

WOMAN

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Struggle

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THE BAHAMAS FORMS NEW WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

DAWN (Developing Alternatives for Women NOW) is a recently formed women's organization in the Bahamas.

DAWN's main objective is to organise women to counteract the negative effects of their social conditioning. Other objectives include the sharing of skills, knowledge, and experiences and the building of productive relations among women and men. DAWN intends to achieve its goals by increasing awareness in the broad society of the social, cultural, legal, religious and political structures which affect the quality of women's lives.

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WOMEN FROM FRONT LINE STATES LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVES

A group of women from the Frontline States and European Non-government Organizations working in the region have drawn up policy recommendations intended to reduce dependence on South Africa. The recommendations were made at a meeting of aid donors (including the European Economic Commission) in Brussels last October.

The exploitation of migrant labour from the Frontline States is an essential aspect of the mining industry upon which the South African economy is firmly established. The impact of migrant labour on women has been devastating for women's lives, for families and the rural economy of those states. Among the issues examined at the meeting were child care and reproduction, housing, rural development and food production, income and employment and problems of male violence toward women.

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MOSCOW PEACE MEETING IN JUNE

A World Congress of Women is convening in Moscow, June 23 - 27, 1987 on the theme "Toward 2000 - without nuclear weapons! For Peace, Equality, Development." The Congress will be open to international, regional and national non-governmental organizations as well as invited representatives of the United Nations and persons prominent in social, economic and cultural life.

A release described the aim of the Congress to promote understanding and cooperation of women in causes which they hold in common, particularly the implementation of the Forward looking strategies for the Advancement of Women adopted at the 1985 World Conference of the UN Decade for Women held in Nairobi.

(Release From Women's International
Democratic Federation, December 1986)

CALDICOTT'S BITTER DEPARTURE

Anti-nuclear activist and renowned spokesperson for Physicians for Social Responsibility Helen Caldicott told a meeting of the American National Women's Studies Association that she felt as though she had been raped by the men who rule the international disarmament organisation which receive a Nobel Prize.

Before her official retirement from public life, Caldicott expressed bitter disappointment about the lack of success reached on disarmament and had harsh words for both men and women before she departed. She said women are pathetic wimps and even though most women are smarter than men, she asked: "why haven't women got the guts to take over?"

She added that the men at Physicians for Social Responsibility did her in by staging a coup against her and lying to her, and then taking the Nobel Prize for the work she did.

Now, she said, "I have to go away and grieve and heal." She urged American women to run for office and go to Washington and swamp every Congressional committee hearing to demand action on disarmament.

Caldicott now plans to write a book for women about how to save the earth.

From Off Our Backs in Herizons
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COMPANY INVESTS IN PROGRAM AGAINST VIOLENCE

The Du Pont Co. spent more than half a million dollars in the last two years on a corporate program to protect workers from violent crime, especially rape.

The program is aimed at making women less submissive, more assertive and better prepared to defend themselves, and will consist of an eight-hour rape prevention workshop.

One video training tape shows a woman accosted in a parking lot jabbing her assailant's eyes with a fistfull of car keys protruding between her fingers. Another shows a knee to the groin as an effective selfdefense method. The program appears to stem from an increase in the numbers of women travelling with the company as it includes specific advice such as getting off a hotel elevator early if you are uncomfortable. Du Pont provides full disability benefits, up to six months with pay, to rape victims.

Herizons

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COUNSELLING PROGRAMME TEACHES NEW ROLE MODELS FOR MASCULINITY

A programme aimed at long term counselling for victims and perpetrators of wife abuse has been established at a community clinic in Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada.

Called 'Evolve' the programme provides an environment where women can gain support from other women and learn to replace fear with strength and self-respect. Group counselling for men aims to teach skills and techniques that will replace violent behaviour with non violent alternatives, will help men understand their emotions and learn to appreciate new role models for masculinity.

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UNION GETS SPOUSAL BENEFITS FOR GAY PARTNERS

A municipal employees union in British Colombia, Canada has successfully negotiated benefits for same sex partners of support staff employed at a Vancouver School Board. The union negotiators hope to use this precedent for similar inclusion in other contracts. A trustee of the Committee of Progressive Electors said that "as a matter of principle any spouse or partner should be covered for the purpose of benefits although the details should be decided at the bargaining table by both sides."

From The Body Politic in Spare Rib

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