

# City of Wood

He tried to fuck her but she wouldn't, tried to fuck her but she wouldn't tried to force her tried to make her tried to break her tried to rape her but she wouldn't she wouldn't she wouldn't and she kicked him and she bit him and she hit him and she screamed so he told the whole world she came on to him that night.

He's a cunt cocksucker asshole motherfucker thinks the whole world believes that it was her molested him he's a parasite a married man a well groomed perfumed president of the company. Smells like shit to me. He's the scum that tried to hit her, he's like the ones that marched for Hitler and the thing that scares me most is that he's out there walking free.

He sits beside you in the classroom sits beside you on the bus he's the one that seems so friendly he's the one everyone trusts he's the priest sheik rabbi

guru headmaster dad he's the peace loving hippie dressed in plaid. Don't you be calling him to be babysitting your kids nothing turns him on like the vulnerable near his prick.

Ya in the Guinness Record Book under the letter "C" they got his picture there says creeps you should hope never to see. Jail ain't good enough for him to spend the rest of his life, don't you be praying for his disease this ain't gonna be the cure.

Ya ya you read it in the paper, on the radio you hear about a woman being raped about a woman disappeared. Arson is the norm arson is the norm arson is the norm in this city of wood. She's as common as your mother she's as common as your sister and you wonder if there's anything you could do.

**BOB WISEMAN  
FROM THE ALBUM CITY OF WOOD**

# Stopping the nightmare

BY TRACIE HOWATT

On December 6, 1989 a tragedy of violence against women forced Canadians to open their eyes. We must honour the memory of the women murdered or injured in the Montreal massacre, but we must not stop there. Violence against women is happening now. It happened last night and it will happen tomorrow. Many of the violent acts against women are committed inside the supposedly safe confines of their homes. Out on the street women fear strangers and in their homes many women fear their partners. Canadian society has allowed this nightmare to go on for far too long.

According to Statistics Canada's "Violence Against Women Survey", at least 1 in 4 women will be sexually assaulted in their life. That means if you are not a victim of rape, then someone you know is. Think about it! We are not talking about a stranger being raped. We are talking about your friend, your sister, your mother, or your daughter being or becoming a victim of rape.

One of the biggest problems is that many women feel that if they are raped it is their fault. Wrong!!! If someone rapes you its not your fault. Rape is a violent act of power on behalf of the rapist. Date rape is no exception. Many people are not aware of the severity and extensiveness of this issue because often out of shame or feelings of societal inaction, women do not speak out about their horrific experiences. Unfortunately, this actually serves to protect rapist. If no one knows about it, the criminal get away with the crime. We must change the way we view rape. Victims of rape should never be made to feel or think that they have done something wrong.

We need to condemn rape and violence against women on a larger scale. Rapist need to know that they will not get away with their crime. Things need to change. People have to direct their anger about this issue into positive action. Men and women need to take positive action against rape and make their voices heard.

Things need to change and that will only happen if you and I change it. Do something today. Talk about violence against women, call your Member of Parliament, take a self-defense class, or stop that guy at the bar harassing that woman. Write about issues surrounding rape and tell your friend how you feel. Listen and believe if a woman tells you that she has been raped. Pay attention to what is going on around you — it's surprising what you may see and prevent. Do anything, except forget about it!

# Musings of a South Asian Woman in the Wake of the Montreal Massacre

In the wake of the Montreal Massacre indeed the name Marc Lepine Will be etched in our minds And herstory.

14 women  
14 white women  
14 white middle class women  
Selected...  
Target...

Fell...  
Victim...  
Dead...  
A statement  
Of widespread misogyny

Yes  
I, am a non-white woman  
A woman of Color  
Raged...  
Mourned...  
Grieved...  
With you  
The white counterparts of the feminist community

And No  
I could not  
Rage, mourn or grieve with you  
As you would have liked me to  
For you have yet  
To cross the barriers of race, class and sexuality  
To...Rage  
Mourn  
Grieve

And Resist  
The daily violence  
On the street  
In the home  
In our lives  
The lives of non-white women and white working class women.

Did you know  
In Rexdale 2 Black women  
And 1 South Asian woman  
Were shot at  
Just before the Massacre?  
Did you?  
No.  
I am not surprised I hear that  
Answer so many times.

