

# Medicare won't finance abortions

By JOYCE OULLETE

The New Brunswick Government will not help finance abortions through Medicare.

Neither will the government quietly sit by and let Dr. Henry Morgentaler establish an abortion clinic in the province.

Health and Community Services Minister Raymond Frenette announced at a press conference last Friday the province's new policy in response to the Supreme Court's recent ruling.

Therapeutic abortion committees have been abolished in all provincial hospitals. Instead, a woman considering having an abortion must seek approval from a physician and an obstetrician or gynecologist who will decide if the operation constitutes a medical necessity. The province can also seek legal authority for a second opinion.

But while there is no prohibition on abortion, there is also no prohibition on anyone setting up an abortion clinic. "There is no prohibition to prevent any body from doing

anything," added Lockyer.

According to David Gibbs, Director of Communications of the Department of Health, the recent Supreme Court ruling has left the provinces in a state of confusion. "There's a need for the federal government to enact legislation to give the

province more direction," explains Mr. Gibbs.

Mr. Gibbs continued that the Supreme Court's recent ruling on abortion does not mean that there is no prohibition in this country. It merely means that the therapeutical abortion committees which were set up

under the Criminal Code are unconstitutional since they do not guarantee the same access in every province.

Morgentaler has said he wants to help the province build abortion clinics which he said would be cheaper, faster, more modern and up to 20

times safer than abortions performed in hospitals. If the government does not set up clinics, Morgentaler said he would take the government to court.

But if he does, according to Premier McKenna, he would have a fight on his hands.

## New reading room opens

As of Sunday, February 7th, there is a new non-profit information, resource, and referral service open at 384 Queen Street. The Reading Room is a welcome addition in this building, which already houses the Rape Crisis Centre and a feminist counselling service for victims/survivors of abuse and incest. Founders Elizabeth Blaney and Nancy McFarland describe the Reading Room as "an informal worker's co-operative," run entirely by volunteer efforts and donations of money, books, and furniture.

Both women and men are invited to browse their growing collection of books and periodicals. The Room has a variety of material at present, including articles by a Vancouver men's group (Men Against Rape) which Blaney invites local men to study if they are interested in forming such a group. Moreover, Blaney and McFarland

welcome papers of "alternative publication" which they will gladly make available to the public through the Room's library. The space is also made available, free of charge, to women's circles for their meetings.

Blaney and McFarland indicated that the women connected with The Room have much experience with other women's groups and services in the area. The members will therefore act as a referral service helping those who come to The Room to find the counselling or information they may need.

There is also hope that The Room will begin publishing a newsletter focussing on local women's issues, sometime this spring. Fredericton once had a feminist newspaper, the *Equal Times*. That paper folded in the early 1970's, but the Reading Room women have a press and plenty of ideas ready to pick up where the

*Equal Times* left off.

Those of you who were wondering where all the feminists were during the male stripper controversy might consider dropping by The Room to see what's what in women's issues.

The Room is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Their phone number is 450-2942.

## O.C.S.A.

### welcomes new-year

By Ronald W. Carver

The O.C.S.A. had a dinner welcoming in the New Year last Saturday (Feb. 11th).

According to the Chinese calendar their New Year starts Feb. 17th and this year is "the Year of the Dragon" which is considered a very lucky year to have babies. So everyone get busy!!

Anyway, Saturday was an evening that I considered enjoyable. The meal was alright but would have been better had it not been cold. Other

than that the evening in my mind was a success that everyone there seemed to enjoy. Some of the highlights of the evening included a martial arts demonstration by the Wei Chin Kung-Fu school, the lion dance, as well as the chopstick dance. The most impressive event I saw or should I say heard was the very impressive instrumental of the Zeng

I would also like to commend the M.C.'s for the event and to the O.C.S.A. I say "hats

### WEDDING INVITATIONS

## 15% OFF



Select your wedding invitations and Excessories From our Catalogues and SAVE 15%. Offer expires March 31, 1988.

Courier Cards  
Fredericton Mall  
Mon - Sat 10 - 10  
458 - 0896

AND  
The Messenger  
K - Mart Plaza  
Smythe St.  
453 - 1010

Listed in:  
Where to Eat in Canada

### Café Mozart

on the Washaderhoak Lake  
Open:  
Every Saturday,  
Sunday & Holidays from 1 p.m.  
until evening

Groups seven days a week on reservation

- Traditional German Coffee & Cake
- Licensed European Dining
- Bring your skis with you
- We have ski trails too!!

Lakeview Road,  
Cambridge Narrows  
Queen's County, 7 km off TCH 2  
at Mill Cove  
Telephone 488-3071

Watch out Jane!  
Watch out UNB!  
Watch out World!  
HK rules



Candidate for  
S.U. President



Photo by Ronald W. Carver

Last Wednesday was the start of the Chinese New Year. The new year is the "Year of the Dragon," replacing the "Year of the Rabbit."

Japan Camera  
One Hour Photo  
Regent Mall  
Fredericton  
458-9009

# Japan Camera



Clip this ad and present it for not only a 10% Student Discount, but also a free 5\*7

10% discount to  
University Students  
Prompt, confidential  
photo finishing  
Mon-Sat 10am-10pm