

Vanier College Teachers' Association

# NEWSLETTER

Vol 25 N°5  
MAR. 2008

You are invited to attend...

## Le féminisme au futur

avec

# Françoise David



**Friday, March 7, 2008 • 1-2:30 pm • Vanier Auditorium**

- ex-présidente de la Fédération des femmes du Québec
- une des organisatrices de la Marche mondiale des femmes en l'an 2000. Cette Marche se poursuit avec la création d'un réseau féministe international d'action.
- co-porte parole de Québec solidaire, un nouveau parti politique québécois écologiste, féministe et épris de justice sociale.
- chevalière de l'Ordre national du Québec en 2000
- récipiendaire du prix « Personne » en 2002, attribué par la Gouverneure du Canada à des femmes ayant œuvré de façon particulière pour l'atteinte de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.





# INFORMATION ON RETIREMENT!!!

## PED DAY – MARCH 11, 2008

The VCTA, in conjunction with FAC, have organized an information session on retirement to be held on Ped Day, Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM in the Amphitheatre (B233).

Peter Deslauriers, ex-President of the Dawson College Teachers' Union and now a retiree, will answer your questions.

Please note the date and time on your agenda.

### Deadline for Submissions to the next issue is March 21, 2008

Send contributions to Janice Paquette: paquettj@vaniercollege.qc.ca

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Janice Paquette is the Editor.

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### TO CALL VCTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ganesh: 7413  
Janice: 7416

Eric: 7415  
Stephen: 7414

**VCTA Office: C101**  
**Telephone Extensions:**  
**7053 / 7054**

#### VCTA Executive 2007-2008

President: Ganesh Harilal  
Vice-President/Info: Janice Paquette  
Vice-President/External: Eric Durling  
Secretary/Treasurer: Stephen Block  
VCTA Secretary: Susan Panneton

#### Executive Office Hours W08:

Mon.	Eric Durling 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Tues.	Ganesh Harilal 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Wed.	Janice Paquette 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Thurs.	Stephen Block 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Friday	Stephen, Eric or Ganesh 10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

#### Secretary's hours

Susan Panneton  
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.  
Monday to Friday  
Closed for lunch from  
Noon – 1:00 P.M. (approximately)

### Zatoun Olive Oil

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Local 7152

# Looking to the Future:

## International Women's Week 2008

### Arlene Steiger

This year's **International Women's Week** at Vanier reflects the complex development of the women's movement as it enters the twenty-first century. The issues that we bring to the auditorium this week, like the issues raised by the movement itself, grow out of the concrete experiences of women and the on-going commitment to give voice to these experiences. As we look to the future, it must be said that the process of recognizing and validating women's experiences has had enormous consequence.

As a teacher for almost thirty years in one small corner of the world, I can bear witness to some of the impact. I open an introductory sociology textbook and I find a discussion of the distribution of work in the home, statistics on the relative salaries of men and women, a consideration of sexual harassment in the chapter titled Work. In my own training as a sociologist, women were notably absent. I flip through the book. Here is a section on sexual violence. I am reminded that even the **Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada**, published in 1970, contained no mention of the violence suffered by women in its inventory of issues to be addressed<sup>1</sup>. We used to call these "women's issues" and this, not so very long ago. Our vocabulary strains to reflect our growing recognition that gender discrimination in all of its forms is not the exclusive province of women to address, that women's rights are human rights.

Looking to the future, one notices a broadening of focus in the women's movement, a tendency to bring women's perspectives to a wide range of social issues. Through **International Women's Week** at Vanier, we invite participants to share

in this approach and to take women's experiences as an entry point for building communication and solidarity with others who have experienced powerlessness and marginalization. In challenging power hierarchies and resisting the constraints of rigid gender categories, men are very much involved in the process both here at Vanier and around the world.

The enlargement and even re-definition of issues of concern to women coincide with the growth, over the past several decades, of a global women's movement. The global women's movement has manifested its presence in the ad hoc gatherings of NGO's that have taken place in the shadows of the official international meetings of women organized by the U.N., in the footsteps of millions of women in the World March of Women 2000, and in the organizing efforts and actions that followed. Difficult to define and relatively uncoordinated, grounded in specific local struggles, the global women's movement has heightened and refined our appreciation of diversity. It is fitting that **International Women's Week** should begin with reflection upon the role of women's issues in the work of members of the McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building. We welcome a Jordanian, an Israeli, and a Palestinian as our guides. We are thrilled to be able to end the week with a presentation by **Françoise David**, past president of the Fédération des femmes du Québec and a moving force behind the World March of Women. We hope that you will join in the numerous and varied activities from March 3 – March 7, 2008 as we explore paths leading to a more just and equitable future. Best wishes to everyone for a happy **International Women's Week**.

