

Men take to streets in campaign against male violence

by Corey Goldman

Rape, abuse, harassment, discrimination and inequality are issues that women fight every day. Now the battle to end violence against women is taking a different twist.

Men Walking Against Male Violence (MWAMV) is an organization planning long-distance walks next spring around Ontario in remembrance of the 14 women killed in the 1989 Montreal massacre.

The campaign is being launched in an effort to have men "lay down their arms in the war against women," said Ken Hancock, organizer of the White Ribbon campaign and member of MWAMV.

To kick off the campaign for the walk against male violence, white ribbons will be worn by men for six days starting Dec. 1.

"We don't want men wearing the white ribbon as a badge. They have to accept the problem as a male problem, rather than an individual problem," said Hancock.

According to Hancock, the organization aims to break the silence of men who are against violence of other men, but are afraid to speak out.

"It's our hope that if we're out on the streets being seen as men against violence directed at women, then we can make some changes."

Hancock's main goal is to break the silence, but as realistically as possible. "No man will admit that they [men] are the problem. We have to change this attitude in men of all walks of life in order to deal with the problem."

"Walks through small rural towns help draw attention on a local level. We believe this is most effective, reaching out to the people and addressing the issue," Hancock explained.

"All our moves are made after consulting with women's organizations," said Matthew Behrens, another member of MWAMV. "An end to the violence is our key priority."

"The responsibility is up to men to end the violence against women and children," Hancock said. "Women can support the cause, but it's not up to them to make the change. They've done enough already."

Kathryn Boyd, an associate of the Women's Centre at York, said she highly commends the organization's efforts.

"It's about time men did something. Men don't know what it's like, or how a woman feels walking by herself at night. I just hope they're really doing something instead of just trying to gain the sympathy of women."

Rob Centa, external vice president for the York Federation of Students, said he feels the program is an excellent endeavour, and hopes the YFS will vote to support the cause.

"I'm really hoping that the YFS will endorse this. It is a necessary effort for men, particularly on this campus, to recognize and deal with the problems of violence against women."

According to Hancock, the first step to ending violence against women is understanding violence as a tool of power.

"Violence against women in our society is very much like apartheid," said Hancock. "Men are not going to end their privilege and power, just like the Whites are not going to end their power over the Blacks."

Hancock stressed the importance of not blowing his ideas out of proportion. "Our efforts being labelled as a 'men's movement' is horseshit."

The organization is funded out of their own pockets and through donations, which have been very limited so far, according to Hancock.

"We're only asking for \$100 per man. That's only \$1.95 a week, which is less than one beer." "So far, only 40 men have sent money," Hancock added. "Our largest donation came from a woman rape survivor, which says something about the permanency of men's attitudes."

Hancock said university support for the MWAMV should come from administration.

"The main problem on campuses is at the administration level. Campuses all over the country are getting bed reps because of male violence, which they're afraid will lead to decreases in enrolment. It's bad P.R. for them, so they condone our [MWAMV's] efforts for their own benefit."

The first walk is scheduled for mid-May in Toronto.

York accused of blocking subway plan

by Doug Saunders

A Metro Toronto councillor accused the university last week of attempting to delay a subway construction project which would bring the Spadina line closer to York.

In a Nov. 25 letter to York President Harry Arthurs, Metro Councillor Howard Moscoe described his "dismay" and "disgust" after a York-led lobby group asked the Minister of the Environment to withhold approval of a proposed new subway line pending further study.

The line, running from Wilson station to the corner of Sheppard and Dufferin, is part of a proposal to link the Spadina and Yonge subway lines via Finch Avenue. Construction was expected to begin in January.

In his letter, Moscoe said York's objection will "serve to delay the project by a minimum of one year and cost a recession-damaged Metro economy some 700 jobs."

As a member of the year-old Loop Group, York has been supporting an alternative 'Steeles loop,' which would travel from Wilson station past the York campus to Steeles before turning east and joining the Yonge line.

The Loop Group's objection, filed in an Oct. 30 letter to Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment, asks the minister to postpone the construction of the subway extension until an environmental assessment of the Steeles loop proposal has been completed.

Moscoe told *Excaltur* he feels the Loop Group's objection "makes no sense whatsoever," and that York is primarily interested in making real estate profits by selling campus lands located near subway stations.

