

Congrats to first woman president

IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE. One hundred years ago this year, Margaret Newcombe became the first woman to graduate from Dalhousie. Last week, Catherine Blewett became the first woman to be elected president of the Dalhousie Student Union.

It's a breakthrough for Dal. But Blewett won't be alone next year, because women have already been elected as presidents of St. Francis Xavier University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and it appears likely there will be another at Mount St. Vincent. So it's not hard to see that Blewett's win is not so much a breakthrough as it is a part of a continuing evolutionary process. Women are finally breaking into politics in a big way.

Blewett herself is putting the gender issue behind her as she and Reza Rizvi, the vice president-elect, begin delving into their new responsibilities. In the coming weeks and months they plan to look long and hard at the upcoming report of the provincial Royal Commission on post-secondary education. They also plan to look into student housing, and to oversee the finalization of the student contribution plan for the Capital Fund Drive.

All in all they have their work cut out for them.

The Gazette offers its congratulations and best wishes to Catherine Blewett and Reza Rizvi for the coming year.

Morgentaler represents valid views

DURING THE COMING week you'll be hearing a lot about Dr. Henry Morgentaler. Most of it nasty. Most of it from people who call him a murderer who should be in prison for his crimes. Most of it from those who call themselves "pro-life."

You may also be hearing some rumors and accusations about the student union executive's decision to invite him to speak at Dalhousie on March 26. This decision has made council the focus of the pro-life movement's fury.

For years the Nova Scotia chapter of the pro-life movement has been looking for a cause. Unlike their Central Canadian cousins pro-lifers here can't have abortion clinics to bomb or to march outside. Morgentaler's visit will be an issue not only this week before he speaks but for months afterwards.

Two former members of the DSU executive are charging DSU president Alex Gigeroff and vice-president Rusty James with abusing their power by inviting Morgentaler to speak. Although the same process was used to decide on every other speaker in the student union this year, they now claim this doesn't allow students time to raise objections. Funny we didn't hear these same councillors agreeing with us when we used a similar argument against Kenny, Alex and the Swell Guys appearing in the Grawood.

Yes, we agree the process has

flaws but why are they only being brought up now? It seems that line of argument is only a tactical weapon used against the whole idea of Morgentaler speaking here.

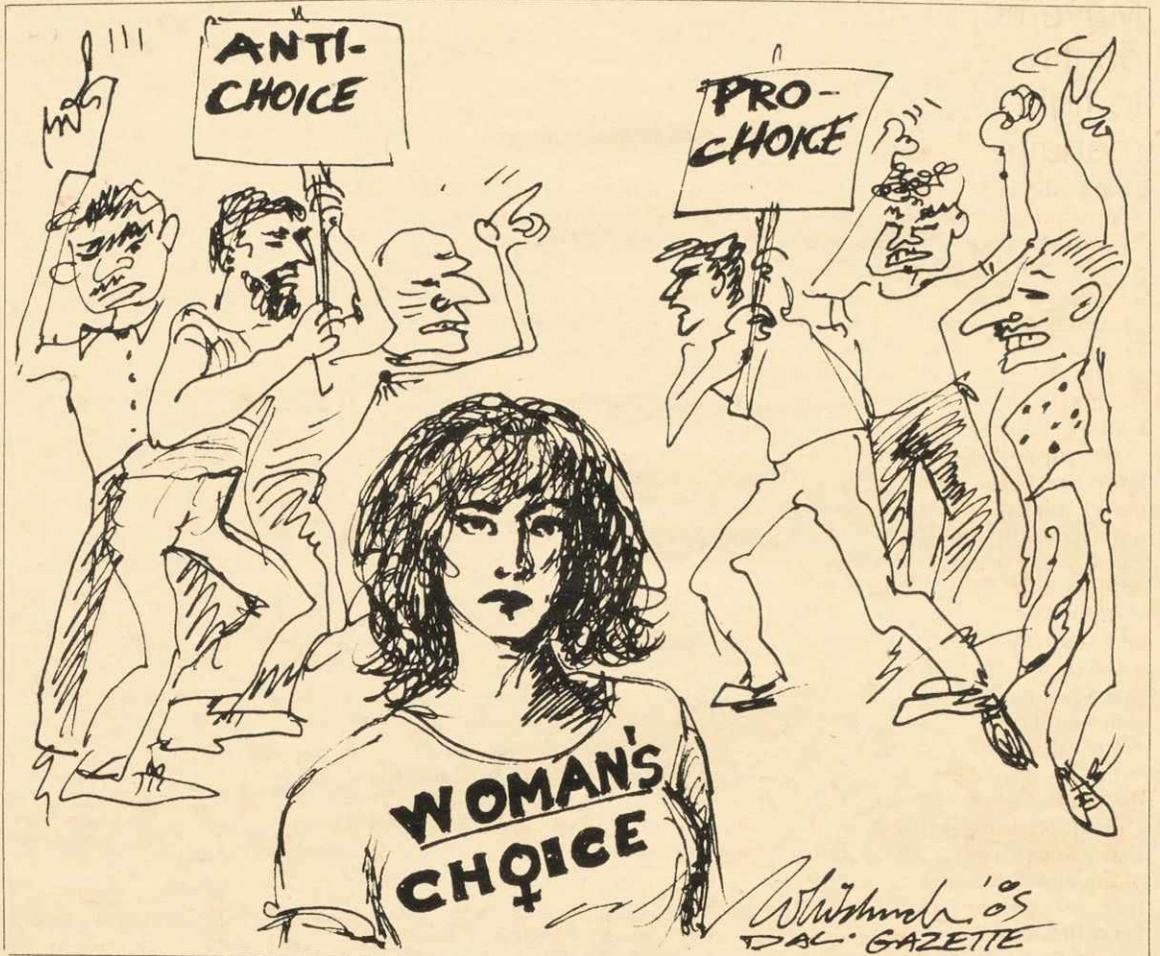
That brings us to the real issue. Should Morgentaler speak to students at Dalhousie university? We would argue yes.

