

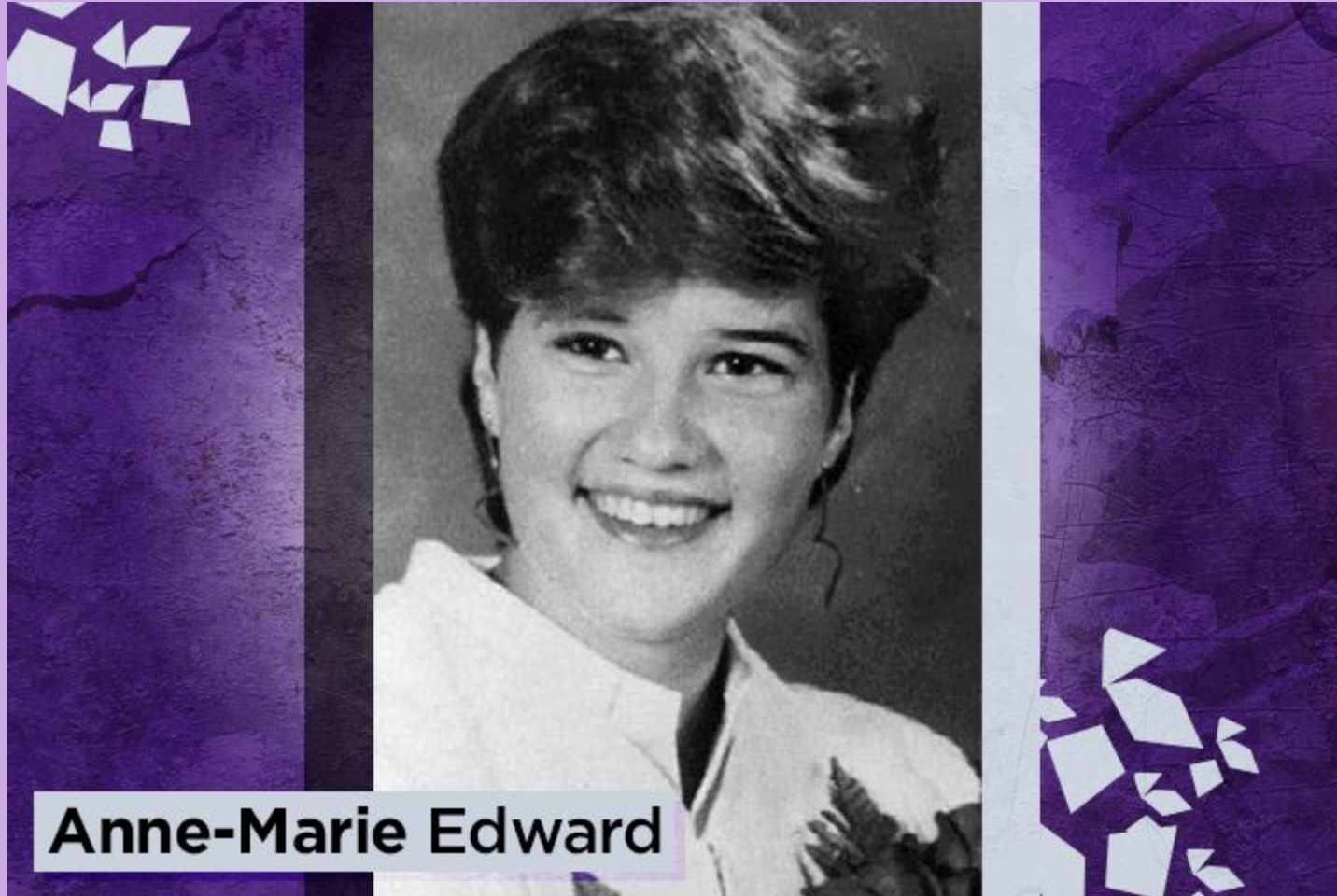
REMEMBER THE VICTIMS OF THE ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE MASSACRE



Dec. 6, 2020 marks 31 years since the attack at École Polytechnique.

