

THE BRUNSWICKAN NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

UBC gives birth to Midwifery program

University tries to break down barriers with new program

by Elietha Bockskei, Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Traditional misconceptions surrounding the practice of midwifery will be challenged at the University of British Columbia this fall with the development of a new program in the Faculty of Medicine.

Program Director and Professor Elaine Carty is very pleased with the inclusion of the new program at the university.

"I think that it's important for the

profession that there be an educational program in a research-intensive university with other health science programs," she said.

The four-year program is intense—combining both classroom instruction and clinical work throughout the province—and leads to a Bachelor of Midwifery.

Alison Rice is a professor of nursing at the university as well as a practicing midwife. She has been involved in the fight for the legalization of midwifery in B.C. for a long time.

The practice of midwifery combines medical care with emotional, social and spiritual support for the mother throughout conception, labour, birthing and up until the early weeks after

childbirth. Midwives are considered to specialize in 'normal' births, Carty said, which are births without complications.

"Midwives tend to take value in the labour process and what that does for women," said Rice, "whereas many physicians ... have much more of an interest in predictability and controlling the labour process."

Carty became involved in midwifery because it was an opportunity to be with women through pregnancy, labour and birth in a way that physicians weren't at that time, she said, and also to be constantly present in the process.

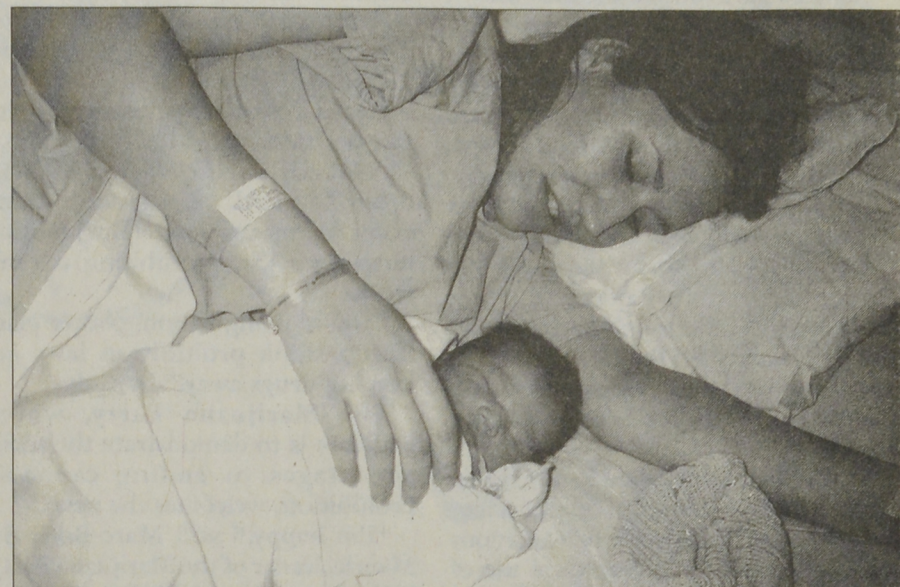
Midwifery is now a respected, publicly funded profession in B.C. and four other provinces across Canada and all midwives operate under strict regulations set by the College of Midwives of British Columbia.

Prior to January, 1998, midwifery was an illegal profession in B.C. Rice said the women's health and feminist movements of the 1970s, helped move the legalization of midwifery forward because women wanted more control over their bodies.

Rice pointed out that there are still many misconceptions about the role of midwives that have been formed through the media's association with unregulated home births. Midwifery is frequently considered part of the 'hippie era.'

"There is work to be done in educating the public [about the role of midwives]," said Rice.

"Women and their partners see midwives as an alternative to medicine, which we are—but we also have considerable medical training



Elietha Bockskei/Ubysey

A new four-year program looks to challenge some misconceptions.

and skills. It's the philosophy that's different."

While the integration of midwifery into the health care system in Vancouver has been smooth, rural communities still face problems, said Carty. In the future, however, she anticipates a partnership between midwife and physician in these small communities.

Carty emphasized the connections between medical students and midwives are very strong.

"We're also working with the departments of family practice and departments of obstetrics and gynecology to look at ways that the midwifery and medical students can have learning experiences together."

She feels it's important to emphasize they're working towards interdisciplinary efforts, so they can

serve the health care system in teams. "It's an exciting time to be able to experiment with these things. I think it's important that there's a willingness on all parts to do that."

Currently there are no men in the program, because, Carty said, none applied. She said there are men in midwifery programs in the United States and Europe, and hopes as people learn more about the midwifery program at the university, men will apply.

When a student graduates from the program, he or she will have attended 60 births, 40 for which they will act as the primary caregiver.

First-year midwifery student Tanya Baker is ready to have her life put on hold when she starts attending births in October under the supervision of a practicing midwife.

"It's a major lifestyle change," she said. "For first-years, we get partnered with the midwife [to begin with]. It's coming up pretty fast and it's major and I want to share these great experiences."

Baker's main interest is in global women's health.

"Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death in the developing world of women of reproductive age...and midwifery can play a key role in that aspect," she said.

She believes women can gain greater independence by having a midwife attend their birth.

"It mostly gives the choice and power back to the women...about where they want to have [the birth]. We try to give them a lot of information but it's all up to them, and I really believe in that."

Two hundred protest Netanyahu visit

Palestinian and Jewish groups call for peace

by Vince Teetaert, The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Both Palestinian and Jewish opposition groups converged on the city's Pantages Theatre Monday night in a peaceful picket to protest former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to members of the city's Jewish community, as well as what they call "Israel's brutal and illegal" occupation of Palestine.