"All that York cares about, as far as I can see, is the opportunity to put mega-density mega-buildings on their Keele Street campus, most of which are totally unrelated to the purpose of the university," Moscoe said.

York President Harry Arthurs denied York's interest in the bringing the subway York has anything to do with property investment.

"I think it's an outrageous insult to the 50,000 of us who spend time on the roads," Arthurs said. "It's a cheap political shot. The university has been working on getting a subway for decades."

Arthurs said York objected to the Sheppard expansion because "it fixes the future direction of the Spadina line," and makes any possibility of a campus subway station unlikely.

Behind this conflict lies a long-standing debate over the future of Toronto's subway system. Most

Metro councillors want to see a short and relatively inexpensive loop which will connect Finch and Wilson stations to ease pressure on the congested Yonge line.

"There's an advantage to extending it [the subway] to York University in time," said Bev Salmon, councillor for North York Centre, "but in 20 to 30 years. It's a very expensive project."

"Something has to be done in the short term to offer relief to the Yonge line," Salmon added.

According to Mike Colle, Metro councillor for York-Eglinton, the province cannot afford to construct the longer Steeles loop in the near future.

"The Steeles loop, that's not going to happen. I tell people, wake up and smell the economy. Do they have any idea it will cost \$20 billion?"

But Loop Group members (which includes the City of Vaughan, York Region and numerous property developers, as well as York University) and many urban planners are calling for a long-term and large-scale approach, expanding the subway to serve the outer regions of Metro Toronto.

"The [Dufferin-Finch] loop was designed in order to turn trains around," said Tony Turrittin, a board member of Transport 2000 Ontario, a lobby group which supports public transit. "This is short-sighted. We want a grid reaching into the north-west."

"If it's only a means of turning trains, that's a false economy. We're trying to get more people to stop driving cars and start taking transit, and for that we need [subway] lines to the east and west. The Dufferin loop is no solution."

Moscoe argued that the Dufferin loop could easily serve York students and Jane-Finch residents by connecting to a dedicated bus route running along the hydro corridor to the south of the campus.

"We can put a rapid transit line through that hydro corridor, using express buses on a dedicated right-of-way, for one-tenth the cost [of a subway] — and it's an option that would better serve the campus."

"As proposed, the [Steeles] loop will never even get to the campus," Moscoe added. "It's questionable if it will even hit Keele Street. Even if you're only going to the south end of the campus, it would be a half-hour walk."

But Turrittin said a dedicated bus route would fail to attract students to the subway.

"That is stupid. It's beneficial in terms of money only. But it doesn't

serve people. Why are we spending billions of dollars if it doesn't serve people?"

Bob Richardson, director of public affairs for York and spokesperson for the Loop Group, said a subway station is the only solution to York's parking problems.

"Most importantly, we have three to five million cars coming onto campus every year. We're trying to get improved service for York staff, students and faculty. The broader goal is we're trying to get the subway extended as far west as possible."

Moscoe said the Loop Group objection could ruin chances of York winning the battle for a campus subway stop.

"Filing this objection is no way to get the subway to York University. Because what it will do is turn off members of Metro Council who are the ones who are going to ultimately make the decision on where that subway goes. And I want to tell you that my colleagues on Metro Council are furious."

Students threaten rape in classified ad

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

VANCOUVER — A Vancouver Community College student who was threatened with rape in a campus newspaper classified ad is dropping out of school following persistent harassment.

"I'm tired of dealing with it," said Kim Anda Jarzebiak, a first-year arts student.

