

Symposium discusses student sexual issues

by Samantha Brennan

"It's great--just like the Phil Donahue Show," commented one student during the symposium on student sexuality held Sept. 9 in the Students' Union Building. While speakers presented several controversial issues, from sexual harassment to birth control, a roving mike on the floor enable students to present

their views and ask questions.

After the Molnes Room screening of "Killing Us Softly", a film concerned with the negative image of women in advertising, students moved to the Green Room to hear the speakers and discuss the film. Among the speakers were Ken Burke from the Dalhousie Gazette speaking on pornography, Tony Laidlaw from the faculty of education speaking on sexual harassment,

Kim Turner from the office of the Ombudsman and Judy Hayashi from Psychological and Counselling Services. Dr. Johnson, Director of University Health Services, concluded the symposium with Joe's Traveling Sex Show, a presentation on student sexuality and contraception.

According to a United Nations report, advertising is the worst offender for creating and perpetuating sexual stereotypes in society. This is the theme of "Killing Us Softly", a filmed slide presentation by Jean Kilbourne, showing ads portraying women, and at times men, in damaging stereotypes.

The most shocking slides were those documenting the trend towards violence in advertising. A series of Christian Dior ads shows women being bitten by a Doberman Pinscher on the wrists and ankles. Others link sex and violence with words, not photographs. An ad for a gun holster, portraying a buxom lass, reads "Put your gun into something soft," associating male sexuality with aggressiveness and female sexuality with submission.

Audience reaction to "Killing Us Softly" ranged from outrage to confusion. One student asked "Why are we screaming about ads anyway? Their only purpose is to sell a product."

Continuing the trend of discussion about sexual exploitation, former Gazette editor Ken Burke spoke on the topic of pornography. "We have to recognize pornography for what it is--it's not about sex but about control," said Burke.

Toni Laidlaw, a member of the Presidential advisory committee on sexual harassment, spoke about the problem by citing past examples of sexual harassment that occurred at Dalhousie. Laidlaw related the case of a student asked out by their professor who made it clear the student would get better grades if they agreed. Another less obvious example is that of a female student in a primarily male faculty where slides of Playboy models were often interspersed with academic ones. After relating each case, Laidlaw emphasized her point by saying, "Please don't disregard it--the problem will only get

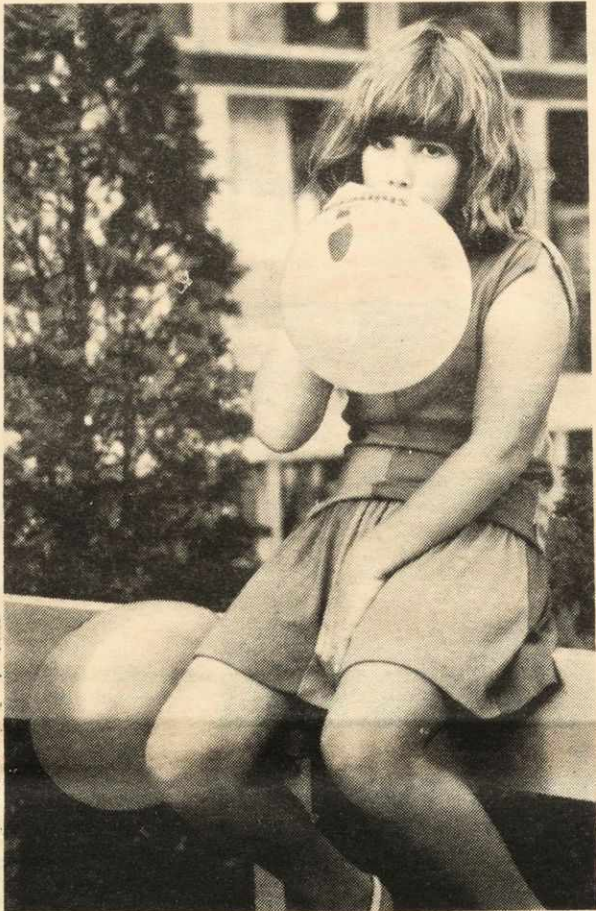
worse."

Although the recommendations from the advisory committee for procedures to follow in the case of suspected sexual harassment have not yet been accepted, the committee urges all affected students to come forward and speak to Laidlaw or another committee member.

Kim Turner from the office of the ombudsman informed the audience of the role the office can play in helping students. The ombudsman is there to act as an advocate for students, she explained, adding "Alone we have no power; we need your complaints."

The head of Psychological and Counselling Services, Judy Hayashi, outlined how the centre could help those who have been sexually harassed or raped.

Dr. Joe's Travelling Sex Show concluded the symposium by providing students with a rational look at choices, sexuality and contraception.

