

100,000 illegal abortions each year

Abortion information week starts Monday

By TERRY FOBERT
and JOANNE LYNCH

A definite need exists for free abortion on demand. According to the McGill birth control handbook, at least 100,000 illegal abortions are performed every year in Canada. At least 20,000 women are admitted to hospital for post-abortive complications and at least 1,000 of these cases result in severe disability or death.

The demand for abortion does not centre around the moral issue of when a fetus becomes a human being. The issue is that a desperate woman shouldn't be forced to seek a self-induced or butcher abortion. That is why the February 13 campaign for free abortion on demand is happening in Ottawa.

The problem definitely is relevant to York University where the Student Clinic receives an average of three requests for

abortion referral each day. Free abortion on demand should be raised as an issue on York Campus and that is why we have called for Feb. 8-12 to be Abortion Week at York. Actions around the demand for abortion will be carried on throughout the week and will culminate in the Ottawa action on the 13th. Tickets for the trip to Ottawa will be sold by the York Student Clinic in Central Square. There will also be a forum next Wednesday to be followed by a major teach-in later in the month. York students could support University of Toronto's day of mourning for the women who die from illegal abortions by wearing black armbands.

The trip to Ottawa itself will be part of a nationwide campaign which was launched last November by the Abortion Workshop at the National Women's

Liberation Conference in Saskatoon. The Vancouver Women's Liberation Alliance is planning a major protest at the provincial legislature in Victoria.

When Robert Stanfield was in Vancouver, the WLA held a demonstration and pressured him into agreeing to meet with the women in Ottawa on the 13th.

In Edmonton, at the University Hospital student nurses residence, a midnight rally was held in a lounge, where information on the situation in terms of abortion was discussed and also a list of sympathetic doctors was released.

In Saskatoon, the group is planning a demonstration to confront Trudeau on his stand on abortion when he comes there to open the winter games.

In Toronto a variety of actions have been occurring. The Toronto Women's Caucus

held a panel discussion on Dec. 17, and a downtown torchlight procession on Dec. 23. On Feb. 2, they spoke at the Toronto Board of Health on abortions.

The Feb. 13 Abortion Campaign Committee set up by representatives of several groups sponsored picketings of a city council meeting on Jan. 20 and the Toronto Board of Education on Jan. 21. The U of T Women's Caucus held an "Abortion Day" Feb. 3. A similar action will take place Feb. 14 at the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital.

Other Women's Liberation groups are joining the campaign in Winnipeg, Sudbury, Hamilton, Ottawa, London, Kingston, and Fredericton. New groups have been formed by women wanting to participate in the action in Sault Ste. Marie, Peterborough, St. Catharines, and Richmond Hill.

The actions in Ottawa on the 13th will include a short march, an indoor rally to meet with MP's and a meeting to discuss cross-Canada strategy.

Many people do not understand why we call for 'free abortion' on demand. By "free" we mean without cost. ABORTIONS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO ALL WOMEN NOT ONLY THOSE WHO CAN PAY FOR THEM — those who by and large obtain them regardless of the law. We mean by "on demand" that it is up to the woman and not a judge and jury of conservative male doctors to determine whether she will continue the pregnancy. What we are saying in effect is that we want this right, and that it is rightly ours; and since it is, WE DEMAND IT.

A free university cannot exist without liberated women.

U.S. police still cracking down on Black Panthers

By CAROLINA MEDIA
COLLECTIVE

Liberation News Service
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — We visited the local National Committee to combat Fascism office on Jan. 14, two days after it had been attacked by police. The outside of the two story house in the slums of Winston-Salem were riddled with bullet holes. All the windows were broken. The wall beside the door was full of holes. The tear gas was still so strong, we couldn't stay more than a minute.

The police attack, like others

made against the Black Panthers and their organizing bureau, the National Committee to Combat Fascism (NCCF), was a frame-up from the beginning. An unknown person drove a meat truck to the 23rd Street office saying that the meat was for the free breakfast program. As NCCF members unloaded the meat, a community person told them that the meat and truck were ripped off. They immediately dumped the meat out the back door.

