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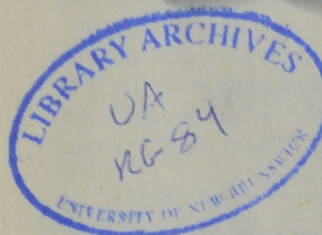


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you, Dexter!

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Coming to a theatre near you...

Let's talk Vagina

Cindy Brown

Vagina. To say it aloud seems almost a social crime. *Vagina*. Say it again and you are sure the word is nothing more than a cold medical term. A disease.

Vagina - not a sexy word at all.

With friends one would often say, "you know... down there" or "my private parts." Playwright and author Eve Ensler felt it was important to raise awareness about women's sexuality and thus came up with the idea of *The Vagina Monologues*. The play and activities associated with it are better known as V-Day. V-Day has been staged at over 300 colleges since opening in February, 1998.

In her book, *The Vagina Monologues*, Ensler describes her interviews with women.

"I was worried about vaginas. I was worried about what we think about vaginas, and even more what we don't think about them. I was worried about my own vagina."

Ensler has talked to over two hundred women of all walks of life - married, single, lesbian, African American - since the project began.

From these interviews came *The Vagina Monologues*. Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Sarandon, Glenn Close and 17 other celebrities pioneered in the first appearance of *The Monologues* on Valentine's Day, 1998 at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City.

The event raised over \$100,000 for organizations and programs designed to prevent women from suffering from violence, and successfully launched the V-day movement.

V-day is much more than just women learning to be comfortable with their sexuality or even the word vagina. The motives for Ensler and her colleagues' were much stronger. Through her interviews with women, Ensler realized nothing was more important than stopping violence toward women.

"Night after night I heard the same stories—women being raped as teenagers, in college, as little girls, as elderly women...I began to feel insane, as if a door had opened to some underworld and I was being told things I was not supposed to know."

V-Day is a revolution. A revolution to stop all kinds of violence to women, both emotional or physical. Its creation was brought about by a dire need to stop the violence women from all different cultures experience.

Both UNB campuses as well as that of St. Thomas University, will be hosting the show for the V-Day 2002 campaign.

UNB Student Union VP Executive, Kate Whitfield, is a major reason why students from both UNB and STU will be able to take part in this great event. The UNB and STU will act as major sponsors for the play.

Although the concept of hosting *The Vagina Monologues* has been around for about three years now, it was Whitfield who really got the ball rolling. Whitfield organized a meeting of all those who have ever been interested in hosting the play, together in one room, and the dream turned into reality.

V-Day is non-profit and proceeds from the Fredericton show will go directly to the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, the Fredericton Transition House and the Gignoo Transition House. The coordinators of V-Day are especially concerned with the state in which Afghanistan women find themselves—even though they are concerned with all forms of violence—and so a portion of the proceeds from the 2002 campaign will go directly to them.

Promising the show would be student-run, student-directed and student-organized, Whitfield was able



Photo: Joan Marcus

Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*, is the inspiration of a play soon to be in the works at UNB.

to obtain the rights to the play for free. After reading Ensler's book last March, Whitfield was intrigued with the play.

"This is a variety of women. You're going to have straight women, homosexual women, young, old. You know, it doesn't matter - that's the beauty of it. You're going to have all walks of life."

Auditions for the play will be held on October 29th at MacLaggan Hall and October 30th at Ted Daigle Hall. Both auditions will begin at 6:00pm.

The performance will be held at the Ted Daigle Hall, on the STU campus, on February 14th, 15th and 16th.

Students who do not wish to audition

for a part in the actual play can help out in other ways. The director of the play, Alison Mesheau, a student from STU, is looking for a stage crew.

Whitfield is looking for people to coordinate other activities associated with V-Day, such as the creation of a "rape-free" zone, or the selling of

Valentine's Day cards. All profits will go to the V-Day cause.

A 11 activities associated with V-Day will be dedicated to ending violence against women.

For additional information, students can contact Kate Whitfield at the Student Union offices in the SUB. For more information about V-Day and *The Vagina Monologues*, visit www.v-day.org.

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Students ask why The cost of education

Ben Conoley

Students arriving at UNB this fall need to have more money in their wallets than last year. The increase in tuition, residence fees and overseas tuition all force many students to work extra hours in the summer or throughout the school year, and those affected want to know why.

There are a number of factors that influence tuition costs. Buildings are getting older and need to be upgraded to suit the needs of modern education. At UNB these costs will require at least \$60 million.

More people are attending university, therefore more faculty and professors are needed to tend to them.

A significant reason for the rise in costs can be attributed to decreasing government support. Government grants currently make up only 66% of operation costs; this is down from a 78% high in 1987/88. Universities are left to raise the rest of the funds needed through tuition fees.

The operating costs for UNB are \$130 million this year.

This year the Province of New Brunswick has increased funding by 1.9%, which is just over \$1.45 million dollars. However, even with this increase, UNB students were asked to shell out an additional \$310 dollars. This 8.5% increase brought undergraduate tuition to \$3945 from last year's \$3635. Nationwide, students were only asked for an average 2.1% more, the lowest rise since 1978/79.

Daniel Murray, UNB vice-president of finance and administration, says, "New Brunswick Universities operate with the lowest form of per-student funding of all universities in Canada. We are 10% lower than the average."

A student wishing to live in residence is being asked to pay \$5069 for a double room with 19 meals per week. This is a rise of 5.5% from last year's \$5069. The increase is said to be a result of much-needed building repairs as well as costly heating.

Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, president and vice-chancellor of UNB, had much to say on why tuition keeps rising. "For tuition fees to remain at 2000/01 levels, the government would have to increase it's grant by 5-6%. New Brunswick universities as a group have the lowest per-student revenue of all universities in the entire country. We are extremely efficient and we offer extremely good value for money.... Last year we were below the Maritime average. We think it is reasonable for us to move our fees toward the average for the region."

Maritime universities cost more than the national average, with the exception

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UNB panel discusses terrorist attacks

Chris Wilson-Smith

In response to the attacks on the U.S. on September 11th, UNB's Office of the President sponsored a panel and discussion entitled "NYC, Washington, Our World: Perspectives on a Tragedy."

Co-moderated by Christine Nassrallah, President of the Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF), and Wendy Robbins, a professor of English and Women's Studies at UNB, the panel featured many respected speakers from UNB.

Beginning the discussion was David Charters, a professor with the UNB Centre for Conflict Studies and the Department of History. He spoke about various historical examples of terrorism and how they may be relevant to the recent tragedy. By discussing the meaning of the word "war," Charters hoped to "make sense of the senseless."

Charters discussed the possibility of heightened security levels around North America. If this is done, according to the

professor, it must be done in a temporary fashion, for the line between high security levels and idyllic democracy is hard to distinguish.

"Terrorism has yet to destroy a western democracy - we must not do it for them," said Charters.

Also featured in the discussion were Joy Mighty, Don Fleming, and Sue McKenzie Mohr.

Mighty, a professor of Administration, recently returned from the UN World Conference on Racism in South Africa, where he spoke on racism and what people can do to stop it both locally and globally.

Fleming, a professor specializing in International Law, discussed the options that exist to bring international terrorists to a court of justice.

Rounding up the panel was Mohr, a counsellor with UNB's Counselling Services. As a specialist on post-traumatic stress, Mohr spoke about how people deal with feelings such as anger, fear, despair, and vulnerability.



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