Can't you see  
White or Black  
We are in it  
Together \*  
And only in coming together  
Will there be freedom  
For you, me and us  
For no woman is free  
Till all women are free

Until then  
I  
Rage...  
Mourn...  
Grieve...  
And Resist  
With  
A Difference

RITA KOHLI

# Women's Work

Because woman's work is never done and is underpaid or unpaid or boring or repetitious and we're the first to get the sack and what we look like is more important than what we do and if we get raped it's our fault and if we get bashed we must have provoked it and if we raise our voices we're nagging bitches and if we enjoy sex we're nymphos and if we don't we're frigid and if we love women it's because we can't get a "real" man and if we ask our doctor too many questions we're neurotic and/or pushy and if we expect community care for children we're selfish and if we stand up for our rights we're aggressive and "unfeminine" and if we don't we're typical weak females and if we want to get married we're out to trap a man and if we don't we're unnatural and because we still can't get an adequate safe contraceptive but men can walk on the moon and if we can't cope or don't want a pregnancy we're made to feel guilty about abortion and... for lots and lots of other reasons we are part of the women's liberation movement.

—ANONYMOUS

# RAPIST

How dare you?  
What gives you the right? No one does.

Understand! Understand!  
You are you, with your own body  
I am me, with mine.

You have no right to touch me,  
Whether my friend, my husband, my brother, my father, my boyfriend, a stranger, my date.

My body is mine and mine alone,  
Do not seek a power trip,  
Do not feed that vice.

Don't touch me, unless I say you can  
Don't think I've told you something secretly by how I walk, smile, or dance.

My body is mine, Understand!  
L.H.

# Dear woman

I have been lucky to not have felt the hand of violence,

But I have felt its tongue,  
The words stung my spirit.

Woman, I do not pretend to understand,

But I stand beside you,  
I don't care to offer advice,

for I do not know.  
I offer my shoulder for support,

I offer my hand to hold,  
I offer my ears to listen.

Woman, I offer what I can,  
Be strong, you are not alone.  
L.H.

# Sticks and stones hurt

Violence does not have to be physical. Abuse can be emotional and verbal. Sexual Harassment is a violent act.

Dalhousie's policy defines sexual harassment as:  
1. Sexual solicitation or advance of a repeated, persistent or abusive nature made by a person who knows or ought to know that such solicitation or advance is unwanted;  
2. Implied or expressed promise of reward for complying with a sexually-oriented request;  
3. Reprisal in the form of either actual reprisal, or of the denial of opportunity, or implied or expressed threat of actual reprisal or denial of opportunity for a refusal to comply with a sexually-oriented request;  
4. Sexually-oriented remarks or behaviour on the part of a person who knows or ought to know that such remarks or behaviour may create a negative psychological or emotional environment for work or study.

Sexual harassment can include:

- VERBAL:**  
— Sexual innuendo  
— Gender specific insults  
— Humour, jokes and comments about sex, gender specific traits or sexual orientation  
— Sexual propositions or invitations  
— Threats of a sexual nature
- NON-VERBAL/NON-CONTACT:**  
— Staring or leering  
— Stalking  
— Obscene gestures, literature, photographs  
— Insulting or suggestive sounds
- PHYSICAL CONTACT:**  
— Unnecessary touching or brushing against a person's body  
— Sexual assault

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT NORMALLY IS NOT:**

— A mutually agreed upon interaction between two consenting persons. (For example, mutual flirtation, a hug between friends)

**IMPACT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

- People drop out of school
- People leave their jobs
- People are less productive
- People are intimidated
- People suffer physically and emotionally

Sexual harassment can happen to anyone. It can take many forms, from constant joking to physical assault. It may involve threats that you will fail in class or that you will lose your job. It may make your study or work environment uncomfortable through continued sexual comments, suggestions or pressures.

If you want to talk about a situation which you think could be sexual harassment, you can talk to the Sexual Harassment Advisor for advice, support, and information. Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Advisor is Susan Brouseau. Her office hours are 9 to 5 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Room 3 in the basement of the Arts and Administration building, 494-1137.

Student representatives on the President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment are Alix Dostal and Graham Kitson, undergraduate representatives, and Naomi Andjelic, graduate representative.

# Reflecting on positive change: Week of Reflection looks at achievements

BY GINA STACK

This year's Week of Reflection activities are balancing past tragedy with positive change.

Tiana McCallum, coordinator of Dalhousie's Women's Centre, says that this year's activities are not only about raising awareness of women who suffer from abuse, but also women's achievements since the Montreal Massacre.

On December 6th, 1989, 14 women were gunned down by a man at L'École Polytechnique in Montreal because of their sex. The Week of Reflection commemorates this massacre, and attempts to educate the public about violence against women.

McCallum said that an increased male involvement in this year's activities is a positive change.

On December 2nd, Peter Davison of Men for Change delivered a lecture at King's titled "Men as allies to end violence."

