

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

DEC/JAN 1991/92

Volume II, Number 6

14 women died in Montreal
December 6, 1989.

100 women a year die in domestic
violence in Canada.

First mourn.
Then work for change.



December 6 has been designated nationally as an official day of remembrance and action on violence against women.

While we mourn the tragedy of women victimized by violence, the human spirit seeks to give meaning to such tragedy; we find remembrance heals the wounds. Remembrance galvanizes us to action. It empowers us to find, implement, and maintain solutions to the crime of violence against women.

It is painful to remember such atrocities, but it is far worse to forget.

Poster reprinted with permission from the artist Joss MacLennan.

December 6th Happens Every 6 Minutes...

"In Canada, an act of male violence against women occurs every six minutes."

Kate Eccles, "Blow the Whistle on Violence," IMAGES MAGAZINE, July 30, 1990, p.34

CONNECTING MEN'S VIOLENCE WITH WOMEN'S INEQUALITIES

A PROGRAM OF FILM AND VIDEO

FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

Still Killing Us Softly

"The first thing the advertisers do is surround us with the image of female beauty...based on absolute flawlessness." - from the film.

American feminist Jean Kilbourne exposes the power behind **sexist advertising**. (30 min.)

ORDER NUMBER 0187 145

No Way! Not Me

Canadian activist Rosemary Brown addresses high school students with a chilling view of **women's poverty**.

(29 min. 39 sec.)

ORDER NUMBER 0187 104

Loved, Honoured and Bruised

"I never told a soul because of the shame and I began to think that because I was treated like that I deserved it." - from the film

(25 min. 23 sec.)

ORDER NUMBER 0180 030

For Richer, For Poorer

A profile of one woman's fight for economic and emotional survival after her **divorce**.

(29 min. 53 sec.)

ORDER NUMBER 0188 050

To a Safer Place

"Through the frank disclosures of Shirley and her siblings, (the film) shows how deep psychic wounds inflicted on victims of incest can be healed." - NOW Magazine

(58 min. 20 sec.)

ORDER NUMBER 0187 067

Sandra's Garden

A testament to the courage and hopefulness of **incest** survivors.

(34 min.)

ORDER NUMBER 0190 059

After the Montreal Massacre

Selectively choosing women as his victims in the **December 6, 1989** massacre, Marc Lepine left a clear and lucid message. *"The impact hit right away; something was going on here...the dead were women."* - from the video

(25 min. 40 sec.)

ORDER NUMBER 9190 097

The Burning Times

"Part of my commitment to women's spirituality has also been a very active political commitment. You have to act in this world to bring about changes that you want." - from the film

(57 min. 20 sec.)

ORDER NUMBER 0190 008

Available from NFB libraries or by calling toll free:

Atlantic Canada.....	1-800-561-7104
Quebec.....	1-800-363-0328
Ontario.....	1-800-267-7710
Western and Northern Canada.....	1-800-661-9867



National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada



PROMOTING CHANGE THROUGH DIALOGUE

WOMANSOURCES IN ALBERTA

The following is a list of resources for women throughout the province. We receive a number of phone calls for women looking for resources or support groups in their area, if you have such information that you'd like to share please write to us. We welcome all input.

BLAIRMORE

The Crowsnest Pass Women's Resource Centre provides a take-a-break and meeting area, a library: a playroom, quality used clothing for sale, and a private counselling room. The centre comprehensive information on legal and family matters, finances, child development, government and community services. The centre sponsors talks, seminars and workshops on issues of interest to women, as well as providing contacts and support services for women with family and personal problems. A newsletter is produced 5 or 6 times a year, please call the office for further information at 562-8000.

CALGARY

Women Looking Forward at #305, 223-12 Ave S.W. Calgary T2R 0G9, 269-1144, has a calendar of events for the Calgary area.

CAMROSE

Camrose Women's Shelter provides shelter for women in crisis, battered women and women awaiting other social or specialized services. Services will be extended to all women who meet entrance criteria. Programs and services include: counselling services, information on support groups for self-esteem, a parenting group, interspousal violence treatment program, children's services, anger management for school age children, a community awareness program as well as a follow-up program and volunteer training. Membership fee is \$5.00, which entitles you to receive the newsletter, and to vote at the AGM. Please call the office for further information at 672-1035.

EDMONTON

A Centre For Women, A Wellness Association is located at Rm 319, YWCA 10305-100 Ave. Ph: 423-9922 Ext. 7327. The centre offers workshops, classes and support groups responsive to the expressed needs of women. Professional staff are available to assist with specific wellness concerns. Referral services provide a link for women to the most appropriate agency or program. Please call the office for more information.