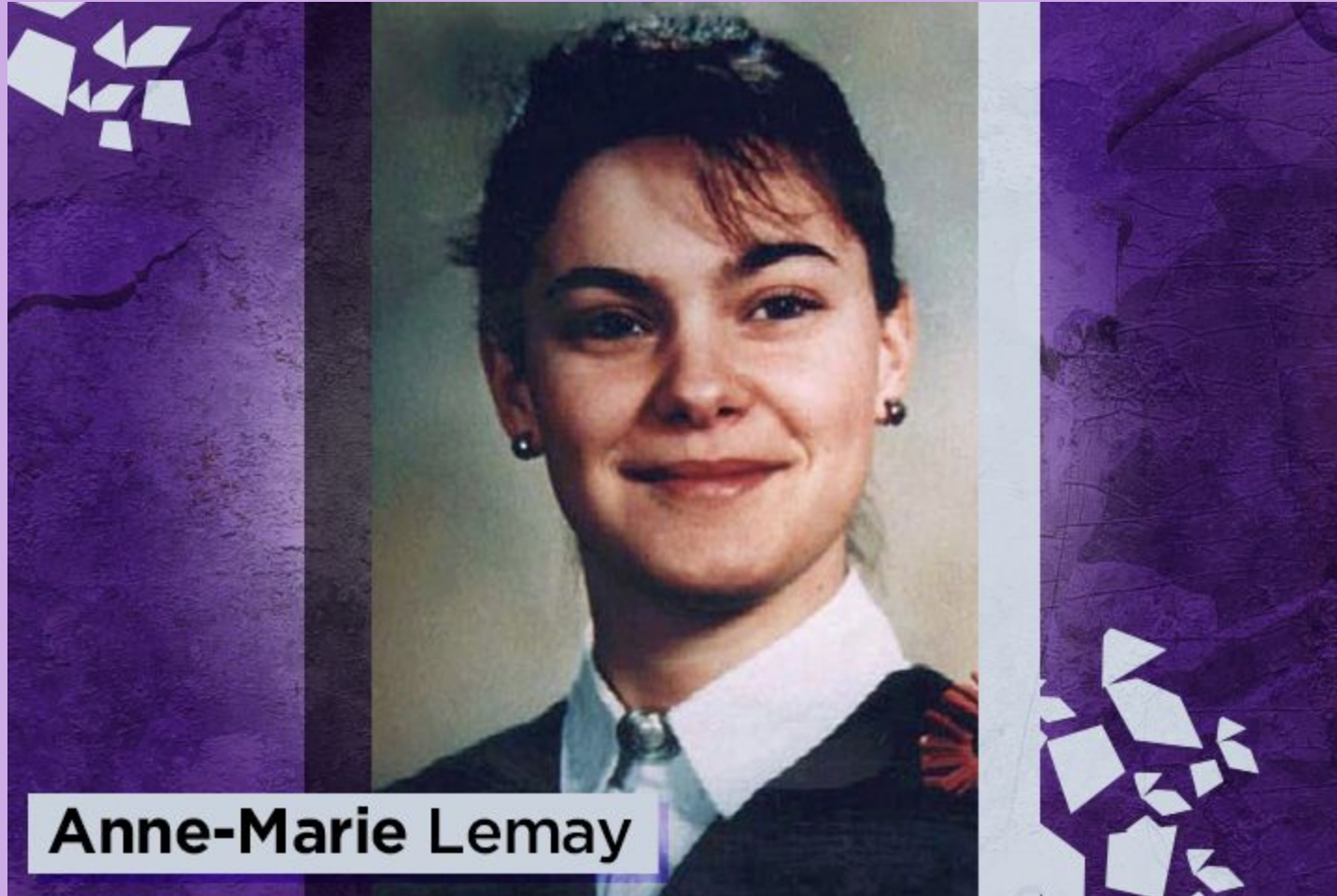
On that day, in 1989, a man determined to kill feminists took the lives of 14 women.

