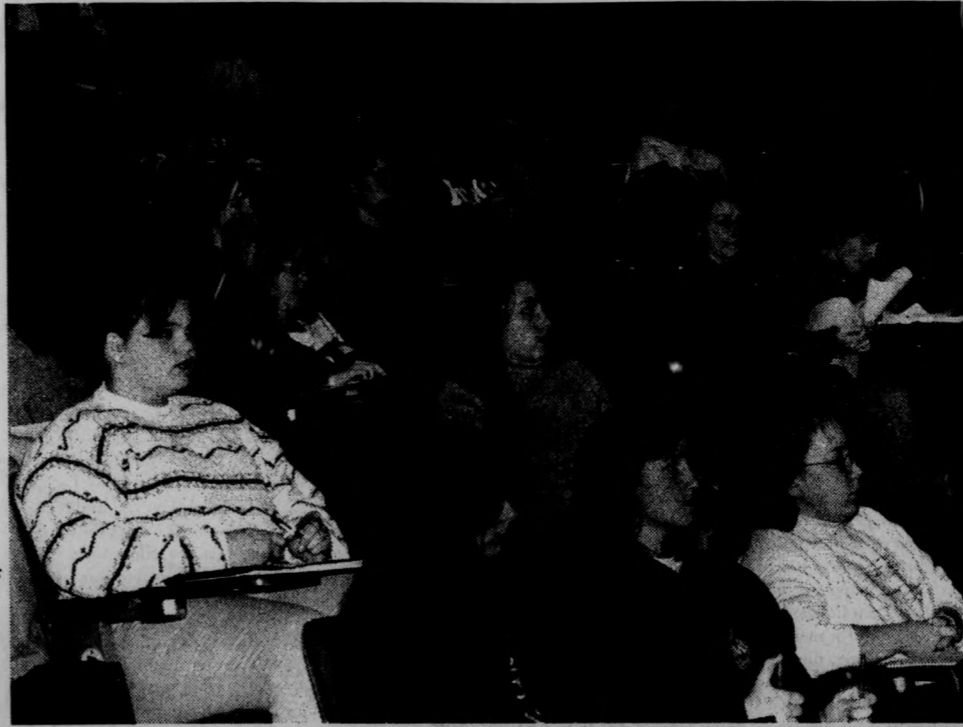


**Vox Feminae**

We were the few  
The proud; strong.  
(Our wondrous song)  
Called 'round the world  
Arise! Ring the bells  
(Oppression's knell)  
Make us proud as women,  
Each life a promise.  
(An oasis)  
Of hope, courage and dreams  
(Then the screams)  
Began  
(One man)  
Murdered before our time  
(A crime)  
But our lives and deaths  
Live on, each season  
(A beacon)  
To end the sorrows and nightmares  
Bring all together  
(A dove's white feather)  
Weaving people in society  
(Sobriety)  
Of the truths of our lives.

Jethelo E. Cabilete



Sitting in a typical classroom at UNB, you may know some of the people around you. What if fourteen of those people were singled out...?  
DREW GILBERT PHOTO

The Montreal Massacre was and remains a dramatic and tragic example of the perpetual violence waged against women.

It was, and it is, an anti-feminist 'statement'; a statement against the advancement of women in positions of power, which are indicative of the feminist movement.

To call it anything else or anything less is a grave perversion and denial of the truth.

**Who Died?**  
Fourteen women by murder, one man by choice (suicide).

**What happened?**  
A Massacre - of women. An attempted murder of feminism.

**Where did this tragedy take place?**  
École Polytechnique, Montreal, Quebec - just next door.

**Why did it happen?**  
"Because I have decided to send the feminists, who have always ruined my life, to their maker."  
- Marc Lépine, December 6, 1989.

**How did it happen?**  
1 - By violence - he used a gun.  
2 - By society - we sanction patriarchy and resent and silence those who try and change it.

**In memoriam.**

Jina Rodas and Gabrielle Slowey, UNB Womyn's Collective

## Exploring women's issues at UNB

### Being a feminist at UNB

Being a feminist at UNB does not come without its disadvantages. There is more backlash against women on this campus that I ever would have imagined. It is not something that a person would necessarily notice, even women, until a woman speaks her mind and it does not conform to the masculine ideology. The "Womynsay" column in the Brunswickan constantly receives responses the essence of which tells women to 'stop whining and just be equal'! Thanks for the advice, but that would require a sex change operation.

Many of the verbal and written responses to the different "Womynsay" columns expressed apathy, close-mindedness, and a resistance to the idea that there exists any gender inequality. The liberal idea that equality is there for everyone if we choose to take it seems to be the prevailing attitude on campus. The message I get from this is that I am a feminist because I choose to be unequal. Yes, I enjoy and encourage my own oppression just as Natives and ethnic minorities do! The words of Martin Yakan in 1994 had him removed from his faculty position because of their

extreme sexist nature. If you listen carefully to what many students are saying at UNB you will hear those exact same words. When someone calls a woman marching in the streets to protest violence against women a 'fanatic', what is it they are expressing? Do they think that wife abuse and rape are an acceptable part of women's lives? Probably not, but

**"Just because we are at University does not mean we are an educated population, especially when it comes to women's issues."**

I think a lot of the negative responses to feminist expression comes out of ignorance. Just because we are at University does not mean we are an educated population, especially when it comes to women's issues. The ignorance that afflicts the majority of students is not social backwardness but social conformity. To accept many of the ideas expressed in "Womynsay" or by feminist students and/or professors means being critical of the world in which we live. Trust me, I know how hard that can be. My feminist consciousness did not come about without crisis. When I was

awakened to the magnitude of the hidden power that exists to oppress women, I was forced to question my entire life; my friends; my family; my government; and myself. Not a day goes by when I do not wonder if I would be happier immersed in my own ignorance. When I look back only a few years, I realize I was not.

