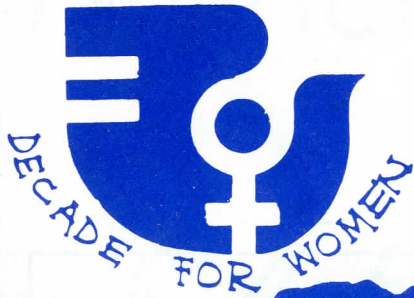


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WOMAN SPEAK!

**VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN**

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WOMAN SPEAK!

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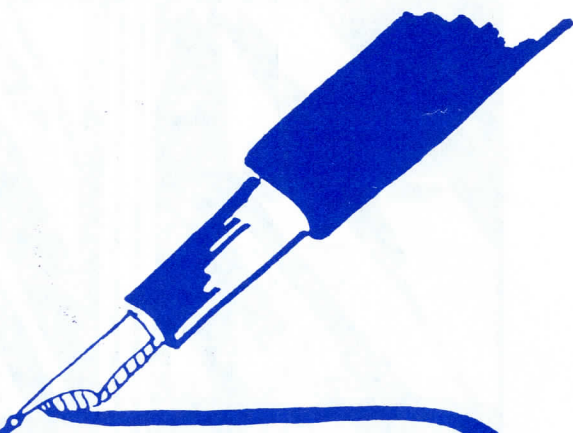
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Editorial



Violence is often thought of as physical abuse born out of anger, frustration and a need to exert control or get even with some other person, often less able than ourselves. Let us not forget that many persons, including children, also suffer mental abuse through neglect, overprotectiveness, unfaithfulness and self-denigration. This abuse is sometimes more damaging than physical abuse.

Women in particular are the victims of both types of violence. They are beaten, mentally abused, raped and sexually harassed on the streets, in their work place, in educational institutions, and even in their own homes.

This issue of WOMAN SPEAK! focuses attention on the various aspects of abuse which are the realities of many women's lives.

What can we, as members of a society reared on the belief 'spare the rod and spoil the child,' do to reduce the incidence of violence against our women, indeed all women everywhere?

We hope that the articles and contributions made in this issue will not only rouse discussion but will lead to positive efforts towards change, at every level of our society.

'Come let us reason together.'

This month's guest editorial is by Barbadian Jeannette Bell, WAND programme officer. Ms. Bell is also a State Registered Nurse and a qualified psychiatric nurse.



OVERVIEW

by Annette Howell

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



It is becoming increasingly evident that the problem of the physically or mentally abused woman is of a far greater magnitude than has been previously imagined. The problem is global, affecting women irregardless of geographical location, age, socio-economic group, colour or creed. Any discussion with lawyers, police or doctors will bear witness that a problem does exist.

Most alarming is the annual increase in the numbers of women who are victims of rape or wife-beating. A large number of cases go unreported and very few people brought before the courts are convicted.

Most crimes of violence take place in an individual's home for varying motives. An assault may occur if the man comes home and his lunch isn't ready or it may be the outcome of an argument. But, one thing is certain: assaults are always very brutal and the plight of the abused woman is usually ignored. Some women, especially those from a high socio-economic group, are ashamed and reluctant to let others know what they are experiencing, which explains why the amount of complaints reaching the authorities are minimal.

Not only are wives and women in visiting or common-law unions subjected to beatings.

Women who are in dating relationships also experience abuse — often sparked by disagreements or jealousy. A study done at St. John's University, Minnesota, U.S. found that out of a total of 202 undergraduates and sophomores, 21.2 per cent had been abused or had inflicted abuse in a pre-marital relationship at least once. Most of the victims were women. The study concluded that pre-marital abuse occurs in serious dating relationships rather than in casual ones.

Assaults may occur daily, weekly, or as a monthly ritual — their frequency increasing from year to year. Injuries range from bruises, lacerations, swellings, fractures, concussions or (in the case of pregnant women) miscarriages.

Why do women endure such terror and degradation which often results in the loss of their self-esteem? In most cases, the woman is economically dependent on the man; she may not be in a job which allows her to support herself and her children. Having no alternative, she cannot extricate herself from a violent family situation. She may not have the necessary education or training to get a job. Finally, she may be unaware of her legal rights.

Some women are subjected to certain psychological pressures. For example, they are socialized to believe that they must make their

husbands happy. They eventually leave, divorce or separate from their partners when they cannot endure the situation any longer; when their children grow up; or when their partners show no signs of changing.

The phenomenon of physical abuse needs to be tackled because evidence suggests that men who abuse their wives abuse their children; abuse is transmitted from one generation to the next, with the abused child growing up to become an abusive parent. This problem results in a tension rift household where the normal routine of home life is non-existent.

Professionals tend to view the problem of domestic violence as an individual family upset and not as a major social problem. Laws are technically in place against one human physically attacking another, but it is rarely enforced if the victim and attacker are married. Domestic troubles lead to few arrests; they are regarded by the police as personal problems. In most cases the victim usually drops charges. This happens because she is faced with an indifferent, hostile legal system where procedures are time-consuming, expensive and humiliating — a system that tends to reinforce the husband's view that he has committed no crime.

The problem of wife-beating is deeply rooted in centuries of sexual inequality and male domination, as is another common act of violence against women — rape. Fear of rape is a daily part of a woman's consciousness. From the time a girl is old enough to understand, she is made aware of the threat of rape. It is an act of aggression in which the victim is denied her self-determination. If the rape is not actually followed by a beating or murder, it always carries with it the threat of death.

No clear-cut reason for rape exists, but it is a means by which a man can demonstrate his physical power over a woman. The literature on violence against women does not suggest that rapists are insane. According to **Patterns in Forcible Rape**, Professor Menachem Amir's study of 646 rape cases in Philadelphia, U.S., "Studies indicate that sex offenders do not constitute a unique or psycho-pathological type; nor are they as a group invariably more disturbed than the control groups to which they are compared."

The incidence of rape throughout the world is staggering. The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investi-

gation (FBI) reports that between 1968 and 1977, in the U.S., rape had increased 103 per cent. However the actual incidence is some 3.5 to nine times higher. In Trinidad and Tobago, in 1972, 144 cases were reported to the police. In Jamaica today only one in 20 cases are reported.

A rapist may be a complete stranger, a casual acquaintance or a family friend. Attacks usually take place after dark and indoors where the potential victim is alone. Almost all victims are adversely affected, experiencing physical pain in addition to emotional trauma such as stress, anger and shame. Their feelings of privacy, dignity and trust are severely invaded.

What can a victim do after such a traumatic experience? The medical and legal systems are not much help, since the victim finds that she undergoes further victimization from a system that degrades and humiliates her. The degradation in reporting to the police the physical details of the rape deters many women from reporting or following up a case. The woman tends to feel that she is on trial. She may be reluctant to seek medical attention, but treatment of her physical injuries and tests for venereal disease and pregnancy need to be carried out as soon as possible after the attack.

The law's recognition of three major elements in rape are too narrow to deal effectively with all aspects of a rape; that is, carnal knowledge of a woman, lack of consent to this carnal knowledge, and use of force to accomplish the act. These elements do not cover all aspects of the types of assault that can occur.

The law tends to regard the woman who has been raped as a "bad girl" and every minute detail of her private life is delved into. Sometimes the rapist is acquitted, depending on how active a sex life his victim has led. The onus of proof in the legal system rests on the victim who has to give a mass of detail about the rape.

As long as no rehabilitative centres exist to help the rape victim through this period, there is nowhere for her to turn. Without early help, victims run the risk of psychiatric problems within five years of being raped. The literature shows that shelters exist in North America and Europe to aid and advise women and children who are victims of abuse. A similar trend needs to be followed in the Caribbean where the incidence of rape and wife-beating, in particular, is becoming excessive.

Barbadian Annette Howell is a graduate of the University of the West Indies.

Why Fathers Abuse Their Daughters



Father/daughter incest is the type most commonly reported to authorities. Perhaps for this reason, it also is the type most commonly studied and about which most is known.

Reported characteristics of fathers who commit incest include an emotionally deprived childhood and chaotic family life, an extreme emotional dependence on their wives, and a nonaggressive and ineffectual personality with poor impulse control. In addition, they often have an immature sexual orientation and poor sexual adjustment.

Although some are poor providers with a

history of frequent separations from the family, others are socially well-adjusted and appear to be good fathers and husbands. Many have been found to have a history of alcoholism.

Studies have shown that most of the fathers are in their thirties or early forties when the incestuous relationship begins. For many men, increased marital stresses occur at this time, and there is often a pubescent daughter present in the home. Their sexual overtures toward their daughters may be rationalized as expressions of love or as part of their responsibility to be both the child's protector and her initiator into sexual experiences.

It is often the mother who provides the key to the father/daughter incest relationship. Reports of psychiatric case studies indicate that father/daughter incest sometimes involves at least unconscious participation and/or sanction by the mother, although few of the reports of incest are made by the mother.

