

Rape Crisis Center gives support to victims

By SUSAN SHALALA

Victims of sexual assault have a place to go to in Fredericton for a helping hand and an open ear. The Fredericton Rape Crisis Center is steadily operating for another year.

Backed by a staff worker, a group of twelve volunteers, and numerous resource people throughout the community, a crisis worker is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you've been attacked and need assistance, a crisis worker is available by telephoning 454-0437. You can then ask for someone to accompany you to the hospital, the police station or home. Or if you'd just like to talk about an incident you can call, and a crisis worker will listen, offer information on medical and legal procedures, and refer you to appropriate resource people that you might want.

"The Crisis workers play a support role", says Paula Wilson, one of the founders of the Center. "People need to be told what to expect and we can do that." An advocacy role is also played, meaning that the worker will make sure that the victim of the assault is being treated properly and sympathetically.

The Fredericton Center received 40 crisis calls in 1977.

Three-quarters of these were "present" calls, that is, calls from people who had been attacked within hours or a day or so before. 13-15 of the calls had been rapes, the others, assaults of varying natures. Sixteen of the 40 calls involved victims 16 years of age or under. Three or four calls were from males, victims of homosexual rape. Fredericton police statistics indicate 7 assaults or rapes.

Experts point out that for every one call that is reported, there remain anywhere from 4 to 20 that go unreported.

Juggling the center's figures, this could mean possibly 160 to 800 sexual attacks in one year in the Fredericton area.

Wilson says that the Center has not a breakdown of incidents on UNB-STU campus, but that two of the calls last year were from women who had been attacked on the UNB Campus.

Chief Williamson of Campus Security says, "Hogwash, as far as we know, there aren't any attacks on this campus. The nature of the crime deters many victims from reporting attacks, which causes much skepticism about the reality of the situation on the part of some. 'I'm annoyed,' says Williamson. "People who don't

use the due process of law to combat a crime shouldn't be mollycoddled. We need data to prove that such things are happening, otherwise, as far as we were concerned, it isn't happening. Nobody has ever told me about it except the editor of the Bruns."

When asked how Campus Security would handle such calls, Williamson reported, "We aren't policemen. Report it downtown - it's a crime. It's the same thing every year - we get some sweet young lady such as yourself asking us the exact same questions."

Sympathetic, enlightened handling of the issue has done much to improve the situation for victims of sexual assault, but "prevention" is the important long-term goal

says Paula Wilson.

There are 50 sexual Assault Centers in Canada. The Fredericton center offers basically the same service as most of the centers across the country - a counselling and referral service, an information pool, a speakers Bureau which provides films, pamphlets, and speakers free of charge to interested groups. A liaison committee with Fredericton City Police has been set up. A National Association of Sexual Assault Crisis Centers will hold a conference here in Fredericton in late May.

A training session for people interested in working as volunteers when the center is set to begin October 25. This will involve 6 sessions on the medical,

legal and social aspects of sexual assault, and on crisis handling and public speaking, spread over 5 weeks.

Volunteers would be expected to handle 5 shifts per month. This means being available by phone in your home

or by Bellboy - as long as you can be reached by the center's answering service. Interested

persons may call the center at 454-0437.

Ms Wilson also suggested that anyone wishing research material or assistance for term papers or projects is welcome to call.

"Sexual assault is an issue as well as a fact," she says. "Once you get involved you become committed"

No Statistics - No Action

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

With no information or statistics on sexual assault no action can be taken according to Security Chief Williamson. Williamson said that "no one has felt disposed to report any assault" and without any information his hands are tied.

"I can not go to the university and ask for more lighting and more guards when I have no figures" said Williamson. He said that even though any girls or men assaulted should report the assaults to the city police "because we're not police here and if they are reported then we just relay them to them" security would be agreeable to contacting the police for the victim and would drive them to the station if they needed.

Chief Poirier of the Fredericton City Police said that any assaults reported would be treated with the minimum of publicity. He said that the victim could keep his or her name from being released to the press.

