

NEW WOMAN Struggle

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• Editor

The issue of the environment and concern over its preservation have become the focal point of many discussions, programmes and projects in recent years. The deliberate despoiling and destruction of the environment has been seen as the greatest threat to human survival.

The question now is not whether we can have health for all by the year 2000, but whether we can have a life of any quality at all.

Women's role, both productive and reproductive, is integral in the management of the environment. This issue of New Woman Struggle therefore focuses attention on women and the environment, highlighting their special role as agents of change. It also includes some general information on environmental concerns that are critical for all.

Amerindians in Guyana recently met for a 2 day conference, at the end of which they formed the Amerindian Peoples Association. In a press release, the new Association said: "the eyes of those who destroyed resources elsewhere are now looking at our forests. In Regions One, Seven and Nine local and foreign timber merchants and miners are depleting forest stocks previously reserved for Indian communities. Uncontrolled mining in Region Seven is having serious consequences on the life of our people".

The demands of the Amerindian Peoples Association were published in Stabroek News, April 23, 1991:

DEMANDS OF THE AMERINDIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION

- "We call on the donor agencies to ensure that their donations are used to develop and not destroy our land and peoples".
- "We call on the authorities to seek approval from Amerindian communities about developments which have repercussions on lands owned or claimed by these communities".
- "Furthermore, consultation should take place with Amerindians

regarding the development of the rest of the interior".



- "Economic and social development must promote a way of life which attracts qualified Amerindians back to their communities.
- "We need to re-establish craft as an expression of our cultural heritage and a source of economic benefit".
- "We need to be trained in skills which will help us administer our communities more efficiently, learn technical skills and forestry practices which enable us to be more self-sufficient in many ways".

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- "Urgent attention must be given to rectifying the many problems which exist over land titles. Titles in Regions Seven and Eight and other areas which are still withheld must be granted".
- We call on all Amerindian communities to set up vigorous local units which will be the well-being of our Amerindian peoples".

The conference included representatives from the Carib, Arawak, Macushi, Wapishiana, Akawaio and Patamona peoples.

"The sky is held up by trees. If the forest goes, the roof of the world will collapse and nature and man perish together."

Amerindian Proverb

Women - the "Invisible" agents of change

If sustainable development is the latest challenge to the international development community, then women, more than ever before, should be at the front and centre of all action strategies.

This is not a matter of social justice, nor a feminist issue. Sustainable development, "is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In examining the complexities of sustainability there seem to be three essential components: wise use of natural resources and eco-system + equitable development strategies + population policies and family planning service = sustainability of natural systems and socio-economic productivity. But if one of the three is eliminated, the chances of achieving sustainability are threatened.

And if we examine the roles that women play - on a daily basis - in most societies, clearly women's involvement, in the three components, is essential to success.

Understanding the dimension of women's contribution to development is not easy. Because women's productive work is in great part non-salaried, it has remained under-valued if not totally invisible.

The measurement of women's contributions to society is slowly becoming a subject of research. A recent study by the Kenyan Government, for example, estimates that Kenyan women spend nine million hours per day carrying water for family consumption. Were the state to have to purchase this service, the cost would be totally out of reach.

The interaction of women with the natural resources upon which family livelihood depends and their role in family sanitation and waste disposal, far exceeds that of men in the non-commercial sector.

In the case of energy consumption, women's role as fuel gatherers, tree planters (thus foresters), and users of fuel-efficient stoves are critical elements in national energy policy and planning.

But what about the third component of the equation -

population policies and family planning? Very simply, without control over their health and fertility, women will not be able to participate fully in development efforts.

Recent data demonstrates the enormous health benefits - for both mother and child - of family planning. One out of five infants' deaths in developing countries would be prevented if all births were separated by an interval of at least two years.

The World Bank estimates that 500 million couples who do not want more children do not use modern contraceptive methods, due mainly to unavailability of family planning services.

At the same time, with population growth rates overtaking economic growth and productivity, government services are over-stretched, unemployment soars and natural systems are over-exploited. At the individual and national levels, family planning becomes, thus, an essential element of development, social justice and the health of human and natural resources.

Past development strategies, ignored the silent partners of development. Mother Nature's bounty had no monetary value: it was there to be exploited, sold, ploughed up, cut down or polluted. Until her wounds become visible to the naked eye or her despoliation resulted in natural disasters, we paid little attention to her sustainability.

