

CROSSCANADA

AIDS class to be offered

MONTREAL (CUP) — Students at Concordia may soon be able to enroll in a course specifically designed to meet the growing concern over the AIDS epidemic.

Although the course is still in the development stages, the HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee of Concordia hopes that by next year it will be offered as a class combining aspects of several departments, including women's studies and fine arts.

"If a course can happen that can make people more aware and turn out 80 new activists a year, that would be excellent," said Emily Paradis, fundraising coordinator for the committee. "We're looking at different ways to structure the course so we would be able to build a lot of information into it while maintaining a space for people to deal with the amount of emotion that is brought up by AIDS," she added.

The initial reaction from the university's administration is positive but it will be some time before the course can be added to the permanent curriculum. "If it proves to be good over a period of three years with good attendance, then it can become a regular course," said vice-dean Florence Stevens.

Law ignores wife assault

VICTORIA (CUP) — Wife assault used to be classified as plain old assault in the Canadian Criminal Code, lumped in with neighborhood fights and bar room brawls.

Last spring, the federal government tacked an amendment onto the Criminal Code, finally acknowledging wife assault as a crime to be taken up actively by the police. But some police departments don't seem to be aware of this.

Although the Victoria police department received the new policy guidelines in April, they still do not keep specific records on wife assault. "I'm asked this question every year," said Jean Blackie, a records coordinator at the department. "It just says 'assault' [on the files]." "Things don't change overnight," said Judy Milliken, a Crown prosecutor with the criminal justice headquarters in Victoria. "It's a matter of educating now."

The government sent out a training video to police stations, but it takes a while for the information to filter through the system, said Milliken.

The justice system has historically seen wife assault as a family matter, where the victim is responsible for pressing charges.

"You don't ask a bank teller if they want a robber charged," said Milliken. The courts have developed a "flagging system" to keep track of women's cases: how long until they go to trial, or how often charges are dropped.

However, it will be a while before the numbers add up enough to become useful data for studies.

Group opposes condom use

TORONTO (CUP) — Respect Yourself, a non-campus group that advocates chastity, asked a University of Toronto student union to remove condoms from its orientation kit.

Citing what it calls documented evidence, the group insisted that condoms do not prevent pregnancy, AIDS, or sexually transmitted diseases. Members argued that the inclusion of condoms not only condoned sexual activity, but actually encouraged it.

But on Sept. 7, the Erindale College student union unanimously voted to allow the package of three condoms to remain in the kits.

Although Respect Yourself's request was denied, the group purchased representation in the orientation package.

For a fee of \$50, their literature was included for all first-year students to read. The material consists of a flyer called 'Condom Sense' and a pamphlet primarily detailing the effects of abortion on women.

Mary Costa, Erindale service director, said that although she welcomed the chance for Respect Yourself to have access to first-year students, she was dismayed that their message seemed to focus on the issue of abortion.

"To be honest, had there been a policy in place able to screen material, I'm not sure that Respect Yourself's literature would have been sanctioned. It isn't censorship. It's just that their literature seems misplaced in the context of an orientation kit."

The request to ban condoms was also made last year by Respect Yourself, based on information which the group then said linked condom use to "a promotion of violence and rape against women." That request was also unanimously voted down.

Instead of voted against women, the focus this year was what the group termed the "absolute ineffectiveness of condoms."

"It is an illusion, one manufactured as part of the politically correct agenda, that condoms provide a foolproof method of birth control and protect its user from all STDs including AIDS," said John McCash, Respect Yourself spokesperson.

"What exactly is safe about throwing on a piece of latex?" he asked. "The promotion of condom usage promotes sex. Simple. To include in the kit assumes that everyone is or should be sexually active. I think that as students, especially first-year students, we should not be pressured into activities which hold a serious, emotional consequence."

"We want students to understand chastity and abstinence, which is a message that has not been told."

Women march for safety

by Julie Sims

Over 300 women and children gathered in downtown Halifax for the annual "Take Back The Night March", on Thursday, September 23.

"This is the night for women's voices to be heard," said Nancy Hunter, co-ordinator of the event. The march is a

demonstration demanding that women be safe on the streets of Halifax.

To a cheering crowd, one woman said, "We have paid for those streets out there. We have paid them, we pay the police to supposedly keep them safe, so we own them."

Before the march, the women met at Grand Parade Square where there

was an open mike. Many brave women went up and shared their feelings and experiences.

One woman spoke about her fear of walking to and from her job, where she works at night. "Every night, I tuck my hair under my cap and pretend to be a man," she said.

A university graduate student shared her experience of being sexually assaulted while she slept, during a field expedition.

Many women spoke of their experiences of escaping domestic violence and surviving sexual assaults. Many said they felt safe and proud among their 'sisters'.

