

## Morgentaler voices his beliefs

by KAYE MACPHEE  
Brunswickan staff

Dr. Henry Morgentaler a medical practitioner who, because he performs abortions, has had four court battles and an equal number of jury acquittals arrived on UNB campus Wednesday almost unnoticed.

He is a surprisingly small man; his physical stature is no match for his reputation.

We quickly learn he is not an apologist; he firmly believes in what he is doing.

As a survivor of Dachau and Auschwitz, he tells us that he knows what suffering is, and that as a man of compassion he must relieve women of the injustices and oppression they are subjected to.

He relates to us his shame of the medical profession which does work more to do something about the situation, citing statistics concerning Canada's high rate of second trimester abortions.

The time factor is very important, he says. Because access to hospitals that do perform abortions is poor, many women are denied the "right of choice".

It should be recognized that it is one of the fundamental rights of women. It is not possible for a woman to be considered equal until she has this fundamental right of choice.

"By now it is recognized that free-standing clinics rather than hospitals are a better place to have an abortion...but the law says that abortions must be performed in hospitals. This quirk in the law is completely irrational...many women have to travel thousands of miles to have an abortion," he says.

The Canadian law already grants the right of women to have abortions. This right is illusory, however, depending upon how far away the woman lives from the hospital. There is no sense having a law saying you have a right to do it, but then make it so difficult to do, he says.

Morgentaler hopes public opinion will eventually manifest itself into action in such a way that the government will change its position. Our efforts are now more organized and public opinion is definitely coming in our favor, he says.

However, he pointed out that he is not optimistic about the current federal government. I've written to Brian Mulroney and John Crosby. Mulroney seems to be uncom-



Photos by Nustin Brown

fortable on this issue. Crosby is an avowed pro-lifer and Jake Epp (Minister of Health and Welfare) is a strong anti-abortionist.

Quebec, he says, is an oasis of sanity in this country. I had three trials there and was acquitted three times. In 1976, the new government decided not to prosecute doctors that were performing abortions.

There are standing clinics, hospitals, government-operated clinics and healthy clinics run by women's collectives in Quebec. The people in Quebec are more open to these ideas — they are more tolerant and open than any other (province) in Canada, he says.

The message he wants to give us here in Fredericton is one of rationality; of compas-

sion. Fundamental human rights must be enhanced...there must be reproductive freedom...there must be an increase in the awareness of the issues, he says.

Morgentaler plans to go ahead with a clinic in Halifax and has not abandoned the idea of a Moncton clinic. "I think clinics should be in all major cities in Canada. First they should be established where they are most needed...first Halifax, then Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Progress has been made in medical technology. Abortion procedures are now ten times safer than childbirth. Delay is dangerous; it increases risk, he says.

These comments led to questions concerning his own personal safety. He has received death threats and the clinic in

Toronto has been threatened with bombing.

I do...worry. You have two choices: give up and run, the other is "these are fanatics — I believe in the justice of my cause and I will not give in to injustice and terror."

Referring to the Toronto clinic, he tells us "we have an escort service for women who come...they get hassled by picketers. They have to cope with the stress of their decision AND these people."

Morgentaler does not believe in God and was asked what he did believe in. His answer was simple. I believe in love, cooperation, and the full development of intelligence. I am a secular humanist. I do not believe in life after death, I do not believe in a superior being, I DO believe in freedom of religion.

And freedom of choice.

## Issue of debate: Does God Exist?

by JOHN MALCOLM  
UNB-IVCF

Does God Exist is the issue to be debated on Friday, November 22, at 7:30 p.m. in McLaggan Hall auditorium.

Professor R.C. MacDonald, who has been with the UNB Philosophy Department since 1968, will be presenting an argument for the view that God does not exist. MacDonald is a native of Moncton; he received his B.A. from Mount Allison and his M.A. from Dalhousie University. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Pine Hill Divinity Hall.

Professor G.T. Spires of Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts will argue that God does exist. He received his B.A. from Davidson College, a B.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary, and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Harvard. Prof. Spires has taught philosophy at Gordon since 1956.

The format of the debate will be as follows: each participant will have 15 minutes to state the points of his argument; following, each will have ten minutes to rebut.

There will then be a question period from the audience. Finally each will give a brief closing remark to summarize his argument.

In all, the formal debate will take just over 90 minutes. Members of the audience are welcome to remain afterwards to continue discussion with the "debators" or with one another.

The purpose of this debate is not to answer the question for those who attend, or claim that one side has won or lost. Rather, the debate is intended

to provide information and to initiate discussion on the question of God's existence.

Is there evidence one way or the other? How is the question relevant to the university? A

public debate such as this will help to initiate and define these and other questions.

As well, it can stimulate in-

put from all faculties and areas of the campus, to ensure that discussion is relevant, and considers all points of view.

Feel free to attend and listen and perhaps state your view or ask a question.

This debate is sponsored by the UNB Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. There is no admission charge.

## Future of Aquinian unsure

by KAYE MACPHEE  
Brunswickan staff

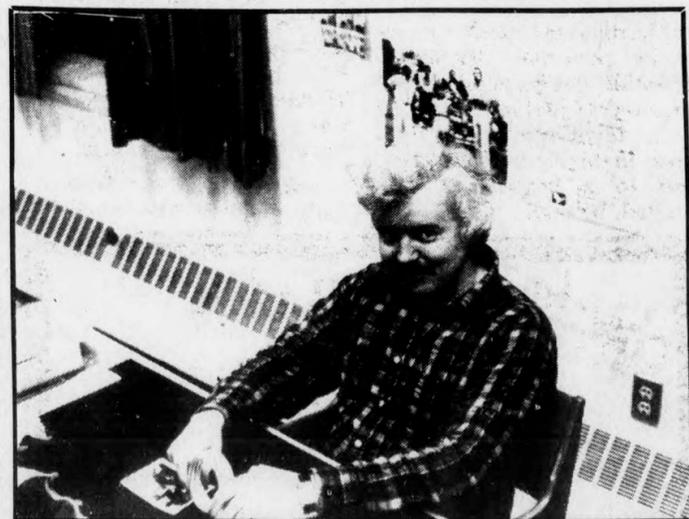
The Saint Thomas SRC voted last Tuesday on the motion to revoke the constitution of the Aquinian, which would effectively shut down the student newspaper.

Moved by Tom Isaac, second year representative, seconded by Peter White, Holy Cross representative, the motion was soundly defeated, 17/4. Isaac was the only council member to vote in its favor.

Vice President internal Troy Cloney said that to revoke the constitution of the newspaper was "too brusque" a measure.

Mike Kovacs, Entertainment coordinator, said "if we revoke the constitution of the Aquinian, then we are not acting responsibly."

A series of "motions" followed. Included was a move by Cloney to recall the constitu-



Aquinian Editor, Neil Toner. Photo by Cal Johnston

tion of the Aquinian, a motion by Kovacs to fire the editorial staff, and another motion by Kovacs calling for the resignation of Neil Toner, Editor-in-Chief of the Aquinian.

Each motion was ruled out

of order.

The meeting ended with an announcement that a meeting will be held November 14 to discuss in camera (closed) meetings. That meeting will be held in camera.