

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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FEMINIST NETWORK CALLS DOWN MEDIA MYSTIFICATION OF SCIENCE;
ALERTS 3RD WORLD WOMEN

The Feminist International Network of Resistance to Reproductive and Genetic Engineering (FINRRAGE) is calling on women "to take a more in-depth and comprehensive look at (reproductive) technologies."

Janice Raymond, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Medical Ethics at the University of Massachusetts struck out against what she called the "scientific and media portrayal of these technologies as beneficial to women and as part of the progressive picture of modern science moving ever onward and upward. Instead we are concerned about the ways in which they are damaging to all women."

Technological 'advances' are 'medicalizing' the processes of pregnancy, birth and women's very lives, removing from women control over our bodies. As more and more areas of a woman's life become the territory of medicine they become subject to medical control. Janice Raymond cited a final reason for concern to be the experimental status of these technologies, "they constitute unethical medical experimentation on women, even if women submit to them voluntarily."

"The Bionetics Foundation, Inc., a commercial firm that helps arrange surrogate deals, talks about the future of 'authentic' surrogate mothers, total receptacles... Once embryo transfer is perfected, the surrogate industry will, by its own admission, search for breeder women in the third world where, perhaps one tenth of the present fee could be paid."

On The Issues

Volume VI, 1986

CHILEAN WOMEN FIGHT ON

A recent decree by the Chilean government curtailing the right to public assembly has not prevented the Coalition of Family Members of Victims of Repression from carrying out a full range of educational and action - oriented activities. Women who are family members of those who have "disappeared" have mounted a direct action in North Chile to excavate mass graves to identify the bodies of their loved ones.

The Chilean Coalition was created out of grassroots activities in search of missing family members under the Pinochet regime. Women from the poblaciones (shanty towns) hold major leadership roles in the five groups which make up the coalition of organizations concerned with disappearances, exiles, internal exiles, executions and political prisoners.

The group of family members of political prisoners publishes a bulletin each month giving updated information on the prisoners. There are 14 women currently being held in a Santiago prison. Two were arrested while pregnant; all have been tortured with electric shocks, beaten and more than half were repeatedly raped.

New Directions For Women

Volume 15 #6 November, December 1986

SOLOMON ISLANDS TECHNOLOGY FAIR

A Women's Technology and Tools Fair held last year in the Solomon Islands chose the theme 'Mere N' Save Fo Dvelopmen' to reflect women's understanding of themselves as promoters of development.

The idea for the fair was concieved at the Nairobi conference and it took a year of planning and the cooperation of several organizations to organize the event. One set-back was the disaster of Cyclone FAMU which caused planners to consider cancelling the fair. However, it was thought that the fair would give useful ideas to those trying to rebuild their homes and villages, so the original July date was delayed to September when the fair became a substitute for Women's Week normally held at that time.

Women's Club News

July/December 1986

COMMONWEALTH LOOKS AT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Commonwealth Secretariat held a multi-disciplinary meeting last September on the subject of violence against women. A core of legal experts, the police and representatives of Non-Government Organizations, Women's shelters and the

Commonwealth Nurses Federation came from Trinidad and Tobago, Bangladesh, Britain Canada, Kenya, Lesotho, Malasia and Western Samoa.

Proposals from the meeting included training programmes for the police, the establishment of shelters, the development of training kits to help community health workers operate the shelter systems in each country.

The meeting also recommended that the Secretariat collect data on judicial interpretation to help women's groups influence their legislators. Meanwhile, the Secretariat, in an effort to address the problem at the grassroots level is following up a lead from the Central Social Welfare Board of India. The Board has promoted puppet shows to raise public awareness of women's rights and violence against women. The Board plans to set up a puppet unit to link government, voluntary agencies and pupeteers.

Commonwealth Currents

December, 1986

ABORTION RIGHTS IN CANADA - IT GETS HARDER

There is a serious decline in the numbers of Canadian hospitals that perform abortions. The number has dropped from 274 in 1975 to 244 in 1984. Of those only a few actually perform abortions rather than merely having committees that can legally approve them. In 1984, for example, 34 hospitals performed 73 per cent of abortions in the country.

In the province of Prince Edward Island, the only hospital which has a committee which was set up to approve therapeutic abortions has decided to disband that committee, effectively ending hospital abortions in the province. Canadian Justice Minister, John Crosbie says the federal government cannot force provinces to require that legal abortions be available within their boundaries.

Info. from Broadside in Off Our Backs

Volume XVI #8 1986

MOTHER CHARGED FOR BABY'S DEATH

An American woman is facing criminal charges after the death of her infant son in hospital six weeks after his birth.

In an unprecedented court case in San Diego, California, the woman is being accused of allegedly failing to summon medical help quickly enough when she began hemorrhaging at home the day of the birth. She is being charged with child neglect under a 1926 law which deems a fetus a person. The wife and mother of two spent 6 days in jail, unable to produce \$10,000 bail. If found guilty she faces another year in prison.

Women and Revolution

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