The mother in such a family usually has experienced physical or psychological desertion during childhood; as a result, she often has strong remaining dependency needs. Because of her early experiences of maternal deprivation, however, she may feel great hostility toward her own mother. Her poor concept of mothering and her own need to be mothered may cause her to cast her daughter in the maternal role. She may become both hostile toward and dependent on her daughter. In addition, the mother usually fears any close relationship and frequently sexually rejects her husband. Eventually, this role reversal of mother and daughter may place the daughter in a position where she is called upon to meet the father's sexual needs.

The child victim of incest is usually the oldest daughter. Although often sexually immature, the daughters usually exhibit pseudo-maturity and are often caretakers of the home and younger children. They often assume this role at an early age because of the disrupted state of the family unit. The child may fear her mother and receive little affection from her.

Prior to the actual incestuous relationship, the child may exhibit coy or flirtatious behaviour toward her father, not with the

intention of obtaining sexual gratification, but in an attempt to secure the affection she is denied by her mother.

This behaviour, combined with her fear of family disruption and her sense of maternal responsibility, allows the child eventually to become involved in a physically close, giving and receiving relationship with her father. The relationship may evolve gradually, with the daughter assuming a passive role and offering no physical resistance to her father's increasingly aggressive sexual advances. Sexual intercourse between the two may be the result of this increasingly intimate contact.

Abrupt disruption of the incest pattern may never occur. However, in some cases, the child, after achieving some degree of social and sexual awareness, leaves home, seeks help for herself, or requests protection for her younger sisters. At times, the relationship comes to the attention of authorities when the girl becomes pregnant.

Occasionally, a history of incest is obtained from a runaway who refuses to return home or from a child who has made a suicidal gesture. Complaints from other family members may terminate the incest, though such complaints are sometimes motivated by anger over some unrelated matter.

The accusation of incest against a family may awaken painful guilt feelings, associated with denial and depression. If the mother has been aware of the situation, she may deny any knowledge of the matter, accusing her daughter of lying. Her inadequacies as a wife and mother

are exposed, and she fears the disintegration of her family and the loss of her husband. The father's guilt, shame, and fear of repercussions may be overwhelming, and he may totally deny his daughter's allegations.

The effects of incest on the daughter vary and depend on her age, her level of functioning prior to the relationship, and her experiences in the social and legal systems after disclosure.

Preadolescent girls may be less affected by an incestuous relationship than older girls, perhaps because young children do not have such firm concepts of right and wrong and lack awareness of the possible social repercussions. Some case-studies indicate that adolescent children may be relatively unaffected if they were well-adjusted prior to the experience, and if both parents display little guilt or anxiety when the incestuous relationship is discovered.

Other studies show that incest can result in serious confusion for the child over her sexual identity and may lead her to fear her own sexuality. Such girls may exhibit learning difficulties or physical complaints; they may become runaways, attempt suicide, or become sexually promiscuous.

The potential for damage appears so great that the children and families involved in incestuous relationships must be seen as in need of immediate help. They require long-term support by social and legal agencies, for such support can make a difference in the lives of all family members and, in many cases, allow the family to again function as a healthy unit.

*The above article by Dr. Raylene A. DeVine, Paediatric Consultant to The National Survey of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S.A. is extracted from **Sexual Abuse of Children: Selected Readings**.*

...MYTHS AND FACTS...

about rape

MYTH: Rape victims are always to blame in some way for their attack.

FACT: Research shows that victims of rape have not provoked their attack in any way. And, since many rapes occur in the victim's home late at night, there is really no way she "asked for it."

MYTH: Rape is just "sex with a stranger."

FACT: Rape is a physically and emotionally brutalizing attack. Although sex is the vehicle, rape is more about power and violence than sex.

Source: *Tucson Rape Crisis Center, Tucson, U.S.*

PROFILE

Lorna Gordon A Woman Of Our Time



Lorna Gordon — political activist, feminist, communications specialist. Words; inadequate labels that cannot speak to the true depth of commitment of this Jamaican woman to women's struggles throughout the world.

It's this same commitment, coupled with her personal experiences, which drives her to take up publicly, the issue of violence against women an area where few women dare to venture.

"One of the things that made me commit myself to working with women, was my political consciousness of the power realities of our societies: the glaring gap between the weak and the strong. This understanding arose out of my childhood experiences where, in school, it was the bully and the weakling; at home — an alcoholic father; at work — persons in power dictating the terms of life to the people below them. At different times in my life, I have been exposed to sexually abused girls, wife-beating and the spectre of rape.

"Very few women are prepared to deal with the subject of violence personally, either by way of confronting it, or in terms of actively working against it to be able to help other women.

"There are two reasons for this. Firstly, most violence against women takes place within a domestic environment and most women are afraid of incriminating members of their family. Secondly, they fear reprisals from persons in the wider society.

"Because of the stigma attached to the victim of violence, most women stay away from getting publicly involved in it as an issue. For example, the way a rape victim is dealt with by members of her family, her friends, colleagues and the system itself through the police and the lawyers.

In cases of wife-beating, too, the same attitude applies. Wife-beating is accepted by society as the male's form of private discipline. The police say they can't do anything and women won't press charges because of the stigma attached, and, in most cases, the fear of economic hardship.

"There's a need for women to understand that violence exists in various forms, that is, mental, physical, emotional, environmental, etc. They also need to understand violence as a manifestation of powerlessness, an act of hostility carried out by someone who is insecure, inadequate and impotent in a given social sense. Violence is stimulated by social forces.

"It is also important for women to understand that the perpetrator of a violent act usually needs a weak victim. For example, in the home situation, where the woman is usually dependent on a man, the latter feels free to express his frustrations. These might have nothing to do with the woman, but she is the nearest object. She thus becomes the victim/object and will continue to be so as long as she's in a weak and dependent state."

Lorna has had 17 years of experience in the print and electronic media, during which time she has used the media to raise and keep the issue of violence against women to the forefront of social debate, whether she is working in Jamaica, the rest of the Caribbean, Latin America, North America, Africa or Europe.

"When I entered my career as a communicator, breaking into women's affairs was a way of using my skills to talk to women about their reality. My preoccupation with helping women,

based on my experience with violence, led to my being a volunteer counsellor with rape victims. I talked to women about how they were passing on their repressed hostility to their children through language and physical abuse."

Now a free-lance mass communications consultant, Lorna is still determined to keep the issue alive through her writing. "I believe communicators like myself, or people with media knowledge and access, have a critical role to play in mirroring the reality.

"Violence against women must be seen by women as just one area of oppression and victimization. Those of us in the women's movement, who have the benefit of education, who have access to power, and who claim to be committed to changing the social order must devise the strategies to deal with this issue. I think to ignore it, because it's such a subtle but all-pervasive issue, would be to minimize the structure of our oppression as women."

Marriage - a license to rape?

Rape is legally defined as forcing sexual relations on a woman who is not one's wife. But, the barbaric notion that a husband cannot be guilty of rape, even if he forces his wife into sexual intercourse, is traditionally accepted in the courts of several countries.

The original comment exempting husbands from being charged with the rape of their wives was made by Sir Matthew Hale, a 17th century Chief Justice in England. He wrote: "... the husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual consent and contract the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract."

However, in California, U.S., the Marital Rape Bill passed on January 1, 1980, outlawed marital rape in that state. The bill altered the rape code to include sexual intercourse with one's spouse if accomplished under force or violence, or threat of great and immediate bodily harm.

Following this legislative victory, the New York County Lawyers' Association organized a forum on "The Law and Psychology of Marital Rape."

Addressing the forum, Dr. Barbara Cohn Schlachet, a clinical psychologist, put the problem of marital rape in perspective. "The marital exemption in rape laws reflect the assumption that a wife is the property of her husband," she pointed out. "Like any other



object in his possession she can be employed at such times, in such ways, as suit his needs and whims."

Notwithstanding this observation, Ronald Sklar, associate professor of law at McGill University, spoke against criminalization of marital rape.

"There is a tendency in our society to think that when there is a problem, we should make it a crime," he claimed, pointing to laws making possession of marijuana, abortion, and consensual homosexual activities criminal offences.

His analogy between victimless, voluntary activities and rape prompted Marjory Fields, a member of the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, to comment, "A woman enters marriage consenting to voluntary relations, not to rape."

Sklar nevertheless maintained that the credibility of the criminal law process would suffer

because of the difficulties of convicting men charged with marital rape. He advocated, instead, marriage counselling to resolve "conflicts" in a marriage where the husband rapes the wife.

But the last word came from Laura X, President of the Women's History Research Center, who responded, "Any man who rapes

any woman, including his own wife, is a rapist and must be kept away from all women."

The audience, of equal numbers of women and men, agreed with her and the consensus was that greater sensitivity in the courts would make it possible to effectively prosecute persons guilty of marital rape.

Edited from Vesey Street Letter, March '80, newsletter of the New York County Lawyers' Association.

Yes-men too are raped

Male rape is sexual assault of men by other men. The male victim of rape can go through the same shock, pain and trauma as the female victim of sexual assault.

