

Lord give me chastity...

# The Gateway

Tuesday, January 15, 1985

...but not yet.

St. Augustine

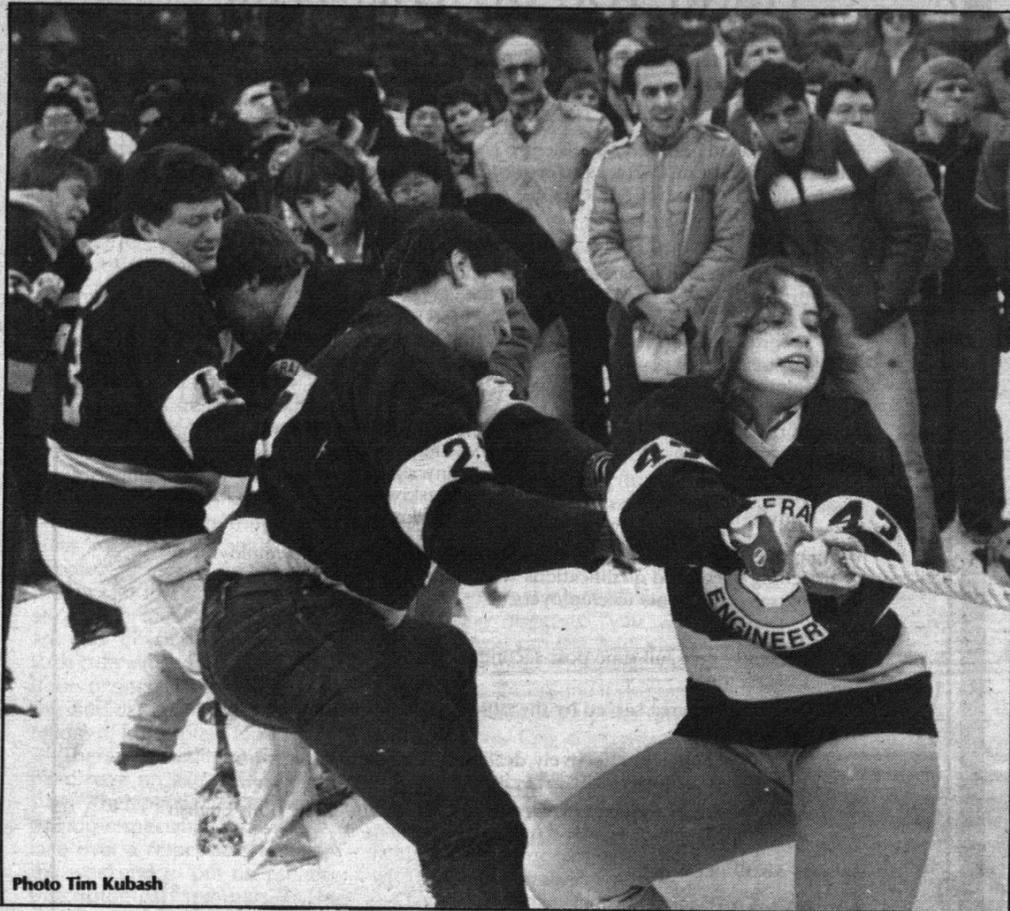


Photo Tim Kubash

Heroic engineers rescue drowning friend as angry crowd jeers. Engineering Week kicked off for yet another year on Monday.

## South Africa conference set Apartheid ignored

by Suzette C. Chan

Most Canadians are unaware of the plight of victims of apartheid in Southern Africa but are shocked when they learn what is happening.

That is the observation of Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid (CARA), an Edmonton-based group committed to educating Edmontonians about the situation in Southern Africa and how to take action against it.

Bob Schmidt, a member of CARA and a CUSO worker, said in a recent interview that "CARA's main mandate is to educate people about racism and apartheid."

The year-old organization will take a step in fulfilling that mandate this week as it hosts a conference called Southern Africa: Strategies for Change.

Schmidt said CARA felt it should sponsor a major event this spring. "CUSO was thinking along the same lines and from there it grew," he said. "Then we got the (U of A) Chaplains' Association involved, then the AFL (Alberta Federation of Labor) got involved and it snowballed from there."

The conference is an ambitious endeavor with a budget of \$9,800. Most of the cost is attributed to expenses of flying in guest speakers from South Africa, representing the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC). Speakers from the United Auto Workers (UAW), OXFAM, CUSO, and the University of Toronto and Carlton University.

The featured speaker is F.K. Ruwinda, the Tanzania High Commissioner in Ottawa.

One of the U of A chaplains, Bruce Miller, said it seems issues in Latin America are covered by the media to the exclusion of Southern Africa issues.

Besides the interest in Latin America generated by American military involvement there, Miller speculates the media ignores Africa for other reasons.

"There may be an element of racism involved," he said. "We comfortable whites in North America don't care about poor blacks. There is a lot of attention to Ethiopia. It's easy to give money, but in South Africa, the issue is social justice, which is more threatening. We're questioning our values."

