

# CROSSCANADA

## University blind to abuse

OTTAWA (CUP) — A survey released Feb. 8 found a majority of women at Canadian universities and colleges have suffered some kind of abuse in dating relationships.

The survey was conducted by two Carleton University sociology professors last semester. Katharine Kelly and Walter DeKeseredy surveyed 3,132 students — 1,835 females and 1,307 males — on 44 campuses in all ten provinces. The survey — the first of its kind in Canada — found more than four out of five women have experienced some form of physical, sexual or psychological abuse while dating in the 1991-92 academic year.

The survey defined abuse in a dating relationship as the following: "Woman abuse in the context of university/college courtship is defined as any intentional physical, sexual, or psychological assault on a woman by a male dating partner, regardless of whether he is married, single, or cohabitating with someone."

Of those women questioned, 79 per cent said they had been psychologically abused, 28 per cent said they had been sexually abused or assaulted, and 22 per cent said they had been physically abused. Although 76 per cent of men surveyed admitted to being psychologically abusive, less than 12 per cent said they had been sexually abusive and only 13 per cent said they were physically abusive.

"Universities play a leading role in society and they have to begin addressing the issue," said Kelly. But she said universities are reluctant to tackle the matter. "They do not want to have the ownership of the problem." She said a code of conduct for students would be an effective measure against abusive behaviour.

## Brutality in their blood

TORONTO (CUP) — Metro Toronto police were called to a University of Toronto student newspaper office after the authors of an article about gay Muslim students received a death threat from a group calling itself the "Islamic Jihad."

The Varsity received a letter stating that "the term 'gay Muslim' is an oxymoron" and that AIDS is "Allah's punishment" for homosexuality.

The original article, published on Jan. 18 under the heading "Muslims turn a blind eye to gays", asked for tolerance and acceptance of gays and lesbians in the Muslim community.

The Islamic Jihad, which purports to include Muslim students from the University of Toronto, York University, the University of Western Ontario and Queen's University, warned the article's authors that their "days are numbered" and "there will be blood".

Nouman Ashraf, of U of T's Muslim Student's Association (MSA) said he has not heard of a student group called the Islamic Jihad. He said the MSA was not involved in writing the threat.

"I know Muslim students at all the universities mentioned in the letter but I cannot even imagine someone doing something like this. What gives anyone the right to make this kind of threat? It is in complete contradiction to the Muslim tenet of peaceful submission to the will of Allah," said Ashraf.

Keith Hambly, from Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE) says threats of violence directed towards lesbians and gay men need to be taken seriously. "This type of letter certainly fits the category of hate literature or propaganda," he said.

Since the article ran, the Varsity has printed two letters refuting the position that Islam allows Muslims to be gay or lesbian.

## Getting it in writing

TORONTO (CUP) — A group of editors, professors and scientists has blamed the National Research Council for still not doing enough to stop sexism in academic journals.

A sexist article published in a York University-based physics journal in 1990 pushed the council to sponsor a symposium in Toronto in early February on ethics in scholarly publishing.

University of Alberta professor Gordon Freeman wrote an article in the Canadian Journal of Physics, saying women should go back to being full-time mothers and it should be more difficult to get daycare and divorces. Participants were supposed to focus on the roles editors, publishers and authors play in academic journals, but the Freeman affair dominated discussions.

The council has said women are being recruited for editorial jobs in the 13 journals it publishes.

"We need more than experts of 'prestigiousness' in a field. In editorship, we need much more sensitivity to issues in society on gender and racism," said Selma Zimmerman, advisor for the Status of Women at York University.

# news

## The tough get going

by Monique Beaudin

OTTAWA (CUP) — Last month, a group of Dalhousie students braved -39 degree weather as they camped out in front of the university's administration building for three days and two nights. They demanded the board let more than 80 students into the meeting where the next year's tuition would be set.

"It was such a good feeling to actually feel like we were doing something, instead of sitting back and saying, 'oh no, tuition fees are going up again'," said one of the campers.

But the Board ignored the campers' request, and hiked tuition fees 10 per cent anyway, raising tuition at Dalhousie to about \$2800 for undergraduate arts and science students.