It is difficult to know just how often men are victims of sexual assault; we do know, however, that the incidence of male rape within prisons is extremely high. In fact, it is possible that more men are raped behind bars than are women on the streets. Although statistics are not readily available, it can be estimated that men are victims of sexual attack outside of prisons as well as in prisons.

The FBI estimates that perhaps as few as one in 10 rapes of women are ever reported to police; the rate of reporting among male victims is far lower than this. Men have been conditioned to eliminate themselves as possible rape victims; therefore, there is no societal support for the man who chooses to turn to law enforcement when he has been sexually attacked.

Too often, no resources are available for male victims, or they choose to tell no one about the attack.

Men are raised to equate manhood with control; when control is lost, as through rape, there is the feeling of loss of manhood. The male victim may begin to doubt himself on many levels, and to greatly fear the reactions of others to his rape experience. He may feel it is safer to keep his feelings to himself than to risk ridicule and lack of understanding.

The motivations present in male rape do not differ greatly from those present when men rape women. Rape is a crime of power, degradation and humiliation. Sex is used as the vehicle because it is a most effective means of defiling



another person. Men who rape other men are usually **not** homosexual; they have what society considers "normal" sexual outlets — many are married and have families. The anger and desperate need for power that culminate in an act of sexual assault have little to do with sexual desire.

The man who has been sexually assaulted has the same needs as the woman who has been assaulted: emotional support, someone to talk with who understands, and the feeling of being secure and cared for. A physical examination for any possible injuries, and testing and preventive treatment against venereal disease are extremely important.

Edited from "The Male Victim," a pamphlet of Tucson Rape Crisis Center, Tucson, U.S.

The New Trend In Violence

Recently, there has been a growing trend toward sado-masochism in films and in advertising, in which women are beaten and humiliated. Furthermore, sado-masochism is beginning to spread throughout all pornographic literature.

Barry Spinner and Neal Malamuth, professors at the University of California and Los Angeles (UCLA), did a content analysis on five years of pictures and cartoons in **Playboy** and **Penthouse** and found that the amount of sexual violence in these magazines had increased each year.

One of the most extreme and explicit forms of violent sado-masochistic pornography is the "snuff" film. Its name is derived from a term used by Charles Manson who reportedly filmed murders in the late 1960s in California.

Snuff films are produced in South America and made available to select audiences at US\$1,500 for eight reels. The magazine, **Kinesis** (May 1977), reported that "At one private showing in New York City, each viewer paid US\$200 to see what he believed was a record of real horror on a surprised woman's face, as she realized the play-acting had turned into a nightmare reality in which the knife attack upon her by a male sexual partner was only too real."

The examples of violent pornography of most concern to women, are the ones currently being depicted in popular magazines, on record covers, and even in store advertisements. While the existence of pornography, and even violent "porn" for a small deviant sub-culture is accepted by many women as inevitable, the new and growing pervasiveness of pornographic violence against women has become so widespread that it has acquired a queer kind of chic, kinky appeal.

The reasons for this new trend of violence against women are not clear. One current assumption suggests that as a commercial product various types of pornography compete with not only other media for a share of the market, but also among themselves for audiences. Consequently, pornography entrepreneurs must deliver increasingly bizarre products to maintain their share of the market.

Judith Reisman, as a doctoral candidate at Case Western Reserve University, did research on the influence of sexual media on feminine identity. Her research indicated that hard core pornography is like all marketed products, in that it needs to be periodically "improved" to stimulate flagging sales. Saturation with straightforward female sexual stimulus leads to the need for, and acceptance of, child molestation, incest, and sexual violence.

A second theory commonly offered by feminists is that pornography, especially blatant woman-hating, is a manifestation of a backlash against the women's movement. For example, Reisman's research indicated that news-stand pornography issues have increased from zero in 1953, to well over 30 in the last five years. She claims that it is not coincidental that **Playboy** magazine began after World War II when women began moving into the mainstream of society; nor that the pornography industry blossomed after the publication of Betty Friedan's **The Feminine Mystique**.

Another interpretation suggests that pornography mirrors an increasing portrayal of violence in society by the media.

In view of this new trend toward sado-masochistic violence against women in pornography, women are increasingly beginning to suspect that there is a causal relationship between violent pornography and violence against women.

Author and feminist, Robin Morgan, argues that the quantities of pornography found by police in the apartment of mass murderer David Berkowitz and in Charles Manson's commune, may be an indication of a connection between pornography and violence. She also claims that there is growing evidence that the 1970 U.S. Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography suppressed information on causal links between pornography and violence.

Feminists suggest that the frequent repetition by the media of themes of domination and violence against women, reinforces attitudes which encourage men to rape and commit other acts of violence.

"While movies like **Clockwork Orange** or **Snuff** may not in and of themselves influence anyone to commit rape or murder, such proviolence, anti-woman programming promotes the development of a society which is casual about violent acts, especially against women," says Debra Friedman in **Quest** (Vol. III No. 2).

Although there is little scientific evidence that there is a causal relationship between violent pornography and violence against women, increasingly the onus of proof is being placed on those who believe that there is no relation-

ship. Writer Robert Fulford, in an article in **Saturday Night** (Vol. 94 No. 2) suggests that "scientific" proof is impossible because no experiment with believable controls is possible. He claims, "We don't need scientific research to tell us that pornography has become one of the poisons of our civilization. Anyone with a sense of human dignity must be appalled by the fact that it finds so ready a market and, despite all predictions, continues to find that market years after first being widely introduced."

*Extracted from **Pornography and its Effects: A Survey of Recent Literature** and prepared by Jennifer Robertson for the Ontario Status of Women Council.*



Sexual Harassment: a power ploy

How common is sexual harassment on the job? According to a recent survey in Illinois, U.S., more than half of the female state employees said they had been subjected to sexual harassment ranging from leering to sexual proposition. Nearly 65 per cent felt that sexual harassment was a serious problem for working women and that women often face retaliation if they object. Almost two-thirds of those questioned agreed that sexual harassment threatens a woman's economic livelihood.

Who are the men who do the harassing? From testimony presented in Congress, for instance, they appear to be the bosses and co-workers, teachers and professors who are around us everywhere. They are kind to their own wives and mothers and worry about their daughters, why then do they sexually harass the women they work with? Researchers in Boston's Alliance Against Sexual Coercion interviewed men about sexual harassment and got some interesting observations. All of the men agreed that sexual harassment was unwanted sexual attention, but one was confused.

"I'm never sure the woman isn't interested in the attention I put out," he said, "it's not easy to figure out what's going on." He claimed he'd

been led on by women and then let down, and that he resented it. After that happened he gave them all the dirty work to do in the office, because he felt abused.

The men also felt it was difficult for some men all of the time, and for all men some of the time, to know when an aggressive sexual approach was expected of them because they were men, and when it would be resented. One man felt that changing the male sex role would help eliminate sexual harassment; another man felt that men, trying to live up to their macho expectations, harassed women sexually to prove their power over them. Men who don't harass women sexually, he decided, are men who don't have to keep reassuring themselves of their manhood.

Sexual harassment frequently has more to do with power than with sex. A man who always calls a woman co-worker "honey" or "sweetie," who whistles as she walks by, or stares at her breasts when they're talking, is reminding her that to him she is just a sex object and not to be taken seriously. "Harmless office flirtation" it is called. Recently, a male psychologist who conducts encounter groups for executives declared that "mutual sexual attraction, whether

or not acted upon, is good for morale. Every business needs a sprinkling of women to keep the men alert and on their toes."

What about the women "sprinkled through the office" as that "sexual attraction"? Is the attention they receive from the men good for their morale?

The U.S.-based Working Women's Institute questioned 155 working women, ages 19 to 64, on the subject. Seventy per cent of the women stated that they had experienced unwanted sexual comments, suggestions or physical contact at least once. Clerical workers and waitresses had encountered more unwanted advances than others. The lower a woman was on the pay scale, the more likely she would be a victim. About 91 per cent of the harassment was verbal, but 56 per cent was also physical.

A common method of dealing with sexual harassment is by ignoring it. This does not stop it, the women reported. In 75 per cent of the cases it only made it worse. In 25 per cent, women who ignored these advances were punished with hostility on the job.

Only 18 per cent of women who were

sexually harassed made complaints through official channels. Most didn't for fear they would be blamed, ridiculed, or that nothing would be done. And they were right. In half of the cases where women complained, nothing was done. In a third of the cases, women were punished with poor personnel reports, increased work loads, and unwarranted reprimands.

"Harmless office flirtation" may increase morale for men, but it didn't for the women. About 81 per cent were angry, 50 per cent were upset, one-fourth were frightened, and a fourth felt guilty. Some were all these things. Many felt self-conscious, powerless and trapped, and experienced decreased job efficiency and satisfaction. Many also had physical symptoms, from loss of appetite to nervous stomach, or migraine headaches.

The more power you can obtain, the less you'll be the butt of sexual harassment. We need to help one another. As we obtain power, we need to give to those individuals — who do not have power and who cannot protect themselves — the legal, psychological and moral support that will help them to resist such measures.

