

Although Buchanan vows to safeguard Nova Scotians,

# Morgentaler's coming to town (maybe)

Yes, Dr. Henry Morgentaler has been granted a medical license for Nova Scotia, and he has even hired someone to search for clinic space, but in light of the opposition it faces, it will probably be more than six months before Halifax sees a freestanding abortion clinic.

Premier John Buchanan has vowed to protect Nova Scotians from the troublemaking doctor who, he says, is responsible for making abortion such an emotional issue. Sorry, Buchanan; abortion is an emotional issue, and it's not Morgentaler who has made it one. Morgentaler is forcing an issue which the federal and provincial governments have refused to deal with. Abortion is an emotional and difficult issue, but one which must be dealt with. January 28th marks the first anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling striking down the abortion law as unconstitutional. Since then our governments have left Canada without a law. Therefore, it is quite legal for Morgentaler to set up a clinic in Halifax as he has done in Montreal, Toronto and Manitoba.

Compared to the other Atlantic provinces, abortions are rela-

tively accessible in certain NS hospitals, although there is usually a delay. People opposed to the clinic, including Buchanan, Health Minister David Nantes (a self-proclaimed "pro-lifer"), and the NS Liberal Party, say an abortion clinic isn't necessary in NS since abortions are accessible here. NDP leader Alexa McDonough says the clinic should be elsewhere in the region where access to abortion is limited, if it exists at all. Women from these provinces are forced to travel to Toronto or Montreal for abortions.

At the mention of the possibility of maybe opening an abortion clinic in NS, the reaction has been swift and unequivocal. An anti-abortion rally has already been planned by the Nova Scotians United for Life, one of the over thirty anti-abortion groups in the province.

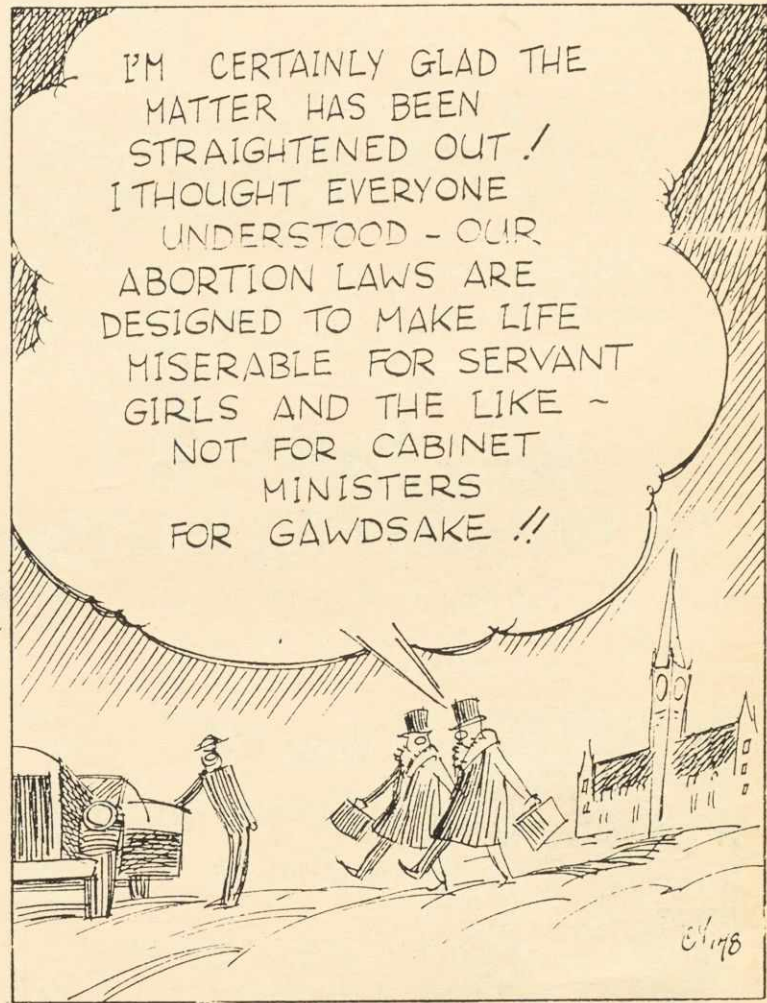
Supporters of the clinic, like the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, agree that it would be important for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, but for the same reasons abortion isn't very accessible in these provinces in

the first place, the likelihood of opening a free-standing abortion clinic is practically non-existent, at least at present. Have you been to Charlottetown or St. John's recently? Can you picture an abortion clinic in either city? Halifax is a central location in the Atlantic region and would be more accessible to the three other provinces than is Montreal or Toronto.

As the law now stands, Buchanan cannot keep his vow to guard Nova Scotia from Morgentaler. Morgentaler is perfectly within his rights to open a clinic, but Buchanan is looking into ways to stop him, such as refusing provincial funding for the abortions or restricting the clinic by the application of hospital standards.