The other silent partners, women and indigenous peoples, have also remained invisible. Worse still, they have been deprived of equitable participation in and benefits of development.

In our search for sustainable development all partners become essential to success. Women, as productive change agents, must be empowered as equal partners. Empowerment means recognising the value of women's work, and their right to, and need for, family planning services.

FETCHING WATER A MAJOR CHORE IN MANY LIVES

She is 31 years old. She has six children ranging from eleven to two years. She spends most of her day fetching water to her home from a water hole a quarter of a mile away. This is the nucleus of the life of Gail Andrews.

"It real rough," Andrews said, the lines on her face deepen as she leans into a muddy water hole to collect a small bucket of water her seven year old son had spent 15 minutes collecting.

Andrews, a resident of Houston, East Bank Demerara, Guyana, said that about five weeks ago, water stopped trickling through yard pipes. The 6,000 residents in Houston and Mc Doom waited two days then someone desperate to drink, cook and wash, quietly cut the four inch pipe linking yard pipes to the Agricola well. At first no water flowed, then gradually trickles started appearing. Grateful, thousands of people now daily trek miles to full bucket by bucket of the precious commodity.

Andrews, whose husband died last year of illness, says she despairs about the future of her six children. On Tuesday, at 11:00, she had not yet cooked a meal for them for the day.

Gail and her children spend hours at the water hole, their faces sweaty, their bodies tired, working hard to fill four buckets, two fetching less than half a gallon of water per trip.

The water hole was two feet deep and her son stood knee-deep in muddy water, holding down a bucket under the mouth of the severed pipe. The rim of the bucket barely floated above the muddy water surface and the little boy was a picture of concentration as he manipulated the bucket under the pipe.

The painful process of collecting scarce water is upsetting Andrews, but she is resigned. Warily, tiredly, she has given up trying to make a success of her life.

• From: *Stabroek News*, April 14, 1991.

• Edited from: *Panoscope* No.14, September, 1989.

CALL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

St. George's Grenada - The people of Grenada have been told to get serious about preserving and protecting the environment.

The message was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture Ben Jones when he delivered the feature address last Sunday as Grenada observed World Food Day celebrations in Grand E'tang.

Jones articulated very enthusiastically the need for "all of us no matter of age or profession to get involved in this nationally important matter of keeping our environment a place for us to live comfortably."

The Minister in his address outlined government's concern about some people's lack of concern with littering and polluting of rivers.

He noted that "when we destroy the environment we are creating suffering for our own selves."

"The food we eat and the fresh air that we breathe are all natural components tied to the environment, and if we destroy it, we may very well end up as beggars and with a polluted atmosphere our lives on earth will be shorter," he said.

The theme of the celebrations was **Food and the Environment** and Junior Minister Pauline Andrews lauded the committee responsible for planning the celebrations for their choice of Grand E'tang as the venue.

The government has been giving much attention to the Grand E'tang area and has established the surroundings as a natural park. Andrew also echoed repeated calls for the environment to be treated with great importance.

• From: *EC News*, October 20, 1989.

POLLUTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Chairman of the Agricultural Development Commission, Mr. Edward Cumberbatch, had some fearful things to say when he addressed the Barbados Museum and Historical Society on the environment of the island.

Misused modern technology can be an enemy when it abuses, destroys or pollutes the environment. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the USSR just over three years ago killed hundreds and maimed thousands, spreading nuclear radiation to western Europe and Scandinavia. We in the Caribbean can be affected because we buy meat, milk, butter and cheese from possibly polluted areas in western Europe.

Rich cattle farmers, poor peasants and landless persons can be another source of danger to our climate because every year they destroy by fire 20 million acres of virgin forest in the western states of Brazil. This has produced what is known as the Green House problem which has over-heated the atmosphere in many parts of the world. Scientists are of the opinion that, if this over-heating continues, the Polar Ice Caps could be melted. One result of that could well be the flooding of many coastal low lying towns in the Caribbean.

Barbados and other territories in the Caribbean are threatened by the ever expanding Sahara Desert which kills animals and causes starvation and displacement of countless African people. No one can accurately forecast what effect the Sahara dust storms, which blow across the Atlantic every year, will have on the people of the Caribbean.