Although we'd rather see a woman speak on the issue of abortion, Morgentaler has for a time now been identified as the main voice of the pro-choice movement. Numerous juries have acquitted Morgentaler of crime under the Canadian law. His view is a valid one and one that students have a right to hear.

The DSU isn't going to change anyone's mind by bringing him here. He's not going to corrupt the minds of innocent youth. In fact Rusty James argues that just because the student union is sponsoring his lecture it doesn't mean that they're taking a pro-choice stand. He says they're just starting debate and giving students something to think about.

Morgentaler's voice is a valid one and his views should be heard. And if later students want to organize a lecture by a pro-life speaker that's fine too. The DSU has no responsibility to present the "other side" on the same night. There are many sides to this issue—not just two.

Morgentaler's lecture is being run on a break even basis. And besides he's only *speaking* in the McInnes room, not performing abortions there.



Commentary: Pro-life defended

By DAVID C. McCANN

AT THE CENTRE OF THE pro-abortionist movement stand a number of time-honoured trite slogans which the pro-abortionists use to baffle the unwary and confound the issue. These slogans sound very good, but a close examination of their meaning reveals them to be entirely fallacious and unsubstantiated. Since it seems likely that our campus is going to have to put up with these slogans being bandied about, it is probably a good idea to take a closer look at them.

One of my favourite pro-abortion slogans is "Every woman has the right to control her own body." There's a real beauty. First of all, medical science tells us that in pregnancy there are two bodies present — and two separate lives. Also, when you consider that over half the abortions performed worldwide are done on female babies, it seems that every woman does not have the right to control her own body. For the poor women babies who are aborted, their bodies are ripped apart by the actions of the abortionists. What is even more ironic is that I hear this particular slogan shouted most loudly by feminists. Consider the case of abortion in India. There, it is not fashionable for couples to have female babies. So, many couples choose to have their *in utero* babies aborted simply because they discover (using amniocentesis) they are female. If feminists really do care about their sisters world-wide, then I fail to see how they can shout this particular slogan when thousands of their

sisters are being slaughtered by abortionists.

Another really good one is "No one should impose their religious morality on others." Get serious. Religion did not discover that life begins at conception and is therefore a continuum — the science of Biology discovered that. Also, geneticists tell us that all the baby will ever be is locked inside its genetic material at conception. All that is required for the expression of that genetic individuality is time and proper nourishment. So, religion is not responsible for the scientific reasoning behind the fact that abortion is murder. If a religious person is drunk and driving because people get killed does that make the arguments against drunk driving a religious issue? Interestingly, Planned Parenthood, a well-known abortion referral agency, used to hold the view that abortion was the taking of a human life. Whatever happened to pervert that organization the world will never know.

What about everyone's all-time favourite "Every child a wanted child." Don't you love the sound of that one? Funny how this expression converts a human being into an object subject to the whims of others. You know, sort of like a toy that you don't want to play with anymore.

Once you have objectified the unborn child, you can do whatever you want to it, right? The real problem with the "Every child a wanted child" line is that it only deals with our emotions and feelings, while totally disregarding those of the unborn child. In a sense, only a very self-centred person could use this line

in conscience because by its very nature, this type of attitude has no room for others; there is only room for the ever-expanding ego of the person saying it.

Another good one is "The fetus is not a person." Being in medical school, it never ceases to amaze me the millions of dollars being spent on developing medical techniques to help all these unborn non-persons. Look at what medical science can now do: they can view and monitor the unborn child with sophisticated imaging techniques; they can do *in utero* blood transfusions; they can even perform *in utero* surgery on the growing baby. All that time and money spent for a fetus who is not a person? Strange sense of priorities.

It does not matter whether you call the unborn baby a fetus, an embryo or anything else you care to come up with. That does not change the reality that the unborn baby is just as human as you and me (perhaps more human since I never heard of an unborn baby that committed murder, but I know lots of people walking the face of this earth who would not think twice about killing an unborn baby). These terms merely describe where the baby is in development just as "toddler" or "infant" describe various stages of development.

So, if you have to listen to pro-abortionists, at least listen with a discerning ear. As academics, we all know that you must verify your sources if you are to be worth your salt. When people start seriously checking pro-abortion sources, they will quickly see the underlying fallacies propounded by pro-abortion advocates. I hope that day is not far away for each of you.

Quote of the Week

"If I was the president or vice-president and I were to bring in a pro-lifer, I think that I would hear a lot of dissent. If I were a fascist and president and tried to bring in Ernst Zundel, would I hear dissent?"

—Former DSU executive member Dave McCann on the decision to invite Morgentaler to speak.