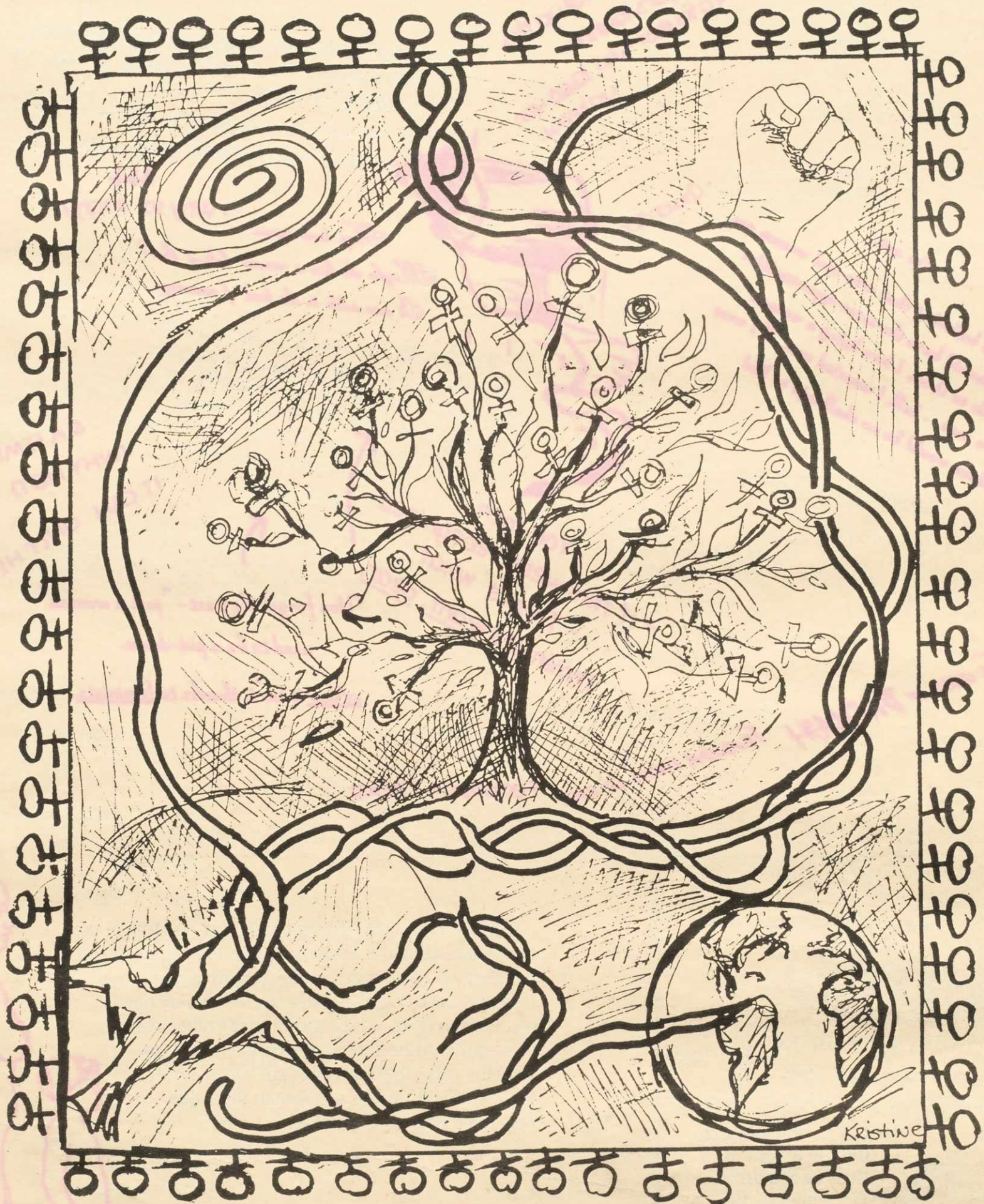


# WEEK OF REFLECTION

November 23 - 30, 1992



Three years ago a man walked into a university with a gun. "I am looking for women," he said, entered a classroom and killed fourteen students. Fourteen women.

Two weeks ago a friend asked me why we were having a Week of Reflection. "I think we should try to forget what happened," he said. He thought it was time to move on.

People have many different reasons to take part in a Week of Reflection. Here are a few of mine.

1. I am a woman.

Perhaps you believe I'm paranoid, but as a woman there is a greater chance that I will be beaten and murdered by a spouse, raped by a stranger or an acquaintance, sexually harassed by a professor or co-worker, or killed in

a classroom.

2. I am a feminist.

"I hate you all," said Mark Lepine. "You are all feminists."

I've met women who refuse to be associated with feminism, and yet have the same beliefs as I do. Some say there are areas of feminism they don't agree with therefore they aren't feminists. I'm not sure what the "Ten Commandments" of feminism are, but I thought if a woman believed in equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men, she was a feminist.

3. I am a person.

Week of Reflection is not about women bashing men.

It's about people remembering all the women in Canada who have died as a result of violence and recognizing that there are thousands more who live with abuse everyday. If you personally are not a potential victim of violence against women, then someone who you know and love is.

Week of Reflection is not simply a time to mourn and remember. It is a starting point for change. Go to a workshop, watch a film or attend a vigil. Think about what you can do to end violence against women. Don't just read a banner that says "Whether words, blows or bullets, violence kills." Understand. And change.