

EDITORIAL

Rape: the symptom of a larger problem

Tonight's "take back the night" march represents an attempt on behalf of Fredericton's women to educate the public about rape.

Sponsored by the Rape Crisis Centre, it is a demonstration against the ever-present threat of sexual violation. A volunteer from Transition House (a local emergency shelter for abused women and their children) put it succinctly: "Primarily, the march is a protest against rape as society sees it", she said "you know, the mental image we have of a man in a dark alley holding a knife."

Unfortunately, as Janice pointed out, knifepoint rape is just the tip of the iceberg. Although it would be foolish to minimize the risk of rape by an unknown assailant, physical and sexual abuse within the family has almost been institutionalized. The statistics are horrifying: In the province of New Brunswick, one in three children has been the victim of abuse within the family.

Despite attempts by the social services and volunteer organizations such as Transition House, little can be done to alleviate the situation. A social worker friend told me that in many rural communities, alcoholism, incest and wife-battering are almost considered a way of life.

Writing this isn't easy. Perhaps it isn't even a fit subject for an editorial. But I firmly believe that things will only improve if we are prepared to admit that abuse is commonplace. Even though the focus of tonight's march would seem to be the threat of "knifepoint" rape, we can't ignore the fact that such an action of violence is merely a symptom of a much larger problem.

"Nice one, Marc"

If the enthusiastic response of this year's "frosh" is anything to go by, it looks as though Orientation '87 was a resounding success. Although it hasn't officially ended -- there's still the extravaganza to go (we hope!) -- I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Marc Braithwaite and the rest of his hardworking committee. Very few people realize just how much work goes into the organization of the Orientation programme.

Of course, there were a few problems. But the irresponsible actions of one or two people shouldn't detract from the effort of the majority.

MARK STEVENS



Mugwump Journal

Well, it is now Thursday, and with our omnipotent Editor in Chief and overbearing technical coordinator threatening me, I think maybe I should write Mugwump.

First off I feel you should know what Mugwump is. An unbiased person, me, is supposed to make intelligent comment (on occasion) on events and things that happen on and off campus. While writing on these events, I am also supposed to inject humour, which you might find rarely.

Second thing I would like to do is to thank "Hutch" for pinch hitting last week for me. As a matter of fact, he is welcome to come and write it any time he wants to, because I abhor writing.

What a great series of hockey games we had last week between Canada and the Soviet Union. All three games were very close, the difference in total goals was only one and exciting. Though the Soviets played well enough to win, it was great to see Canada triumph, thanks in large part due to the exploits of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux.

I had a flashback this week to my freshman year, many years ago, when I was taking Physics 1000. While in my astronomy class, also taught by the physics dept., I was busily taking notes when gradually sleep overcame me. Fortunately for me, I don't think that the professor or anyone else noticed. All of this brings me to a monumental question that has been troubling me for years, is it me or is the physics department.

Singer Hall, not for music or sewing machines as the name implies, is now finished. It is a very nice building, that includes wall to wall carpeting and swivel chairs. The faculty of administration's new building, not fully completed, looks like it was a wise expenditure. One of Singer's interesting features is the tunnel connecting it to the Harriet Irving Library, which should come in handy with the cold days of winter fast approaching. Now all the university has to do is build a tunnel from the SUB to Tilley Hall.

Finally I would like to ask any of you to join our paper. No experience is necessary either. So if you have an interest in news writing, entertainment, sports, photography, or even layout, please drop by Friday at noon, Room 35 of the SUB. Maybe you might be able to write a couple of Mugwumps for me, which I know a lot of students would appreciate.