<sup>1</sup>Greta Hofmann Nemiroff. An unpublished history of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and its immediate aftermath entitled "Interesting Times".

Arlene Steiger is Coordinator of Women's Studies.

## Women Working for Change:

Liza Novak and Esther Tordjman, Tuesday, March 4, 10 am.

**Liza Novak** is a feminist and community organizer working at the grass roots level for over 25 years. She has been actively involved in the Women's Movement in Quebec for 15 years, working for women's equality in the work place through legislative change in the area of discrimination, support services for women victims of sexual harassment, direct and systemic discrimination, etc. She has helped to put public pressure on and taken legal action against large employers such as the Canadian National Railway. In 1987, her efforts helped to get the first affirmative action program, imposed by the Supreme Court of Canada. For the past 10 years, she's been involved in community development in the Côte-des-neiges area through various projects to help immigrant communities and immigrant women fight poverty and social exclusion. She's presently the Director of the Mountain Sights Community Center.

**Esther Tordjman** is the Coordinator of Individual Services at Project Genesis, a non-profit, non-governmental community organization founded in 1977. Project Genesis is well known for its work in lobbying government on behalf of the poorest members of the community to ensure equitable and accessible healthcare, welfare, immigration, and housing policies, amongst others. As the Coordinator of Individual Services, Esther works with a team which includes other professional staff, volunteers and students to help individuals and families to defend their rights, and to access necessary information, referral and advocacy services related to social programs.

Esther obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1987 and a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1991, and is currently completing a Master's degree in Social Work at McGill University. She worked at the McGill Consortium for Human Rights Advocacy Training and at Jewish Vocational Service before landing her current position in 1993.

# Faculty Turnover at Vanier

In the last newsletter, we published a chart\* showing the Faculty and Staff turnover at Vanier. This chart came out of a meeting of the HR Sub-committee of the Strategic Plan and the Executive thought that it would be interesting for everyone to see how the work force at Vanier is changing. Over the next five to ten years, the faculty turnover will continue with many teachers choosing to retire, although according to Quebec law, nobody in the labour force (with a few exceptions) has to retire as long as they wish to continue working. And we have many teachers who will continue to teach and continue to make valuable contributions to their students and to Vanier College. On the other hand, many teachers are retiring, some retiring outright while others are now on various plans leading to retirement like the Gradual or Progressive Retirement programs.

Because so many teachers who have played a pivotal role in building Vanier College will be leaving in the next 5 or ten years, we need to find better ways for them to pass on their wealth of knowledge and experience (both pedagogical and syndical) before they actually retire. And we have to have better ways to integrate the many new teachers who are being hired, both in their departments and in union life. People currently on the many important committees that keep the College running, like Academic Council, Joints, Association Council, the VCTA Executive, Women's Studies, etc. received help from many more experienced teachers when they first served on these bodies. We need to continue this tradition and help the "newbies" cope with all of the responsibilities that they will have to shoulder in the future to help keep Vanier a good place for our students.

We also have to be concerned with new recruitment. In some areas, recruitment has already become a problem. For example in Nursing, there is not only a shortage in nurses but also in Nursing teachers. Ironically, it was only 10 years ago that the Quebec government had a special program to convince teachers and nurses etc. to retire, claiming that there were too many of them! And so recruitment problems may emerge even in areas without a problem at the moment since colleges and universities will be competing for the same pool of teachers. And we may be at a disadvantage at Vanier unless the administration gets better and faster at allocating sections to departments so that new teachers can be hired early when they are still available.

These are some of the concerns that are addressed with the statistics in the last newsletter. The whole question of retaining teachers is another important topic that will be addressed in the next newsletter.

\*This chart was prepared by Vanier's Human Resources, who gave us permission to use it in the newsletter. The editor apologizes for the lack of acknowledgement in the last newsletter.

## **Progressive Retirement Program (Appendix V-1, p.224 of the "Decreed Agreement")**

A full-time tenured professor can reduce their availability for one to five years so that they can have a 40-80% workload, calculated on the basis of CI (individual workload formula.). They will be credited for purposes of retirement with the service they would have been entitled to if they had not participated in the program. At the end of the Progressive Retirement Program, the teacher will retire.

## **Gradual Retirement**

A full-time tenured teacher who is at least 65 years of age can continue working, with a reduced workload, while receiving pension payments for which they are eligible. A teacher must retire no later than December 30 of the year in which they turn 69.

If anyone has had a problem with their sick leave/sick bank, please let us know in the VCTA office.

# December 6th Memorial Ceremony



Display in the Carrefour



Eric Lamoureux addresses the crowd. Association Council Members took a break to attend.



