

CAFRA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH AND ACTION

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CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
FEMINIST RESEARCH AND ACTION
(CAFRA)
Third (3rd) General Meeting
Forte Crest (Pegasus) Hotel, Guyana
November 17 - 20, 1993



CAFRA News is the quarterly newsletter and primary networking tool of the *Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)*.

Its main purposes are to:

- *Inform members and other interested persons about the activities and programmes of the association.*
- *Provide a forum for discussion and debate on key issues of concern to women in the region;*
- *Promote the sharing of experiences and foster links among individual feminists, activists and women's organisations;*
- *Assist in breaking down language barriers in the region;*
- *Stimulate women's creative expression; and*
- *Contribute to the development of the women's movement regionally and internationally.*

We welcome letters, articles, poems, reviews, opinions and artwork for editorial evaluation and selection. The newsletter committee has a final right to edit content and to reject material not appropriate for publication, e.g. that does not further the aims and objectives of CAFRA and promote a spirit of sisterhood; or that is racist, sexist or "maternalist." Individual authors and reviewers are solely responsible for views and opinions expressed in published articles.

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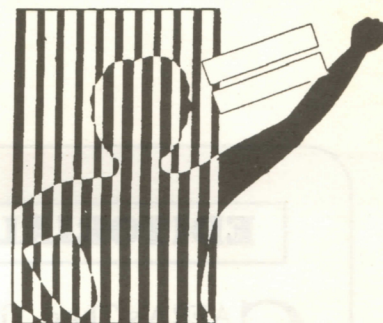
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Contents



Editorial	1
Commentary - The Guyana Meeting	1
Letter to the Editor	2
Poem	2

CAFRA's Third General Meeting



Gloria Joseph	3
CAFRA gets first Guadelope member	5
How about a Francophoone CAFRA News	5
Joan Phillip - one of CAFRA's newest member	6
An Interview with Pamela Redwood	6
Dessima challenges CAFRA	7
Tribute to Our Founding Sisters	8
CAFRA's Third General Meeting - at a glance	9
Abortion in the Caribbean	11
CAFRA members Display Caribbean Culture	13,14
Are Men at Risk?... the debate continues	15
CAFRA goes to Suriname	16

<i>Men and Women in a Changing Caribbean</i>	17
<i>Women's Rights as Human Rights</i>	18
<i>Thoughts on Beijing 1995</i>	19



News Highlights:

Study Socialization of Caribbean Boys and Girls	20
Female Prime Minister	20
Haitian Conference on Violence Against Women	21
Jamaica Nurses Strike	21
Merle Hodge Novel Listed among Notable Children's Books	23
Reproductive Rights Watch	24



Meetings	25
----------	----

On the Bookshelf	26
------------------	----



EDITORIAL

CAFRA's Third General Meeting in November in Guyana provided a unique opportunity for CAFRA NEWS to feel the pulse of the women's movement in the region.

This issue therefore contains interviews with new and old members of the movement, with our new members from the Francophone Caribbean and on issues pertinent to the movement such as abortion and the so-called "Male marginalisation" hypothesis. Also included are highlights of the meeting, the cultural show, honouring of the founding members and the presentation of a CAFRA Award. We also feature highlights of a CAFRA delegation to Suriname.

Gemma Tang Nain
In Sisterhood

COMMENTARY

THE GUYANA MEETING

(excerpts from a letter to Gemma Tang Nain, Acting Coordinator, CAFRA, by Rosanne Kanhai-Brunton)

I have just returned from the Third General Meeting in Guyana and am back in the US, and already missing the Caribbean. It was very good to be among Caribbean women and I thank CAFRA for the opportunity. I am amazed at how much CAFRA has grown since the days when Rawwida was organizing from her student office at UWI. I was not able to stay till the closing but I hope to catch up through CAFRA News (which I usually read from cover to cover, a few times).

I would like however to make some observations and offer some suggestions for the future of CAFRA as an umbrella organization for Caribbean women. I think that while CAFRA is still in its embryonic stage, there is enough momentum now to stop and review what shape and tone the organization has taken and to speculate on its development in the coming years.

I was troubled by my perception that CAFRA is, to a large extent, a mainstream organization which has been able to get the attention of women in the forefront of feminist activism. The time is right now to make efforts to include Caribbean women who are marginalized because of ethnicity, sexual orientation, diaspora residence, or any other factors. CAFRA members must now act as leaven, spreading to other parts of the community of Caribbean women, empowering ourselves and others.

As someone attending the conference from the US, I was disappointed that structures had not been developed to allow me to participate fully in the meeting. There were some activities from

which I was excluded because I could not conveniently fit under a "territory." I did bring some of my creative work (poems and short stories) but there was no space created for me (a diaspora member) during the cultural evening.

Similarly, it was obvious to me that there was, for the most part, a marginal presence of Indo-Caribbean women at the meeting. Guyana has an Indian population of about 50 per cent, yet there were few Indian women at the meeting and no expressions of Indian culture at the Cultural Evening. (Nor of the existing aboriginal cultures).

I would like to repeat that I thank you and the members of the Secretariat, for a splendid job in bringing this meeting together and in keeping CAFRA vibrant and productive. I do, however, ask for sensitivity towards women who belong to marginalized groups. From the global perspective, we are a very small and fragile group, and our strongest resource is our collective strength. Diaspora women, Indian women, aboriginal women, lesbian women, other non-mainstream women - we all are part of the Caribbean community of women and we all lose if we cannot draw on each other's strengths. CAFRA has to be a safe place where we all feel included.

We need to be careful not to replicate patriarchal hierarchies among ourselves. Let us remind ourselves that nationalism and territorialism have been instruments of patriarchal domination. As we negotiate structures of violence, we need to be wary of internalized oppression as it manifests itself in ethnocentrism, heterosexism, classism, ageism, and other self-destructive behaviour patterns.

I am very proud to be a Caribbean woman and to be part of CAFRA. I look forward to continued communication with you.

Sincerely.

LETTER

• TO EDITOR •

Dear CAFRA News,

I am a fourth year student in Women's Studies and Sociology at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. I am currently the resource coordinator at the University's Women's Centre and am writing you in hopes of connecting with your organization in Trinidad, for a number of reasons.

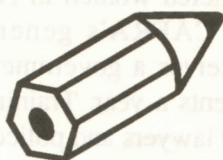
First, I would like to make links in Trinidad because my birth father was born and raised in Siparia, Trinidad. However, I know little about this part of me as I was adopted into a Canadian family as an infant. Having been seen as a Trinidadian all my life, I am very interested in learning about Trinidadian issues, especially women's issues. I am very eager to connect up with your organization in Trinidad as I am interested and work in the area of women's issues.

*Secondly, I was intrigued when I read Roberta Clarke's article in the fall 1993 edition of **The Womanist** on "Global feminism: Who defines the terms?" After reading her article, I felt motivated to seek out women's issues and information which are not western-based or biased.*

I would greatly appreciate it if you would send me any information on issues facing women in Trinidad today.

Our centre is one of two in Victoria so we deal with many other issues besides what happens on campus. I really feel that our work could be more effective if we connect with other women's organizations around the world.

Lorraine Stauffer,
Victoria, BC
Canada.



POEM

*Wife of a husband
Mother of a son
Daughter of a father
Sister of a brother
Stranger to the self
Woman,
Let your eyes turn inwards
Searchingly sift
The psyche
Bruised by the
Journey into reality*

*Umbilical cords
Tightly knot the
Was and the
Am of being ...
Woman.
Hasten to know yourself
In the abyss
Of the mind, self-
Knowledge reveals the me.
Boldly turn outwards again
Reject the boundaries
Framed by that iron web
Of conforming and accepting
Satisfying while hurting
Being visible yet never seen.*

*Understand the me
The invisible that
Is the me in yourself
Be vibrant, strong
Relentlessly surge
Towards self-fulfilment
Become
Woman with a husband
Woman with a son
Woman with a father
Woman with a brother
Stranger no longer, but
Woman with a self
Creating her own reality.*

**Valerie Joseph, 1993-11-17,
(written for CAFRA's Third General
Meeting)**

CAFRA'S THIRD GENERAL MEETING

GLORIA JOSEPH

Want to experience the greatness of our black women? Meet Gloria Joseph....

On the opening night of the CAFRA meeting, I sat up front, eager to record the proceedings for CAFRA NEWS. But I was in for a real surprise. In walked this tall, stately woman, African regalia and all. Heads turned. Eyes looked straight front. Some sought a picture standing near this great daughter of the Caribbean soil. But no one reached up to her stature.

The next day I excitedly prepared for my interview. Feeling inadequate to the task, I sought out my roommate, who now lives in St Croix and was well aware of the life and times of this legendary African queen.

In what seemed as more than a mouthful, my roommate blurted out: doctor, professor, teacher, wrote a book on feminism, travels a lot, just back from South Africa, founding mother of the Women's Coalition of St Croix and 'SISA' of South Africa, went to Germany to promote another book.

Gloria describes herself as a black feminist social activist. A former professor at Hampshire College, Gloria did her PhD in sociology and psychology at Cornell University and after 25 years of teaching at a "number of universities and colleges" she decided not to retire but to change gears a bit and put her all into social activism, black studies and women's studies - "combining theory with commonsense, experience with practice.

"I developed a political consciousness at an

early age," Gloria says. As early as Third Grade, in a New York public school, Gloria had joined the picket line. "No gym, no work" was the chant then. "My mother used to say "have compassion and feeling for the underdog. Don't take injustices from anyone, stand up for your rights."

Compelled by a deep interest in the "underdog," Gloria felt moved to do something for the people of South Africa. After viewing the film - "**Awake From Mourning**" - based on the 1976 Soweto massacre, the now seasoned activist got a coffee can and began a collection drive. A mere \$US6 was the handsome reward.

Undaunted, Gloria called up a couple friends, had some meetings and in due course, November 1984, SISA was born. SISA (Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa) means mercy in Xhosa. The aim is to channel aid from Black women to their South African sisters and families. Every year, between US\$4000 - 5,000 is sent to the literacy project, child care facilities, a scholarship fund and several other charities that have sprung from SISA.

Just back from South Africa, Gloria says the work down there is moving apace. The Women's Coalition of St Croix, founded by Gloria some 12 years ago, has moved "miles ahead" too. A safe house was opened for battered women in November 1993, the very week of CAFRA's general meeting. The Coalition receives a government grant and sees about 2,000 clients a year. Training sessions are also conducted for lawyers and police officers.

cont'd on pg. 4



Gloria Joseph

Gloria Joseph

cont'd from page 3

Gloria not only finds time to help black people have a decent life but also gives voice to her pen in her myriad publications. One of her first publications was **"Common differences: conflicts in the black and white feminist perspectives."** Next came **"Hell under god's orders"** (Hugo's impact on St Croix). Gloria also contributes theoretical analyses of Marxism, Feminism, Sexism and Racism to a number of journals and books.

Her latest pursuit, though not yet named, looks at Malcolm X meeting Sojourner Truth on the glory road. Once in heaven, Malcolm X meets other revolutionaries like Martin Luther King and Maurice Bishop. They are looking down in awe on what's happening down here. That's how far the book has gone but I'm sure you want to hear the end.

