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SU abstains from CFS Rape Shield motion

by Karen Burgess

The UNB Student Union abstained from a vote to oppose the abolition of the Rape Shield law at last week's CFS National Conference.

Members of the Canadian Federation of Students met in Ottawa from November 3 to November 9 to discuss budgetary matters, and proposals submitted by the different universities that participated.

Tammy Yates, UNB's Student Union Vice-President of External Affairs, says that the council voted whether to vote for or against, or to abstain, for each of the motions proposed.

The council chose to abstain from this, and other votes, as it is felt that they are not issues specifically relating to students. Yates explains

that the way the voting at the CFS conference was organized, an abstention counted neither as a vote for or against, but was simply not counted.

Essentially, it is council's opinion that rape is an issue which effects all of society and not just students. There are many groups established to deal with lobbying for women's issues, and specifically, reforms in the laws regarding rape and sexual assault.

The issue was dealt with in another motion in a way which is specific to the university community. A proposal put forward by Mount Allison University called for CFS to lobby for the establishment of a Canadian equivalent to the American Clery Law.

This law was first passed

in New York and then spread to other states. It stipulates that university administrations must publish details (excluding names) and statistics about sexual assaults occurring in the

campus community. The purpose of the law is to educate the public about the reality of on-campus assaults, and to ensure that incidents such as these are not covered up.

This motion was carried unanimously at the CFS conference.

Yates believes that the motion on the Clery law is more within the mandate of
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CFS budget discrepancy

by Aime Phillips

The issue of delaying fees to the Canadian Federation of Students has been renewed.

The UNB Student Union passed a motion on September 22 to withhold the CFS fees until their 1990-91 audit was received. The concern was raised initially by council members when it was noted the CFS 1989-90 audit had not

yet been completed, although that audit was received on October 1, 1990 one year late.

SU VP Finance and Administration James Van Raalte, returning from the CFS national fall meeting, commented that "some people felt the motion brought forward on September 22 was premature because we didn't have any facts. We'd been waiting so long we were questioning the financial

stability of the Federation. But, having been to this conference in Ottawa we've seen the facts and figures and there is more than reasonable question.

There is a discrepancy in the audit between the national treasurer and the accounting firm." Van Raalte says the difference amounts to approximately \$60,000. He also stated

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Self defence course offered

by Mimi Cormier

With several assaults having been reported on the UNB campus so far this term, female students may feel that their personal safety is threatened. F.A.C.T.S., a self-defense course being offered this Sunday, may be a source of security for some of these female students.

F.A.C.T.S. stands for Female Anti-Assault Comprehensive Training System. The course is being taught in the SUB ballroom from noon to 5 pm this Sunday, to the first 100 female students who arrive. The course is being offered at no charge.

Randy Breau, a course instructor, says an important aspect of this self-defense course is that it is "geared toward women." since there are already "a number of other courses out there" for male clients.

Breau says the course has been "specially formulated for females ages 12 to 50," and

that it is "not technical, it's easy to learn and it's practical." The "whole stress of the course is that it's realistic," continues Breau.

The course is given in one session, and includes a discussion on why sexual assaults occur, who likely sexual assault victims and perpetrators are, and how to prevent sexual assaults. This discussion is in addition to instruction in physical techniques for defending against sexual assaults. Breau says the course is "not a cure-all, but this will help out if something happens." He points out that the most important features of the course are "the physical aspects of it."

Breau and the other instructors, John Landry and Steven Williams, have been trained by John Williams, who will be the head instructor. All of the instructors have extensive backgrounds with self-defense courses. John Williams, a former police officer, has formulated and presented many other self-defense courses to



Micheal David Smith photo

Patty Smith practices a self-defence technique taught by instructor Randy Breau

law enforcement agencies and gives self-defense seminars throughout North America and the U.K.

Patty Smith, who is helping to organize the course, has been trained in it and says she is "really impressed with it." Smith says that because the instructors "can only train 100 girls at a time" there will be "definitely another session next term, maybe another this

term" as long as "the fiances and demand are there."

Smith explains that the course is able to be given because of the generosity of the Student Union, for donating use of the Ballroom at the SUB, and the College Hill Social Club for sponsoring John Williams.

If the demand is large enough, according to Smith, she would "love to teach a lot

of other people in other sessions," possibly at the girls' residences.

Students needing counselling or further information about sexual assaults are encouraged to contact either UNB Student Counselling Services, Rm. 19 Alumni Memorial Building, at 453-4820 or the Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre, Crisis Line 454-0437/ Business Line 454-0460.

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