It is sad to relate that every year 15 acres of land is lost to agriculture in

the Scotland District in Barbados. Areas which once grew canes are now noted for gullies which go to a depth of 100 feet. Land slips are common, roads and bridges are destroyed and villagers have to be moved to safer ground. The cost of all this to Government and the people, who have to pay for it, can well be imagined.

Nor does this complete the picture of damage to our environment. The 6,000 such wells, which used to supply water for all, are no longer cleaned out with the regularity of former years. Not a few of them are now used as dumps for dead animals. The danger we face from pollution can scarcely be exaggerated.

To make matters worse, Barbadians are discharging garbage in all areas of the country - a practice which breeds rats and flies and inevitably endangers our health.

Some farmers are causing soil erosion through misuse of land. If this continues, future generations will be left with a heritage of eroded parched land on which crops and vegetation cannot grow.

To all of these practices and hazards must be added the burning of sugar cane fields year after year, resulting in the loss of foreign exchange and the destruction of houses and woodlots.

Mr. Cumberbatch's address was a comprehensive review of the dangers that threaten our environment. It is gratifying that it gave rise to many questions and a fruitful discussion.

• From: *The Advocate*, October 19, 1989.

Swiss multinational Ciba-Geigy paid six Egyptian children ten dollars in 1976 to stand unprotected in a field while a plane sprayed them with the pesticide Galecron at a height of five meters. In explaining the action, Ciba-Geigy's Public Affairs Director said, "We don't compare Egyptian children to European children" and so, "Under the social situation, it was understandable."

This was not the first time that Ciba-Geigy used human subjects to "test" agrochemicals in developing countries. Over the course of four days in 1975, Ciba-Geigy sprayed 40 Indian volunteers between the ages of 13 and 57 with the highly hazardous pesticide Nuvacron.

• From: *World Education Reports*, April 1991.

KIDS PAYING THE PRICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DECAY

Environmental degradation is killing children.

It is killing them in their millions, mostly the children of the poorest parents in the poorest countries, according to a UNEP-UNICEF report, "State of the Environment 1990", on children and the environment.

Deforestation and desertification cut food production and increase children's malnutrition. Pollution of water and air affect children more severely than adults. Respiratory infections kill 4.2 million children under the age of five in the developing world each year.

In the industrialized countries, the main environmental causes of death and disability among children are exposure to various forms of pollution

and, to hazardous chemicals in the environment.

Ozone depletion and atmospheric pollution leading to climate change threaten a legacy of health hazards and hardships for all children, alive and yet unborn.

Some 14 million children under the age of five in developing nations die every day of a lack of safe drinking water, poor sanitation, environmental pollution, common diseases and malnutrition, and a further three million are seriously disabled.

Some 10 million of these deaths could now be prevented at low cost and by better management of the environment.

• From: *Advocate*, October 5, 1990.

ELIZABETH BRAVO: SAVING THE MANGROVES IN ECUADOR

Elizabeth Bravo is the President of Accion Ecologica, an environmental organization in Quito, Ecuador. She is presently trying to save the mangroves which are threatened by the expanding shrimp farming industry. She writes "the campaign that we are carrying on in the mangroves is of great relevance for women. They have been affected more than men by the destruction of this ecosystem, since they make their life from capturing shell-fish within the mangroves."

From the beginning of the seventies, the traditional (fishing) sector has been threatened by the business of shrimp ponds. This industry began on salt-bed pampas. With increasing profits, it took over agricultural land and finally the mangroves.

"The mangrove forest is one of the most important ecosystems in the tropics due to its complexity and the role it plays in the environment such as retaining sediments from rivers, preventing the sea from eroding the land, and allowing the life of an important number of species which are part of the diet of people living in the surroundings of the mangroves.

Moreover, most of the marine species of economical value pass part of their life cycle in the mangroves. Mangroves are also important in stopping salty winds coming from the sea. Due to the destruction of the mangrove in 1982, 80,000 hectares of first class agricultural land became saline because the salty winds were not filtered.

One of the biggest impacts of the shrimp farming is on the natural population of the shrimp larva since they pass a critical life stage in the mangroves. Due to the mangrove destruction the shrimp populations have decreased dramatically.

In 1986, mangroves in Ecuador were declared as reserves but the government has violated the law and nothing has been done to stop their continuous destruction. In order to save the remaining mangroves the Union of Traditional Fishing Cooperatives of the Province of Esmeraldas is struggling for the right to the mangroves so that they can manage it in a sustainable and ecological way as they have done for centuries.