In March last year, Gloria had the privilege to assist in pioneering black feminist analyses in Eastern Europe. She edited a book written in German on Black Feminism - the only one of its kind. The book contains four articles written by Gloria: (1) **The incompatible - mènage à trois: The unhappy marriage of Marxism, feminism and racism;** (2) **White promotion: black survival** (3) **Styling and profiling - the games before the fall** (4) **Sojourner Truth: archetypical black feminist.**

Looking at the Caribbean feminist movement, Gloria had much to commend CAFRA for. She considers it "the most successful organization of women." She says the "spirit is good" but felt the

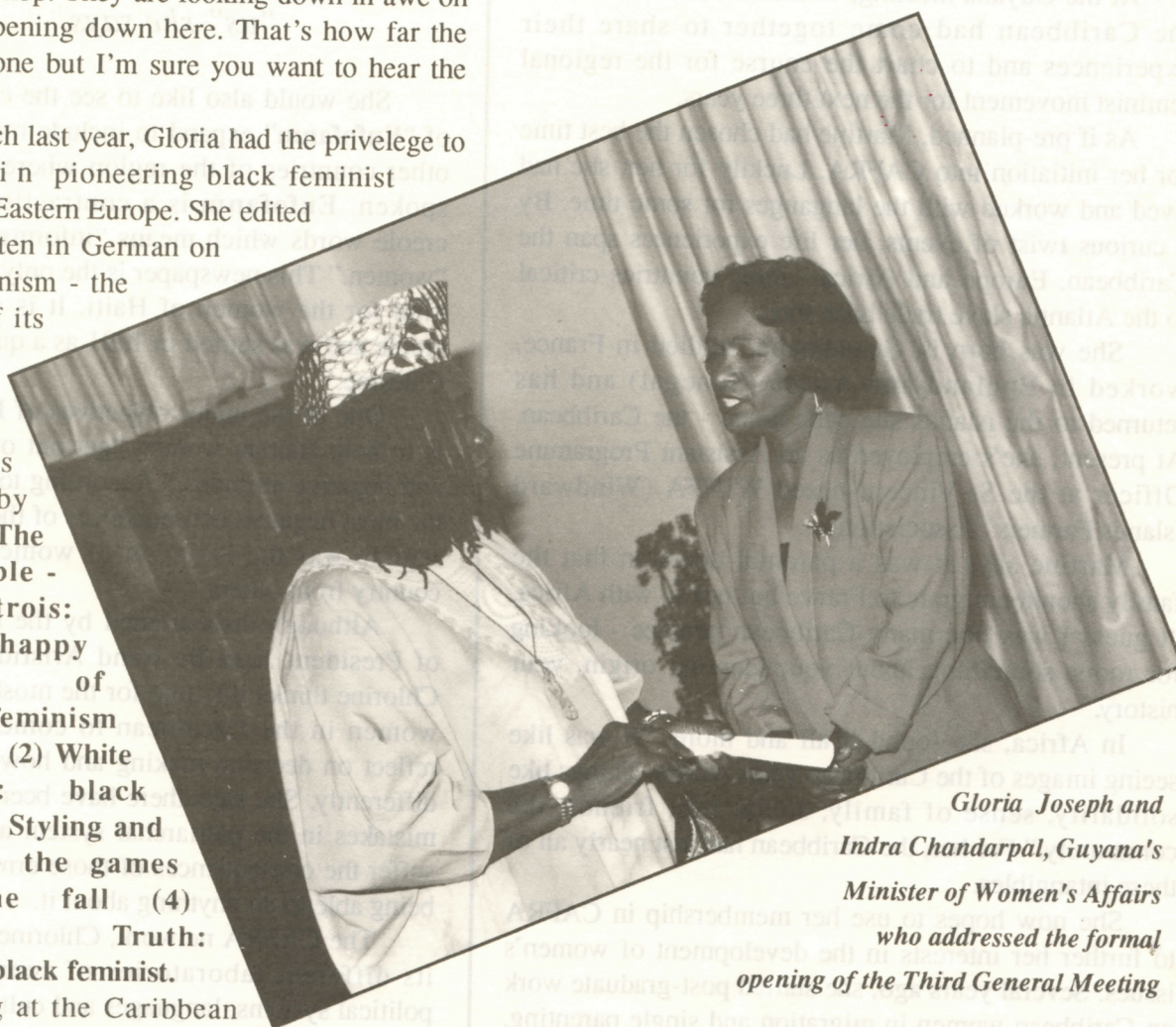
perspective needed to be more global.

And yes. Gloria does find time for relaxation. She's an avid gardener, golfer and, guess what, rears honey bees. In February this year, it's off to the Winter Olympics, in Oslo, Norway.

Then later this year, she has speaking engagements in California, USA, Suriname and Germany, to name a few.

And how would she like to spend her later years? "This is it. Travelling. A house full of nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters, in-laws and outlaws."

"You ask about my book? I guess I'll die with some of these things on my desk. As long as I can go on, I will."



*Gloria Joseph and
Indra Chandarpal, Guyana's
Minister of Women's Affairs
who addressed the formal
opening of the Third General Meeting*

CAFRA GETS FIRST GUADELOUPE MEMBER

When Martine Abraham joined CAFRA in June 1993, little did she know then that a mere six months later she would be called upon to translate English, French and French Creole at CAFRA's third general meeting held in Guyana in November.



At the Guyana meeting, women from all corners of the Caribbean had come together to share their experiences and to chart the course for the regional feminist movement for the next three years.

As if pre-planned, Martine had chosen the best time for her initiation into CAFRA. Luckily for her, she had lived and worked with the languages for some time. By a curious twist of events, her life experiences span the Caribbean, Europe and Africa - three countries critical to the Atlantic slave trade back then.

She was born in Guadeloupe, studied in France, worked in England and Africa (Senegal) and has returned to the islands she calls home - the Caribbean. At present, she's employed as an Assistant Programme Officer at the St Vincent-based WINFA (Windward Islands Farmers' Association).

Martine says it was a parental decision that the family should emigrate to France but not so with Africa. "I guess I was like many Caribbean peoples - looking for roots, something about your identity, origin, your history."

In Africa, she found it all and more. "It was like seeing images of the Caribbean years before. Things like solidarity, sense of family, social life, friends, the community." For her, the Caribbean has lost nearly all of these intangibles.

She now hopes to use her membership in CAFRA to further her interests in the development of women's issues. Several years ago, she started post-graduate work on Caribbean women in migration and single parenting, comparing London and Paris. Having heard the stories of several women at the Guyana meeting, Martine thinks she's sufficiently motivated to pick up the books again.

HOW ABOUT A FRANCOPHONE CAFRA NEWS

Haitian-born Chlorine Zephir is anxious to see a French version of CAFRA NEWS with "French information and culture," reflecting the realities of the French-speaking islands of the Caribbean. There is very little information out there on "us" she says.

She would also like to see the circulation of "Enfofanm" expand to include more of the other countries of the region where creole is spoken. **Enfofanm** is a contraction of two creole words which means "information" and "women." This newspaper is the only one of its kind for the women of Haiti. It is written in creole and was started in 1991 as a quarterly by Chlorine.

One of the major objectives of **Enfofanm** is to help Haitian women "get out of isolation and negative attitudes." According to Chlorine, the most negative consequences of the Duvalier regime was the isolation of women and the country from others.

Although disheartened by the non-return of President Jean Bertrand Aristide to date, Chlorine thinks it's time for the most advanced women in the Caribbean to come together, reflect on decision-making and how to govern differently. She says there have been too many mistakes in the patriarchal system and women suffer the consequences of those errors without being able to do anything about it.

The CAFRA network, Chlorine says, with its different laboratories of economic and political systems, languages and cultures, offers good opportunity to look at Caribbean problems and achievements comparatively with a view to finding solutions.

Joan stumbled on CAFRA quite by chance.

"There was I at the university (Cave Hill Campus, UWI,

Barbados), doing a final year course in Gender and Development and wondering why do a course that refutes traditionally held views of male/female relationships." As she plodded through the course, Joan realised she had been socialised to think traditionally although she was doing sociology. This led her to begin empowering herself.

"I wanted to be equal to men, then go a step further to being superior to them,"

"I wanted to be equal to men then go a step further to being superior to them," she said. However, this was no easy task. Joan battled with empowerment through education while watching on helplessly as her mother socialised her brothers and sisters in the traditional mold.

Now a researcher with the Centre for Gender and Development and sociology tutorial lecturer, 22-year old Joan thinks the women's movement is at a standstill. "It is a professional movement and unintentionally it does not get to the core of issues that concern working class women."

"CAFRA needs to step away from the professionalism and research, although important, to a more broad-based movement that crosses class boundaries," Joan says.

Joan fears that the CAFRA methodology is wrong. The organization needs to go into the schools and "let the youth know about CAFRA and CAFRA the youth." Apart from seeking to reach the young people, Joan feels working class women also need to know that they too belong to CAFRA. The women's movement is "up here" and ordinary women "down there."

"I get the feel (maybe I'm young and I feel marginalized) that the core of CAFRA is missing. Not that I don't feel a sense of sisterhood and belonging but the fight is gone from CAFRA. In the early days, they had to fight for rights. There is a need to rekindle the flame.

Pledging to do her part, Joan says "it's time for new blood, the old warriors are tired."

An Interview with PAMELA REDWOOD

Jamaican-born Pamela Redwood has been involved in the youth movement for the past 16 years, having travelled nearly the entire globe giving voice to the concerns of the youth. Among her many portfolios are: Caribbean Representative on the International Secretariat for the 10th Anniversary of Youth (1995), Abidjan, Africa; Gender Coordinator, Caribbean Environmental Youth Network; and Deputy Chairperson, Caribbean Youth Policy Action Coalition.

Q: What do you think of the women's movement?

The women's movement has made positive impact on the social landscape and has benefitted women, yet fundamental issues are not being tackled - issues of class and race and inequality within the movement itself. Unless you have a degree, your experience is not drawn upon. Also, there is a lot of oppression. This is manifested in petty jealousy, undermining and victimization - no different from on the outside. They speak a lot of sisterhood but no warmth in the movement, no serious solidarity unless it's "my" friend.

Q: What needs to be done?

We need to look within. If we are examples of what we preach, that will give us credibility. Open, frank discussion. Too much grin teeth, plastic smile. You hear the "sus" around the place. You need to be able to call a spade a spade and still be friends.

Q: How does CAFRA compare with the youth movement?

Youths always rebellious. Probably older women have lost that militancy. No contracts for consultancy among the youth so you can say whatever you want. Frank views are not for attacking but for building.

cont'd on pg. 7



Dessima Williams

DESSIMA CHALLENGES CAFRA

Why not make the next UN Secretary General a woman, a good woman, a feminist woman.

The Cuban Revolution. Let's help protect the gains women, and Cuba in general, have made. And Haiti. CAFRA must be in the forefront for "Aristoration" - the restoration of democracy to Haiti with President Aristide.

Her message to CAFRA was a threefold challenge in which she outlined what CAFRA could and should be doing for CAFRA, for the Caribbean, and for the world. Dessima Williams, professor of sociology and former Grenadian Ambassador to the UN, was at the time delivering the feature address at the opening of CAFRA's third general meeting at Forte Crest (Pegasus Hotel), Guyana, on November 17, 1993.

As a pluralist, feminist organization, Dessima said CAFRA ought to be concentrating on raising the collective consciousness; that there ought to be more scholarship on women and their needs; on how they are affected by structural adjustment, AIDS and cervical cancer for example; continuing women's contribution to the GNP; and lobbying all our governments for a woman's budget where social needs are prominent. She said the work of CAFRA now was to "ambush and civilise" the state.

