

Sexuality Awareness Week in full swing

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The University of New Brunswick is hosting Order of Canada-appointed media personality and renowned sex educator Sue Johanson to highlight Sexuality Awareness Week.

Both UNB and St. Thomas host Sexuality Awareness Week with a series of informative workshops and presentations from Monday to Friday. The week opened with an Open House at the Sexuality Centre on Monday with a session on birth control in the morning and discussions about the basics of dating in the afternoon by Voices Against Sexual Aggression, as well as a presentation by Safe Spaces. Free food, free condoms and information about sexuality were readily available throughout the day.

There will be a Fantasia party on Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sexuality Centre. Attendees at the Fantasia party can purchase products like adult toys, lubricant and lingerie. A sex museum is organized for Friday in the Blue Room with information covering everything from pornography and sexually transmitted diseases to sexual diversity and sexual health. There will also be an information session about cyber sex at 2 p.m. in the Sexuality Centre.

Sarah Olsen, a student volunteer at the Sexuality Centre and organizer of the week's events,

speaks about the importance of Sexuality Awareness Week.

"The goal of the week is to promote sexuality, healthy sexuality. We're all about the health aspect. That is why we cover everything. We cover STIs. That is why we go to Sue. That's why we always bring free condoms to everything we do," she says. "Even if we get one more person to drop by the centre, then that's one more person that we've helped."

Sarah Olsen and others from the Sexuality Centre have created an ally banner that will be on display at Talk Sex with Sue Johanson that reads "straight, but not narrow." This banner signifies diversity and openness about sexuality.

The workshops and information sessions are open to anyone and provide accessible, embarrassment free resources to students in need.

"Healthy sexuality is important throughout your life, so we make it applicable to everyone," says Olsen.

Sexuality Awareness Week is highlighted by Sue Johanson's appearance on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the SUB Cafeteria. Johanson is a Registered Nurse, author and former host of the Sunday Night Sex Show. She is notable for her light-hearted, yet informative approach to healthy sexuality and sells out shows in campuses across the country, answering the questions of students.

Olsen says, "I think that she will hit home in a funny, but educational way. The same things we're trying to do. She always says never just let sex happen. It's something you have to plan. It's something that takes thought."

NB Power CEO, Chair to speak to students

TONY VON RITCHTER
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Atlantic Business Magazine.

Melissa McAllister, Interim Director of Academic Events, said that the group wanted to "set the bar high" with a speaking event and she feels that the group has achieved this with McGuire and Hay.

"Each of these speakers have broad, comprehensive experience in corporate business, and attendees of this event can learn from their collective knowledge about business in New Brunswick and abroad."

This is the third event of the semester for the recently created society. The MSA was created earlier this from an idea of Dr. Kirby Shannahan, a professor in the Faculty of Business Administration, who wanted to form a student group dedicated to help better connect students and the local business community.

That desire to better connect students and the business community is the reason for Wednesday night's event.

"The purpose of Wednesday night is to help students network and meet key business figures in hope of developing relationships through which they can find future employment, internships, and co-op positions," said McAllister.

The McGuire-Hay discussion is being held at the Crowne Plaza this Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Petricodiac Room. The event is \$2 for MSA members, \$3 for non-members, and \$10 for non-students.

UNB prof aims to clear misconceptions about Afghanistan with new book



Sgt Roxanne Clowe, DND, Combat Camera / Submitted

Vandoo Force Protection Company soldiers from the PRT secure a job site for an irrigation canal restoration project in Kalacheh south of Kandahar City. Restoring the badly damaged and neglected millenium-old irrigation system was the priority for rebuilding Kandahar and breaking the opium dependance of tenant farmers. This photo, among others, can be found in *Kandahar Tour*, of which UNB military historian Lee Windsor is an author.

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

There are widespread misconceptions about Canada's mission in Afghanistan, says UNB military historian Lee Windsor.

The mission, he says, is providing hope to the people of Afghanistan.

Windsor is Deputy Director of UNB's Gregg Centre for the study of War & Society.

Many people think that Canadians are there to kill innocent people or hunt the Taliban, says Windsor. This, he says, is simply not the case.

In order to deflect some of these misconceptions and paint a realistic picture of exactly what is happening in Afghanistan, Windsor joined a six month tour of Kandahar with Canadian troops. He teamed up with David Charters and Brent Wilson to write *Kandahar Tour: The Turning Point in Canada's Afghan Mission*.