FAIRVIEW

The Satellite Shelter and Resource Centre at Box 1194, Fairview, AB. phone 835-2120 has both a shelter and resource centre. The centre operates a food bank on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. as well as a clothing depot which is staffed by volunteers. This service is also available for emergencies on other days as well. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please call the office.

FORT McMURRAY

Women's Resource Society at #305-8706 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3G2, phone 743-2121 has a lending library of books, tapes and videos. The centre publishes a quarterly newsletter and receives a number of newsletters and papers from other women's groups, so drop by and browse. For further information call or write.

GRANDE CACHE

The Grande Cache Transition House Society offers residential services, counselling and community outreach social workers who counsel women, men, and children. The centre runs two support groups; one is an Anger Control Support Group for men, the other is a Self-Esteem Support Group for women. These are free of charge. The centre also has a library and video library. We print a newsletter on a yearly basis. The yearly membership fee is \$5.00. If you would like to become involved or need more information please call the office at 827-5055.

HAY RIVER, NWT.

The Women's Resource Centre offers shelter, second stage housing, counselling, referral and advocacy services as well as a 24 hour crisis line. A job re-entry program is also offered. The centre has a resource library with an information clearinghouse which provides information to community organizations. Presently the centre is working on producing a battered women's handbook entitled "The First Step". A newspaper, the "Women's Free Press" is distributed to women. For further information please write to the centre at P.O. Box 276, Hay River NWT X0E 0R0.

LETHBRIDGE

The Women's Resource Centre at #202-325-6 Street S., 329-8338 is also the home of ASWAC Lethbridge. The resource centre has a small library and a calendar of events, they also publish Womyn News; call the office for more information.

RED DEER

Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society, #112, 4818 Gaetz Ave. Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4A3. The society promotes involvement of women in activities aimed at understanding and improving the social, political and economic position of women living in both rural and urban Central Alberta. There is a resource library, advocacy and referral service, career planning, Women of Canada study kits, meeting room and monthly newsletter. There is a small membership fee, contact the office at 347-2480 for further information.

SUNDRE

Help For Victims Of Family Violence located in Sundre offers programs such as: a crisis line, public information and education, volunteer training, support groups for battered women, sexual assault support groups, public educator, second stage housing, and some resource material. Please write to the office for further information at Box 705 Sundre T0M 1X0.

ALBERTA FEMINIST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CALGARY

BOOGIE FOR A BETTER WORLD Friday November 29 at 8pm at Bridgeland Riverside Community Association. Featuring Dabatram, African/World beat dance music hosted by the Arusha Centre and co-sponsored by 20 organizations including ASWAC. Tickets \$8 and \$6 unwaged. Available through Calgary ASWAC office call 233-0731.

THE EMOTIONAL TOLL OF CUSTODY Saturday December 7, 1-4 pm Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Downstairs meeting room. Speakers: Jeanne Jenns, Co-Founder of Toronto support group, Mothers On Trial, And Karen Lodl, Chartered Psychologist and Feminist activist. Sponsored by the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee. For more information on childcare and accessibility call 262-1873.

OLD Y CENTRE , 80th ANNIVERSARY, OPEN HOUSE. Wednesday November 27 noon to 5pm at the Old Y, 223-12 Ave. S.W. Cake cutting, tours, refreshments, entertainment. Official ceremonies with guest speaker Mayor Al Duerr at 3pm. Come visit the ASWAC office.

THE CALGARY BIRTH CONTROL ASSOCIATION offers ongoing abortion support groups. If you are a woman who has experienced an abortion and feels the need to talk to other women who have had a similar experience, you may be interested in their 10 week support group. CBCA provides a safe, supportive atmosphere for women to share their feelings and discuss concerns. Free registration, call 283-5580. (CBCA is a member of the Calgary Pro-Choice coalition)

PLANNED PARENTHOOD ALBERTA. A grant from the Wild Rose Foundation has allowed Planned Parenthood to expand the Reproductive Health Resource Centre. The Centre is available to all Albertans and features a video and book lending library, pamphlets, teaching guides, reports, surveys, media files, etc. For more information call Melanie at 265-3360. Planned Parenthood Alberta strongly urges all Albertans to continue writing to the minister of Education, Jim Dinning, supporting comprehensive sexuality education in all Alberta schools.

MIXED SACRED CIRCLE. Experience true Native Spirituality by sharing in the Traditional Healing Circle. Every Thursday at 7pm at Alberta Vocational College Main entrance (6th Ave S.E.) Room 529 (5th floor) 332-6th Ave S.E. Calgary. For more information call 275-9553.

WOMENS SACRED CIRCLE. Every Friday at 7pm at the same address and phone number for information as above.

