

Dr. Steinberg, who is currently involved in a national survey on the incidence of date rape on Canadian university campuses, told the Committee that "date rape is more insidious than stranger rape, because we know to fear strangers. In date rape we do not know whom to trust. We do not even trust our own judgment any more. If blaming the victim happens in stranger rape, you can well believe how it happens in date rape" (12:49).

In her evidence, Catherine Remus, Government Relations Officer from the Canadian Federation of Students, pointed out that the educational community is a reflection of the wider society, including its unequal gender relations. She told the Committee that barriers to women in post-secondary education are found in "the use of sexist language in the classroom and in educational materials, sexist articles in student papers, demeaning and hateful graffiti, systemic discrimination, sexual harassment and assault" (6:5).

Ms. Remus provided the Committee with the following recent examples of sexism, harassment and assault perpetrated against female college and university students on campuses across Canada (6:5-6):

In September 1989 at Queen's University, in response to a date rape awareness campaign that used the slogan "No Means No," some male students reacted by posting signs stating "No Means Kick Her in the Teeth," and "No Means Tie Her Up".

In September 1989, at Wilfrid Laurier University, after a party raid, several pairs of women's underpants were hung up on the wall of the university dining hall and smeared with ketchup and other substances to represent feces and blood.

In December 1989, at the University of Alberta, during a skit night organized by the Faculty of Engineering, when a female student took the stage with characters wielding toy guns, hundreds of people in the audience began chanting "Shoot the bitch, shoot the bitch".

In July 1990, at the University of Waterloo, a female student was forced by a group of male students to read explicit letters into a tape recorder and was threatened with abuse if she did not comply.

In October 1990, at the University of British Columbia, 22 male students sent obscene invitations to a tug of war that contained threats of rape and violence to 300 female students.

In the 1990 fall semester at Carleton University there were two reports of sexual assault, six cases of indecent exposure, one indecent phone call, eight cases of sexual harassment and five cases of harassment by phone. These were reported cases.