

We have our eye on Rose-Marie Jackson

by Elaine O'Connor



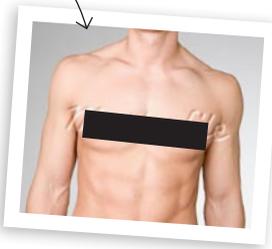
Rose-Marie Jackson's two daughters haven't even started elementary school, but already she's grappling with how to teach them about safe sex. That's because they're growing up in the Northwest Territories, where the rate of sexually transmitted infections is nine times the national average.

So last fall, the Yellowknife Catholic Schools trustee braved controversy and pushed to give girls access to the human papillomavirus vaccine in schools. HPV is the cause of almost all cervical cancers; each year, some 1,300 new cases of the cancer are diagnosed in Canada, and nearly 400 women die of the disease. The Gardasil vaccine, most effective when offered to girls aged 9 to 13, protects against strains responsible for about 70 percent of cervical cancers. The public school board had agreed to help the health department and allow the shots. But the 38-year-old former school teacher admits, "I knew, being in a Catholic board, this was going to really polarize people."

Jackson insists this isn't a strictly religious debate: The Catholic Medical Association states that preventing disease is an act of moral good, regardless of how it's spread. Still, her motion was defeated 5-2, with trustees citing safety concerns rather than faith-based objections. Undeterred, Jackson is hoping to raise the issue next year before a new slate of trustees. "We are publicly funded, so there should be a level of cooperation with the department of health," she says. "Let's let parents make these decisions for their own children."

THE STAT

In Britain, breast reduction operations for men rose 80 percent in the last year, making it the fastest-growing cosmetic procedure in the country.



From the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons

KEEPING THE FAITH

by Megan Griffith-Greene

According to recent American research, God is something of a ladies' man. Though the country has been shifting secular for decades, women are more likely to have some kind of relationship with God. North of the border, the trend is the same: Not only do more of us believe, we're also more devout. Which, some point out, is curious, because religion hasn't always been favored in women. "Every scripture is more favorable to males than females," Deepak Chopra wrote recently in the Washington Post. "The feminine principle may be beautiful, but your own wife and daughter can stay at home." So why do so many women remain faithful? Some researchers think it may be



evolutionary: Back in tribal times, piety ensured acceptance into the community, which ensured someone would help watch your kids while hubby was out spearing boars. Now they suspect that belief is hardwired into the female brain. And the brain, as we all know, works in mysterious ways.



CRUSH OF THE MONTH

by Siri Agrell

The men of Lost Since Flight 815 crashed on a mysterious island, fans of the TV show *Lost* can be sure of one thing: When times get tough, Sawyer's shirt comes off. From Jack's steady hand and Sayid's ripped arms to Desmond's sexy brogue and Jin's square jaw, there's a male survivor for every desert-island fantasy. As the series ends this season, the big questions should be answered. But which castaway would we most like to be stranded with? That remains unsolved.