

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sending the wrong message

As the Harvey Weinstein Hollywood sex scandal was coming to light south of the border, St.F.X. was giving Bill Clinton a honorary doctorate at a ceremony in Toronto. I would like to share my personal views on this decision by the university, for we as a society need to address powerful men who abuse their power.

In the Book - No One Left to Lie To by Christopher Hitchens, and foreword by historian David Brinkley; he reminds us that Bill Clinton had been credibly accused of sexual assault three times.

Clinton was also impeached for lying to congress in regards to

another allegation of sexual misconduct with a university aged intern. Politics aside, many agree that any man who demeans and degrades women in such fashion needs to be condemned and held accountable regardless of wealth, or status.

Many victims of sexual assault believe this violation has only happened to them. Victims are often terrified to tell anyone because they think they are the only one, thus they may not be believed. Women who make these types of accusations should be supported. While we also recognize, that not all accusations of sexual assault are true.

What about those who know about the assaults of others? Don't they have a responsibility to speak out as well? Do university leaders? What does the first female chancellor of St.F.X. think? Should we remain silent when St.F.X. grants a doctorate "for the sake of honour?"

It has been said there is culture of sexual assault at some universities today. We should celebrate the courage of women who have come forward to tell their painful stories. Can this be accomplished by universities honouring the very men accused of such behavior? What message

did St.F.X. send to women on their campus by conferring an honorary degree to thrice accused Bill Clinton?

We believe in forgiveness and new beginnings, but an honorary degree is an endorsement of much more.

We all need to build a culture of respect that ends sexual assault and sexual harassment in the future. Empowering women to come forward and teaching men decency and respect is a start, not providing honouree degrees that send the wrong message.

Nona MacPherson
Antigonish, currently residing in Halifax