West Bank and Gaza, not 216. We apologize for the typo.

Graduation Photography



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