

Program seeks to counter sexual aggression

by David Miller
Brunswickan News

Sexual aggression is a problem in our society, and, for the most part, it is a male problem. There are still men who think sexual aggression is a fact of life. Having sex with girls is what men do, and being there is what women do. The basic problem is thinking that women are lesser than men. If a person thinks that another is lesser than they are, then they could think that the greater is justified in controlling the lesser. Once a man assumes this, then ethical conduct takes a back seat.

Like most problems, male sexual aggression is mostly due to ignorance. Some men believe that sexual aggression can be justified; because if a

girl says no, she really means yes; or because all girls want intercourse, they just have to be persuaded; or because if a girl walks, acts, talks, or dresses a certain way then she is asking for it. These are excuses for men to have power over girls. These ideas show disrespect for the rights of others. The best way to filter out these negative attitudes is through education.

This education is the main goal of The Peer Education Project for Men, a new program designed to prevent sexual aggression among students of UNB and STU. Male students from both universities will be working together in educating students. Eleven student volunteers have been instructed over three days on how to be peer educators, and they are now ready to help educate other men on

campus. Workshops will be made up of 10-15 male students and will last for roughly 90 minutes. Two peer educators in each workshop will guide students in a progression of exercises with the purpose of encouraging discussion of values and attitudes dealing with romantic relationships. Students will watch videos, have time for contemplation, and explore the grey areas between sexual assertiveness and sexual aggression.

A 1992 survey of STU and UNBF students discovered one in three female students had reported experiencing one or more undesired sexual experiences the year before. Ninety-six per cent of female victims reported that they had known their aggressors in some manner, only 4% were strangers. Men

need to re-examine their relationships with female friends, lovers, or acquaintances. The Peer Education Project for Men aims to help men take a second look at their ideas and values within romantic relationships.

Students interested in becoming peer educators must be in their third or last year of study, and must have a GPA of 2.0 and above. They must show understanding of the sexual aggression issue, recognize that sexually aggressive behaviour is unacceptable, and must sincerely desire to help in its prevention. Being comfortable with public speaking is also a big help. The training aims to give peer educators knowledge about sexual aggression, and then gives them the opportunity to explore their personal attitudes and behaviour toward females.

Fuss over CASA fees

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

There is some disagreement over the amount of membership fees that the UNB Student Union will be paying to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. The 1995-96 Budget has \$7,000 allocated for this purpose. On October 10, Pat FitzPatrick, VP External and CASA Atlantic Regional Director, told Council this amount would be \$9,500. Alex Usher, CASA National Director, in a letter to VP Finance and Administration, Nahie Bassett, indicated this amount was \$10,500. Usher, in an interview, explained the difference. "The \$7,000 would have been the assessment if Health Plan revenues were not counted." The CASA funding formula takes into account the number of students at an institution and the budget, which includes the revenues from the UNB Student Union-administered Health Plan. This policy is applied universally to other CASA-members.

Concern from Bassett over funds paid by the Student Union on behalf of CASA, precipitated a letter from Usher this week. This letter confirmed the nature of the two accounts for CASA at the Student Union. In addition, the letter made Bassett aware of the funding agreement between the Student Union and CASA which was made in January 1995.

One account will continue to accrue some expenses from CASA and Pat FitzPatrick (as CASA Atlantic Regional Director). This account, according to the last operating report, stands at \$10,104. According to the agreement, the Student Union would pay CASA the balance of the fees should the account be less than membership fees, and CASA would reimburse the Student Union if it were more.

The other account is intended for the National Conference on Post-Secondary Education, scheduled to be held in February. The letter confirmed that liability for this account would be the responsibility of CASA. This was consistent with the motion passed at summer Council by which Council agreed to host the conference.

CASA plebiscite leak

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

On the morning of October 13th, Chief Returning Officer Troy Woodside released the results of the CASA "Real Choices" plebiscite to *The Brunswickan*. Later that afternoon, Woodside confronted co-News Editor Cynthia Kirby and removed the results from the News Editors' mailbox. CASA's side won significantly.

The ballots from the plebiscite were to be sealed and kept until October 25. At that time, the ballots would be counted as part of a national press conference and the results released in sequence across the fifteen participating campuses.

"Nobody told me," was Woodside's explanation. Asked whose responsibility it was he replied "Pat FitzPatrick's or Alex Usher's." Despite the practice of the last several years of the VP University Affairs exerting an almost territorial

control over the elections, a closer examination of the bylaws shows that the link is limited. In fact, the sole relationship is that the VP University Affairs is the Chair of the Constitution and Policy Committee, which hears appeals of CRO decisions.

Pat FitzPatrick, VP External, and CASA Atlantic Regional Director, commented that the leak was "not an issue" because it was contained. Alex Usher, National Director, was concerned, but expressed similar feelings.

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