

Love was sacred to saint

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come in get a rose."

A free rose with your meals is a nice gesture. But if you stayed in for dinner and bought a five-dollar rose yourself, you could save the extra \$75 and spend it on something a little more practical than glorified fish sticks in a fancy sauce.

Jewellery isn't something that everyone will purchase for their love on Valentine's Day, but for jewellery stores it is most definitely a day for higher sales.

Robert LaRade, the manager at Charm Diamond Centres in the Regent Mall believes that February 14th is "probably the busiest day next to Mothers Day."

"Anything with a heart theme is popular. Heart rings, heart pendants, heart anklets, and heart bracelets... It is also one of the more popular days of the year to get your engagement ring on."

Although the average customer in his store spends \$150 for Valentine's Day, LaRade said, "it can be anywhere from \$150 - \$2000."

Now add together the dinner,

which may be a serving suitable for a 10 year old child, the flowers, which are beautiful but will eventually die, and the jewellery, which may or may not be worn everyday, and you've got yourself a bill of over \$300, hardly a total that most could afford.

Saint Valentine would mock us if he were around today. Love was sacred to him, and he believed in marriage, although Emperor Claudius II had outlawed it for the young men at the time. Valentine, in secrecy, would marry those young soldiers who wanted to be wed, and was later sentenced to death for his actions. Doesn't that sound like true romance?

If you are among those who can't afford the "traditional" Valentine's Day, here are some more affordable, but still romantic, ideas from our readers.

"I would buy that special person a card and a small bear with a chocolate kiss, have a romantic dinner at home, and after supper take a nice walk and talk about everything," said a romantic guy.

One girl in love suggested, "I'd



Has cupid's arrow stuck you this Valentine's Day? Try having a romantic evening in to save money.

make a dinner at home; it's romantic and the best way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

And our own mascot Red the Fox

thinks an inexpensive romantic gesture would be to, "...make a card and a fancy dinner. You could also write a poem or play a song on a guitar."

High levels of pesticides in H₂O

Pesticides continued from Page 1

it, it's wrong."

Not everyone shares this opinion, however. Makers and manufacturers of pesticides protest bans for economic reasons, seeing as the pesticide industry is worth an estimated 100 million dollars a year in Canada, according to Statistics Canada.

Fredericton city council decided on January 19th, in a nine-to-one vote, that a pesticide ban wasn't in order. There would be education and public relations programs instead, promoting natural lawn-care methods.

Wood sees things differently. "Educating people about the use of guns doesn't stop murder from happening. I think a decision is made first, and then the reasons to justify the decision are looked for [afterwards]."

An integrated pest management system for the city's operations would also be implemented and compliance from commercial lawn-care companies would be hopefully secured.

According to Councilor David Kelly, no bylaw will be passed until the Pest Management Regulatory Agency completes its re-evaluations of pesticides, as well as after city council has finished working with qualified representatives of the federal and provincial governments to come to further resolutions. One of the troubles of getting support for a bylaw is that pesticides include not only weed and pest control products, but certain types of shampoo, paint, Javex, and food preservatives used in restaurants and hospitals. Pesticides are also found in the bacteria-eliminating chemicals in our tap water.

Kelly said council decided against the ban because the provincial and federal governments haven't granted permission for municipalities to implement their own pesticide bylaws.

"We had our legal counsel, Mr. Noble, look into this issue very strenuously, which he did, and we were told that, legally, we do not have the authority to ban pesticides," said Kelly.

A Supreme Court of Canada ruling on June 28, 2001, however, did just that, based on the "precautionary principle"; this states that governments don't need scientific proof that something is unsafe to humans or to the environment before they move to ban it. Since the ruling, more than

60 municipalities across Canada have secured their own pesticide bans, including Halifax, Toronto, and the community of Hudson, Quebec, where the whole thing started. Kelly dismissed this, referring back to the legal counsel's advice.

