

Montreal massacre memorial

I sat in Henson College auditorium experiencing a service in memory of the fourteen women killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989 when the woman speaking asked us to bow our heads in reflection. The woman asked the audience to think of something they could do tomorrow that would help to prevent violence against women. I decided to write an article.

I am a volunteer at the Dalhousie Women's Center and so I was asked to read a name at the December 6 service. The date falls directly in the middle of December exams and my free time was carefully budgeted. I thought for a minute and agreed.

My last class of the term ended at 11 a.m. and I was supposed to meet at the auditorium at 11:45. I decided to spend the extra minutes at the library. Students everywhere. Tired eyes, with an undercurrent of excitement. The term was almost over. 11:40 came quickly. I ran to the auditorium stopping briefly at the SUB to grab a cookie so that my stomach wouldn't growl when I stood up to speak.

The auditorium was just about set up when I arrived. I spotted my friend Jill. Jill was holding typewritten slips of paper and when I approached she said, "Here, pick a name." It kind of reminded me of drawing names in elementary school for exchanging Christmas gifts. The name I got was Annie Turcotte. The slip of paper read: 20 years old. She was a competitive swimmer. She had a passion for debating and discussion. I read it over again. She was younger than I am. Margie's mom was a competitive swimmer. My cousin Sonja has a passion for debating and discussion. Sonja is also in engineering at TUNS. I started to form a picture of Annie Turcotte in my head.

The service was about to start so I took my seat in the front row with the rest of the readers. I thought about the day before when I went out for lunch with my mother. Mom had told me about the difficult time she had getting to sleep the night before. She had said that she imagined me reading at the service and some man coming in and shooting me. I brushed it off at the time, but as I sat in the auditorium I contemplated the possibility. Where was the exit? Would I run? Would I freeze? Or would I have the guts to look him straight in the eye? I don't really want know the answer.

The service was running smoothly. It was our turn to read the names of the fourteen women murdered five years ago. I was number nine. As each name was read off I grew increasingly aware of how real these women were. When I stood up to speak I wanted to cry. I think I would have liked Annie Turcotte.

The service ended. Margie, who had been in the audience, waited for me. We left the auditorium. The day was cold and I still had one more essay to write. In five years I will probably have forgotten about the essay, but I don't think I will ever forget Annie Turcotte who was twenty years old, was a competitive swimmer, had a passion for debating and discussion, was a student at L'Ecole Polytechnique, and was murdered on December 6, 1989.

Ineke Felderhof

Ask Joe and Jo

"Hello, intellectual pigs. What crude atrocities can you do to the washroom?"

Welcome back to school, and to the world of real student concerns, thoughts, and considerations — yes, those that are written on the bathroom wall. It's an issue of free speech, and the graffiti found on the walls of our very own Student Union Building can make you scream, laugh, cry or want to punch something.

Firstly, we'd like to say that it is an interesting mission to check out the washrooms on campus. It is, however, a great time of year to do it as the washrooms are still in fairly good shape as far as smells go — if you know what we mean. Without the help of Gillian and Chris, this could never have been done — Thanks! (and deep apologies, John).

So what are the picks? What are the wise comments of the can?

Our favourite one-liners:

* "Hello, have a nice pee!" (Thanks, if anything goes wrong, we'll call you)

* "Lemmings!" (Don't worry, we didn't see any)

* "Who's Bob?" (Who IS Bob, really?)

* "I love foreskins" (you too?)

* "Regan is a schnozzy" (5 bucks to anyone who actually knows what this means!)

We laughed, we cried; it was amazing. Frankly, there is some really DEEP stuff there... Okay, so just about anyone can sound profound in one sentence — what about some REAL poetry?

"Dear Dickman,

Where hasn't thou been?

I miss your penile witticisms!

Hast thou forsaken us?

Let's see some green writing

signed, Cuntman" (check out that oxy-moron!)

Yes, we know, parents these days — Dickman here seems to be MASTER of the obvious, no?

There were some other winners in the nasty, disgusting and tasteless department, but some things should be left where the toilets flush. It's a scary thing to find that Hitler has some fans here. Some comments were anti-gay, anti-lesbian, anti-black, anti-jew, anti-woman, white power, etc. General schmuckiness abounded. Yet there was opposition to these comments, too. There was gay pride graffiti, woman power, and expressions of minority strength.

Now, what does all this mean? Someone brought up the idea that the bathroom graffiti may be the release against political correctness, a place to air your views without being condemned for having views outside those of the norm. This may be, but it's funny how much dirty laundry is aired as well. Put your litter in the trash, but keep your trash out of the can. Perhaps if Mr. and Ms. A. Nonymous would come out with some of the racist, homophobic crap, and the male and female bashing, we might be able to deal with it in a more mature setting.

What's our opinion? Give it a read! The time you spend in the Jane/John is YOUR private time — to think, ponder, and enjoy!

"Free your mind and your ass will follow." — Funkadello, 1970

We love it!!

Remember: if you have a question, nothing's too rude, crude or dumb. Just ask Joe & Jo.

Jo Mirsky and Joe Tratnik

International Students Events Calendar

ISC, Student Union Building, Rm. 120

January

Sat. 14: Mini-orientation for new students, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Sun. 22: Pot Luck Dinner, 3:00 p.m.
(each person brings a dish)

Fri. 27: Coffee Hour, 3:00 p.m.

February

Wed. 8: Bowling Party, time TBA

Fri. 17: Coffee Hour, 3:00 p.m.

March

Mon. 13: Observatory at Saint Mary's, 6:30 p.m.

Fri. 31: Coffee Hour, 3:00 p.m.

We have many other events in the works, so keep your eyes and ears open. In the meantime check the Events board in the ISC Resource Room for details and sign-up sheets.

Videos will be shown on Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Friends are invited to join in our activities.

First Baptist Church Halifax

1300 Oxford Street (across from Shirreff Hall)

422-5203

January 15, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Sermon: *Something to Celebrate*-Mr. Boyd

Music: Tye, Holst, Bach

January 22, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Sermon: *Today...in your hearing!*-Mr. Boyd

Music: Stanford, Bach

Rev. John E. Boyd, Minister
Peter Metcalfe, Director of Youth Ministry
David MacDonald, Director of Music

Dalhousie Women's Centre

6143 South St. (between Seymour & LeMarchant)

Halifax, N.S. B3H 1T4

(902) 494-2432

January 12, Thursday 6:00 pm

Potluck for
friends and volunteers of the DWC

Other Info...

Hey! We just bought a bunch of new books. Come see our expanded selection in the areas of diversity, health and all sorts of women's issues.

Volunteering...

There are always spaces for volunteers at the DWC. It's flexible, fun, and easy. Currently there are several volunteer centres

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The DWC needs a Treasurer  
for a term to end September 1996.

Interested women can inquire at the Centre or drop off no later than January 17th.  
Honoraria provided

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Make a
New Year's Resolution
to see your
Women's Centre.