

Rest easy, nuclear war is against the law

MONTREAL (CUP) — Nuclear war may be illegal and therefore international law experts have a role to play in the nuclear weapons debate, according to an American law professor.

Burns Watson, a University of

Iowa professor and editor of the *U.S. Journal of International Law*, told a McGill University audience March 10 that the legal profession too often opposes progressive changes for the sake of stability.

"There are two fundamental

principles of war: the principle of humanity and the principle of military necessity, but there is an inherent problem in balancing the two with regards to nuclear weapons.

"Therefore, the question of intent

of use must be asked of all states; do they believe - and we can't prove that they do - that the rules of humanitarian armed conflict apply in a nuclear war?"

Watson said nuclear weapons can contradict the principle of humanitarian armed conflict, because they would destroy human civilization and cause long-term

Caspar Weinberger, but no major changes have ever been led by government.

"By making people aware of our position, the legal profession can have an influence on the ballot box, by forcing politicians to reconsider their position if they want to be elected."

But there are problems with this approach, said Watson, because although the use of nuclear weapons may be illegal, a nuclear build-up is not.

On the other hand, Watson said that by informing the public that there are basic legal grounds against nuclear weapons, they will not think the anti-nuclear movement's position is legally groundless.

Saulnier elected Board rep

by Bob Morrison

Janine Saulnier was appointed as the student representative to the Board of Governors by the incoming Student Council last Sunday.

Saulnier feels she is qualified for the position because of her extensive background with finances, since the Board deals mainly with financial matters.

Graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree with a mathematics major, Saulnier worked with a financial firm for the next four years. For the last two years she worked on the board of education, first as secretary treasurer and then as deputy clerk.

Saulnier returned to Dalhousie last September and has since served as this year's Student Union Election Returning Officer.

"Because of cutbacks and the economy, this coming year could be the deciding factor for students," said Saulnier, in reference to her upcoming term on the Board of Governors.

Saulnier feels in the upcoming year university fundings will be a major topic on the Board as it decides what programs and facilities get cut. She hopes to provide a strong voice for students on such matters.

I'm very familiar with financial statements and am now spending my time getting the issues together," said Saulnier. She feels the most important issues will be tuition increases, differential fees for foreign students and the reallocation of building uses.



Janine Saulnier, newly-appointed Board of Governors rep.

"I want to make sure none of these have a difficult effect on students and their ability to return to university," she added.

Saulnier concluded by stressing she is "the students' representative

and would therefore appreciate any questions, comments or suggestions." She said she will try to make herself very accessible to any interested students concerning Board of Governor issues.

environmental damage.

Although there is no question a nuclear first-strike would be an illegal act of aggression under international law, the law is ambiguous about the use of conventional forces in armed conflict, said Watson.

"It's highly unlikely that all states will listen to us. We will never change the neanderthal thinking of

Feminism needs younger women

TORONTO (CUP) — Women have shown in the past year how much political power they can wield but feminists should work to involve more younger women, according to the President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Council president Luci Pepin recently told a University of Toronto audience that she is "convinced that (1982) stands as an important testimony for Canadian women of what can be achieved through involvement in the decision-making process.

"From the constitution (debate, where women's groups organized to enshrine women's rights) to the current campaign against pornography, this year has underlined the power women can wield through participation."

But Pepin said she is worried about the seeming lack of involvement in the feminist movement among younger women.

"I look behind me and ask myself, 'where is the young blood,

where are new followers and who will be the future leaders?'"

The remedy for this gap, she said, is a "slowing down" of the movement to allow women of all ages and backgrounds to ask questions about its means and ends and to assimilate it into their lives. Only when women are solidified in an awareness of their common plight can they be effectively mobilized.

She said misconceptions of feminists alienate women who see feminism as a total sacrifice of everything feminine, including the stereotype of the feminist as "an uncombed, man-hating, angry woman who is never satisfied."

She said her response is, "we don't tell women it is no longer enough to stay home and raise a family, only that they have more choices open to them."

Pepin said another misconception is that feminism has already succeeded. "Many women see what has been done and think that all is going well, so they don't look ahead to see the great amount of work that still needs to be done."

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