

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

Montreal Massacre remembered

by Elise Craft

On December 6, 1989 Marc Lepine went on a rampage at the Ecole polytechnique in Montreal shouting, "you're all a bunch of feminists."

He killed 14 women, and injured 12 other men and women before turning his gun on himself. This senseless violence shocked Canadian society to the core.

Marc Lepine blamed feminists for making his life miserable. The focus of debate is whether his actions were the manifestations of men's feelings towards women. One Globe & Mail writer wrote "the wanton slaughter of 14 women at the University of

Montreal has taken violence against women to unimaginable lengths." While at a vigil at Ecole Polytechnique, a woman who said that the slaughter "[showed] the extreme of hatred from men which women must live with in our society" was booed off the stage, and interrupted by another woman who said, "we're not here to make distinctions we're here to be together."

A widower of one of the slain said that to interpret Lepine's acts as an expression of sexism is to confuse two issues.

Professor Monique Frize, Chair of Women in Engineering at UNB, says that

society must do more to change men's attitude towards women. Some progress has been made, she says, but there is still a long way to go. Frize feels that now is the time to let talk of the massacre rest; to forget the name Marc Lepine, and to remember the fourteen women he killed.

The UNB Student Womens Collective along with a men's group from STU are organizing a memorial service for 4:00pm December 6, in the Head Hall auditorium. Later that evening there will be a healing circle. A representative of the Students Womens collective says she

feels that people want to talk about how the massacre has affected them. To her, Marc Lepine was not crazy, but represents the "ultimate violence against women." She says that the reason it's important to remember December 6 because the violence hasn't stopped.

The representative would like to have seen the initiative for this year's memorial come from students in Engineering, but, she says, since they are not doing anything, the other groups are taking the initiative.

One survivor of the massacre said "He cannot represent

anything in our society." When we make people like Marc Lepine symbols we confuse issues and perpetuate dangerous myths.

Violence against women is a major problem in our society. It will not be remedied by pointing fingers. Responsibility cannot be placed on faculties of universities, women or men. Results will not come from changing the spelling of words or using "gender-neutral language." All must talk with each other, then take action. As Michael Valpy of the Globe & Mail wrote "Mourn, yes than look deep into Canadian society."

GSA to reaffirm CFS membership

by Jodi Cruickshank

The Executive of the Graduate Student Association voted unanimously last week to hold a referendum to reaffirm their Association's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

The GSA, which became a full member of CFS in 1990, is the graduate student counterpart to the undergraduate Student Union. All full-time graduate students at UNB are members of the GSA, which became autonomous from the Student Union in 1986.

The GSA Executive have a number of reasons for asking the membership to reassess their commitment to CFS by referendum. First and foremost, there is a strong feeling among GSA Executive members that, at present, CFS does not adequately address the needs of graduate students. Graduate students have different priorities than undergraduates and it is felt that CFS has too strong a focus on issues that are more pertinent at the undergraduate level (such as tuition fees and student loans), and that it fails to address important graduate student issues such as funding for research and patent protection.

The GSA is also concerned with the way in which meeting time for the National Graduate Council was allocated at the CFS General Meeting that was held in Ottawa earlier this month. NGC is a subgroup of CFS, comprised of independent graduate student associations that belong to CFS, as well as non-autonomous grad student

associations. At the May meeting of CFS, held in Lethbridge, Alberta, it was decided by Plenary that NGC would be given at least 6 hours of exclusive meeting time during the next General Meeting, so as to minimize scheduling conflicts between graduate student delegates' commitments to NGC the working committees of CFS. Many graduate student associations were concerned when this did not take place and that no valid reason was given for the oversight.

There is also a feeling among GSA Executive members that CFS keeps NGC from getting things done. Dan Hare, Vice-President of the GSA, stated that there has been "historically, a level of friction between NGC and CFS."

GSA President Purvi Rajani adds "NGC was the strongest reason for our Association to join CFS. However, from what I've seen at the last two NGC meetings I attended, NGC is not able to function effectively as a forum for discussing graduate student issues and concerns because we have always have to deal with the internal problems and politics of CFS. I've heard people call the November NGC meeting 'a bloodbath' because of all the fighting over CFS."

At least three other graduate students associations in Canada are currently going to referendum on CFS membership, while several other grad associations are also considering it. A date for the UNB GSA's referendum has not yet been decided.



The Junior Chamber International (Michael David Smith photo)
From left to right: Dave Kilfoil, Leo Connel, Jody Pinoch, General Manager, Gisele Juliene, Junior Chamber President, Werner Disselkamp, UNB Liason, Dan Symes and Lori Sinclair.

Jaycees meet in Fredericton

by Jeffery Czopor

The Junior Chamber International, also known as the Jaycees, has arrived at UNB and states that it is your chance to do something great.

Whether in the faculty of Business, Forestry, or Science, young adult or thirty-five year old executive this organization offers an opportunity for personal and professional development.

The Chamber functions in more than 100 countries and has over 400,000 members. According to Jaycees' literature, the main focus of the Junior Chamber is to gain "self-improvement, to learn to accept responsibility, to make decisions, to become strong effective speakers, to develop many management techniques, to be better employers/employees, and to generally be a better person. In a day and age when professional growth is essential for knowledge in any interaction with the business

world, the Junior Chamber offers workshops on business etiquette, public speaking, insurance and real estate, Parliamentary procedure and computer training.

Essentially, the Junior Chamber is an opportunity to grow to broader horizons in many areas.

Introduced in Fredericton in 1950, the Junior Chamber became incorporated in 1969. Since then, the Junior Chamber has offered excellent opportunities for fellowship and training. The Junior Chamber states that "our members come from all walks of life. It is this blending of skills, interests, talents and knowledge that results in a foundation to tackle many areas of conflict."

The liaison for UNB is Werner Disselkamp.

The Junior Chamber chapter here in Fredericton wishes to work alongside such other business oriented organizations such as AIESEC. In 1992 a conference will be

held at a local hotel. The Junior Chamber prides itself as an organization that welcomes all and can serve the needs of all. More information can be received by calling 452-2112.

Last week's lead story *Police conclude assault fabricated* ended by stating that a woman at the University College of Cape Breton has been charged with criminal mischief for falsely alleging sexual assault.

That information was incomplete. The charges of criminal mischief against the woman have been dropped. The investigation into the sexual assault continues, and she has laid charges of misconduct against the police force for their initial handling of the case.

The way in which our story linked the two cases gave the impression that women who report sexual assault are not necessarily telling the truth. This was not our intention, and we apologize for any grievance this may have caused.