

Wares around the world

by Kora Stapelfeldt

A marketing organization is opening the doors for 'Ten Thousand Villages.'

Free trade and fair price are the main methods of a program that has expanded to sell their specialized sales throughout the globe.

In Fredericton last weekend, Ten Thousand Villages brought their merchandise to the Monsignor Boyd Family Centre on Regent Street.

Fifty-three years after its inception, this program of the Mennonite Central Committee has sought to help underdeveloped countries around the world.

Products sold by Ten Thousand Villages come from 35 countries and from more than 130 different groups of artisans, 70 percent of which are single mothers.

Retired UNB English professor, Dan Doerksen, was in charge of publicity for the event.

He is also still active in the UNB community in terms of research and publication.

"People had the idea years ago that they would help more by giving [underdeveloped countries] business rather than handouts," said Doerksen.

"We give the artisans a fair trade. It is a project that everyone feels really good about."

The volunteers of the organization move around finding artisans who are unemployed and give them 50% of the final goods price for their overhead.

The fair price is determined through speaking with the artisans, other organizations in the country, and by comparing with other wages in the community they live in.

The organization states their goal in this is that "a person's income



10,000 villages takes in \$16 000 in sales this past weekend.

enables him/her to pay for food, clothing, housing, children's education, and medical care."

Three hundred sales take place in North America every year, 100 of which are in Canada while the other 200 are in the United States.

Moreover, its network of 35 stores in Canada and 115 in the US are in operation year round.

Every weekend sale is promoted by a senior couple who travel around the country selling the products. Fredericton was last weekend's stop for Henry and Tena Neufeld who will be in Woodstock, PEI tomorrow.

"We saw an ad asking for a couple to do this for the fall," said Henry Neufeld. "We applied, and here we are."

As the volunteer coordinators for the entire maritime region, the work can be "a bit tiring."

"A lot of work goes into this," said Neufeld, "but it's worth it."

Regarding the sales they have seen here at the center, Neufeld mentioned there had been a steady stream of customers coming in.

Fredericton has been under the current sponsorship for three years for these products, and they exceeded last year's \$9 000 mark this year.

"We sold more than \$16 000 worth of goods this year," said Doerksen.

The YMCA has also sponsored Ten Thousand Villages products sold at Cultures, a local store whose staff is largely volunteer based.

As a Mennonite program, the main goal they feel is to help others.

"Like Jesus, we want to care for people, and especially those in need. Ten Thousand Villages is a good way to express our love for other people," said Doerksen.

Survey on student poverty - UNBSU

by T.J. Essensa

It should come as no surprise to most that many students are struggling to pay their rent and frequenting food banks to receive proper nutrition.

In order to help battle this problem the UNB Student Union has put together an online survey available at www.unb.ca/unbsu/survey for willing students to fill out.

Basically, it asks if the estimates and guidelines set out by the Canada Student Loans Program are accurate and asks such questions as: Are student resources efficient? and 'Does parental contribution really occur?'

Some of the more personal questions asked in the survey include: How much do you pay for your rent per month? How much do you pay for your food per month and Which schedule do you think has a priority,

study time or work schedule?

The survey will be used to create another report that will be used to raise public awareness on student issues and rid them of the misconception that students spend all of their money on alcohol.

It will also be used to lobby the federal and provincial governments for better funding and such for the upcoming provincial election.

This survey is a follow-up to a report done over this past summer called 'Student Poverty in New Brunswick: The Real Life Experience', which looks at student poverty, increasing student debt, and the widening gap in accessibility to post-secondary education.

The Student Union hopes this will help develop a realistic profile of student life. It has been online since Tuesday, November 12th and will close on Sunday, November 17th.

Silence

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In November of 2000, the Charlotte County Family Violence Committee (CCFVC) joined with the Maine Silent Witness Project for Family Violence Prevention Month to promote awareness of domestic violence. The success of the collaboration was so great that the CCFVC partnered with the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation and the Provincial Caring Partnerships Committee to bring the

program to New Brunswick. The project is the first in Canada and the first Silent Witness Project to be bilingual.

Family violence statistics in Canada in general and in New Brunswick in particular are shocking. According to Statistics Canada, 738 Canadian women were killed by current or ex-spouses compared to 197 men and about 80% of murders by ex-spouses happened within a year of separation. In New Brunswick, 80% of the 21 homicides researched so far by organizers of the project were in rural areas. As well, 86% were killed in their own homes or cottages and 56% were harassed before hand. The victims span all ages and 27 children were left motherless as a result of these murders.

A speaker from the Maine Silent Witness Project, Mr. Wayland Linscott, was present at the rally and emphasized that family violence is not a women's issue. "It's a community issue," he said. Linscott also seemed disappointed that there were relatively few men in the crowd, stating: "It's the men we need to reach."

The project is currently looking for community support to construct 17 more silhouettes to represent the other victims that do not as yet have their own witness. Some communities are already involved.

"One day," said Dr. Doherty, "we would like to see Silent Witness Projects across Canada."

Dur's sex

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experience was out of curiosity and not out of love."

Also, the study revealed an astonishing social phenomenon. Males are 'waiting' longer to have sex than females. In fact, more males than females surveyed have not had their first sexual encounter. Michelle LeBlanc commented on this finding.