Extracted from an article by Dr. Joyce Brothers, psychologist, in The Secretary October 1981.

PROSTITUTION NO PARADISE

There is probably more nonsense written about prostitution than about any other aspect of women's oppression. Most of this nonsense is written about the prostitutes themselves — they're doing it for the sex, not the money; they're rich and hard, or they're poor and pathetic; above all, they're not like 'normal women.'

Nobody mentions the men — prostitutes' clients. Prostitutes exist because men want them to. Despite what many men think, men do not have an overpowering biological instinct which makes them have sex. Sex makes them feel good and powerful, and the more they pay the more they expect to feel that. Men who visit prostitutes are not just sexually immature or undesirable. They include all sorts of men, of all ages and classes. Most important, they include the men in powerful positions in society, who make up the prostitution laws.

The first thing people want to know about women who are prostitutes is: why do they do it? Perhaps this is inevitable because it is illegal, dangerous and, in terms of women's traditional role and sexual exploitation, the worst thing we could have to do.

A common myth about prostitutes is that they are desperate for sex. In fact, the opposite is usually true. The experience of sleeping with men for money, however a woman feels about it before or after being a prostitute, puts many women off heterosexual sex.

It makes many women examine their sexuality. Some women decide to become lesbians; others become averse to men, or sex, or both. In prostitution there is no doubt who is the enemy.

Another assumption is that women have 'drifted into' prostitution, that they have had no choice. Of course, this is often true, just as

women 'drift into' marriage, secretarial work, etc. Many prostitutes decide prostitution is their best option. It can still be one of the most highly paid jobs women are able to do — but surely one which no woman would do if she could find another which paid so well?

Many women have had children before they became prostitutes, and it is a way of making money which can be done in the evenings, for short periods of time during the day, etc. Many

women also do it for short periods of time — for instance to get out of debt.

But, almost invariably, it leads to deception on the woman's part; she can't tell her relatives, her friends, her kids, what her job is.

There are no easy answers to the questions posed by prostitution. How should prostitution be controlled, if indeed it should? And what would happen if prostitution was 'abolished' without society changing in any other way?

Extracted from Outwrite No: 9 Dec. '82, by Sue George.

... MYTHS AND FACTS ...

about sexual harassment

MYTH: If women don't speak up about sexual harassment, then it's not happening.

FACT: Women don't report about sexual harassment because they feel isolated, guilty, or scared of losing their jobs.

MYTH: Women invite sexual harassment by their behaviour and/or dress.

FACT: As with rape, sexual harassment is not a sexually motivated act. It is an assertion of hostility and/or power expressed in a sexual manner. Sexual harassment is not women's fault in any way.

MYTH: Only women in certain occupations are likely to be sexually harassed.

FACT: Women who worked in factories, at professional jobs — and all kinds of jobs — consistently report this problem. Students, clients of professionals (doctors, dentists, therapists, etc.) domestic workers ... also suffer sexual harassment.

MYTH: A firm 'no' is enough to discourage any man's sexual advances.

FACT: Because people believe women say no when they really mean yes, men often dismiss women's resistance. Men's greater physical, economic and social power enables them to override the firmest 'no.' It should not be women's

responsibility to ensure that sexual harassment doesn't happen.

MYTH: Only certain men harass women at work.

FACT: All types of men, in all occupations — whether or not they hold positions of power — have been reported as harassers.

MYTH: There are adequate procedures to take care of men who seriously assault or threaten women at work.

FACT: Society continues to view sexual harassment from a double standard. While the sexual harassers are tolerated — boys will be boys — the women victims bear the brunt of the blame. Personnel managers, union representatives, human rights agencies, courts, and legislators reflect these discriminatory attitudes. Women who seek assistance from these sources to stop sexual harassment are frequently placing themselves at risk of humiliating indifference, ridicule, or even further sexual insinuation and harassment. Nevertheless, it is important to use these channels where possible.

Source: *Aegis: Magazine on Ending Violence Against Women*, September/October 1979.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Silent Crimes Against Jamaican Women

by Lorna Gordon

Despite publicity about the frequency and range of abuses being experienced by Jamaican women, the police maintain a news black-out on statistics. There is also a deafening silence from the established women's organizations which one would expect to have taken up the issue.

Medical practitioners, who are among the first to see victims after the police, feel there has been a definite upsurge in crimes against women, particularly rape and wife-battering. They suggest a link between this upsurge, the country's precarious economic situation and the buildup of arms in the civilian population.

"There is no average rapist," says one psychiatrist. "By the same token, there is no average wife — or spouse — batterer. The men who commit these crimes against women are acting out their feelings of frustration and impotence, induced by the system, against the most available unit of powerlessness within the system — women. For example, what they cannot express to their employer if they are employed and to the wider society, is channelled into expressed hostility against the women and children in their immediate environment."

In rape cases, identification of the offender is critical to the ability of the police to get the matter into court. Yet, as Sam McKay, Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Criminal Investigation Branch, says, "Most women stop short of doing so, with the result that the police cannot maintain its surveillance of the suspected offender and he is free to roam different areas of the country committing the same crime. Victims brought to an identification parade fear they will be recognized by the offender or his friends, and that they will be subjected to further harm, but this is not true. They are protected by one-way mirrors.

"In the case of spouse-battering, most women fail to press charges and there is nothing we can do under the circumstances. The same applies to



incest, where the mother or female guardian refuses to co-operate because of guilt, shame or the fear of retribution."

The victims tell a slightly different story.

May, a 32-year-old business executive, got little sympathy from the police when she reported beating by her husband. "They thought it was a private domestic matter," she said, "although I was ready and willing to press charges. I got the feeling from them that I must have done something wrong and therefore deserved the punishment."

Ten years later she was gang-raped by six armed men who invaded her home.

"I reported the matter to the police. Absolutely nothing happened, although I was able to give them some leads to help find the suspected offenders. Many months after the incident, I was invited to an identification parade and when I walked into the police station I got the feeling that I was in the enemy camp. I panicked and ran. I wanted to do the right thing but I did not get the feeling of being supported.

"My daughter had witnessed the rape and I agonized over the possible consequences of my identifying the persons. I was not reassured by the attitude of the police. It seemed like my sexual past was on trial and I felt just as guilty as the accused.

Cherry, a 23-year-old domestic worker, was not believed by her mother or female relatives when she reported an incestuous relationship with her father who had sought her affection when her mother became bedridden.

"Mama never showed her affection even when she was well," she says, "and papa was always making jokes about his need for sex. I felt sorry

for both of them. When mama became ill and I, as the eldest of six children, started to run the house, papa would visit my room at nights. At first, I told him it was wrong but he said he didn't want to hurt mama by going outside. He slept with me for nearly a year before I became pregnant. Mama beat me when I told her who was the father and asked me to promise not to tell anyone."

Marva, a 24-year-old store clerk who was raped at age 13, reports a harrowing experience which convinced her that "there is no one to turn to."

"I got this job and the boss was very kind at first. He used to beat his wife and she became sick. One day, he told me that he could make my life easier if I was kind to him. I was afraid of losing my job, so when he asked me to work late at nights in the store-room, I agreed. He used to give me gifts on special occasions, and extra money in my pay. One night he came into the store-room like an animal, tore off my dress and raped me. I reported the matter to the police, but he denied everything I said. The police took me to their doctor, a man, and he was crude. I wanted to die."

The sense of powerlessness pervades not only the reported experiences of rape victims, but also the existence of battered spouses, and juniors who give in to demands for sexual favours on the job for fear of losing the job, the promotion, or the recognition of their worth to the organization.

Sexual harassment, like rape or spouse-battering, is an issue of power which derives its meaning and detrimental expression upon women, not from personality or biology, but from a social context of gender roles and, more specifically, women's role, work and functions.

The fact is that sexual abuses eat away at the core of a woman's being and can contribute to a lowered feeling of self-worth.

As one lawyer puts it, "The woman who is beaten by her husband or lover and who stays in the situation after rationalizing his problems and concerns and the children's welfare; the woman who gives sexual favours in return for job security; and the woman who turns a blind eye to incestuous relationships in the home — are all in the same boat. They lack the self-esteem to fight back."

But how do women fight back?

Dr. Ruth Doorbar, a consultant psychologist in private practice who has undertaken research into the issue, feels that women must take the initiative to deal with the situation.

"Women must see the problem as happening to women. We have to look within the home environment for the first set of corrective measures. By that I mean women — whether mothers, aunts or grandmothers — understanding the socialization of our young people. Then, the education system must deal with the manifestations of potential violence, fighting, stealing, truancy. The educational system has freed the Jamaican population to acquire education, but it has not educated them to human sensitivity, respect for human life, courtesy; thus the cycle of violence inherited from the system of slavery is being repeated daily."

In 1961, some 142 cases of rape were reported to the police. By 1973 that number had risen to 641 and, of that amount, 296 offenders were apprehended and convicted. That increase prompted a government senator in 1971 to say that "one murder was being committed every two and a half days, rape and carnal abuse every 16 hours, one case of armed robbery every three hours and 50 minutes, and at least one other serious offence against the person every 50 minutes."