CALGARY SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE needs volunteers to work with survivors on the crisis line. A training program will begin in January, for more information call Donna at 237-5515.

A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. Commemorative Ceremony Friday, December 6th, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Calgary City Hall Atrium. Sponsored by the Alberta Status Of Women Action Committee.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY MEMORIAL EVENT Friday, December 6th at noon at the MacEwan Student Centre.

THE CALGARY BIRTH CONTROL ASSOCIATION offers a free workshop on "Reproductive Health for Ethnocultural Communities" 12:30-4 pm Saturday, November 30. These workshops are for individuals who are interested in sharing information with their communities. For more information call 283-5580.

CALGARY IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S CENTRE has a variety of Social and Educational services for women including english language classes, job training and counselling. Typing, computer operation and friendship groups at neighbourhoods throughout the city. For more information call 245-6785.

SWAC is tentatively bringing in Sandra Butler. She'll be running two workshops to be held. Phone 262-1873 for more information.

EDMONTON

AZIMUTH THEATRE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS "MAELSTROM" Maelstrom is a research-based drama about four abusive men. This company is touring Alberta **November 4 through December 15, 1991** For performance information and requests phone 403-448-9165 or fax 403-434-2528 or write to Box 1441 Main, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N5. Language warning, not suitable for preteens.

"WOMEN'S MEMORIAL BURSARY, ENGINEERING" Bursary started in 1990 by Artist Eisert Hall in response to Montreal massacre in Dec, 1989. As of Sept. 17, 1991 contributions to this award total \$1,200. Contributions can be made to Jean Adams, University of Alberta Development Office, 450 Athabaska Hall, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8 Checks payable to University of Alberta - 492-4418

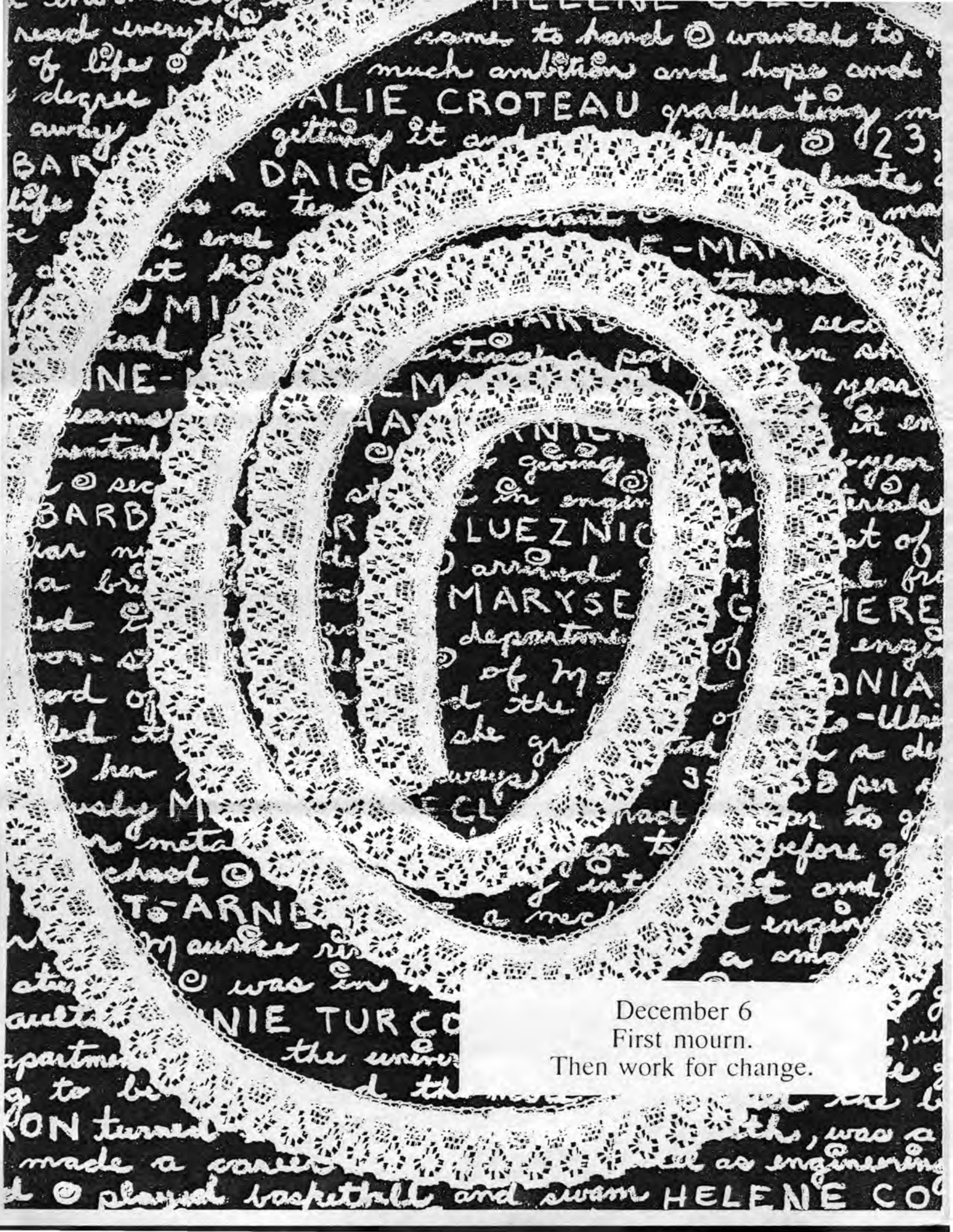
NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN...CREATING CHANGE, December 6th, noon to 1pm. at Canada Place. Organized by several local women's groups including ASWAC and the Women's Secretariat. For more information call Moyra at 421-0306.