Elizabeth Bravo

• From: *WorldWide News*, July - August 1990.

ENVIRONMENT CAUTION FOR BAUXITE FIRMS

Kingston, Jamaica - The Jamaica government is urging bauxite companies operating here to pay more attention to the environment, including the health and safety of people living near the plants.

The call came from Minister of Mining and Energy, Hugh Small. He said that although he was encouraged by some of the attempts to correct the problems affecting residents who live near the bauxite plants, he was still appealing to all operators to give special attention to the protection of the environment.

"As good corporate citizens you must minimise, as far as is technologically possible, the deleterious effects that a mining operation normally has on the environment," Small said as he addressed the annual national mineral industry safety awards function.

Residents living near to these bauxite/alumina plants frequently complain about effluent from the plants, dust and noise from the mines.

The minister praised the ALCAN Jamaica company for introducing the dry mud stacking method at its works in central Jamaica and called on scientists and researchers in the industry to devise ways to protect the environment.

• From: *The Nation*, November 13, 1989.

It May Be Small But It's All We've Got

It seems obvious, but the way that some people treat the world, you would think there is somewhere else to go once the earth's resources have been exhausted.

You know there isn't. Our small planet is being ravaged and its limited resources are fast disappearing.

Deforestation and the depletion of the ozone layer are just two major problems we are facing; there are countless others.

• From: *Time* March 11, 1991

SAVE THE RAIN FORESTS - ONLY WITH WOMEN'S HELP

Ask a field scientist who has spent the last few decades working in tropical rain forests to name the most visible obstacle to conservation, and the answer is likely to be rapid population growth.

One billion people will be added to the present global population of 5.3 billion during the 1990s. Much of this growth will be driven by poverty and the low status of women.

But there is hope. Conservation strategies that improve women's status may supply the long-sought link between stabilizing local populations and conserving threatened ecosystems.

Aware that thousands of acres of tropical forest go up in smoke for every acre protected, conservationists and economists are turning to the marketplace to capture the value of species-rich forests without destroying them. Small businesses based on products harvested sustainably from healthy forests can also hasten the economic empowerment of women, raise their status, and lower birth rates.

The United Nations sponsored World Fertility Survey, carried out in more than 50 countries, showed conclusively that women who work for wages have smaller families. When women have economic viability, they exert greater control over their reproductive lives, family size shrinks and population growth slows. Equally important, low fertility frees women from the physical and emotional demands of numerous pregnancies and provides the opportunity to focus on broader dimensions of family well being.

This pattern is starting to unfold in the tropical forests of northern Guatemala. Leaves from a palm known locally as shate are gathered and exported from forests in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a 3.9 million acre multiple-use zone designated by the government of Guatemala last January

and now the latest "protected" rain forest north of the Amazon Basin.

Far from being an insignificant activity, the trade in palm leaves and other non-timber forest products brings more than \$7 million in foreign exchange in Guatemala each year. And women play a central part in supplying the palm leaves to regional and international markets.

If women benefit, as they have in Guatemala, the likely outcome is lower birth-rates and reduced population pressure.

The inseparable link between conservation and population stabilization is being forged in a few such places around the world. In Colombia's Sierra Nevada, for example, an innovative conservation programme is studying population growth and has established rural clinics that provide primary health care and birth control.

In Thailand, conservationists have helped secure a national park by working with communities on its borders, developing women's cooperatives and supporting family planning.

Conservationists know that population growth can undermine efforts to protect wild ecosystems. But few have known how to address the roots of women's childbearing decisions. The new economics of biodiversity requires innovative approaches that combat poverty as well as environmental destruction.

If women are architects, participants, and beneficiaries, this conservation-based empowerment can accelerate progress toward stabilizing populations and improving the quality of life while conserving our most threatened ecosystems.

Kathrin Cameron Porter

• From: *WorldWide News*,
January - February 1991

POOR COUNTRIES' CHOICES AFFECT THEIR ENVIRONMENT

In their desperation to survive poor countries make choices that adversely affect the environment, according to Assistant Director of Pan American Health Organisation, Sir George Alleyne.

..."We must recognise that some of the development choices which impact negatively on the environment are made by these poor countries because of the absolute imperative to survive..." he said.

Sir George pointed out that the decisions were not always made in total ignorance of the dangers or lack of concern for generations to come.