Over 200 people — members of Canada-Palestine-Network-Winnipeg (CanPalNet-Wpg) and Jews for a Just Peace, as well as members from Winnipeg's Muslim, Palestinian and anti-war communities — held placards and chanted "Netanyahu go home," "Shame" and "End the Occupation Now," while attendees of Netanyahu's speech gathered inside the historic theatre.

Amanda Aziz, a member of CanPalNet-Wpg said it was important to have a strong showing of opposition at the event because the Netanyahu government's policies represented no lasting vision of peace in the Middle East.

She cited Netanyahu's alleged human rights violations, including his endorsement of forcible expulsion of the Palestinian people from Israeli-controlled territory and his appointment of Ariel Sharon to his Likud cabinet (Sharon, the current Israeli prime minister, has been condemned internationally for his role in the Sabra and Shatila massacres). She also questioned Netanyahu's role in the peace process.

"CanPalNet-Wpg believes that Netanyahu's words of violence and hatred are not the path to peace," said Aziz. "Rather each escalation of military force, each increase in the repression of the Palestinian people has instead had the predictable result of increased terrorist attacks against innocent Israeli civilians. For peace to break out in the region, the cycle of violence must be broken."

Alon Weinberg of Jews for a Just Peace feels that the public has to speak out against the policies that Netanyahu represents.

"He believes that more violence is a way to security," said Weinberg, who feels more damage would be done if Netanyahu returned to power and implemented the policies he promotes.

Both CanPalNet and Jews for a Just Peace — a Winnipeg organization which mirrors a group in Israel — believe peace in the Middle East will come only when the Palestinian people receive self-determination, seeing a two-state system as the solution.

Weinberg sees Netanyahu as an Israeli leader who plays on people's fears, "stirring a pot which has already been stirred," and should not be given a forum to speak.

Nilufer Rahman, a graduate student at the University of Manitoba, agrees and is disappointed that Netanyahu was invited to speak in Winnipeg.

Rahman noted that a strong protest was the least that could be done to show support and stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine. She said that the purpose of the protest was to show others that it is possible to speak out against the atrocities committed by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people.

Bob Freedman, executive vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg says Netanyahu is the perfect high-profile personality needed to kick-start the Combined Jewish Appeal, a fundraiser to raise money for Winnipeg's Jewish institutions and support programs.

"This is just a prominent way of getting our campaign off the ground," said Freedman.

Freedman admits that Netanyahu does not speak for the entire Jewish community in Winnipeg but feels he has relevant views on Israeli politics. Netanyahu was Israel's prime minister from 1996 to 1999 and has expressed interest in running for office in Israel's upcoming election.

A controversial figure, Netanyahu opposed the Oslo Accord, saying it favoured the Palestinians, and supports the U.S. plan to invade Iraq in order to remove Saddam Hussein.

Freedman acknowledges that Netanyahu's views may not appeal to all, and is not opposed to peaceful protests. "We live in a democracy and people have the right to protest, as long as people are peaceful," he said.

Earlier last week, a scheduled speech by Netanyahu was cancelled after protesters stormed police outside Concordia University in Montreal. Netanyahu was met by chants of "Netanyahu assassin" and "free Palestine." Police responded with the use of pepper spray, while protesters responded by throwing chairs, newspaper stands and anything they could get their hands on. Instead Netanyahu made a more modest speech at a local hotel.

The building where the speech was scheduled was evacuated and classes cancelled after the building was deemed unsafe by health inspectors after the use of pepper spray by police.

While police were present at the Winnipeg talk, forming a line between picketers and attendees, no altercations occurred. At one point a man approached the front line of protesters asking, "What happened in Jenin?" referring to the Israeli Defense Forces' invasion of the Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank. He was quickly surrounded by police and escorted back to the line waiting to get into the theatre.

The protest ended with a police-escorted march to the U.S. consulate at Portage and Main, and the return of the group of protesters back to the theatre.

Atlantic Canada grads earn less

Region's starting salaries lowest in the country

by Jennifer Henderson, Atlantic Bureau

HALIFAX (CUP) — Atlantic Canadian university graduates seeking work may have to venture outside the region if earning potential is their top priority.

A report issued by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation indicates that Atlantic Canadian university graduates earn "significantly less" than counterparts in other provinces.

According to the report's co-author, this discrepancy is a reflection of regional economics rather than educational quality.

"I don't think it's saying anything about the condition of graduates but rather about the workplace conditions they're coming into," said Sean Junor. "In smaller provinces such as Manitoba, Saskatchewan or in this case Nova Scotia, you don't have the high paying jobs, the company head offices that can pay incredible starting salaries."

Job seeking graduates can expect to earn \$ 25,000 in Atlantic Canada compared to \$29,500 in Central Canada and a high of \$37,000 in Western Canada. It's a statistic that Junor doubts residents of the region will find surprising.

"There's a lot of data in this report that is surprising. I'm not sure that this is the most surprising. Simply, the

wages paid in cities like Halifax and St. John's aren't as high as those paid in Calgary, Toronto or Montreal," he said.

David Hare, the Nova Scotia chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students isn't surprised by the findings on the low starting salaries of Atlantic

(SEE ATLANTIC GRADS, PAGE 4)

University Women's Centre Logo Competition

Submissions due:

October 2nd by 4:30 p.m.

Please e-mail submissions to women@unb.ca
- Electronic Format Only -

The winner will be announced at the Grand Opening of the centre on the 23rd of October. The winner will receive \$50 from the centre for their work.

For more information, e-mail: women@unb.ca, or visit the centre in the SUB (across from SUB Styles) and read about the centre from the writing in the windows.

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