BUILDING STRONG WOMEN'S GROUPS. If you are involved with a women's group or resource centre, this two day workshop is designed for you. Dates are March 14 & 15, 9 am-4:30 pm, fee is \$60, enrollment limited to 25. The instructor is Pat Rasmussen. For further information contact the Women's Program and Resource Centre at 492-3093.

COMMON WOMAN BOOKS, 10812-82 Ave. is having a **GIGANTIC SALE**, 20%, 30%, 50%, Feminist-health-recovery-lesbian/gay-sociology-politics-fiction-poetry-native-ethnic, books-magazines-calendars, beginning November 18.

7th ANNUAL GALA NEW'S YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE at the Hilton, 10235-101 St. Dinner 8 pm Dance 9pm-2am Ticket \$50, available from Common Woman books, AIDS network, or Maureen, 454-8031.

THIS POSTER WAS DESIGNED BY
LORRAINE GREGOIRE, FOR ASWAC.
PLEASE CLIP OUT THE POSTER AND HANG
UP IN A PLACE FOR ALL TO SEE. WE
HONOR THE WOMEN WHO DIED ON
DECEMBER 6, 1989, AND WILL NOT FORGET
BUT WILL WORK FOR CHANGE.



ALIE CROTEAU graduating in
getting it and that 23

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December 6
First mourn.
Then work for change.

By LAURIE MacFAYDEN

Nathalie Croteau. Maryse Leclair. Sonia Pelletier. Genevieve Bergeron. Anne-Marie Lemay. Barbara Daignault. Maud Haviernick. Anne-Marie Edwards. Helene Colgan. Barbara Marie Klueznick. Maryse Laganiere. Michele Richard. Annie St-Arnault. Annie Turcotte.

By now everyone's fairly familiar with the name Marc Lepine. He's the crazed individual who gunned down 14 women at Ecole Polytechnique, the University of Montreal engineering school, two years ago this month.

But how many of us recognize the names at the top of this page? These were Lepine's victims, the 14 innocent young women who died Dec. 6, 1989 in the worst mass slaying in Canadian history.

We learned much about Marc Lepine, who later killed himself, in the days following the shooting. That he was a product of family violence; that he was a loner, an emotional cripple who identified with his father's abuse of his mother.

We learned that Marc Lepine had trouble developing relationships with women; that he was intelligent, but had been rejected by the Armed Forces because of an "antisocial" personality. That he was obsessed with war films and war books.

Above all else, we learned that Marc Lepine was "always frustrated by women" and carried a deep-seated hatred of feminists. In his suicide letter Lepine told us that his brutal crime was "a political act." because "feminists have always ruined my life."

We know now that Lepine was a classic case of an abused, unhappy child who blamed women for his troubles and ultimately unleashed his pent-up rage by opening fire with a semi-automatic rifle on a quiet Montreal campus 2½ weeks before Christmas.

But how much do we really know about Marc Lepine's victims?

We recoiled in horror after the shooting, a nation sharing pain and aching disbelief that such a senseless, violent act could be perpetrated against 14 helpless students whose only crime, it seemed, was that they were female.

These were women training to be engineers — a profession that is dominated by men. Young, innocent, vital women full of hope and expectations. Fourteen intelligent, ambitious, creative minds that were snuffed out before they had the chance to realize their potential.

Two of the victims, Helene Colgan and Nathalie Croteau, were best friends who did everything together. Ironically, they died together at the age of 23. Dec. 6 was the last day of classes before exams. They had planned a Christmas trip to Mexico with a group of friends, and looked forward to graduating together the following May.

