



FACT: A study in 2002 found that one Double Whopper with Cheese contains approximately 1150 calories and around 76 grams of total fat.

FACT: A *Gateway* News meeting, held Fridays at 3pm in 3-04 SUB, has a total of zero calories and contains your daily recommended intake of radness.

It's also endorsed by the National Council of Newspaper Physicians, an organization that I just made up.

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THE GATEWAY

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

IT GOES ALL THE WAY TO ELEVEN High-powered vibrators will help the sex lives of paraplegics.

Sex toys to help people with spinal cord injuries

BRANDON ADAMS
The Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Researchers at two British Columbia schools are developing assistive devices to help improve the sex lives of people with spinal cord injuries.

Researchers from International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD)—a group of spinal-cord-injury researchers based at the University of British Columbia—and the British Columbia Institute of Technology have collaborated to develop specialized vibrators for men and women afflicted with spinal cord injuries.

There are more than 36 000 Canadians with spinal cord injuries, and an additional 1100 new injuries every year.

A study published by Kim Anderson of the Reeve-Irvine Center at the University of California-Irvine shows the importance of sexuality to individuals with spinal cord injuries. In the survey, paraplegics ranked regaining sexual function as their top priority while quadriplegics ranked it second only to regaining arm and hand function.

"Sexual health is just as important an issue for people with spinal cord injuries as it is with

anyone else. The fact that there may be complications that need to be addressed makes it all the more important," said Stephanie Cadieux of the BC Paraplegics Association.

Stacy Elliott, director of the BC Centre for Sexual Medicine and a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UBC, explained that most individuals with spinal cord injuries retain some sensation below the injured area of the spinal cord.

The specialized vibrators being developed by the ICORD-BCIT team are more powerful than off-the-shelf devices and will allow those with spinal injuries to experience more normal sexual function.

"We're hoping that there's reflex arousal stimulated by the vibrator," Elliott said. "We're trying to excite [pelvic reflexes] at the spinal level."

According to Elliott, who is leading the clinical trials of the vibrators, the collaboration of specialists is well diversified.

"They're the technological experts and we're the clinical experts. It's an excellent marriage between BCIT and ICORD," he said.

They expect to complete the research in six to eight months.

Universities sign in support of student reserve forces

NADYA BELL
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—Students will be able to serve in Afghanistan without quitting their studies after universities across Canada signed a declaration in support of the reserve forces.

Universities have agreed to defer exams that conflict with the training schedules of student reservists, and to readmit students to their programs if they take a year off to participate in overseas operations.

Students make up 40 per cent of Canada's reserve forces.

Corporal Ivanka Koulik returned last December from Afghanistan, where she spent four months driving a truck. She's also a full-time student at the University of Ottawa.

She said universities are usually fine with students taking time off, but that the formal declaration of support is positive reinforcement.

"After all, you're paying for the education," Koulik said.

Reservists are regularly asked to volunteer for Canada's overseas mission in Afghanistan, but the service isn't mandatory. They are also called in cases of natural emergency, such as fires or floods.

Navy Lieutenant Ian Livermore explained reservists have weekend training and other exercises, during which they have very little time to devote to their studies. Summer training can also set students behind.

Livermore is asking universities and school boards across the country to sign the statement of support with the Canadian Forces Liaison Council.

So far 157 institutions, including the University

of Alberta, have signed statements of support, said Livermore, adding he hopes the full list of 301 colleges, universities and school boards will sign on.

All institutions in Québec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador have signed, as have many in British Columbia. A quarter of Ontario universities have also signed in support.

"With the students, notwithstanding what sort of mission they will be on, it's another opportunity for them to develop themselves and further their educations."

**DAN HURLEY,
DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS,
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG**

Dan Hurley, Director of University Relations at the University of Winnipeg, said the agreement is about supporting the individual choices of the students.

"With the students, notwithstanding what sort of mission they will be on, it's another opportunity for them to develop themselves and further their education," Hurley said.

Currently, 2300 troops are serving in the NATO mission in Afghanistan, of which 300 are reservists.

Although Afghanistan is currently the largest mission Canadian soldiers are involved in, small groups are also serving as part of international missions in the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

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