# The Raging Grannies:

## Raging at Vanier, Friday, March 7, 11:30 am

Who are the "Raging" Grannies? In 1987, when U.S. nuclear war ships were entering the harbour in Victoria, B.C. for R & R (rest & relaxation), a few concerned senior women decided they had to raise awareness and DO something about it. They donned helmets and equipped with turkey basters and test tubes, they marched to the harbour to test the water for nuclear spills calling themselves NERTS - Nuclear Emergency Response Team. This kind of activism inspired other women and the movement spread across Canada with the addition of satirical songs and outrageous outfits. There are now over 60 gaggles of grannies in Canada and several dozen in the United States.

One of the secrets of the Grannies success is their use of humour. They are deadly serious and very knowledgeable about the issues they raise, but their "seniority" and gutsy presentation opens doors otherwise impossible to penetrate. In 1989 peace and justice activists in Montreal formed the Montreal Chapter of the Raging Grannies and have continued to this day bringing awareness of injustices and issues of peace and the environment to politicians, the media and the public, whenever and wherever they deem it necessary.

These indomitable, dedicated women have protested many policies, attitudes and actions. They've taken on issues such as Free Trade Agreements, the Security, Prosperity & Partnership agreement, lack of health care and elder abuse, over-logging of forests, cosmetic pesticide use, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, war toys, lack of funding to cure HIV/Aids,

nuclear arms and nuclear waste disposal. The Grannies have promoted human rights, integrity of the environment, aboriginal rights and peace.

What keeps these older women (aged from early sixties to late 80's) going and so committed? It makes them feel empowered and less hopeless about the future of grandchildren everywhere. They know that a few concerned, committed citizens can change the world. As Margaret Mead said "It's the only thing that ever has."



The Grannies entertaining demonstrators on Ste. Catherine Street.



*Madame Courchesne,  
soutenir la mission des cégeps,  
c'est investir dans l'enseignement*

Les profs de cégep,  
membres de la FAC, de la FEC (CSQ) et de la FNEEQ (CSN),  
se rassemblent pour que le gouvernement québécois  
reconnaisse la profession enseignante.



# AIDS Action in Africa Project:

## The Trip to Malawi



### AIDS in Malawi: A Nurse's Perspective Melodie Hicks

As I sit and ponder what to write for this report, I am struck by the overwhelming complexity of it all. I have looked at HIV/AIDS from a variety of

angles over the last few weeks. As a nurse I was anxious to get into the hospital setting and see what was happening there. The hospital is where I am most comfortable and have worked with AIDS patients in the past. However it became apparent very early that I didn't need to get into the hospital to meet people with HIV/AIDS; HIV/AIDS is everywhere in Malawi.

I had read stories about grandmothers caring for orphaned children, but it became much more meaningful when I was given the opportunity to get to know these grandmothers. One such grandmother had no husband and maintained a house full of 7 children. Two of her own daughters had died of AIDS. The daily burden of physically caring for, feeding and clothing these children is one thing, but worrying about your own health is another. Such was the situation of one of the other women. She was caring for her elderly mother, her own children, orphans and a 14-year-old pregnant girl who had disgraced her family and had been sent to live with her. This woman had lost her own husband to AIDS just the previous year and it was only then that she discovered that she was also HIV positive. Of the 7 houses in the village, not one house or family has gone untouched by this epidemic. This microcosm multiplied by the millions of small villages across Malawi paints the picture.

I was distressed by the situation that women find themselves in on a regular basis. Their inability to earn money puts them in very vulnerable and dependent situations. Women who test negative today have no guarantee that their husbands will remain faithful and so they are always at risk. I listened to many stories of women whose husbands were away for lengthy periods of time earning money, who would undoubtedly have sexual liaisons with other women, then return home. One woman knew her husband had a girlfriend and could not confront him or withhold sex from him or else he would leave her and the children. Without support from her husband she would be forced to move back to her parents'

village, where she would be unable to earn an income and where her children would be forced to attend substandard schools.

This male domination in society has serious implications for women's health. Men can have more than one wife without consequence. Although polygamy is common and accepted by some, most women I spoke with would gladly have it otherwise. One man was pointed out to me in town; it was common knowledge that he was HIV positive and that he had 28 wives. Five of his wives were known to be HIV positive. How long before all 28 would be infected?

The number of babies in Malawi continued day after day to leave me awestruck. Every second woman had a baby tied to her back. I was told that if a baby is not born within the first year of marriage then the elderly women of the village pay a visit to the home to find out what is wrong with the marriage and provide advice.



Washing clothes in the village.

If producing children is a sign of a healthy marriage and the church does not advocate the use of condoms, then family planning is doomed, and so is protection against HIV. Many girls are pregnant before their fourteenth birthdays and unable to continue in school. There is an illiteracy rate of 60% in Malawi and because of school fees imposed at the secondary level, many never get a high school education, especially the girls. It is no wonder that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is so relentless.