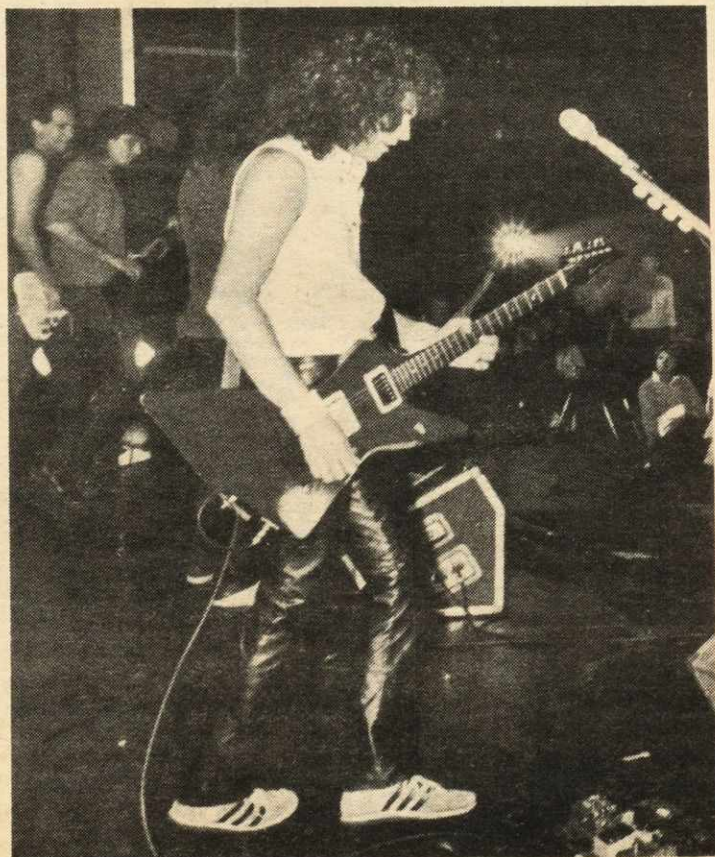


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Yep, one of the best Orientations ever.



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Sheriff Boston-like in Super SUB big bang

by Dr. Ditty

Music filled the air and beer filled the bellies as hordes of students made their way into last Saturday's Super Sub Explosion. Generally speaking, the beer drinking had the upper hand over the music making, but we will discuss the music.

Let us begin with headliners Sheriff. They are a band from Ontario, and quite simply their sound can be described as a commercial Canadian power rock version of Boston. Clad in typical rock attire, they blasted out songs from their first album and from their upcoming second album. Particularly impressive in their performance were lead vocalist Freddy Curci's rich voice and Steven DeMarchi's guitar wizardry. They accompanied each other splendidly. Utilizing many of the guitar world's bag of tricks, DeMarchi and Curci drew particular attention from the audience. The entertainment level was aroused, and it did not take long for the dance floor to fill. "When I'm With You," their

hit single, created the mood and atmosphere for the waltz. I won't be so rude as to leave out Arnold Lanni, their keyboardist, who admirably provided ample background and solid support. The bottom end was filled by drummer Robert Elliott and bassist Wolf Hassel. Fault is very evident in their trite, overly simplistic lyrics, and their lack of uniqueness.

While Sheriff was stirring up excitement upstairs, XMEN were downstairs in The Garden, playing a more modern form of pop music. Their songlist included hits by Peter Gabriel, Wall of Voodoo, Duran Duran, XTC, U2 and Roxy Music. With their driving beat, a dance party was born, with surf twists to pogos. Guitarist/vocalist Robert Walsh, bassist Jeffrey Beauchamp, keyboardist Steven Klodt and drummer Michael Alati are a talented group from Montreal. Prominent bass work and rhythmic keyboards were particularly noticeable in their performance. A job well done!

In the Grawood Lounge, vocalist/keyboardist David Roberts and guitarist/keyboardist Bruce Nelson known as Future Shock played to a rather small, less interested audience. This did not hamper their playing, though. Dressed in James Dean shirts, and with shorter hair than that of Sheriff, they played songs by the likes of Duran Duran, The Tenants and A Flock of Seagulls. David is a strong vocalist and the use of rhythm boxes was certainly interesting. Future Shock have talent, but according to their audience size, a two-man band is not very appealing.

For those more interested in some nasty jokes, there was Chris Elliott doing his "thing" in the Green Room. A splendid gentleman Chris is, in the weird sense. Between yodels and rude chit-chat with the audience, he performed some charming ditties with the help of his toy-sized guitar, and mock versions of well-known Top 40 hits. He was a hit himself, and was adored by the audience. Certainly a funny man!