While the rate of detection bears no real significance to the frequency with which the crime is committed, or to the number of cases which go unreported, the figures revealed by the police up to 1973 showed a marked escalation in crimes of rape from 1969 into the 70s.

Has the population of rapists increased? Neither the police nor the doctors are sure.

Says Assistant Commissioner McKay, "In many instances the same men are committing the acts all over the place, and are able to do so because the cordon of silence among women is perpetuated. What is not understood, is that this same person or persons could be wanted by the police for other crimes such as robbery, arson, etc."

Dr. Doorbar believes that there are at least four kinds of rapists operating in the Jamaican society.

"There is the guy who staged a robbery with his cronies and came upon one or two helpless women. His exercise of power, using sex as the vehicle, is an act of bravado, an expression of the power of men. Then, there is the male who feels sexually inadequate, unattractive or sexually inferior, who must validate his manhood by ravaging a young and sexually inexperienced victim.

"The majority of rapists are to be found among men with deep psychoneurotic problems. These are, in the main, men who were raised

without the presence of a father-figure, developed an early sexual attachment to the mother-figure and were socialized into repressing this sexual feeling. Mothers who sleep with their sons for warmth, protection, and a feeling of emotional security are usually unconscious that in the child's mind, they are sexual objects. The offenders from this category usually select maternal victims.

"Then, there is the boy who grew up with a sense of having been unfairly disciplined or chastized at home. He was always accused of wrong-doing but learned to repress his hostility to this treatment. He became a divided self: wanting approval and affection but fearing that he would be chastized and isolated. Many grow up hating women and see women as objects for sex, food and babies. They are usually the spouse-beaters . . . the young baby fathers."

Dr. Doorbar points out that the schizophrenic is in another category, because he directs his hostility and frustrations at everyone and anything.

There is obviously no single solution to the problem. This may perhaps explain the general silence by men and women in the society,

including groups which claim to represent the interests of women. An individual group feels powerless to tackle the complex nature of the problems of female sexual abuses, the solution of which lies in family life education; the raised consciousness of the society at large; the possible training of special units within the police force; and, legal reform. The maximum sentence of life imprisonment has not proven to be a deterrent.

In the interim, there is much that women can do by way of providing support to each other. They could bond together to set up refuge centres for battered women, establish rape crisis centres to counsel women in how to deal with the trauma, and lobby for a more efficient and speedy legal process. While these efforts may be considered "band-aid" solutions, they have their merits. For, in the final analysis, only a strong female constituent voice which declares war against rape and other forms of female sexual abuse, and a female constituency willing to take action in spite of the real and imagined risks, can quell the tide of abuses and initiate a just, humane and caring society.

Jamaican Lorna Gordon is a mass communications consultant. The above article was first published by the Caribbean Women's Features Syndicate.

... MYTHS AND FACTS ...

about wife-beating

MYTH: 'Battering overstates the case. Few women get beaten, though maybe a lot of them get slapped around a little.

FACT: Some women do get slapped or hit, and leave the violent situation immediately. But most often, battering escalates once it starts. By the time a woman calls for services, generally such escalation has occurred.

MYTH: Battering is a 'family matter.'

FACT: No act which can leave a woman permanently injured physically or mentally, or result in her death, is a 'family matter.'

MYTH: It is only low-income and working

class families who experience violence.

FACT: Women from every kind of racial, social, ethnic and economic background have been battered.

MYTH: Women like being beaten by their husbands or they would leave them.

FACT: The assumption that the violence is not serious or the woman would leave immediately, fails to deal realistically with the problems a woman must face immediately and long-term once she has left a violent man. Many women are economically dependent on the men to whom they are married or with whom they live.

Source: *For Shelter and Beyond: An Educational Manual for Working With Women who are Battered*, Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups.

"ME" **by Peggy Antrobus**

I am ME!
A person called to be
By my Creator (in His image)
A person with unique potential and free will.

But the world, Patriarchal Society,
Will not let me be myself.
I am (instead) defined
Mother, Whore,
A fatal dichotomy!
A body to be used for the benefit of patriarchs
To produce the next generation;
To boost the egos of men;
To fill their needs for love or lust or rage.
Pleasure-giver, baby-maker, easy prey.

And between these poles, where am I?
Where the person? ME!
Where are the opportunities to be myself?
To shape the person I was called to be?
When priest and pimp define my purpose
What say have I?

I am object:
To be used, abused, controlled,
Protected, enshrined . . .
Anything but allowed to be
ME!

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*Ms. Antrobus is Tutor/co-ordinator of the
Women and Development Unit, Barbados.*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS **Organizing Against Sexual Slavery**

An international strategy meeting will be held from April 6-15, 1983, in Rotterdam in order to develop an ongoing network against female sexual slavery.

It is being organized by the International Feminist Network Against Traffic in Women, one of the project groups working through the networking services of the International Women's Tribune Centre in New York.

The meeting will bring together under 30 participants working on various aspects of female sexual slavery and representing all geographical regions.

Feminist author, Kathleen Barry, defines "female sexual slavery" as "situations where women or girls cannot change the immediate conditions of their existence, where regardless of how they got into those conditions they cannot get out; and where they are subject to sexual violence and exploitation."

Individuals or groups working in this area, who wish to be included in the network, may write or send names and addresses to: International Feminist Network Against Traffic in Women, c/o IWTC, 305 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.

U.N. RESOLUTION ON ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Resolution 1982/22 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, adopted May 4, 1982 — noting the continued and consistent concern of the international community at the blatant and inhuman abuses of women and children; and recognizing the evils of such abuses as kidnapping, abduction, forced child labour, battered women and children, violence in the family, rape, prostitution, and the inevitable serious problems of mental and physical health:

1. **Calls upon** member states of the United Nations to take immediate and energetic steps to combat these social evils and to inform the Secretary-General of the action taken;

2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to compile a study on the action taken and to submit the reports to the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST VIOLENCE

The conference of Latin American and Caribbean Feminists, held in Bogota, Colombia in July 1981, proposed that November 25 each year be celebrated as an international day of protest against violence against women.

This date was selected in memory of the Mirabel sisters of the Dominican Republic who died on November 25, 1960, at the hands of the Trujillo regime.

The sisters, all activists in an underground political movement, were tortured to death by military agents.

FIGHTING BACK

JAMAICA: Women's Resource Centre

March 8, International Women's Day, saw the establishment of the Women's Resource and Outreach Centre by the Committee of Women for Progress (CWP), in Jamaica.

The Centre will provide free legal services to women to help them deal with such problems as sexual harassment, rape, child maintenance, and so on. Free medical services will be available to mothers and other women, along with free monthly demonstrations or workshops on family living, that is, preparation of inexpensive, nutritious meals; budgeting; personal hygiene; and family planning methods.

Other services offered by the Centre are: a thrift shop to sell new and used clothing and school books, a public education programme, and the collection and documentation of data on women in Jamaica.

The CWP expects the Centre to complement the existing activities of such organizations as the YWCA and the Council for Voluntary Social Services, thus broadening the scope of concrete assistance to women. At the same time, the CWP is seeking to raise the consciousness and activity of women in advancing the struggle for social progress in the wider society.

JAMAICA: Child Abuse Unit

A child abuse unit has recently been set up within the Family Court in Jamaica to investigate cases of child abuse and provide counselling to parents in distress.

The need for the unit arose out of growing reports of child abuse.

Meanwhile, the Jamaica Women's Bureau is collaborating with the Family Court to carry out research into abuses against women and children.

JAMAICA: Women's Centre Tackles Sexual Abuse

Although set up primarily to handle the problems associated with teenage pregnancy, the Jamaica Women's Centre for Adolescent Mothers does encounter the problem of sexual abuse.

Says Pamela McNeil, Co-ordinator of the Centre, "Incest is probably our worst problem. Although almost all of the baby fathers are in the age range, 14 to 25, we find when we delve deeper into the girl's history that her first sexual experience has been forced upon her by an older relative — the worst offenders being stepfathers, stepbrothers or uncles.

"If the problem still exists, we attempt to address the situation before placing the girl back in school."

Rape is also at the root of many of the problems experienced by girls at the Centre.

"We find that girls who have been raped have to attend the Centre for a much longer period than is usual, because the experience provokes strong negative feelings towards the society at large and leaves the girl with a fragile self-image. We also arrange and prepare the girl, for the adoption of her baby — at her request."

Mrs. McNeil is concerned too about prostitution among the girls.

"Prostitution amongst our young girls may not be considered 'prostitution' in the conventional meaning. Here it usually involves the girl selling her sexual favours for a lunch as, due to her low economic status, she never gets enough to eat. It might also involve the sale of her dignity for a pair of shoes, or a dress, which she cannot afford to buy.

"Nevertheless, it is prostitution. In some cases this behaviour results in the girl becoming pregnant and coming to the Centre for assistance."

