

Marian Speaks Out

In light of recent events at U.P.E.I., we, the residents of Marian Hall, feel it is time for us to have our say. To begin with, let us set a few facts straight. On Wednesday, September 23rd, the night in question, we, as a house, threw an annual house function. Throughout this function, strict policies were followed and heavily enforced. Policies that led to a successful event. We are confident that with these policies, future events can and will continue to remain a success.

In regards to UPEI security and city police, both were informed of the alleged incident on the night it occurred. However, UPEI security had full jurisdiction and did an excellent job on the investigation. In fact, when the city police were called in, their investigation merely repeated that which the UPEI security department had already done. UPEI security has, and will continue to have, our full support.

Another area that we would like to address is the way the situation was handled by the media. Never before have we, as a group, witnessed such a mocking distortion of the truth. It was ignorance and apathy that led to the reporting of half-truths and unknown facts. The media played the primary role in escalating this situation, and while doing so, caused irreparable damage to the victim and others.

Let's look at who this entire ordeal is really hurting besides the victim. Is it women in general? We don't think so. If anything, this will benefit them in regards to safety, respect, and awareness. Is it the university? Maybe. Perhaps it is about time the executive reacted to their students immedi-

ately. The people who will fare the worst, and who will continue to fare the worst, will be us, the residents of Marian Hall. Let us state right now, once and for all, that in whatever may have occurred, we at Marian Hall had no part whatsoever. However, thanks in no small part to the media, we are seen as the culprits. People we once thought were friends are now avoiding us, we cannot even mention where we live in classes now without being hissed at. Every student that walks by our building cannot do so without glancing a weary eye in our direction. Marian Hall is our home, we live here for eight months out of the year. From this point on, our house will be forever tarnished. We will no longer be respected or trusted. Each one of us will have to work to regain the trust and respect, though it may be impossible to achieve, of everyone around us. The rest of our year may have been ruined, all on half-truths by the media and the instant accusations made by certain members of the community. We at Marian Hall feel that this attitude is unforgivable. Some hold views that are very narrow-minded and self-centred, and that they are against men in general. It is this level of thinking and understanding that is simply unacceptable for society today.

Let us close by stating that our thoughts and best wishes are with the victim. We admire her courage for stepping forward, and we hope the person or persons responsible for the heinous act are severely punished.

University is a place for learning, a place where individuals can exchange thoughts and ideas. Let's all try to remember this and not let our emotions overrule common sense.

Sincerely,

the residents of Marian Hall



October 8, 1992