December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



Anne-Marie Edward

Anne-Marie was from Pierrefonds and was known to love all sports. She loved to take on any challenge she could. Anne-Marie was studying chemical engineering at the school and was known for being clever and stubborn.



Anne-Marie Lemay

Anne-Marie Lemay wanted, at least for a little while, to study medicine.

The 22-year-old from Boucherville had wanted to go into health care but ultimately chose to study mechanical engineering, in large part because of a close friend. When she was a teenager, one of Lemay's friends lost the use of his legs.

It was Lemay, known for her ability to connect with people, who visited him weekly to help with his rehabilitation. And it was there that she realized the importance of mechanical devices.



Annie St-Arneault

Annie St-Arneault was curious, meticulous, intensely caring and always searching for adventures of her own making.

St-Arneault, the only daughter and youngest of three children, was 23 when she was killed while attending what was to be her final class before graduating from mechanical engineering studies.



Annie Turcotte

Annie Turcotte was the youngest of three children, drawn to École Polytechnique because of her older brother Donald. She was gifted, and her intelligence won her a women in science bursary. Turcotte was most interested in metallurgical engineering. In many respects, she was a woman ahead of her time: committed to nature and finding ways to protect the environment.

Turcotte was 21 years old when she was killed. On the 25th anniversary of the massacre, her mother told La Presse that despite the years, Turcotte is “forever our darling daughter... We’ve always kept her very much alive in our house.”



Barbara Daigneault

Barbara Daigneault was not someone bound by conventional limits.

When she was just seven years old, she asked why she could never become pope. She would ultimately follow in her father's footsteps and study engineering.

While she was at École Polytechnique, Daigneault worked as a teaching assistant for her father, Pierre-Alain Daigneault, a mechanical engineering professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal. At 22, with just one term to go before graduating as an engineer, she was already thinking about her career prospects.



Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz

Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz was outgoing, friendly and had what her husband described as a “great deadpan sarcasm.” She was a whiz, studying engineering, economics and food logistics. She was a woman who looked outward, her husband says. She spoke five languages, read a lot — and wasn’t shy about sharing what she’d read — and loved to help people.

Klucznik-Widajewicz was 31 years old and in her first year of nursing science at the school when she was killed. The couple was having a cheap meal in the cafeteria when the killer came. Widajewicz survived. He has a daughter now, which makes him anxious.

“Sometimes, I fear she might die if some maniac were to go after her for being too smart or too beautiful,” he says.



Geneviève Bergeron

Geneviève Bergeron was a second-year civil engineering student who celebrated her 21st birthday two weeks before she was killed.

She was smart enough to earn a scholarship but also talented enough that she was still vacillating between a career in engineering and one in music. Bergeron played clarinet and sang in the choir at the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

“She loved to sing,” her mother, Thérèse Daviau, told the Montreal Gazette shortly after the massacre. “It’s a rare combination of interests.”



Hélène Colgan

Hélène Colgan was 23 years old in early December 1989, just weeks shy of a planned trip somewhere warm with her friends to ring in the new year. It would have been a well-deserved rest, according to her father; Clarence Colgan.

Colgan was a strong student at the tail end of a degree in mechanical engineering, Clarence Colgan told the Montreal Gazette shortly after the massacre. “She was a conscientious and patient girl and always pushed things through to the end. “She wanted to go to the farthest limits of life. She had so much ambition and hope,” Clarence said. “I don’t even want to think what she could have done.”

Colgan’s best friend, Nathalie Croteau, was also among the 14 women killed.



