focus on dal

Dalhousie reflects

by Lisa Lachance

"Chocolate! I think all our events should have chocolate at them," voiced one meeting attendant.

November means different things for students at Dal. For the campus' women's groups, November means Week of Reflection. This annual week looks at issues surrounding violence against women. It began as a response to December 6, 1989 when fourteen women were killed at l'Ecole Polytechnique. Although the above demand for chocolate will probably not be met, other plans for this year's week are well under way.

In the past the week has included workshops, panel discussions, movies, discussion groups, coffeehouses and other events. An important part of the week has always been a vigil that is aimed not just at remembering the women of l'Ecole Polytechnique, but other women who continue to suffer and survive situations of violence.

This year the Week is from November 21 -25 and many of the above outlined events are in the works. Groups who have been working together this year include the Dalhousie Women's Centre, the Dalhousie Women's Collective, Dalhousie Women and the Law, the King's Women's Action Coalition, and other people not normally affiliated with these groups.

One of the first questions many people ask is why a week in November and not one coinciding with December 6? Just take a look at anyone's dayplanner and the main

answer should be fairly evident -Dec. 6 occurs during the last week of classes for undergraduates and the exam week for many professional programs. The third week in November was a time set by the Canadian Federation of Students that has been adopted by most universities and colleges across the country.

There have been some controversial issues concerning the purpose of the Week, including whether this is a week to honour women or to dishonour men. In the past, most events have been open to both genders, but there is usually some space reserved for women-only reflection and remembering.

Another aspect of the Week of Reflection that organizers try to address each year is diversity. Some people think that our society continues to remember l'Ecole Polytechnique because it was fourteen middle-class white women who were killed. They question whether we would still be remembering if it was fourteen women of colour or poor women or lesbians. This year, like others, the organizers are trying to provide discussion around this idea, as well as other issues of diversity.

If you have any concerns you do not even have to volunteer time. Just call and give your earful to myself (Lisa Lachance) at the Dalhousie Women's Centre.

The November 17 issue of the Gazette will include a Week of Reflection supplement. A full calendar of events will also be available at that time.

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Profiles

Names: (1 to r) Melissa Baroski, Joanne Newton, Jenny Osburn Ages: Mel-19 soon Jo- Legal in Québec

Jen-19 in 409 days All-time favourite song: Mel- "Violet" by Hole Jo- "I am the Cancer" by Sloan Jen- "Ding-Dong, the Witch is Dead" from the Wizard of Oz All-time favourite TV show: All- Cheers All-time favourite movie: Mel- "Point of No Return" Jo- "Lethal Weapon" Jen- "The Wizard of Oz" Favourite cartoon character:

Mel-Ren (of "Ren and Stimpy") Jo- Smurfette Jen- The mom in "Muppet Babies"

Favourite food: Mel- Potatoes Jo- Cheeseburgers Jen- Those Marriot grilled peanut butter and banana sandwiches Favourite smell:

Mel-Sandalwood Jo- Definitely the rotting leaves in the photo Jen- Basement smells Favourite Crayola colour: All- flesh tone What makes you happy? Mel-Sex Jo- Brown eyes Jen- Clean sheets What is your greatest fear? Mel-Going to hell Jo- I'm scared of everything Jen- Joanne Do you have any bad habits? Mel- I'm a lazy bum Jo- I forget to wash my clothes Jen- I chew my toenails What was the worst gift you ever received?

Mel- An apron Jo- Seagull pewter - get it away! Jen- A jogging suit



What did you do with it? Mel- My parents might be reading this - they gave it to me Jo- Well, I put it on the lightswitch; it was a light-switch cover Jen- It's under my bed Favourite word: Mel-Concubine Jo- Free Jen- Impedimentia

What is the best thing about being profiled? Mel- No comment Jo- Tim telling me I'm perfect Jen- Tim feeding us What is your favourite Jenny fantasy? Mel- She cleans the room Jo- She gives me her overalls Jen-I straighten up my act and get straight As

by Tim Richard





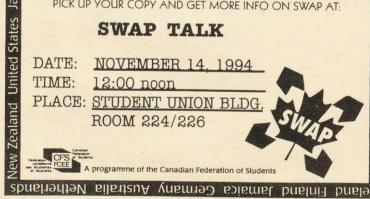
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