

Massage therapist opens shop in Fredericton

by JULIE SMITH
Brunswickan staff

Editor's note: This is the first of a two part series of articles dealing with the subject of registered massage therapists.

The word 'massage' conjures up many images in people's minds that include anything from ill-disguised escort services to the area of therapeutic sports medicine.

It is exactly these misgivings that Peter J. Hare, a registered massage therapist, is worried about.

While he is not the first masseuse in town, he is the first to be registered, an important

distinction, says Hare, and one that reflects his training.

Hare says his training was completed at the Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy (CCMH) in Sutton, Ontario. The college is governed by the Board of Directors of Massage Therapists under the direction and control of the Ministry of Health for the province of Ontario, says Hare.

The CCMH has been fully accredited for ten years, says Hare. His training, an 1800-hour course, included complete studies in anatomy and physiology as well as the theory and use of massage as a therapeutic method.

Hare considers himself a well-trained professional, but worries about the lack of credibility with the public.

Hare is also concerned about the lack of standard national accreditation needed to better define his profession.

Currently in New Brunswick there are no bylaws or standards regulating this field, making it possible for anyone, regardless of their training or lack of it, to claim massage skills.

This situation, at best, is merely confusing for the consumer but is also potentially dangerous for those entrusting themselves to unqualified practitioners, says Hare.

Hare would like to see an Association of Registered Massage Therapists formed here in New Brunswick. This Association, which would need approval from the Canadian Medical Board, would be in charge of standardization for the province and responsible for setting exams for potential applicants.

When considering an applicant, the Association would take into account official classtime and previous foreign experience.

There is a need now for an association to be formed not only for the sake of public protection, but also for the survival of the profession itself, here in New Brunswick, says Hare.

The Physiotherapists Act, passed this year, outlaws the functions of massage therapists operating without a physiotherapists' licence. In time, Hare hopes that an Association of Massage Therapists can challenge this ruling and, with the cooperation of the Canadian Medical Board, work out a system whereby the two groups can work together.

In this age of specialization, it seems that people are moving further away from established medical facilities, searching for other methods to cure their ills, says Hare. Hare said it's time for the governments at all levels to recognize this and to take the necessary steps to inform and protect the public about this growing field.

Endorsements cont. from page 1

November 12, to which executive candidates were invited to address the clubs' concerns and/or their own concerns.

At the meeting, however, a letter from Donald Blair, a presidential candidate was read by Hugh Brown, Vice-President Services elect.

In the letter, Blair stated that he was not contacted by the faculty clubs and that he became aware of the meeting only that afternoon "through rumor."

Some then expressed concern that the meeting may be considered unfair, because not all executive candidates were notified. The meeting continued, however.

After the candidates' five-minute presentations were concluded, it was suggested that a question period be held.

Again, a brief discussion ensued. One faculty pointed out that some candidates had already left, thus those remaining to answer may have an unfair advantage. The question

period took place with two of the candidates saying they did

not want to be endorsed by the clubs because it would be unfair to their opponents.

The following day, Semple released a statement which read as follows:

"...the executives would encourage their constituents to approach (the candidates) with a view to discussing...their platforms and the issues in this election."

"On election day, Wednesday, November 20, the executives of the faculty clubs would strongly urge each and every student to exercise their democratic right and vote."

"We decided we could not endorse candidates at this time — it would not be proper," said Semple, adding "the fairness aspect of the meeting crept in."

"We are talking to people individually, however," Semple said.

MacRumbles cont. from page 3

However, as with CHSR, it was the evening lecture that presented a problem. No ticket was made available for our reporter.

Should a student, who is attending a lecture, not out of choice but for the purpose of reporting back to you, have to pay for the privilege?

The irony of the situation is that for weeks prior to Morgentaler's arrival, Bennett was paying regular visits to our offices to get assurances that coverage of the famed doctor's visit would be adequate. CHSR's experience was markedly similar.

However, it is possible CHSR and The Brunswickan can learn from this experience. Perhaps in future we could ask ourselves: Should we cater to Student Union representatives' pet projects that may have been initiated for their personal gratification (read 'ego'), not to mention political advantage?

Well timed, Michael; plan it so that seven days prior to the election, you get credit for having an internationally known figure on campus. Coincidence? Or could it be, dare we hope? Yes, at last ... a display of foresightedness by a member of the UNB council.

★ Two Christmas breaks for students!

GO CONFIRMED!
Call EPA for special one-way
Early Bird and Night Owl fares
on selected routes.
Some conditions may apply.
Call for details.

GO STAND-BY!
Save 50% on Student Stand-by
fares this Christmas.
Call for all the details.
Merry Christmas!

Call your Travel Agent
or EPA