It is easy to become discouraged and overwhelmed by the situation until you take a

closer look at some of the men and women working tirelessly to make a difference. We visited several NGO's that are well organized to provide free testing, counselling, and support to anyone asking for assistance. One such organisation was the Malawi AIDS Counselling and Resource Organisation (MACRO). I spent a few occasions there and was impressed by how expedient, informative and confidential everything was. On our final day in Malawi I arranged to have the minibus drive anyone who wanted to be tested into town so that they too could know their status. I was nervous that no one would show up but to my surprise we had a full bus.

Since I have returned from Africa I am constantly asked by people what they could do to help. From what I have seen, the people know what they need. They know how to do what is required but they are lacking the financial means to complete projects and purchase materials and equipment. We need to continue to put pressure on our government to meet the millennium goals and provide these necessary funds. We



can try to support more of the grassroots organizations, the community-based organisations that are run by local people helping local people. There are many organisations and church groups that are really making a difference and providing much needed services. What is important is not to turn our backs on the people of Africa but to get involved.

A poem written by a Unitarian minister often comes to mind when I think about the situation in Malawi.

I am only one  
But still I am one  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something  
And because I cannot do everything  
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

**Edward Everett Hale** (1822-1909)

We will not change the situation in Malawi or anywhere in Africa overnight. But change is coming slowly. As they say in Chechewa "Pang'onopang'ono" ,which means little by little. People are less reticent to talk about AIDS. The schools are beginning to provide education about HIV/AIDS starting in Grade 1. The world can provide support but it is ultimately up to the people of Malawi to make some of the more difficult changes that must occur. The people need to accept changes in cultural practices, rituals and values that contribute to the problem. Only the people of Malawi can make these changes and they won't change over night. Women need to be educated and empowered to make their own choices and to have more control over their own destiny. In my opinion this is one of the most important changes that must take place, if the overall health and welfare of the people of Malawi is to improve. Melodie Hicks teaches Nursing at Vanier.

## The Warm Heart of Africa: A Student's Story

Tiffany Pontes



**Prita Chirabra and Tiffany Pontes**

My story begins about two years prior to our Malawi trip. I took a Sociology of Health class that aimed at clarifying issues in health from a sociological perspective. One day, we

got onto the topic of AIDS in Africa and how it has become linked to gender inequality and poverty. What was once considered a problem of the health domain was suddenly being looked at through a socio-economic point of view. It really affected me to know that somewhere in the world, an HIV positive mother was breastfeeding her child because she could not afford formula. Yes, the minority world (the rich world, in other words) has helped Africa with contributions to the Global Fund, even sending medication and formula on behalf of pharmaceutical companies. However, what good does that do when people cannot read the labels printed on the boxes (60% of Malawians are illiterate), or when water used to mix the powdered formula is, in fact, contaminated?

I don't know why this affected me so, maybe it was the injustice of it all. I don't know why it affected me so to learn in Microbiology that HIV eats away at your immunity in such a sneaky, mischievous way. That it lurks in your body for years, sometimes decades, not showing a sign or symptom, just waiting for the opportune moment to strike and wipe you out completely. It kills your CD4 cells quietly and inconspicuously until one day, you catch a menial cold, and bam! Or, at least, that's probably how we would live it here in North America. As one of the doctors from BIPAI (Baylor International Paediatric AIDS Institute) in Malawi commented: "...in North America, AIDS is treated as a chronic illness; here, it is a death sentence."

When I arrived in Malawi, I got to see some patients in the village- clean minor cuts and wounds, even disinfect and bandage an eye, but nothing would prepare me for my face to face encounter with AIDS. I had done lots of research, learned statistics, the stages of HIV, even opportunistic diseases and infections that present themselves, but I quickly learned that all of that meant nothing. What I had studied on paper would never prepare me to cope with the person standing before my eyes. He came to us for itchy sores that had begun opening on his head. Flashback to the loose-leaf in my binder that blatantly states "Stage IV: Cerebral TB, Kaposi's sarcoma..." This man was a textbook case of HIV/AIDS right before my very own eyes. This man accepted his fate so graciously. At that point, I didn't think I could do it- stand here and watch these people say goodbye to their lives- I wasn't cut out for this. There has got to be a way to change this situation!

Over the course of the next week, after medical interviews, I began to see that there are actually many positive things being done; many programs being put into effect; many organizations attempting to spread awareness. In the midst of this, however, it became clear that they lack resources. If we would ask for a pamphlet, they couldn't give us any. How are you supposed to spread knowledge to the masses without resources? And when you do get paper to print on, 60% of the population cannot read it. What good does it do?