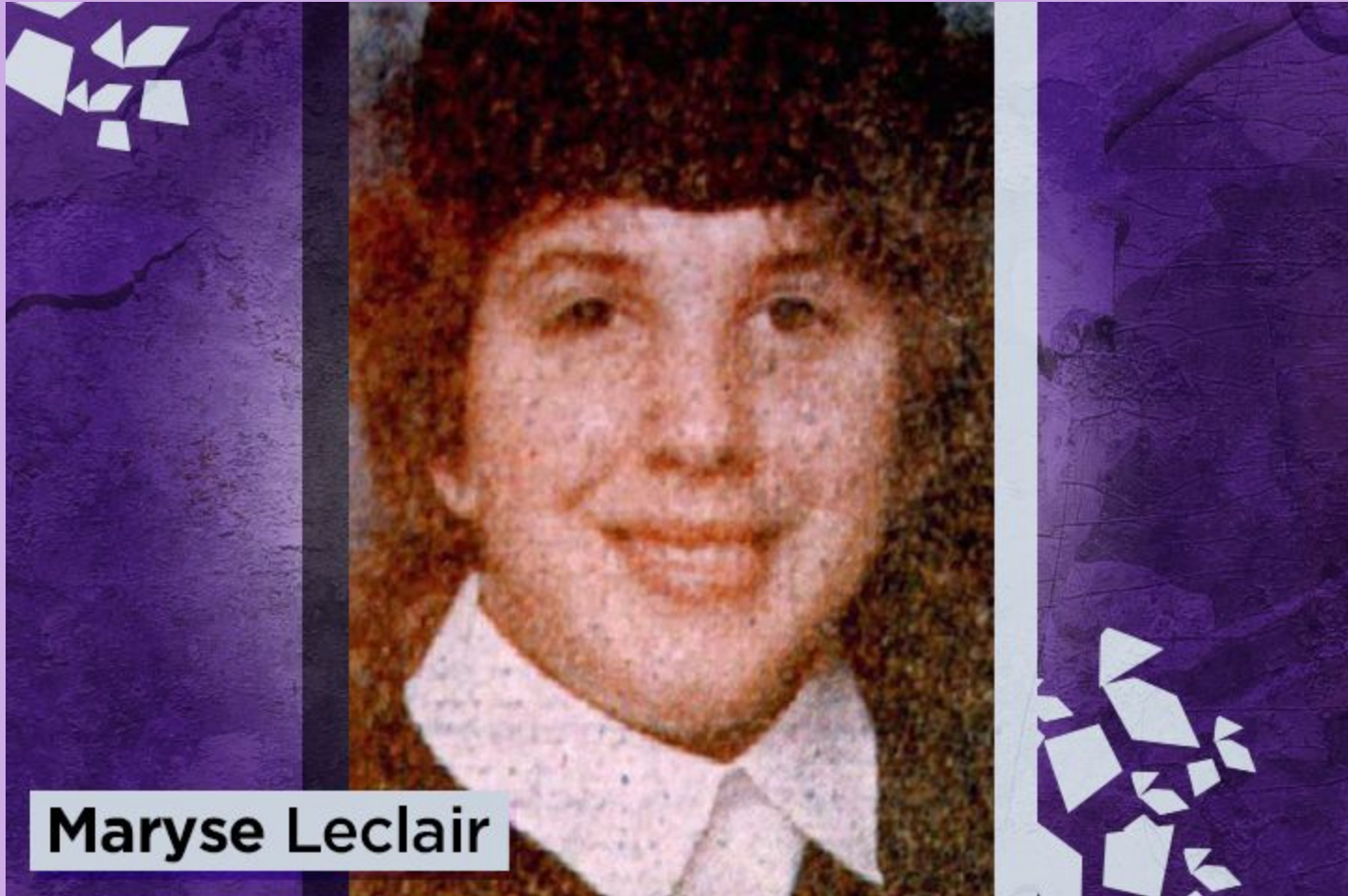
Maryse Laganière

Maryse Laganière was a shy newlywed with a beautiful smile.

