

Vancouver has Canada's highest rape rate

VANCOUVER (CUP) - "Protecting Yourself Against Rape" is the subject of more and more articles, pamphlets and group discussion, and "unfortunately" is required study for women today.

Rape is a part of living in a competitive, aggressive, violent society: you deal with the symptoms and feel helpless about the cause.

This is the feeling of Connie Bagnall of the Vancouver Rape Relief Centre. According to her, rape is now the most widely committed violent crime in North America and British Columbia has the highest rate in Canada.

"Rapes reported to the police have doubled in the last couple of years," she says, adding that not

only does this reflect the increase in the number of rapes (it is estimated that one of five are reported) but also shows a greater willingness of people to talk about assault or rape.

"Rape will not stop, no matter what individual women or groups of women do," Bagnall said, "until societal definitions of male and female roles change."

"Men are seen as controllers or initiators of sexual encounters; women as passive and dependent. Rape comes from the need to push someone around, from the sexual myths about getting women to 'give-in' that are perpetuated in so many movies," she said.

"Sixty to 80 percent of rapes arise out of casual encounters,"

she reports.

"The victim is invited somewhere by an acquaintance ... where someone she trusts. Her refusal to submit to advances is not seen as honest; it is assumed to be a 'feminine' game she is playing. A person just has to be wary about the situation she gets into with casual acquaintances, to avoid this type of rape," Bagnall suggests.

Her suggested precautions against aggression of street rape or those resulting from breaking and entering include not walking alone at night, and being careful about open doors and windows.

"Self-defense training can be helpful too," she said, "but don't count on it on a crisis. Everyone responds to an attack differently,

and the best advice is just to follow your instincts, use your head."

Rape Relief has researched alternative methods of handling rape in court with some interesting results.

Their legal counsel has confirmed the suggestion that if a rape victim were to lay assault charges under the Civil Code, rather than rape charges under the Criminal Code, some of the worst aspects of the court case might be overcome.

"The rape victim," Bagnall explains, "would not be a witness in these cases. Rather she would be a plaintiff, able to have her own lawyer, and the same protection that the judicial system offers the defendant."

"It would take the sexual connotation out of the case," she said. "Police procedure would remain the same, but investigation of the victim's sexual background and the 'consent issue' would not become the focus of the trial."

As a civil case, Bagnall said, the penalty would be damages paid to the victim by the rapist rather than a jail sentence that goes with conviction for rape under the Criminal Code.

Anti-rape legislation approved

EDMONTON (CUP) - Rape legislation was approved by the University of Alberta students council October 20 after some background information and recommendations were introduced by Len Zoeteman, Agriculture rep.

Council will be asking the University Board of Governors to provide better lighting, particularly in the area between the nurses residence and the hospital, and

request that the area be patrolled when the nurses come off shift.

A request was made to various campus organizations to do a study and pinpoint other problem areas.

"We have a fairly serious problem of rape on the campus," said Kim McKenzie of Student Help. "The incidence of rape is increasing every year."

He felt the problem was particularly serious in that "it has

lots of emotional aftermath."

After attending a conference on rape held this summer McKenzie is convinced the university is "one of the top three most likely areas of rape in the city."

As most cases of rape are not reported, there are no exact statistics available about occurrence on campus, but Student Help became aware of about twenty cases last year.

"I personally feel that if there's a study done on it there will be conclusive proof to support measures taken," McKenzie said.

He felt the potential for rape on campus is greatly due to the layout of the buildings, the many dark corners, inadequate lighting and other factors.

Student Help is not the only group who feels this way. "Rape seems to be on the upswing and women seem more and more afraid to say anything about it," says Elizabeth Hnatyshyn of the Womens Programme Centre.

"We've discussed it and we think the lighting on parts of campus is inadequate."

Both groups feel that the issue should receive high priority on campus.

McKenzie strongly recommended that adequate lighting be installed and that certain measures be developed to handle rape cases, particularly as most women will not report them.

He also felt some sort of plan should be developed for campus security which would include having more security patrols in certain areas.

Student Help and the Womens Programme Centre plan to work together to provide some sort of supportive measure for rape cases.

Francophones fight for lack of concern

SUDBURY (CUP) - Francophone students at this city's community colleges have organized to fight what they see as a lack of concern for Francophone students' needs and rights on the part of local and provincial administrations.

The group of Cambrian College student, tentatively called the Francophone Students Committee, say their grievances relate to both internal and external matters.

On the external, or provincial level, courses which are promoted in the calendar as being taught in French are in fact taught in English, and there is an extreme lack of French-language reference material in the college library, according to committee member, Richard Pajulnoma.

In addition, the calendar is misleading as to which courses and programs are French and which are bilingual, he said.

The distinction between bilingual and French programs is essential, because of the different job opportunities the two programs offer, said Pajulnoma.

The lack of French-language reference materials makes studying difficult for students who are forced to consult English language texts for courses taught in French, he explained. Additional problems are experienced because the French materials originate in Quebec, in a dialect different from that spoken by Cambrian College's predominantly Ontario Francophones.

The students presented presented these grievances and demands for their resolution to the provincial community college administrative body, the Board of Regents, when they visited the campus last week.

The demands also included grievances of local nature, noting that although Cambrian was defined as a bilingual college, "all

signs and services" were in English only.

There are no French cultural activities on campus, from either the administration or the Student Administrative Council (SAC), said Pajulnoma, after the presentation. He described the Board of Regents' response to the submissions as "favourable".

Although he described the SAC as anglo-dominated, Pajulnoma said the council is offering "all the support they can."

He said the committee, which will continue meeting in the future, and has plans of forming a permanent body, would work towards affiliation with the SAC.

The Francophone students do not wish to see a split between themselves and the Anglophone students, as is the case at neighbouring Laurentian University, he said.

Last Year Laurentian's Francophone student seceded from the Students General Association, forming l'Association des Etudiants Francophones.

Nominations are being accepted for the following SRC positions

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| President (1/2 term) | 1 Engineering Rep |
| 1 Business Rep (1/2 term) | 1 Graduate Rep |
| 1 Business Rep (1/2 term) | 1 Graduate Rep (1/2 term) |
| 1 Business Rep (full term) | 1 Forestry Rep |
| 1 Computer Science Rep | 1 Physical Education Rep |
- Final date for nominations is Nov. 14.
Election date is Nov. 26.
- Election returning officer:
W. Batanyita
453-4955 (SRC office)
or
454-5021 (rm. 214 Neville)

Memo From HARVEY Studios

If you can't say it... Show it!

Give a HARVEY Graduation Photo for Christmas.

Dial 455-9415

HARVEY Studios
372 Queen St.

Le Sista presents

THE JASON BANNING!

SIX MEN AND ONE WOMAN ON A THRILL-CRAZY JOYRIDE OF CRIME AND VICE!

starring

Bob Harper as "Rough Trade", Steve Smith, Morag Smith, Randy Ross, Ron Read, and introducing Bob Wright and Ken Bowes.