"She wanted to go to the farthest limits of life," Clarence Colgan said of his daughter. "She had so much ambition and hope and... oh Lord, I don't even want to think what she could have done."

What she could have done... We'll never know what she, and the 13 others, could have done, and that's the saddest part of a 15-minute shooting spree that still leaves us wondering, "Why?"

We don't know much about the dreams of those 14 exceptional women. What were their ambitions, hopes, secret fears, desires? What special memories had they shared with friends and family? What magic and grace and joy might they have brought to the world, had they graduated and followed the paths of their chosen careers?

Did they write poetry? Daydream of winning Wimbledon? Cry over sad movies? Pray for peace? Design sky-scrapers, build bridges, aim for the stars and wish on the moon?

We'll never know what wonders these 14 talents might have accomplished, invented, or created had their lives not been taken from them on a cold December day in Montreal.

Light a candle in remembrance of 14 very special women. We owe it to them never to forget.



HUG THESE WOMEN:

The following is a list of women who have given their time and energy for ASWAC projects.

Lorraine Gregoire
Tammy Horne
Louise Janzen
Moyra Lang
Christine Leonard
Dorothy Mandy
Sheryl McInnis
Cathy Meade
Pat Sawatsky
Donna Gould
Danielle Aubrey
Debbie Smith
Lynn Sloan
Sharon Ellingsen
Michelle Clarke
Chris White
Bernice Gowan
Everal Cutt
Cheryl Payne
Deborah Carnett
Pat Quigley
Nancy Buzzell
Michelle Butot
Peggy Ward
Lisa Brawn
Suzanne Trudel
Barb Ootes

If you would like to become involved and be hugged, please contact the Edmonton office.

THE LEGEND BEGINS...

A woman recently told me about a dream her friend had...A dream she wanted to see become a reality. Her friend from Montreal, dreamt that women all across this country made feminine icons in anticipation of a very special day.

These icons took the shape of feminine or feminist symbols, Goddess images, little witches or whatever a woman decided to create. They were made out of clay, paper, cookie dough, twigs, feathers, wax or anything else a woman chose to create with.

Then on December 6th, women took their icons out into the world and left it in public places for all to see. Some women left them on store window sills, park benches and street corners. Others left them in buses to travel throughout the city, or in elevators to go up and down all day.

But wherever a woman left her icon, she left a part of herself and her hope for a peaceful society based on gender and racial equality.

This dream was passed on to some women in Montreal and Calgary last year who made and shared their icons. Now I'm trying to pass it on to women across Alberta and hope that all of you help pass it on to someone else.

Can you image if on December 6th, you saw thousands of women's icons everywhere you went. Wouldn't it be nice if we did live in a peaceful society based on gender and racial equality? This year, become a part of the dream...make an icon, and continue to work for women's social, economic and political equality.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM, AGAIN.

For centuries, women in Canada have faced inequality before and under the law. Not only have decisions made by trial judges at the local level been biased against women victims, these same judges often justify their decisions with comments about women which are archaic, sexist and ignorant. The following are a few examples of these kind of offensive statements.

-In 1989, an Ottawa judge acquitted Stephen McCraw of three counts of uttering threats to cause bodily harm. The accused had written letters to three women saying that he would have sex with them even if he had to rape them. The judge ruled that a threat to rape did not necessarily constitute a threat to cause bodily harm. The judge also said that rape did not necessarily involve physical, emotional or psychological harm amounting to serious bodily harm.

-In 1990 in the Northwest Territories, a judge suggested that a woman provoked her husband's attack by wearing a t-shirt with three cartoon polar bears engaged in sexual acts. This judge sentenced the man to pay a \$1000 fine.

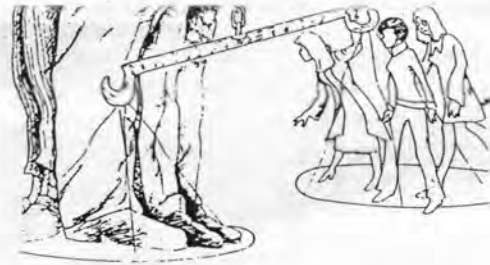
-In 1989 in Alberta, a provincial court judge remarked that "There appears to be too many of these domestic disputes where liquor is involved, where the wives are very quick to lay charges after they institute the violence".

-A Manitoba judge gave a man a suspended sentence for slamming his former girlfriend's head against a wall and holding her hostage and threatening her with a loaded shotgun. The judge said, "women, can't live with them, can't live without them."

-Another Manitoba judge fined a man \$300 for hitting his wife. In this case, the judge stated, "sometimes a slap in the face is all she needs."

It may be argued that many of these comments are made without thought and that the judge does not really believe what he said. Even if one were willing to accept this argument, it is clear that the minimum that the public should expect from judges is thoughtfulness about what they are saying and its potential impact.

