

Acquitted of criminal charges...

Morgentaler continues fight

by Lara Morris

Henry Morgentaler spoke to over 500 people Tuesday at a lecture in the McInnes room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building (SUB).

Morgentaler's lecture concluded a two part series entitled "Different Perspectives" organized by the Dalhousie Student Union.

The lecture covered many areas, including developments in abortion procedures, the "rhetoric of anti-abortionists", the development of free-standing abortion clinics in Canada, an overview of the legal issues surrounding abortion, and the relationship between a women's emancipation and reproductive freedom.

Morgentaler dismissed the claim life begins at conception. "It is absurd to treat one cell as human... it is as if one brick is already a house" he said.

He criticized "anti-abortionists" calling them religious fanatics. "They don't care about the welfare of women. They care about one little cell" he said.

Most of Morgentaler's energy has been directed to establishing abortion services in free-standing

clinics across Canada.

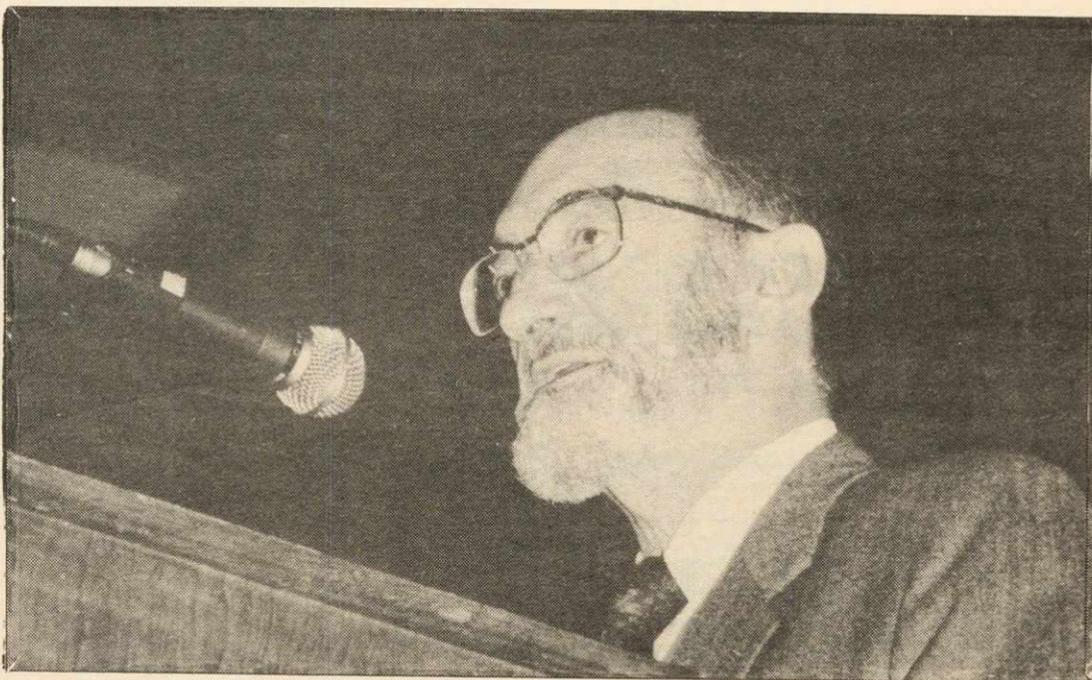
Morgentaler first began performing abortions at the request of his Quebec patients in 1970. He has since faced numerous charges and served 10 months of an 18 month jail sentence in Quebec.

As Morgentaler opened clinics in other parts of Canada, his legal battle continued. In 1988 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the then existing law on abortion unconstitutional and struck it from the Criminal Code. "The Courts had finally recognized a woman's right to dignity and autonomy to make decisions about her body" said Morgentaler of the decision.

With clinics established in Central and Western Canada, Morgentaler turned his attention to the Atlantic Region.

