

Rape: Its a very real thing

By DEBBIE MABEY
Chairperson - UNB Women's Org'n

Rape? In Fredericton? On campus? Look at the statistics. It doesn't happen here." If this is your belief, you are not alone, but talk to members of UNB's Women's Organization and they will have to disagree. Two Women's Org members, Debbie MabeY and Marilyn Smith, attended the third Annual National Conference of Canadian Rape Crisis Centres held last May in Montreal's Women's Information and Referral Centre. Delegates from 23 Rape Crisis Centres all across Canada met for three long days to exchange experiences, ideas and concerns and to seek new directions for action regarding the issue of rape. Delegates came from every province except PEI where no centre exists to date; some provinces had formed coalitions of many centres while others, like New Brunswick had only one centre. Approximately 60 delegates represented university and community based centres from huge cities and small towns.

A wide range of issues were discussed at the conference including the misinformation that accompanies rape. Even in our so-called sexually-liberated society, rape is very much a four letter word, and one which is

surrounded by myths and shrouded in secrecy. For example, it is estimated that statistics must be multiplied by ten in order to get a more realistic estimate. There is a problem of definition. If it is a date situation and she says no but he ignores her, is that rape? It is sexual intercourse against her will. And what about marriage? By law a man cannot be accused of raping his wife -- even if he engages in sexual intercourse against her will. And who are the victims of rape? Aren't they primarily young, attractive provocatively dressed women? No! They are females from infancy to old age. Males can also be victims. (Fredericton's Rape Crisis Service has had three male callers in as many months.) Well, who are the

rapists? Aren't they men who are sexually frustrated and who are complete social misfits? No again! They cut across social class, age and race. According to one study of convicted rapists (which, of course, represent only a small segment of rapists), they scored similarly to a sampling of normal men on a battery of psychological tests with the exception of higher scores on aggressiveness for the rapists. In addition, studies indicate that by far the majority of rapists have access to normal sexual expression.

Other conference topics included helping a rape victim. The importance of providing information and moral support with all decisions being left to the victim was emphasized. Establishing

good relations with police, crown prosecutors and hospitals was examined and many different experiences were related. Calgary, for instance, has a City police Sex Crime Unit. In addition, long-term goals of public awareness programs were covered with the necessity for exposing people to the view of rape as a crime of aggression, violence, humiliation and power rather than as a sexual crime. Recognized specialists in their fields addressed delegates concerning eligibility for Federal funding, lobbying and setting up a legalized national structure of rape crisis centres. A National Film Board film-maker also met with delegates for input on his upcoming film on rape. One evening was spent screening films

on rape, some of which the Women's Org plans to bring to campus this year.

The Women's Org delegates returned from the conference physically exhausted but psychologically exhilarated. Attending the conference resulted in a tremendous amount of information being conveyed within a short period. Last year the Women's Org elected to work closely with the Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre. Members talked to several sociology classes about rape upon request by professors. What direction this year's members take is up to them, but it is expected that some energy will continue to be devoted to a controversial issue that affects us all, socially if not personally.

Discos & Pubs both!

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

Commenting on The Brunswickan Viewpoint last week concerning the preference of live entertainment to disco, Jim Murray, Student Representative Council president said the majority would get their wish.

Murray said live events were scheduled with the addition, however of discos every Thursday night.

The discos will take place in the Student Union Building ballroom (third floor). Murray said profits from the discos will go towards supporting live entertainment and encourages students to attend. Murray commented "Disco only sucks if you're sitting down and not dancing to it."