At this point, the generation dying the most from HIV is women between the ages of 15 and 40 years. The younger women are looking to date older men for their "3 Cs": cash, cars, and cell phones (as a fellow Malawian woman put it). These men are in turn, infecting or becoming infected, then going home to their wives at night. When they die, their children become orphans. In this case, the older sister usually drops out of school to work and care for her siblings. If there are no other relatives to go to, she may have to turn to prostitution as jobs are scarce, and money is even more so. Therein lies the ceaseless cycle, and HIV/AIDS begins to show



Jayner Garcia, Tiffany Pontes, Caseyenne Shakes, Alexandra Abrol, Prita Chhabra and Jamie Webber. The student team that went to Malawi.

itself as a multi-sector disease that needs to be attacked from multiple fronts.

It is no secret that HIV positive Malawians live with much stigma. The culture shelters any talk about sex, let alone sexually transmitted diseases. In an effort to dissipate the shame surrounding HIV, we offered to take a van full of Makupo people to MACRO (Malawi AIDS Counselling and Research Organization.) to get tested. I was disappointed on that Friday morning to learn that the men felt too “shy” to come along, some even stopped their wives from going. Yet I was very pleasantly surprised to find myself sitting among a van full of beautiful, strong, Malawian women. Along with them, I got tested in order to live the experience as any other citizen of Malawi would. The atmosphere at MACRO was very comfortable and conducive to empowering people through knowledge of their status. I found myself very anxious and nervous in the room awaiting my result, although I was certain of the outcome. Finally, the counsellor called my number and I went in. I think the counsellor experienced quite a massive culture shock that day, as did I. His questions were along the lines of “How old are you? You are twenty-two years old and unmarried?” (Disbelief.) “How many partners have you had?” (Shock.) “Do you currently have a partner?” (Awe.) “Will you marry him?” (Disgust.) As he scratched his head in complete confusion, I tried explaining that Canadian culture is different from that of Malawi, that women in Canada are almost never wed and with child by the age of fourteen, that some women simply do not marry but still have sexual relations and that it is not uncommon to see women putting a career before the thought of a family.

While in Malawi, one cannot help but notice the role of women, seeing as how it practically drives the entire society. The women of Malawi are the workers, the lovers, the caregivers, the friends, the sisters, the mothers and daughters of the nation, yet they are treated like strangers in their own homes. They are given no voice and are kept ignorant of the power they actually possess. Many women find themselves in situations where even though they know they are being cheated on, they cannot leave their spouses. If they did, it would be financially impossible to care for themselves, let

alone raise their children. This ridiculous inequality deeply shook me; I became angry to know that women were forced to put up with such abuse. It also confused and amazed me; despite the fact that this is their reality, I never once heard anybody utter a complaint. Is it that they are not taught to know better or that they think complaining will simply not change their situations?

In the meantime, after each long day of interviews, we always came home to a bright, loving village. I found myself especially in love with two little girls: two-year old Loyce and three-year old Eunice. I found myself looking forward to returning to the village to see them, pick them up and hug them, even play tag with them. I miss the people of Makupo village and their hospitality; I miss the great friendships made over our short stay; I miss the sounds of children playing and giggling, Eunice calling me “Auntie” or “Tiffa.” Now that I’m home, I yearn for the warm heart of Africa.

*For the full versions of these stories and stories from the other people who went to Malawi, go to the Vanier homepage/International Education/AIDS in Africa/Malawi Study Trip.*

**Tiffany Pontes is a Nursing student at Vanier.**

**Check out the International Women’s Week display across from the library put up by the students from the Social Justice Committee.**



# "HERSTORY" BY VALERIE BROEGE

In honor of International Women's Week, many of the clues have to do with women past and present, historical and fictional.