Judith Axelson, a graduate student at the U of A and a new member of CARA, says one solution to the complex economic problems in South Africa would be divestment. "Government's have to take appropriate action. The solutions are mostly economic: not supporting South African products, not supporting South Africa in, for example, the United Nations."

Miller agrees. "Economic pressures are really important." He said recent Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa has said solidarity from nations like Canada is very important to the free South Africa movement, and that economic pressure was the best way to go about it.

Neither Miller, Axelson or Schmidt knew that the students' union South Africa products boycott was scuttled this summer. "I didn't know about it but I'm a bit alarmed. As a member of the Chaplain's Association, we can't even practice what we preach at this university."

The Strategies for Change conference starts Jan. 18 with registration, an introduction and a speech from the Tanzanian High Commissioner followed by a question period and a wine and cheese. Speakers and workshops are scheduled for Saturday and the conference winds up Sunday.

The registration fee is \$20 and daycare and billeting are available. For more information, write to: Southern Africa Project, Rm. 239, Athabasca Hall, U of A, T6G 2E8, or call: 432-3904, 429-4145, 489-5784 or 431-0472.

## Club co-sponsoring Morgentaler lecture

# Campus club backs Morgentaler clinic

by Audrey Djuwita

"If Dr. Henry Morgentaler is to open an abortion clinic in Edmonton, we would definitely give him moral support," says Helen Schuld, organizer of the Campus Pro-Choice club.

Since its establishment in September 1983, the club has gained a growing support on campus. It offers people information and a vehicle to talk about issues like abortion, sex education and birth control.

"I think people begin to realize that abortion is not a matter of right or wrong, it is a responsible choice."

Schuld denied the charge that in some cases, women who have abortions only want the fun part and not the responsibility.

"A decision to have an abortion is not an easy one. The person has her conscience to live with. The problem in our society is that it does not offer a very supportive atmosphere for single mothers. We live in a very alienated society."

Schuld gave an example of a supportive atmosphere: government sponsored daycare centres.

"Single mothers, in order to survive and have a decent standard of living, must work or have to live on welfare. And these daycare centres would certainly help them. I think the government is aware of it, but it is not their top priority."

Schuld admitted that adoption is an alternative.

"I agree there are a lot of babies wanted but mostly white healthy babies. What about the rest? There are many youngsters who need families too. Every child should be a wanted child."

Although prevention is possible, there are still many unwanted pregnancies. Schuld said the problem is largely due to the fact that



graphic: Hans Becker

there are no effective birth control methods. More effective ones, like sponges, are not available in Canada.

"Dave Russell (Alberta Hospitals Minister) said that there are too many abortions in Alberta, but there are far more abortions given to Albertan women outside the province and country," said Schuld. "There is a need for a specific abortion facility in Alberta."

Campus Pro-Choice, financed through its membership fees and donations, has affiliations with Planned Parenthood and Abortion by Choice, the latter is a major supporter of Dr. Morgentaler.

Is Morgentaler perceived as a hero by Pro-Choice groups?

"Dr. Morgentaler is a very dedicated doctor, he has only the best interests of women in mind. He is concerned about women who have to make this hard decision," said Schuld. "He provides a safe alternative. Some women attempt to procure abortions through harmful ways, like eating soap."

Despite his seemingly lucrative practice, Morgentaler is not rich, Schuld claimed. In fact, the donation and money from tickets sold to the coming forum in which he will speak will go to the payments of his legal fees. The forum (Thursday, SUB Theatre, 7:30) is sponsored by Campus Pro-Choice.

Schuld said the abortion laws in Canada are ambiguous.

## Morgentaler secure

by Bill Doskoc

No serious security problems are anticipated for Dr. Henry Morgentaler's January 17th lecture in SUB theatre says Dave Langevin, director of Campus Security.

"We don't expect any trouble," said Langevin. "We will have people available to insure only authorized individuals get into the auditorium. My main concern is with guarding against disruption."

Langevin said Campus Pro Life will hold a candlelight and prayer

"It should be stated more clearly and abortion should be taken out of the Criminal Code" she said.

Schuld mentioned that the recent survey taken by the *Globe and Mail* is a sign that Canadians are looking at abortion from a new point of view. The survey showed that 75% of those surveyed were in favor of women's choice. Schuld also referred to the appeal by the Toronto Metropolitan police as a waste of time and money.

"Canadians, encapsulated in the juries who found Dr. Morgentaler not guilty (3 in Montreal and 1 in Toronto), see the need to change the abortion laws."

Schuld said the club has a relatively small opposition from Pro-Life groups; however, she anticipates a demonstration during Morgentaler's visit.

Schuld said she did have a number of nasty phone calls from people who do not agree with her point of view.

"I just hung up. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, but I don't think harassing people is the right attitude, not in this democratic society."

service outside SUB with 200 people expected to attend. They will be having their own meeting and speaker on Thursday night.

Spokesman for the city police and Campus Pro Life were not available for comment.

Langevin said there have been no threats directed at Morgentaler. "Everyone has a right to express their opinion and it would be wrong to have that right disrupted by violence."