

EDITORIAL

The Inside Story

"I hope that people who are against abortion will just allow women who are needing this service to have it in dignity and to have it without danger and that they'll concentrate on sex-education, providing whatever contraceptive advice is possible and that they will leave these women alone. Let's all practice our philosopher religion without interfering with our neighbor's decision."

Dr. Henry Morgentaler, CHSR Talk Show, Wednesday

Wednesday night's open line talk show featuring Dr. Henry Morgentaler - Canada's best known Pro-Choice advocate - underlined some of the issues surrounding the abortion question: but it also highlighted what Dr. Morgentaler perceives as a need for organizing active grass-roots support for Pro-Choice in New Brunswick.

However, it is not as easy as it all sounds. Organizers of the talk show for example, experienced first hand the problems inherent in gathering local support. Of the 20 women contacted, they could not find one local person to speak out on the Pro-Choice platform. The reasons for not appearing were similar - they were afraid to lose their jobs, their reputations, and "I would suspect," said one organizer, "they would be afraid of harassment from the anti-abortion lobby."

We have seen in the print media as well as on television and radio how effectively those who oppose abortions have organized themselves. We have read numerous Letters to the Editor of our provincial dailies and we have heard the cyclical arguments between factions that seem never-ending.

In the midst of all of this, where is the Pro-Choice lobby?

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) is a national organization dedicated to the freedom of choice. CARAL supports the need for a strong national, pro-choice voice to counter the pressure exerted by what it all, "a tenacious and well-financed anti-choice" organization.

CARAL has chapters around the country, and in Halifax, as in many other Canadian cities, CARAL organizers are urging supporters to telephone, telegram, or write their elected officials demanding that access to safe medical abortions exists for every woman in Canada. They are telling Federal and provincial politicians that they support a woman's right to choose, that they support the Supreme Court decision, and that they demand improved access to women preferable in free standing clinics. CARAL's Halifax chapter urges concerned Nova Scotians to stand up and be counted in the struggle for abortion rights.

That is Nova Scotia. What is happening in New Brunswick?

In Moncton and Saint John active CARAL chapters have been organized to give New Brunswick women a Pro-Choice voice. In Fredericton, concerned people are taking action by writing letters, sending telegrams, and calling their MPs and MLAs. Within a few weeks you can expect to see a more visible Pro-Choice organization speaking up for the constitutionally guaranteed access to abortion in this province. These people are encouraging others to educate themselves on this vital issue to women and are asking New Brunswickers to "stand up and be counted."

Dr. Morgentaler said on Wednesday night's talk show that 35% of his clients at the Montreal Clinic are from the Atlantic Region - a region where geographical and economic realities limit access to abortions guaranteed under the constitution. "The cost to these women is enormous", he says, "and it is an injustice to Atlantic Canadian women that they do not have universality of access."

Speaking to a woman caller about the need for grass-roots support, Dr. Morgentaler said "Organize a strong Pro-Choice movement in the province and force the government to change its policy!"

"We need something," the caller agreed.

by Melynda Jarratt



Mugwump

By

John Stillwell Journal

Time to dig out your favourite coin: there's two candidates for the position of Student Union president. With only two choices, either Dean Frost or Susan Forestell, it should be easy enough to figure out which candidate you want. So, as Bill Traer always says, "Vote early, and vote often."

Speaking of Bill, he's wearing three hats these days. Seems Ernie wants some sort of political career. Now that Bill has even more duties, he's around the Bruns even less. What a deal.

Bill's titles now include Ad Manager, Managing Editor, lusher, and pseudo-Editor-in-Chief.

The Bruns Editorial Board impeached Ernie on Wednesday, just because it hasn't been done for a long time, but Ernie still says he stepped down. Don't believe him.

The Bruns received two issues of *Craccum*, the student paper from Auckland University in New Zealand. Most of the Bruns staff couldn't figure out why it wasn't upside down.

Excerpt from an exclusive interview with Marcel Marseau:
Bruns: Do you feel the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. will ever ban nuclear weapons?

Marcel:

Bruns: Who would you vote for in UNB's upcoming student elections?

Marcel:

We'll probably have more next week.

For some strange reason, Bill says I have to say something nasty about Brenda O'Connor, who I don't even know. It has something to do with not lasting at strip poker, that's all I know about it, I swear . . . well, except for the pictures Bill says he has.

Dr. Downey and the Student Union have given Marc Braithwaite some money to go to Miami. Why didn't they do the same thing for J.B.?

Marc better bring back a present for the Bruns, or we'll reveal the skeleton in his closet.

We're not sure why he's going to Miami. We think it's either because Family Ties is going on location or because of he has something to do with arms deals.

The Campus Police are getting a new security blanket. They're moving to UNB Security. Seems the Administration wants to have some say in how the C.P.s operate, and if the Administration can be held liable for their actions.

The C.P.s are also getting a new C.P. Chief. Namely, Karen Mair. Expect many stories about police brutality in the near future.

Oh, and as a parting shot, it seems I can say that K. C. Irving is a Canadian business person out to make a killing in his profession, but if I said the same thing about Henry Morgentaler . . .

Word of the week: *Idoeno* - see most of the student body.