"Atlantic Canada does not have good access to abortion services. The Halifax clinic is a pilot project to establish free-standing abortion clinics that will serve to give women better access" Morgentaler said.

The Halifax clinic was opposed by the Nova Scotia Government. A provincial law was passed prohibiting the performing of abortions



Dai photo: Kevin Peters

Morgentaler rebuts ant-choice questions at lecture on Tuesday

outside hospitals.

Charges were laid against Morgentaler and an injunction was obtained to prevent abortions from being performed at the clinic. Morgentaler said this deprived over 2000 Maritime women of abortion care until last Friday when the Nova

Scotia Supreme Court ruled the law unconstitutional. "We are celebrating a wonderful decision" said Morgentaler.

Morgentaler opposes Bill C-43, the federal government's proposed legislation recriminalizing abortion. The Bill has yet to pass

through the Senate.

"This law is a profound interference with a woman's body and therefore a violation of the security of the person" Morgentaler said. He believes eventually this legislation (if passed) will be ruled un-

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DSA may walk picket line soon

by Alex Burton

Although Dalhousie students seem to have avoided a faculty strike, they may be caught in the middle of another labour dispute this year.

The Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) has set the wheels in mo-

tion for a strike vote.

According to Bette Yetman, Executive Director of the DSA, the vote is scheduled for November 2, 5, and 6.

Contract talks between the DSA and the Dalhousie Administration ended on October 12 when the DSA announced they were apply-

ing for the appointment of a provincial conciliator.

"We feel its important to send our negotiating team back to the table with a strike mandate so we will be taken seriously" said Yetman.

Michael Roughneen, chief negotiator for the Administration said

he had been informed by the DSA and the provincial conciliation service of the request for the appointment of a conciliator.

"I think, at this stage, its premature to talk strike" he said.

Roughneen said a range of issues had been addressed during the 20 plus meetings held between

the two sides, and monetary items had been left until the end.

"Its fairly usual to leave monetary items to the end" he said. "As you get into those (monetary) negotiations it invariably gets more difficult."

"The outstanding issues are monetary, but there are a couple of fairly critical management proposals on the table" said Yetman.

Yetman said "the Union has already made concessions (on the proposals), but management wants more. We've indicated to them we've gone as far as we're prepared to go."

If a strike does occur students will be affected.

Yetman said the affect of a strike on students will depend on the type of strike action the DSA chooses to adopt.

Yetman said the loyalty of staff to students, and their desire not to take action that would hurt the students, has made her job more difficult. She suggested the Administration has used this loyalty to manipulate the union.

"Clearly a strike by any group on campus at the University is go-

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Nova Scotia getting burned...

Funding program flawed

by Jeff Harrington

HALIFAX (CUP)— Nova Scotia says it's getting burned because of its high student participation rate.

"We have nearly 3,000 more students studying in Nova Scotia from other provinces than we have Nova Scotia students elsewhere," said Gerald McCarthy, chair of the province's higher education council.

McCarthy said the federal formula for transferring education funding to the provinces is flawed because it is based on a province's population and not its number of university students. In a report released Oct. 17, the Canadian Fed-

eration of Students also panned the formula.

"I think there's a reasonable argument that somebody owes us \$18 million," said McCarthy.

The money would come in "damn handy", he said.

According to the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU), provincial governments' support per student has dropped 22 percent in the last 10 years, while enrolment has risen 43 per cent.

The result has been unwieldy class sizes, restricted programs, deteriorating buildings, obsolete equipment and depleted library collections.

The federal Conservative government has been cutting back in transfer payments since it was elected in 1984. During that time, Nova Scotia has consistently failed to meet the funding increases recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, which advises the three Maritime premiers.

Many of the province's universities have responded by jacking tuition fees.

The state of Dalhousie is the most glaring evidence of the effect of the funding shortfall.

The largest university in the province is \$35 million in debt.

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