The biggest challenge to CAFRA, in its Caribbean work, lay with Haiti and Cuba. She proposed an evaluation of how the needs of Cuban women have been met or not met by the revolutionary government. She spoke of the "humbling and devastating" visit she made recently to Haiti which was also "empowering, because I could see that the Haitians have not yet given up."

Dessima also spoke of what she termed "gendered global apartheid." That is, in every category of the powerful, women are the least represented and in every category of the powerless, women are over-represented. Victims of war - women are in the majority. Of those overworked and underpaid, illiterate and without social services, women are the most.

***"Why not make the
next UN Secretary
General a woman, a
good woman, a
feminist woman?"***

Pamela Redwood

cont'd from pg. 6

Q: Do you feel you belong to CAFRA?

When I joined CAFRA in 1989, CAFRA was refreshing and relaxing. You felt a part of an organization through the documentation sent to you, etc. Today, that is lost. Little information comes out of CAFRA apart from the newsletter.

CAFRA has a positive role to play in helping women to upgrade themselves and influencing regional policy. But we need to stop and see how far we have strayed from our vision. If our purpose is to uplift women, we cannot criticize government bureaucracy and do the same.

Q: What of the future?

At the 1990 meeting, I was the youngest person. No effort in this GM to include young women. CAFRA needs a drive. There is no fresh blood, no reserve army. No women being trained to take up where the older women have left off so you don't have to start over to take the movement forward under the guidance of Joan French and Peggy Antrobus.

Q: So you want to see more young women in CAFRA?

You need a space in CAFRA for young women to feel a part of the organization. A lot of young women have views of the feminist movement that are different.

Q: Like what?

They do not feel you have to get married and have children. Education comes first. This new reality needs to be looked at by CAFRA to attract new forces to the organization.

TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDING SISTERS

The July 1993 meeting of CAFRA's Regional Committee took a decision to honour the founding members at the Third General Meeting by presenting each of them with a gold pin. The following citation was read at the meeting:

CITATION

The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) was formed in April 1985 at an official launching meeting in Barbados.

The idea to establish the association was born in Puerto Rico in 1980, when women scholars and activists from all over the Caribbean came together for a groundbreaking Study/Seminar on Women and Social Production, organized by the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and the Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Puertorriqueña.

Among the participants were Sonia Cuares of Curacao, Cynthia Ellis of Belize, Honor Ford-Smith and Joan French of Jamaica and Rhoda Reddock of Trinidad and Tobago. They felt a need to strengthen regionalism and establish proper links between research and action programmes. Underlying this need was a shared feminist approach which recognised the exploitation and oppression of women and its relationship to other forms of exploitation and oppression in society and a commitment to work actively towards changing the situation.

These women met, wrote letters and telephoned each other about their dream to form a Caribbean Association of Feminist Researchers. They went so far as to prepare a document entitled "A Call to Action," which situated the contemporary feminist movement within the context of Caribbean women's history and set out the rationale for and aims and objectives of the Association.

At that time, four of them were living in Europe. Upon their return to the region, each one became absorbed in her work and the Association remained a dream.

Enter Peggy Antrobus, Tutor/Coordinator of the

Barbados-based Women and Development Unit (WAND), who provided crucial financial assistance and moral stimulation for an August 1984 Planning Meeting to establish the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA). Honor, Joan, Rhoda and Sonia (Cynthia was no longer associated with the project), met for three days and assessed the status of the feminist movement in the region; identified priority issues; discussed methodology for research and action; finalized the objectives of the Association; and formulated a plan of action for its launching in early 1985.

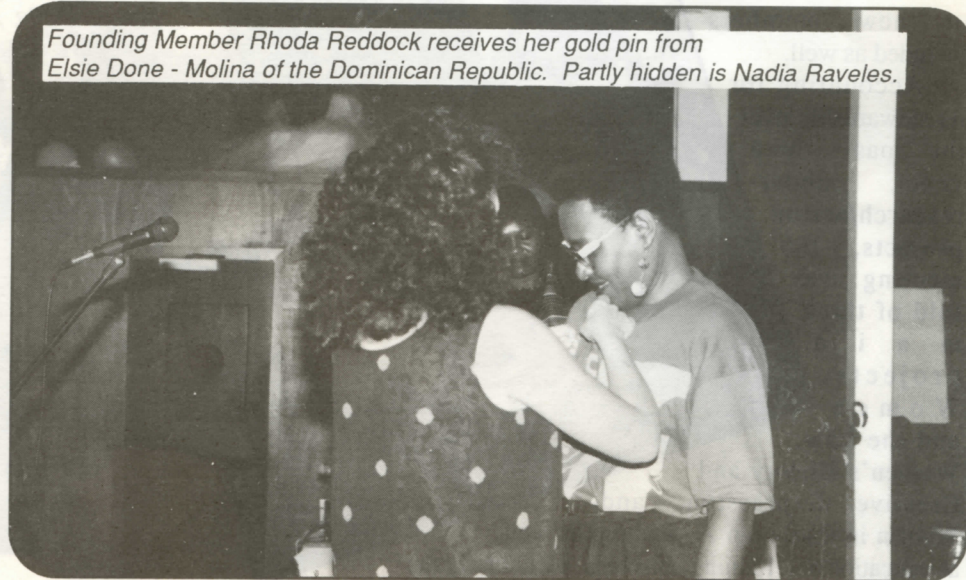
In September 1984, Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen, then a graduate student at the University of the West Indies, was asked to coordinate CAFRA-in-formation on a voluntary basis.

Once again, Peggy Antrobus came to the rescue with funding and the launching took place immediately after a WAND-sponsored meeting to celebrate the end of the UN Decade for Women.

Rawwida was installed as Coordinator of CAFRA at the launching in Barbados, on April 1, 1985.

Since that time, all have served the organization in various capacities. Peggy, through WAND, has collaborated with CAFRA on several activities, providing valuable financial and advisory

Founding Member Rhoda Reddock receives her gold pin from Elsie Done - Molina of the Dominican Republic. Partly hidden is Nadia Raveles.



support when needed. Honor, Rhoda and Sonia sold the organization to funding agencies, links which were later deepened by Rawwida. Joan coordinated CAFRA's first research and action project, the Women in Caribbean Agriculture project, from 1986 - 1991, and served briefly as Acting Coordinator, during which time she set up CAFRA's first office at the Scarlet Ibis Hotel in St Augustine. Rhoda was a member of the CAFRA Secretariat from 1985 - 1991 and a member of the Regional Committee from 1991 - 1992. Rawwida gave substance to the idea of CAFRA, writing and re-writing proposals for funding, selling the organisation to anyone who cared to listen, recruiting staff and contributing in other ways, not easily quantifiable.

cont'd on pg. 10

CAFRA's Third General Meeting

- at a glance

The recently concluded general meeting has given a five-year deadline in which English and Spanish should be adopted as the official languages of CAFRA, given its proximity to and growing membership among the Spanish-speaking countries of the region.

This was one of several decisions taken following small group discussions and plenary sessions.

The meeting also agreed that there was no need to change the structure of CAFRA, rather, there was a need for flexibility and greater democracy at all levels of the organisation. While the meeting validated the experiences of older women, there was a desire to see the vision of new members included as well.

Accounting for its stewardship over the past three years, under research/action projects, the meeting was told of three main projects: Women and the Law; Women's History and Creative Expression; and Women in Caribbean Agriculture as well as education and training activities, particularly the 1992 Summer University in Feminist Theory for "grassroots" women working at the community level.

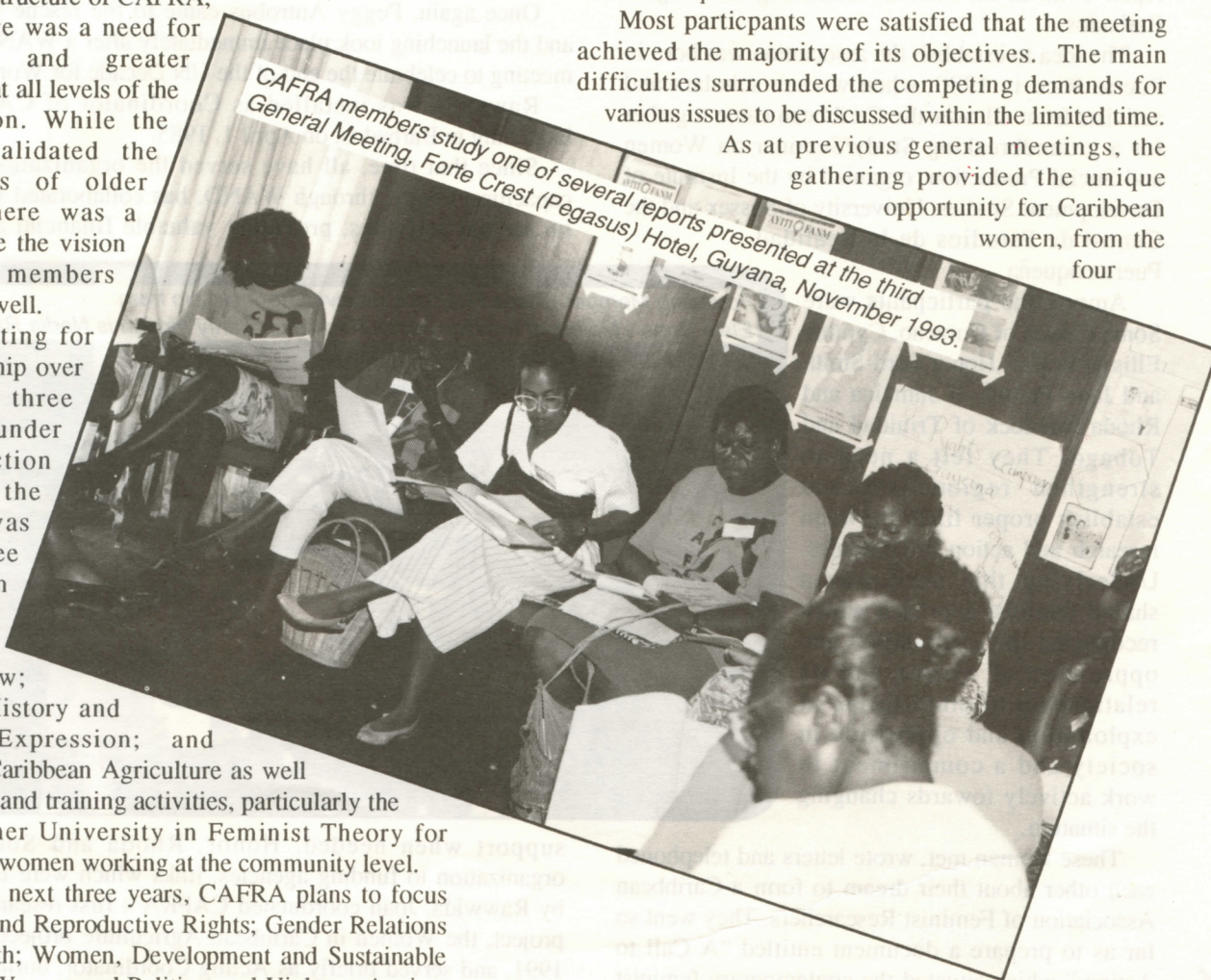
Over the next three years, CAFRA plans to focus on Women and Reproductive Rights; Gender Relations Among Youth; Women, Development and Sustainable Livelihood; Women and Politics; and Violence Against Women. During the sharing of experiences among territories, the issue of violence against women emerged as critical.