"It's way easier for girls to get laid. 'Waiting' and 'not getting any' are not the same thing," said LeBlanc.

It also seems that only very few of Canadian youth are 'getting it' regularly. Only 7% of Canadian youth report having sex 2 to 3 times a week.

"They're definitely horny and they have too much time on their hands," said LeBlanc.

Quebec youth seem to be having the most fun. The survey says Quebec youth are more likely to sleep with someone within the first week of meeting than the rest of the country.

However, Atlantic Canadians were found to be the 'less curious' group of young hooligans with only 23% of its youngsters engaging in sex for the first time out of 'sheer curiosity,' while BC and the Territories reported 57%. When asked whether Atlantic Canadians are more romantic or just sexually repressed, another young lady, by the name of Crystal, who declined to give her last name, commented on the finding.

"I believe that our culture is one that promotes being in love when you have sex, I choose to believe that we are romantics and not repressed," said Crystal.

Greg LeBlanc, UNB SU Arts Representative, commented on Atlantic Canadians' reluctance to experiment.

"...I think we're raised with stronger morals and a more caring nature, but I'm biased."

"I've met B.C.'ers, we're more romantic, you can Quote me," said MacFarlane, a philosophy student at UNB.

Freeze

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The university and the government must agree upon the level of funding to make up for the frozen tuition. The government may only pay an increase of five percent while the university needs eight percent, which creates a deficit and the university will need to make cuts. Also, tuition may soar when the freeze ends.

"We are going to refocus and prepare for the provincial election which will possibly be in the spring," remarked Campbell. "We plan on making a student front, making students aware of the issues, getting them registered and getting them to vote."

"As for the general public, we want to make them aware that education issues are a problem for everyone, not just students."

Scott's thoughts: MP speaks

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without putting the graduate in a maximum amount of debt.

Scott supports ratifying Kyoto before Christmas of this year. He believes, (by parodying his colleague and Liberal leadership favorite Paul Martin) "[that Kyoto should be finalized] come hell or high water!". Scott says that the controversy surrounding Kyoto is because no one really knows what will happen once the accord is inked.

Furthermore, Scott withheld his opinion of same sex marriages, as he is

currently Chair of the committee reviewing same sex marriages in Canada.

He must remain unbiased, yet believes that it is an excellent topic for discussion for parliamentarians.

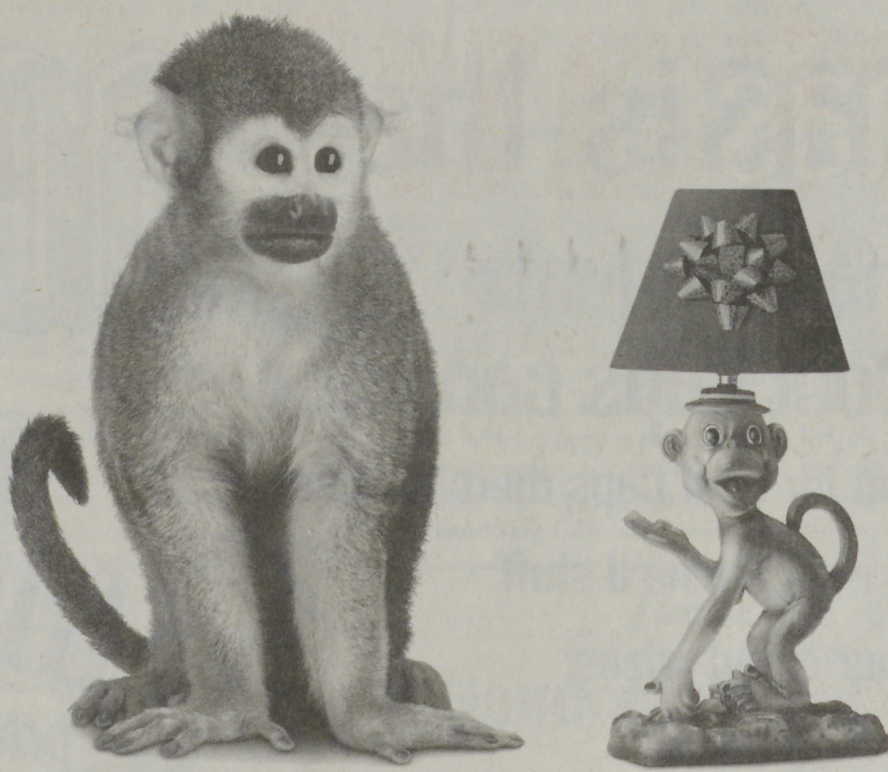
Another hot topic, marijuana, is of particular interest to the former Solicitor General. He believes there will be a day when 'pot' is decriminalized in Canada. There are some problems to take care of first, such as redefining the nature of the drug and devising ways to educate children about it.

When asked, Scott admitted having

partaking of the drug in university in the 70's and unlike a certain former American President, inhaled.

Once the haze of political change has blown over, Scott plans to run in at least one more election. It is undetermined if he will continue in politics after that, resting his final decision on the uncertain return of Liberal icon, Frank McKenna.

Scott hopes that many students will take time out of their hectic schedules to attend his upcoming discussion on the budget at Rigby Hall, formerly Keddy's Motor Inn, this Sunday, November 17th from 1 to 4pm.



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