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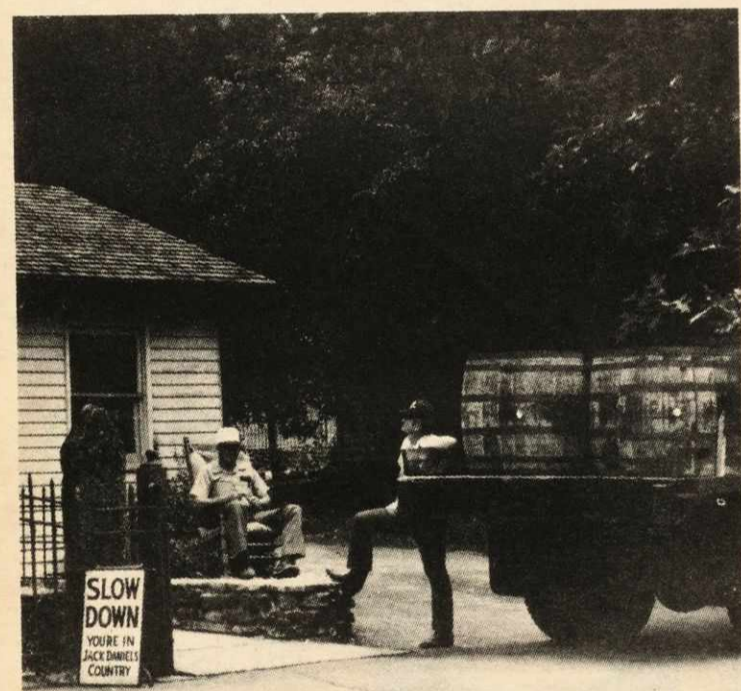
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Pick up tips from Council Prez

by Nadene Rehnby

VANCOUVER (CUP) - A student council president who offered tips on picking up women in a local daily newspaper is under fire for his sexist attitude.

In the Vancouver Province's relationships column Sept. 6, University of British Columbia student council president Kurt Preinsperg offered "31 hints to get you off to a better start with the women of your choice."

Rule 14 reads: "Don't persist when a woman says no. Generally, do not ask twice." Another advises, "When you've made love, don't run to your buddies, gossiping about intimate details."

Linda Shout, coordinator of UBC's women's centre, said she was appalled by Preinsperg's

comments. "To have the president of the students' society start putting forward views that promote unequal power relationships is simply very dangerous," Shout said.

"[Preinsperg's] premise here seems to be that everything that you do in a relationship with a woman is some sort of a pretense in order to let you get into bed with her. It sets sex up as the ultimate goal."

For his part, Preinsperg said he stands by his comments.

"People may not agree with my ideas, but I do try to make the world a better place for women," he said. "There will always be people who feel threatened by this sort of honesty."

Preinsperg said he would like

women to speak to him in person about the article. "I doubt that many would construe it in this utterly absurd way," he said.

But Shout said the views expressed by Preinsperg are threatening to women.

"Women [come to the women's centre] because they often find that the university community is not very friendly to women - both in an academic and a social environment," she said.

"When this sort of stuff starts coming out... it makes it even more difficult for women to go out there into that community and feel safe."

She said there has been an overwhelming response from women at the centre. "Women here are certainly going to take this up with the Ombudsoffice," she said.

Some formal complaints have been filed against Preinsperg, according to ombudsperson Carole Forsythe.

Kathy Tait, the relationships columnist who printed the hints, introduced the column by saying, "How can I get a date with a woman? men continually ask me. Often they're men in one of the best hunting grounds in the world - college or university."

In an interview, Tait said there was nothing sexist about the column.

"How anyone could twist that (article) into sexism, I don't know," she said. "I really think this stuff about sexism has gone too far."

She said the response must have come from younger women. "You just don't hear this sort of thing from women in their late 20's and 30's," she said.

Tait also said this attitude is caused by young women's "lack of being comfortable with their own sexuality" and "lack of confidence."

March

continued from page 1

also. "All the women walking along was like a snowball going downhill, gathering strength... when we got to the end of the March we were a strong group, with great energy," says Gray.

Although the March is for women and children only, men also play a role in addressing the issue. "Men can educate themselves about violence. They can stop supporting pornography. They can listen to what women have to say," says Meek. Gray wants to eventually see women and men working together, but in the meantime "they can volunteer to babysit so their women friends can go on the March".

As violence against women continues to pervade our society Gray hopes that this year's march will encourage people to open their minds and hearts. "Society's biggest problem is ignorance. There is a lack of knowledge and understanding."

For March details see Gazette Calendar, page 15.

Taxed

continued from page 1

several professors questioned did not know that it existed.

Finn Sander, the administrative officer dealing with the budget, said some biology 1000 students were told about the 15 per cent tax on last year's lab books (although most questioned were unaware). He said Kimmins told him how much to cut this year and the strategy for the cut last year.

Because of the 15 per cent increase last year the lab manual increase this year was only 4.2 per cent, raised up to five per cent to even the total surcharge to 20 per cent.

Meanwhile, students are being urged by DABS President Smith to drop by the DABS office and sign the protest against the fee levy. Smith says he welcomes alternate suggestions for the department. "There is nothing in the constitution to prevent this from happening again. They are at liberty to choose whatever methods they like," said Smith.

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