McCallum said that she was very pleased with Monday night's event.

"Things went very well, I was happy with the turn out. It was interesting because we don't usually have Men for Change involved,

and I think that men can help change."

Attendance to other events scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday remained steady. Today, there are no scheduled events in preparation for tomorrow's anniversary events.

"[Tomorrow] is a very emotional day," McCallum said.

"Events will be taking place all over the city."

At 1 p.m. there will be a tree dedication at the Technical University of Nova Scotia. At 2 p.m., there will a non-denominational prayer and moment of silence in the Killam Library Atrium. At 5 p.m., the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) will hold a performance night. The performance night will be followed by a candle-lit walk to Dalhousie from NSCAD, the Saint Mary's Tower and the Wormwood Cinema on Gottingen Street.

Dalhousie's Women's Centre is organizing the walk, and will provide candles. McCallum said that the purpose of starting the walk from a number of locations in the city is to get a large and diverse group of people to participate.

At Dalhousie, a candle-lit vigil will be held in the McInnis Room,

and participants will be served refreshments.

McCallum said that the vigil at Dal will focus on positive changes since 1989.

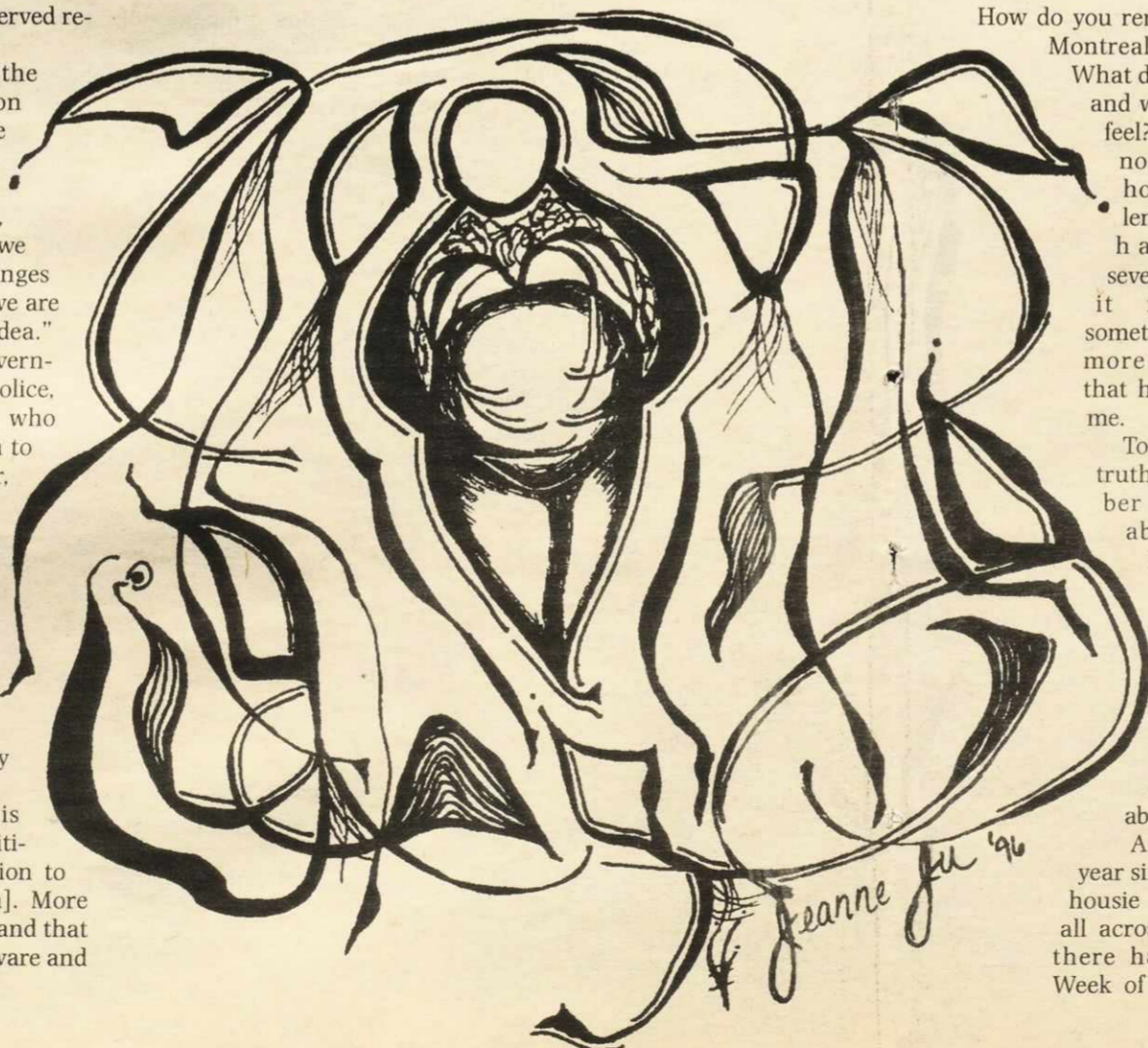
"We're going to talk about how far we've come, the positive things that we can see. One of these changes is the inclusion of men; we are just warming up to this idea."

