WEEKOF REFLECTION December 6 to 10, 1993

Remember Montreal

At first, they viewed it as a prank, some kind of colegiate farce in keeping with the festive spirit that marked the secondlast day of classes at the University of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique. The man was young, about the same age as most of the roughly 60 engineering students gathered in Room 303 on the second floor of the yellow-brick building sprawled across the north slope of the mountain in the heart of the city. He entered the classroom slowly, a few minutes past 5 on a bitterly cold afternoon. There was a shy smile on his face as he interrupted a dissertation on the mechanics of heat transfer. In clear, unaccented French, he asked the women to move to



Yvan Bouchard. "We thought it was a joke." An instant - and, as one of the young women attempted to reason hushed House of Comlater, Bouchard and his students discovered that what they were confronting was no joke.

SHOTS

one side of the room and The young man, who would later be identified as a 25ordered the men to year-old semirecluse name Marc Lépine, lifted a light, leave. The request was semi-automatic rifle and fired two quick shots into the ceil- people, leaving 14 of them dead. Finally, he turned his greeted with titters of ing. "You're all a bunch of feminists, and I hate feminists," weapon against himself, blowing off the top of his skull. laughter. "Nobody Lépine shouted at the suddenly terrified occupants of Room Most of the injured and all of the ad - except for the moved," recalled Prof. 303. He told the men to leave - they did so without protest gunman himself - were women.

with him, the gun-toting man opened fire in earnest. Six of the women were shot dead. Over the course of lence in a society that conthe next 20 minutes, the young man methodically stalked the cafeteria, the classrooms and the corridors of the compassionate?" school, leaving a trail of death and injury in his wake. In four separate locations scattered around three floors of the six-story structure, he gunned down a total of 27

Silence is a form of Violence AS PART OF THE WEEK OF REFLECTION:

Dr. Michael Kaufman, originator of the White Ribbon Campaign, will speak on men's responsibility for ending violence toward women.

Tuesday, December 7, 1993 7:00 pm **Dineen** Auditorium

ALL WELCOME

day massacre in Canadian history. And the very senselessness of the act prompted an outpouring of grief, indignation and outright rage. The City of Montreal and the Province of Quebec declared three days of mourning. Vigils were mounted in cities and towns from coast to coast. Churches held memorial services. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his wife, Mila, travelled to the school to offer their condolences on behalf of the rest of Canada. With the flag atop Parliament fluttering at half-staff, the Prime Minister asked a mons: "Why such viosiders itself civilized and

It was the worst single-

Excerpted from Maclean's Magazine, edited by P.F.

Polytechnique.

Memorial Service

Monday, December 6, 1993

Saint Thomas Chapel

4:00 P.M.

PRESENTED BY THE

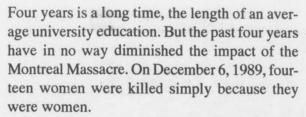
UNB AND STU WOMEN'S

COLLECTIVES

teachers from Concordia.

In addition to rising awareness of violence

against women, there was, following the



Marc Lépine entered l'Ecole Polytechnique, separated the women from the man and shot the women for being "a bunch of feminists." Lépine's name is well known. The Week of Re-

> SONIA PELLETIER NATHALIE CROTEAU ANNE MARIE EDWARD MARYSE LAGANIERE ANNE-MARIE LEMAY BARBARA MARIA KLUEZNICK ANNIE ST-ARNEAULT

flection pays tribute to those who are not so well those who died as victims of violence. They are our known, the women killed at the Polytechnique.

More than Fourteen...

The Week of Reflection is also a time to remem- friends. ber all the women who have suffered and continue to suffer. The Montreal Massacre is a symbol of this violence. During the Week of Reflection, we that has yet to be done, to curb violence against remember not only the 14 who died in the Mon- women. treal Massacre, but the unseen, often unrecognized victims of violence -those living in abusive relationships, those who are survivors of assault, and

REMEMBER

sisters, daughters, wives, girlfriends, mothers and

The Week of Reflection is a time to pause and consider the progress that has been made, and the work

> Text by Lisa Lachance, Laura Penny and P.F.