However, while it is possible that some of these comments may have been made without thought, these type of comments are made far too frequently to be merely thoughtless. It is clear that judges are often not able to let go of



their personal biases against women when ruling on cases involving women. Not only are the decisions often a slap in the face to the victim, but judges often go beyond the ruling to make remarks and comments which further victimize the woman. The woman must now deal with the damage caused by the accused.

In addition, regardless of whether such comments are made without thought, they have an impact far beyond the confines of the particular case. Judges are in positions of power and respect in society and should not be making public comments that will be detrimental to women, as these comments often reinforce the archaic stereotypes held by others.

While it is clear that women are often further victimized by the criminal justice system, women lawyers are also subject to comments which make them victims of the system as well. For example, after a lengthy trial, one female lawyer in Alberta was told by the judge "it's nice to see an attractive woman lawyer who is so competent." Another example of this type of remark occurred when three women lawyers informed a judge that they had received death threats. The judge replied, "I'm surprised that anyone would want to harm such attractive women as yourselves." It would appear that to gain any credibility as a professional in the legal system, a woman must not only make it through law school and the bar exam, but she must also meet some standard of attractiveness.

When one realizes that female professionals in the system have difficulty gaining credibility, it makes it seem all the more unlikely that female victims will ever be treated with the respect they deserve. And, as long as women legal professionals are harassed and put down by judges in positions of power, they will not be in a strong position of power, they will not be in a strong position to effectively advocate on behalf of other female victims of the system.

By Christine Leonard



ALBERTA FEMINIST CALENDAR CONTINUED

THE CHRISTMAS BUREAU OF EDMONTON is requesting your help in reaching needy families who may be experiencing financial difficulties this Christmas. The deadline for referrals is December 11. Contact 428-4967 for more information.

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SEXUAL STEREOTYPING AND PORNOGRAPHY (PASSP)

video nights the first Tuesday of every month, the line-up in the new year will be: Sexual Stereotyping In Advertising January 7, 1992; Traditional Sexist Attitudes February 4. Each video night will begin at 7:30 pm at #209-9246-34A Avenue, for more information call Lori at 922-6623. Bring munchies and a friend.

ART SHOW at PASSP, is pleased to show the artworks of Alberta Artist Laura Watmough. The show continues until January 31st. Call 450-4777 for viewing information. **RAFFLE** tickets are now on sale from PASSP members and at our office. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The draw will be held December 21st. **INFORMATION KITS**, the updated "Pornography Hurts" and a new kit "Sexual Stereotyping" are available at the office for \$10 each or can be ordered with additional \$2 each for postage.

INDO-CANADIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION is having an open house on Wednesday, December 18 at Millwoods Centre for Immigrants, #106, 2024-57 Street. Details will be announced, please phone the office for further information at 490-0477.

EDMONTON WOMEN'S MUSIC COLLECTIVE next dance is December 28 at Riverdale Community Hall, 9231-100Ave. The dance will feature women's music and non-alcoholic beverages. Come at 8pm and learn some line dancing. All women welcome. Cost is \$7 (sliding scale).

MAKING BABIES. All lesbians interested are invited to come to an information-sharing meeting November 28 at 7:30 pm at the Women's Program, 11019-90 Ave.

LETHBRIDGE

FOCUS FORWARD FILM FESTIVAL. This year, ASWAC, in conjunction with the Southern Alberta Art Gallery presents FOCUS FORWARD, an evening of film and video in memory of the Montreal Massacre. This is part to you in part by the National Film Board. 8pm at 601-3rd Avne south in downtown Lethbridge. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

WOMEN'S COFFEE HOUSES ASWAC held its first ever women's coffee house on October 17 during Global Awareness Week. It was a success. Future coffee houses are tentatively scheduled for the last Tuesdays of every month (with the exception of December). The coffee houses are intended as an evening of socialization and relaxation, so come out and enjoy. The next coffee house (tentative) is Tuesday November 26 at 7:30 pm at the Penny University Espresso and Cappuccino bar (333-5th St South) Admission is free.

WOMEN AND POVERTY REPORT ASWAC

Lethbridge has a limited number of the Women Against Poverty reports. Anyone who was involved in the hearings is requested to pick up a copy of the report at the office. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy is asked to make a donation of \$5 per individual or \$10 per organization. This donation need not prevent low-income people from obtaining a copy of the report. Call Mirella at 329-8338 for more details.

