

# Halifax rape facilities not OK

by Sheila Fardy

"There just aren't any adequate or up-to-date services for rape victims in Halifax", says Dr. Ed Renner, professor and supervisor of a study of rape facilities conducted by four Dalhousie psychology students.

The four students, Elaine Chapman, Karen Higgenbotham, Elizabeth Baker, and Margot Sunquist presented a report on March 10th in the Student Union Building which culminated over three months of investigation and interviews with social services, police, hospitals, and the courts.

Among the conclusions they reached were:

- Only an estimated 10% of all rapes are reported to the police. Of these, from 40-50% are classified unfounded by the police, the rest are passed on to the crown prosecutor. The police decide that a case is unfounded if the woman was "asking for it", for example if she had been drinking or hitchhiking. Of the cases that are passed on to the prosecutor, about two-thirds make it to trial. The conviction rate from this number is from one in three to one in ten. "And we wonder why women don't report rape", says Renner.

- 1/2 of all rapes occur in a residence; 1/3 in the victim's home.

- The outcome of a rape trial is still largely determined by the victim's moral character and her socio-economic status. Conviction rates are highest if the victim is virginal, married, or professional.

- The rape trial may not take place until 1 to 1-1/2 years after the rape.

The students have put together a pamphlet telling women what to expect if they should be raped. Its advice falls into four categories:

- (1) Get Emotional Support
- (2) Call the Police
- (3) Obtain Medical Care
- (4) Legal Concerns

The pamphlet should be ready for distribution in the summer.

Dr. Renner plans to continue the study of rape in his next Community Psychology course. The next phase is Social Action, and his aims are: continued public education and the institution of a Rape relief centre, starting at Dalhousie and expanding city-wide.

"The students did a really good job," says Renner, "They put in a lot of hard work."



Sole/Dal Photo

## Students evaluate the Gazette

The Gazette's coverage of student activities, societies and faculties is inadequate, according to the results of the Gazette questionnaire tabulated here. 55, 70 and 72 per cent of readers gave student activities on campus, societies and faculties respectively a "poor" rating. While 39% of Gazette readers said the Gazette was a dull newspaper, 67% would be concerned if the Gazette were to cease publication.

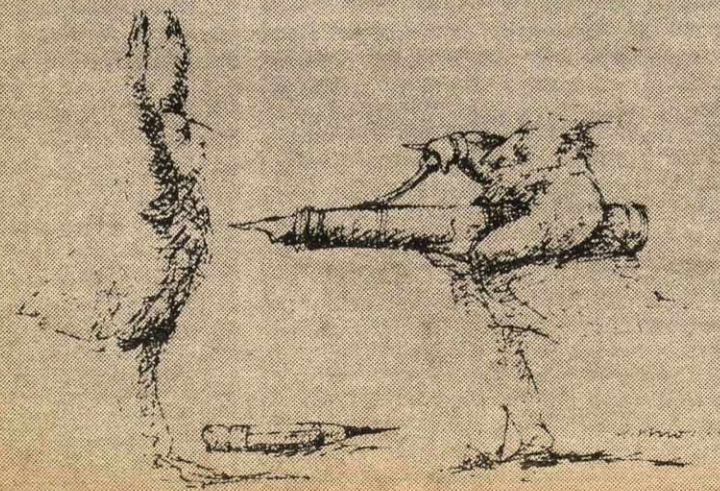
A total of 230 responses were received to the questionnaire which was printed on the last page of the March 11 issue, asking Gazette readers to evaluate their newspaper.

Evaluations and opinions of the Gazette were wide-ranging, however a few trends were found. Sports enthusiasts were generally satisfied with their section, 36% said it was "good", 44% "fair" and 11% "poor".

Other trends are not as discernible. 28% of readers said the Gazette was "too radical", 12% "too middle of the road", another 12% "too conservative" and 10% "right on". 27% ticked off the word "other" filling in their own comments such as "too critical" or "too average". Concerning whether or not the Gazette directs itself to a particular segment of the Dalhousie community, a split 54% said "yes" and 46% "no".

The best read sections of the Gazette are the Entertainment section and Letters to the Editor, with the editorial cartoon coming a close third.

Completed questionnaires are available for anyone's inspection at the Gazette offices.



## Gazette Questionnaire Results

	Yes	No
If the Gazette ceased publication would it make any difference to you?	67 %	33 %

Does the Gazette seem to direct itself to a particular segment of the Dalhousie community?	54 %	46 %
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Check off which section of the Gazette you read:

Thursday to Thursday	48%	Entertainment	70%	Dalorama	44%
News	61%	Letters to the editor	69%	Ads	35%
Editorial	47%	Commentary	40%	News features	46%
Editorial cartoon	64%	Sports	56%		

How do you rate the Gazette's coverage of each of the following areas?

	Good	Fair	Poor
student council	29%	34%	37%
student activities on campus	14%	31%	55%
student issues	44%	40%	16%
societies on campus	5%	25%	70%
different faculties	2%	26%	72%
local news issues	10%	43%	47%
national news issues	16%	40%	44%
international news issues	23%	39%	38%
Sports coverage in the Gazette is:	36%	44%	20%
Entertainment coverage in the Gazette is:	31%	43%	26%
The layout (appearance) of the Gazette is:	54%	35%	11%

Do you think the Gazette is:

too radical	28%	too middle of the road	12%	too dull	39%
too conservative	12%	other	27%	too intellectual	9%
				right on	10%