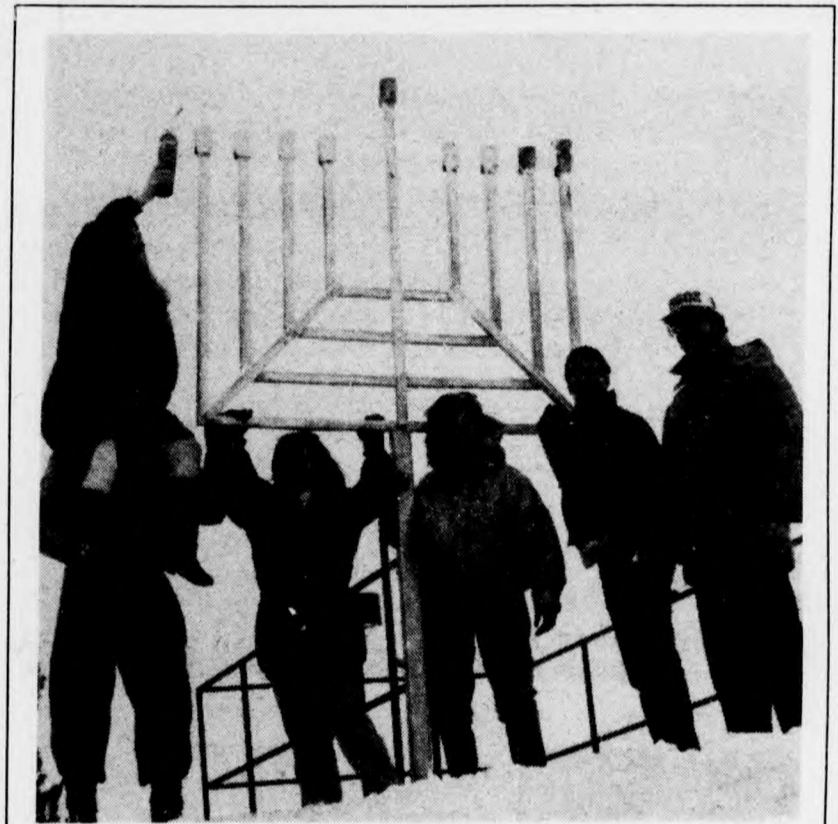
"I need some rest. I want to disappear for a few months and get away from politics."

The ad, published in the Oct. 3 edition of the *Gleaner*, was written by two male staff members who knew that Jarzebiak was raped last summer. The men have been kicked off the newspaper.

Jarzebiak had objected to another ad one week before which referred to Liberal MP Sheila Copps as a "slut." She said she took the threat very seriously.

"If someone is sick enough to write about it, they're sick enough to do it," she said. "It's not a joke. People say, 'you don't think it'll happen, do you?' How do I know?"

Following widespread media coverage of the rape threat, Jarzebiak said male students have called her a "slut" and a "bitch," and asked her if she wants to be raped. Jarzebiak said she has received anonymous threat-



Jewish students light a Menorah outside Vanier College December 2 to celebrate Chanukah, the 'Festival of Lights.' An eight-day celebration, Chanukah lasts until December 9.

ening phone calls. She also found a note in her knapsack asking her if she wanted to be raped, she said.

"I'm constantly having to defend myself," she said. "Defend why the ad was wrong, why I'm angry, why I want them [writers of the ad] expelled."

The 19-year-old student said she has had enough and is dropping out at the end of the semester this month.

Langara principal David Crane has told Jarzebiak the men who threatened her will attend a seminar on sexism, and a temporary record of the case will be added to school files.

In a Nov. 18 letter to Jarzebiak, Crane said the college considers the discipline adequate and the matter resolved. But a special grievance committee has since been struck to investigate the case.

Linda Holmes, dean of administration and student services, said the college sexual harassment policy was not in place when Jarzebiak filed her complaint. Instead, a student grievance procedure is being followed, in addition to the special committee's work, she said.

A VCC committee is finalizing a sexual harassment policy, and is hiring a sexual harassment advisor. A volunteer committee began work on the policy four years ago.

Martin Gerson, one of the original committee members, said the policy should be in place in the new year, once an advisor is hired.

The complaint process Jarzebiak is following usually deals with administrative problems, he said.

"For example, students who don't like the content of a course have used it," he said. "It's more limited to instruction and services provided by the college."

Jessie Sutherland, a second-year VCC arts student, is one of many women lobbying for more action. She said seven women went to Crane's office last week to complain about the way the case has been handled.

It was also a warning that women on campus are going to take action, she said.

"Women are complaining because a lack of action sets a precedent which makes the campus unsafe for women."

She has contacted the provincial ombudsman and said a letter-writing campaign has been started across Canada.

Even though other women are rallying to support her, Jarzebiak still expects personal harassment.

"Anytime a woman speaks out, anytime a woman is where society doesn't think is acceptable, there is going to be backlash."