CAFRA's Mission Statement and revised Objectives were also discussed, based on drafts presented to the meeting.

The full text of these will be carried in the next issue of CAFRA NEWS. The meeting elected Rhoda Reddock as Chairperson and Joan French as Deputy Chairperson as well as five additional members to sit on CAFRA's Regional Committee along with the National Representatives.

Most participants were satisfied that the meeting achieved the majority of its objectives. The main difficulties surrounded the competing demands for various issues to be discussed within the limited time.

As at previous general meetings, the gathering provided the unique opportunity for Caribbean women, from the four



language areas of the region, to come together and share ideas and experiences.

This activity served to strengthen the women's movement generally and to allow individual women to situate their work within the wider context of the movement, both regionally and internationally.

THE CAFRA AWARD OF RECOGNITION

It was at a meeting of CAFRA's Interim Continuation Committee in December 1991 that the idea of a CAFRA Award was first mooted. The idea was later developed by the Planning Committee for the General Meeting, based on suggestions put forward by Gloria Joseph, the then National Representative of St Croix.

The Regional Committee, at its July 1993 meeting, approved the granting of the award and accepted the criteria for nominations as follows:

That the person be

(1) a CAFRA member who had made an exemplary contribution of five years or more to the association;

(2) actively involved in the Caribbean Women's Movement; and

(3) a publicly declared feminist

Of the eight persons nominated, one, Rhoda Reddock, declined nomination. The Regional Committee was therefore asked to choose the awardee from the following seven persons, given the accepted criteria:

Cecilia Babb - Dominica/Barbados

Shirley Byron-Cox - St Vincent

Roberta Clarke - Barbados/ Trinidad and Tobago

Elsie Done-Molina - Dominican Republic

Joan French - Jamaica/Barbados

Earlene Horne - St Vincent

Cathy Shepherd - Trinidad and Tobago

The popular choice of members of the Regional Committee was **Joan French**, a Jamaican, a founding member of CAFRA and a longstanding activist in the Caribbean Women's Movement. She is currently residing in Barbados where she is Coordinator of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC).

The award, in the form of a gold-embossed plaque set in wood, was designed by Gillian Bishop, well-known jewellery designer of Trinidad and Tobago. Ms French was presented with a miniature of the award.

Award recipient, Joan French (fourth from left) poses with Guyana's President Cheddi Jagan and fellow CAFRA members - (left to right) Nadia Raveles, Gloria Joseph and Allison Apparicio, CAFRA's Liaison Officer.



TRIBUTE

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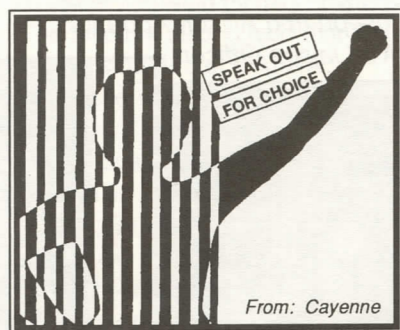
On the occasion of the Third General Meeting of CAFRA, we the members of the Association, acknowledge and pay tribute to the founding members, Peggy Antrobus, Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen, Sonia Cuales, Honor Ford-Smith, Joan French and Rhoda Reddock, whose vision, commitment, resourcefulness and tireless work have made the dream of regional feminist cooperation and sisterhood, a reality we proudly claim as our own.

Georgetown, Guyana, November 17 -20, 1993

ABORTION IN

THE CARIBBEAN

Although the abortion debate has been raging in the Guyana media for the past five months, Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Indra Chandarpal feels certain the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill should be "out shortly. There's a sort of consensus already in the country."



Chandarpal said the most important feature of the Bill was to prevent women from feeling like "criminals" whenever they were "forced" to decide to have an abortion. She also urged anti-abortionists not to deem women "murderers" as it was a traumatic experience for most women given the reality of their circumstances.

Modeled largely on the 1983 Barbados decriminalisation of abortion Bill, the proposed legislation will allow Guyanese women to have an abortion if the pregnancy is less than six weeks with the administration of oral treatment by a medical practitioner. The woman will not be required to attend an approved medical institution for the treatment nor justify the need for an abortion.

Once the pregnancy has gone beyond six weeks, the woman has to be treated by a medical practitioner at an approved institution. The doctor is also required to take into consideration the woman's present social and economic environment or what it is likely to be if the abortion is not administered.

A woman is not required, under the proposed legislation, to seek the consent of her partner but she should inform him. Abortions are also permitted if a woman "reasonably believes" her pregnancy was caused by an act of rape or incest and in cases where the child would suffer physical or mental abnormalities. Abortions are not permitted beyond 28 weeks duration but special provisions will be made for termination of pregnancy to save the woman's life or to prevent grave permanent injury to her physical or mental health.

John Elias, a 53-year old real estate agent and trader in gold and diamonds, more popularly known as "Sevens," gives a resounding yes to abortions. "If not, you have a lot of death, delinquency and deformity. When people are financially embarrassed and they become pregnant, some throw them overboard, in a dustbin."

Elias who says he's fathered about 15 children, felt government should provide a special hospital where women could have abortions done legally but privately.

Helen Tyrel, a handicraft worker and mother of a 14-year old son, was also for abortion. She said the majority of abortions "originated" in the school room. "According to the trend of young people today, you need the legislation."

Forty-two year old Neil Garnett, an engineer, was against abortion. As a father of five, he felt precaution was better than having to go through "all those dreadful things."

Although no official statistics were available on the incidence of abortion in Guyana, it is common knowledge that many women abort babies as a contraceptive device and

several have serial abortions. One woman spoke of her neighbour, a suitcase trader, who told her she had had 14 abortions. Kay Coates, a librarian who assisted in government-sponsored public hearings earlier this year on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, spoke of a case of a woman who had eight children and an equivalent number of abortions.

Coates who is also a member of the Caribbean Association of Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), said women were not interested in the issue since they were too busy making a living. If they needed an abortion, they knew what to do.

Back street abortionists offered a variety of concoctions from Pepsi and aspirin to preserved aloes and charcoal to ginger and black pepper. Women have been known to allow themselves to be ridden on bicycles through the biggest potholes and jumping off rooftops and out of windows to induce spontaneous abortions. One case reported in the *Guyana Chronicle* earlier last year told of a woman who jumped ten feet, broke her arm and lost the baby.

Coates said making abortion legal will not solve the problem right away unless there were clinics where women could go and freely access services. Family Planning Services were above the reach of many women and child care was almost non-existent. Where it existed, it was too expensive for most Guyanese and was often sited in the urban areas.

Following a six-month period of public hearings organised by the Guyanese Ministerial Committee on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy, more than 50 per cent of respondents to a questionnaire were in favour of abortion.

cont'd on pg. 12



From: The Womanist

ABORTION

cont'd from pg. 11

While Guyana moves to enact legislation to decriminalise the medical termination of pregnancy, several Caribbean countries have been reluctant to tackle the issue.

"Trinidad is not anywhere with that," said Gaiettry Pargass, Legal Adviser to the Social Affairs Minister. She said there is case law permitting exceptions where the mother's life is in danger but it is not permissible in rape.

Cecilia Babb of Barbados noted that policy makers considered it an "achievement" that there were less births to teenagers while popular opinion said there were too many abortions among young people.

In Curacao and Suriname, abortions are illegal but the incidence is alarming. Two doctors have been charged in Curacao while in Suriname, medical prescriptions are given in an attempt to make abortions appear legal.

Social Services Consultant in St Vincent, Shirley Byron-Cox said a law was passed in the 1970s which allowed both husband and wife to consent to abortion but, she noted, most Vincentians usually "keep" their children even if they were "children" themselves. Abortion was not popular in St Vincent, she said.

In Puerto Rico, quite a different picture emerges. Up until the early 1990s, most Puerto Ricans were unaware that the service was legal in their country based on the sovereignty of US law over its territory.

...making abortion legal will not solve the problem...unless there were clinics where women could go and freely access services.

Dr Yamila Azize of Cayey University College, University of Puerto Rico, said with the emergence of the Cuban Revolution in the 1950s the "Havana Weekend" enjoyed by most Americans for a safe abortion shifted to Puerto Rico.

According to a study - **La Realidad del Aborto en Puerto Rico** -conducted in part by Dr Azize and published in June this year, 91 per cent of abortion service users in Puerto Rico were 20 years or older. Seventy three percent of the women were Roman Catholics and 95 per cent of the abortions were done at private abortion clinics. A scientific estimate of the number of abortions performed annually in Puerto Rico puts the figure at 17,000 which implies that one out of every five women who gets pregnant obtains an abortion (20 per cent).

Azize blames the high incidence of abortion in Puerto Rico to a number of factors including the strong Roman Catholic presence and the unwillingness of feminists to address the issue. She said religious leaders told their followers not to vote for anyone who supported reproductive rights for women. "It was almost like a blackmail strategy," she added.

She felt the Guyana move to decriminalise abortion was a "progressive step towards democracy for women," giving them the right of control over their reproductive capacity, body and sexuality.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Contributors from around the world are invited to compose essays in English for publication in a 20 volume set of reference books, tentatively entitled **Women in World History**.

Women in World History will feature some 2,000 notable women from the beginning of recorded history up to the present day (only women who are deceased or currently inactive will be included). Entries (previously unpublished) should range from 9-13 typed, double-spaced pages in length, placing greatest emphasis on biographical information while including enough of a historic overview to familiarize readers with the particular time period. The series is directed at high-school students and college undergraduates, as well as researchers, history buffs, and general readers. Hence, the writing should be lively, with the reader's enjoyment and understanding in mind. The publishers are offering US\$ 200 per contracted entry as well as a prominently displayed byline. Return the prescribed form along with your resume and a sample of your writing to: Anne Commire, Yorkin Publications, 11 Stanton Street, Waterford, CT 06385, USA (Fax: 203-442-6385).

CAFRA MEMBERS DISPLAY CARIBBEAN CULTURE

Included in the programme for CAFRA's Third General Meeting was a space for members to share with each other something of the cultural life of their respective territories. This turned out to be one of the most enjoyable aspects of the programme and the 'end of meeting' evaluation confirmed this. Of the 59 persons who completed and submitted evaluation forms, 55 (93 %) rated the cultural evening as "good." Not even the formal opening could compete with this event though 39 persons (66 %) rated the opening as "good."