LESBIAN NEWSLETTER. Donna Dhaliwal of ASWAC Lethbridge attended the CRAIW conference in Edmonton from the 8th to the 10th of November. At the conference, she was put in charge of the newsletter for the National Lesbian Forum. Any woman wanting more information can contact Donna at 758-3006.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. The World Citizens Centre is coordinating a celebration for Human Rights Day. The celebration will take place in Galt Gardens on the evening of Tuesday, December 10th. The theme for this year is racism and Terry Harrison from ASWAC Lethbridge will be one of the featured speakers. For more information contact Lorraine at the World Citizens Centre, 328-5725.

MONTREAL MASSACRE MEMORIAL. December 6th at 7 pm in the University of Lethbridge atrium. We still need alot of help organizing the memorial. If you would like to help out please attend the next organizational meeting on Wednesday, November 27 at noon in office #C451 at the U of L. If you cannot make this meeting but are interested contact Mirella at 329-8338.

MENSTRUATION IS NOT A LUXURY. On October 31 and November 1, ASWAC sponsored an information table at the U of L atrium which featured a petition against the GST on pads and tampons. Copies are still available at the ASWAC office.

WOMANSOURCES CON'T

TWO HILLS

The Nancy Mereska Volunteer Resource Library. Over 300 volumes covering every aspect of women's lives, family issues, prevention of family violence, healing, etc. Nancy is a Life Skills Management Consultant who teaches courses, runs workshops and holds consultation sessions with women in need of support. The material in her library may be borrowed. Box 136, Two Hills, Alberta, T0B 4K0, 786-2180.

WHITECOURT

The Wellspring Women's Association at Box 681, Whitecourt, AB, phone 778-6209 has a resource library. They have a selection of books and periodicals, pamphlets, videos (VHS and Beta). Having just lost funding, Wellspring staff and their valued volunteers have been very busy seeking means of funding via donations and by way of a fund raising project. The funds raised will be available to the centre as of Oct.31, 1991, at which time they hope to revise, update and replenish the resource library. If you are interested in donating or volunteering or would just like some more information please call the office.

The ASWAC AGM in Edmonton on October 19 was reasonably well attended considering it was not held in conjunction with an Assembly this year.

Noreen Bell presented the long awaited Women Against Poverty report to the membership and later met with the media where herself and a number of other commented on the report and the process for a special on CFRN News.

Considerable discussion at the meeting focussed on clarifying the work ASWAC does and the way we communicate with each other and with the public. Consensus was reached in a decision to hold an orientation workshop on the collective process and consensus decision making in November in conjunction with the first Board meeting. It was strongly suggested that this be a weekend affair and include Board, staff and Regional Reps. The Regional Reps also stressed the importance of holding their own orientation as part of that weekend.

Finances were a major concern as there was no comprehensive financial picture available and that because of some late reporting earlier this year, ASWAC has experienced a lapse in funding. The group made a strong commitment toward fundraising. Other areas of discussion included volunteer and membership development, Board changes and the Spring Conference organization. For a more detailed account of the meeting call the ASWAC Edmonton Office for a copy of the minutes or the Annual Report.



AN AFTERNOON WITH GERRI BAILEY

ASWAC Member Gerry Bailey shared with the Indo Canadian Women's Association, her experiences as a long-time Alberta feminist and international development worker. Gerry's background ranges from challenging the Canadian Air Force on women's rights to raising three children and returning to University at the age of forty. Gerry's lifetime commitment (69 years) to feminism in Alberta and her work in Asia has given her a unique perspective on the International Women's Movement and the need for global awareness. She emphasized the importance of feminism and the existence of a wide range of experiences within the women's movement. Gerry informally presented her true-life stories which prompted questions and comments from young and old. Everyone then went on to share their own views with the group on feminism, cultural differences, racism and other issues. A mutual desire resulted on the part of ASWAC and the Indo Canadian Women's Association to continue to increase communication and networking between the two groups. Everyone thanked Gerry for sharing her thoughts and insight and invited her to return.

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW PEOPLE

Let me introduce myself. My name is Sharon Reiner and I now live in the ASWAC Edmonton office. They call me the Administrative Coordinator, although I prefer "Queen Sharon". Feel free to call me whatever you wish. I come to ASWAC from a foreign land (Saskatchewan). Yes, my family and I are yet more statistics who have fled from destitution to the land of milk and honey. Don't disappoint us!

So far my experience in a new province, a new city and with ASWAC has been positive and exciting. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I look forward to a future with this energetic organization. I have plenty of experience with volunteer organizations and with women's groups (but my resume says that). What you might not know about me is that I am a mom, a wife, an ex-waitress, a radical and I used to be a cheerleader. I welcome the chance to meet everyone. Please call, write, or drop by for a coffee. If I'm not out setting the world on fire, we can sit and have a nice chat. See you soon.