Scientific proof of the danger of pesticides has been reached, however. The American Cancer Society has stated that children who are exposed to pesticides in their homes are six times more likely to develop childhood leukemia, and Health Canada has found that a typical child's exposure is six to 21 times the recommended safe dose. The House of Commons Standing Committee found, in 2000, that high levels of pesticides were found in water bodies as well as drinking water and wells. In the 1996 *Journal of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine*, it was found that only five per cent of the pesticide actually reaches the weeds, with the rest lost to the air and water. The drift of pesticides can range from 12 feet to 14.5 miles. There are a whole slew of effects on humans and other animals, ranging from developmental and behavioural problems to infertility and allergies. Most of the consequences are not even known, since long-term effects, including those of children who have grown up with pesticides, have not been studied.

As for what happens here at UNB, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Steve Hampsey says that he uses very little pesticides, and only when necessary.

"We've always had a lack of funds to do too much. We don't have a big budget to fertilize or [do other natural lawn care methods]. Personally, I wonder whether [using pesticides] is the right thing to do."

Michael Carter, the Buildings and Grounds director, stated that he was "not aware of any natural methods being used," however, a policy is being developed to regulate pesticide use at the university.

"We've known for some time we need a policy, with the increasing awareness (about the risks of pesticides), not just what goes on at city hall. I think with what's going on with the city, just reinforces the need for a clearly defined policy. We'll have something in place maybe by the fall," Carter said.

Natural lawn care methods include easy recipes using garlic, soap and rhubarb to get rid of pests and weeds. For more information, contact the Conservation Council of New Brunswick at 458-8747.

GLBTQ resources

GLBTQ continued from Page 1

those kinds of things will make a difference," Eyre said.

"I'd like people to look at the university as a whole, including residence life, social life, sport, extracurricular activities, as well as programs, courses and what goes on in classrooms," Eyre suggested. "Just think about the university in its broader sense and how we can work with the university administration to help recognize some of the concerns and help bring about change."

Nice said she hopes a lot of people will come to the discussions and add their voice. She said everyone is welcome to the planned activities

and encourages people to attend.

"If somebody was hesitant to come, I'd say just come and don't worry about it because everybody is probably in the same shoes," said Nice.

Another resource Nice suggests members of the GLBTQ community use is the online GLBTQ Needs Assessment survey. A person can anonymously submit a survey regarding what services he or she would like to see available for the GLBTQ community. They will then be assessed to see if UNB is providing accurate and acceptable resources.

For more information regarding what's happening this week, contact Counselling Services at 453-4820, or email them at counsel@unb.ca.

Next NB project invites citizens to help

Including young people essential for success - Hrabluk

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

If this province is going to go anywhere, we've got to start talking.

This is the rationale behind Next NB, an ambitious public policy initiative being spearheaded by the University of New Brunswick.

Launched last Tuesday by the university's president, Dr. John McLaughlin, Next NB will challenge New Brunswickers to lend a hand in developing the future of their province.

"The clocks are ticking, and they're ticking pretty fast," said Dr. McLaughlin. "We need to get more and more people involved in a conversation about the future of this province."

The project will include town hall style meetings, online discussions, and 10 discussion papers, culminating in a major conference

on the future of the province in June 2005.

The first paper appeared in the *Telegraph Journal* last Saturday.

For Lisa Hrabluk, the chance to work on the project "seemed like a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Hrabluk, a writer and political columnist, is on a leave of absence from the *Telegraph* to act as Director for Next NB.

She stressed that moving this discussion into a public forum and including younger New Brunswickers is essential to the project's success.

"If we're talking about the next New Brunswick — the next chapter, the next generation — it would be silly for us to try and have this conversation without asking the people who are going to inherit this province what, precisely, they want to inherit," said Hrabluk.

"I think it will be a wonderful experience that will benefit everyone," she continued.

The project is bolstered by a 14-member advisory board and a 15-member academic committee.



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Pulchritude \PUL-kruh-tood; -tyood\, noun:
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beauty; comeliness; grace; loveliness.

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