

# THE GAZETTE

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## Morgentaler plans move to Maritimes

By DAVID OLIE

"I WILL GO AHEAD AND establish a clinic in the Maritimes."

With these words Dr. Henry Morgentaler raised the stakes in the ongoing battle between pro-choice and pro-life groups in the region.

The words were greeted with cheers and applause from a capacity crowd of 900 attending Morgentaler's lecture, "Abortion Today: The Issue of Choice," on the evening of March 26 in the McInnes Room of the Dalhousie Student Union building.

The cheers found no echo outside the SUB, however, where a rally of about 250 pro-life supporters had been staged to quietly protest Morgentaler's visit.

Morgentaler himself was not visibly affected by the confrontation, which he said follows him wherever he goes. He prefaced his remarks by saying he does not know why he causes so much controversy,

because he does not understand the arguments of his opponents.

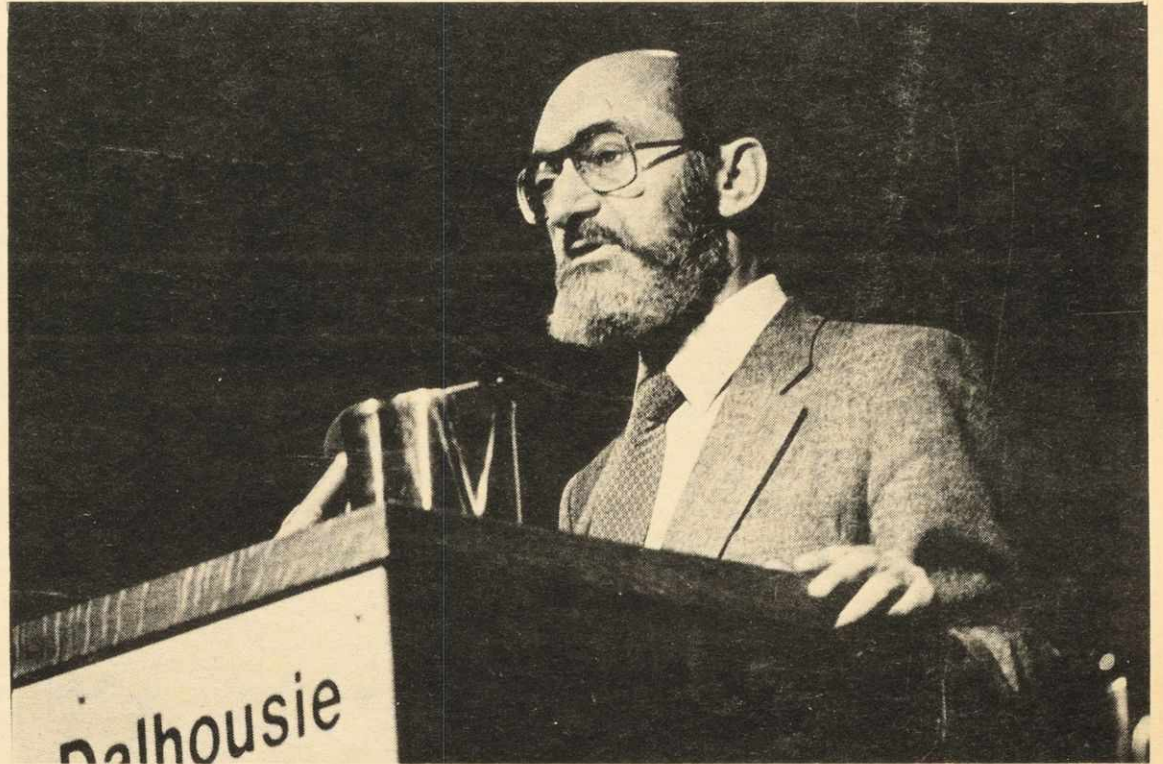
Morgentaler says his own stand on the issue can be summarized into three points. He says he believes women have the right to control their reproductive function, the right to choose abortion if they feel it's the right thing to do, and the right to safe and effective abortion procedures.

"It's a kind of arrogant disregard for women that these rights are not recognized by the law," says Morgentaler.

Canadian law says abortions are only permissible when the life or well-being of a woman is threatened if she remains pregnant. The procedure must be carried out in a hospital, and only if permission is granted by the therapeutic abortion committee of the hospital.

The referral procedure through the committee usually takes two to three weeks.

The free-standing abortion clinics run by Morgentaler in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba operate outside this law, and have  
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Dr. Henry Morgentaler speaks at the SUB Mary C. Sykes, Dal Photo

## MacLean pushes funding bill

By DAVID OLIE

In light of recent federal cuts, Liberal opposition leader Vince MacLean is proposing that the province fund medical research at Dalhousie.

