



THE BRUNSWICKAN

Take a good look, this is the last green for a while.

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Audience impressed by Morgentaler

by ZOE GREEN
Brunswickan staff

On November 13, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, Canada's most famous abortionist, came to UNB to describe how and why he has achieved such notoriety.

Morgentaler, a small 62-year old physician, told the capacity audience that his campaign to improve abortion facilities in Canada began in 1955, when he was working in a Montreal hospital.

In the 50's, it was common to see entire wards of women enduring the after-effects of self-induced or back-street abortions. The results were often lengthy illness, hysterectomies, or death. Such suffering inspired Dr. Morgentaler to join the Montreal humanist movement in 1967, and to present a brief requesting changes in the abortion laws to the House of Commons Health and Welfare Committee.

The publicity surrounding Morgentaler's efforts to liberalize these laws encouraged many women to come to his surgery and ask for abortions. For a time he turned them away, but the fact that he was not practising what he preached made him feel, in his own words, "...like I was a coward and a hypocrite."

He began to perform abortions, and, though unaware of

the illegality of such behaviour, was "happy to regain his sense of integrity — to my mind, it's not a crime to help people."

In October 1973 Morgentaler faced his first trial. He explained the motives behind his actions to the French-Canadian jury, and was acquitted four weeks later. He had hoped that this victory for common sense would set a legal precedent, but it was not to be. The battle with the legal establishment Morgentaler delineated has lasted since 1973, involving him in a jail sentence and several further trials.

At the time of writing, Morgentaler awaits the outcome of a case currently before the Canadian Supreme Court — Morgentaler vs. the Ontario government. He describes this fight with the legal system as "prosecution by prosecution...ordeal by attrition."

However, he praises the moral sense of the juries who have all acquitted him thus far — "The jury system is the last bulwark of democracy."

Having detailed the history of his activities in the pro-choice movement, Morgentaler briefly outlined the provincial differences in abortion facilities available across Canada. He pointed out that his decision to open clinics in Toronto and Winnipeg had been prompted by the decline in hospital abortions caused by pressure from anti-choice campaigns.

Morgentaler ended his lecture by stating that the decision to have an abortion must be freely made by the woman concerned, and that access to abortion must be equally available to all Canadian women.

His lecture was followed by questions from the audience. These ranged from whether abortion might just become one more contraceptive method to whether women felt guilty after having abortions.

Morgentaler dealt with



Dr. Henry Morgentaler

Photo by Nusin Brown

hecklers and the anti-choice lobby in a dignified manner. Impressed, the audience gave

him a standing ovation.

The fact that his speech was still eagerly being discussed

around campus the next morning amply suggests the resounding effect of his message.

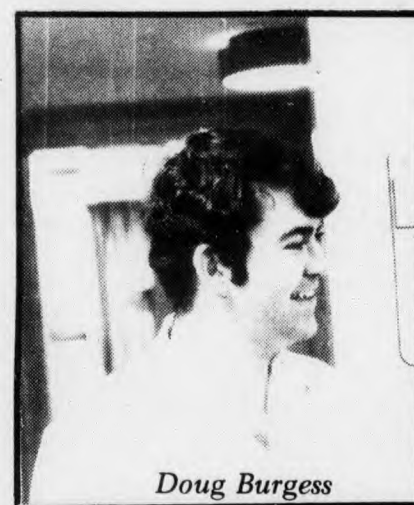
Burgess impeached by council

by BRENDA PAUL
Brunswickan Staff

V.P. Finance Doug Burgess was impeached for 'dereliction of duties' at Monday's Student Union Council meeting with a two thirds majority.

The impeachment motion centred around Burgess' failure to 'present and prepare audited statements by the required deadline (of October 31st).'

Due to questions about John Bosnitch's term of office in-



Doug Burgess

Photo by Cal Johnston

cluding a letter from University Secretary James Woodfield stating that he no longer was an ex-officio council member, Bosnitch who originally moved the impeachment motion asked that Councillors Andrea Garvie and Cynthia Lim be registered as mover and seconder of the motion.

Council requested that Burgess vacate his office by Wednesday, November 13th at 5:00 p.m.

Burgess was not present at the meeting to defend himself.

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Endorsement by clubs questioned

by KAYE MACPHEE
Brunswickan staff

A majority of faculty clubs' executives met on two occasions recently "to address the generally unsatisfactory state of affairs currently existing within the UNB Student Union," said Eric Semple.

Semple, the Public Relations Co-Ordinator for UNB's faculty clubs, said this state of affairs includes a lack of financial responsibility and accountability, and a poor level of services provided by the current Student Union.

As a result of the meetings, the faculty clubs' executives resolved to effect substantial change.

"We are elected at large and we feel it is part of our responsibility to effect a change. The way we see it, if the Union collapses, so do we. The Union is where we get our recognition, our funding, our very existence," said Semple.

The first step in voicing our concern is each individual faculty group endorsing and, in effect, promoting representatives for each faculty seat, said Semple.

He said, "for example, the Business Society sought out three candidates to run for office and we're going to work to promote their success in the upcoming election."

The second step the clubs were to take was to endorse executive candidates. "Once chosen by consensus, we will begin a media campaign. If we cannot come to a majority, we will endorse no one," said Semple.

To further this end, the faculty clubs held a meeting on