

Taking back the night...one step at a time

BY ELIZABETH CUNNINGHAM AND LORI MACKAY

The first Take Back the Night woman's march took place in the late 1970's. The march was formed as a protest to all forms of violence against women; whether it be sexual harassment, abuse or racism.

Last week women gathered at the Grand Parade, of downtown Halifax, in preparation for the annual march. Approximately 200 people showed up, dressed in yellow raincoats and umbrellas to

ward off the unfortunate weather. Signs and banners waved in the air proclaiming, "Our Night, Our Right!" and, "La Rue, La Nuit, Les Femmes sont Peur! (The Street, The Night, Women are Scared!)"

One of the most memorable events might have been Sarah Nazaro's song entitled "Masturbation". Nazaro shrieked orgasmic clamour into her microphone and was heard throughout downtown Halifax.

The Dalhousie University student body was actively involved in the evening. Catharine Craig and

Vanessa Zacny — co-president of the Dalhousie Women's Centre — read a poem about women's blight as a result of their gender. The last lines, "My simple and daily and nightly self-determination, may very well cost you your life," sent ripples of cheers and agreement through the crowd.

Brent English was one of the few male participants who showed his support at the march. When asked why he came English said, "I believe in the concept of the night. It is not fair for women if they feel afraid. This makes people awake and aware and I want to support that."

Many people

had problems with the "no-male" policy. Grace Jefferies, a second year student at Dalhousie said, "It makes all men part of the problem. I can't tell my twelve year old brother to come support woman at the march, because, since he is male, he is automatically a problem in today's society...that's not right! There are many men who would love to come and support us. Not all of them are bad."

It seems that no one can come to an agreement on this matter, as one participant put it, "Maybe, men can have their own march to show support for women."

Tina Larkin, a participant of the march from Newfoundland said, "This march brings awareness to everyone, and gives us confident opinions in ourselves as women. Men shouldn't be here, it's a woman's night."

The march commenced with the arrival of 3 police officers and 2 squad cars and proceeded down Granville, Barrington and Spring Garden Road. Then along Brunswick and Grafton streets back to the Grand Parade. The route was punctuated with the cries of slogans such as "Women Unite, Take Back the Night!" and "Unabused, Unmolested, Unharassed,

Uncontested!" The march recruited many individuals along the way.

On returning to the Grand Parade, Sara Tedfor, a local resident, shared her thoughts concerning the atmosphere of the march.

"There was positive energy. It was very loud and very fast; a lot like the other Take Back the Night marches done across Canada, that I've been to," said Tedfor.

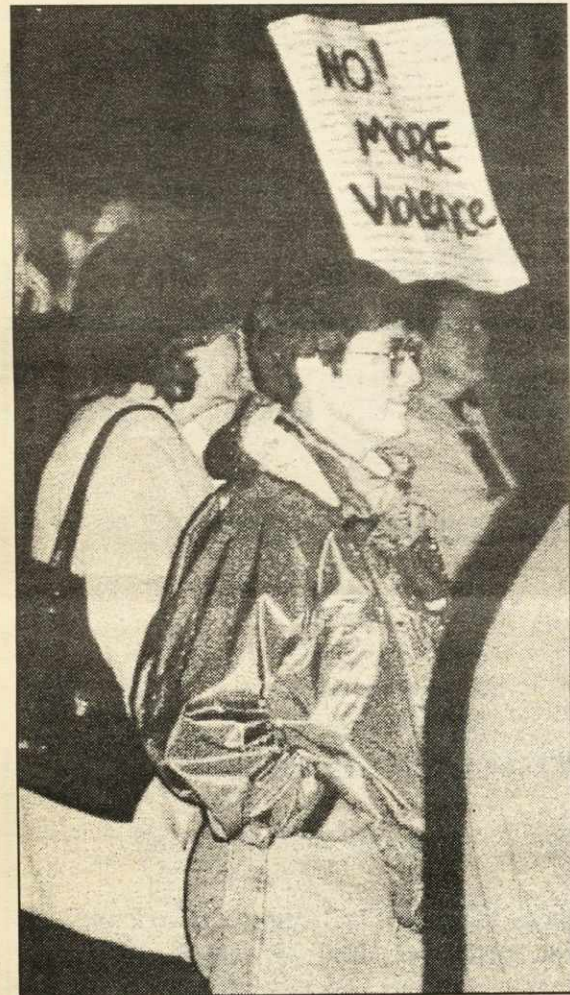
General sentiments amongst the crowd were that change is possible in the long run, but not today. Now the goal is making people aware of



photos by Katie Teed

the situation. Denise Dufallo summed up the thoughts of the night, as she read to protestors from *Affirmation Junkie*.

"Today women are crying, but one day we will laugh again."



The march drew hundreds of supporters, gaining momentum as it wound through the city.



Sarah Nazaro performed a piece known commonly as the Masturbation Song.

Woman cracks the physics faculty

BY JENNY AINSLIE

Dr. Ulrike Lohmann is the first female assistant professor of the Dalhousie University Physics Department. After receiving a Masters and then a PhD. in Atmospheric Science at the University of Hamburg, Germany, Dr. Lohmann completed her post-doctorate research in Victoria, B.C. Dr. Lohmann's first year of lecturing has been allocated to the Physics/Oceanography 4520 and 5520 classes.

Gazette: How different is the Canadian University system from Germany's?

Lohmann: Something that I like about Canada is that the hierarchy is not there. For assistant professors, you are treated...like an equal [to other professors]. In Germany there is much more respect in treating professors...and here, the interaction is much better. It's much more normal for a student to ask a question and not be afraid...I think it's much better that students ask.

What do you think of the facilities here?

Computing wise, I would say I've been spoiled[by] working in large research institutes...Compared to what I've heard about the facilities in German universities I would say it's...as good.

What do you like best about Dal?

It's a friendly environment. I like that. I like to teach...so far I've only had good experiences.

So there isn't a "worst thing about Dal"?

Nope!

How would you describe your lecture style?

I'm trying to involve my students as much as I can...I encourage them to ask questions and I do ask them questions if I introduce something new [to see if] they have an idea of what it's about.

When are you available to the students for help?

I do have office hours but they can come in at other times as well.

You're the first female faculty ever in the Physics Department. How do you feel about that?

For the time being, it's funny because I think I get a...special treatment. I'm not only the only female, but I'm pretty young compared to the other profs. It's kind of exotic, I would say... for the time being, on average, I'm treated very good.

Do you ever think about being the only female in the Physics Department?

Sometimes, but mostly when people bring it up.

So, have you ever faced any discrimination because you're a woman?

Of course, yes. I mean, subtle or not subtle, if you are in science...it's there. For me it was not so much the professors as the other students. I had to struggle with them respecting me.

Do you think having female professors might encourage more women to continue in Physics?

Yeah. I think it's pretty tough to say why there are so few female students continuing. I think it's probably half and half of seeing that it's a tough job to go through and...that there are [female] examples lacking.

Could the Physics Department benefit from more female faculty?

Sure. Yes, I think so, because...gender in the professors [should be] representative of the gender in the students. I do think that there's a different [teaching] approach, [in] how women deal with people. I think they [students] would benefit if there were more women around.

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