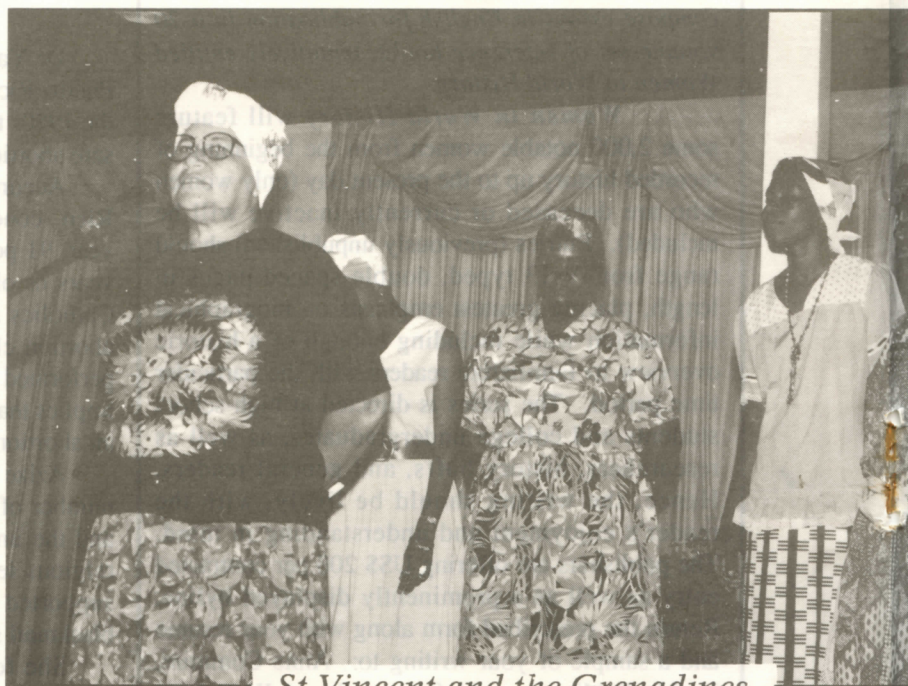
Tieneke Sumter, Suriname



Jamaica



The Mighty Macoumeres,
Trinidad & Tobago



St Vincent and the Grenadines

RIBBEAN CULTURE



Jamaicans perform their Dub,
"Bram Bram"



Jeanette, Diane & Cecilia of
Barbados



Dominica



Carla Bakboord, Suriname

ARE MEN MARGINALIZED? ... THE DEBATE CONTINUES

Within recent times there has been much talk about the "disappearing male," "men as the endangered species" and "male marginalisation" spawned largely from current work on the issue by Jamaican educationist Errol Miller in his book - **Men at Risk**. In the last issue of CAFRA NEWS, Gemma Tang Nain examined one aspect of the issue in an article entitled "Afro-Caribbean Male Youth: a feminist analysis of the 'problem.'"

CAFRA's general meeting held last November in Guyana provided an ideal opportunity to get some country perspectives on the issue from Caribbean women at the meeting. The writer spoke with Yamila Azize of Puerto Rico, Rebecca Cutié of Cuba and Sonia Cuales of Curacao.

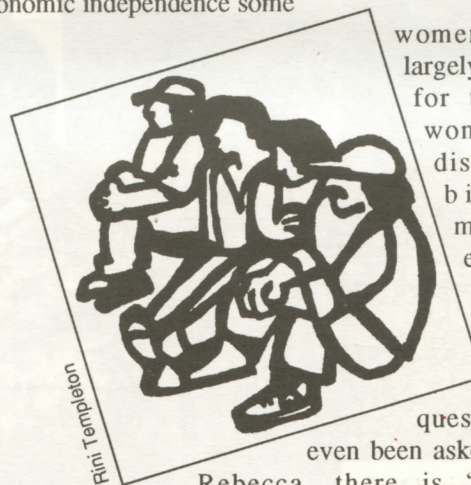
PUERTO RICO: The men of Puerto Rico do not feel "less" but "challenged," yet not in a good sense. They do not want to recognize that women's position is changing. It is difficult for them to accept and it creates a kind of marginalisation. In Puerto Rican universities, 60 -70 per cent of the women are getting the honours, the medals and the distinctions.

When compared to the US mainland, Puerto Rican women are in the majority as engineering graduates. Yamila says women's performance in engineering, traditionally a male domain, destroys all the sexist myths about women being unable to do mathematics or other abstract disciplines. In law school and medicine, classes are changing from male to female majority.

Generally, the women are more disciplined when it comes to study. Men have been raised to be the dominant one, the breadwinner, so in times of economic crises, when male unemployment levels are high, they buckle under. Yamila points out that the economic crisis worldwide has affected men more than women as women have always been the lowest paid and they(women) are willing to do anything, even prostitution, to survive.

Yamila refuses to accept that women are to be blamed for what has been described as "male marginalisation"

economic independence some



Rini Templeton

women enjoy are largely responsible for the rise of women. The discovery of biological myths has also empowered women.

CUBA:

The question has not even been asked. But, says Rebecca, there is "a kind of marginalisation" which can be detected on closer observation of certain facts.

Although Cuba has compulsory education up to the ninth grade (14 - 15 years) with about 99 per cent of the children attending elementary school and a very low rate of drop-outs, boys and girls seem to take different paths by the time secondary school ends and college begins.

In the early school, girls are the leaders in the Pioneers Movement but by the time they enter university, the men are the leaders. Rebecca, a member of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), says the average age for Cuban women to marry is 18.3 and this may be one of the reasons why they peter out of leadership at this stage.

In addition, statistics indicate that women in Cuba seem to prefer research to leadership. Fifty-five per cent of the technical force is comprised of women; in biotechnology, 47 per cent of the researchers are women. At university (average age is 18 - 25), women make up 60 per cent of medical school and 62 per cent of the law students. In geology, a new course in Cuba, 50 per cent of the graduates are women and 64 per cent of the economic science graduates are also women.

Rebecca says to go to university in Cuba, you need to have the best grades and if more women than men are at university it means that the girls are doing better academically. For example, medical school requires a 95 per cent average and the majority are women. Despite these facts, the majority of the leaders at university are men.

Rebecca believes mothers have a lot to do with the girls' successes. They tell their daughters they have to become lawyers, doctors, teachers or engineers, opportunities made possible by the Revolution. Women now have easy access to contraceptives to plan their families and decrease fertility.

cont'd on pg. 16



Rini Templeton

CAFRA DELEGATION IN SURINAME

CAFRA had a good opportunity to spread its message of research and activism to improve the welfare of women during a visit to Suriname from November 22 - 25, immediately following the Third General Meeting in Guyana. The visit also sought to express solidarity with Surinamese women and further integrate them with the rest of the women's movement in the Caribbean.

Organized by National Representative in Suriname, Nadia Ravales, CAFRA's Acting Coordinator Gemma Tang Nain and Liaison Officer Allison Apparicio, met with the local CAFRA membership and several women's organisations including the ASA Foundation, Stop Violence Against Women, PROJECTA Foundation for Women and Development Services, PRO Health and the National Women's Bureau.

During the media conference on Tuesday morning (Nov 23) which was well attended by television, radio and print journalists, Gemma had a chance to restate the origins of CAFRA and

Nadia Ravales, National Representative for Suriname, addresses rally to mark International Day Against Violence Against Women (Nov. 25) at Palm Gardens, Paramaribo, Suriname.. (In background) Statue of "Mother and Child."



its work over the past years. Questioned on the inclusion of the word "feminist" in CAFRA's name, Gemma informed the media of the deliberate decision on the part of the founding members to identify with the word. She pointed out that the

just concluded Guyana meeting reaffirmed members' identification with the word and resolved to work to rid the term of its remaining negative image.

Gemma pointed out that information sharing activities at the Guyana meeting revealed that violence against women was everywhere, throughout the region, and constituted one of the most critical issues facing the women's movement in the Caribbean.

While there, Gemma and Allison also joined with the women's movement, some 70 women and a few men, in a rally and march through the streets of Paramaribo to commemorate International Day Against Violence Against Women. The march began at the Human Rights statue and ended at Palm Gardens where the statue of "Mother and Child" is located. Among those addressing the rally were the Minister of Justice, the Vice-President of the Assembly, the wife of Suriname's President and CAFRA's National Representative.

The visit to Suriname also provided an opportunity to meet with women in rural communities. The women of **Brokopondo** (two hours by car from the main city) have organized themselves into a group called **Lobi ku Pasensi** (love with plenty patience). The group which was formed in 1989, was born out of a recognition by members of the need to reduce their economic dependence on their spouses.

cont'd on pg. 18

THE DEBATE CONTINUES *cont'd from pg. 13*

The Federation has also played a very important role in encouraging women at the grassroots level.

CURACAO: It is not much of an issue here. The question of male marginalisation is more a preoccupation of Anglophone countries. But the signs are there.

Women are performing better than the men at university. Girls spend more time perfecting, they hand in first, start earlier and they plan. In the classroom, girls raise their hands almost immediately to answer a question. The boys will say they understand, but when confronted privately, they admit to being ashamed to say otherwise. A boy feels he is expected to know and cannot expose himself to the possibility of being labelled "dumb." Interestingly, the girls who are pushing for excellence are not from very privileged homes. They want to make money and not experience the "misery" their parents have been through.

Still, the women of Curacao have not yet crossed many of the traditional barriers, except probably in the driving of buses. According to Sonia, Jamaican women have established a Women's Construction Collective; in Grenada, the women have their own auto mechanics garage and in Guyana, the women are into carpentry and welding.

MEN AND WOMEN IN A CHANGING CARIBBEAN

The UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976 -1985) has triggered world-wide activities aimed at focusing global and national attention on the advancement and promotion of women. At the same time, some degree of insecurity has been growing among men within social spheres and in the nature of man-woman labour and employment situations. The absence or retreat of the male from several areas of social production and reproduction is increasing and constitutes concern in Caribbean society.

Gender analyses of access to education, enrolment in skills-training and skills-upgrading courses, levels of performance in Caribbean society show that females are advancing more than men in most instances. As a result of the UN Decade for Women, a wide range of limitations concerning women have been addressed and sparked off advancement for women in many areas. The changing condition of men in the new context is dangerously perceived, by some, as a result of this advancement.

Recent research and professional interventions show that men are in crisis at a very basic level - in terms of their sexuality. Generally, the introduction to sexuality of the female is guided and systematically presented from a positive perspective while the male's introduction usually comes in the "Playboy" sphere, through pornography and similar sex books.

In the Caribbean, the phrase "irresponsible men" is associated with a lack of response on the part of fathers to the material needs of their offspring.



In Latin America, it is mainly associated with illegitimacy and abandonment of the family. As the nuclear family is more the norm, the "disorganization" of the family is blamed on such irresponsibility of men.

In the Caribbean, where the nuclear family is not the norm, the man has been termed by one author (Hoetink, 1959) a "passenger figure" who comes and goes and in a way, is a passenger in the house, when he is there.

In addition to the historical factor of enslavement, several factors, among which material constraints and a resultant image devaluation, tend to weaken the authority of fathers and husbands in the home. Loss of authority, control and respectability affects men terribly. It often leads to loss of a sense of self as

In the Caribbean, the phrase "irresponsible men" is associated with a lack of response on the part of fathers to the material needs of their offspring.

well. In fact, one argument is that the very same social processes that give men power and privilege in a patriarchal society, cause men pain and hurt in addition to diminution and distortion of their human capabilities and capacities.

Caribbean young men hunt status symbols of the time. Their role models have model lifestyles which they wish to follow - dress "to kill;" drive fancy cars and "hang out" in expensive popular discos.

Manifestation of power, as they see it, is not linked to concepts of responsibility and to performance of duties. The use of power is not legitimate either. It is connected to violence. The image they have of their fathers or other male adults in the home is often that of a person who turns to domestic violence as he escapes eroded male authority.

(excerpts of a report presented by Sonia Cuales to the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Men and Women in Changing Caribbean Social Structures, Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 1993)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

At a two-day forum on Women's Rights as Human Rights held in July this year, participants agreed that a conceptualisation of human rights from a feminist and /or gender perspective was required. It was felt that this conceptualisation would be directed by the needs to make human rights discourse inclusive of women's experiences and create a larger understanding of rights where none presently exists.

