

# Women angry at big-hype abortion debate

by Chyrisse Regehr  
for Canadian University Press

"You know, I suspect that I wouldn't be facing you today if men got pregnant instead of women."

The woman faced the microphone — feet firmly planted, fists clenched — and from the applause she received, hers was representative of the anger many women in the room felt.

She and about 600 others recently packed into an auditorium-sized room at the University of Manitoba to hear what promoters and the media were calling "The Great Abortion Debate" — two

men discussing the future of what is so uniquely a women's issue.

Controversial abortionist Henry Morgentaler and noted opponent of the practise Joe Borowski stood on opposite ends of the stage facing a plethora of television and video cameras and traded insults.

Borowski accused Morgentaler of reusing contaminated surgical equipment in his operations and of operating a clinic "half as clean as a vet's clinic."

"Dr. Morgentaler is a shrewd businessman. He wants to open up a human abortion mill in Winnipeg so he can make a killing," punned Borowski. "According to my calculations he has made between three

and four million dollars."

Morgentaler responded by charging Borowski supporters with tearing hospital operating sheets to find out the names of doctors performing abortions and then harassing them by telephone late at night.

"It is blatantly nonsense that there is a baby there from conception," he added, "but you can't debate these people, because it's a religious idea and you can't discuss rationally religious ideas."

Morgentaler pointed out that fetuses aborted before the age of eight weeks can't even be seen by the naked eye.

Neither participant denied the audience its share of titillation and cheap gimmicks.

"I have here genuine pictures from the coroner's office of aborted babies. Let Dr. Morgentaler tell me that these aren't human," announced Borowski as he held up a page of glossy colour photos of fetuses aborted as late as 20 weeks.

"Mr. Borowski is trying to pretend that every abortion is done on

a 20-week-old fetus, which is nothing but lies and shameless propaganda," Morgentaler responded.

He went on to accuse governments of hypocrisy on the abortion issue. He said he had recently performed an abortion for the attorney-general of a province where I plan to establish a clinic." Manitoba's attorney-general Rolland Penner later denied Morgentaler was referring to him.

He also expressed bitterness against the Manitoba government specifically.

"The NDP has always been a party of social justice. Now, they are in power and I am receiving threats that I will be prosecuted if I open up a clinic," he said.

"The existing law discriminates against rural women, adolescents, poor women and women in their second trimester who must travel to Seattle and Minneapolis for their abortion," at a cost of \$600 to \$1,000.

The audience responded to the

participants with a two-hour question period that ranged from the personal story of a woman who has given herself nine abortions, to a Catholic priest who accused Morgentaler of profiteering and a lack of professional ethics.

One thing was clear. As the evening wore on, more and more women began to speak. And they were angry.

"I think you should keep your morals and your thoughts off my uterus," one woman challenged Borowski.

One female medical student claimed that nothing Borowski could do would stop her from performing abortions as soon as she was qualified.

"I'm willing to train you," shouted Morgentaler.

Her final comment to Borowski? "I think people like you are not only anti-abortion, I think you're anti-sex, your anti-sex education and you know what?"

I think you're anti-woman."

## Homosexuality not a choice

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A former researcher (sociologist) says the belief that gays or lesbians can be "cured" or changed baffles him.

"I don't understand why heterosexuality is seen as so deeply ingrained and unchangeable yet homosexuality is viewed as something superficial, something that can be changed," Martin Weinberg, co-author of *Homosexuality and Sexual Preferences*.

Weinberg told 100 people at the University of BC that homosexuality is not a choice and psychoanalytical and sociological theories on its development have no data-based support.

Weinberg referred mostly to the theories of homosexuality rather than of lesbianism because of the absence of theories of lesbianism and the difficulty in obtaining samples to test these theories.

Several theories on homosexuality he tested proved inconclusive. Weinberg said many theories assume homosexual behavior precedes homosexual feelings. But this

assumption is incorrect because a child develops sexual feelings towards a member of the same sex long before it engages in homosexual behavior, he said.

The "wastebasket" or opportunity theory applies mainly to women, stating that individuals are forced to seek homosexual relationships because they are unattractive to members of the opposite sex. The implicit assumption is that lesbians have been discarded by men and form a wastebasket sector.

Weinberg discovered through research studies that this theory is merely a myth. Studies show that lesbians tend to be more popular in their peer groups and usually dated men in high school, but found the activity unsatisfying.

He has found data to support the theory that effeminate men have negative relationships with their fathers. However, the father's rejection of an effeminate son doesn't cause homosexuality. The father is just reacting to the son's lack of masculinity.

## University surviving in private homes

by Geoff Martin

"It is the official belief of the University of El Salvador that there has been no recent improvement in the human rights situation in our country recently," said Dr. Felix Ulloa, a professor of Law at the University of El Salvador while at Dalhousie University last weekend.

The University of El Salvador has been operating in private homes and offices since 800 government soldiers occupied the campus on June 26, 1980, killing fifty students and staff in the process.

Ulloa's McMechan auditorium speech culminated a 15-university tour partially sponsored by the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS).

"The government thought that they could end the activities of the university by invading, but at least 200 students have graduated since then, and classes continue," Ulloa said.

At the time of the takeover, Ulloa's father was murdered by the government on October 28, 1980,

two days before he was to go on a major speaking tour of Europe. His father was the Rector of the university and President of the World University Service.