In each of the above areas the Centre attempts to encourage the girl to develop the inner strength, self-respect and dignity to withstand the pressures of poverty.

JAMAICA: Sistren dramatizes the issue

In Jamaica, the Sistren Theatre Collective has consistently used drama to stimulate discussion and raise awareness on the issue of violence against women.

The group's earliest venture into this area was through their 1977 skit, "Downpression get a Blow," which focussed on sexual harassment on the job.

Their first major production, "Bellywoman Bangarang," looked at the issues of rape, prostitution and child abuse, among others. And, in "Madata" the problems of wife-beating and sexual harassment are explored.

TRINIDAD: NJAC – organizes against violence

"1982 was a 'boom' year in Trinidad as far as assaults and rape of women were concerned. Attack was no longer focussed on the streets, but was concentrated on the homes. Women of all social levels and ages were victims."

The above situation, as described by Liseli Daaga, Head of the Women's Arm of the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), led to the Women's Arm holding two national consultations last year.

The consultations, focussing on the theme "The Woman, the Child, and Society," provided a forum for all women to discuss their problems, organize themselves and make plans for solutions.

"The specific problems of assault were analysed in the context of existing national social and economic problems," says Sister Daaga.

"It was generally felt that we needed to organize ourselves and to approach our problems in a practical manner. We set to work immediately among the women in the various districts, establishing zonal contacts and groups.

"Seven zone heads were chosen and, during November, seven consultations were held in these areas. Our focus then was placed particularly on the forms of violence inflicted on our elders, with a call to the nation to honour the old.

"We also discussed 'the woman and the national crisis' — an analysis of the situation and contributions as to what steps ought to be taken."

TRINIDAD: Anti – Violence Campaign

The Concerned Women for Progress (CWP) in Trinidad are currently mounting a campaign against violence against women, in an effort to focus attention on this issue.

The women are using the media and public forums to highlight the issue. One such forum has already taken place. They also plan to have a local theatre group publicly present dramatizations of rape situations.

Other aspects of the campaign include production of a handbook on rape and violence. CWP is also attempting to raise funds to set up a rape crisis centre.

TRINIDAD: Seminar on violence bears fruit

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to donate five acres of land to a voluntary organization for the establishment of a home for battered wives.

This action arises out of a recommendation made by the 1981 Seminar on Domestic Violence, which was organized by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Trinidad.

The seminar adopted 22 recommendations, one of which called for the establishment of a family court to co-ordinate fragmented social services. Government has accepted this recom-

mendation, although it has not yet been implemented.

Most of the recommendations are still being studied.

BAHAMAS: Crisis Clinic

In the Bahamas, a women's crisis clinic has been established to help women who have been physically or emotionally abused, or whose children are being abused.

The clinic was set up in September 1982 within the Community Health Centre of the Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, and is free of charge to all women.

Services offered include marital and family therapy, dance therapy, walk-in crisis counselling, an emergency hot line, psycho-drama, and support groups for women to share experiences and work through their problems. Counselling services for children are also available.

The clinic is run by social workers and psychiatric staff from the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, but legal consultation may be provided by volunteer lawyers.

ST. LUCIA: Looking at Wife Abuse

In St. Lucia, the Social Services Department has prepared a research proposal on domestic violence in that country.

Problems to be addressed, as identified in the proposal, include the percentage of women beaten up in their homes and the extent of victim reluctance to seek assistance. This reluctance is seen as stemming from women's conditioning to accept emotional and economic dependency on men, and women's conditioning to be selfless — resulting in their refusal to stand up for themselves.

The proposal recommends: the establishment of shelters for battered women; encouraging women to seek help; changing the judicial treatment of domestic assault; training the police in the nature and extent of wife-beating; and,

establishment of an island-wide network of volunteer workers to help abused women. The latter would work through a proposed committee on abused women.

The proposal also recommends that police officers be instructed to lay charges in domestic disputes, rather than the victims.

GUYANA: WRSM in favour of a family court

At its fourth Biennial Convention in Guyana in October 1982, the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement (WRSM) passed a resolution supporting the establishment of a family court where all investigations and hearings of rape offences could be carried out in private.

Resolutions in support of stronger penalties for criminal acts, such as rape and illegal abortions, were also among those unanimously passed by the convention.

The WRSM is now awaiting Government's approval of these and other resolutions.

Meanwhile, the WRSM continues to work towards the eradication of exploitation of, and discrimination against women, through its four sub-committees in the areas of social services; labour and social security; adult education, and projects.

The social services sub-committee looks after the social aspects of women's lives and has already successfully represented women plagued with domestic and other social problems.

Labour matters — employment, discrimination benefits, accommodation at work — are the responsibility of the labour and social security sub-committee, while its adult education counterpart assists with the reorientation of women towards accepting change.

The projects sub-committee deals with training in both traditional and non-traditional occupations.

...NEWS FROM WAND...

Workshop Marks End of Research Project

A regional workshop to mark the end of the project to "Assess the Impact of Development Schemes on Rural Households and the Role of Women," will take place in Dominica from April 20-23, this year.

The purpose of the workshop is to share the findings of the project with a wider audience of government officials and representatives of regional agencies; to examine different methodologies for the integration of a concern for women in national development planning; and, to prepare guidelines and material for a case-book which may be used within training programmes for national planners and administrators of rural development projects.

The Governments of Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia have been collaborating with WAND and the U.S.-based Population Council in the project, which started in 1981.

The project was designed to unearth new knowledge, and bring about better understanding, of how large-scale national development programmes could best address the needs of women.

In the three participating countries research was carried out by teams each consisting of a social scientist, a representative of the national planning agency or a senior administrator, and a representative of the women's desk/bureau and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Pilot Project Winds Up

In Rose Hall, St. Vincent, the pilot project for "The Integration of Women in Rural Development," which was initiated by WAND, is nearing completion. Funding for the project — provided by the U.S. agency, Ford Founda-

tion, for 28 months — officially ends in April this year.

The project was implemented on December 8, 1980, in two rural communities — Rose Hall and Dicksons. Its major objective was to develop programmes which would draw attention to women's issues, and ensure women's greater participation in the process of development.

Project activities have included: the formation of a farmer's group; an adult education programme; commercial production of sweets; training programmes; workshops; and, consciousness-raising sessions.

Based on the project, WAND has prepared a "Case-Study on Non-Formal Education" for inclusion in a **Hand Book of Case-Studies on Non-Formal Education for Women** being compiled by the Commonwealth Secretariat in England. A videotape on Rose Hall has also been produced by the Unit.

These productions, along with other material coming out of the project, will be used in national and regional training programmes for extension and community workers.

Four New Faces

WAND has appointed four new members of staff to its communications and field programme divisions.

The new communications co-ordinator is Joy Aarons-Brown who, apart from administering the Communications Centre, is expected to expand and implement the Unit's communications strategy. Appointed also to communications is research/documentation officer, Alison Drayton. Her major task will be the acquisition and cataloguing of documents and audio-visual material for the Resource Centre.

Within the Field Programme, Jeanette Bell is the new programme officer responsible for WAND's work in the Leeward Islands, while Monica Musaib-Ali comes on as administrative assistant with responsibility for the day-to-day administration of that programme.

The new appointments bring to 15 the staff of WAND.

...NEWS FROM WAND...

Learning from WAND

WAND also welcomed Annette Isaac, a Training/Research Fellow in International Development.

Annette is on a one-year attachment to the Unit, aimed at increasing her understanding of the development needs of Caribbean women, and determining more effective ways by which international development agencies can support Third World women's project initiatives. Her fellowship is sponsored by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

WAND Productions

The highlights of a symposium on "Women and Culture", from CARIFESTA 1981, have been incorporated into a videotape produced by WAND.

The 40-minute videotape, "Woman Time", examines women's roles and relationships within the Caribbean cultural environment, through discussion and performances by selected women artistes.

WAND has also produced a slide/tape, "Caribbean Women Advance", which captures the strength, initiative and increased contribution of Caribbean women to their societies. This 13-minute presentation overviews the status of women before and since the United Nations Decade for Women, and documents the activities, institutions and networks created by them since 1975.

National and regional women's groups and other organizations may purchase the videotape at a cost of Bds \$100 (US\$50). It is also available to non-regional organizations at a cost of Bds \$200 (US\$100). The slide/tape costs Bds \$50 (US\$25).

NEWS FROM CARIWA

The meeting of CARIWA's executive council scheduled for Dominica, in April, has been cancelled.

In a CANA report from Guyana, Hyacinth Thomas, CARIWA's secretary, said Dominica had advised the organization that it could not host the meeting. Ms. Thomas added that CARIWA will set a new date and venue for the meeting.

CCW REPORT

The Jamaica sub-regional office of Caribbean Church Women has been holding parish workshops on the theme "Peace and the Struggle for Survival." Two further workshops are planned for April.

The CCW also held a one-day workshop on the man's role in the family, on March 19. It was co-sponsored by the Jamaica Council of Churches Commission on Home and Family Life.

