A Katimavik experience

by Andy Kollack

Imagine sleeping, eating, working, and sharing your life with ten complete strangers from all over Canada, in three different provinces for seven months.

The Katimavik program makes this a reality.

This group of young adults aged 17 to 21 will be working full-time at different volunteer and non-profit agencies in Fredericton. Currently, work projects are set up at the Red Cross, The Brunswickan, the Boys and Girls Club (Skyline and Devon), Meals on Wheels, the Multicultural Association, and the Fredericton Family Drop in Center.

The Group in Fredericton has just finished a 10-week stint in Frelighsburg, Québec. Projects included working at an elementary school, painting and plastering City Hall along with the Tourist Information building, building an outdoor hockey rink in conjunction with a baseball field, and working on road maintenance which involved clearing fallen trees after a blizzard that hampered local traffic.

The program lasts for seven months, and the group moves every 10 weeks into another of the three rotations. Each rotation takes place in a different province or territory, with one of those rotations taking place in a francophone community. Out of the 10 weeks, one week is spent with a host family, providing a break from the group, along with a chance to discover the local flavour of each province.

Katimavik is Canada's leading youth organization and is financed in part by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Katimavik is a Federal Alternative Learning program, focusing on the development of Canada's young people through group living and community involvement. Names are drawn at random when the groups are being assembled, and each group starts out with 11 participants. Each group consists of an equal number of men and women, and tries to reflect Canada's cultural, economic and social diversity, 70% of participants are Anglophone, 30% Francophone, one participant from either British Columbia or the Yukon, two participants from the Prairies, Northwest territories or Nunavut, four Ontarians, three Québecers, and one participant from the Atlantic provinces.

Katimavik also gives participants the opportunity to learn valuable skills listed by the Conference Board of Canada in its Employability Skills Profile: communication, decision making, problem solving, accountability, adaptability and teamwork. The program hopes to instill ongoing learning in five areas: leadership, learning a second language (French or English), environmental issues, cultural discovery, and healthy living.

Sex toys (Continued)

violence against women.

The opening remarks will being at 8:00 pm on Friday, and will be followed by a night, which promises to be propitious. At 9:00 pm there will be a judged poetry slam, "Read my Lips," based on excerpts from the *Monologues*, and offers prizes heralding from X-citment Video. Following the exciting and enticing linguistic creations there will be the presentation of a special cake by local artist Linda Bartlett. And to help round out the evening there will be a wet/dry wine and beer bar that promises to get your "juices flowing."

The Cabaret-style night promises to be exciting and arousing, with costume-based dress, and lots of enticement for the senses. It is a good kick-off the coming *Vagina Monologues* which will premiere on campus the 14th and 15th of February, 2002. The campus production is based on the widely acclaimed and controversial play by Eve Ensler, which gives a voice to the not often heard female organ. Tickets for the *Monologues* will go on sale at the opening on January 18th.

Admission to the opening is free; however, donations will be accepted for the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Fredericton Transition House, Liberty Lane Second Stage Housing, and Gignoo Transition House in Fredericton. The night is worth attending as its goal is to raise awareness and support some worthy causes, while allowing the little voice within everyone to have some sexually clean fun.

Presidents (Continued)

David Marshall, currently the president of Nippissing university in Ontario, has also had to deal with falling provincial funding.

"That's the box that universities get put into - as government lowers its contribution we are left with a choice. I don't raise tuition a cent without showing the students where the money is going."

Although Marshall admitted that he will need some time to talk to people at UNB to establish some focus for the future, he did point out that UNB's contribution to the community is unparalleled.

"The University of New Brunswick plays a greater role in the economic, social and recreational well-being in New Brunswick than probably any other university in Canada."

The new president, UNB's 17th, is expected to take office on July 1st, 2002, when Elizabeth Parr-Johnston will retire after serving six years as president and vice-chancellor.

MAKE SURE TO VOTE IN THE NEXT SU ELECTIONS!!



Heather Hickey/*The Brunswickan*

Ice can make you slip, and ice can make you fall, but ice can look as beautiful as Cinderella at her Ball. If you would like to complain about this photo caption, dial 447-3388.

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