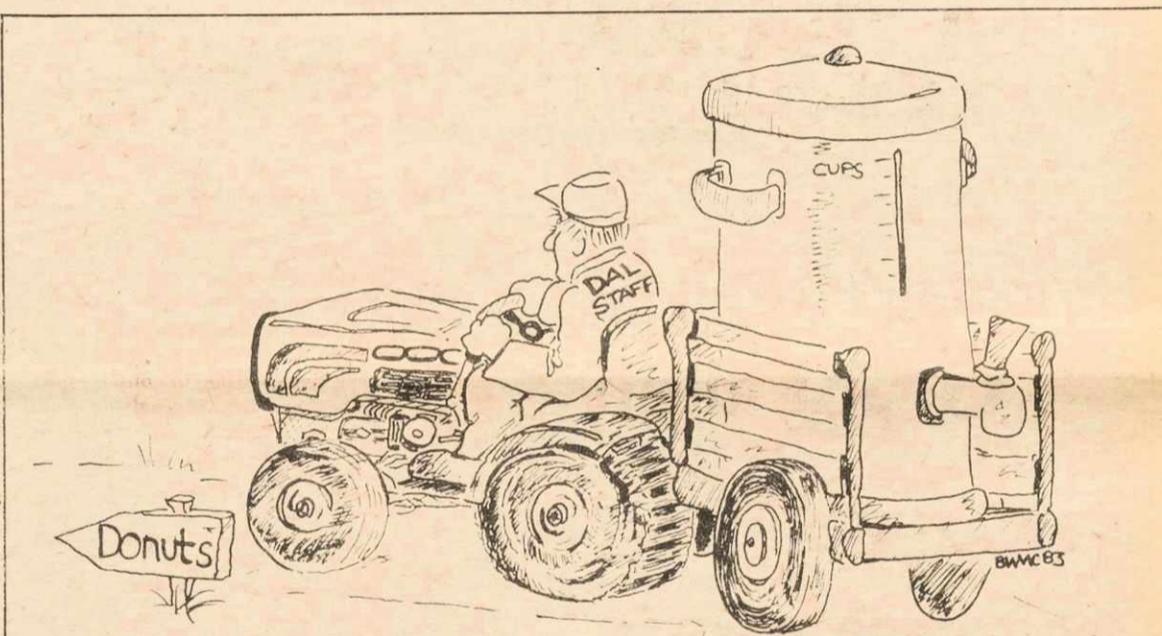
In addition, Ulloa said there are as many as fifty academics being held in jail without trail of their "research and teaching activities."

During the takeover, buildings and equipment were destroyed by the army, and books and records were looted. "They stole and burned many books in the social science library because they thought they were communist," he said.

"In the computer centre, they thought the disks were bombs so they destroyed them," Ulloa told the hushed crowd.

The most mysterious thing in Ulloa's mind is the recent government announcement that the university campus will be reopened despite the fact that the university was always a site of civil disobedience against the government.

"Even though the University may be opened, I don't think human rights violations are decreasing," Ulloa stated.



## Beaver Foods enters restraint era

by Cathy Eisner

Coffee drinkers who doctor their brew should be ready to shell out five cents extra for more than two creamers and sugar. Beaver Foods passed the word at the last SUP Operation Committee meeting, signalling its entry into the era of restraint.

Waste is the reason. A quick scan of the Garden (the SUB cafeteria) reveals scattered ketchup and sugar packets, and squashed creamers.

Enterprising students have been preparing 'care packages' on Beaver Foods' grocery bill.

The economic crunch is forcing businesses everywhere to control costs and Beaver Foods is no exception. At January's SUB-OPS meeting, it was decided Beaver would hold prices down and maintain the present price of coffee. Coffee is 40 cents a cup, except for 35 cents on Fridays, up from 35 cents a cup last year.

The cost of Beaver's supplies has been rising, particularly for paper products, which accounted for

\$25,000 of its budget. Beaver hopes levies on creamers and sugar and other condiments will help offset the increased cost of supplies and cleaning.

"Why should people who do not waste be charged more for their coffee?" said SUB Manager John Graham.

Despite a small percentage in profits from 1981 and control placed on distribution of utensils, Beaver Foods is still going ahead with the levy. Waste has presented a food cost and cleaning problem.

However there will be no increase on prices in face of an increase in the minimum wage (from 3.40 to 3.75 per hour) and food costs. Graham said "... food is 30 per cent lower here (in the SUB) than other places."

Students expressed their viewpoints in favour of the levy on cream and sugar in consideration of the costs of waste. VP Internal John Russell said "Beaver Foods is walking a fine line between cost and volume."

With respect to quality, students

are not that pleased. A spot poll by the Gazette showed that nutrition is a concern, as is the price of coffee. Although one student preferred to pay higher prices for better entrees, coffee was rated from "all right" to "poor."

Russell said "... student cannot expect to find filet mignon for \$2.50 in an institution. Food prices in an institution setting reflect 'quantity versus quality' tactics."

In comparison to other food companies such as Saga and Caterplan who have operated at Dal in the past, Beaver Foods is the most flexible, Russell said.

Beaver offers more quality and a variety of items, such as diet items and fast foods as compared to other institutions like Acadia, St. Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent universities, he said.

Beaver Foods thought it had a positive feedback from students in coordination with the student council. David Mailman, manager of the SUB cafeteria, said Beaver: "is open to suggestions. If people are not happy, we just will not be here."