

"Issue is choice" well received

by KELLY MAIR
Brunswickan staff

Dr. Henry Morgentaler, the controversial physician, lectured to a full auditorium at McLaggan Hall last Wednesday afternoon.

The lecture, entitled "The Issue is Choice" was well received.

In the past fifteen years, medical abortion has become the safest of medical procedures, Morgentaler said. Statistics have proven that abortions performed in free-standing clinics are safer than those performed in hospitals.

A local anesthetic is used in the former, while many hospitals use a general anaesthetic, which is more dangerous. The D&E (dilation and evacuation) is three times as safe as the installation method used in many hospitals.

Four out of five abortions are performed in free-standing clinics and doctors offices. "The staff in these clinics are better qualified in dealing with the counseling of patients," Morgentaler said, adding "a woman is stripped of her dignity... (in a) cold cumbersome hospital."

Canada is one of the most restricted countries in abortion laws, more so even than Italy. There, abortions can be obtained within the first 90 days, without the use of a hospital, he said.

In 1981, the Quebec government asked Morgentaler to train doctors in small communities in his method. The clinics in these small communities "are providing storefront medical service and are funded by the government," he said.

Abortions in Canada can only be performed legally in hospitals, but hospitals are not required to perform them. As well, there are many rural areas in this country where access to a hospital is very limited, he said.

There are now fewer therapeutic boards in Canadian hospitals because anti-choice demonstrators have pressured board members. In some cases, the pressure was so great, the boards were dissolved.

Many questions were put to Morgentaler from the pro-life group. One query concerned Morgentaler's "right to kill a child." His answer was that, although the fetus makes reflexive movements within the first trimester, this is common among all animals; they are primitive reactions.

The ability to survive outside the womb, which generally is not until the sixth month, is one criteria he uses to judge whether or not the fetus is a human being. Another criteria is the development of the neocortex of the brain which does not develop until the fifth month. This makes the distinction between humans and other animals.

Thus, abortions should be performed before the fetus becomes "human", he said. The safest time is up until eight weeks.

Morgentaler said that some women who have gone to his clinics for abortions have asked to see what was removed. All that is visible is a placenta. No fetus can be seen.

Morgentaler feels that the treatment of women in

hospitals for abortion is "nothing less than a national scandal" and he encouraged those present to lobby their MPs and MLAs to change this.

Throughout the world, there are three categories of abortion laws: widely liberal (abortion upon request); liberal conditional laws (with varying restrictions); and completely restrictive laws. Two out of three nations in the world have liberal abortion legislation.

He was asked if he felt that women would take advantage of abortion if it were legalized. He responded, "I've never known a woman to get pregnant just to have an abortion."

Upon being referred to as an abortionist, Morgentaler argued that he was not an abortionist. He is not in favor of abortion "just as no one is in favor of an appendectomy... or brain surgery." He would love to see the need for, or number of, abortions decreased. He merely feels that, no matter what, abortions will be performed, so they might as well be performed SAFELY.

Morgentaler also stated that most people who are against abortion are often the same people who are against preventive contraception and sex education in schools. There must be a compromise somewhere.

Disarmament Legalities to be Topic of Lecture

by KAYE MACPHEE
Brunswickan staff

Robert Wells, president of the Canadian Bar Association, will be speaking on "Law and Nuclear Disarmament" in the Faculty Lounge of Saint Thomas University, Edmund Casey Hall, on Monday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Robert Wells was born in Badger's Quay, Newfoundland

and graduated from Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's in 1949. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and economics at Memorial University in 1953.

Wells was a Rhodes Scholar and attended Oxford University after leaving Memorial. He earned his BA in jurisprudence in 1956 and went on to get an MA in 1961 and was called to the British Bar in 1958.

In 1959 he transferred to the Newfoundland Bar and worked with the Justice Department until 1962. In 1972 he was elected to the Newfoundland House of Assembly and was Minister of Health and Government House Leader in 1976 and 1977.

Wells was elected President of the Canadian Bar Association in 1985.

Mr. Wells' talk is sponsored by the International Committee of the Fredericton YM-YWCA.

MacRUMBLES

"When is a councillor not a councillor" and other considerations

by KAYE MACPHEE

To say that UNB's Student Union works in mysterious ways is an understatement. Case in point? Allow moi.

Former UNB student senator John Bosnitch (emphasis former) sat on council at its November 12 meeting. Nothing unusual there, you say; John's been on council so long his presence is seen as: "he always was and always shall be."

The plain truth is that JB's term of office as student senator expired on November 8, thereby making him ineligible to sit on council.

But how could this be, you ask ... surely SOMEONE was aware of this?

Enter Mr. Timothy Lethbridge, council chairperson. HE was informed by no fewer than three people that JB was ineligible to sit. JB demanded supporting documentation.

Deed done. (I cannot tell a lie, I provided the documentation, with some assistance.)

Supporting documentation in hand, Lethbridge said there's really nothing that could be done ... it doesn't matter. "He used your documentation to argue he WAS eligible," said Lethbridge.

But no, wait, the plot thickens. JB magnanimously withdraws his notice of motion to impeach Doug Burgess, Vice President Finance.

A shrewd move on the part of Bosnitch; he realizes that in his non-position on council, he can't put forward motions.

To the surprise of no one, the motion was brought forward once again, moved by Andrea Garvie, Nursing Rep., and seconded by Cynthia Lim, Business Rep. The motion was carried and Burgess was impeached.

That Burgess did or did not warrant impeachment is irrelevant. The point of this exercise is to make you aware of the unethical behaviour on the part of John Bosnitch and Tim Lethbridge.

Both acted in a manner that is highly questionable. Bosnitch, by his mere presence on council, unduly influenced council members in a way that you, the average student, could not. Lethbridge, by allowing Bosnitch to remain on council, is equally guilty of unethical behaviour.

To further my argument, both Bill Daisley and Larry Long, abiding by the regulations of the SRC constitution, vacated their seats on council to run in the upcoming election. Correct me if I'm wrong, but don't the same rules apply to student senators and chairpersons who are also candidates?

In short, last Tuesday's meeting should be declared null and void, thereby relegating any decisions made during that meeting to the same fate.

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A sequel: John Bosnitch demanded that Doug Burgess pay, out of pocket, the money lost on the Finnigan pub.

Does the possibility (I stress possibility) that Burgess cut the Student Union's losses by his actions not occur to Bosnitch, or is he just trying to make political hay, shocking as though that thought might be?

The lack of foresight displayed by council in voting on September 16th to hold a pub on Halloween night is "the party" ultimately responsible for this particular disaster.

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The piece de resistance of today's offerings deals with — surprise — a member of UNB's Student Union.

Michael Bennett, Vice President Academic, made misrepresentations to CHSR-FM and to The Brunswickan.

CHSR was informed by Bennett that the evening lecture of Dr. Henry Morgentaler could be broadcast live. The radio station's staff, relying on Bennett's statement, prepared whatever was necessary for the broadcast (no small feat).

At the last moment, Bennett informed CHSR that they could NOT broadcast. Reason given? If the public found out about the broadcast, ticket sales might be adversely affected. Fine time to come to that conclusion — lack of foresight, Mike?

As for The Brunswickan, we were told that a ticket for each lecture would be provided to the reporter that was assigned to cover them. No difficulties with the afternoon lecture (except for my own foulup).



FEEDBACK

News and Public Affairs
Open-line Show

This week:

Interviews with the SRC Presidential candidates

-a chance for you to express your views in discussion with some leading experts

Tuesdays at 7 pm
Your Host: Paul Wentzell