

The Birds & The Bees

MELYNDA JARRATT
News Editor

Courses in Human Sexuality at the University of New Brunswick are turning out to be the most popular classes on campus, and Dr. Sandra Byers, a Professor in the Department of Psychology at UNB, sees this as a "sign of the times."

Human Sexuality 3343 has been offered at this university for the past seven years, but the last few semesters have seen its attendance rates grow to its present capacity of 170 students per class.

Dr. Byers thinks that students are enrolling in large

numbers not because they think it is an "easy" credit, but because they are largely uninformed and want to learn more about a topic which very much interests them.

"In the past," she said, "when most of the present students went to school, New Brunswick had a very poor sex education programme within its educational system." Add to that the fact that "very few parents do effective sex education with their kids (a problem which still exists today)," and it is not surprising that enrollment is up. Essentially, "they have a lot to learn."

Personal interest in the sub-

ject is another motivating factor which has seen enrollment increase steadily over the years. "I think that people are taking the course because they are inherently interested in Human Sexuality. It matches well with our human interests and people naturally gravitate towards those things which catch their attention."

But do people really take the classes seriously? Are they snickering in the back everytime someone asks a question, or are they truly interested in learning about sex?

Dr. Byers replied with a firm "No! I cannot think of one time that someone has

snickered or laughed at others in the class." In fact, she said, "students are keen to ask about things they don't understand." Times have changed, she added, and students, "are not embarrassed to admit that they don't know everything. They feel freer to admit their own inadequacies ... and the class itself is a vehicle with which to open up discussion not only amongst their peers, but with spouses, families, parents, and friends. One student even brought in her mother not too long ago."

Students have been heard to say the courses in Human Sex-

uality offered by the University of New Brunswick are "bird courses", but Dr. Byers does not agree. If that is what they think, they are in for a rude awakening, she commented, "I tell everybody, right at the beginning, that it is not going to be easy. Just take a look at the text!"

If high enrollment in the Human Sexuality courses are a "sign of the times," students should be lining up at the Registrars Office come next semester. And besides, as Dr. Byers puts it, "It's the most interesting of all the courses I teach... I just love teaching it."

University Honours Women

GARTH L. WAITE

Exactly one hundred years ago, Mary K. Tibbitts enrolled to become the first woman to attend UNB. This year's fall convocation, in honor of this admission, commemorates 100 years of women's contributions to the University.

At the 2:30 p.m. ceremony at the Playhouse in Fredericton, honorary degrees will be awarded to singer Edith Butler, ophthalmologist Eileen Nason Cambon, and Rebecca Watson, the bank of Montreal's first female branch manager. The graduates, receiving degrees in arts, science, law, nursing, master of education, and four year bachelor of education, will be addressed by Dr. Cambon.

The 7:30 pm ceremony, also at the Playhouse, will honor James T. Black, chairman of the board of the Molson Companies Ltd.; artist Bruno Bobak, and Sheila A. Egoff, children's literature specialist.

The graduates, who will be receiving degrees in engineering, computer science, forestry, forest engineering, business administration, physical education and recreation, secretarial studies, and one year bachelor of education, shall be addressed by Mr. Black.

Edith Butler, a native of Paquetville, N.B. is renowned for her dynamic stage presence and gutsy singing voice. She has championed ACADIAN culture through her music, which is both original and traditional.



Edith Butler

From her home base in Montreal, Mlle. Butler keeps a busy touring, recording, and television appearance schedule. She has six hot albums, the latest being *Un Million de fois je t'aime*, is founder and president of SPPS Records, and has authored two song books.

She has received l'ordre du mérite de la Culture Française, the Order of Canada, and an invitation to perform for Brian Mulroney and Ronald Reagan at last year's Shamrock Summit, in recognition of her talent.

Mlle. Butler, who last toured N.B. in 1985, holds a degree from l'Université de Moncton and is co-founder of its Les Editions d'Acadie Publishing House. She also has a licence des lettres in folklore from l'Université Laval.

Active on the executives of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada and the Medical Women's International Association, Dr. Eileen Nason Cambon preaches ophthalmology in Vancouver, where she has lived since 1958.

In 1946, she received a BSc from UNB, followed in 1947 by an MSc in Zoology from Vassar College. She completed her medical training at McGill whereupon she served two years as a general practitioner with Alcan in British Guyana.

Dr. Cambon returned to specialize in ophthalmology at institutions in Texan and London, England.

In 1978 her work was recognized by a Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

A New Brunswick native, Dr. Cambon regularly attends alumni reunions at UNB and in 1971 she was selected as Alumni orator.

Miss Watson, a Fredericton native and UNB graduate, is an energetic supporter of alumni activities. In 1981 she became the Associated Alumni's first female president.

Eighteen years before she became the first female branch manager with the Bank of Montreal in Canada. Her branch, located on the Fredericton campus, was known as "Becky's Bank".

Miss Watson has been an active member of the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, the UNB Board of Governors and Senate, and other community organizations, many of which have benefited even more since her retirement in 1982.

After fifteen years as librarian in the Toronto Public



Rebecca Watson

Library, Sheila Egoff was appointed to the faculty of the School of Library, Archival, and Information studies at the

University of British Columbia in 1962.

This practical experience became the basis for her specialization in children's and young people's literature. She wrote the well known book *The Republic of Childhood: A Critical Guide to Canadian Children's Books in English*.

She has received numerous awards for excellence in her profession and in 1983 was made *professor emerita* of UBC.

She continues to do research and is active in several organizations, including the Canadian Library Association, of which she was editor from 1957-1962.

NOTICE

Students intending to apply for entrance to medical and dental schools are requested to make appointments for the purpose of having the personal interview which is required for admission into dental and medical schools. Interviews will begin as soon as possible. Please apply at Rm. 109, I.U.C., Office of the Dean of Science.

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