

are constantly worked on by CFS to make them more beneficial to students. I am glad you are happy with the services that the Federation provides for their members.

If you or any of the readers have any questions regarding the Canadian Federation of Students - (Services), contact your Vice President - External Affairs, Nadine De Wolfe.

A famous consumer rights advocate, Ralph Nader, is noted as saying that paying Canadian Federation of student's membership fees is the best investment a student can make.

Sincerely,  
Tony Norrad Chairperson

Dear Editor;

We are pleased that the authors of the "Backlash" column recognize that sexual harassment is a serious issue. Since readers of the X-Press are likely to be unfamiliar with our research, we wanted to take this opportunity to offer some clarification of our study. What we did was to present a wide range of incidents that could be regarded as sexual harassment and ask students whether they had such an experience while at PEI with faculty, with staff, or with students. The majority of student experiences were at the "mild" end of the continuum and occurred with other students, but a number of students reported unwanted kissing and fondling from other students, and 7% experienced some form of coercion to participate in sex; 4% of the women participated in sex as a result of such a threat. This last situation suggests the existence of acquaintance rape on campus.

Students also reported direct experiences with faculty that they regarded as unwanted. For example, 9% reported being touched by a faculty member in an unwanted way, and 17% indicated unwanted sexual teasing, jokes, comments and questions from faculty. We also inquired about experiences students had in class that could affect the climate of their learning environment. Many women reported that faculty make jokes and remarks that put down women (63%), men (33%) and homosexuals (32%). Men reported these experiences almost as frequently as women. Our aim was to examine a broad spectrum of incidents that might be defined as sexual harassment, some of which are listed above. It should be noted that we asked our respondents to define whether or not incidents were regarded as harassment by a majority of our respondents. As a group, they regarded most of these incidents as quite serious. On the average, students have experienced 6 of these incidents, some of them repeatedly. You might also be interested in knowing that students' attitudes toward traditional/non-traditional sex roles were unrelated to both their reported experiences and definitions of sexual harassment.

We'd be glad to provide more information for anyone who is interested. Students interested in learning more about sexual harassment could contact the Sexual Harassment Committee and/or attend the Faculty Seminar at 3:00 PM on Friday March 6 in Main 220 where there will be a showing of a video, "The Chilly Climate for Women at Colleges and Universities."

Don Mazer and Beth Percival Psychology Department



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