

people



PHOTO: JUD DELONG

Wendy Robbins, Book Worm
Professor of English,
Co-ordinator of Women's Studies

Call me a book worm, a Renaissance person, a woman of giant intellectual appetite, catholic, undiscriminating, or just plain promiscuous, but I am not the sort to have just one book by my bed. I

keep a whole basketful of different books that I pick up and read according to my inclination, more or less simultaneously.

This week I started *Perilous Chastity: Women and Illness in Pre-Enlightenment Art and Medicine* by Laurinda Dixon, a professor of Fine Arts in Syracuse. This book focusses on seventeenth-century Dutch paintings on the theme of "the lovelorn maiden" and "the doctor's visit." It is wonderfully interdisciplinary, reviewing over a thousand years of what medical men had to say about women's illnesses—not that "it's all in her head" (that's contemporary), but rather that "it's all in her uterus" (hence our word "hysteria").

For a dose of current (pun intended) reality, I'm reading *The Electronic Word: Democracy, Technology, and the Arts* by Richard Lanham, an English professor emeritus at UCLA. It seems to me that English professors ought to be in the forefront of the revolution we are living through; it is not just about "information" or "technology" but, even more importantly, it is about communication, publishing, and culture.

Then there's *Politics on the Margins: Restructuring and the Canadian Women's Movement* by Janine Brodie, a political scientist at York University. I've read the first chapter and the last—I often check out the conclusions early on. She speaks

about how international trade agreements have served to limit the capacities of national governments to respond to the electorate; she calls for the women's movement, the labour movement, and others to work to strengthen democratic controls over economic life. Sounds sensible to me.

Three other books round out this week's gathering. First, a beautifully illustrated book, based on a TV series I missed, called *Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World* by David Maybury-Lewis, a Harvard anthropologist. Second, a book connected to a televised lecture which I did see, *The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal* by UCLA physiologist Jared Diamond, which is largely about the human capacity for language. And finally, a slim, fragmented novel by a young New Brunswick writer, *real life* by Acadian France Daigle.

Wendy Robbins is a Professor of English and Co-ordinator of Women's Studies at UNB. She moderates the Canadian electronic feminist discussion list PAR-L (Policy, Action, Research, List). She came to UNB in 1984. She has two university-age children, attending McGill and Oxford. Her daughter, Chimène, is one of Canada's 11 Rhodes scholars for 1996.

Pride

by J.

Greetings and tidings from *Pride*. *Pride* is a column dedicated to the homosexual and bisexual community in Fredericton. For this year, *Pride* will have the latest news about lesbian/gay stuff: sections on points of interest, such as coming out; reviews of literature and movies; and possibly some articles on out and about members of the lesbian/gay community, such as K.D. Lang and Greg Louganis.

If you're new to the city, Fredericton has a large homosexual/bisexual population; in fact, Fredericton apparently has the second-highest per capita population of lesbian/gay individuals in North America! There are quite a few places to go to just hang out and meet with friends. On the UNB campus, the Gays and Lesbians Alliance (GALA) provides peer and social support to lesbian/gay students. It also provides some social activities throughout the year as well as a few campaigns, such as National Coming Out Day on October 11.

Serving the Fredericton area are FLAG and PFLAG. FLAG (Fredericton Lesbians and Gays) provides information services, social activities and support for the entire Fredericton area. FLAG tends to be geared toward more mature and adult individuals, but it is a good source of information for anyone interested. PFLAG (Parents of Fredericton Lesbians and Gays) is an organization that provides support, education and information to friend and families of lesbian/gay individuals. It meets once a month, and can be reached through FLAG or through UNB Counselling Services.