McCallum said that government initiatives to train police, judges and other people who work with abused women to handle the situation better, are positive changes.

"We're trying to get away from the emotional a bit, and trying to make women feel empowered because things have happened."

McCallum also said that the purple ribbon campaign is going very well.

"The purple ribbon is being seen as a real legitimate symbol [of opposition to violence against women]. More people are wearing them and that means more people are aware and awareness is our goal."



How do you remember the Montreal Massacre?

What do you think and what do you feel? For me, it's not just some horrific, violent event that happened seven years ago; it represents something a little more personal that happened to me.

To tell you the truth, I remember hearing about the Montreal Massacre that Dec. 6, 1989, and I remember not feeling too much about it.

And each year since, at Dalhousie and places all across Canada, there has been a Week of Reflection

and purple ribbons in memory of the women who died and to raise awareness about violence against women. I felt I had to support these events because I am a woman, and as a woman, I will support issues of women. I never thought that it would be I who would need that support from others a few years later.

Now here's the issue that I didn't know quite how to empathize with — violence against women. Of course, I think violence against women is bad. It's the kind of thing that happens to "other" women — not to me and not to my friend. And many of us don't know why these women get into these violent situations. Why don't they just leave? Why couldn't they see it coming? Believe me, I know these questions. I've always wondered about them and never felt I quite understood what it would actually feel like to be in that situation.

But something happened to me one day that changed the way I think about all of this.

I always considered myself a strong and happy individual, active in life, with my head firmly on my shoulders. I worked, I studied, I hung out with friends, I got

along with my family, and I even held some positions on council. I had a boyfriend of three years that I was proud of too. It took us awhile, but we eventually realized that we had our differences: he wanted this and I wanted that. So I broke up with him. I spent the next several months on the just-broke-up-wondering-if-I-did-the-right-thing emotional roller coaster. I'm sure he did too.

He started calling about a year later, wanting to talk and start over. So we talked. But after hours of talking, the offers to meet me every day and drive me wherever I needed to go, and the flowers he sent to my summer workplace, I had enough. It just had to stop — as difficult as this would be, especially when I didn't completely hate this guy. I still cared. It was heart-wrenching.

Then one day, while we were out with mutual friends, he tried to talk to me in private about getting back together again, and when I didn't want to talk, he got frustrated and gave me a hard shove. I was so stunned; I just walked away. Then later, the same thing happened, but this time, he shoved me so hard, I fell back and hit the refrigerator, while he yelled

at me in front of my friends. I felt so humiliated and helpless. Luckily, a friend quickly got between us and took him outside.

"But at least he didn't slap me or point a gun at me or beat me up or kill me or massacre me." That's what I told myself. I told myself that he cared so much that he just got so frustrated that he burst. After all, everyone has a temper...

It took me over a year of persistence by a close friend to convince me that I never deserved to be treated like that, that all those fights over nothing I had with my ex were not all my fault, and that the other time he shoved me and made me cry because I was so upset and scared, then apologized and comforted me and made me feel better was a screwed up situation I or anyone didn't deserve to go through.

It took over a year for it to really hit me that violence against women comes in many forms and begins with very small things that sometimes leave no signs and remain hidden to everyone else around you — including yourself. And it happens to more people than you realize.

It's not just about an evil man

doing evil things to an innocent woman. It's about a woman, or any person for that matter, or even you, feeling comfortable with yourself, feeling good about yourself, and not letting anyone take a chunk out of your self-esteem for any reason. It's about a society that allows and accepts a situation where one person or one institution can make one individual feel small and powerless. It's about families and friends also being affected. It's about providing resources, awareness and support that give individuals the confidence and courage to be happy with oneself and the strength to do something about it if one is not happy.

Violence against women is not just about the outcome, the gruesome signs of violence that you see on the news. It is something that begins with something as small as the breakdown of basic human respect for one another and more importantly, for oneself.

So this year, when you remember the 14 women who were murdered on Dec. 6, 1989, also think about their families and friends and how they are affected. Think about yours and how important they are to you. And think about yourself.

H. J.