

EDITORIAL



The issues of rape, sexual assault, harrassment, and abuse are serious ones and, as of late, ones that have come under scrutiny. One incident of assault and another of sexual assault were reported on the weekend of September 27 and 28. In both instances, professional counselling and medical assistance were provided to the victims, neither of whom was hospitalized.

Officials at the University of New Brunswick are concerned about the safety of female students who walk alone at night on campus. This is an excerpt from a press release issued by the UNB Department of Public Relations and Information on October 1.

The Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre would like to address the Student Council of UNB on the problems of prevention of sexual assault on Campus. This is an excerpt from a note from the Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre (FRCC) also dated October 1.

Public Relations and Information, in their release, chose to elaborate on measures that are being implemented to improve upon existing conditions. They are also looking at a program of seminars for female students that is being organized by the UNB Student Services in conjunction with the FRCC.

The FRCC did not issue a press release but an emotional, highly motivating, handwritten letter expressing, not only concern, but upgraded tactics to prevent rape, sexual assault, harrassment and abuse. In their letter, the FRCC put forward several proposals, some of which already exist but all of which can be improved upon. They propose the following measures be implemented immediately.

1. That an effective buddy system be started in female residences. The word 'buddy' is self-explanatory.
2. A well organized, well publicized escort system be set up in men's residences that will upgrade the present system. The FRCC adds that the men's residences taking part should be identified physically in a specific manner and the whereabouts of an on-duty escort should be well controlled by the residence. This narrows the problem of reports of harrassment by the escort. Another recommendation...that the male residences taking part should switch off every month.
3. That UNB Security, and Campus Police be well informed about sexual harrassment, sexual assault, etc. Towards this end the FRCC would be pleased to offer each an information seminar on the topics.
4. That a program for off-campus students, whereby they can benefit by an escort service, be initiated.

I could go on and on but suffice to say that Public Relations and Information and the FRCC agree that more and brighter lights be installed to illuminate dark corners of campus and that there should be more Campus Police patrolling areas around the buildings on Campus. How do they justify what could be a rather large expenditure? **PREVENTION.**

In many instances the campus protects the students. That is to say incidents take place, (some of them serious) little or no punitive action is taken and very few people are made aware. Things tend to get 'glossed' over up the hill. The interest expressed by the Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre is a step forward toward a more educated student body.

KAREN MAIR



Mugwump

By VALERIE WHITE
Managing Editor

Journal

Well it's Friday which means that yesterday I took some time to sit down and write this column. And I might add that it was very valuable time because it's getting to that stage in the academic term where every professor thinks the only course you are enrolled in is his and he therefore takes the liberty of piling on lengthy assignments. Oh well, after all, it is Friday and the weekend is here and there's plenty of things to look forward to... (Working all day Saturday and Sunday, writing an English essay, reading 3 chapters of psych... fun, fun, fun!)

On to a happier note. The "Man in Motion" Rick Hanson will be in Fredericton tomorrow. He is due to arrive at Town Hall about 4:00 p.m. I urge all of you who can to go and meet him. I'm not going to tell you to support Rick because he is fighting for a worthy cause because you all know that spinal cord research is a good cause. Support him for his mere dedication. I can't think of anyone who would venture on such a trip solely for the purpose of helping others. Let's face it, most of us wouldn't even dream of such a thing, and most of us aren't physically disabled.

Actually there are a lot of things to look forward to this weekend. Tonight, the engineers are holding the Annual Coaster Derby Pub in the SUB cafeteria. It promises to be a great time so hopefully the crowds will turn out in droves. I hope so because I would hate to see yet another engineering tradition fade away as so many have done in the past. Ever a popular event such as Engineering week is suffering from student apathy and increasing university restrictions. First the Engineering Handbook was trashed (even though it was said to be incredibly sexist); then Lady Godiva was banned (not that I care to see her); and now there are problems with holding the beer brewing contest on campus and the Coaster Derby race has been changed somewhat- no longer are participants required to chug a beer at pitstops. All of these things may seem fairly stupid and perhaps they never should have been permitted in the first place but that is not the point. If this keeps up there won't be an Engineering Week.

Yes there are all kinds of events going on around campus this weekend which means there will be plenty of people wandering home to their apartment, residences, or whatever, late at night. After the news I received concerning the sexual assaults on campus last weekend I feel compelled to offer a few words of advice. I know there is no sense in lecturing on the topic because we all have our own views on rape and sexual assault and there aren't too many of us who support it. I wish there was no need for warnings, but it seems there is. Please girls, don't walk home alone. Save enough money for a cab. If you live within walking distance, beg someone to walk home with you. Surely the friends you spent the entire evening with will be considerate enough to walk you home safely. Don't even take the chance of walking to your car alone. The SUB parking lot is dark and there is plenty of room for assailants to hide. Try to park close a building or at least under a street light. I have nothing but praise for those mens residences who are rejuvenating their escort services. At least there are a few decent men out there (I think).

It's time to turn to a lighter topic. I'm getting way too serious. Speaking of men - I hope everyone has read this week's VIEWPOINT. What a great question! I don't even want to attempt to answer it because once I get started... However, a good friend of mine who complains about never being interviewed for VIEWPOINT has given me her answer. What (the hell) is the problem with men? They all have girlfriends back home! Don't worry guys, you'll get your chance next week when we ask, "What the hell is the problem with women?"

Hey Grads! Did you know that Monday night is the OOZE CRUISE!!! I don't know about you, but I think it's one of the best GRADCLASS events there is. Since this is my last year I plan on 'indulging' in all the events I can.

On a final note -- too bad CHSR! You lost -- again. When it comes to football, you don't stand a chance. Oh well, maybe next year, but I doubt it.