She was the youngest of 14 children raised in Montreal. Laganière, who was 25 when she was killed, was a budget clerk for the school's finance department. That's where she met the "love of her life," Jean-François Larivée, in 1986.

The couple married in August 1989, and they were working on starting a family. Larivée still believes Laganière was very newly pregnant when she died.

The killer accosted her at the end of her workday, when she had already put on her boots and coat to leave. She tried to fight him and shut the door.



Maryse Leclair

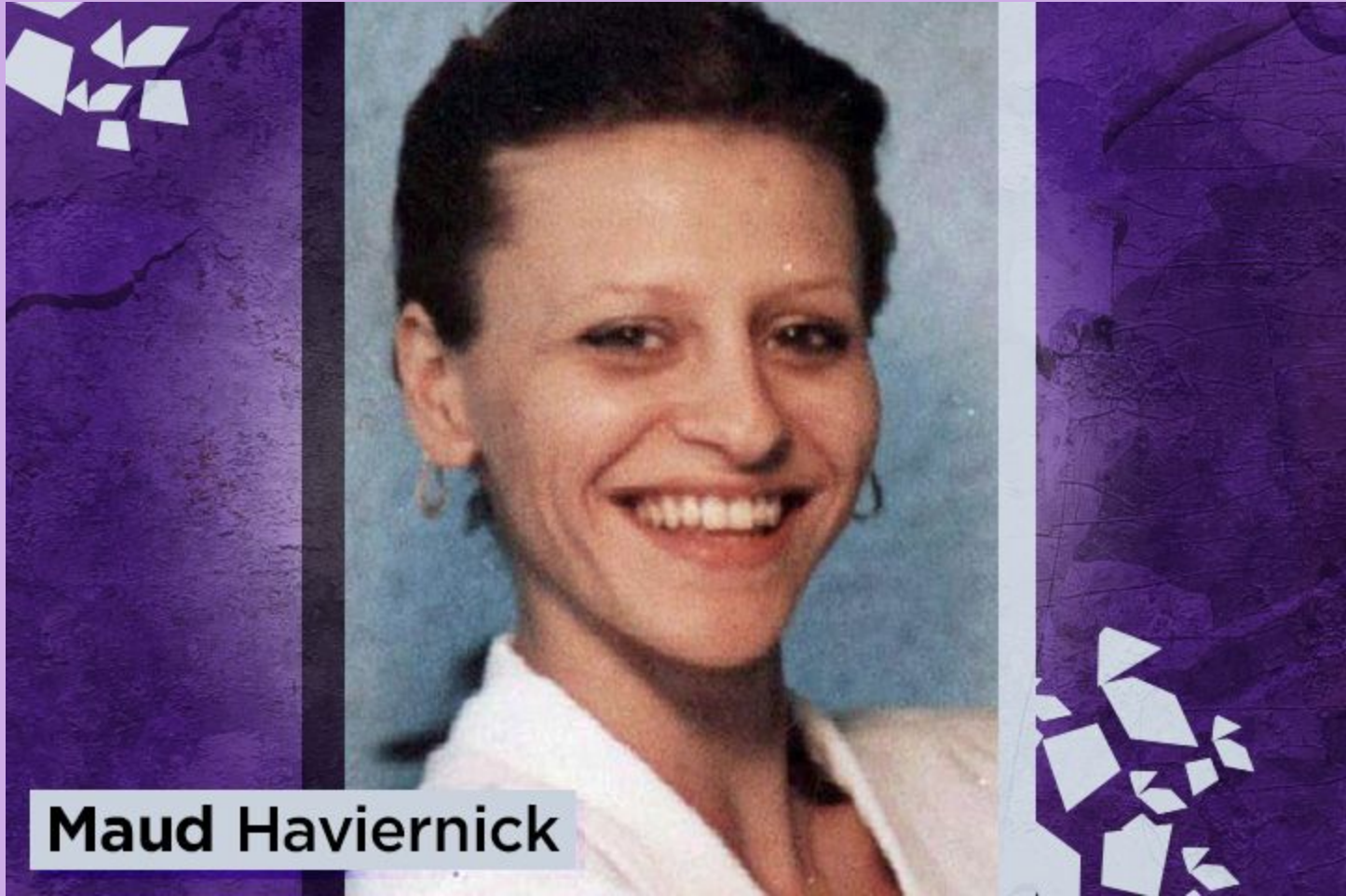
Maryse Leclair was a rebel and a go-getter who did not care what people thought of her.

