

ON THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT

THE RIGHT NOT TO GET
PREGNANT

by Joseph M.J. Sanlei

Originally I had intended to write this article as a sequel to last week's article on Feminism. However, after consideration I have come to believe that this week's subject must be considered not only as a part of the Feminist Movement, but more so as an intricate part of all of our lives. For all of us, in one way or another, must come to terms with the gravely serious issues of reproductive freedom, birth control and abortion.

Sexual intercourse outside of marriage in a non-long term relationship without the aid of at least one of the many birth control devices on the market today is the act of irresponsible and immature bed partners. For those who engage in casual sex, unless a pregnancy is for some unknown reason greatly desired, the non-use of proper, doctor recommended, birth control is, in a word, stupid. It is not my place to make moral judgements, not being God (and I know how much that must surprise some of you). I do not presume to tell you what is or what is not "sin". My only wish is to save as many of you as possible from a disastrous situation, one that could bring destruction to the rest of your lives. But having children at our

age is, generally speaking, wrong; a disaster for the parents, and perhaps a living hell or abortion for the child.

Abortion, as a method of birth control, is degrading to all or our collective humanity and is a key factor in cheapening the value of human life. That is, when the life of the mother is not in danger, or a rape has not occurred (and not being a theologian either I could not begin to address those situations) abortion is a tragedy not only for the now dead child, but also for the mother, who in this sexist world often

suffers much more than the father, and for the lives of us all. Yes, women have an inalienable right to decide how many children, if any at all, they will or will not give birth to, but the solutions enabling reproductive freedom must be found in preventative birth control not after-the-fact abortion. However, one must not become self-righteous, dealing only in platitudes and rhetoric, when one discusses abortion. As long as we do not act to secure adequate clinics, health centres and pre-adolescent sex education, we all are in part, responsible for the staggering toll of abortion.

In my home state of Connecticut, a generally conservative New England commonwealth, the availability of birth control puts to shame that which may be found on Prince Edward Island. Unfortunately, Connecticut has not yet fully implemented adequate sex education throughout the state's many towns, but the move is in the right direction. PEI has a reality with which to deal also; that is, girls are getting pregnant here in alarming numbers. Island conservatism is no excuse for not addressing this issue, for I would pit New England conservatism against that of the Maritimes any day, and yet we New Englanders have begun to deal with the real world.

In Connecticut's cities, and many smaller towns, there are a good number of women's health centres and Planned Parenthood clinics which supply

sex education and the necessary birth control items (i.e. the Pill, I.U.D. etc.) either entirely free of charge or at a small fee (especially when compared with Canadian prices) with complete confidentiality guaranteed. This does not, as a simplistic person might assume, lead to promiscuity, but rather, it prevents many tragedies of unwanted

births or abortions. If a person chooses to be sexually active that is his or her own business, and will probably be so despite all of the preaching in the world. Therefore, what is needed is a heavy dose of reality. Wake up, men and women of P.E.I. (and UPEI) and demand the right to choose; demand the right to confidential health care for reasons related to sex, and birth control. Canadian women have no less of a right than American women to not get pregnant!



A KLEANER'S KORNER

By Ed Orlowski
3rd and 4th Floors, Duffy

Perhaps when we work for something, we appreciate it a little more, and if we can smile while we stand back and look at our doings, then perhaps we've worked for something.

What so you know, I didn't have to so the "Paper Chases" this week to get my own personal copy of the SUN. On my way home from work, I heard a thunderous noise overhead, and I turtled my head out of the window, and saw a Canadian Forces Medivac Buffalo Rescue plane landing for a mercy flight, so I pulled off to the side of the road, and got out to watch the goings on. Being more interested in what was coming down, rather than where I was stepping, I went splish splash into a large puddle of water. I was brought back to reality very quickly, you could say by the ankles, as I was ankle deep in water, and the thought came to mind, "Look before you leap", and I chuckled to myself. It's been quite a long time since I've fallen prey to such folly. I was just going to hop back into my van when there it was in black and white, a copy of the SUN. I tried to gently lift it up, but it started to sop apart, so, I read one page at a time, gently opening the pages

under the water. Ever so carefully, I squinted, and querked, jumbled, bobbled, and squeejied the water away with my cupped hand, and finally finished the whole paper. I looked at the Medivac and then I looked at the SUN, when out of nowhere, my ankle did a right angle, and I found myself on one knee, with the force of some two hundred pounds crashing into the water and the sopped SUN. The paper flew into a maizen and I laughed at the whole thing, and I said to myself, "Thank God that I don't have to piece this copy of the SUN back together. In the back of my mind, I think that I got a glimpse of what Humpty Dumptie was all about.

The flashing lights of the ambulance had stopped now, the Medivac's wheels were just off of the ground, the pilot tipped his wings as he took off, I waved as he passed over. One thing though, I had read my second copy of the SUN, while he just had the blue blue yonder. Now, as I reflect, I wouldn't have wanted to receive a copy of the SUN any other way, as you can bet your soaking sox and runners that I really appreciate reading the SUN, even under quite different conditions than most people do. And, it's so very worthwhile to let the SUN begin or end your PERFECT day.