

In Halifax

Morgentaler forces the issue

No doubt everyone has heard that Dr. Henry Morgentaler has plans to open a free-standing abortion clinic in Halifax. Premier John Buchanan says no way, we don't want a clinic in Nova Scotia. Health Minister, David Nantes, says no way, we don't need a clinic and Attorney General, Tom McInnis, says no way, the government is ready to go to court over this issue.

Last week the Tories changed regulations in the Health Act banning abortions outside approved hospitals in an effort to keep Morgentaler's clinic out of the province.

It's been well over a year since the Supreme Court ruled that the

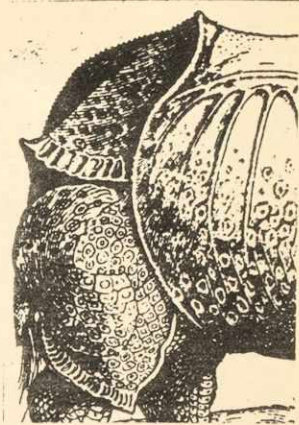
abortion law was unconstitutional, leaving the country without a law. It was hoped that this ruling would force politicians to deal with an issue they go out of their way to avoid. But even now, here in Halifax, with the possibility of an abortion clinic within the next year, politicians are ignoring the abortion issue. While hundreds of Atlantic Canadian women go to Montreal, Toronto or the US each year to obtain abortions, all we hear from politicians is: 'There'll be no abortion clinic in our province'. The issue is not one of an isolated abortion clinic in Halifax, it is an issue of safe and equal access to abortion for all

Canadian women.

Even many pro-choice people are against the idea of a free-standing abortion clinic in Nova Scotia but they do want to see the government take responsible action to provide better and more fair access to abortion across the province and within the Atlantic region. 88 per cent of abortions in NS are performed at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax out of 12 NS hospitals which perform the procedure. In PEI no hospital will perform an abortion and approximately 400 women per year leave the province to obtain one. In New Brunswick you need the approval of 2 doctors and the abortion must be performed by a

gynecologist in a hospital to be paid for by Medicare. In Newfoundland hospital abortions are paid for but there is only one doctor in the province who will perform them.

Nantes says his main concern is "how we best feel the service can be provided to Nova Scotians" but obviously, if women are put on a waiting list and may have to wait three weeks to obtain an abortion at the VG where abortions are the most accessible in the region, there is a problem with accessibility. Buchanan claims public opinion is against the clinic and he is unconcerned with accessibility in other Atlantic provinces.



It's bound to be a gruelling legal battle between Morgentaler and the government over constitutional matters concerning the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. With any luck and lots of persistence this will finally force politicians to deal with abortion in a comprehensive manner instead of continuing to skirt around this important issue.

Ellen Reynolds

Letters

Comic relief

To the editors:

In response to Isaac Saney's letter of March 16. We would like to say to Isaac, "If you can't laugh at yourself who can you laugh at". First and foremost we'd like to commend you for standing up for what you believe in and for having pride for where you come from. Let us say that we as well have pride for our culture and we do not ignore the problems of the Caribbean, because ignorance is not a solution. Only by dealing with the problems can we truly make the Caribbean a paradise.

For all those students who read this paper; did not attend at Caribanza and are referring to Isaac's letter as their only source of information, we have a few of Isaac's exaggerated remarks to straighten out.

First of all, the skit, as he so wrongly portrayed it, did not "depict Caribbean life as one focused around drug pushing and teenage pregnancies". He was more accurate, in describing it in his first letter for what it was, a skit "demonstrating how information is distorted as it passes from one person to the next in the form of gossip."

Secondly, our culture is something to be valued, and we agree that it is not to be portrayed as an Air Canada poster, nor are our people a shiftless collection of whoremasters and drug dealers. We must declare that we definitely can not come to grips with how he came up with this idea from a skit that was solely based on gossip and misunderstandings.

Lastly, let us set the records straight, that there were no changes made on the day of the show to "nullify any objections". The only change made was that he dropped out, the day of the show which, we might add, was more than inconvenient for all those involved.

Personally, we don't feel that

we have to defend ourselves to Isaac or anyone. We just felt that it was necessary to let all students who read this paper understand, that as far as we know it Isaac Saney's opinion of the skit "Island Rumours" was and still is the only negative one we've received to date!!

Isaac, we still admire you for having pride and sticking up for your own moral obligations, we do agree that our people are "struggling for emancipation in all spheres of life" and they still are. That's why we need COMIC RELIEF!!

Juliette Lashley-Thorne
Eugene O'Connor

Leaders incompetent

To the Editors,

This letter is written to express my disbelief at the appalling commentary given by our student leaders at Student Union Appreciation Night. I was a guest at this event, and was really astounded at the lack of professionalism displayed by Juanita Montalvo and Terry Crawley.