Love and Kisses,

S

Mirella Zappone has recently been hired as project coordinator. She was born and raised in Lethbridge and has a degree from the U of A. Feel free to visit the office and find out what exactly it is that a project coordinator does all day. The office is open from 10-12 and from 1-4 Monday through Friday.

The staff at all the ASWAC office's would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new Board members. We're pleased to have the opportunity to work with all of you. We would also like to show our appreciation to the returning Board members and the Regional Representatives. It's exciting to be working with such an energetic, caring group of women. We all look forward to the new year together, creating change.



ALBERTA'S SECOND

Alberta now has its second free-standing abortion clinic. The Kensington Clinic in Calgary will be offering services before the new year. Women can refer themselves, or can be referred by women's groups or doctors.

The anti-choice movement in Calgary has been frantically trying to get the clinic shut down before it opens. Clinic lawyers are convinced there is no possibility the anti-choice movement will be successful in this attempt to restrict women's access to abortion in Calgary.

We can, however, expect to see them using harassment and operation rescue-type tactics to try and prevent women from entering the clinic. Many women have already phoned the clinic offering support and assistance and a Clinic Defence Group is currently forming.

The Clinic Defence Group is looking at tasks like escorting women into the building and raising funds to pay for increased security costs. A fund will also be set up to subsidize women who cannot afford the full cost of an abortion. Executive Director Cory Bennett has made it clear that no woman in need will be refused the clinic's services.

The Kensington Clinic is now accepting donations and calls from people interested in volunteering or offering their support. Their phone number is (403) 283-9117 and they are located at 2431-5th ave. NW, Calgary, AB. T2N 0T3.

ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE ADDRESSES:

CALGARY

FAX# 269-2012
#303, 223-12 AVE. S.W.
CALGARY, AB.
T2R 0G9
PHONE: 233-0731

EDMONTON

FAX# 425-3293
MAILING ADDRESS:
BOX 1573 EDM. AB.
T5J 2N7 OR
#10, 9930-106 STREET
EDM. AB.
T5K 1E2
PHONE: 421-0306

LETHBRIDGE

#202, 325-6 STREET SOUTH
LETHBRIDGE, AB.
T1J 2C7
PHONE: 329-8338

1991-92 Board Members

Edmonton

Lorraine Gregoire	444-0745
Tammy Horne	492-1041
Jenny Kain	428-2414
Moyra Lang	421-0306
Christine Leonard	423-4878
Dorothy Mandy	451-0933
Sheryl McInnis	421-0306
Cathy Meade	421-0306
Sharon Reiner	421-0306
Deb Stewart-Furmanski	450-0158

Calgary

Donna Gould	233-0731
Nancy Miller	233-0731
Sheryl Payne	233-0731

Lethbridge

Mirella Zappone	329-8338
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Regional Representatives

Edmonton

Valda Roberts	488-9659 r
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Calgary

Debbie Smith	263-9615
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Fort McMurray

Nicole Balmer	791-9210 r 743-2121 o
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Two Hills

Nancy Mereska	768-2180 r
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Westrose

Gerry Bailey	586-2983 r
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Innisfail

Lori Crocker	227-1141 r 227-3881 o
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Grimshaw

Jocelyn Bathgate	624-4817 o 332-1673 r
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Medicine Hat

Anne Dickason	529-1539 r 544-4663 o
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The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Secretary of State Women's Program and the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

WE NEED CREATIVE WOMEN TO DESIGN OUR SECOND OF FOUR LIMITED EDITION T-SHIRTS.

WE NEED: AN 8 1/2 BY 11 IMAGE OF THE DESIGN. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN HONORARIUM IF YOUR DESIGN IS CHOSEN. ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RETAINED BY ASWAC.

THIS T-SHIRT DESIGN IS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (WHICH IS MARCH 8) THE RIGHTS TO WINNING SUBMISSIONS MUST BE SIGNED OVER TO ASWAC IN RETURN FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY OF YOUR WORK.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL EDMONTON ASWAC AT 421-0306 OR CALGARY ASWAC AT 233-0731. ENTRY DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 3, 1992. PLEASE SEND

SUBMISSIONS TO #10, 9930-106 STREET, EDMONTON, AB. T5K 1E2. MARKED T-SHIRT DESIGN.

ASWAC memberships run from September to September. If your membership is up to date please pass this newsletter on to someone who may wish to join.

Name: _____ Membership: \$ _____

Address: _____ New Renewal

Donation: \$ _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone _____ (home) _____ (work)

* *Suggested membership fee is \$20.00 but we will accept whatever you can afford.*

Please make cheques out to: ASWAC, Send to: Box 1573 Edmonton AB T5J 2N7

YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF ASWAC'S INCOME.