

Nurturing Ourselves Weekend

by Bruns News Department

The theme for the 18th Annual 'Nurturing Ourselves' Conference is "Happiness: Looking for It, Finding It, Keeping It".

Friday, October 26th and 27th, will be dedicated to Women's Health and Well Being at the Fredericton Inn.

Wendy Mesley, award-winning CBC TV news host, is this year's keynote speaker. A breast cancer survivor, she hosts the popular investigative consumer show, Marketplace; as well, recently, she produced a feature documentary on carcinogenic pollutants in our environment, and the harmful chemicals & pesticides we're exposed to everyday.

As well as Friday night's keynote speaker, participants can partake in workshops covering personal growth, relationships, parenting, creative fun, practical skills, health & fitness.

Registration for the entire weekend is available online, or at the Wu Center. Single tickets for the Keynote Address may be purchased for \$20.00. Tickets are available in advance or at the door.

For further information contact Sylvia Priestley-Brown at 455-2630, or visit their website at www.nurturingourselves.ca.

STUDENTS RALLY AGAINST PROPOSED CLOSURE OF UNBSJ



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

Students from across the province marched last Tuesday, the 16th of October, from Officer's Square to the New Brunswick Provincial legislature, against several recommendations in the Post-Secondary Education Commission Report, including the proposed closure of the UNB Saint John campus. The next day, the province's University Presidents met with Premier Shawn Graham. They were informed that there would continue to be a strong university presence in Saint John.

Spray-on condom being developed



Internet

German spray-on condom inventor and project coordinator, Jan Vinzenz Krause, tests his product in an erectile dummy. Although the product is not yet available on the market, it is designed to fit men who have a hard time finding condoms that fit.

by Margaret Sheridan

Interrobing (Fanshawe College)

LONDON (CUP) -- A German company is in the testing phase of a new spray-on condom.

The Institute for Condom Guidance, located in Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany, has been working on the condom since 2006.

"We had first a very big interest in Germany," said Jan Vinzenz Krause, the condom's inventor and project coordinator. "And the public reaction from men to the spray-on condom was quite positive. We got around 9,000 guys from all over the world who registered as a tester."

The condom itself works in much the same way as a regular condom. By creating a thin latex barrier between two bodies, it lowers the risk of pregnancy and the transfer of infections.

But its application differs from what we're used to.

"The condom is very easy to put on and fits like a second skin," Krause said. "The man puts his erect penis into a tube-like device, then you have to push a button and within a few seconds the penis will be sprayed with latex and the condom is ready for use."

Removal is just as simple as a conventional condom. It rolls off the penis and it can then be tossed into the garbage.

Aside from the spray-on application, users won't find a tip, or reservoir, on the condom.

Krause said that it doesn't pose a problem when the man ejaculates. The reservoir tips are actually a fairly recent addition in the lengthy history of the condom.

"The tip is a very new invention for a condom, developed in the last 20 or 25 years," Krause said.

"Using the spray-on condom it's not necessary that we have this reservoir or tip. The sperm goes into the bottom of the condom and the sperm will [stay] in the bottom of the condom. So it is

not a problem."

The condoms are aimed at about 20 per cent of the male population.

The Institute's market research found that about 10 per cent of men had a smaller penis size, while another 10 per cent tipped the scales on the other side.

Those 20 per cent told the Institute that they had a harder time finding conventional condoms that fit comfortably, and were excited to hear that a spray-on version was being tested.

One of the perks to using the spray-on condom according to Krause is the smell.

"Can you remember when you used the condom for the first time?" asked Krause. "When you [hold it], it smelled like latex, and it was awful. But with this spray on condom you don't have to touch the condom, only when you throw it away, but when you put it on you don't have that problem. Your fingers, it's really great, they don't smell."

Krause said that the spray-on variety could actually prove to be safer, too. Usually it's dark when the condom

gets put on, he said, and sometimes it becomes difficult to see which side of the condom is the inside versus the outside.

Putting the condom on inside out means that it has to be thrown out and a fresh one opened, which isn't exactly conducive to keeping the mood.

"At the moment we are using prototypes," Krause explained. "So the prototype I have here at my lab, you can imagine [it's] like [a half litre] bottle of water. If you measure the thickness of the tube it's about 10 cm. The prototype is quite a bit bigger than we plan to develop the real product."

The condoms are expected to retail for quite a bit more than normal condoms do, but compare favorably to specialty condoms.