Montalvo and Crawley's incompetence detracted from the award presentation. Was it not our student union leaders' responsibility to ensure that Student Union Appreciation Night was a success? Surely the student union have a secretary who could have typed the speech from which Montalvo and Crawley read? Instead, our student leaders stuttered, stammered and made weak excuses about the illegible handwriting they were attempting to read. Award presentations are seldom dynamic or stimulating experiences for the audience, but through their ineptitude Montalvo and Crawley managed to do injustice to the award recipients. Furthermore, Montalvo denigrated SAPHER (Students Association of Physical Health Education and Recreation) by her lack of understanding of what the acronym stood for. By summarizing SAPHER to "Phys. Ed." students, Montalvo implied that

Health Education and Recreation students were not part of this society. It surely makes sense that those presenting awards familiarize themselves with the societies they are honouring before standing in front of 300 people.

Special attention was given on the first page of the evening's program to justifying the thought and energy devoted to changing the name of University Night to Student Union Appreciation Night. Perhaps this time and energy should have been devoted to planning the award presentations, opposed to changing the name of the event in order to pat themselves on the back. My understanding is that the purpose of University Night is to honor the societies on campus. The changed name of Student Union Appreciation Night does not reflect this purpose.

Louise Cowin

Review reviewed

To the Editor

In response to Roy MacDonald's letter chastising the review of *Little Mary Sunshine*, I say Bravo! It was a nicely reasoned piece subtending from a demonstrable background. The young lady reviewer, no doubt, has matured wonderfully under this public exposure and one may now expect the same from Roy.

My goodness! Why ruin a wonderful and necessary defense of this musical with sexual bigotry? Our friends in the homosexual community have had to enjoy our steamy heterosexually-oriented soft drink and car ads for years. We can afford to be generous — a lack of generosity was also a sin of the reviewer.

University is a good place to emerge from home and community narrowness and enter the larger world wheel. Heaven knows, we're back soon enough as it is.

I hope some time you may be in the pit for South Pacific, Roy, and listen to the words of Oscar and Hammerstein's "You've Got

to Be Carefully Taught".

The Gazette is welcome to my student fees by reason of exercising the press freedom that the commercial rags fear. Good — I'm going to an analytical psychology meeting after seeing the notice in the Gazette — or bad — I didn't ask my girlfriend to the musical after reading your review, and was surprised by the warmth of the local press reviews — I depend on the Gazette to improve the quality of my university life.

Best Regards,
David M. Mahoney

Not enough controversy?

To the Editors:

I'm writing in response to C. MacIll'losa's letter published in last week's issue. First of all he or she missed the point entirely. Nowhere in my letter did I state or even allude to a dissatisfaction with articles concerning "Racism, sexuality, equality, etc." In general the articles that appear in the Dalhousie Gazette are good representations of these types of injustices inherent in the Halifax community. However, I am angered by the monopolization of our school paper funded by ALL students of ALL faculties devoting the majority of their space to these issues. In any good newspaper you will find these issues mixed with international issues, business sections, feature sections and most importantly local issues which capture the attention of your target audience. Since the Gazette is a student paper then it follows that the audience should be the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a point that seems to be misunderstood by C. MacIll'losa. We commerce students did "Get off our asses and pick up the literary pen." We submitted written articles to the Gazette on two different occasions. These articles were not published. I would like to apologize for creating confusion in the mind of C., MacIll'losa.

Furthermore, in regards to your comment about tired, worn out, and dead phrases, "Every rose has it's thorns" fits into this category quite nicely. After all, roses have been around a lot longer than coffee.

In closing, I'd like to apologize if any offence was taken to the reference to GLAD, in my first letter. In explanation, the week that we asked for Gazette print space, a large supplement of the paper was devoted to gay issues. A small section on our event would not have taken up much print space, but apparently it was not controversial enough.

Heather Logan
P.S. Stereotyping commerce students as Yuppies was unwarranted and an unfair generalization by C. MacIll'losa. The accusation of close-mindedness on my part is ridiculous as you have never met me and are in no position to make that judgement.

Pseudo radicals

To the Editors:

It is unfortunate that any letter written in criticism of the Gazette must have an immediate retort. It is especially unfortunate that any retort will do. C. MacIll'losa's letter in response to Heather Logan's complaint about the Gazette in the March 9 issue was just such a reaction. A valid complaint was buried under a blanket of shit! (ah, how poetic). It soared to the pretentious and then sunk to the profane. It escapes me how someone who is pursuing a university education cannot express themselves in a better manner than that found in bathroom graffiti.

Opening your mind to new ideas does not necessitate closing your mind to established ones. Why is it then that C. MacIll'losa feels that being a student requires one to hold unpopular opinions? Why does he see this as the essence of university? To espouse extremist views on every issue is as ludicrous as accepting any pre-established dogma. Have you no mind of your own? You great