There are many feminists' voices on this campus I have not heard yet. The small population of feminists I do know have become a vital organ to my feminist existence. When the lure of social pressure begins to draw me in, there are always strong hands to pull me out. The clean air I breathe when they rescue me serves only to deny the reality of women's lives. Child care, poverty, violence, unemployment, exploitation - ignore them and you will have your 'equal' society; fix them and maybe feminists will stop their 'whining'.

Julianne Fraser is a member of the UNB Womyn's Collective.

### Women's Studies at UNB

Women's Studies is sometimes defined as an educational strategy for change. It is an interdisciplinary program of study that seeks:

- 1) to compensate for the neglect of women traditionally in university teaching and research;
- 2) to examine critically some basic assumptions underlying the academic disciplines;
- 3) to encourage and promote scholarship which recognizes and reflects the diversity of women's lives; and
- 4) to link up with community organizations working for women's equality and social justice.

Women's Studies examines human experience, society's institutions, and knowledge itself through a specialized kind of lens. Some call it a "gender lens," others a "feminist lens." Viewing history, literature, art, medicine and so on through this lens enables us to see things that were not readily visible before. Looking through a "gender lens" we see that humankind is not identical with MANKIND. In fact, humankind is 52% WOMANKIND. In the introductory Women's Studies 2003 course, topics include such things as the current status of women in Canada, the wage gap, the unpaid work gap, the beauty myth, violence against women, and gender

analysis. Women's Studies gives us access to a fuller spectrum of experience, observation, and analysis. It expands and reassesses human knowledge by exploring, not only what men have accomplished and reported, but also, centrally, what women have thought, felt, done, achieved, invented and recorded both privately and publicly. The Women's Studies program is designed to serve full and part-time students in any faculty, non-degree students and students taking courses on an occasional basis. Men as well as women, are encouraged to enroll. The program is designed to enrich a liberal arts education and also to prepare students for graduate school or work in a variety of careers. It is useful in education, health care, labour relations, personnel management, legal aid, counselling, business, and many other fields. Employers in the private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations hire people who have expertise in gender, equity, and human rights issues.

At UNB, Women's Studies is located in the Faculty of Arts and includes not only two required interdisciplinary courses designated as Women's Studies per se, but also core Arts courses in Anthropology, Classics, English, French,

History, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. It also embraces courses from outside Arts, including Education, Engineering, Kinesiology, Law and Nursing.

A Minor in Women's Studies has been offered at UNB for 10 years; 600 students have taken its two required courses, WS 2003 and WS4004. Graduates in the minor program number 45 to date.

For more information about Women's Studies, please contact Co-ordinator Dr. Wendy Robbins, Department of English, 453-4676, ext. 7411, email wjr@unb.ca or visit the Women's Studies website at <http://www.unb.ca/web/ws>.

### The UNB Womyn's Collective

The UNB Womyn's Collective is a place where women connect. It is both social and political—reflecting the diverse situations of its membership. Meeting primarily to take political action on specific issues, the collective has been a voice for women. "Womynsay", a regular column in the Brunswickan, is a forum for the membership to publicize issues unopposed. The Womyn's Collective is a web of womyn united for the emancipation and celebration of woman-ness.

### Some principles of feminism

1. To value women in and of themselves. Not the way they have been traditionally valued for what they produce, or the price they bring, or the way they behave.
2. To reject the cultural images that portray women as incompetent, petty, irresponsible, or weak.
3. To affirm women's capacities to be strong, capable, intelligent, successful, and ethical human beings.
4. To value autonomy for women individually and as a group. Women should be able to develop the conditions

5. To reject the practice of dividing human beings into two categories — one of them for men. (Aggression, power and competition) and the other women. (Compassion, tenderness and compromise) and the valuing of one of those categories over the other. Instead, the goal is to recognize that all such characteristics may appear in either sex, and to evaluate individuals each on their own merits.
6. To replace inaccurate myth about

7. To recognize that for centuries women have been denied rights as citizens and as human beings. The right to vote, the right to earn a substantive living, the freedom to determine whether to bear children. And to fight to achieve that.
8. To work by various means to free all women; women of color, working women, poor women, physically challenged women, lesbians, aged women, as well as economically privileged heterosexual women.

**DEC 12-5 WRAP IT UP! MEM HALL**

**WRAP UP YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE UNB ART CENTRE**

- ❄️ CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
- ❄️ EXHIBITS
- ❄️ LIVE MUSIC
- ❄️ CHRISTMAS TREATS

December 6th  
**Montreal Massacre Memorial**  
Friday December 6th, 1996  
Time: 12 noon - 1 pm  
Place: Officers' Square, Queen St.

Sweetgrass Ceremony  
Song  
Commemorative Words  
by Faculty of Engineering Representative  
Launch of Men's Declaration  
Reading of 14 Names  
Moment of Silence  
Blessing

**Other Events:**  
Premiere of "Women in Engineering" video, Dineen Auditorium, Thursday December 5th, afternoon  
Memorial Service, "Open Your Eyes, Open Our Eyes", St. Thomas University Chapel, 4 pm. Reception to Follow courtesy of STU Student Affairs

Organised by: The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, UNB Student Union, UNB Women in Engineering, Legal Education and Action Fund, St. Thomas University Campus Ministry