"You buy the tube [for] around 15-25 Euros [\$20-35 CAD] and you can use the tube many times, so it's one investment," continued Krause.

"Then you buy the latex, and one box is seven-10 Euros [\$10-14 CAD] and you can make around 10-20 condoms with the latex material depending on how thick the condom is. So the condom price will be around one Euro for one condom, and compared to other condoms it is a little bit more expensive than the regular condoms."

The last, and hardest, hurdle the company has to leap is approval from the European Union, which has strict condom regulations, before sales start in Europe.

Sales in North America are at least another year away.

Coloured latex has proven popular during testing. Popular colours so far include red, blue and yellow.

"With the spray on condom it's like going to a tailor if you want to make a perfect suit, shoes or something," Krause concluded. "The tube is like your tailor, you get a tailor-made condom that fits perfectly."

New project aims at dealing with violence

by Jordan Gill

A new project aimed at helping educate religious leaders to deal with cases of domestic abuse within their community is taking hold.

The Rave Project, in its short time of operation, has had over 300,000 hits in countries as close as the United States of America to nations across the globe such as Croatia and Korea.

This project has by no means been a quickly planned one, explains Professor Nancy Nason-Clark, Director of the Rave Project.

"For about 20 years we have been doing research, looking at what happens when an abused religious woman looks to her faith community for help. And one of the things we have learned is that often, faith leaders in communities are ill-prepared to respond to this issue. In fact our research has shown that only 8% of religious leaders feel well equipped," she explained. "So the development of the website is one way to bridge the knowledge gap in the information religious leaders have at their disposal. What we're attempting to do is those various faith traditions to respond adequately with the best practices when women, men, and children come to their churches looking for help."

Nason-Clark went on to describe their vast amount of resources available.

"We have a whole range of resources related to practical information, and related to emotional support, and

spiritual support, we would also like to help religious leader see [so they can help those who are suffering] that it's not in line with the tradition, and that the traditions do teach peace and safety in the home."

It may surprise some to know that this website at the moment is aimed toward Christianity, but Nason-Clark said that there is a lot of domestic violence within Christian relationships.

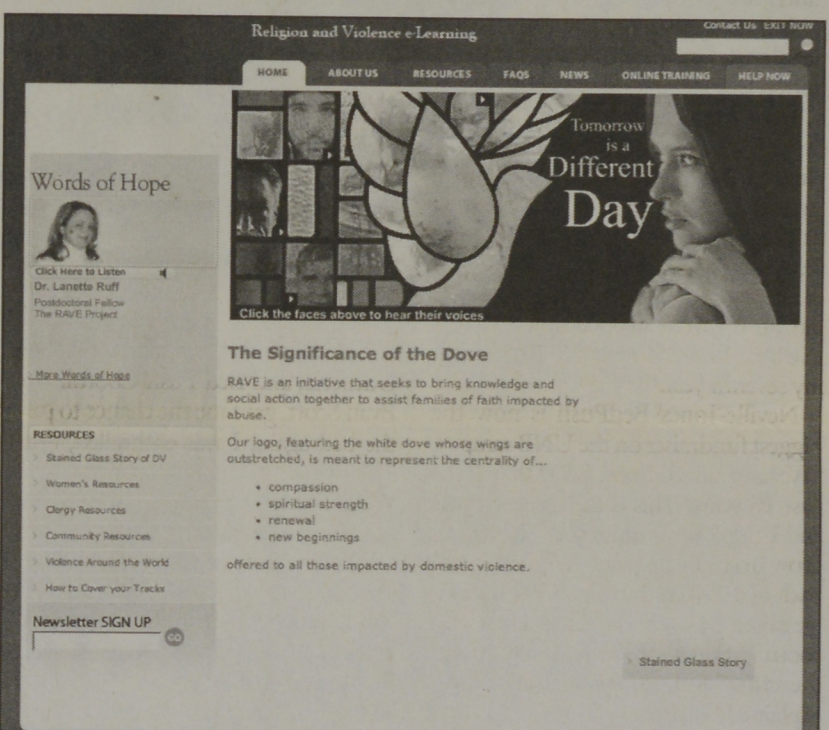
"When you look at the rates of domestic violence around the world in families, the data shows around one in four women have been victimized by a partner. And that's true of all religions, and all cultures. Sometimes the rates are higher, but generally speaking [they are the same]," she said. "If you were to look at, for example, Catholic families, or you were to look at Anglican families or Baptist families, the rates are pretty much the same."

Nason-Clark is very happy with the response the website has had so far.