Participants noted that women's organisations needed to make strategic alliances with mainstream human rights organisations in the Caribbean, to strengthen women's understanding of the entire field of practice and to challenge these groups to take a more holistic approach to human rights issues.

Recommendations and Plan of Action:

Research: call for regional participation on a paper(s) conceptualising human rights from the gender perspective; review human rights in the region through a survey of human rights interest groups and organisations. Survey instrument to be developed by CAFRA in collaboration with Caribbean Rights.

Networking: a workshop on "Critical Perspectives on Human Rights in the Caribbean" to be convened in April 1994. The workshop will critique human rights practice in the region from the gender, class and development perspective.

Publication: publication of an international journal on human rights

which will address theoretical issues, international trends, case notes and use of human rights instruments.

Training: need for training on the theory of human rights and use of international instruments and mechanisms. Target participants will include journalists, human rights activists, lawyers and development workers.

Public interest litigation: human rights lawyers encouraged to take test cases affecting women through the courts as one way of creating a wider appreciation of women's rights as human rights.

National level action: women's rights groups and human rights organisations encouraged to develop popular educational materials.

International Women's Day: suggestion that the theme for IWD 1994 could be that of the theme for the year of the family: "Building Democracy at the Heart of Society." This would allow the linking of family, violence against women and human rights.

SURINAME *cont'd from pg. 16*

They are involved in a range of activities including agriculture and craft production such as embroidery, sewing and wood carvings, the latter traditionally done by men.

With regard to follow-up activity, CAFRA agreed to provide some support from its Technical Assistance Fund and examine the possibility of organizing exchange visits among similar groups in the region such as Grenada of Grenada, the Paramin Women's group of Trinidad and Tobago and Red Thread in Guyana.

At the end of the visit, Gemma and Allison reported it was truly a rewarding experience to interact with what appears to be a dynamic and vibrant women's movement in Suriname. Women from the various ethnic groups were clearly visible at the rally, demonstrating a certain level of solidarity across traditional divisions.

Gemma will never forget the visit to a gay and lesbian party at a Paramaribo night spot. Though homophobia, she says, had her feeling somewhat "awkward" in the beginning, the experience reaffirmed for her people's right to exercise their sexual preferences.

Gemma and Allison wish to express sincere thanks to their Surinamese sisters for making their short stay so enjoyable. Special thanks go to Nadia for the efficient handling of the itinerary and to Eudya, Carla, Tineke and others who lent Nadia their support.



THOUGHTS ON BEIJING 1995

Beijing 1995 could be the most important event of the Decade. The Women's Conference and parallel NGO Forum could be different from similar events of 1975, 1980, 1985. Each built on the foundations of the preceding one. This time they could follow the tradition - but also take a giant step by complimenting each other in a way that is different from anything that went before. It would also be a departure from the usual structure of UN conferences -this is precisely the kind of innovation which has enabled women to move beyond the conventional to achieve remarkable results.

This is a good moment in history to "make a difference." The year 1995, on the eve of the 21st century, provides a special opportunity for women to announce their "arrival" on the world stage in a new role, that of presenting their analyses and solutions to the critical issues facing the international community. The parameters of the

The year 1995, on the eve of the 21st century, provides a special opportunity for women to announce their "arrival" on the world stage in a new role....

1995 meetings are very different from those of 1985. And the context in which women's voices and views have become both necessary and possible include both the dramatic changes in the global political, economic and ecological systems, as well as the achievement and new confidence of women resulting from the UN Decade for Women. These new analytical and political skills were clearly demonstrated in relation to the Earth Summit, and are already apparent in the 1993 Human Rights Conference and preparation for the 1994 Population Conference.

Changes in Global Systems

There have been momentous changes since the 1985 meetings. These are well-known. They include:-

Politically:- the collapse of the Soviet Union and international socialism, the ending of the Cold War; the Gulf War and the spread of ethnic violence and regional conflicts.

Economically:-the intensification of market-oriented economic policies and the continuation of structural adjustment policies (SAPs) despite all the evidence of their devastating consequences to human and natural environments; the emergence of trading blocs and the threat of trade wars between the major players; and the growing economic problems in the major industrialised countries.

Ecologically:- the failure of the Earth Summit to adequately address the environmental crisis and the ambiguity surrounding the concept of Sustainable Development call for continuing efforts to make the real links between Environment and Development.

On the other hand, there are new opportunities. These include the publication of the UNDP Human Development Report, the renewed interest in poverty alleviation by the World Bank, among others, (notwithstanding the fact that their single-minded promotion of structural adjustment programmes helped to **increase** poverty), and even the use of feminist language and agendas by "mainstream" agencies, example - "quality of care," "reproductive health," and "empowerment" (notwithstanding the dangers of cooptation). All offer possibilities for progress.

Advances and achievements of women since the Decade for Women

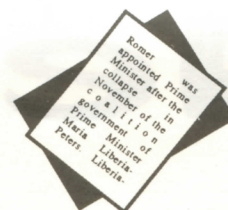
These include:

- The deepening of our awareness and understanding of the issues related to Women, Gender and Development. In particular, feminist scholarship had begun the process of revealing the links between gender socialisation, women's subordination and the structures of oppression - economic, social, cultural and political. In countries of the economic South and marginalised sectors in industrialised countries, the link between the "invisibility" of women's work (their unwaged labour and the undervaluation of women's work) as well as their "invisibility" in the top levels of policy making, and the marginalisation of certain social categories.
- The development of analytical tools and research methodologies which could serve not only to generate this new "knowledge" and understanding but to empower women.
- The emergence and strengthening of new programmes and networks from local to international levels working on key "development" issues from a women's/feminist perspective -going "beyond equality." The UN itself has acknowledged this shift in approach from one of "catching up with men" to one of "women's perspectives" on critical issues.
- The experience gained by women's networks in relation to the World Conferences on Environment, Human Rights and Population demonstrates our potential for shaping global agendas and for mobilisation across traditional North/South divides.

(by Peggy Antrobus, Barbados, Tutor Coordinator, Women and Development Unit / General Coordinator, DAWN)

News News News

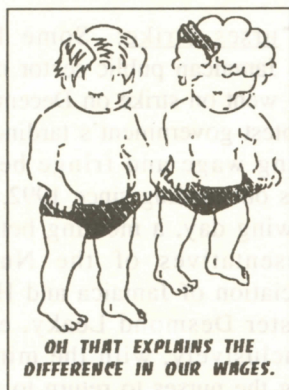
compiled by Cathy Shepherd



FEMALE PRIME MINISTER

A study on the different ways in which Caribbean boys and girls are socialized for gender is on the agenda for 1994: The Year of the Family.

The study, funded by the UNICEF Area Office, will look at the situation in Dominica, Guyana and Jamaica. It will be undertaken by Janet Brown, Coordinator of the



Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and UWI Sociologist Barry Chevannes.

Brown notes that a recent study on The Contribution of Caribbean Men to the Family found constant references to the different ways in which boys and girls are raised.

"This is another stereotype" she says, "one that we want to examine further. Both men and women say that mothers raise their sons to remain sons and raise their daughters to become wives and mothers and to be responsible. So they give the girls the skills and push them out. But they are more ambivalent with their boys. And so the men also maintain, into adulthood, the sense of having to be responsible for their sisters and mother as well as their 'baby

mothers' or wives, and children." (Source: Children in Focus (July - September, 1993)

NGOS DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

Twelve Non-governmental Development Organisations are expected to meet in October, in Barbados, to discuss the Alternative Forum now set for October 1994.

The Forum is part of the programme of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), and has as its theme "Sustainable Livelihoods for the Caribbean." Its principal objectives include:

- to create a platform out of which the energies, expertise and creativity of the people of the Caribbean can be focused on the realisation of a new, sustainable society;
- to give strength and confidence to the search for Caribbean alternatives that are people-centred; and
- to act against the prevailing sense of despair in many quarters by recognising, developing and validating the experience of Caribbean people.

Prior to the hosting of the Alternatives Forum, the NGOs plan to make an input into the UN Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados, in April this year.

At age 34, Suzy Romer, was sworn in as Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles.

Remarkably, this event occurred hours after she had delivered a moving but firm address on the issue of violence against women at a national seminar on November 25, the commemoration date on the issue.

Romer was appointed Prime Minister after the collapse in November of the coalition government of Prime Minister Maria Liberia-Peters. Liberia-Peters resigned after the Democratic Party of St Maarten and Bonaire's UPB withdrew their support for her administration.

She studied law and was a practising solicitor with a relative and partners, when she surfaced as the most impressive negotiator on behalf of the trade unions in a conflict with government. Shortly after, when the then Minister of Justice resigned, she was asked to take his place. Needless to say, the first female Justice Minister in the country's history.

Romer has since been replaced by Professor Alejandro F Paula, who now serves as the head of the new six-member interim government of the Netherlands Antilles, pending the outcome of upcoming elections in mid-February. She had to step down because of the peculiar rules of the system in terms of the formation of an Interim Cabinet. However, she is still in the Cabinet and serves as Minister of Justice. She is also heading the political campaign for the elections.

News



BARBADOS

The Women and Development Studies Group at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), marked its tenth anniversary with a panel discussion on the theme "Caribbean Men and the Women's Movement: Responding to the Thesis of the Marginalization of the Black Male." Panelists were UWI Lecturer, Dr. Neville Duncan, psychologist Victor Forde, Dr. Colin Hope, Editor of Caribbean Contact newspaper and Gemma Tang Nain, Acting Coordinator of CAFRA.

BELIZE

The Women's Issues Network (WIN) of Belize, was formed in March 1993. Its purpose is to facilitate collaboration among organizations concerned with women and women's issues, on common concerns. Membership is open to women's organizations and other groups who have a major interest in women's issues. WIN is currently co-ordinated by the Society for the Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR), a non-governmental organization with a focus on popular education. Contact WIN c/o SPEAR, P.O. Box 571, Belize City, Belize, C.A.
(Source: *A Woman's Turn*)

DOMINICA

SPAT Women's Association for Progress, in collaboration with the Women and Development Unit (WAND) of Barbados, organised a successful weekend workshop for women from October 15-17.

The residential workshop looked at aspects of reproductive health and entailed an in-depth process of reflection, counselling, support, caring, sharing and mobilizing.

Among women's health problems identified by participants, were: cancers, cysts, fibroids and their treatment; support services for cancer patients; stress; obesity; eating disorders; diabetes; and family planning choices and use. The attitude of health practitioners to recipients of health services was also seen as a problem. Participants agreed to implement what they learnt in their own lives, identified sources of support in this regard and asked for a follow-up workshop to review their progress and to discuss other pertinent health issues of concern to them.

(Submitted by Josephine Dublin).

HAITI

The first National Conference on Violence Against Women, was held in Port-au-Prince in April 1993. The event was organized by the Ad Hoc Violence Against Women Committee, comprising women's organizations such as Enfofanm, Kayfanm and SOFA. The Committee was formed after the murder of Diana Laguerre by her partner in December 1992, to denounce and stimulate awareness of the violence women endure. The conference attracted women from different regions of the country as well as concerned men. Workshops discussed forms of violence against women, their causes and mechanisms for preventing and eliminating violence.