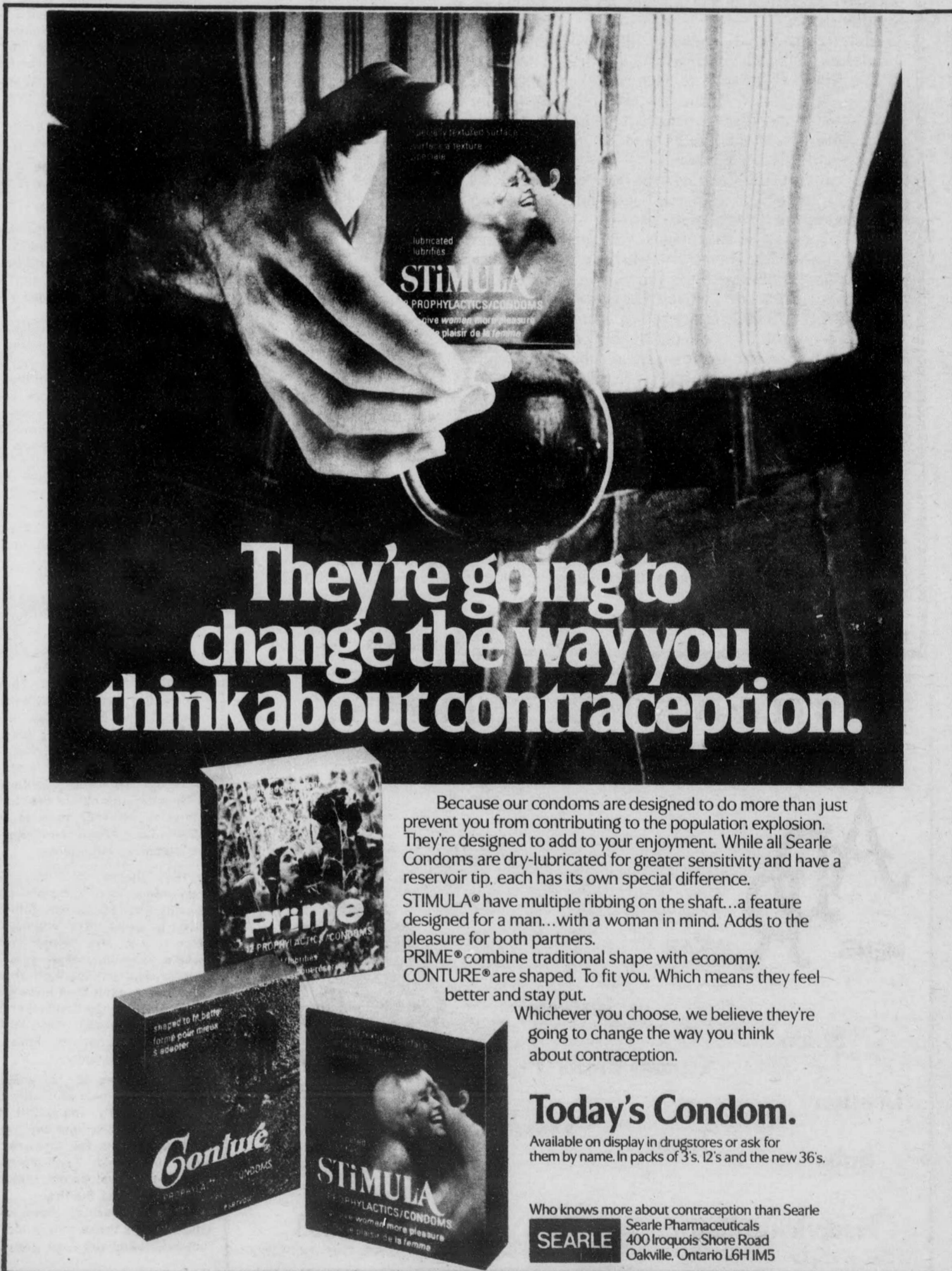
Law scholars hips awarded

Lord Beaverbrooke Scholarships in Law valued at up to \$2,500 have been awarded to six University of New Brunswick law students for 1977-78. The recipients are:

David G. Bell of Woodstock, Christopher P. Curran a native of Gander, Nfld, P. John Landry Moncton, and Lucie A. LaVigne, M. Carole McLennan and Brigitte M. Robichaud.

The scholarships are awarded to students considered to have the qualifications necessary to attain distinction in the legal profession.

They were chosen this year by a committee made up of Chief Justices Charles Hughes and Adrien Cormier; former UNB president Colin B. Mackay; Hon. R.G.L. Fairweather, M.P.; UNB president John M. Anderson; and Alan M. Sinclair, dean of law.



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