

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:
A SAD REALIZATION**

Nancy-Marie Arsenault.

It is a sad situation for the battered woman who faces the current legal system. If she does go to the police she is usually confronted with a frustrating system that practically enables the husband to get off with a mere finger shaking and a vocal statement of something to the effect; "and don't do it again," or "be good."

A report done by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs into Family Violence concludes the report by stating that "a 1975-76 Vancouver study revealed police responded to only 53 percent of calls concerning domestic violence, although they answered almost all break-and-enter calls."

It is an even sadder situation when the battered woman realizes that unless she has been, and is, in most cases, severely injured, or that the violence was witnessed by a third person, the husband cannot be arrested.

Amazingly enough the police will, and can only calm down the husband but, because they are not trained to deal with domestic violence and are unfamiliar and even unaware of what help and counselling does exist, will offer no assistance to the beaten, injured, and bruised woman.

One in ten women are battered in Canada, but in 1981, only 85 shelters or Transition Houses to help the battered woman, and her children if need be, existed. The committee report recommended several changes to the legal system, including:

- the federal government should fund more shelters
- a certain number of units in housing subsidized by the Federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be reserved for battered women with children.
- the problem and women's legal rights should be publicized through the media and inserts in family allowance cheques
- the police should be trained to deal with domestic violence
- research into treatment of both the victim and the assailant should be conducted.

The report stressed that wife battering "is a criminal activity and as such is a matter for state intervention."

Prince Edward Island has a Transition House that offers support and shelter

for physically and mentally abused women and children. The house is located in Central Charlottetown and provides 24 hour, 7 days a week, safe emergency shelter. It is named

after Doris Anderson who was instrumental in the establishment of a Transition House on the Island.

Over the past year some 111 women and 265 children have used the facilities at Anderson House. The federal and provincial governments and private funding sources are contributing to Anderson House, but a further \$20,000 must be raised from the community. The past week has been a busy week for many volunteers who are out canvassing the larger Charlottetown area to help raise money to maintain the house. Any donation large or small will be greatly appreciated.

It can be left at the Voluntary Resource Center at 81 Prince St., Phone 892-3790.

THANK YOU.



ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

THE UPEI STUDENT UNION IS LOOKING FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS TO SIT ON THE NEW SENATE COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO LONG-RANGE PLANNING AT UPEI. IF INTERESTED, LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE STUDENT UNION OFFICE, DROP BY OR CALL 892-4121 Ext.395. THE MEMBERS WILL BE CHOSEN AT THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8. THIS IS YOUR EDUCATION. "PROTECT IT".



MELLOW ROACH

TORONTO (CUP)-- A University of Toronto student got more than he bargained for when he purchased a cup of coffee from a vending machine.

Along with extra coffee whitener and sugar came a cockroach and assorted body parts.

"At first I thought it was a bean," said third year Philosophy student Stang Burton. "But on close inspection I saw that it was a roach along with some legs and appendages."

Cafeteria workers gave Burton a second cup of coffee in lieu of his signing a complaint form.

When asked what he thought about the university allowing roaches onto campus, Burton responded, "I love all living things, and it really hurts to see them steamed to death in a cup of coffee."

**YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT:
SHOULD IT BE CHALLENGED?**

The Council of Maritime Premiers is asking Prime Minister Trudeau to defer the proclamation of The Young Offenders Act. The Act was passed recently by parliament and will replace the Juvenile Delinquents Act. It is scheduled to come into effect upon proclamation. A section of the Act will increase the upper age of young offenders from sixteen to eighteen years and will come into effect in its full force in 1985.

There may be some controversy to this change.

The switch from age sixteen to eighteen enables all the more young people to be irresponsible for their actions. The major problem is that they know that the courts cannot touch them in any depremental way, and so if they do break-and-enter they may only receive a fine to about 100 dollars, and three months probation.

All that the Act seems to change (as far as I can see) is the amount of juvenile delinquents who break the law will increase.

If this Act goes through proclamation for the year of 1985 then we can expect more violence, vandalism, and yes, possibly something

as drastic as a murder, from the younger generation. Any young adult between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years old should be responsible for their actions. If this were so and they would be justly convicted of their crime then it can be sure that the rate of crimes between those ages (16 and 18) will certainly drop to some extent. What are your views on this matter?

N.M. Arsenault