

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

September 10 campus assault fabricated

by Karen Burgess

The Fredericton City Police have concluded that a second of the assaults reported on campus this term was fabricated by the complainant.

The incident, which allegedly occurred on September 10, involved a female St. Thomas University student. The student reported that on the evening in question she was grabbed by a masked assailant who held a knife to her throat, and struggled with her for several minutes before she managed to break free.

On November 20, it was released that another incident, which allegedly occurred outside McConnell Hall on November 3, had been investigated and found to have been fabricated.

Inspector Haines, of the Fredericton Police Department, says that in order for an investigation to be concluded with the decision that the reported incident was fabricated, the complainant must admit that their original complaint was false. This was the case in both the September 10 and November 3 incidences.

At this time, investigations into two other reported assaults are continuing, and police have not yet decided

whether to press charges against those who allegedly fabricated the reports.

The Student Women's Collective released a statement regarding the incident expressing their concerns. "The Student Women's Collective cannot comment on specifics because we do not know the specifics. However, we would like to state that sexual assault has less than a 2% false reporting rate, the same as any other crime."

"Furthermore, we want to emphasize that we always hear of the less than 2%, but never about the 90% of assaults that are not reported, or the one in four women who truly are assaulted."

"We also want people to know that our justice system does not treat women equitably, for example, at U.C.C.B., a young woman who reported a gang rape by three men was grilled for hours by a policeman who said things like 'bullshit' while she told her story. Now the RCMP are being investigated on charges of misconduct in their handling of the case. We would be interested in knowing why the Fredericton Police would have concluded

this case to be unfounded."

UNB Director of Security, Rick Peacock, says that the conclusion reached is regrettable because the police must spend so much time investigating reports, only to

find that the incident was fabricated. He also expressed concerns that the reports will "increase anxiety of females on campus if there are a lot of reported cases which are not legitimized."

We always hear about the less than 2% of false reports and never about the 90% of sexual assaults that are not reported.
- Student Women's Collective

Whipple's contract extended at CHSR

by Allan Carter

A committee formed in October to search for a new station manager for CHSR has yet to meet this term.

According to Jeff London, chair of CHSR's Board of Directors, Jeff Whipple, present station manager will continue in his position until January 15.

Last summer, the Board of Directors decided not to renew Whipple's contract thus opening up the position for new applicants.

While London hopes the committee will meet before Christmas he does not think it will be probable and the January 15 deadline will have to be extended.

"It is entirely up to the Board (of Directors) to extend the deadline. I can see it as a reasonable assumption that the search committee won't return a verdict by January 15," stated London.

And some of the other committee members agree with London and believe it is up to him as chair of the Board to take responsibility in calling a meeting.

Tristis Bhaird, a member of the committee and a CHSR staff member, says that someone has to call a meeting and "I have no idea who that would be if it isn't London."

She also agrees with London that the deadline will have to be extended. "You can't open a nationwide competition and expect to get replies in a week or two," argues Bhaird.

Bhaird believes that the committee has to deal with several issues but "we have to sit first."

Before the committee can begin a national advertising campaign for the position, they must choose a chair for the committee and they must also determine where the funds will come from to initiate an advertising campaign along with determining what the salary should be for the Station Manager position.

James van Raalte, VP Finance of the UNB Student Union and member of the committee is concerned over the funding matter.

van Raalte feels all the issues will have to be dealt with "in one way or another" and the Board of Directors must decide where the money will come from to fund the search and decide on a salary.

He believes the Board of Directors should make a

proposal soon if they decide the "Student Union should foot the bill".

Kathryn Miller, another member of the committee and staff member at the station, was under the impression that London was chair of the committee and feels there are communications problems within the Board.

She believes that there is has been much for the Board to deal with this term at CHSR and this search committee's procedure is one more thing which must be resolved.

Although, presently Whipple is without a written contract and will have an opportunity to reapply for the position if he wishes to do so, he declined to comment on the matter.

CHSR investigates sexual harassment charge

by Allan Carter

Station Manager, Jeff Whipple, has begun a formal investigation into the alleged sexual harassment charge at CHSR-FM.

Apparently, CHSR is not covered under the sexual harassment policy at UNB since they are an independent organization under federal jurisdiction.

Jeff London, Vice President of the STU Student Union and chair of CHSR's Board of Directors believes that CHSR is dealing with the issue promptly and efficiently with their own procedures.

"I think the investigation is going fine. I have full faith in our procedure," asserted London.

When asked if he thought that UNB should have some involvement in this investigation, London explained that CHSR's sexual harassment policy is based largely on UNB's.

According to London, Whipple will conduct the investigation and report his findings to the Board of Directors. London explained

that at that time the Board will decide if it will accept the manager's recommendation or investigate the matter further.

The Brunswickan asked both London and Whipple for a copy of CHSR's sexual harassment policy but did not receive one.

Maureen Magee, Employment Equity Officer at UNB, said it is difficult to take UNB's policy and transpose it on another organization.

Magee explained that if the harassment allegation does not include university staff, faculty or employees, the university will not investigate the matter, even if students are involved.

However, she points out that if a request for advice is put forth by an independent organization like CHSR the university will try to accommodate them.

But London strongly feels that that the matter can be dealt with internally with CHSR's own sexual harassment policy and procedure.



Shown is Jeff London, Chair of CHSR's Board of Directors. CHSR has extended the station manager's contract until January 15. Bruns photo

Local Amnesty International observes Human Rights Day

Press Release
"The first Amnesty International candle was lit on Human Rights in 1961 in London England," says Hannah Lane, coordinator of Group 39 in Fredericton. Amnesty's founder Peter Benenson and British artist Diana Redhouse designed the now familiar symbol of a candle encircled by barbed wire.

"Like Amnesty members

everywhere," states Lane, "Group 39 will observe Human Rights Day with mixed feelings." She explains: "We will celebrate the survivors and the releases, but remember the present victims of human rights violations throughout the world." Using public pressure in the form of postcards, petitions, letters, and publicity. Amnesty works for the release of prisoners of conscience and the abolition of

torture and executions.

On Tuesday December 10 from 9:30 am to 6 pm at the front of the Student Union Building on campus, members of Group 39 will host an information table, and sell Amnesty's distinctive greeting cards and T-shirts. Lane concludes "We invite anyone interested in learning more about Amnesty to visit our display on December 10, or call us at 455-0723.