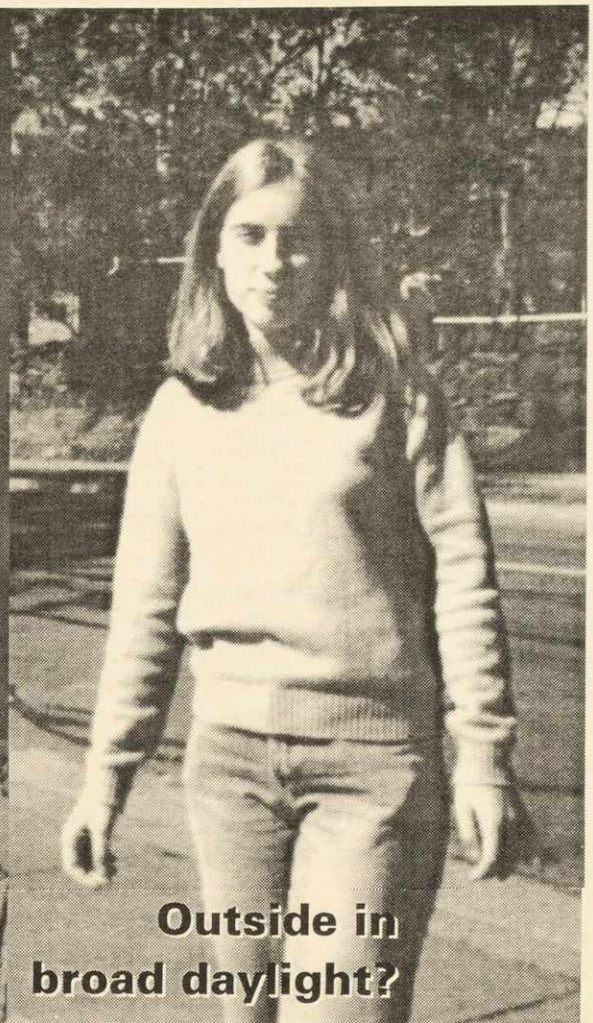




Are these women safe on campus?



Outside in broad daylight?

WEEK OF REFLECTION

BY D.A. KNIGHT

Verbal abuse, assault, and murder are just three examples of the types of violence that female students experience on university campuses.

Contrary to popular belief, this violence is a serious problem which occurs both inside and outside the classroom. It takes the form of "jokes" and "harmless" comments made during lectures, or at parties.

It happens every time a male takes advantage of a drunk female on the dance floor in a bar. It finally provokes public outrage when the horrors of individuals such as Paul Bernardo are brought into the light. Yet, every single person on this campus is living in the shadow of an institutionalized and pervasive evil which remains unacknowledged.

Institutionalized violence against women is illustrated by the comments of Judge David Wild who, in 1982, stated that, "women who say 'no' do not always mean 'no.' It is not just a question of saying 'no.' It's a question of how she says it...if she doesn't want it, she only has to



keep her legs shut and she wouldn't get it without force being used..."

Such sentiments are echoed by the words of Judge Denys Dionne who claimed, during a trial in 1989, that: "Rules are like women; they're made to be violated."

And in 1991, a woman from the University College of Cape Breton was charged by the police

with causing mischief when she reported that she had been gang raped by three fellow students. Only after the ensuing public outcry were the charges against her dropped and the men charged.

Violence against women is a problem that affects universities in Nova Scotia, and across Canada. When Queen's University had its "No means No" campaign to promote education of the issue, signs were posted saying "No means kick her in the teeth." It was December 6th of that same year that a man walked into L'École Polytechnique at the University of Montréal and used a semi-automatic rifle to kill 14 females. This man sent male students out of the classroom and screamed at the ten remaining women: "You're all a bunch of feminists. I hate feminists." He then opened fire, killing six of

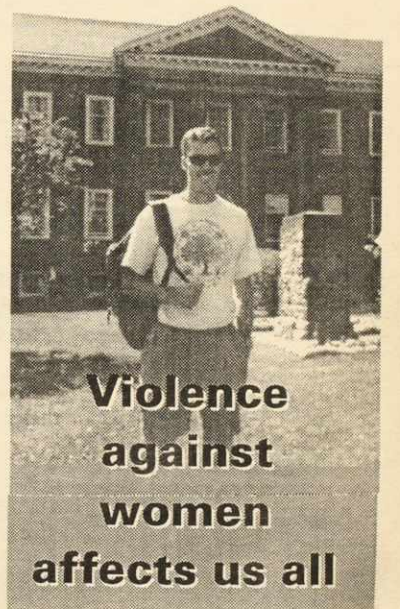


Inside their bedrooms?

them.

Dalhousie University is not immune to the horrors which occur at other educational institutions. Just last year *the Gazette* ran an opinion piece about an incident which occurred in a downtown Halifax bar: while waiting to use a bathroom stall, a guy called "John" watched as another guy walked out doing up his zipper and said "You're next." Inside the stall John found a semi-conscious girl naked from the waist down with her knees spread. He didn't do anything to help her as she stumbled away.

Based upon the fact that women continue to be killed — two every week in Canada at the hands of their boyfriends or husbands — and based upon the



Violence against women affects us all

prevalence of the daily victimization of women which occurs on this campus, the Week of Reflection would seem a good opportunity to learn about and take action to help solve this problem. At the very least, one can wear a purple ribbon. They're free.

Karaz

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SUB room 312