As for places to go, there are a number of favourite hangouts downtown where one can be openly lesbian/gay. If you like the club scene, Kurt's Phoenix Rising is the place to go. The top floor is the dance section with a bar, catering to the high energy crowd. The music is mainly dance, techno and trance with a few others added to it. The second floor is the lounge area with pool tables, a foosball table, futon couches, bar and jukebox. It's the perfect place to relax and unwind after dancing upstairs, or just for hanging with the crowd. There are many other lesbian/gay-friendly

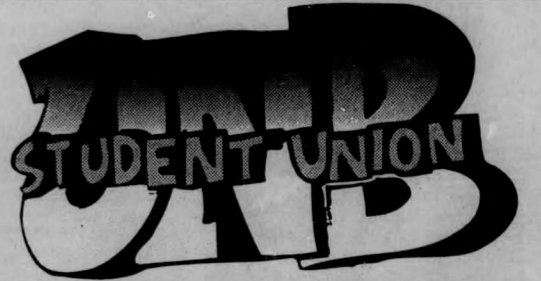
restaurants and coffee houses in the downtown area.

So there you have it, folks. *Pride* will try to provide weekly information (courses willing), so be on the lookout for it. Feedback is always appreciated. If you have any ideas, points to pontificate upon, or questions, then write to this column care of *The Brunswickan*. Have a great year!

Brun Staff Meeting

today 12:30

all are welcome



STUDENT UNION POSITIONS

Positions Vacant - Need Students
Honoraria Available

Chief Returning Officer: Needed to organise fall bi-election and the spring general election.

Deputy Returning Officer: Two people to aid the Chief Returning Officer in the running of the bi-election and general election.

Grad Class Executive: Responsible for the Grad Class Project, making sure events are running and Grads are informed.

Movie Series Co-ordinator: To ensure the Loonie movies are delivered and returned to the distributor and that tickets are sold at the door.

Employment Opportunities Co-ordinator: To ensure that jobs on and off campus are published.

Red n' Black Co-ordinator: To ensure that this yearly production goes well and that people volunteer there time to show their acts.

Yearbook Co-ordinator: To produce the 1996-1997 yearbook.

Yearbook Co-Editor: To aid the Yearbook co-ordinator in producing the 1996-1997 book.

Councillors Needed In Following Faculties: Science, Computer Science, Engineering, Nursing, Kinesiology, Education

Chair: Must know Roberts Rules of Order

Recording Secretary: Must attend all council meetings, take accurate minutes and present a typed version at the next meeting.

If you are interested or require more information, please contact Anoushka Courage VP (University Affairs) in Room 126 SUB or call 453-4955 or E-mail me on univaff@unb.ca.

Assertiveness can be a valuable skill

Are you comfortable saying "no" when friends ask for favors? Is it hard to tell your partner that you're uncomfortable with a particular sexual activity? Do you run the other way at the thought of talking to a professor? Are you hassled by family who persistently try to take charge of your life? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you may want to give some thought to becoming more assertive.

Assertiveness is the ability to express your preferences, opinions, thoughts and feelings in direct, honest and appropriate ways. It also means standing up for your own rights without violating the rights of others. When someone asks you out and you don't want to go, being assertive means saying "no" without making up excuses. When your roommate wants to socialize and you want to study, being assertive means negotiating a solution that takes into consideration what you both want. And when you're angry at

your partner, being assertive means telling your partner that. If you want to get your message across, body language is also important. You may want to tell a friend that you need to study instead of continue talking, but the verbal message can get diluted by an overly soft voice, frequent pauses, or lack of eye contact.

At one time, assertiveness was thought to be a personality trait, and people were thought to either be assertive or non-assertive. But being assertive is now thought of as a series of skills applied to specific situations. Making and refusing requests, expressing liking and love, making statements without justifying, standing up for rights, dealing with people who won't take "no" for an answer, expressing opinions including disagreement, and expressing justified anger are all skills. You might have some of these skills, yet need to improve others.

Like-wise, each of the skills can be applied to a variety of situations. You might be comfortable being assertive with family or friends, but have difficulty in intimate relationships. Or you might be able to express an opinion to a classmate, but have difficulty with people in authority such as professors or employers. By taking stock of yourself you can identify where you're strong, and where you need work.

Sexual situations can be particularly difficult. In our culture, women have been socialized to be more passive and men to be more aggressive. For both men and women, communicating about sexual expectations, and respecting limits is important.

This column was provided by staff at
Counselling Services

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