

Study on sexual coercion done at UNB

by Derek Dunnett

When Guy Grenier and Dr. Sandra Byers set out to study sexual coercion among students at UNB, they had a good idea what they would find. Unfortunately, they were right...

The survey of 105 male students from different faculties revealed that of the 90 that reported having sexual intercourse, 33 used verbal coercion to obtain sex, 29 used physical coercion, and only 28 had fully consenting intercourse.

In other words, over two thirds of the sexually active students surveyed admitted to having used some degree of coercion to engage in sexual behaviour against the will of their partners.

In a society where other studies have found between 34 and 95 percent of women reported having experienced sexual coercion at some time, the study's findings are not very surprising to Grenier. But unlike previous studies, the UNB report didn't stop at just reporting the frequency of such behavior.

Instead, Grenier, a doctorate student in psychology, and his faculty advisor, Dr. Byers, tried to find the patterns of beliefs and attitudes behind the problem.

They found three common factors that together identified those who have used coercion most recently and therefore pose the greatest threat to women: men who report a greater hostility towards women, have a stronger acceptance of the common myths surrounding rape and sexual stereotypes, and are younger are the highest risks.

Sexual coercion takes two forms: verbal and physical.

Verbal coercion can be as subtle as saying "you'll do it if you love me," or threatening as in "if you don't, I'll tell people we had sex anyway," or even false professions of love. No

matter what form it takes, pressuring someone into doing something they don't want to is coercion.

Perhaps significantly, 17 of the 33 who admitted using force also used verbal compulsion in addition to physical aggression, perhaps reflecting a more widespread acceptance of verbal coercion as acceptable behavior.

The final conclusions of the study are frightening: the use of coercion appears to be the norm; more men use it than don't. Grenier says "We seem to be telling young men that sex is important; so important that they are allowed or even expected to use any means to get it, even coercion."

Part of the reason why these roles are unchallenged is that Canada is very conservative. Many people, especially parents, are uncomfortable discussing sexual questions.

This may be partly because there is no really appropriate language to discuss the issues. To discuss sexuality, you have the choice of using vulgar slang or awkward medical terminology. There is no middle ground.

What is needed to combat these pervasive attitudes, according to Grenier, is better sex education, starting at an earlier age, to dispel the myths surrounding sex, before students become sexually active and set in their ways; and also to take a look at our legal system, making it easier to get convictions in assault cases.

As it stands, it is estimated that less than ten percent of all sexual assaults are reported. One of the main reasons given for this low figure is that victims fear not being believed.

In fact, in this survey, as high as 65 percent of males surveyed believed that as many as 25 percent of rape reports are fictitious, despite the fact that

the evidence does not support this.

According to Grenier, "if there are no physically obvious bruises, or if the assailant is an acquaintance of the woman, or

if the two have previously had sex, or if the woman has a reputation, she is unlikely to be believed."

Often, in a rape case, the victim goes on trial long

before the accused rapist. Only when we begin to show more faith in the victim, than in the system, will real progress be made.

Funding cuts may discourage young Canadians

News Release

The executive director of the Youth Council of New Brunswick, Monique LeBlanc, said Tuesday there is a danger the recent funding cuts to summer job creating for students may discourage young Canadians from pursuing a post-secondary education.

"It appears the federal government has identified post-secondary students as an easy target", LeBlanc said in reference to the recently announced cuts. "Too many recent budget cuts and cost-saving measures have been made at the students' expense. There is a strong likelihood the cumulative effect will be to discourage young Canadians from pursuing a post-secondary education. This certainly cannot be good for our future economy."

LeBlanc was responding to last Friday's announcement from Ottawa that the summer job creating component of the Challenge program, SEED, would be cut by \$41.8 million, or 35 per cent, to fund a new Stay in School initiative aimed at encouraging potential dropouts to stay in school.

She said what this will mean for New Brunswick is unclear because a breakdown of figures for the provinces has not yet been made available.

"We estimate that if the cut is made evenly across the country, it will mean a loss of between 2,000 and 3,000 summer jobs in the province," she said. "Last summer the unemployment rate for returning students averaged about 16 per cent. This cut could cause an increase of about five per cent to a possible 21 per cent unemploy-

ment rate. This decision by the federal government is totally unacceptable."

LeBlanc explained that students have been hit hard by recent measures undertaken to curb the federal deficit.

She said cuts in transfer payments to the provinces (Bill C-33) will likely result in higher tuition costs; living expenses will rise with the implementation of the GST; the Canadian Student Loan program has not seen an increase in allowance in over five years; a surcharge of three per cent will become effective in August 1991 on all Canada Student Loans; cuts in VIA-RAIL service have been felt by students and now they are facing greater odds against finding a summer job to pay for their academic costs.



The Youth Council of New Brunswick held a news conference in Fredericton Tuesday to express its displeasure with federal government cuts in funding for the creation of summer jobs for post secondary students. Among those attending the conference were, front row, from left: Monique LeBlanc, executive director of the council and Kapil Kamra, interim vice-chair. Back row, from left: Ivan Corbett, council representative for Charlotte County and Stephanie Kuttner, council representative for York/Sunbury/Queens. (CNB Photo)

Five UNB debaters attend McGill debate

Press Release

UNB debaters attended the 1990 McGill debate tournament on February 1.

Five members of the team who went were Vish Nandall, Eugene Dereni, Kevin Tracy, Andy Craig, and Aime Phillips. Ninety three other universities were in attendance such as Yale, Bates, and Western Ontario.

The proposition debated in the first improvisational round was: "To catch a rabbit, the lion must use all his forces". UNB defined the rabbit as Noriega and the lion as the United States and went on to dominate the debate.

During the prepared round the proposition "too late for

fruit too early for flowers" was debated. Two interpretations were given for this by both UNB teams, one dealing with the environment and the other concerned the Meech Lake accord.

UNB debated three other rounds but, due to an early departure, could not compete in the finals.

Many activities were organized, the most coveted being a banquet at Molson Breweries followed by a round of public speaking.

The Debating Union is always looking for new members and have many activities planned for the rest of the term so keep an eye out for their posters and come see what they are all about.

Clarification made on cost -Meeting on Mexico March 7

Press Release

A clarification must be made concerning last week's article "The Experiment in International Living - Mexico 1990".

It stated that the cost of the trip is \$14,000 to \$16,000, it actually should have said \$1400 to \$1600.

Apologies to any inconvenience this might have caused.

Also an information meeting will be held on March 7 at 8:00 at the Edmund Casey Hall at STU in room 10. Ana Lililia, an exchange student from Mexico will be presenting slides on Mexico.

Man exposes himself in Science library on Valentine's Day

by Murray Carew

A young man exposed himself in the UNB Science library last Wednesday evening (Valentine's day).

Apparently the man exposed himself to a couple of ladies who were at the library.

According to Rick Peacock of Campus Security the matter is being investigated by the Fredericton City Police.

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