

# Morgentaler defended

by Shiela Thompson

A meeting Monday night in SUB saw the formation of the Edmonton Morgentaler Defense Committee.

It coincided with the opening day of Dr. Morgentaler's trial on charges of performing illegal abortions.

About 40 people were present to hear speakers Jean McBean, George Mantor and Angie Mueller voice support for Dr. Morgentaler.

Dr. Morgentaler has been an outspoken advocate of a woman's personal right to choose to have an abortion. He presented his first brief to the federal government in 1967 urging abortion on demand, and he has continued his opposition.

This action followed the realization that the Canadian government had no intention of following suit with the American decision to strike medical abortion from the criminal code.

Last month, Dr. Morgentaler's clinic was raided by police and he subsequently has been brought to trial.

Monday's meeting was concerned with organizing support for Dr. Morgentaler and making his situation known. The meeting was chaired by Jean McBean, an Edmonton lawyer.

McBean stated that although most people believe that abortion is easily obtained this is, in fact, untrue.

Many hospitals do not even have the therapeutic abortion committee necessary to okay abortions. Dr. Morgentaler had set up a clinic in Montreal in which he says he has performed 5000 abortions in the last five years.

Furthermore, he has never had a patient with serious complication.

McBean said the dilemma facing Dr. Morgentaler is a political rather than a legal problem. The answer is to have the law changed. Canadian women should vote out politicians unresponsive to their needs.

She also stated the urgency of bringing pressure to bear on the Quebec Medical Association not to revoke Dr. Morgentaler's license. She said this would be persecution of a man of strong moral character challenging a law he sees to be unjust.

George Mantor, SU President was second speaker at Monday's meeting.

He supported Dr. Morgentaler's contention that a woman, as a basic right, should have control of her body. Choosing to speak for himself rather than from his office he remarked that no woman ever wants an abortion. It is usually a traumatic experience.

Often, however, this is seen by a woman to be her best

alternative. Mantor said it appears that students are overwhelmingly in favor of repealing present abortion laws, pointing to a SU referendum held last year.

Angie Mueller, represented the organizers of the meeting, the Canadian Women's Coalition for Repeal of the Abortion laws (CWC). She stated the fear that a conviction of Dr. Morgentaler could lead to further restrictions of the present laws.

She pointed out that in taking this stand Dr. Morgentaler has opened himself to harsh punishments. His charges carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. He has also risked having his medical license revoked. Mueller stated that the purpose of the meeting was to form a steering committee to pull together civil liberties groups, women's organizations and all interested persons to voice support for Dr. Morgentaler. Persons interested in joining the committee or seeking more information may call Wendy Merkle at 433-8998.

U of A Students' Union has come out with support for Dr. Morgentaler. July 30 a motion was passed to send a telegram to Justice Minister Otto Lang condemning the arrests of Morgentaler and his colleague Dr. Yvan Maccabee and condemning the raiding of a Montreal Abortion Referral Service, which was operating entirely within the law. It was demanded that the charges against Morgentaler be dropped.

Council will soon consider a motion for a statement of council support for Morgentaler and for a financial contribution for the Edmonton Defense Committee. It will be accompanied by a brief outlining the situation to date.

## Liberal meeting Monday

City voters will have an opportunity to learn what future federal government legislation might hold in store for them at the Edmonton Strathcona Liberal Association meeting Monday, Oct. 1, at 8 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

Guest speakers will be Bob Russell, Provincial Liberal Leader, and Alan Sulatycky, former Member of Parliament. Both speakers were active in obtaining public agreement from Energy Minister, Don MacDonald that the major share of the new 40 cent per barrel oil export tax will be returned to the Province supplying the oil.



Botanic Garden's weed display

photo by Rick Bilak

## Grass sale

The University of Alberta's Botanical Garden is sponsoring a sale of dried flowers on Sept. 29 in the Biological Sciences Building (East door, facing the Agriculture Building parking lot). Included will be such items as dried flowers and grass, flower statice, flowers dried in silica gel, dried seed heads, sea holly and cat-tails.

The Botanical Garden, located at Devon, was founded in 1959. It has been developed

without disturbing the land. Part of this horticultural display has walking trails and two ecological reserve and wooded aquatic areas which are used for teaching and research.

One of the garden's objectives has been to increase the range of plants that can be grown in the Edmonton region. Many of these plants such as Primulas, Himalayan Poppies, Iris', shrubs, herbs, and roses are on display in specially

landscaped areas. Some collections are extensive with over 10,000 spring bulbs, 2,500 Peonies and a complete collection of willows. In 1972, there were over 25,000 plants from temperate arctic and alpine climates. Under the Local Initiative Program, land has been cleared for a collection of Alberta plants.

## Senate meets Friday

by Barry Zuckerman

Entrance requirements and the future of radio station CKUA are among key issues to be discussed at the meeting of the University of Alberta senate Friday.

Preliminary reports and recommendations of senate committees and task forces will be presented at the meeting, which starts at 9:30 a.m. in Lister Hall.

CKUA is to be taken over by a provincial government broadcasting corporation. There are fears that the unique cultural individuality of the station will be lost by becoming part of the government bureaucracy.

Entrance requirements from the community colleges will also be discussed. At present, relations between the University and colleges in Alberta are strained. They have been unable to set definitive guidelines for transferring courses. Meanwhile,

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The issue of tuition is also on the agenda as some members of the senate committee suggest abolition of all tuition fees; others an increase of fees. No resolution will be arrived at, at this time. It is hoped that guidelines for fee standards will be included before the final report is presented on Nov. 23 at Red Deer College.

The status of women employees and physical planning will also be discussed. The future of North Garneau is

still very much an issue on campus. Preparation of final arguments against the University Board of Governor's decision to demolish houses existing in North Garneau.

There will be open discussion at the end of the meeting.

As the topics to be discussed are crucial to the future direction and development of the university, students are urged to attend.

## Forum

Dr. Fernando Belaunde-Terry, President of Peru from 1963 to 1968, will speak in a public forum on the topic "Latin American-Canadian Relations" on Friday, Sept. 28 at 12 noon, in the main theatre, second floor, in the Students' Union Building, U of A.

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