

National news

Sexual Stamina Heralded as a Canadian Thing

BY DORSA JABBARI

TORONTO (CUP) — Not only are Canadians having more sex but they are doing it longer, according to a recent international sex survey.

Conducted by the condom company Durex Sheik, the survey covered a variety of sex-related categories including partner satisfaction, time spent on sexual intercourse and frequency of sex.

In raw numbers, the survey found that the average number of times Canadians have sex per year is up to 112 — an increase from 102 last year.

But to some students at the University of Toronto, this number is anything but average.

"It's something to look forward to. But it's outrageous, there's no way that the number is right," second year student Sharifa Gonez, said. "If it is, then that's a lot of sex."

She adds that she doesn't know very many people who are having that much sex, and attributes this mostly to students' time limitations.

While not among the most sexually active nationalities, Canadians definitely make it count when they do have sex. In the sexual stamina category, Canada finished a close second behind the U.S. in average time spent on sexual intercourse. With no other

competitors close in sight, Canadians spend a leisurely 24.4 minutes, compared to the Americans' 25.3 minutes.

"That's really funny. So we are actually doing good over here," Gonez said, while trying to control her laughter.

But Aki Constantinou, another U of T student, says 24.4 minutes is not nearly long enough to fully enjoy sex.

"That is sad, the time should be longer. I've spend a longer time than that having sex in a car," he said.

Although Canadians are having more sex and doing well in the stamina category, they aren't anywhere near the top of the heap in the category of best lovers.

The French won out as the best lovers in the world, with Canadians in the seventh overall spot — behind the Italians, Americans, South Africans, Brits and Australians. Hong Kong came in last.

And though Canadians may consider themselves a modest bunch, they actually think they're sexier than they really are — 74 per cent of Canadian respondents ranked their country as one of the top three sexiest nations.

This category is hotly contested among students.

"I think that Canadians are very sexy because we are so culturally diverse," Humberto Carolo, one of the co-ordinators of U of T's

student-run sex education centre, said.

But Constantinou disagrees, holding up Canada's largest city as a centre of unsexiness.

"I think in Toronto, there's too much attitude. Everyone thinks that they have it in them to become super models. I think a lot of people need a reality check," he said.

The issue of safer sex and condom use was one of the main focuses of the survey. But even though Canadians are concerned about transmission of the HIV virus, they still place greater importance on partner satisfaction.

"The survey results indicate a decreasing concern for HIV, STDs and unplanned pregnancies which, coupled with an increasing preoccupation for sexual pleasure, makes for a potentially lethal mix," Sonya Agnew, director of marketing for Julius Schmid of Canada Ltd., the distributors of Durex condoms in Canada, said.

Carolo says he is concerned by the current attitude people have when it comes to AIDS.

"People are always convinced that they are invincible. People never associate the AIDS virus with themselves," he said. "And even though a lot of people are aware of AIDS, they don't necessarily have the skills to negotiate safe sex."

CUP Briefs

Newfoundland government axes 1-900 student-aid line

BY SEAN RYAN

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Newfoundland's provincial government has scrapped its controversial 1-900 student aid number and replaced it with a toll-free service.

The decision means that students living outside the metropolitan St. John's area will no longer be charged while using the phone service through which they can obtain information about their student loans. The new toll-free number came into effect Nov. 7. Students had formerly been charged 40 cents a minute to use the service, which in some cases was higher than regular long distance rates.

Memorial University's student council had been pushing for the change for almost two years, due to students' complaints of large phone bills, some in excess of \$60, caused by multiple calls and long delays.

Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin agreed to replace the line at a recent meeting between provincial student leaders and government officials.

It was only last January, however, that Frank Marsh, assistant deputy minister of education, categorically ruled out the possibility of a toll-free student-aid line, saying it would be too expensive to maintain.

Protestors shut down Quebec government complex for a day

BY JONATHAN WEXLER AND JEFF WEBBER

MONTREAL (CUP) — Hundreds of students and social activists shut down a provincial government complex last Monday to protest government cuts to education, health care and social programs.

Protestors kept government workers out of l'Edifice Marie Guyant, which houses 4,000 civil servants, including those who work for the Ministry of Education. The action was dubbed "Plan G," because l'Edifice is also known as Complex G.

Government workers who arrived for work on the morning of Nov. 3 were turned away by protestors, who formed human chains in front of the complex's 21 entrances by holding hands. They were told to return at 1:30 p.m. They were still unable, however, to enter the building. At that point, their employer, the Quebec government, sent them home.

The action was planned and executed by a broad array of community and student groups.

Student groups involved in the action included le Mouvement pour l'Education Democratique and the "Y" group, organizations based in Quebec's colleges, the Canadian Federation of Students and many student unions. Three colleges even voted to shut down for the day.

The Quebec government, over the last several years, has cut \$800-million from its education budget. Funding for health care has also seen millions of dollars in cuts, with several hospitals closing as a result. And social programs have also had their funds chopped.

In addition to criticizing the government's policies, each of the numerous groups involved presented a list of demands to the government, an exercise organizers termed "direct democracy."

It is estimated that the day-long shut-down of Complex G cost the Quebec government \$500,000.