He said that the issue has even been raised to the level of ethical behaviour which was the "ethical principle of the greatest good for the greatest number of people should dictate the application of environmentally sound development policies."

However there were other persuasive arguments coming from economists, he said, who see an advantage in adopting policies for economic growth which are ecologically sound and which did not overlook the environmental impact.

Sir George said that there were problems of local pollution and environmental deterioration which directly affected the Caribbean other than nuclear war, loss of vegetable and animal species through habitat destruction and the effect of man-made gases.

Such problems cause serious pollution in the coastal and marine environment and free disposal of industrial waste and sewage are destroying important marine ecosystems, he said.

"The rate of increase of solid waste is such that this civilisation runs the risk of being buried in it," he said.

• From: *The Advocate*,
Tuesday September 18, 1990

NEWSLINE

The Third World Women's group Development Alternatives with Women in a New Era (DAWN) will be hosting a Steering Committee meeting in Barbados from May 20 - 24. One of the major themes of the meeting will be Women and the Environment.

WOMEN TAKE A STAND ON SAND

Women are leading the fight against profiteering sand excavators who are damaging the environment to supply Nairobi's booming construction industry.

Sand traders in Machakos district buy permits - which provide about half of the local council's revenue - entitling them to take as much sand as they can transport from designated sites. Fleets of ten-tonne trucks have been ferrying the sand to the capital by day and night.

While the traders and the council make some quick money, the local community - and particularly women - pay the real cost of the operation. In some areas severe erosion caused by the large-scale removal of sand has led to water shortages.

These have increased the burden on women who are forced to walk long distances to fetch water - sometimes up to eight kilometres a day - or to dig holes in dry river-beds in an effort to reach the water table.

"The women benefit little from the trade" says Charity Kabutha, former senior education officer with the government's National Environmental Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. "They know that even if they were to be paid for the sand, the income would hardly compensate for the loss in terms of water."

Kabutha points out that it is mostly the local women who build makeshift dams using stones, branches and sisal to check the rapid run-off of rain from the sandy soil into the river.

Their efforts to retain water supplies are undermined by excavators who remove the sand that builds up behind the barriers.

Further damage is caused by the trucks which make up to four trips a day, damaging vegetation and compacting the soil, making it less permeable to water. The result is lower crop yields from the land bordering the

river. With many men working away from home, this makes it harder for the local women to make ends meet.

Controls have proved only partially effective. "Sand scoopers think that since they own a permit they own sand wherever they find it and trespass on other people's land to collect it," says Julius Mwinde, an ecologist with the National Environment Secretariat.

Laws have been passed allowing sand excavation only during daylight hours in an attempt to prevent excavators trespassing on undesignated land by cover of night. Even so, night excavating continues.

Rose Mueni, a local farmer, was recently awoken at night and found four men digging the sandy river-bed beside her home, their lorry parked on her maize and beans patch. Though she alerted the nearest police station, 13 kilometers away, only one digger was arrested and subsequently jailed, the other three escaping.

To cut costs and maximise profits, some drivers fetch sand from the nearest convenient spot instead of travelling to the sites allocated by the council. They often drive recklessly, causing accidents and damaging roads. But the women are fighting back, often through "mwethya" or self-help groups of which there are more than 27,000 in Kenya.

As well as implementing conservation measures to stop water run-off, they build trenches to stop the lorries driving onto their farms or along undesignated routes. Vigilante groups are organised against the intruders.

The local community enjoys little backing from the local police - Rose Mueni was lucky in having even one of the diggers arrested.

In the meantime, the people of Machakos continue to suffer the side effects of rapid development in the capital.

Winne Ogana

• From: *Panoscope* Nov. 1990, No. 21

WOMEN'S WALK

The vanishing trees are exacting a heavy price from the women in the Tabora-Urambo tobacco zone of Tanzania. According to tradition, it is they who have to fetch water and collect firewood. Both commodities are now more difficult to obtain.

In the dry season Amina Sungura must walk up to 10 km from her village of Imalamakoye in the district of Urambo to fetch water. Sometimes the water is so scarce that the family spends days, even weeks, without bathing or washing their clothes. It was not always like that.

"When we first settled here, there were plenty of trees and scrubs, and the water was abundant," she says. "Now even the spring has dried out."

