

# WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Struggle

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CO-OPERATIVES IN MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique women have launched an international appeal to aid Women's Production Co-operatives in Mozambique. This campaign marks the Tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Mozambique Women's Organization, OMM.

The OMM started co-operatives in Maputo, the capital, and in the provinces so that women can learn and share skills in agriculture, horticulture, hairdressing, salt production and sewing, with the aim of increasing women's earnings.

The campaign is seeking international support in their efforts to build a "socialist society that will create conditions for the true emancipation of women". Practical assistance in the form of finance and access to materials (especially craft and sewing material) at wholesale prices is being solicited.

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WELL DONE ALICE!

Alice Walker has won the 1983 Pulitzer prize for her novel "The Color Purple".

She is the first Black author to receive the most coveted prize in America's literary tradition which dates back to 1918, and the first woman since Eudora Welty won it in 1973.

"The Color Purple" her third novel, talks about the struggles of Black people in the Southern States of the U.S.A. The depicting of American life contributed to her being awarded the distinguished honour.

The youngest of eight children born to a share cropping family in Georgia, Alice Walker has also written The Third Life of Grange Copeland, published in 1970.

Her second novel Meridian, cited among top novels on the civil rights movement, is used in American history and literature courses.

She has also published a collection of short stories: You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down.

Revolutinnary Peturias, her second book of poetry has also won the Lilian Smith Award and was nominated for a National Book Award.

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WOMEN FIGHT TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

The efforts by the Dungari-Paitoli women in India to protect their community's forest, have demonstrated the need for women's continued involvement and participation in development issues.

The government wished to purchase the forest in the small Himalayan village of Dungari-Paitoli, to turn it into a farm for seed potatoes.

To the men this represented a sizeable income, and good cash to their pockets. To the women, however, it meant their having to spend several more hours walking an additional five kilometres every day to fetch the family's daily requirement of fuel and fodder.

The Dungari-Paitoli women protested against the sale of the forest. The seed potato farm was of lesser importance, they argued, than the forest which met families' basic needs.

The women protested by hugging trees to prevent them being cut down. This began in 1973 as a campaign to save the trees from the government-sponsored forest contractors and assert the rights of local communities over the use of forests for their daily need.

The movement, known more popularly as the Chipko movement has led to the country's most successful afforestation programme.

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NEW CODE OF CANON LAW

The Pope has signed a new code of canon law which upholds the ban on abortion and artificial birth control, and which gives women a place in the Church courts for the first time.

The code which came into effect from January attempts to translate the reforms of the Second Vatican Council into everyday rules for the Roman Catholic laity.

Offences which formerly carried automatic excommunication have been reduced from 42 to 6. Abortion however, is still included in the list of excommunicable offences, while the breaking of a celibacy vow by a member of the religious order has been lessened in magnitude.

PEOPLE - Vol: 10 No: 2, 1983

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RAPE - NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

A 21 year-old woman was held down in a bar and raped by four men while about 12 other male bar patrons watched and cheered.

The woman had gone to the bar in Massachusetts, U.S.A. to buy cigarettes and then stayed on to have a drink with a friend. When she tried to leave, a man dragged her to the pool table where the man then raped her. No one intervened for fear of being beaten-up.

Immediately after the rape was reported in the local press, women from the New Bedford Women's Centre, the YWCA and the University Women's Centre began to organize and launched the Coalition Against Sexist Violence.

A protest march saw more than 3,500 person joining in protest against the kinds of violence that is commonly associated with and carried out against women.

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POLICE HYPOCRISY

Police in Honolulu, Hawaii are paying men to pick up prostitutes, have sex with them and then hand them over to the police.

A hotel manager told a court there how he did this and then drove the woman to the waiting police, "out of a sense of duty".

Although it is also illegal for men to pay for sex, he was not prosecuted. Women caught are given thirty-days in jail and a five hundred dollar fine.

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WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Soroptimists in the American Federation have designated a separate programme area for Women Helping Women which was previously under the auspices of Advancement of the Status of Women.

They seek out, identify, recognize and honour women who consistently and effectively use their resources, talents and influence to help other women achieve their potential.

A talent bank is to be established with data about these women, which will be made available to regions, clubs and members.

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FEW REGRETS

One of the first controlled studies of the psychological and physical effects of female sterilization has been carried out by the Family Planning Association of Pakistan, (FPAP) under the auspices of the International Project of the Association for Voluntary Sterilization.

The results of the study show that few women regretted the operation and that physical side effects were rare, although some women suffered psychological effects.

The study was carried out at the FPAP's model clinic in Lahore. It measured the effects of minilapanotomy, a simple method of female sterilization by tubal ligation on 215 women as compared with a control group of 200 women attending the clinic who were using contraceptives, injectables, P.11, IUD or contraceptive foam. The two groups were similar in age, income and family size.

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CONSUMER PROTECTION CAMPAIGNS

In Korea, the YWCA has pioneered the widespread existence of Consumer protection campaigns.

All local YWCAs have Consumer Complaint Centres and act as monitoring agencies in their communities.

Goods are tested, prices are examined, food factories are visited and inferior products are exhibited from time to time for members and the general public.

In the past year, the YWCA has also tested the safety of permanent curls chemicals and days after several complaints were received at one of the consumer complaint reporting centre.

Fruit juice products have been tested for their content of vitamin C and fish curd tested to find out its content of animal protein.

In each case results were shared with consumers, companies, and the public at large.