

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: WOMEN ANGRY ABOUT UCCB'S RESPONSE TO RAPE

Source: The Caper Times)

Sydney, N.S. (CUP) - Women's rights activists say the treatment of a Cape Breton student who reported a sexual assault has sent a dangerous message to other women.

'I'm appalled,' said Lynn Peddle of the Women's Resource Centre at Memorial University. "As a woman and a student, it is a slap in the face."

'Only one in 10 rapes are reported, and it's even a more negative message if you do report it and get victimized all over again,' she said.

In September, an 18-year-old woman at the University College of Cape Breton told the RCMP she was sexually assaulted in a campus residence by three men.

After an investigation, the RCMP charged the woman with public mischief for changing her statement during a second interview. The charges have since been dropped due to a lack of evidence.

Public mischief is defined as spreading false news, misleading police into conducting an investigation or giving police a false statement.

UCCB students are angry about the university administration and police handled the incident.

The RCMP handled the case inappropriately and unethically if they treated the girl the way (she said) happened," said one female student. "There should be more of an investigation of the RCMP. Whoever is guilty should face immediate disciplinary action."

The woman who laid the complaint said in a press release that the RCMP officer who interviewed her used words like "bull" and "Baloney" as she made her statement.

Following the publicity, the university has plastered the campus with information on how to prevent sexual assault and installed additional lighting near the residence.

A committee is also hearing students' suggestions on how to make the university a safer place.

"We have to band together and start fighting," Peddle said. "We have to let people know this is wrong and we're not going to stand for it. It's a problem in every province."

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8. Computer
7. Computer
6. Computer
5. Computer
4. Computer
3. Computer
2. Computer
1. Computer