He said that rape laws are not the same as they were ten years ago, and while it is up to the discretion of the judge to choose whether to investigate a girls background or not ther has however been no cases in Fredericton of that happening.

Poirier said that the procedure taken by the police in the case of a rape of assault victim depends on the person they are dealing with. He said that if the victim is female, a female martron is always brought in to conduct the interview. He said that the police sometimes call in a member of the rape crisis center to talk to and advice the victim.

Poirier said that while it is imperative in the case of assault victim depends on the person they are dealing with. He said that while it is imperative in the

case of a rape victim to have a physical examination, the victim does not have to go to the hospital but the police will call in a doctor.

He said his department handles rape and assault victims quit often and they have a professional team which deals explicitly with those cases. He said once the assault has been reported, it is investigated thoroughly by these investigator "who usually find the information they need".

He said last year one young girl was raped and while the only description she could give was of a brown panel truck, the police worked "day and night and found the assaulter".

Poirier said while the department gets quite a large volume of reports, very few actually result in prosecution. He said this was not because the judge decided against the victim but once the plice have got the information, most victims refuse to press charges.

"We give them an option" he said, although he said he wished more victims would prosecute. He said that ith so few people prosecuting assaultahts and rapists begin to feel secure in the knowledge that nothing will happen to them. "If more people prosecuted them it might hinder some people from raping or assaulting" according to Poirier.

Rapists are subject to four, five and more years term in jail if prosecuted according to Poirier who feels this would definitely help arrest the amount of rapes and assaults now occuring within the city.

"We promise to handle these affairs discreetly and in a responsible manner" said Poirier. He advised women and men to report cases of assault and said their name would not have to be in the paper, and court proceedings could be private.

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Murray House goes Co-Ed

By LINDA HALSEY

UNB's first co-educational house is "working well" according to Dean of Women, J. Kidd. Former off-campus women's residence, Murray House is being jointly operated by the Deans of Women's and Men's residence.

Murray House is fully occupied, with 14 male and 10 female students. This year because of its limited space the house was open for Graduate, Law and Mature students.

Dean Kidd said she is keen about the project and feels that men and women living together is a "more natural setting".

Students living in Murray House are paying the same fees and have the same stipulations as other residences of UNB with only

one exception, there are no proctors or any other form of supervision because as Dean Kidd sees it, "if they can't supervise themselves, who the heck can?"

She does stress extreme caution on fire however, due to the highly flammable wooden structure of the house, and emphasizes the importance of fire drills.

One student of Murray House summed up the general response of her fellow residents by saying

they "love" coeducational living and "as they get to know one another it's becoming "one big family."

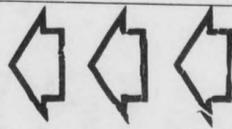
Only two complaints were made by the students concerning just one shower available in the house and according to one student, "the

residence is great, but needs to be painted." No renovations have been made on Murray House for 1978-79.

Dean Kidd stated that McLeod House would be an excellent residence for a larger scale coeducational unit in the future, but she does not feel it fair or necessary at this time to evict half (105) of the girls from the house to accommodate an equal amount of men.

Last year's questionnaire given out to the students showed the majority of men and women preferred to be segregated from one another in separate residences, however Dean Kidd feels; "if in the future, the students want more co-educational residences then we (the University) should be able to supply them."

The annual SRC Fall Election is Wednesday, October 18, 1978. Nominations are now open for the following positions:



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

- SRC Vice-President Internal
- SRC Vice-President External
- Two Business Administration Reps (One Full-term, One Half-term)
- Two Arts Reps (One Full-Term, One Half-Term)
- Computer Science Rep

Nomination papers may be picked up at the SRC offices, Rooms 108 & 126, in the Student Union Building. Nominations close Wednesday, October 4, 1978, at 5.00 p.m.

- Engineering Rep
- Nursing Rep
- Forestry Rep
- Education Rep
- Representative-at-Large
- Graduate Student Rep