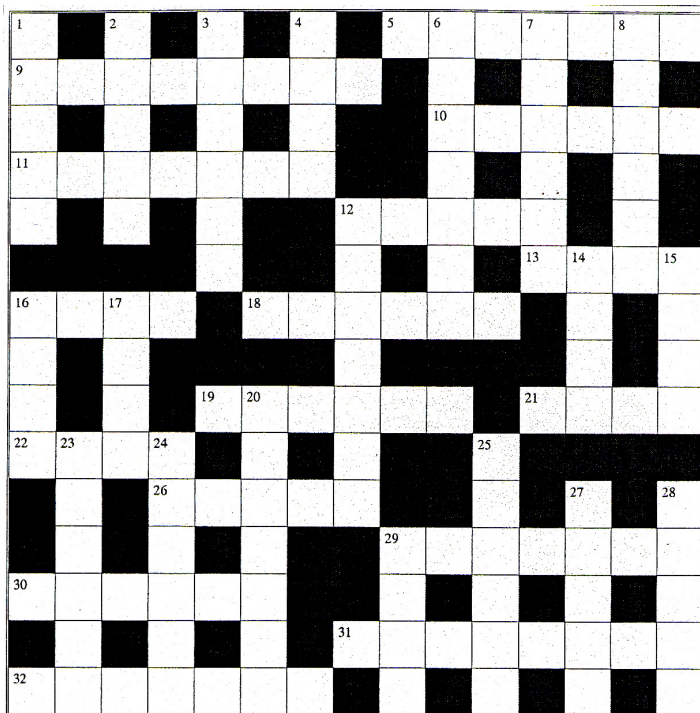
## CLUES

### ACROSS

5. Artist invites women to dinner in a big city. (7)
9. For the Bible to be missing a book is cruel. (8)
10. Hair treatment? It leads to license! (6)
11. In the direction of two so-called hospital divisions. (7)
12. Former first lady I ring in the courtyard. (5)
13. What is necessary for a primal garden in disarray. (4)
16. Force French garlic on her. (4)
18. Creative expression in a neutral color can lead to a striking design. (6)
19. Run to the phone. (6)
21. Tom with a ball behaves like a Stoic. (4)
22. Lucille loves to dance. (4)
26. Is Mr. Brown renowned in these places? (5)
29. As for tree I cleave, I have had enough of work. (7)
30. Kennedy, I hesitate to say, can suffer from boredom. (6)
31. Service station with colloquial spelling in the evening turns into a jewel. (8)
32. "Some corn for the deer," said the pilot. (7)

### DOWN

1. She asked, "Ain't I a woman?, and that's a reality! (5)
2. Save a letter from a woman whose writing helped start a civil war. (5)
3. Glass of beer partially emptied becomes last name of this feminist. (6)
4. Does she lead a double life? (4)
6. Apathy I disavow when an illustrious woman was torn apart in Alexandria. (7)
7. Female environmentalist puts out 100 deliberately set fires. (6)
8. Stern, almost all of key players in the abolitionist movement. (6)
14. Actress turns me around so that in the end I earn a college degree. (4)



15. Did only thing she thought she could, ending the life of a queen. (4)
16. Food for an insect? (4)
17. Billy says, "I do, lady!" (4)
20. Some unpackaged moly per diem can be found in the compound. (7)
23. Cherub a radical? (6)
24. "Hit Lil!," excitedly shouted Adam to his wife. (6)
25. Countrywoman is pro-temperance smasher of liquor bottles. (6)
27. Egyptian god wallowing in booze needs Ceres' gift. (5)
28. Name an abductee and a sightless woman may have in common. (5)
29. Woman got up for a flower. (4)

## Lilia Goldfarb: What's Sexy?

Lilia Goldfarb is a community organizer, workshop facilitator and teacher living in Montreal, Quebec. She is Head of Leadership Services at the YWCA Montreal and responsible for all the leadership and empowerment programs offered to girls and women.

Lilia also coordinates an action research project which aims to counter early sexualization in girls. She holds a graduate diploma on Community Economic Development from Concordia University and is currently finalizing her Masters' thesis at

the same university. The title of her thesis is: Buying into sexy, preadolescent girls and capitalism in the 21st century.

**What's Sexy?**  
**Friday, March 7 at 10am**  
**Lily Goldfarb**

# Women Take Back Democratic Space!

In Canada and abroad it is getting harder for women, minorities and marginalized people to live without the threat of arrest or deportation, increased by the use of mechanisms such as security certificates. Borders are closed. State and corporate imperialist agendas are making the lives of many more miserable with wars, sanctions, economic deprivation and environmental degradation. Dissent and resistance are criminalized. The "war on terror" invades our democratic spaces and erodes our civil and human rights. The media has become part of the status quo. The rhetoric of globalization -- choice, democracy-- and the realities are very different.

To draw attention to these pressing issues, the 8th March Committee of Women of Diverse Origins is again marking INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY with a day-long event.

Women Take Back Democratic Space!  
Saturday March 1, 9am-6pm.  
l'Université de Montréal, room B2325.

Speakers will address issues of local and international concern for women. Their feminist analysis, contextualized by race, class, indigenous and minority experience, is grounded in lives of resistance and struggle. They will share their experiences and help us to better understand the world in which we live, in order that we can find ways to improve it for ourselves and our children. Their information and analysis will show how rights are trampled in the service of agendas of states and corporations. As Dolores Chew, member of the March 8th Committee said, « We are made to believe that we live in a democracy, but inch by inch and continuously, our rights are being eroded. There is a taking over of the political space and the commons by vested interests, lobbies and right-wing conservative, patriarchal and fundamentalist agendas. » Monique Rocheleau, another committee member said, « Policing of dissidence has increased. In addition, there is an ever-greater use of privatization in security and military. This makes it even more difficult for people to demand accountability from governments.»