Six months seems like an optimistic time frame for Morgentaler to establish a clinic, especially since he hasn't yet discussed the matter with the NS government. He is in for some loud opposition, but Morgentaler is used to that, and, as it stands, he has the law on his side. Premier Buchanan may have to break a promise.

Ellen Reynolds



## Letters

### The facts

To Whom It May Concern:

I like to consider myself a reasonably open-minded person; I feel adults should be given the facts and allowed to make up their minds about many things but I object in strongest terms to the plan to show *The Last Temptation of Christ* at Wormwood's Cinema.

Jesus is the Son of God, a friend to all humanity, our Brother. It is very wrong for a movie director to engage in sensational speculation on His life and events surrounding His life. Christianity aside, it is wrong by every standard of personal respect!

It is not socially acceptable to incorrectly and whimsically ascribe morally reprehensible behaviours or values to one's family members or friend's and display these to public scrutiny. If I were to do such a thing people would be very angry with me and would certainly rush to defend the name of the person I slandered.

Jesus is a friend to all. Further slanderous speculation and profit making on His good name is hor-

ribly wrong and should not be permitted to continue.

Yours truly,  
Jean Jenkins

### Obey the law

To the Editors:

In last week's editorial, Ms. Reynolds argued that, since anglophone Quebecers can not possibly feel as threatened by the existence of Bill 101 as franco-Quebecois feel by its proposed non-existence, anglos should stop "blowing things out of proportion", swallow their cultural pride, and overlook the denial of their individual rights in favour of the collective good.

Let's assume, for the sake of argument, that anglophones do not, in fact, have any real emotional stake in this issue, and that they are merely pretending to be offended in order to defend their position of power within the province. What then?

Historically, we in Canada have prided ourselves on the fact that we have been ruled by the principles of Reason and Law — not by the emotional power of the masses. This is why a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was written in the first place — to protect an unpopular minority

from the emotional and unlawful reactions of the majority.

I, too, believe that the French language is an essential part of Canadian culture and that all possible lawful steps should be taken to protect its existence and foster its growth. In my mind, however, both Bill 101 and the "inside-outside" option, by contravening both Federal and Provincial charters of rights, are blatantly unlawful. The "notwithstanding" technicality does not alter this.

To borrow Ms Reynolds' words: Canadians must go to extraordinary lengths to protect the rule of law, and if that means tramping on a few toes, then that's what they must do. The alternative would be (and is) worse than a few bruised feet.

Isabel Fearon

### Out of focus

To the Editors:

This letter is in response to the opinion expressed by Ms. Chantal Boudreau on page 5 of the January 6 issue of the Gazette. In my opinion her article was over generalized and lacking in focus, justification and sound reasoning. Furthermore, I cannot agree with her use of emotionalism and playing on the sentimentality of

the masses for their pets to try and distort any understanding of the problem she addresses.

Before I continue, let me first make clear that I agree that some "research" done on animals by cosmetic companies turns my stomach and more than likely could be avoided, and should be controlled if possible. However, I do not see this as justification to drag all research done using animals through the mud.

Ms. Boudreau's use of phrases like "heartlessly slaughtered for the sake of research", "butchered for medical research, the testing of pharmaceuticals . . .", and "this unproductive testing . . . is entirely unnecessary", betray her own clouded reasoning and her desire, through misrepresentation of reality, to gain support from any who cannot think enough for themselves to recognize the radical idealism which she tries to invoke, for what it is and its potential for disaster. Medical and pharmaceutical testing on animals IS productive and, in most cases, it IS necessary.. consequently, I regard it as unacceptable to say otherwise without any justification of the generalizations made.

Admittedly, indiscretions on the part of the cosmetic companies are regrettable and as I said before, I agree there should be more control, however a total ban on the use of animals in research and product testing as Ms. Boud-

reau would like it if, after trying a new product, such as eye makeup, she finds out the hard way that it causes blindness through the formation of scar tissue on the cornea, or perhaps cataracts, or even worse — cancer. That's right, The Big C. An integral part of protecting the public and research into a cure for cancer is testing how certain chemicals and pharmaceuticals react with living tissues in the setting of properly functioning metabolic processes. Surely Ms. Boudreau would not want this testing done on humans. However, by her closing statement, I cannot even be sure of that. When she says "Just think of how many lives you'll be saving", she obviously values the life of a guinea pig more than that of her own species, for that is the price that will ultimately be paid for her suggestion of saving the lives of the test animals.

May I suggest that Ms. Boudreau thank the Lord, and if she feels so inclined, pay homage to the souls of the dead animals which made it possible for her to use safe chemicals, and for every day that she is healthy. Once she has done this, only then should she think about targetting the proper people for her attacks rather than trying to undermine a cornerstone of public health and safety.

Sincerely,  
Brian Peters