At that point, 200 police, complete with Associated Press photographers and highway patrolmen, appeared. They pumped five hundred rounds into the house. When the two people inside refused to come out, a barrage of tear gas was hurled in. Garry Cole, a 15-year-old from the community, and Grady Fuller of NCCF then surrendered unharmed. The assault lasted one minute. One cop is quoted as saying "We just want to administer justice."

The official police version released to the straight press says

that the police were shot at first from the NCCF office. Community witnesses deny this. The media did not describe or show photos of how the police, many of them black, tried to keep the community from seeing first-hand what was happening. They physically held people back who quickly gathered near the office.

NCCF had only been in the office since Thanksgiving. Their original office, the first NCCF chapter in the South, was gutted by fire over Thanksgiving while the Chapter was en route to the People's Constitutional Convention in Washington, D.C.

One week after the incident, the day Fuller's pre-trial hearing was scheduled, 200 police descended on another Panther house on the same street to serve an "eviction order." Julius Cornell, a local Panther inside the house, saw snipers in the distance with high-powered rifles. The Panthers in the house offered no resistance, leaving the house quietly.

When Cornell crossed the street to talk to TV cameramen, two policemen followed him. They arrested him on a charge of "larceny of meat" and "being an accessory after the fact to larceny of meat."

A few minutes later, during a court recess, police told another NCCF member, Larry Little, who was in court with Fuller, that he too was under arrest. Panther attorneys reminded the officers that they had to serve a warrant on Little in order to arrest him. "We will serve the warrant when we

want to." Then they handcuffed Little and dragged him away.

Four NCCF members: Fuller, Cornell, Little, and a man named Bishop was convicted on the hearing day for being "vulgar, loud, and boisterous," are now in jail. Bishop, serving thirty days, is under \$100 appeal bond. Fuller's bond is \$5,000. Cornell's is \$6,000, and Little's is \$4,000. No bondsman will write bond of any amount for the Panthers, so that unless cash or property bonds in the full amount can be raised, all will remain in jail.

Cook says Liberals must unite Canada

Canadian historian Ramsay Cook of York University called upon the Liberal Party to muster its resources in an effort to preserve Canadian unity.

Addressing a local Liberal meeting of St. Paul's riding at the Park Plaza Wednesday night, he said that only the Liberals have a national party which enjoys considerable support in Quebec, and that only they could seriously help heal the wounds of the recent FLQ crisis.

Completely ruling out the Conservatives as having any viable role to play in Quebec, Cook did endorse NDP national candidate, James Laxer's proposal that the New Democrats "align themselves with the Parti Quebecois." In that event "at least the Canadian people would have a clear choice between separatism and federalism," he said.

Cook expressed surprise that the Canadian people acted as though they had "lost their innocence" during the October crisis. Canadians were wrong to suppose that violence was an exclusively American phenomena.

He added that "Canadians were confusing the loss of their own individual innocence with the country's innocence."

Had Canadians been more attuned to the plight of the Quebecois they would have realized that the fall kidnappings and murder were part of the same continuum of violence which stretched deep into Quebec's history.

In answer to a question concerning the possibility of further strife in Quebec. Cook said he did not rule out the feasibility of civil war either in Canada as a whole or within Quebec itself.

U.S. workers fired; had black underwear

NEW YORK (LNS) — Thirty-three Black and Spanish-speaking workers have recently been fired by Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, a Columbia University-owned hospital in New York City. According to the hospital, they were fired for wearing black undershirts that showed through their white kitchen uniforms.

The workers' struggle began months ago when the hospital administration attempted to destroy the growing desire for unionization by separating Black from Spanish workers on the job. The employees responded with a job action, and stopped working until they were reunited.

Then, just before Thanksgiving, the food services supervisor — noticing that the workers were wearing black undershirts to show

their solidarity — announced that workers could no longer wear colored undershirts that showed through at the neck.

Again, January 15, concerned by the growing strength of the food workers, the hospital administration fired two workers who were continuing to wear black undershirts. Thirty-one other workers walked out in support. When the workers returned to protest the harassment from the hospital and the fact that they are being prevented from unionizing, they were told, "Go home. You don't work here anymore."

The workers are continuing to fight the hospital's racist policies. Rallies, leaflets, and other actions have been planned by the community, workers, and students at the Medical Center.

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