Haitian women face enormous difficulties in organizing meetings of this type, particularly since the 1991

Coup d'Etat. Repeated rapes, abortions and torture are a daily occurrence. A report from the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights which was issued during the first week of September, pointed out that since President Jean Bertrand Aristide was overthrown, numerous human rights abuses have been committed by agents of the Army and the military. The report indicated that paramilitary forces assault and rape women with absolute impunity.
(*Boletin Red contra la Violencia*, 2/93)

JAMAICA

Nurses Strike: Some 1,000 Jamaican public sector nurses went on strike on December 9 to protest government's tardiness in settling wage and fringe benefit claims outstanding since 1992. The following day, a meeting between representatives of the Nurses' Association of Jamaica and Health Minister Desmond Leaky, ended inconclusively, with the minister urging the nurses to return to work, while negotiations took place.

Hopes for a return to normalcy within the public health sector were dashed when nurses voted to continue their protest action until a satisfactory conclusion of the 1992-94 salary negotiations, could be reached. Eight days after taking industrial action, nurses voted to end the strike, after receiving recommendations for salary increases from the official salary review board. According to Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, the increases, which will be paid in cash and government bonds, involve a "substantial" boost in nurses' salaries.

The strike caused a severe cutback in routine as well as emergency services in hospitals and health centres islandwide.

cont'd on pg 22

News



cont'd from pg. 21

Campus shutdown: All work at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) was brought to a halt on Monday December 20, as students demonstrated against violent crimes there. The protests followed the knife slashing of a final year social science student, Clover Hunter, just 50 metres from her hall of residence, Taylor Hall, by a would-be robber.

Students at the UWI St. Augustine campus in Trinidad and Tobago, forced a similar shutdown last April, to protest inadequate campus security.
(See *CN* April-June 1993).

PUERTO RICO

A recent evaluation by the Puerto Rican Commission for Women's Affairs of a domestic violence law passed in 1990 has shown that effective enforcement of this pioneering legislation, still faces many obstacles.

The first review of Law No. 54 for the Prevention and Intervention of Domestic Violence, conducted just one year after the law went into effect, considered application of the law at that time "confusing and fragile." The second evaluation, published in April 1993, goes a step further by proposing the creation of an Interagency Council to come up with some appropriate solutions and uniform criteria. Both evaluations conclude that the greatest effect of the law has been an increase in complaints. Over the last two years, the total number of police interventions for offences covered by the law, went up by 43%.

According to the Commission, "More people have come to recognise certain behaviours as domestic violence and look for alternatives to prevent and stop it."

Many public officials, however, are unfamiliar with the legislation and the means of enforcing it, and continue to manifest attitudes that reflect the prevalent stereotypes of patriarchal society.

The police have indicated that their experience with cases of domestic violence has frequently shown a lack of interest by the victims (who drop charges), and limited human resources to intervene. They also claim that domestic violence is a social, not a criminal, issue that will not be solved by Law 54.

The Commission has responded that this view suggests confusion about the scope and purpose of the law, "as well as reluctance to accept the mandate of the law, one important aspect of which is, precisely, to criminalise antisocial behaviour that, as a crime and criminal behaviour, does not cease to be an individual, interpersonal, family and social problem." Victims, the Commission adds, drop charges because their situation within the judicial system remains insecure and because the system traditionally doesn't make an effort to understand the victims' needs.

Given the overall institutional resistance to making changes required by law, the Commission has proposed the urgent creation of an Interagency Council, made up of members of the judicial system and the Commission, to produce and execute an action plan for consolidating the law as it stands and strengthening its application in practice.

(*Boletín Red contra La Violencia*, 2/93)

ST. KITTS

Another offshore processing plant will bite the dust in January 1994. Wellington Ltd.,

and American offshore company which manufactures women's underwear for Bestform, announced that it will be closing its St. Kitts plant. A statement from the company said that a "decline in the labour force combined with increasing costs of production and with substantially increased theft of finished goods from within the factory compound" had made it "uncompetitive against the other plants elsewhere and its competitors in other parts of the world."

An official statement said the Government regretted that the company was taking such "drastic" action and noted the closure was coming despite all available fiscal incentives. The Ministry of Labour promised to assist all of Wellington's employees in finding alternative employment and to expedite severance payments for those who qualify by January 31, 1994.

Doesn't this sound very familiar? Any bets as to how many of those laid off are women?

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT UNDER ATTACK

The murder of Shirley Wilson by her husband on September 27, sent shock waves throughout the country. Wilson, a 54-year-old music teacher, had left her husband three weeks



earlier, when she found a note in his bedroom which indicated that he was planning to kill her and commit suicide. She reported the matter to the police, was advised to leave, and did so. She sought legal advice, filed for divorce, and got an injunction restraining her husband from

cont'd on pg 23

News

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



AGAINST VIOLENCE TO WOMEN

cont'd from pg.23

It seems likely that the proposal will be presented at the next ordinary legislative session in January 1994. The umbrella organization, **Peace for Women**, plans to step up its campaign against the proposed fusion, by collecting signatures, sending out letters, passing resolutions in support of the Commission as well as requesting meetings with different legislators.

■ ■ ■

In Aibonito, **Casa Pensamiento de Mujer** organised a Women's Poetry Competition and a prize-giving ceremony, on the theme "Celebrate Life, End Violence Against Women." A special edition of its newsletter, *Pensamiento de Mujer*, featured such articles as "Violence against women is not natural", "The cycle of violence," "Psychological alternatives to domestic violence," as well as a questionnaire designed to determine indicators of domestic violence.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Women Working for Social Progress held an Inter-Religious Service of Solidarity, in memory of women and children killed as a result of violent domestic disputes, on Sunday 21 November at City Hall, Port of Spain. Elaine Hewitt, who delivered a testimony on behalf of CAFRA, at the Global Tribunal on Violations against Women in Vienna in June, addressed the gathering of persons who dressed symbolically in black. Later, on November 25 itself, the organization held its annual candlelight vigil and procession around the Queen's Park Savannah.

"Sexual Harassment" was the theme of a panel discussion organised jointly by the **UWI Women and Development Studies Group** and the Student's Guild, on November 25.

Held at the JFK Lecture Theatre, speakers included Hazel Thompson-Ayhe, Director of the Legal Aid Clinic, Hugh Wooding Law School; Jeannette Morris, Coordinator of the Women and Development Studies Group, and students.

MATCH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE:

Asha Kambon of Trinidad and Tobago, was appointed to the Board of Match at its Annual Meeting in September.

NEW ZEALAND CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Aotearoa New Zealand led the world in 1893 when both indigenous and immigrant women won an international victory for women - the right to vote in national elections. The New Zealand victory spurred on other suffragists, but for many it was decades before they were successful, and even today, women in some countries still do not have that most basic of political rights.

The New Zealand campaign lasted for 25 years and was spearheaded by Kate Sheppard, the franchise superintendent of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The suffragists then campaigned for improved working conditions for women, equal pay, electoral reform, divorce law reform, equal educational opportunities and other rights, many of which women are still fighting for today.

1994 WOMEN'S STRIKE:

German women plan to go on strike in March 1994 to protest the re-establishment of a great Germany which is taking place at the expense

of refugees, the weak, the poor and women. A Call from the Koln and Bonn Women's Autonomous Movement, states that the strike is to protest against cut-backs in fundamental rights; the reduction of social welfare benefits and the increasing poverty of women; the pushing back of achieved women's rights; environmental degradation; and German military intervention. The strike, which is planned for the second week of March (International Women's Day is on March 8), follows in the footsteps of successful general strikes organised by women of Iceland in 1975 and Swiss women in 1991. Send letters of support to Ms. Schenk, Bundeshaus, 53090 Bonn, Germany.

Fax: 49-228-1686972.

(Women Living Under Muslim Laws, International Solidarity Network)

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS WATCH:

In December, an ethical debate raged in Britain and Italy over so-called "retirement pregnancies." The controversy erupted with the news that a 59 year-old British woman gave birth to twins in London on Christmas Day, after having been impregnated artificially at the Rome clinic run by controversial specialist Dr. Severino Antinori. When Antinori subsequently revealed that a 62 year-old Italian woman was three months pregnant, after he had implanted a donor's fertilised eggs in her uterus, Italy began to consider moves to outlaw such post-menopausal procedures.

Critics argue that it is unnatural for women who have gone through menopause to bear children, regardless of their emotional needs. Supporters say that women should have the right to become pregnant at any age and point out that no upper age limit is fixed for men becoming fathers.

cont'd on pg. 27

News



**NOVEMBER 25:
INTERNATIONAL DAY
AGAINST VIOLENCE TO
WOMEN**

con'd from pg. 22

bothering her; a court order giving her the right to remove her possessions from her home; and a summons advising her husband of a matrimonial hearing.

On September 27, she went to remove her belongings, escorted by a Marshal of the Court and two police officers. Seizing an opportunity, her husband separated her from her protectors and chopped her to death.

In the days that followed, the resounding conclusion among some men was that she had gone to "take all de man things", aided and abetted by the court and got her just desserts. Further, it was argued that the recent spate of fatal family disputes stemmed from the restraining orders granted under the Domestic Violence Act. That the latter view was being put forward by professional men (three psychiatrists and one lawyer) who should have known better, was cause for alarm among those who had struggled long and hard for the passage of the Act.

Women's shelters and organizations sent letters supporting the Act, among them: the Halfway House, the Shelter for Battered and Abused Women and Children, the Trinidad & Tobago Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Women Working for Social Progress, CAFRA, and Soroptimist International.

Coming out of the debate were calls for an intervention programme to counsel offenders, and for the establishment of a Family Court equipped with trained judges experienced in family matters, counsellors, conciliators and psychiatrists.

The Rape Crisis Society recently sourced funding for an agro-processing project for victims of domestic violence.

Through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives administered by the Canadian High Commission, the Society received a grant for an agro-processing training and employment project which will train 60-85 women in making products such as guava cheese, pastelles and shaddock. For further information, contact the Society at 40 Woodford Street, Newtown, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.



For the Life of Laetitia : Congratulations to **Merle Hodge** whose second novel *For the Life of Laetitia* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993) was chosen by the *New York Times* as one of the ten Notable Children's Books of the Year. Hodge, author, newspaper columnist and university lecturer, is well-known for her activism in the women's movement in Trinidad and Tobago and in particular, as a member of Women Working for Social Progress, a member of CAFRA.

DOMINICA: As a forerunner to activities to mark November 25, **SPAT Women's Association for Progress**, organized a panel discussion on the theme "Let's Join Hands to End All Forms of Violence in our Communities." The public forum was held at the Pichelin Community Centre on October 21.

■ ■ ■

Carrying placards saying "Love is all I need", "Real men don't abuse women", and "Say no to child molestation", members of the **Dominica National Council of Women** held a rally and march around the city of Roseau, to protest violence against women. The rally climaxed at Peebles Park where the crowd was addressed by Minister of Community Development, Henry George; Minister of External Affairs, Brian Alleyne; and Principal Nursing Officer, Joan Jacobs.

PUERTO RICO: This year, Puerto Rican women's organizations marked the day with a rally at the Plaza de Armas in Old San Juan. Held on November 24, it was organised to protest the proposed dismantling of the **Puerto Rican Commission for Women's Affairs**, a governmental agency.

According to an article in *Mujeres en Marcha*, the organ of the Puerto Rican Organization of Working Women (OPMT), feminist and other concerned organisations have mounted an intensive campaign against the plan to create an 'Umbrella Department', by fusing the Commission with other offices serving different social interest groups. Those opposed to the proposed fusion, feel that it will reduce the Commission's autonomy in advancing and scrutinizing government policy related to women and weaken its ability to concentrate on issues which impact on the situation of women in the country.

cont'd on pg 24.