Monica Kasiga, a widow and the sole breadwinner for the family, spends an average of four hours, two and a half days a week, fetching firewood. When the wood gets scarce and the competition intense, it might take her up to six hours. This makes a yearly average of between 520 and 780 hours collecting firewood.

"Something must be done to alleviate the women's load," Monica Kasiga says.

In severe cases people turn to burning twigs, leaves, crop residues and even animal dung, thus diverting precious organic matter that should go to fertilise the land and smother weeds.

Soaring fuelwood prices mean that only the better off can afford to buy what they need for curing tobacco and cooking. The rest have to content themselves with walking further and further to collect the vital element.

• From: *Panoscope*, 22 January 1991

About 1/2 million migrants move to Mexico City each year, worsening already chronic environmental problems. This is an example of what might happen to other cities in the underdeveloped world if their rapid growth is not checked.



TABOOS DIE HARD - KENYA

In keeping with tradition, most trees in the district are grown by men who plant the seedling, and protect it using thorns. After that, women and children care for the seedlings. Unmarried women or widows ask boys or young men to plant trees, at times even paying for their labour. The reason, explain 81-year old Ketura, is the traditional belief that women who plant trees become barren.

In some areas of Kakamega, it is feared that if a woman plants a tree her husband will die. Since a widow's life is miserable, Ketura says, no woman dares to take action that may threaten her husband's life.

It is also believed that if a woman plants or cuts down a tree, she will be directly challenging her husbands' supremacy in the household, which could lead to divorce.

After some thought, Ketura says these traditions are slowly beginning to change. More so among younger women who are more progressive.

Take her daughter Eunice for example, who grew her first jacaranda tree on the farm in the 1960s. Now in her 40s, she has six children, and represents a small but growing number of women who are beginning to grow trees in Kakamega without fearing the consequences.

Winnie Oganda, Kenya

• From: *Panoscope*, 19 July 1990

MARNY THE MUTANT

If we refuse to stop polluting our environment, shall we, as a species, simply adapt to it? What monstrosity will result if we adapt to abnormal conditions?

Jakartans had a foretaste of this recently over breakfast. The Indonesian newspaper, Kompas, drew its own portrait of the likely appearance of readers' great-great-great granddaughters. Her name was Marny and she looked pretty - pretty peculiar.

"This girl can no longer cry or laugh. Because of pollution for hundreds of years, her face has changed naturally," Asiaweek reported.

She has "a snout like a tapir, a huge proboscis bushy with nostril hair ... overhanging a tubular mouth. Her lungs and rib cage are grotesquely distended, the better to extract meagre oxygen from the air. Like a fashion model, her naked form strides daintily across the page on cloven hooves."

Alarmed citizens had to be assured by Environment Minister Emil Salim that this privately sponsored advertisement was only fantasy. But the

scare reminded people that Jakarta is among the 15 dustiest cities among 60 surveyed by the World Health Organization.



Marny the Mutant ... an artist impression for *Panoscope*

• From: *Panoscope*, 15 November, 1989

Water is both underpriced and undervalued. As a result, people waste water in every country of the world.

DAISY OFFERS HERBS TO COMBAT ILLNESS

At a time when Barbadians have strayed from traditional methods of doing things, Daisy Bynoe is trying to make them realise the good of the past.

The elderly woman goes in search of bushes used not so long ago to cure ailments. Daisy, a vendor, maintains that her medicine is among the best there is and sometimes reigns supreme when compared to others.

From dusk 'til dawn the elderly Daisy Bynoe is on the road.

She is no ordinary senior citizen. She is one with a mission.

A mission to purge this society ...literally.

From the age of eight, Daisy has known no other life but that of combing the hills and valleys in search of the age-old remedies with the use of bush.

This means that the almost 80-year-old woman must wake up before dawn to make her way into the heart of Bridgetown to sell her herbs. That may seem a rather small feat but consideration must be given to the fact that Daisy left home during the night to search for her special remedies.

Daisy is usually out all night seeking bushes such as Circe, Bay leaf, Yellow Sage, Hoarhound, Worm Bush,

Lemon Grass and many other "wonder drugs".

With her treasures in hand, she then makes her way home.

Of her many ventures out at night, Daisy said that the bush was not easily obtainable and that one had to go deep into the woods where only monkeys roamed to get them.

Her customers can either get the green bush to take home and dry out themselves or they can buy the bush already dried out.

• From: *Sunday Advocate*, April 21, 1991.



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