

# EDITORIAL

Frosh week is for fun – meeting people, goofing off, and settling in to a new town and lifestyle. Many students we talked to said this year's frosh week has been great, offering lots of exciting events and activities.

Some students are pleased the frosh committee is making a conscious effort to reduce alcohol consumption and promote safer sex. Condoms in frosh packs are super, but now it's time to go even further.

First year students experience a new independence – no parents, no curfew, no rules. They must also remember that respecting each other's decisions and diversity is part of the deal. It's when communication breaks down that problems arise, and things like date rape become a reality.

Statistics show that incidents of date rape on campus are highest during the first few weeks of school.

Although sexual harassment and date rape information is available to students in frosh packs or in the Welcome Show, more attention is warranted. Many students don't read frosh pack information during frosh week; they are too busy.

Students should be exposed to more date rape information at the start of frosh week. The opening ceremonies could include a short (five minute) serious presentation on date rape, by Dal's Sexual Harassment Committee. This would also introduce students to this committee for future reference.

The conduct of frosh leaders is also important. Contracts limiting drinking and sex with frosh are a positive step in increasing leaders' awareness. In the future workshops about sexual harassment, date rape, racism, homophobia, and other social issues would enable leaders to be more responsive to all frosh.

Frosh week activities could be more diverse. Most activities are geared towards the mainstream student: straight, just out of high school and living on their own for the very first time. For these people, frosh week has achieved its goal, but does this goal appeal to all frosh?

For people who don't like large groups or a party atmosphere, there are few alternatives. Some students suggested alternative events to coincide with parties. How about a Wormwood's movie night at the same time as the harbour cruise, or opening Dalplex to informal sports activities like volleyball or swimming games?

Congratulations on the changes so far, let's hope next year Frosh Week is more accessible and enjoyable for all students.

Shannon Gowans and Lara Morris



## DON'T IGNORE THE ISSUES JOIN THE GAZETTE

### OPINION

Opinions expressed in **The Gazette** are not necessarily those of the staff or editorial collective of the paper. We welcome opinion pieces; they should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 500 words.

## Be aware of sexual assault

Sexual abuse is a very strange phenomenon. At first you think it doesn't affect you. Then someone you know gets molested in a frat, or you go to a party and have to drag an acquaintance off a woman because (when drunk) they just don't understand the meaning of the word no. Soon you realize the concept is not as distant as it seems; statistically, one of the six women closest to you will be raped in the next year. You probably know a lot more assault victims than you think!

On Friday night, I witnessed a man engaged in a shouting match with a woman outside of the Club Flamingo. I looked on with about a dozen others, presuming the whole affair to be a domestic dispute. In the crowd's mind, the two knew each other, therefore everything was alright. They were just blowing-off a little steam.

It wasn't until the man started swinging an umbrella at the woman that I realized how drastically skewed the entire situation was. In fact, the man did not know the woman, and he was simply attacking her without any provocation whatsoever. It took a violent act to bring



the crowd to her aid and the man was presently subdued without getting a chance to harm the woman.

The horrible thing about the entire affair is it took violence to provoke any response whatsoever from a young crowd of students. Nobody did anything until it was almost too late. All was kosher, because it looked like a domestic dispute.

Society is scared to step in because a mistake might be embarrassing. Isn't the chance to help a human being avoid the permanent scars of abuse enough to balance the fear of making a mistake?

It's hard to know when to offer assistance. I was scared to do anything. I just stood there in a daze. Maybe I won't next time.

Be on the alert for sexual abuse. Don't be afraid to act with your conscience.

Chris Lambie



*We know it's not Xmas  
We know we're not Santa  
But send us a letter  
We'll give you a Fanta*

*The Gazette wants letters,  
However you feel  
Just 300 words  
We'll make you a deal*

*Typed, double-spaced  
An expression of you  
Done while you paced  
Or while you shampoo*

*Drop off at our office  
Third floor of the SUB  
Later you'll read  
Your words in the tub*

# THE GAZETTE

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