

Meeting to raise voice

by Emily MacNaughton

Voice of Women Nova Scotia (VOW-NS) will be holding a public information meeting on February 17th at Saint Mary's University concerning the mass rape of an estimated 35,000 women part of the Serbian "ethnic cleansing" campaign waged in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

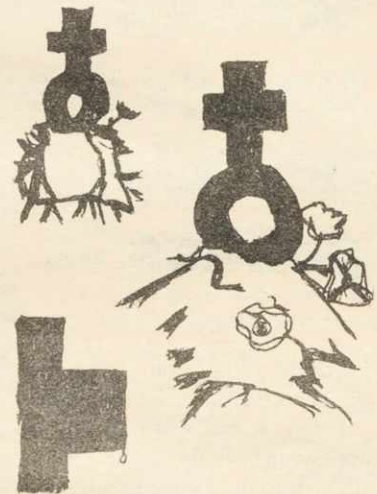
Three short talks are scheduled for the meeting. Frances Early, associate professor of History at Saint Mary's and active feminist, will speak on the history of rape in war. Martin Rumscheidt, professor at the Atlantic School of Theology, will present a "Background to Violence in Former Yugoslavia". Sharon Crooks, a lawyer and specialist in international law, will be arriving from Ottawa to talk about the "Legal and International Aspects of Rape as a War Crime".

Recent printed information regarding the atrocities in former Yugoslavia from international organizations such as Anti-War Campaign Croatia, Amnesty International and Medecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) will also be available at the meeting.

"VOW-NS got this meeting going as fast as we could," says member Muriel Duckworth. "We're hoping it will raise strong public opinion and get listeners to write our foreign am-

bassadors and MPs pressuring for Canada to take strong action in support of these victims".

VOW hopes that Canada will soon give refugee status to women who have been raped. Canadian immigration recently admitted one Bosnian woman for this reason, however there is no formal policy to date



specifically recognizing this condition.

The Nova Scotia group has recently been corresponding with women's rights groups in Zagreb, Croatia and is deciding on a dependable means of sending money to help rape victims. They are also collecting toys and clothes for the refugees and

their children who arrived in Halifax from former Yugoslavia last week.

VOW-NS is currently active in an international letter-writing campaign petitioning the UN for an amendment to the Geneva Convention which would recognize mass rape as a war crime. The Convention recognizes rape, torture, cruel and unusual punishment and enforced prostitution as war crimes. It does not, however, address the pattern of rape in this war: mass-rape and forced pregnancy with intention of "ethnic cleansing" and rape-murder.

An estimated 30,000 Bosnian and Croatian women are or will be pregnant by Serbian soldiers as a result of this violence.

"We want the public to acknowledge the terrible physical and psychological consequences of this tragedy," says Duckworth, "We want governments to recognize rape as torture, not just to simply lump it together with the idea of pillage".

"The media's portrayal of what is happening in former Yugoslavia is far too simple," says speaker Martin Rumscheidt. Talks at the meeting will shed light on why the events of the Balkan war are presently "more ferocious than anything else".

The VOW-NS public meeting will begin at 7:30 Wednesday, February 17th at Theatre A in the Burke Education Building on Saint Mary's campus.

Baby you can drive my car

by Eco Logical

Dalhousie Physical Plant and Planning and a member of the Campus Environmental Action Group are bringing organized transportation alternatives to the Maritimes.

Environmental benefits aside, Bill Lord of Physical Plant and Planning sees ride-sharing as a practical solution to Dalhousie's parking crisis. Fewer cars would leave more spaces open, allowing more cars to purchase reserved parking passes.

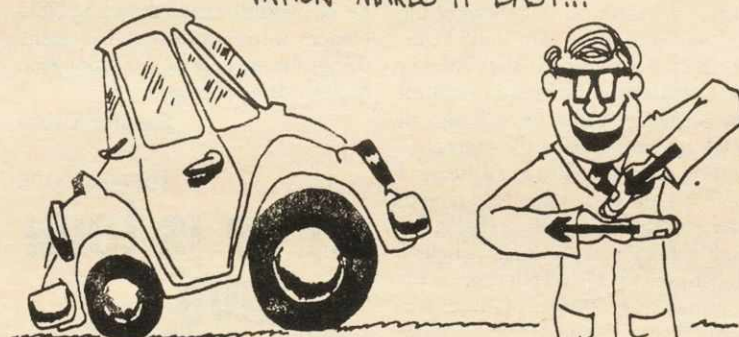
Reserved parking costs more than twice as much as regular parking, but the cost could be split among several passengers, creating a substantial saving, says Lord. It would provide students, staff, and faculty with a guaranteed spot. "Right now (a parking pass is no more than) a license to hunt. Unless you're here by 8:30 you really have to look around."

There is potential for doubling up and tripling up. According to a Traffic/Parking Survey conducted by Physical Plant from Nov. 23-Dec. 4, 1992, 78% of vehicles entering Dalhousie each morning carry only one person. Eighteen percent have two riders, and a mere 3% provide transport for three.

Lord was approached by Judy Meades of CEAG on Monday. She had independently developed a similar idea. While Lord says he is eager to help Meades bring ride-sharing to



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Dalhousie, he cautions that the implementation of such a program would require a great deal of internal organization.

"We would have to ensure that only Dal students, staff, and faculty were parking at Dal." That, he says, would require the support of administrative files and Dalhousie Security.

"If she can provide a service that we could link into, that would be great."

Meades's vision is both local and regional. Her company, Alternative Passage, will hire students to provide an inexpensive, organized, and environmentally-efficient serving connecting people heading the same way.

Five dollars will take you from Halifax to Truro or Wolfville; \$12

will take you to Antigonish, \$17 will take you to Moncton, and \$21 will take you to North Sydney, a ferry away from Port aux Basques, Newfoundland. But low prices are not the main reason to ride with other folk, says Meades.

"The point is to reduce pollution." One dollar of each membership will go towards the study of air pollution, and other environmental effects related to transport.

Says Meades, "It's time to face the environmental and economic challenges of the future; we can start by changing our attitudes about automobiles."

Alternative passage will be in the SUB lobby February 11, 12, 15 and 16.

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