Our invited guests will shatter the silences in the mainstream media and cut through government facades, when they share their realities of resistance directly with us. Invited speakers include Shadi Amin, an Iranian woman forced to live in exile in Germany, Connie Regalado of MIGRANTE International, a migrant worker's organization based in Hong Kong and White Bear Woman (Danka Brewer) of Shabot Obaadjiwan people, (Sharbot Lake near Kingston) who are fighting plans to develop uranium mining on their lands. They and other speakers will address issues gender inequality, violence, state and family and social justice. There will be periods of discussion permitting all participants to engage the issues of the day.

Childcare and lunch are provided. There will be poster and literature displays. Participants are asked to contribute \$5 (no-one will be turned away). These events are open to all.

Saturday, March 8,  
International Women's Day,  
March starting at Berri Square  
(Place Emilie Gamelin)  
12 noon.

Info : Tess tel. 514 342-2111; email tess8march@yahoo.ca

## Promising Futures: A Native Women's Panel Tuesday, March 4 at 1 pm

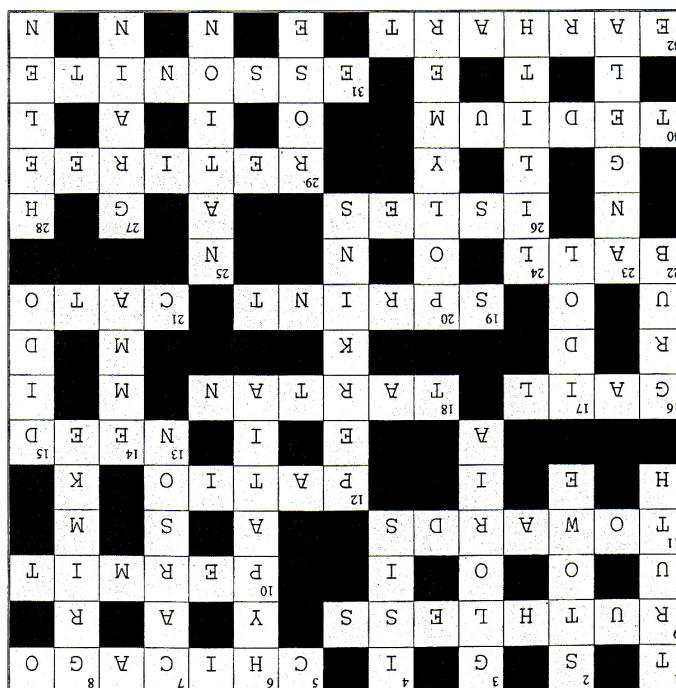
Three Native Canadian women of various backgrounds, including Vanier students Pricilla Gilpin from Chisasibi, Quebec and Katsitsahawi Ashley Thomas from Kahnawake, and former Vanier student Tina Pisuktie will discuss how their life choices are geared towards the continued improvement of their communities.

## The Making of a Film Festival: Thursday, March 6 at 11:30

Katharine Setzer is the Director of Programming for image+nation, Montreal's International LGBT Film Festival, a position she has occupied for 6 years. She heads up the programming team. She holds a Masters Degree in Communications (Media Studies) from Concordia University and has produced videoworks that have toured festivals worldwide.

Katharine will address queer film festivals, challenges and progress. How do you choose films? How the films have changed over the years. Image + Nation is 20 years old and going stronger than ever.

## Crossword Answers



# KUDOS to Support Staff:

## The Printshop Gang

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Jason Leonard, Mike Demole, Paula Price, Bill Petts, Christine Legault.  
Thanks for making teachers' jobs easier!

## The Middle East Panel:

Monday, March 3 at 11:30 am

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The presenters are fellows in the McGill Middle East program in Civil Society and Peace Building. Part of the mission of the program is to advance civil society and peace building by encouraging direct collaboration among all participants in the region, particularly through the building of people-to-people relationships.

### **Al-Quds (Jerusalem )**

#### **Rawan Hisham Zaitoun**

Ms. Zaitoun has a B.Ed. from David Yallin College in Jerusalem. Through teacher's training, Rawan gained intimate knowledge of the school curriculum taught to Palestinian children and the ways in which Israel's educational policies affect the learning environment. Overcrowding, understaffing, and limited educational resources are some of the policy outcomes which Rawan wishes to address. Furthermore, Rawan believes that a degree in Social Work will help her to develop research skills needed to document these problems. As the Middle East coordinator for Seeking Common Ground (a Colorado-based non-profit, teaching female leadership, social change and building of peaceful communities to youth living in conflict areas), Rawan has gained extensive experience with programs that promote tolerance and understanding among youth in the Middle East.