"We have had great interest in the website so far. We've had over three hundred thousand hits, and we have only been live for less than two weeks."

Nason-Clark also pointed out that many of the Rave Project's resources are targeted towards Christianity but there are many materials on the Project's website that are broad in scope and can be used by any community leader, regardless of their religious affiliation.

The rave project is a source of information for religious leaders, as well as individuals. It also has a listing of transition houses in many cities in the United States and Canada, including a listing for Fredericton. If you are interested in any of the above topics, or a victim of abuse yourself, we encourage you to visit the Rave Project website at www.theraveproject.org.



Internet

The Brunswickan Annual General Meeting



Tuesday, October 30, 2007

4:30 PM

SUB Room 103

Questions? eic@unb.ca

Dr. Richard E. Lee Optometrist

406A Regent St. 458-1580
(2 buildings past Harvey's Hamburgers)
New Patients Welcome

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106 Marshall d'Avray Hall
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D8 Head Hall (NEW LOCATION)

WWW.UNBF.CA/ITS/IMAGING

Your mom goes to e-college

by Alison Clack

In a world full of rapidly increasing technological advances and the quick pace of life, certain things have had to evolve in order to keep up with the drastic changes. Classic paper resource materials like books, scholarly journals, government documents, and articles are quickly becoming obsolete in a world of less reliable, but easily attained information from websites like Google.ca.

To keep up with the changing methods of research, many libraries, including the various libraries on UNB's campus, have put a great deal of their content on the Internet attempting to upload as much of their scholarly journals and reference books as possible to their sites. With the addition of 'eBooks' for UNB students, it attempts to make life easier for all learners.

There are many positive aspects to the inclusion of eBooks into libraries as research tools. As many students want conduct their research as easily as pos-

sible, they would prefer to find all their information quickly, rather than work endlessly looking through books. Unfortunately, easy research usually means a quick trip to everybody's favorite: Wikipedia.org, which is generally unreliable on the scholarly research front.

Research tools like eBooks allow for the same easy access of information without the dubious level of authenticity surrounding the information. Any student who wishes to use them can simply go onto the UNB libraries' website, <http://www.lib.unb.ca/>, go to the e-resources drop-down menu, and access the eBooks page, or do quick search in 'Quest' in order to find reliable and scholarly information available at the libraries on campus.

Although eBooks and electronic references have many positive aspects, there are also a few negative points to think about.

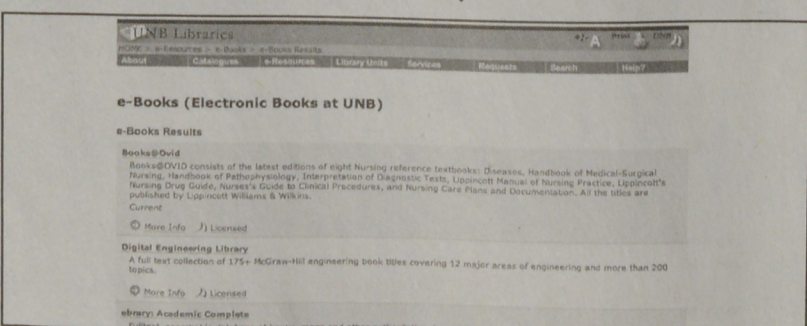
As many people who are looking through electronic information do so to access easy information, they might not be paying the closest attention to the in-depth research that they might do when getting their information is coming from a print resource. People using eBooks may only be skimming for information on the Internet rather

than getting the thorough and comprehensive information better suited to research work. Generally, to fully comprehend a text, one must read all of it. Whereas print resources seem to naturally slow one down and make one read with care, with eBooks, many students will develop a habit of quickly skimming the readings in order to pick out the important parts.

There are positive and negative aspects to everything though, and on October 8, 2007, UNB libraries finished an informal survey to have the faculty weigh in on what they thought of eBooks and their experience with them versus print resources. The online survey was designed by the electronic content provider, ebrary, and was cre-

ated in order to learn more about how the faculty used the libraries' eBooks for research, their attitudes and perceptions of eBooks, their preferences, how they use the eBooks for instruction in classes, and what they saw as the eBooks strengths and weaknesses.

The online survey was developed by ebrary with the help of 200 librarians from around the world who came up with questions and subjects they believed the survey should cover. These questions were then drafted into an actual survey, were reviewed by more librarians, and finally put into the 15-20 minute long survey that is available for faculty to take today. The final results of the survey are projected to come out in early November.



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan