

## Another victim comes forward

Your correspondent 'Name Withheld' is to be congratulated for the courage with which she broached the taboo subject of sexual harassment at U.N.B. There can be no doubt that to send an anonymous letter to the student newspaper is not the ideal way to solve this problem. It leads to ill-founded gossip and speculation which are offensive to both faculty and students alike. The vast majority of professors at U.N.B. are decent, moral men and women; all have been tarnished by this accusation.

Yet 'Name Withheld' had no choice. I understand that some time ago the Canadian Association of University Teachers produced a set of guidelines to be followed in cases of sexual harassment on campus. They did so because of two notorious cases elsewhere in Canada. In one case a professor was dismissed for harassment; in the other a group of professors sued a student organization which had made accusations of harassment it was unwilling to substantiate. The guidelines seek to establish a procedure which is fair and accessible to the accusers and the accused. They aim to protect the innocent and to prevent witch

hunts. Yet so far, U.N.B. appears to have done nothing to implement these policies, or if it has done so, then knowledge of it has not reached the population at risk.

I have good reason to know. Like 'Name Withheld' I too am the victim of sexual harassment by a professor at U.N.B.: harassment which culminated in a physical assault. I have no wish to recount the details; they are sordid and harrowing. Nor do I wish to indict U.N.B. as a whole. When I was in acute distress I received much help from friends among students and faculty, from my thesis supervisor and department chairman, from Counselling Services and the Student Health Centre, and (contrary to popular stereotype) from the police and legal profession.

My complaint is with the Administration. They spoke with honeyed words of concern. They did nothing. When, after my case had supposedly been resolved by police action, but my aggressor continued to shadow me from afar with impunity, and I learned of his long history of similar actions. I asked the Dean of Students to initiate a formal complaint procedure within the University. Acting on legal advice I provided him with the names of

others who had agreed to tell him their stories. That was over a year ago. From that day to this I have heard nothing from the Dean. Neither have those whose names I gave him. Ironically, under the newly-promulgated Student Disciplinary Code; any student who acted as the man who attacked me had done, would be liable to dismissal from campus.

Because I am not motivated by revenge, I have let the matter drop and am content to do so. With the help of my family and friends I have put my life back together, though it has

taken me an extra year to complete my degree with consequent loss of future fellowship support. Yet the fear remains. There are buildings on campus where I will not walk unescorted even in daytime, and my first reaction on reading 'Name Withheld's' letter was one of sheer terror, lest despite the different circumstances it recounted, my aggressor should think me involved and renew his attentions.

The remedy is simple. It is for President Downey to act immediately to set up an accessible and confidential

forum where those who feel they have been harassed may tell their story without fear of reprisal and with confidence that action will be taken where it is justified, no matter who is the perpetrator. At the same time the procedures should allow those who are accused to receive a just hearing and speak out without fear of witch-hunts. Until the President (to whom I am sending a signed copy of this letter) takes this action, then all of us at U.N.B. are under a cloud of fear and suspicion.

"Name Also Withheld"

## Sexual harassment and the law

To the student who publicly described her case of sexual harassment:

You may think that a letter such as yours does little more than satisfy reader curiosity. That is not the case. The under-signed are concerned with the allegations you made since they implicate a number of individuals who occupy positions of authority within this university's administration. Your allegations also bring into question the administrative procedure in like cases.

Sexual harassment is a matter of paramount concern as it is a flagrant offense against human dignity. On the other hand, such allegations may have drastic effects on the professional future of a professor; that is, possible effective lifetime banishment from the teaching profession.

As you know, a case of this nature involves a number of legal issues. Sexual harassment is but one of these.

If indeed, the professor who allegedly sexually harassed you:

(1) gave you grades of D and F for work which has been independently assessed as deserving much better grades; and

(2) gave you grades which did not adequately reflect his regular marking scheme and which were not representative of the quality of your work relative to other class-mates; and

(3) stated in the presence of others that you would receive grades of no better than D despite the calibre of work, when he had no authority to do so as provided by University Regulations regarding appeals or re-writes; then it may be

clear that he has abused his position and there should be a full investigation into his qualifications as a professor at this university.

If, however, your allegations are unsound, the letter which you had published improperly questions the reputation of this professor. Although you have not referred to him by name, there are probably many people who are aware of this alleged dispute and exactly about whom you are talking. There is no excuse for such an action if your allegations are not based on facts or your honest belief.

Your further allegations that this professor has a history of sexually harassing students, that there have been previous formal complaints and that he is now doing more of the same are extremely serious. In particular, your allegation that he is physically harassing one or more students invokes the question of whether such physical acts contravene the Criminal Code of Canada.

Your letter subjects the Dean of Students to severe criticism and mocks the appeal process, both subjects which are of extreme importance for all students. Such allegations are of such nature to demand full investigation.

If your allegations are well-founded, then you shall have interested persons who will support your case and your cause. Such alleged activity by staff and administration cannot go unfettered. However, if your case is unsound, then you may expect exactly the response that is justly warranted.

We request that you contact any of the under-signed at or in care of Ludlow Hall. We are ready and willing to listen and pursue the matter. We also request the Dean of Students to respond to these allegations and to make himself available to us so that we may discuss the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Falk LLB2  
Thomas Cunningham LLB2  
Larry Veniot LLB1  
Cindy Howie LLB3  
Ken Oliver LLB2  
Ming J. Fong LLB3  
Ken Oliver LLB1  
Denyse Smart LLB2  
Mary Pat Keskee LLB1  
Robert Rideout LLB2  
Edward L. Derrah LLB2  
C. Davis LLB3  
Nick Panagopoulos  
Kathleen Maragh LLB1  
Suzanne Crawford LLB3

## Library cutbacks pending

To all students:

Having just read the articles concerning the library cutbacks in last week's Brunswickan and Aquinian, I feel compelled to write openly to all students on this matter. As both a student and a member of the Senate Library Committee, I am concerned with the present situation regarding cutbacks. How can the library be considered as a support service? Which is more important; a resourceful library or a new fleet of lawnmowers for the Physical Plant? We must establish priorities; and from my experience, it seems that the Senate is reluctant to do this.

The library is the nucleus of any university - UNB included - and truly, no learning could take place in its absence. To my way of thinking, this fact should be blatantly obvious to anyone! Apparently this is not so. The concern for the situa-

tion is just as Prof. Tony Rhineland (Chairman, Senate Library Committee) stated in the Aquinian (March 24) "... the UNB faculty is unwilling to stick their necks out and support the library. ..."

Upon consultation with Prof. Rhineland and other members of the Library Committee, it was decided that the students should be made more aware of this situation, hence the two articles. It is now the hope of the Committee that, with the voice of the student body behind it, more of an impact can be made on Senate so that they will realize the gravity of the library's plight.

If you have any comments or concerns on this matter, please forward them to Box 43, Lady Beaverbrook Residence, UNB Campus.

Sincerely,

J. Jeff Williams

### USED BOOKS

Please Don't Throw Them Away!

The University Women's Club raises money for scholarships each fall at the annual Book Fair. All your books are gladly received and can be left at the campus post office.