

WOMAN

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Struggle

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BROTHERSTROM: CHANGING THE WEATHER?

Men carrying placards reading, "Stop rape" and "Men: A change is coming" took to the streets of St. Louis, Missouri this summer. The march by Brotherstorm, an organization of men which takes political actions to protest men's violence against women, was one of several events held in other parts of the USA and in London, England. In male initiated rallies speakers have challenged the macho image which perpetuates violence in society.

Generated from a 3-day Tenth National Conference on Men and Masculinity held in St. Louis, (co-sponsored by the St. Louis Organization for Changing Men and the National Organization for Changing Men) the Brotherstorm march was planned by men who counsel men who are violent against women. The Conference itself was attended by 400 men and 80 women.

New Directions for Women

September/October 1985

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

West German feminists and the opposition Social Democratic Party was waging a campaign to persuade the government to crack down on the importing of women and children from developing countries for sexual purposes.

Agencies run advertisements in weeklies throughout Western Europe offering "affectionate Latin American women for marriage - trial period and right to return guaranteed". They also offer men tourist trips to developing countries, which include a hotel and a female - sometimes girls under 10 years old. The men can select the woman or child through a catalogue which provides photos and "vital statistics".

Herizons Vol.3 No.6 September 1985

CHILD'S PLAY

A nine year old Californian, Michelle Alexander has created a board game called "Give Peace A Chance". Michelle developed the game, whose object is world peace, for a class project at her school.

Players representing the U.S. or the Soviet Union, forfeit important points if they reject a compromise in arms race negotiations. But they can pick up points if they take such steps as sharing an invention that benefits both countries.

In her paper explaining her project. Michelle wrote. "I invented this game to stop war. The object is to get the most points, hopefully by compromising and making your country a nuclear-free zone. This means the children of the world will be able to grow up."

Har Say quoted in Herizons Vol.3 No.6

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OFFICES TO MAKE SPACE FOR KIDS

The city of San Francisco, California, U.S.A has passed into law, a policy requiring developers of new office buildings to provide on site child care facilities or contribute to a city-wide child care fund.

The supervisor of the city board, who sponsored the San Francisco child care measure, said she hopes the program will serve as a model for other cities. "While this measure alone will not solve all our city's shortage of child care services, its passage signifies an important commitment by the City to address child care needs for San Francisco residents and workers." The new child care fund will come from a \$1-per-square-foot levy paid by developers on new or rehabilitated office space of 50,000 square feet or more. Developers can also opt to build a child care facility instead of paying the fees.

Plexus Vol.XII No.8 October 1985

FARMERS CONFERENCE

A three day conference on women and food production held in Ontario, Canada recently revealed that women farmworkers in both developed and developing countries experience certain similar problems. Workshop sessions noted common problems to be: recognition and payment, access to land and capital, and long working hours. A Canadian survey has shown that women farmworkers have on average a 82.5 hour week.

Organized by the women's committee of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, the conference heard speakers stress the role of women in the conservation of plant varieties. One participant from a village in Zimbabwe which is experiencing food shortages noted that whereas farmers in the area once cultivated six varieties of cereal, five legumes and 30 types of vegetables they now grow only maize, one legume and two or three kinds of vegetables. Women were addressing the problem by putting pressure on the men to use traditional types of seed and said they would cook only indigenous food.

The conference also marked the role of women in developing understanding and solidarity between food producers and consumers, and urged the education of consumers about who controls food production from farm inputs to processing, packaging and marketing.

Development Forum Vol.XIII No.8

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VIRGIN DEATH

Pope Jean Paul II recently beatified Africa's first woman martyr, a 23 year old nun who was killed in 1964 trying to protect her virginity and save her Mother Superior from attackers during the civil war in the Belgian Congo. The Pope said he forgave "with all my heart" the man (now reportedly a Christian convert) who hacked the young woman to death 21 years ago.

Har Say in Plexus Vol.XII No.7

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