## You need to develop your arguments

Other universities across the country are following suit. The British Columbia government has set tuition fee increases to 10 per cent for the next academic year. The University of British Columbia plans to raise fees by 11.9 per cent.

Quebec universities want students to pay at least 10 per cent more in tuition fees next year. At Montreal's Concordia University, fees will go up \$176 to \$1517 for full-time undergraduate students. Tuition fees at Concordia have gone up almost \$800 since 1989.

Almost every fee increase decision has been made in the face of student protests. Chanting, placard-wielding students are demanding the supreme decision-making body on

campus not charge them higher tuition fees.

But are protests the way to influence boards of governors and university and college presidents?

Marc Molgat, the student who planned the infamous "Macaroni Protest" in the House of Commons three years ago — where a handful of students dropped Kraft Dinner on MPs during Question Period on National Student Day — says effective protests need to be coupled with well-planned lobbying before the protest itself.

"You can't go in and demonstrate one day and expect a decision to change the next," said Molgat, who is now a master's student at the University of Ottawa.

He said protesters need to have a well-organized long-term plan. "You need to develop your arguments, and get the support of other organizations because you can't stand there by yourself."

But Molgat said protests are a good way of getting attention.

"One of the purposes of protests are to embarrass the decision-maker because they're not listening to you anyway," he said.

Bruce Gellatly, vice-president administration and finance at the University of British Columbia said a demonstration's effectiveness depends on the situation.

He said students who protested against his school's tuition fee hike in January weren't going to change the board of governor's minds.

"There are limitations to how much flexibility the university has," he said.

Claude Lajeunesse, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada said student protests against tuition fee increases aren't that effective because they don't represent all students.

"University presidents and students are not polarized on this issue," he said. "I think students understand

they have to contribute to their educations."

Lajeunesse said university presidents welcome student groups like the Ontario Undergraduate Student Association. A loose coalition of a few Ontario universities, OUSA advocates hiking tuition fees 30 per cent coupled with an increase in government and private funding.

The Ontario government has told universities they can't raise fees by more than seven per cent without being penalized.

Kelly Lamrock, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, a national student lobby group, says protests are a good way of getting media attention, and increasing awareness of issues.

"A lot of media will show up if there are a lot of loud, angry students," he said.

But Lamrock, like Molgat, says that it's better for students to find other alternatives to protesting, like lobbying before the decision is to be made.

Lamrock said the larger problem is little student representation on decision-making bodies like boards of governors. But he said the tougher students make it for boards of gover-

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nors and other decision-making bodies, the less likely it is they'll consider raising fees again the next year.

"It's an inoculation against the boards of governors jacking fees up again," he said.

## Dal gives till it helps

by David Aikman

It is a typical February afternoon in Halifax. The law student who needs a break from hitting the books takes a few hours out to hit a ball around the gym with some young kids who have to stay after school until their single parents arrive home from work. Elsewhere in the city, a Pharmacy student is getting valuable career-related experience in a local hospital and an English student is tutoring newly arrived refugees to Canada. The weather is cold and gray, but somewhere a Dalhousie student is sharing a warm cup of tea with their adopted grandmother who doesn't feel quite so lonely anymore.

These stories are not fictitious. Every day, students from Dalhousie leave their books behind for a few

hours and give their time and energy as volunteers. They are involved with hundreds of community organizations in Halifax; working as mediators with troubled youth, helping sort food at a food bank, and helping at shelters for women and runaway teens.

It is a win/win situation. Students have the chance to try something challenging and rewarding that often compliments what they have learned in the classroom. A volunteer position might provide experience related to a future career, or broaden horizons by presenting new possibilities! The community benefits too, by the wealth of energy, enthusiasm and skills that students have to offer.

So maybe volunteering is something you've always wanted to try,

but haven't known where to start. Start here: on March 3rd and 4th, the Student Volunteer Bureau is hosting "Make a Change", the first annual Volunteer Fair at Dalhousie, in the Green Room of the SUB. There will be several community organizations on hand with information and presentations about their programs and volunteers. Staff from the Student Volunteer Bureau will also be on hand to help you find an organization that's compatible with you!

For more information about "Make a Change" or volunteer opportunities in the community, drop by the Student Volunteer Bureau, room 445 on the fourth floor SUB, or call Marie and Dave at 494-1561.