

Birth Control Talk Sneaked In at B.C.

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Staff Reporter

Editors of the Boston College campus newspaper defied a ban by school officials Monday and allowed a speech by a New York man involved in a militant effort to change Massachusetts' birth control laws.

The talk went ahead as scheduled, and William Baird, 34, spoke for 45 minutes to about 350 students, most of whom had to stand in basement corridors to hear the speech over a public address system.

The resulting controversy, however, appeared to be more over the procedure and format followed by the student editors rather than over the subject matter of Baird's talk.

Nevertheless, because of their action, the editors could face suspension, loss of scholarships or loss of their positions on the campus newspaper, *The Heights*.

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350 Attend B.C. Press 'Conference'

★ BAIRD

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Baird, president of a parents' aid society in New York City, is free on bail pending a court appearance May 8 on a charge of exhibiting and distributing a birth control device during an appearance at Boston University last week.

Asked earlier Monday if he would distribute contraceptive materials to Boston College students, Baird said he would not. He said his test case to overthrow the state's birth control laws has begun," and although I've been asked twice today to distribute materials, I cannot in good conscience do it again."

Baird appeared later in the evening at a student-sponsored function at Goddard Chapel on the Tufts University campus in Medford.

A statement by Rev. George L. Drury, S. J. director of student personnel services at Boston College, said that Baird was excluded from use of more formal campus facilities "by reason of his irresponsible actions in his appearance in a university atmosphere."

This was an apparent reference to the incident at Boston University that led to Baird's arrest.

Fr. Drury said the action was taken "not in any opposition to Mr. Baird's ideas regarding reform of this law; indeed, responsible members of the university faculty and the Catholic community at large have publicly expressed reservations with regard to this Massachusetts statute."

Michael Rahill, 20, editor of the student newspaper, said "I am surprised and shocked that they would not allow us to hold a public forum.

"This issue ought to be discussed openly by Catholics.

"They should have extended the school's facilities to Mr. Baird. It would not have implied that the university subscribe to his views.

Fr. Drury had granted permission for an appearance by Baird in the newspaper's office in McElroy Commons "for the purpose of an interview and questions by The Heights organization. His appearance would be limited to members of The Heights staff."

However, the editors continued with their plans for a public meeting. About 150 students crowded into The Heights office, and another 200 jammed the corridors outside.

Baird said, "When a university decides to censor the student body it acts on the same level as a bully on the street."

He told the students, "The state has no right to prevent access to birth control information

"Write your legislator, change these laws," he urged.

Fr. Drury said the student editors' action "would be regarded as a serious breach of university policy. Appropriate procedure would be followed for review of this incident by the university conduct committee."