

# NEWS

EDITOR: Chris Nakash

NEWSLINE: 453-4973  
DEADLINE: Noon Wednesday

## The legal battle over surrogate motherhood

By MAUREEN BANKS

UNB hosted a moot court November 6th and 7th. The mock trial was a hypothetical "Baby M" case, which raised some interesting legal and ethical concerns regarding surrogacy.

In the actual "Baby M" case, the controversy did not surround the validity of the contract. What the trial focused on was which parents could better serve the needs of the child.

The moot court held at UNB, however, opened up the issue to include the validity of the contract by stating "the best interests of the child were equally served by both parties."

The trial focused on two grounds of appeal: public policy and the contract. In an interview with Blair Campbell, a UNB law student who participated in the mock trial, these issues were addressed less formally.

Campbell suggested that the "dehumanizing effect of surrogacy" could be remedied by removing the money factor. Surrogate mothers make between ten and twenty thousand dollars for their pain and inconvenience. This fee also covers absenteeism from work, medical, and legal costs. He feels this figure is too high and encourages women to become surrogate mothers for financial gains rather than altruistic motives.

Campbell drew a comparison between two former cases which demonstrated his point. In one case a twenty-four year old waitress became a surrogate in order to send her two children to private school. Recently another case has captured the media's attention. In South Africa a grandmother acted as a surrogate for her daughter who was unable to bear children.

Campbell feels the latter case exemplifies the appropriate use of surrogacy which is to "provide the childless couple with a child."

Campbell feels that placing a money emphasis on surrogacy will lead to reproduction industrialization. In Kentucky an

organization has been formed called "Kentucky Surrogate Parenting Association". This corporation is set up to match surrogate mothers with childless couples. He is concerned that the "headhunting fee" which is

extracted is "commodifying human dignity".

Campbell emphasized, however, that if women do chose to become surrogate mothers, the decision should be legally binding. He outlined the

differences between the Adoption Act and surrogacy. "A woman who decides to become a surrogate mother enters the contract fully aware of what she is doing. She makes the decision before conception. In the case of

adoption there must be more leniency because the emotionally confused state of the mother making the decision must be considered."

## Bomb scare at the Hilltop

By MAUREEN BANKS

The Hilltop Pub was a mass of confusion as a result of a bomb scare Tuesday night.

The pub was hosting the "Search for Perfection", a competition designed to find twelve men and twelve women for a New Brunswick calendar. The competition at-

tracted a magnamous crowd, some who waited over two hours in a line up before getting inside.

At 9:30 p.m. emcee Jeff Irwin announced to a packed audience that Fredericton City Police were on the premises. The crowd was asked to evacuate the pub so that police could conduct a search.

Outside the Hilltop an angry and frozen crowd channelled drunken energies into Christmas carols.

Problems arose when the search was completed and the pub was reopened. The crowd surged forward oblivious to any order or safety. Police did not assist in supervising the crowd as they reentered the

pub. As a result people were caught in the rush and only through luck there were no injuries.

Blair Drummie, a law student at UNB felt "that the situation was a little out of hand, but that there were no serious problems. It was a situation that potentially could have been dangerous."

## Vote in the upcoming elections!

The following is the list of candidates for next week's student election:

Board of Governors  
(term ends Nov. 88)  
Ramsay Anderson  
Peter Cashin  
Eric Drummie  
Larry Hansen

Senate  
(term ends March 88)  
Joe Everett  
Petra Thanisch  
Susan Chalmers

Board of Governors  
(term ends June 89)  
Wayne Carson  
Russell Prime

: for interviews with some candidates, see page 6.

## GSA announcement

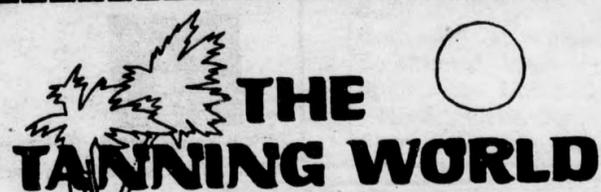
GSA Group Assistance

Members are notified that, due to the late registration date this year, the deadline for applications for Graduate Societies Operating Grants has been extended to Dec. 1st 1987. Relevant information concerning applications can be found in the GSA Handbook on pages 29-30.

GSA Executive Position Available

Due to resignation, the position of Engineering and Computer Science Representative is open for nominations. Nomination forms can be obtained from Denis Fillion, Geology Dept., Room 104. The deadline is Dec. 1st 1987, and two supporting signatures are needed.

Denis Fillion  
President

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