Meanwhile, CCW is continuing its weekly and bi-weekly awareness building education programmes at the Housecraft Training Centre, Kingston, as well as its Operation Friendship project in which young women are taught dress-making.

In May, the organization plans to hold a weekly four-week series on communications for the leaders of Church Women's Fellowships.

CORRECTION

In the previous issue of **WOMAN SPEAK!** it was erroneously stated that CCW was conducting a series of seminars on the role of men in the family. CCW in fact conducted **one** seminar, in collaboration with the Jamaica Council of Churches Commission on Home and Family Life.

A Word From The 'Y'

"Family Health" is the theme of a health seminar and fair being sponsored by the Barbados YWCA, on April 23 and 24 this year.

The objectives of the two events are to sensitize the public to the Y's commitment to health; to heighten public awareness of common health problems, particularly those affecting women and children and those related to nutrition; and, to facilitate an understanding of the role of individuals in safeguarding their own health and that of the community.

Sessions will be conducted by various health personnel in the area of family health; primary health care; nutrition in health, including nutrition-related diseases; and, environmental diseases.

The seminar is expected to attract representatives of other organizations working in the community, as well as members of the public.

Both activities are being held to correspond with the decision of the Caribbean Ys to choose health, from a field of five areas designated as priorities by the World YWCA. The other areas are: peace and education; energy and environment; refugees and human rights.

The Barbados YWCA is also using the occasion to celebrate World Y Membership Day which falls on April 27.

In further news of the Y . . . Barbados will also be the scene for a meeting of the member associations of the Caribbean Area YWCA from May 16-23.

The meeting is being held at this time for the following reasons: all the associations have common training needs, particularly in the areas of programme planning and finance management; it will prepare the associations for meaningful participation in the Quadrenial Council Meeting of the World YWCA, in November 1983; and it will bring together many of the past leaders of the Caribbean Ys who could assist as trainers and resource persons.

Participants will be assigned to specific workshops for three days of the meeting, to study the purpose and aims of the YWCA. At the end of the allotted time, they will regroup to examine the relationship between programme planning and finance; the volunteer/staff partnership of the YWCA; and, leadership in Ys run solely by volunteers.



MILESTONES

VISITING PROFESSOR

Dame Nita Barrow of Barbados has taken up a one-month visiting professorship at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, U.S.

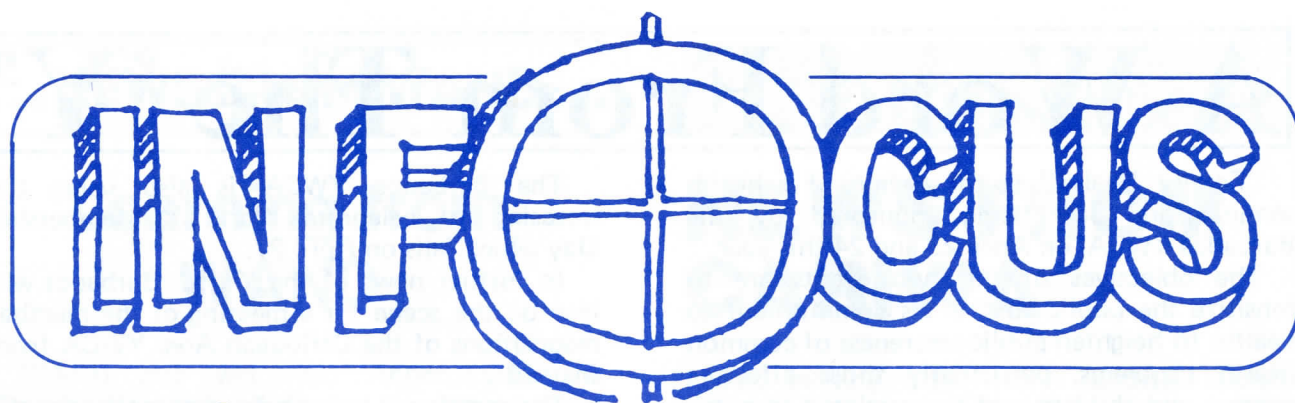
She is the third person to take up the Gamaliel Chair at the university. Her appointment started on March 1.

Dame Nita is currently President of the World YWCA.

NEW MINISTER

Margaret Dyer has been appointed Minister of Education, Health, and Community Affairs in the government of Montserrat.

Mrs. Dyer is also president of the Social League, the largest community organization in Montserrat.



BARBADOS: Secretaries' Week

The Barbados Secretaries Association (B.S.A.) joins secretaries throughout the world in observing Secretaries Week, which will run from April 24-30, 1983.

The B.S.A. will hold a secretaries mart on April 23, at which office equipment will be displayed and demonstrated, but the week officially opens with a church service at St. Ambrose Church, Bridgetown, on Sunday, April 24. On the following day, April 25, there will be a "secretary of the year" contest.

A schools' programme takes place on April 26, and an executive evening on April 27, Secretaries' Day. British West Indian Airways will be host at a reception for secretaries on April 29.

The week ends on April 30 with a ball organized by the B.S.A.

BARBADOS: Careers Showcase

Over 50 careers, ranging from electronics to journalism, were recently highlighted at the 12th annual careers showcase organized by the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) of Barbados.

"The response from participants was better than we could ever have imagined," said Sonya Lawrence, BPWC secretary.

"Advanced Technology" was the theme of the three-day showcase which attracted hundreds of secondary school students, teachers and members of the public.

"What we would like to do now, if the resources in terms of time and personnel were

available to us, is assess the effectiveness of the showcase over the years," Mrs. Lawrence announced. "We got a lot of feedback, but the effectiveness should be thoroughly analysed."

The showcase is co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Barbados.

BARBADOS: NOW's Grand Conference

At its annual grand conference, on March 12, the National Organisation of Women of Barbados (NOW) passed a number of resolutions dealing with the areas of agriculture, education, freedom of association, health, industry and commerce, legal affairs, social services, transport and works, women's affairs, youth affairs, utilities, and external affairs.

Among the resolutions on agriculture, was one calling on the Barbados Government to pass a law providing for improved working conditions and facilities for women employed in this sector.

NOW also called on government to provide suitable day care facilities on or near the public hospital compound, to accommodate the children of nurses on duty. A similar call was made to the management of industrial estates on behalf of their female employees.

Dealing with the issue of non-nationals holding jobs which Barbadian women could do, the organization urged government to investigate this situation.

The theme of the conference was "Operation Outreach."

It was opened by Lady Doreen Ward, wife of the Governor-General. The feature address was delivered by Elombe Mottley, Director of Culture, and the closing address by Orville Durant, Commissioner of Police.

BARBADOS: Market, Factory for Women



A food preservation factory and a bargain market are among projects implemented this year by NOW in Barbados.

The factory, which opened on January 29, will produce preserved local foods and provide frozen locally grown produce, such as cherries, guavas, beans and carrots. It will initially employ 20 women.

The bargain market, since its opening on February 26, has been held every Saturday. Items offered for sale include foodstuffs, preserves, clothing, plants, and odds and ends.

NOW has set up the market to provide an outlet for women who have produce and other items to sell, and to raise funds for the organization's activities.

Meanwhile, NOW's adult education classes continue this year with courses in home management, journalism, basic agriculture, citizen and state, everyday English, and food preservation.

DOMINICA: Women's Desk to Make Vinegar

The manufacture of vinegar from bananas is one of a number of projects planned for 1983 by the Dominica Women's Desk.

The objective of the project is to utilize the large quantities of reject bananas from the island's banana industry. The vinegar will be manufactured primarily for the local market.

This project, which is expected to employ between 10 to 15 persons, is being funded by the Inter-American Commission on Women.

The Desk also plans to establish an island-wide family counselling service, and compile a booklet of guidelines for the success of such a service. Other activities include the training of small-business women in management techniques, and consultations with women's groups throughout the island.

The Desk has also brought together a number of persons to form the Consumer Protection Action Group, a body representing a cross-section of consumers. Its aim is to make Dominicans aware of their rights as consumers.

DOMINICA: Social League on the Move

The Dominica Social League will be carrying out a series of project development and management workshops, this year, in its various branches. The one-day workshops, consisting of three or four groups, will be held at district level.

Follow-up action is planned for those groups which demonstrate willingness and ability to proceed with project implementation; a desire to pursue feasibility and market studies; and, readiness to undertake pilot projects so as to stimulate other groups to action.

Funds for the workshops were obtained through the Women and Development Unit (WAND).

Meanwhile . . . the Woodford Hill branch of the Social League is reviving its sewing project

which has been dormant since Hurricane David in 1979.

The group has received a grant of EC\$10,000 from Match International in Canada to purchase sewing machines and other small equipment, and to renovate shelves.

ST. VINCENT: CANSAVE - Reaches Rural Women

Cansave St. Vincent is continuing its home economics programmes in the rural communities of Byrea Hill and Layou.

In Byrea Hill, the existing programme will continue to run three days a week. However, the focus of the third day will now be on sewing instead of family life education. The women involved in the programme have identified sewing as a priority, in particular women's and children's clothes. In the long run they hope to be able to sew clothes for themselves, their families and others in the community.

