

EDITORIAL

by Allan Carter

Agreeing to disagree appeared to be the theme the other evening at a small gathering of people who were involved in the controversial dismissal of Valerie Kilfoil from the Engineering committee which is planning an event in memory of the Montreal Massacre. Valerie Kilfoil is a member of the UNB Wimmin's Collective and a student at UNB. The meeting was held so that all parties and individuals involved, in one way or another, could have a chance to discuss the issues together and share their different viewpoints. In attendance at this meeting were representatives from the Brunswickan, members of the Engineering Committee, a member of the Wimmin's Collective, and three members of STU and UNB Campus Ministry. I decided not to name anyone in this editorial because it was agreed upon at the meeting that the discussion would be held in confidence.

I was disappointed that some of the people who were directly involved in Kilfoil's removal were not present.

However, while the group discussed Kilfoil's removal, several other issues arose. For instance, another memorial service will be held at St. Thomas and the Wimmin's Collective, along with several other organizations and individuals, will be supporting this initiative.

It became clear to me at the meeting that people have many different and varied opinions on violence against women and, in particular, the Montreal Massacre. The other evening an attempt was made to bring these contrasting opinions together into one room and discuss them. On that level, the meeting was very productive and can be deemed a success. But the fact remains that members of the university community have become divided on this issue and it will take more than a few meetings to resolve these differences. Moreover, these differences will not go away, because while memorials for the Montreal Massacre are held only once a year, violence against women, unfortunately, occurs everyday of the year.

For now, however, some progress has been made - there has been an agreement

to disagree. Nevertheless, I still disagree with Kilfoil's removal and hope that the engineering committee will strive again next year to include all concerned groups when planning the memorial service. An attempt was made this year to include on the memorial organizing committee different groups and individuals in order to address all the concerns surrounding this issue. Unfortunately, that attempt failed.

Hopefully, next year's committee will also make an attempt to invite the interested groups and individuals to help plan the memorial service. Further, one also hopes that the committee will realize that while not everyone may hold the same views on violence against women, groups and organizations can still work together to try to reach at least one shared goal: to remember the female engineering students who were killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989 and to remind ourselves that violence against women is not acceptable in any form.



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