HELENE COLGAN BARBARA DAIGNEAULT MICHELE RICHARD MARYSE LECLAIR GENEVIEVE BERGERON ANNIE TURCOTTE MAUD HAVERNICK

Gun Control In December 1989, a gunman stole fourteen Polytechnique tragedy, a tremendous swell of to enact tougher gun control laws.

of the best and brightest from l'Ecole support for tougher gun control. This was a An action as simple as signing a postcard - and relatively new phenomenon, since gun control mailing it free of charge - represents a meaning-Last summer, another gunman took four was never really an issue before: the tragic ful and concrete tribute to the fourteen women events focused our attention on our surprisingly killed at l'Ecole Polytechnique and to the four weak gun control laws and on the fact that we teachers killed at Concordia University. may not be immune to frightening gun-related While restricting access to firearms will not end violence, which claims the lives of 35 000 violence against women, it is certainly a step in Americans each year.

> The Coalition for Gun Control, a non-profit to raise men's awareness of their role in the preorganization founded by students from l'Ecole vention of this violence, it is an integral part of Polytechnique and other supporters of gun con- ending this scourge once and for all. trol, is calling on students to help once again. It wants you to sign a postcard addressed to the new Minister of Justice, Allan Rock, asking him

the right direction. Combined with campaigns

Text edited by P.F.

Dear Mr. Rock,

I am concerned with public safety and believe Canada needs stricter gun control to help prevent violence. Legislation should be introduced to include:

- possession permits which are preiodically renewed
- a cost-effective system to register all guns
- a total ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazine
- controls on the sale of ammunition · tougher restrictions on handguns

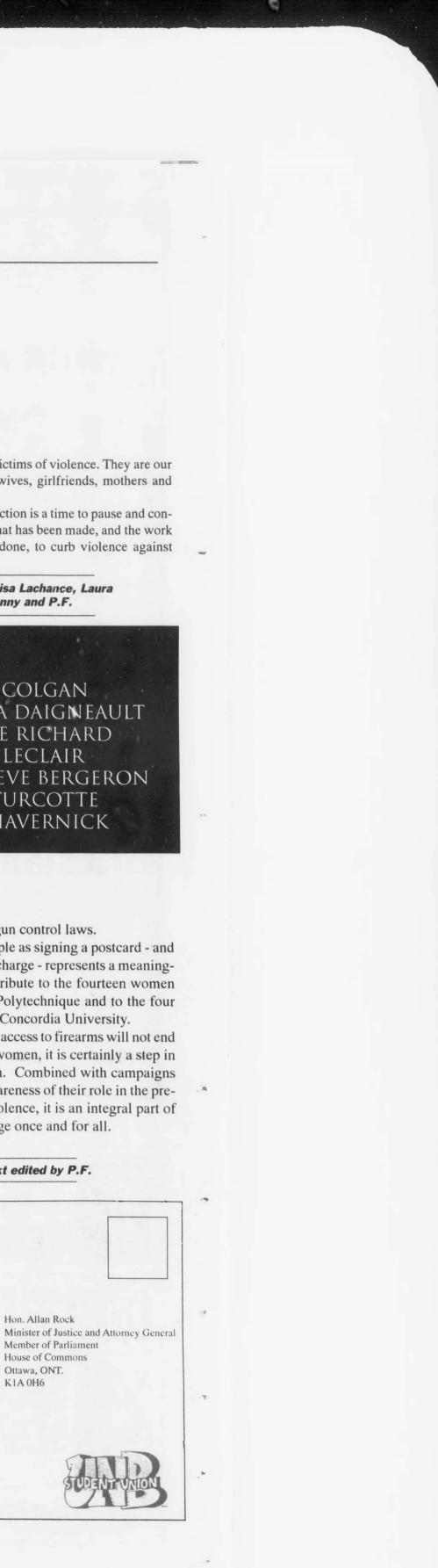
Despite strong support from health care, police, municipal and women's organizations, these measures were not included in Bill C-17, which passed in December 1991, because concern for gun lobby interests outweighed concern for public safety.

I am calling on you to introduce these measures and am looking forward to your re-

sponse.
NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
POSTAL CODE:
DATE:

Hon. Allan Rock Member of Parliament House of Commons Ottawa, ONT.

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