### **Israel**

#### **Ariana Dokerker**

Ms. Dokerker completed her Bachelor of Social Work at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in 2005. Currently, Ariana directs "Ran's Place", an activity and consultation organization for youth in Arad, in southern Israel. At McGill she hopes to focus on tolerance, equality, social justice and human rights. One of her long term goals is to create outreach programs designed to communicate these values and rights to the community, through the building of personal relationships which will then help develop the capacities and support systems of community networks. Ariana comes to Montreal with her partner Nir Becker, a logistics specialist.

### **Jordan**

#### **Arda Freji Dergarabedian**

Ms. Dergarabedian received an MA in Sociology from the University of Jordan in 2003. She focused her research on the condition of Armenians in Jordan in her thesis entitled, "Identity and Assimilation of Armenians in Jordan." Arda's educational background is strongly linked to her work with the Jordan Center for Social Research where she has conducted several poignant studies in the areas of minority issues, women's issues, social development and social policy. Her experience brings her to McGill where she intends to explore micro credit methodologies as a means of addressing poverty in Jordan.



Vanier College Celebrates



# Looking to the future

International Women's Week  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008



**CÉGEP  
VANIER COLLEGE**  
821 Ste-Croix Avenue  
Saint-Laurent, Québec  
Métro: du Collège or Côte-Vertu  
For further information, please call  
(514) 744-7500, ext. 7063705-4

## DISPLAYS

**Look for displays in the Carrefour and Outside the Library  
Throughout the College** - Displays by Sociology of Health Students

This week is brought to you by the Women's Studies Program with the support of Vanier College and the VCTA.

### MONDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

**10:00-11:15am**

"From the Stone Age to the Sexual Revolution: A Feminist Perspective on the Evolution of Sex & Gender"  
Presenter: Jacky Vallée  
Auditorium (A103)

**11:30am-12:45pm**

"Women & Peace Building in the Middle East"  
Presenters: Rawan Hisham Zaitoun (Palestinian), Ariana Dokerker (Israeli), and Arda Freji Dergarabedian (Jordanian)  
McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society & Peace Building  
Auditorium (A103)

**1:00-2:15pm**

"AIDS and Gender Inequality: The Malawi Study Trip"  
Auditorium (A103)

**2:30-3:45pm**

Indecently Exposed (60 minutes)  
Film Festival  
Auditorium (A103)

**4:00-5:15pm**

"Violence in Intimate Relationships"  
A Presentation by The Sexual Assault Centre of The McGill Student Society

### TUESDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>

**10:00-11:15am**

"Women Working for Change"  
Presenters: Liza Novak and Esther Tordjman  
Auditorium (A103)

**11:30am-1:00pm**

"Women's Health"  
Organized by Health and Counselling Resource Centres  
Carrefour

**1:00-2:15pm**

"Promising Futures: A Native Women's Panel"  
Organized by the Native Awareness Group  
Auditorium (A103)

**2:30-3:45pm**

Finding Dawn (75 minutes)  
Film Festival  
Auditorium (A103)

**4:00-5:15pm**

"Feminism in the Eyes of College Students"  
Organized by the Vanier Social Justice Committee  
Auditorium (A103)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>

Women's Champagne Breakfast @ 8am  
Theatre Room (B323)

**10:00-11:15am**

I was a teenage feminist (62 minutes)  
Film Festival  
Auditorium (A103)



**12:00-1:00pm (UB)**  
Nomadic Massive Hip Hop Performance  
Auditorium (A103)

**1:30-2:45pm**

"Slavery of the 21st Century: Sex Trafficking"  
Presenters: Peggy Sakow & Liliane Kohl  
Auditorium (A103)

**3:00-5:00pm**

Voluer with Penelope Cruz (121 minutes)  
Film Festival  
Auditorium (A103)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>

**10:00-11:15am**

Dreamworlds III: Desire, Sex and Power in Music Video (55 minutes)  
Film Festival  
Auditorium (A103)

**11:30am-12:45pm**

"The Making of a Film Festival: Image+Nation, 20 years going strong"  
Presenter: Katharine Seizer  
Organized by The Open Door Network  
Auditorium (A103)

**1:00-3:00pm**

Film: Little Miss Sunshine (101 minutes)  
A special event sponsored by Vanier Students' Association  
Auditorium (A103)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

**10:00-11:15am**

"What's Sexy?"  
Presenter: Lilia Goldfarb  
Auditorium (A103)

**11:30am-12:45pm**

"Still Raging"  
Raging Grannies  
Auditorium (A103)

**1:00-2:15pm**

"Le féminisme au futur"  
Presenter: Françoise David  
Auditorium (A103)