Leclair, a 23-year-old in her fourth year of engineering, had three younger sisters and unabashedly lived life on her own terms.

The Sunday before the attack, her father, Lt. Pierre Leclair with the Montreal police, had dinner with Benoit. She was wearing a brand-new red sweater purchased specifically for the holidays.

On the night of the attack, the lieutenant spoke to the media outside the school and then went inside and saw the red sweater. Leclair was found dead near the man who killed her.

“We think of our daughter every day,” he told La Presse on the 25th anniversary of the attack. “We talk about it often with our other three daughters. It caused us unbearable pain.”



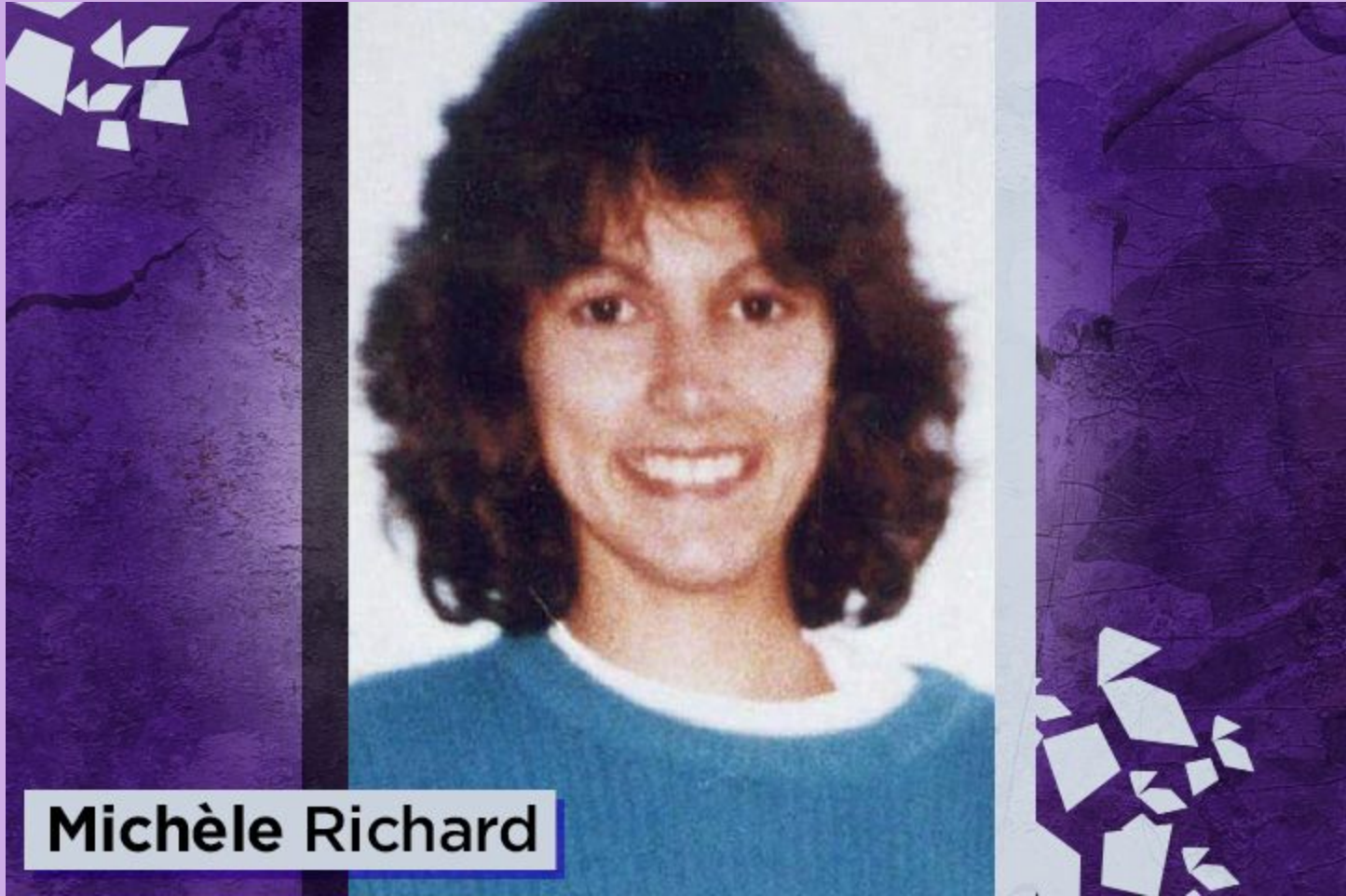
Maud Haviernick

The 29-year-old had a bachelor's degree in environmental design and started out her working life as an interior designer, creating habitats for community living.

She chose to go back to school at École Polytechnique to fulfil her dream of being an engineer and studying materials engineering.

She's described as a go-getter who gave any pursuit she took on her all — her mantra was, “If you feel like going all the way, well, just do it.”

Haviernick lived with her partner, Serges Gagnon. Their home in Sainte-Rose had a room dedicated to her creative hobbies, which included sculpture. She was killed giving her final presentation for her metals class, along with her classmate, Michèle Richard.



Michèle Richard

Michèle Richard, or Mimi, as she was nicknamed, had a brilliant smile and a calming presence.

There was something her friends couldn't quite put their finger on that drew people to her. She was 21 when she was killed, a strong student in her second year of materials engineering.

Richard hailed from Lac-Mégantic, a region she was particularly proud of and returned to once or twice a year to visit her younger sibling, mother and friends. She thought, maybe, she might buy land there one day.

Richard planned to get engaged to her boyfriend, Stéphane, in the spring of 1990. They'd known each other for nearly four years, and he was with her in class when she was shot and killed.

Richard's mother joined other parents following the Montreal Massacre in advocating for stricter gun control.



