

The book's final section focuses on educational programs. The goals of the programs tend to be similar, although the strategies for implementing the goals tend to vary from support group models, to improvisational theatre or the infusion of related subject matter into the school curriculum. Ginny NiCarthy outlines in considerable detail goals and exercises for a short-term group program. Many of the exercises are premised on the notion that individuals can be addicted to others as well as to substances, and that these individuals are more vulnerable to physical violence from dating partners.

This collection provides a practical casebook for both professionals and paraprofessionals.

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The Montreal Massacre. Louise Malette and Marie Chalouh (eds.), translated by Marlene Wildeman. *Charlottetown, PEI: Gynergy Books, 1991, Pp. 184 paperback.*

This book, the translation into English of *Polytechnique, 6 décembre*, testifies to the reflective process that took place in Québec after the 1989 misogynist slaying of 14 women at the Université de Montréal. As the editors, Louise Malette and Marie Chalouh, specify, it permits us women to identify with our history. For them, as for us, the memory of December 6, 1989, is a must.

I am writing the review of this important book on July 17, 1991, in Halifax, and wish to quote from today's edition of *The Chronicle Herald*, which reports on a presentation to the 33rd Annual International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, in Halifax, made by Mr. Richard Aubé, Security Manager at the École Polytechnique de Montréal (5,500 students, a nine-member security force), where the massacre took place. Mr. Aubé does not believe that the massacre could have been prevented, since campuses are not armed camps, but he is convinced that better control of access to the school and better federal legislation regarding gun control could have re-

duced the number of victims. He is reported as having said:

The massacre continues to traumatize the student body.

Four students have died since the shootings and two of the deaths have been confirmed as suicides.

In one case, the parents of a student who committed suicide subsequently killed themselves.

Readers may want to know that this last student was male, traumatized by the guilt he felt about not having tried to help the victims. We must realize that the misogynist act of December 6 is not only one of history but continues into the present.

Forty-nine texts—letters to the editor, analyses and articles published by Montreal papers, as well as some unpublished pieces—speak of the sorrow and the rage of women and of their determination to see in this terrorist act a political one, against women and against feminism.

The volume comprises six sections. In "The Ideal Site for the Crime," Louky Bersianik disapprovingly quotes the French writer Alain Robbe-Grillet who dared say, "To be sure, in the world of male fantasy, woman's body serves as the ideal site for the crime." She then outlines the reality of violence against women, in Canada and elsewhere, a reality that has nothing to do with fantasy.

In "No Motive for the Crime," a section that clearly identifies misogyny as the motive for the crime, Francine Pelletier states: "A misogyny so precise and brutal that it brings to mind the witch-hunts of earlier eras; a misogyny clearly expressed, lying right there in print [in the killer's suicide note]" (34).

With the section "Fearful Words," the book presents an analysis of the media's attitude concerning the massacre, their insistent denial of its misogyny. The media, for instance, spoke first of the "étudiants" instead of "étudiantes," then declared that this was an incomprehensible crime without motive, even though the killer had quite

clearly and in writing told society why and against whom he was committing his crime. The media allowed male experts to speak, accused feminists of wanting to claim the tragedy to their advantage. In fact, the media attempted to silence the target group: feminists. Readers will find it interesting to compare some of these texts to those published in anglophone newspapers during the same period.

"This Is Not The First Time" is a section which places December 6 in history. Here Micheline Dumont states: "Since the beginning of time, women have been caught in a programmed concept of 'woman,' and have been despised collectively as 'women'" (88). She deplores that feminism has become an option to which one apparently cannot admit.

The section "Violence: Madness Great and Small" underlines the hardly exceptional character of the crime and the constant violence that women face. These texts also prove how many attempts were made to decriminalize the killer and to see women, including of course his mother, as responsible for his act. (We might note here that, in July 1991, 19 female students studying at a boarding school in Kenya were killed by a group of boys, while many more were injured and raped.) The murder of women continues.

"Ministry and Magistrature" calls for solidarity between men and women and summarizes what still needs to be done to change the order of things. Finally, the book notes that, since December 1989, women as well as the families of some of the victims—fourteen dead and thirteen wounded—have been asking for a public inquiry which, by the way, has not yet begun.

A long and very moving poem by Louky Bersianik opens the volume; a second text by the same author clarifies what misogyny is:

A violent emotion, it steers a course straight for the rape and murder of human females, all the while abusing them and using them as doormats or stepping stones.
Misogyny has nothing to do with an unhappy childhood, the absence of a father, too much or not enough love from the mother [as was stated about M.L.]...

Women too have had unhappy childhoods... But we don't see women taking it out on men and little boys... we don't see women arm themselves with a hunting rifle and only fire on men. (50)

Nicole Brossard states:

M.L. was no young man. He was as old as all the sexists, misogynist proverbs, as old as all the Church fathers who ever doubted women had a soul. He was as old as all the legislators who ever forbade women the university, the right to vote, access to the public sphere. M.L. was as old as Man and his contempt for women. (33)

In a second text, she asserts that all men carry the virus of this hatred, even those who are not active misogynists. She proclaims the need for feminist solidarity and the identification of anti-feminists as political enemies. Brossard closes in saying, with irony, that any explanation aiming to excuse male violence against women could lead to the conclusion that men are but incurable criminals.

The book has the great merit of assembling analyses and creative texts, written by well-known and lesser-known women (a small number of texts written by men are also included). It provides us with a very complete and valuable document on the reactions following the massacre. Students of history, women's, and social studies will find the book most useful. Women in general will want to keep it in memory of the victims and will find its arguments efficient in discussions of male violence against women.

The volume is translated by Marlene Wildeman. Her task cannot have been easy. She had to feel her way into a great variety of ways of writing, including that of M.L. in his suicide letter, and she had to live through the Montreal massacre, again and again. We must thank her for having completed the task so well and must also thank Gynergy Books for bringing out this book which engages our emotions and will be a tool in the examination of the concept and the consequences of misogyny.

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