

Man banned from campus

by Gazette staff

A man banned from the Dalhousie campus two years ago for verbally assaulting women and disrupting classes has been charged with common assault after allegedly attacking a female faculty member of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) Oct. 2.

The man is undergoing psychiatric examination at the Nova Scotia Hospital in Dartmouth. A tentative trial date has been set for Nov. 6.

There have been a number of recent reports of an individual matching the description of the accused verbally assaulting women at both the Dalhousie and NSCAD campuses.

Sandy MacDonald, Director of Dalhousie Security, said there have been a total of four reports at Dalhousie.

In two of the incidents, female students reported a man making misogynistic remarks in the Dalhousie Student Union Building (SUB).

On Sept. 29, the man reportedly approached a female employee in the SUB.

"I asked him if he needed any help," said the employee.

She said he responded by saying, "You women need the help. You feminists need the help."

On Oct. 1, the man reportedly returned to campus and verbally assaulted a female staff person in the law school lounge.

Later the same day, he was spotted back in the Dalhousie SUB and was "banned" by Dalhousie Security under the Protection of Properties Act.

MacDonald declined to give information about the other two incidents.

However, sources told the Gazette that a man matching the description of the banned individual returned to the Dalhousie campus four days later and caused a disturbance in the Sociology building.

Although MacDonald said "he was never sighted on campus again [after the banning]" and Halifax Correctional Services said the man was in custody on Oct. 5, witnesses insist an incident occurred that day with an individual matching the man's description.

In another incident, a man fitting the description of the banned man allegedly entered the NSCAD library on Sept. 28. He reportedly insulted a woman and made racist statements.

"The man talked about women as fetus killers and Nazis," said a NSCAD student present during the incident.

He allegedly approached an Asian student and said, "Oh, a Chinese maiden, we know about you dears."

During the incident, a number of women left the library, disturbed by the tension created.

A woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, told the Gazette she was verbally assaulted by a man when she was leaving the SUB on Sept. 28.

"A man entering the SUB called me a fucking ugly lesbo bitch," she said.

The student said she was scared and shocked by the man's comments.

"If I'd known about him, I wouldn't have yelled back, he could have swung around and slugged me," she said.

Rumours

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The Student Union Executive addressed the reports of a man harassing women on campus at a recent meeting and decided appropriate steps had been taken, said Pottier.

However, some students disagreed with the student union's approach.

"I think it's time people stop being afraid of causing panic amongst potential victims and start making people aware of this unacceptable behaviour going on," said a member of the Dalhousie Women's Group.

"It's interesting to see that whenever there's a rash of thefts on campus, people are informed, but there is never any word about physical or sexual abuse, or rape on campus ... we all know it happens," said another student, who

also wished to remain anonymous.

The Gazette was told the Public Relations Office was not informed by Dalhousie Security of women willing to lay a complaint. But at least one victim expressed her willingness to press charges against the man allegedly responsible for these incidents.

"I was interviewed by Security and told them what happened, and that I was willing to press charges," said the woman.

Security told the woman there were not enough grounds to make the charges stick.

"Universities better realize that women aren't taking this shit any more, and we're fighting back," said a Dalhousie law student.

"Look at the woman in Toronto who is suing the Toronto police for not informing her that she was a potential rape victim. The universities may be at risk for that themselves."



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