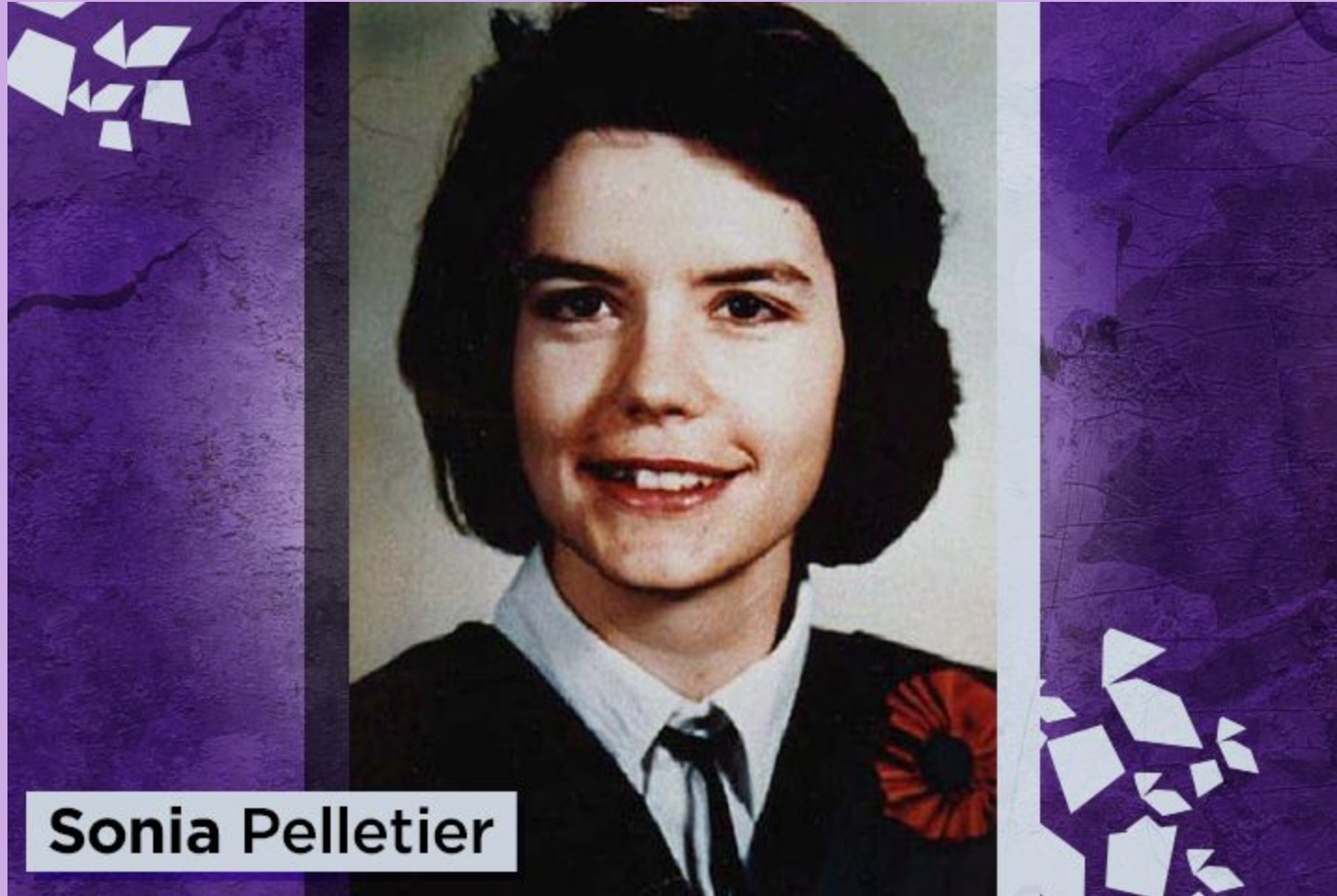
Nathalie Croteau

Nathalie Croteau was outgoing and enterprising with a passion for learning, particularly when it came to science.

Croteau was 23 when she was killed, just a couple of weeks shy of celebrating New Year's Eve in the hot sun in Cancun, Mexico with her close friends, H el ene Colgan included.

“Twenty-three years aimed at graduating with a degree. She’s only three months away from getting it and she’s killed — all because she was sitting in a chair in a classroom,” her father Fernand Croteau told the Montreal Gazette shortly after the massacre.

He was so filled with rage at the loss of his daughter, he told the newspaper, he took it out on the walls of his home in Brossard.



Sonia Pelletier

Sonia Pelletier was the person who won every competition, secured every scholarship and always beat out others for top of the class.

She was a quiet, undemanding person who grew up with five sisters and two brothers. And yet, her intelligence and liveliness stood out to many. That she was so smart and driven was a source of joy and pride for the Pelletier family and their neighbours in the small, close-knit town of Saint-Ulric.

Pelletier loved rock music, and her favourite song was Gerry Boulet's *Toujours vivant* (Still Alive). She liked to cook and teach others to cook. One of Pelletier's favourite meals to make was pasta from scratch.

Pelletier was 28 years old and just days from graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering and a transcript of straight As when she was killed.

Despite their loss, her sister Micheline told *La Presse* the Pelletier family has always thought of the killer's mother.

"We, the families of the victims, had pride in our sisters and daughters. But she had nothing at all."