South Asia Night

Continued from Page 9

modern Nepal who united the country in 1769 by conquering Kathmandu Valley and making it the Capital.

Nepal is made up of over 61 ethnic groups living in different regions speaking 70 languages and dialects. Nepali is the national language. Hinduism is the official religion of Nepal and is practiced by over 85% of the population. Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, was born in Nepal about 563 B.C. and Buddhists account for 7.8% of the population. A small minority of Nepalese adheres to Islam and Christianity.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (pop. 130.6 million) appeared on the world map on 14 August 1947 under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Quaid-e-Azam (the Great Leader), who is revered as the Father of the Nation. Pakistan is divided into four provinces: Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Islamabad is the capital of the country. The national language is Urdu, while the official language is English. The leading religion of Pakistan is Islam, which is the faith of about 95% of the people. Hinduism and Christianity form the leading minority religions. Other religious groups include the Sikhs, the Parsis and a small number of Buddhists.

The "Lanka" in Sri Lanka (pop. 18.77 million) means "resplendent" (from the Pali "*alankara*"). Thanks to the country's central location on the trade routes of the ancient world and the attraction then of her "products", pearls, timber, gems and ivory, and later spices, the island had become a center of East-West commerce well before the Christian era. The direct influence of European maritime powers was felt beginning from the 16th century with the arrival of the Portugues, Dutch and later British. Sri Lanka gained independence from the British in 1948

Colombo is the largest Tea Auction Centre in the world since London auctions ceased to function in June 1998. Other exports include textiles and garments, coconut products, spices, cocoa, coffee, essential oils, gems, fishery products, rubber, machinery, foot ware and leather products and petroleum by-products.

South Asia Nite's organizers have prepared a rich cultural show this year which will include authentic South Asian Cuisine followed by colourful traditional dances. The program will finish with the bhangra dance where guests are encouraged to join the non-stop bhangra.

Council members and participants look forward to having a house full of guests this year. SAS Nite tends to be a popular event and only tickets are limited. To learn more about South Asia and South Asian Society, come to this event and bring your family with you. Doors open at 6:00 pm in the SUB Cafeteria.

Sackville artist explores the insecurities of an altered world

by Tyler Hopson, The Carillon

REGINA (CUP) – "Say, there's not a bomb in your camera, is there?"

As ridiculous as this question may sound, it's one that has been asked, or at least implied, countless times since September 11, 2001.

If flying wasn't already frightening enough for many people, it certainly became more so after 9/11. Not only were there more things to worry about, but the always awkward experience of going through airport security got that much more uncomfortable and weird.

Sackville, New Brunswick artist Isabelle Devos picked up quickly on these new routines. What fascinated her most were stories of people being asked to prove their camera's harmlessness at airports around the world.

"Someone mentioned [to me] that people were being asked to take pictures at security checkpoints. I thought, 'What do you take a picture of?'" Devos says, recalling the inspiration behind her project. "It's rare that you're told to take a picture. Usually, it's something that you choose to do."

Intrigued by the types of pictures people might take in such controlled circumstances, Devos began looking for ways to collect some of these images. Numerous magazine and newspaper classified ads were placed and postings were made on Web sites as well as in Web 'zines. Devos even arranged for a few radio ads.

She calls her research the "Insecurities Project," a clever double entendre as the photos have literally been taken "in security." However, their very existence speaks to the newfound anxieties of travelers and airport employees alike.

Slowly but surely, people began to respond to the ads. In the past 14 months, besides Canada, pictures have been sent in from Germany and various parts of the United States.

Subject matter ranges from the utterly boring (the corner of a standard-issue plywood table and the grey floor beneath it) to the cute and whimsical (a shy-looking Munich security guard glancing nervously away from the camera).

One of Devos' favourite photos is of a young child. "[The] baby [is] being held on a table just after the x-ray machine. It's kind of chaotic. You're not really sure what's going on."

Unfortunately for the artist, her collection is doomed to remain rather small. Toward the end of 2002, it became clear that security guards in Canada and the United States do not actually have the right to make passengers take photos with their cameras. Now that airport security has been federally regulated in both countries, it seems the practice will stop all together.

Nonetheless, Devos remains optimistic. She currently has around 30 photos and plans to wait until at least March for more. Eventually, the best photos will be enlarged and Devos plans to display them as part of an exhibition of her art.

Devos has also been approached by book publishers who would like to put together a book of photographs with a few essays by contemporary art critics or anthropologists about the meaning of her study.

"I think eventually these pictures will be a little window of time in the year after September 11. [People] were feeling insecure and [they] were under pressure. It's just interesting to see what they take pictures of."

"The images look really interesting together. You have happy people along with a really ticked-off person. One security guard is even hamming it up for the camera. On their own, there is nothing special about them. But, when you get them all together, I don't know - something just happens."

For more information on how to send photos to Isabelle Devos, visit her Web site, http://www.insecuritiesproject.com.

Red 'N Black to be one heckuva show!

by Bruns Staff

With UNB's Annual Red 'N Black Revue just around the corner, organizers are frantically working out the final details to assemble a smooth-running production. Taking place on February 21st and 22nd, this year's production marks the event's 55th anniversary.

UNB student Jason Burns took on the mammoth task of directing the show after winning the "Class of 1948 Red 'N Black Revue Scholarship." The return gesture seemed only natural, he claims. Burns is a 6th year student with a BSc, currently studying in the Education Faculty. Having been actively involved with Student Union matters for the past two years, he sees his directing position as another challenge.

For decades, the Red 'N Black was the hottest show in town, and everyone, including students, faculty and staff, and members of the University community came out to support it. Year after year, the revue showcased extraordinary talents – both those who were in it for fun and those who went on to do it professionally, such as Anne Murray. Over the past ten years, interest in the show has declined somewhat; however, Burns is confident that this year will be exciting enough to turn the tides.

The production itself is a variety show featuring acting, singing, dancing, and musical instrument playing.

Tickets are on sale at The Paper Trail in the Student Union Building for $5.

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