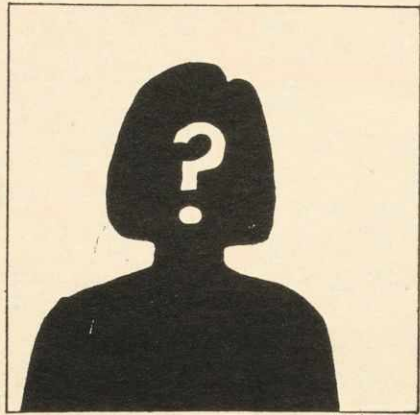


Wanted: intelligence

WANTED



KKJH HOGW

ANGELINE L. FOURRETTE

A.K.A. DESOLEE, FEMME LEGITIME

FOR: "MANSLAUGHTER"

ASSAULT CAUSING FRATERNITY HARM

POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS EGO

IMPAIRMENT WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR MOUTH

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THIS PERSON, PLEASE CALL 1-800-NO-XCUSE

ALL CALLS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Wanted: a good reason for distributing this poster.

advise women to be wary of dating men since date rape is not infrequent. It would even have to caution women against associating with men, since most incidents of sexual assault are not by strangers on the street, but by men we know. What advice would it give about women living in traditional family situations, since one girl in eight is a victim of incest?

And what should we say to women considering jobs with male supervisors, or courses with male professors? Are sexual innuendos, leering, touching, propositions and other forms of sexual harassment also to be blamed on what women wear to work and to class?

It is true that women are not safe on the streets — or in our homes, our workplaces, our campuses. If we look to women's or girls' clothing to explain why this happens, we will never change it.

Sexual assault and sexual harassment are not about sex, they are about power and the abuse of power. The problem lies in the socialization of men to confuse sex and power, to eroticize women and not to take women seriously.

If we are to help women avoid sexual assault and sexual harassment our advice has to be based on encouraging women to be

both cautious and powerful. To believe we have a right to say NO and to back it up, to believe we have a right to be impolite, or even mean in self-defense, even if it contradicts all our training to be nice. This is a more productive approach than reinforcing powerlessness and self-blame.

Barbara Harris

Chair

Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee

Wanted: some tact

To the Gazette:

I would like to comment on the statements made by Mr. Bob Bagg, regarding bookstore prices, in the October 5 edition of *The Gazette*.

I found the attitude towards students implied by Mr. Bagg, and the language he used to express himself, highly offensive. Regardless of the strength of his feelings, there was no need to state them in such a primitive and disrespectful manner.

Although I do not agree with Mr. Bagg, I appreciate the points he has brought up. Hopefully, in the future, however he will use some tact in stating his position.

Sincerely,

Christina MacKinnon

This is dangerous.

If the person (or people) responsible for posting this notice around campus thinks he is doing men or fraternities a favour, he is sadly deluded. Such a frightening display of intolerance and stupidity serves no purpose but to insult the intelligence of the entire Dalhousie community.

We at the *Gazette* value our education. We came to Dalhousie to learn something. To us that means listening to and respecting the thoughts and concerns of other people, especially those of our fellow students.

The "debate" which has run through the letters section of this newspaper, and has sadly culminated in the distribution of the above poster, started with a letter denouncing the men of Dalhousie for their sexist and harassing behaviour.

Clearly, not all the men at Dalhousie are sexist. But many of those who are, instead of welcoming the opportunity to reflect on their own behaviour, have responded with defensiveness and even outright hatred.

Others have reacted constructively. The members of the Phi Kappa Pi fraternity, for example, have vowed to be more vigilant at their parties in the hope of limiting the sexist and abusive behaviour they admit occasionally occurs at such events. For this we commend them.

For the most part, however, the discussion over Angeline Fourrette's letter of September 28 has degenerated to a point that we can no longer justify contributing to it. We will print no more letters on the matter.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ariella Pahlke | Erin Goodman | Robert Uthe |
| Jane Hamilton | Bob Keeler | Stuart Flinn |
| Katrina Greutz | Jennifer Greutz | Alistair Croll |
| Alex Burton | Munju Ravindra | Barbara Leiterman |
| Mare Jo Boyce | Sandy MacKay | Jeff Harrington |
| Shannon Gowans | Scott Randall | Sarah Greig |
| Allison Johnston | Miriam Korn | Erica Pare |
| Paul Beasy | Irfan Mian | Caroline Kolompar |
| Victoria Wosk | Brian Receveur | Hetta Gobular |

o p i n i o n

Richter Madness

Last Tuesday a devastating earthquake hit the San Francisco Bay area. Television cameras were there to film the destruction wrought by one of the worst natural disasters in American history. The most damaged was a two-tiered section of highway which collapsed onto the lower tier, resulting in the tragic deaths of many of those trapped in their vehicles. The freeway was a fairly modern structure which was believed to be able to withstand the effects of an earthquake. The San Francisco area is situated in an earthquake-hazardous zone; the fear of pending disaster is ever-present and very real. Tuesday's earthquake was not expected, but anyone listening to interviews on the news of those who experienced it were made aware of the acceptance and coping ability of the people of this

region. However, I found it startling to hear so many people questioning why the freeway and a section of the bridge collapsed. Yes, it was claimed that the modern structures could withstand much more stress and hold fast under earthquake conditions. It is not the first time in history that we have believed ourselves capable of building something so advanced it would conquer the forces of nature — remember the Titanic?

There was a time when humans were in awe of the beauty and power of nature, unlike present-day society, which seems to have ignored these and blindly gone ahead with supreme confidence in our own abilities. Do we believe we have overcome, surpassed, and can now control the forces of nature? An earthquake striking a major urban centre is

obviously going to have catastrophic results. Instead of calling for inquiries into why the structures were not built to withstand the impact, shouldn't we focus on the urgency of coping in emergency situations?

I understand that technology has advanced us to the point where we can now save lives that a decade ago would have been lost, that communication worldwide is almost instantaneous, that structures can withstand more stress than ever before, that the world can be blown up many times over. I do not dispute that science and technology have made some incredible gains. What I question is that increasingly we are led to believe that we are indestructible.

Joanie Veitch