Production of wall plaques and other decorative items is to be introduced, as well as cake decorating. The latter is also being included in the Layou programme.

The objectives of both programmes are: to provide a better education in a wide area of activities; to promote community awareness,

appreciation and production of local foods; to encourage self-development and leadership, thus enhancing the quality of life of women, their families and their communities.

The programmes cover food and nutrition; agriculture; handicrafts; needlework; child care; family life education; home management; care of the aged; sanitation; and, personal development.

ANTIGUA: WAG Member for Canada Workshop

Eutha Meade, Assistant Secretary of the Women's Action Group (WAG) in Antigua, will attend the pre-conference workshop of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) from June 10 - 18, 1983, in Alberta, Canada.

Following the workshop, Miss Meade will attend the ACWW's 17th Triennial Conference at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Her participation was recommended by Gwendolyn Tonge, Director of the Antigua Women's Desk, through the Minister of Education.

At home, the Women's Action Group continues its agricultural activities and its commercial classes.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Second Congress on Women

The second International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women will be held in Groningen, the Netherlands, from April 17-21, 1984.

Theme of the Congress is "Women's Worlds: Strategies for Empowerment."

The Congress Secretariat is calling for papers to be presented at the meeting. Suggested themes are women and:- medicine, management, public leadership, science and technology, work, agriculture, social welfare, law, changing family

patterns, the arts, religion, communication, housing, education, philosophy.

Deadline for submission of papers is August 1, 1983. Abstract forms and further details may be requested from the Secretariat by writing to: Second Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Sociological Institute, University of Groningen, Grote Markt 23, 9712 HR Groningen, Netherlands.

International Women's Day



CARICOM SECRETARIAT

In a message marking International Women's Day, Dr. Kurleigh King, CARICOM Secretary-General, expressed the hope that governments and peoples of the Caribbean would reaffirm their belief in the equal capacity of women and men to contribute to the development of their countries and of the region.

"It is to be hoped," Dr. King said, "that this belief will contribute to an elimination of the lingering barriers of discrimination in factory, office and field; that . . . women supported by men . . . will nurture in their children a respect for and commitment to the principle and practice of equality of the sexes — a fundamental human right."

March 8 was International Women's Day.

Caribbean women joined their sisters throughout the world in commemorating this day, the origins of which date back to March 8, 1908, when women workers in Chicago, U.S., went on strike to demand fair wages and safe working conditions. Their success encouraged women in other countries to organize for their rights and, in 1910, Klara Zetkin, a leader of the German Socialist Party, proposed that each year a special day be declared International Women's Day.

March 8 was selected both in commemoration of the Chicago women's strike and the Women's Day celebrated by women of the Russian Revolution.

ST. LUCIA

The second issue of the St. Lucian news-magazine, **Lucian Times**, paid tribute to International Women's Day through its focus on women.

Lucian Times is run by a group of young St. Lucians.

IWD was also chosen by the Marchand Women's League as the date to start a junior branch for young women from age 13.

The motto of the branch is "To strive for the betterment of young women."

TRINIDAD

For International Women's Day, the Concerned Women for Progress (CWP) in Trinidad held a public rally to pay tribute to those women who had struggled for women's rights and been involved in other struggles, in that country.

The rally was addressed by Christina King, a veteran activist of the 1930s; Clotil Walcott and Gertrude Phillips, both leaders in the struggle for women workers in the industrial sector; and, Pat Bynoe, chairperson of CWP.

In addition to the rally, CWP presented a cultural show and a book exhibition which featured works by and about women.

GUYANA

The Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement (WRSM) in Guyana celebrated International Women's Day with a week of events.

Symposia were held in five regions of the country, on the theme "Women as Change Agents in Food and Agriculture." Topics discussed were "The World Food Situation," the "Guyana Situation and its Implications for Change," "Women and Relevant Agriculture Technology," "Women and Relevant Food Technology." Panellists were drawn from the Office of the President, the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Guyana, and from among economists and farmers.

On March 7, Viola Burnham, National Chairwoman of the WRSM, addressed a rally organized by the Council on the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana (CASWIG). The rally took place in Linden, along with an exhibition.

International Women's Day saw members of the WRSM and other women's organizations lecturing senior students of secondary schools on the concept of IWD, the need for everyone to become more involved in agriculture, and the achievements of women in developing countries.

The celebrations ended on March 9 with an open-air concert at the Cerenade monument (built in tribute to the women of Guyana).

BARBADOS

In Barbados, activities to mark the day included a number of radio programmes on women, and an address by Senator Nigel Barrow, Minister Responsible for Women's Affairs.

At the Embassy of the People's Republic of China two short documentaries on the women of China were shown, along with a display of arts and crafts by Chinese women.

One of the highlights of the day was the first public screening of "Woman Time," a documentary presenting excerpts from the 1981 CARIFESTA Symposium on Women and Culture sponsored by the Women and Development Unit (WAND).

ST. VINCENT

In St. Vincent, a co-ordinating committee was formed to organize a week of activities for International Women's Day.

The committee comprised the YWCA, the Ecumenical Study Group, the Nurses Association, the National Council of Women, the Women's Committee of the New Artists' Movement, Projects Promotion Ltd., and the Women's Department of the Rural Transformation Collective.

The week started with a church service on Tuesday, March 8, at the Methodist Church, Kingstown. Theme of the service was "Women — Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow."

On Tuesday, also, a seminar on "Women in Agriculture" was held in Layou and, on Wednesday, a panel discussion on "The Contribution of Women in Vincentian Society" at the UWI Centre. Panellists were Elma Dougan, Sylvia Scrubb and Earline Horne, with Renee Baptiste as moderator. The UWI Centre was also the scene of a cultural presentation, on Wednesday, by the Women's Committee of the New Artists' Movement.

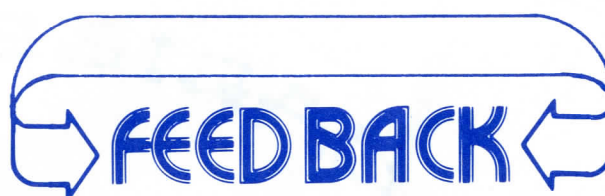
Throughout the week a series of radio talks were aired on Radio St. Vincent, on the following themes: "Focus on International Women's Day"; "Women's Self-value"; and, "The Historical Growth of Women in St. Vincent and the Grenadines."



Abuse of Women in the Media traces how the media has been used to portray women as inferior beings and sex objects in the areas of advertising, pornography, sex tourism, women's magazines, paper back romances, humour, television programmes, films and newspapers. Ninety pages, with photographs. Published in 1982 by the Consumers Association of Penang, it may be ordered at US\$3.00 plus postage from No. 27 Kelawei Road, Pulau Pinang, Penang, Malaysia.

The Shelter Experience: A Guide to Shelter Organization and Management for Groups Working Against Domestic Violence by Gretchen S. Vapnar, 1980. This book provides guidelines for starting a shelter organization, information on acquiring a building, fund raising, and developing a programme. Includes information on shelter philosophy, staffing the shelter, house rules, using volunteers, and developing a children's programme. 124 pages. Available free of charge from the National Clearinghouse on Domestic Violence, P. O. Box 2309, Rockville, MD 20852, U.S.A.

Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape by Susan Brownmiller, 1975. A thorough sociological study of an essential part of the male-female relationship that no one has dared explore before. Brownmiller lifts the veil from the masculine mystique to reveal the ultimate corruption of power — the abuse of the sex act as a means of gaining absolute control through fear. The book analyses and documents historical and international acts of rape and finally explores women's options against physical aggression by men. Published by Simon and Schuster, Inc., 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020, U.S.A.



Thank you for a copy of your newsletter. We have found the issue very interesting and we would like to secure a subscription.

Miss Audrey Reid, President
Barbados Secretaries Association

WOMAN SPEAK! is both informative and interesting. Please add our name to your mailing list and send us at least one copy of each of your back issues.

Mrs. Syringa A. Marshall-Burnett
Acting Director
Advanced Nursing Education, UWI

I received **WOMAN SPEAK!** (No. 8) which I found extremely interesting and informative and look forward to receiving future copies.

Una Ellis
Branch for the Advancement of Women
Centre for Social Development and
Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations

NEXT ISSUE . . .

"Women and Work" will be the theme of the June issue of **WOMAN SPEAK!** It will cover such areas as women in non-traditional jobs, the issue of women's unpaid work in the home, sexual discrimination, women and unemployment, women in the informal sector.

Please send us news, articles, statistics . . . any information you may have on the issue of women working.

In addition, we would welcome news of general interest on women's groups, projects, activities, and so on.

Deadline for submission to the editor is May 14, 1983.

TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS:

Please write to let us know what you think of **WOMAN SPEAK!** and whether you would like to continue receiving the newsletter (if you have not already done so). Your feedback will help us to assess its usefulness.

If we do not hear from you before June 1, 1983, we will assume you no longer wish to receive the newsletter.

Thank you.