The march lasted almost an hour and wound around the downtown streets. It ended back at Grand Parade Square, which was a relief to those women parked nearby.

After the march there was an informal reception at the Artists' Co-op, on Barrington Street. Many women then proceeded to an appropriately timed fundraiser for the Women's Reel Vision Film Festival.



DALPHOTO: JUDY REID

Assailant banned from Dal

by Richard Lim & Neil Donald

Just before 7 pm on Monday, September 27, campus security and the Halifax police were called to the Student Union Building's cafeteria to settle a racially-motivated incident. According to four witnesses, all Dalhousie students, a middle-aged male launched an unprovoked and overtly racist verbal attack on Andy Harbuk, a Saint Mary's University student studying in the cafeteria with his friends.

According to Harbuk, he was walking his girlfriend to the front doors of the SUB when they were accosted between the cafeteria and the information booth, near the washrooms.

"He just came up to me and asked us what language we were speaking. I said, 'Arabic', and he laughed. He didn't like it, us talking Arabic, and then he said, 'You people should have been dead a long time ago.' I gave him a really hard look, I said, 'You better watch what you say.'"

At this point, Harbuk and his girlfriend walked away. However, when Harbuk returned to the cafeteria table

that he and his friends were studying at, he was aware of his assailant watching him the entire time.

"I went up to him and said, 'What the hell did you think you were saying before?' and he said, 'What did you ever do for this country?' The thing just got bigger and bigger."

The exchange grew louder and continued for approximately five minutes.

"I think Dalhousie did a good thing."

Other comments which Harbuk and the witnesses attributed to the assailant included, "How did you get into the country?", "Go back home," and, "I'm a Canadian. What are you doing here?"

The campus security arrived first, followed by the city police, who took names and statements from the two men and the witnesses present.

Several witnesses alleged that the assailant was under the influence of

alcohol at the time. Harbuk himself said that, "I could smell the booze on his breath...he'd been drinking, but he wasn't drunk. He seemed pretty sober."

Dalhousie Security Chief Sandy MacDonald initially refused to confirm or deny another allegation, also made by one of the witnesses, that the assailant was the spouse of a Beaver Foods staff member. "I can't say why he was on campus.... I don't think it would be prudent to release any names at this time."

Beaver Foods' Director of Food Services Brian Cuvelier later confirmed that the individual was the spouse of an employee. He did not identify the assailant, but when asked to explain his presence, Cuvelier said that "our policy is that they [the employee's relations] are part of the public."

Dalhousie Student Union Executive Vice-President Caroline Kolompap confirmed that the SUB is open to the general public. "Part of the reason that the Dalhousie Student Union Building exists is for the use of the commu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CFS at Dal... Safe for now

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been the case at other universities that have left the national student organization.

As for Student Saver, MacLeod says that it is a locally implemented program anyway. He explains that the DSU locally solicits businesses to offer students discounts on the program. He says that the DSU could have its own discount program.

Todd Barker, president of the Acadia Students' Union (ASU), shares MacLeod's concerns. Barker gave notice at the CFS plenary in May that he will press the ASU to hold a referendum on whether or not to withdraw from CFS. Barker says his action came after he observed a lack of focus on student issues at the May CFS meeting.

"When you see a general meeting spending more time debating whether we should boycott Burma or Pepsi, and why we should be more concerned

about human rights violations in a foreign nation than about the inaccessibility of education in our own country, I think I get a little worried then," says Barker.

Michelle Brazil defends the CFS against MacLeod's and Barker's charges that too much time is spent on non-student issues.

"Any member of CFS, through its student association, can move any motion. So long as it's within the rules of order, it goes on the agenda at a CFS general meeting," she says.

"If it's the will of the majority of the member associations, it becomes part of the Canadian Federation of Students policy," she adds.

Brazil adds that the term "student issue" needs to be interpreted broadly.

"With NAFTA, you have a situation where the potential for the free trade agreement to impose itself on public funding of post-secondary education in this country is very real."

This, she says, makes NAFTA a student issue.

The CFS fieldworker stressed "access to the decision-making process" as the greatest advantage for Dalhousie students in retaining membership in the Canadian Federation of Students. She says that CFS representatives meet regularly in Ottawa with ministers, MPs, and keep close contact with the Coalition on Post-Secondary Education and the National Student Aid Advisory Board.

Meanwhile, back at Acadia, Todd Barker is reserving his final decision on CFS until after the federal election. He's waiting to see if advertisements prepared by the CFS Election Readiness Committee are effective in making student concerns known in the upcoming federal election. So far, he remains doubtful.

"I'm watching the papers, I'm watching the news," he says. "I haven't seen anything yet."