Of the trip, Windsor says jokingly "it was the best of times; it was the worst of times." He quickly became more serious, however, once he started to delve into the details of the trip. The active historian says that he was ambushed and came under fire with the Canadian soldiers, and was attacked by a suicide bomber.

He also says that "a lot of good people died in April of '07."

These situations, however, are what Windsor says he was prepared for. What he wasn't prepared for was the ditch digging. The main focus of Canadian work in Afghanistan has been reconstruction.

In 2005-06, "diplomats started going to villages and asking what they needed," he explains. The overwhelming response was that their irrigation system needed to be fixed.

"The Americans had been there for four years and weren't doing reconstruction," says Windsor.

He says that members of the Taliban are often drug lords, who are also landlords in some cases. "I call it the Taliban/drug-traffic alliance. They are symbiotically connected," says Windsor. As a result, the people of Kandahar lamented that "all we can grow is opium." The Taliban made money from the sale of opium, and the people became, in Windsor's words, "slaves - at best feudal serfs."

If rent is not paid, people are often killed by their landlords.

There is, however, a light in this darkness, and that light takes the form of fixed irrigation systems. If Canada is successful in helping to fix the systems, the people of Kandahar will be able to return to growing crops of wheat, almonds, and pomegranates, and leave opium behind.

"More than any bullet fired by any NATO soldier, the restoration of the road system and irrigation system and the return to traditional agriculture and traditional government will beat the Taliban," Windsor believes.

"They seem to be biting back harder. One of the challenges is that this project has to take place in 34 provinces. It's going well in Kandahar, although it's being challenged."

Windsor describes the mission as "providing hope to the people."

The turning point mentioned in the title of the book refers to the fact that in 2007, reconstruction was really 'kick-started.' Windsor says there was enough defeat of the Taliban that the UN could start to fully restore the irrigation system.

Another misconception lies in the perception people have of combat in Afghanistan, according to the historian. Windsor says that if attacked, Canadian troops will never return fire if there is danger of harming a civilian.

"The American troops killing innocent people is a bigger problem than the Taliban could ever be," says Windsor.

"The people of Kandahar are the mission," says Windsor. "If you kill civilians, you have mission failure."

The historian says the idea for the book came about in the summer of 2006. UNB's Gregg Centre had decided to conduct a research project on Canada's military, aid and development mission in Afghanistan.

The findings were published in

the form of *Kandahar Tour*.

"People didn't have a lot of information about ground reality...not a lot of info from the Prime Minister." He says there was a "Six month blackout in '06" during which no communications were made regarding Afghanistan. "This set the stage for uninformed discussion," Windsor says.

Of the idea that military funding goes toward hunting Taliban, Windsor says that is certainly not the case. He says it goes toward having the military there to protect the restoration process.

Although Afghanistan has faced much strife, Windsor's overall tone remains optimistic. Efforts are being made to help restore Kandahar's roads, irrigation and government, and the historian's hopes are reinforced by the commitments of American president-elect Barack Obama.

Much more information can be found in Windsor, Wilson and Charters' collective work, *Kandahar Tour*.

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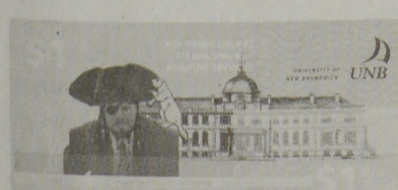
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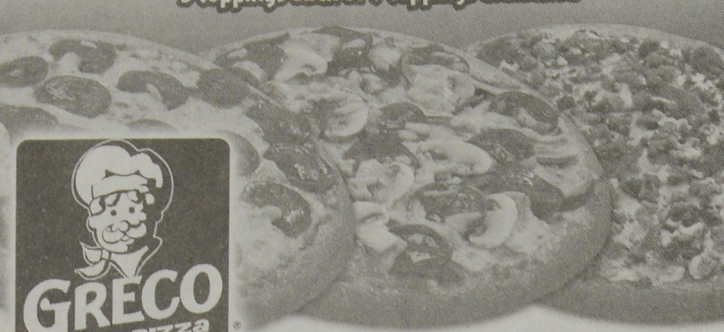
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