

Flying High

by Vivian Huizenga

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like jumping out of an airplane, sailing through the air with nothing but wind for company... and then pull the life saving rip cord of your parachute and float to the ground? From those who have experienced the sport, there is nothing like it.

As a person with a zest to experience all there is in life (and having just attended a spirited organizational meeting with The Gem!) I went to an introductory meeting about parachuting in the Robertson Library lecture theatre Monday evening, Sept 14 presented by a training school in Moncton.

There were many people attending and we were mesmerized with a video presentation within minutes. It looked absolutely beautiful! Imagine floating bodies, holding hands, a misty planet slowly twirling below,

backs, clothes flapping quietly around you... Really, it seemed a peak experience.

Well, surely you've thought of the parachute not opening and being splattered on the ground. So did I. I wondered if statistically it was safer to parachute than drive a car or ski. I asked, but the presenters said there were no statistics. We were told there have been no fatalities in 10 years with this training school.

For \$240.00 you can be trained and jump on the first day! The fee covers use of the gear, membership to the national organization, training, pilot and 5 jumps.

It's not so bad. You have a reserve parachute (in case the first one doesn't work), you have a radio on your chest and are told what to do and when. Also, your parachute is packed by a certified packer (I have mixed feelings about

that). Jumps are \$16.00 after initial training and less if you don't take an instructor with you or pack your own parachute! It is an unofficial tradition that first jump students give their instructor a case of beer as well.

Lingo on the blackboard in the meeting room enticed us with comments like, "Life begins at 9.5" (9.5 feet?), "When people look like ants, pull," "When people look like people, pray," and "The gull sees farthest who flies highest."

It all looks pretty good. What do you think? Oh, one more note of interest: Insurance only covers third party; that is, it will cover what you damage but...

The phone number at the drop zone is 506-858-5562. Perhaps you should drop by.



No free condoms at Catholic university

(CUP) — While most first year students at Nova Scotia universities will be handling AIDS education packages at registration or orientation tables, some of the schools involved in the blitz are removing the free condoms and explicit safe-sex explanations included in the packets.

"This is a Catholic university — there's no way (we'll hand out condoms)," said a secretary employed by the Mount Saint Vincent's University student council. "It's fine to tell people how they can get it, the basic information. But not condoms."

Ten of the province's 14 universities, colleges and technical schools are participating in the publicity programme, co-ordinated by the Halifax Metro Area Committee on AIDS. Only four schools are accepting the safes.

The legal-sized, pale blue envelopes to be dis-

tributed are emblazoned with the grim message, "AIDS: What you don't know can hurt you". In addition to a free prophylactic and a bookmark with guidelines to safer sex, the giveaway includes a blood-donor brochure from the Red Cross, a pamphlet

from Health and Welfare Canada, and instructions on the proper way to use a condom.

This is the second attempt by AIDS educators to reach a mass student audience and inform Canadians about AIDS, an incurable sexually-transmitted disease which has claimed the lives of 635 Canadians. Two years ago, the Federal Centre for AIDS placed advertisements in a nationally-distributed student coupon package.

Two universities — including St. Mary's in Halifax — have refused to allow students access to the

bookmark, which lists safe and risky sexual activities.

Metro Area Committee on AIDS co-ordinator Madeline Comeau is concerned the loss may hurt students.

"I don't quite understand why they made such a fuss," says Comeau. "We want them to read the printed material. The brochure from Health and Welfare Canada says AIDS is transmitted through bodily fluids. That's not enough for 18 and 19-year-olds. They want to know whether it's safe to kiss someone, whether it's safe to have oral sex, whether it's safe to hug someone with AIDS."

Meanwhile in Hamilton, Ontario, McMaster University's student council is backing a series of "safe sex versus no sex" ads in the campus newspaper. The announcements are being forwarded to the 46

newspapers represented by Canadian University Press through its co-operatively owned advertising agency, Campus Plus.

"University students are still very promiscuous. It doesn't seem that the safe sex message has been sinking in very much,"

says council vice-president Steve Longo. "We want to get a consistent message to the students."

Longo is also setting up a week-long AIDS awareness campaign, with educational materials, speakers and condom give-aways heading the list of activities.