MacLean is sponsoring a private member's bill in the legislature which would provide provincial money for health research through a Health Sciences Research Foundation (HSRF). The province does not fund medical research at present.

"One reason for the bill is that federal money is going to dry up," says Jim Vibert, MacLean's press secretary. The federal Medical Research Council is facing a \$30 million shortfall this year. Dalhousie gets nearly two-thirds of its funding for research from the Council.

Even before this round of cuts, research at Dal has suffered from underfunding. Only three percent of all Council funds go to the Dalhousie School of Medicine. Dal ranks thirteenth out of 16 medical schools in Canada for Council funding.

The Maritimes are the only provinces that do not fund health research. Dalhousie has the only medical school in the region. On average, other medical schools receive 22.8 percent of their research funds from provincial governments.

MacLean proposes a provincial grant of \$4 million to start up the HSRF, and a further \$1 million in each following year. The HSRF would use these grants to lobby for increased research funding from the federal government and private sources.

"Hopefully, a really good foundation would turn over (the grants) eight to ten-fold," says Vibert. He points to the success of similar efforts in Manitoba,

which has the highest per capita expenditure for health research in the country, although direct provincial funding is very small. "(The HSRF is) a group of businessmen, doctors and teachers who can raise money for you," says Vibert.

Like most private member's bills, MacLean's has little chance of becoming law. MacLean says he hopes his effort will at least encourage the government to come up with its own proposals to increase medical research.

Health minister Dr. Gerald Sheehy says he's "in favour of any scheme to increase research funding."

Not everyone favours spreading out medical research facilities among the regions, however.

Dr. Louis Siminovitch, a leading geneticist, is critical of the federal government's approach to scientific research.

He says the government spends too little money on research and too much on researchers working in isolation in small institutes across the country.

Siminovitch says the government should instead direct funding to top-notch scientists working together in central locations. Its failure to do so is driving away hundreds of qualified researchers, he says.

"The biggest challenge of science in this country is the ability to attract young people to stay and do their thing," says Siminovitch. "We have not been successful in this."

Vibert says he disagrees with Siminovitch's call for centralization.

"You certainly can't call Dal a 'small institute,'" says Vibert.

With files from Canadian University Press.

## Education commission stalls until summer

By BRUCE FANJOY

THE LONG-AWAITED REPORT of the Nova Scotia Royal Commission on Education will not be released before the end of the academic year and critics are suspicious of the government's timing.

"If you look at what the government has done with respect to universities, it is logical to expect that they would want to release the report when the opposition would be the weakest," says John Holm, NDP education critic.

Rod McLennan, chair of the royal commission, says the research and study are largely completed and the commission is in the process of writing the final draft.

The commission is expected to present their report to the provincial government within the next few weeks but then it is up to the government to decide when to make the report public.

Alex Gigeroff, Dalhousie Student Union president, says the government's decision to delay the report until the university year is over is probably not a coincidence.

"It is interesting that very few students will be around during the summer when the report is released," says Gigeroff. He says

he doesn't really know what to expect from the commission but he says his worst fear is that it will resemble the Bovey report on education in Ontario.

The Bovey commission recommended that tuition fees be increased by 50 per cent and enrolments be cut by six per cent.

McLennan, while admitting the commission is familiar with the Bovey report, would not say whether they had spoken to Edmund Bovey.

"To my knowledge no formal consultation has taken place," says Peter Butler, senior advisor to the education dept. "I would think that they have met informally."

He adds that the reports will not be identical.

"I don't think you'll find the Bovey report reproduced—our problems are not the same," Butler says.

The commission began its work in February of 1983 with the goal of conducting a "a deep searching and wide ranging review" of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia.

The commission spent the last year travelling to post-secondary institutions to hear briefs from student organizations, faculty associations, administrations, and other interested groups.

## Research needs more money

OTTAWA (CUP)— Hundreds of scientists hoping to bring their laboratories into the technological age will be sorely disappointed if the federal government does not pump more money into Canada's largest research-granting agency.

More than 1400 Canadian scientists are asking the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council for nearly \$100 million in grants to buy new equipment and replace obsolete equipment.

The council, however, has only \$20 million to offer.

And some scientists say their research will lag behind that of other countries if the government does not act soon.

Last year, the government gave the council more than \$31 million for equipment grants. Out of about 1230 applications, nearly 550 were funded. This year, the government is only handing over \$20 million, though the number of applications have increased by 170.

"The \$20 million is very welcome indeed, but it's not enough," says John McNeill, chair of the University of Ottawa's biology department.

"It means researchers in Canada will be less competitive than their counterparts in other parts of the world. It means students in Canadian universities see "Research," page 3...