JANUARY 25-28

4th Latin American and Caribbean Meeting for the Solidarity, Sovereignty, Self-Determination and Life of Our Peoples, Havana, Cuba.

Representatives of social movements in the region will gather at the Havana International Conference Centre, to debate "The role played by popular forces in Latin America and the Caribbean in devising and implementing alternative solutions to the crisis." A number of political, economic, cultural and organizational topics will be discussed. The 4th Meeting continues the dialogue of those held in Quito (1988), Bogotá (1989) and Sao Paulo (1991). A special effort has been made to involve the Caribbean and in particular, the non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean in the 1994 encounter. For further information, contact: Cuban National Preparatory Committee, 4th Latin American and Caribbean Meeting, Tel: 81-6275 or 70-1407; Fax: 33-5211.

FEBRUARY 16-19

1994 Global Summit of Women, Taipei, Taiwan.

Like the preceding summits in Montreal (1990) and Dublin (1992), the 3rd Global Summit of Women will provide a forum through which women can confer and discuss feminist issues, organize and network with each other, create systems and institutions for the promotion of women's rights and women's power, resolve conflicts between the genders, and promote world peace and understanding. The 1994 Summit will present, teach and highlight practical political skills for the enhancement of women's power worldwide through comprehensive and rigorous training workshops and plenary sessions. Contact: International Planning Committee, 1994 Global Summit of Women, 3F, 92 Huai-Ning Street, Taipei, Taiwan. Fax: 886-2-3752613.

FEBRUARY 23-25

Regional Conference on Gender, Science & Technology, Kingston, Jamaica.

Hosted by the Centre for Gender and Development Studies and the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of the West Indies, the conference seeks to build an awareness of gender issues, science and science education and their relevance to the environment; and to create an awareness of the contribution of women scientists in the Caribbean. Contact: Centre for Gender and Development Studies, c/o ISER, the UWI, Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica. Tel: (809) 927-1913. Fax: (809) 927-2409.

MARCH 13-15

Women's Health and Futures: International Symposium, Stockholm, Sweden. Aims to uncover patterns in common for women from various cultures, but also to promote the differences: how women differ from men, how different living conditions lead to poor health and discrimination. The three main themes to be discussed are: the Power of Knowledge; Health, Gender and Politics; and Strategies for Development and Change. Among topics to be discussed in special sessions, are: Male Disease and Female Illness; Future and Feminism; Migrant Women's Health;

Eating Disorders - a Female Drama; Tobacco as a Women Exploiter; and Sexualized Violence. Contact: Foundation of Women's Forum, Västerlånggatan 75, S-111 29 Stockholm, Sweden.

APRIL 5-9

CAFRA Women Writers Workshop: Writing for Children 9-11 and 11-14 Years, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

As a follow-up to its successful Creative Writing Workshop for Women held in May 1989 (see *CAFRA News* 3.2, June 1989), CAFRA is organizing a five-day writing workshop for women writers interested in writing fiction for children in the age groups specified. Interested persons should send a resumé and a sample of their work, to Sybil Seaforth, Workshop Coordinator, c/o CAFRA Secretariat, by **Monday February 21, 1994.**

MAY 21-28

2nd International Conference for Young Leaders, Montréal, Canada.

Organized by the Jeanne Sauvé Youth Foundation, the conference is intended for young leaders between the ages of 18 and 30, inclusive, from all countries, cultures, and religious or political affiliations. The theme this year is, "Education: Key to the Future or Bolt to the Past?" Contact: The Jeanne Sauvé Youth Foundation, 680 Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 110, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3A 2S6. Fax: (514) 499-2860.

JUNE 12-25

3rd Women's Global Leadership Institute: "Women, Violence and Human Rights", New Brunswick, NJ, USA.

Open to leaders who have been working on issues of Women, Violence and Human Rights, the Institute will be a two-week intensive working session of approximately 20 women representing diverse regions, cultures and interests. Participants will spend time sharing their experiences and developing feminist strategies on the theme.

Contact: Susana Fried, Institute Coordinator, Center for Women's Global Leadership, 27 Clifton Avenue, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, USA. Fax: (908) 932-1180.

JUNE 15-19

15th National Women's Studies Association Conference: Teaching, Theory and Action: Women Working in a Global Perspective, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Plenary topics: Human Rights/Women's Rights; Politics of Women's Work; Feminist Theories in a Global Context; and, Conceptualizing the Body: Comparative Perspectives. Contact: NWSA '94, Kris Anderson, 105 Landscape Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011, USA.

JUNE 17-21

Women, Information and the Future: Collecting and Sharing Resources Worldwide, Cambridge, MA, USA.

For librarians, archivists, information specialists and others who collect, classify and redistribute information on women. The purpose is to share knowledge, experience and skills and to explore the building of networks for an on-going exchange of information. Among themes to be addressed, are: uses and users of women's information; information policy; institution building; collection development strategies and approaches; communication and technical issues. Contact: Women, Information and the Future, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA, USA. Fax: (617) 496-8340.



JUNE 24-JULY 3

Global Forum '94: Cities and Sustainable Development, Manchester, UK.

The core meeting of Global Forum '94 - Cities and Partnership - will bring together cross-sectoral delegations from 50 cities around the world. Complementing the core meeting will be a series of key sectoral meetings related to urban themes and a programme of guest meetings organised by regional, national and international institutions. The Manchester Women's Electronic Village Hall, a telecommunications and electronic networking group, is organising the **women's programme**. Activities will address issues such as sustainable cities, financing sustainable development, debt, the role women will play in achieving equality through changes in political and economic structures, the value of unpaid work, and other emerging topics. Contact: Global Forum '94, Eastgate, Castle Street, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4LZ, UK. Fax: (44-61) 234-3743.

JULY 3-10

3rd International Women Playwrights Conference, Adelaide, Australia.

Leading artists from 5 continents will discuss the relationship between women's traditional ritual and storytelling, modern narrative drama and contemporary multi-discipline performance. The Conference theme will be developed in Forum Performance sessions which will integrate addresses of guest speakers with performed extracts of texts, critical commentary and archival footage. Open to all those interested. Contact: 3rd International Women Playwrights Conference, ICMS Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 8102, Hindley Street, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia. Fax: (618) 212-5101.

JULY 27-31

6th International Feminist Book Fair, Melbourne, Australia.

Recognised as the single most important event on the international publishing calendar for the promotion of women writers and feminist publishers, the theme of the 6th IFBF is "Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Writing and Publishing." It comprises 2 trade only days and 3 trade and public days. Contact: 6th IFBF, GPO Box 2681X Melbourne, Australia 3001.

AUGUST 13-17

International Conference on Social Change, Women's Studies and Feminist Research, Ottawa, Canada.

The Conference will focus on Women's/Feminist Studies, its content, pedagogy, research, institutional location and its commitment to changing women's situation wherever they are. In order to facilitate real dialogue between feminist educators, the registration is being limited to 125 women. One possible outcome of the conference could be the creation of an international women's studies organization. Contact: International Conference, c/o Joint Chair in Women's Studies, Carleton University/Université d'Ottawa, Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1N 6N5. Fax: (613) 564-7461.

ON THE BOOK SHELF

1. Cotidiano Mujer and Frauen Anstiftung. **Mujer y desarrollo: conferencia internacional sobre etica y política del financiamiento/Women and development: international conference about ethics and politics of funding**. Montevideo: Cotidiano Mujer, July 1993. 382 p. Proceedings of the first international meeting of projects funded by the German feminist foundation, Frauen Anstiftung (FAS). Among the 14 projects represented were CAFRA and Mujeres del CIBAO of the Dominican Republic. Subjects discussed include funding and self funding; expectations about FAS; project selection and evaluation; ethical criteria for funding; and internationalist feminism.
2. ESCAP. Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific. **Training manual on the management of women's information centres**. New York: UN, 1991. iv, 124 p. Intended to assist WINAP national focal points for the advancement of women and non governmental organizations in establishing or strengthening women's information centres, this manual covers the following topics: establishing and computerizing a women's information centre, audiovisual media, media relations, and networking.
3. ESCAP. Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific. **Training manual on the technical processing of information concerning women in development**. New York: UN, 1991. vi, 96 p. Intended to assist WINAP national focal points for the advancement of women and non-governmental organizations in establishing or strengthening women's information centres, this manual covers the following topics: acquiring and processing materials; repackaging and producing materials; collecting data on women in development; and, conducting participatory research among women.
4. Handwerker, W. Penn. **Gender power differences may be STD risk factors for the next generation**. Pinelands: WAND, 1993. 12 p. (WAND Occasional Paper, no. 4) Data from field studies conducted in Barbados between 1985 and 1991 support efforts to model sexually transmitted diseases transmission with more precise information on who has what kind of sexual contact with whom and how often; and points to men rather than women as active STD transmitters.
5. Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network and Isis International, eds. **Women and population policies**. Santiago: Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, 1993. 136 p. Proceedings of the meeting held in Oaxtepec, Mexico, from July 5-9, 1993.
6. Momsen, Janet H., ed. **Women and change in the Caribbean: a pan-Caribbean perspective**. London: James Currey, 1993. x, 308 p. Collection of studies of women in all Caribbean language groups (there are 17 case studies of 14 territories) from the disciplines of agriculture, anthropology, economics, geography, history, sociology and women's studies.
7. Oti-Boateng, Peggy. **Packaging**. New York: UNIFEM, 1993. 48 p. (Food Cycle Technology Source Book, no. 7) Aims to provide a broad overview for non-technical consultants considering projects in which packaging is involved. Emphasis is placed on packaging needed for processed foods in retail packs.

BOOK SHELF

8. Thomas, Dorothy Q and Michele E. Beasley. "Domestic violence as a human rights issue." **Human Rights Quarterly** 15.1 (February 1993): 36-62. Explores reasons why it has been difficult to conceive of domestic violence as a human rights issue under international law and how these difficulties are beginning to be resolved through a combination of theory and practice.

9. UN. **World Conference on Human Rights: the Vienna declaration and programme of action, June 1993**. New York: UN. Department of Public Information, 1993. 71 p.

10. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights. **Report of the maternal mortality and morbidity campaign 1992**. Amsterdam: Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, 1992? 28 p. Report of activities organized worldwide to commemorate the International Day of Action for Women's Health, May 28, the theme of which was Teenage Pregnancy.

11. Women's Progressive Organization. **Guyana: 40 years of struggle for women's rights and social progress**. Georgetown: WPO, 1993. 32 p. Traces the history of the Women's Progressive Organization, the Women's Section of the Guyana's People's Progressive Party, from 1953 to the present.

12. Yip, Hoi Yee and Steve Deutsch, eds. **International forum 1992: globalization and nationalism; proceedings of the first International Conference for Young Leaders**. Montréal: Jeanne Sauvé Youth Foundation, 1993. ix, 181 p.

News *cont'd from pg. 24*

Also in December, in the USA, the Illinois Appellate Court refused to order a pregnant woman to have a Caesarean section that doctors said could save her fetus from brain damage or death. A Chicago hospital originally asked the court to order the woman to have a C-section after she refused to undergo the operation. The 22-year-old mother, who is a Pentecostal Christian, said that surgery would be against her personal and religious beliefs. The unanimous ruling upheld a lower court's refusal to make the woman have the operation. The fetus' court-appointed public guardian plans to appeal.

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This amusing piece was submitted by a CAFRA member.

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