

1,000 women die from abortions

By JACQUI GOOD

Abortion is a reality. Let's have legality and morality aside for the moment and just look at the facts. Each year thirty million women around the world have abortions. These women are not degenerate or promiscuous - 80 per cent of them are married, many of them already having several children.

Canada's 'liberal' abortion laws are still very restrictive and most women who find themselves unwillingly pregnant turn to illegal abortions. There are at least 100,000 of these performed each year in this country. 100,000 women

are so determined not to bear a child that they risk imprisonment and death.

Of these determined 100,000, approximately one-fifth are admitted to hospital for post-abortive complications. Some of these complications lead to serious injury, sterilization or death. About 1,000 Canadian women die needlessly each year as the result of a botched abortion.

And is it any wonder? Driven out of the hospital and clinic, abortion becomes dangerous. A good many abortionists particularly those a poor woman can afford, are not medically trained at all and use

improper and unsterile methods. Desperate women try to abort themselves with a frightening array of tools - knitting needles, vacuum cleaners, coat hangers, lysol.

These women don't need quotations from the Criminal Code or the bible. They need safe abortions.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

That's why I have little patience with those who get dewy-eyed about a fetus' right to life.

Any decision as to when life begins must be arbitrary. The church that makes the most fuss hasn't decided on the magic moment itself. The law doesn't require a death certificate for a miscarriage and, as far as I know, the Catholics don't hold funerals for them either.

Paul Erlich has pointed out that to confuse a fetus with a child is to confuse a blueprint with a building. Our main concern must be with the right of a woman to decide when and how many children she will bear.

If a woman decides, as 100,000 did last year, that for some reason - physical, emotional or financial - that cannot give birth to a child that has been conceived in her body, then that is her decision and it has to be enough for us. We must not stand in the way with a law that forces her to undergo humiliation and pain. She shouldn't have to fear legal reprisals or death. In countries where legal abortions, performed by trained persons is available deaths from abortion are minimal. For example, Czechoslovakia has had no

deaths in 140,000 legal abortions.

It is clear that 1,000 women died senselessly last year. We have any respect for life, we must demand that those deaths stop. How? By making available free and safe abortions to all who ask for them.

BIRTH CONTROL

The critics say to us "If

worried about its long term effects.

Given the present state of medical and scientific knowledge birth control programmes must be backed by:

1. Government sponsored research into birth control and 'reversible sterilization'.
- and 2. a liberal abortion law and adequate abortion facilities.

An ounce of prevention is

op-ed / comment

you dumb women would only use birth control, you wouldn't need abortions" or more kindly "I disagree with abortion but think birth control information and devices should be made available."

Of course, they should be made available. Free of charge in community clinics. Birth control information should be distributed widely. Almost everyone (except the Catholic Church) has recognized the spectre of overpopulation and need for contraception.

It must be stressed that abortion is a birth control method and one of the most effective. Right now most contraceptive methods available have a significant failure rate (3 per cent - 20 per cent or more). And some (the IUD, condom and coitus interruptus) represent little improvement from ancient Egyptian or Roman times.

The Pill has been a major break through in effectiveness but many women simply cannot take it or are rightfully

worth a pound of cure - sure - but sickness still strikes we still need the cure for pregnancy abortion.

THE GOAL

Our goal is to have abortion removed entirely from the Criminal Code. The matter should be question of concern only to the patient and her doctor and should be covered by Medicare (like an appendectomy or any other operation).

There should be local clinics that perform abortions. This would decrease the demand for valuable hospital bed space and the clinic could serve the community with birth control information and prescriptions pre and post natal care.

Respect for the dignity of human life, demands that we work until this slogan is truth.

"Every mother a willing mother.

Every child a wanted child."

Mugwump

By EDISON STEWART Journal

Well, foresters, you have my apologies for giving the people the wrong information. By now you know what really happened that paint-slinging night, so there's no need to go over it here. My main point, however, was that all weeks, not just the forestry week, should be cancelled. Your conduct during that week was not all that much different than people in other faculties. My sources were wrong for the paint story. By the way, how sick did you get at Hammerfest?

Speaking of weeks, the Business people have got another "go out and get drunk, stoned and MAYBE laid" week coming up, so here's hoping that they can beat the foresters in drinking and whatever else there is. Booze, booze, booze. Boy, isn't it all fun? They're even going to Saint John to visit a brewery.

I still think all 'weeks' should be cancelled.

I wonder how many of you people know that Big Brother in the Old Arts Building has a file, for his eyes only, on a good many of you. Wonder what old BB thinks of you? Sorry, No can do. No matter what the file says, you can't see it. Think about it.

Ever think about what our guest speaker (Justice Roger Ouimet) at convocation said last week about the "radical fringe" and unbiased court room judgements. He seemed to think that he could judge fairly for all kinds of people. Yet he termed a certain part of our society a radical, fanatical fringe. Can we have both?

The Women's Libbers really made a great move at the abortion debate last week. Tore up their NDP card and walked out in a "highly emotional state." Ho, hum. There goes the revolution.

Speaking of the Libbers, wouldn't it be nice if they took their bras off and went out and scrubbed the paint (or whatever it is) that they put on the SUB wall to advertise their meetings? It's been there over a month now. (Actually, a university workie removed the sign just before presstime. Too bad, girls.)

Well folks, we've got another campus queen. She's the forestry queen, and she was a good choice. Campus queens is another project that I'd like to eliminate. All they are is MEAT shows, and if they are to be held should be classified as such. Not knocking anybody or anybody's faculty, campus queens are a pain to the girls who lose and to the girls who never even got the chance to run.

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