

CA7RA
NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF FEMINIST RESEARCH AND ACTION
VOL 8 NO 4 OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1994



FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN



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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Contents

Editorial

Letters to the Editor

CONFERENCE REPORTS:

Framing the word

Development strategies and NGOs

THE BEIJING CORNER:

Beijing Regional Coordinator addresses conference

Caribbean NGOs speak out at Mar del Plata

The Mar del Plata Experience - a commentary

The Beijing process to date

A youth's perspective on Mar del Plata

Youth caucus - resolution

The Follow-up Meeting in Chile

Five-minuters on women's lives

NGO forum on women - Beijing '95

Move for more black women at Beijing conference

Le Mirage? - Prostitution in Curacao

The Caribbean People's Assembly

Avenging the women of Haiti

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:

Women in alternative condom distribution strategy

'Good response' to Norplant

Mona Campus has sexual harassment guidelines

Strip-searching of Guyanese women

Certificate course for domestic engineers

Women against crime

Cuban women on the frontline

Annual campaign for the decriminalisation

of abortion in Latin America

Illegal abortions among young girls

CAFRA SECRETARIAT NEWS

Phillipine women draft rape bill

India bans sex pre-selection

ADVERTISEMENT

Women's bookclub launched

CONFERENCES

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

COURSES

ON THE BOOKSHELF

1

1

3

3

4

5

6

7

8

8

9

9

9

10

11

13

14

15

17

18

20

20

20

21

21

23

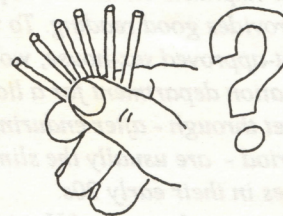
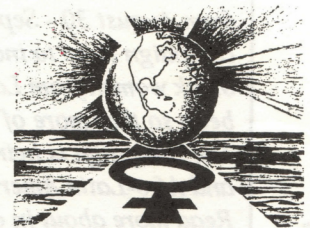
25

27

28

28

30



Editorial

This issue of CAFRA NEWS offers a wide variety of information and perspectives on matters of great concern to Caribbean women. But, by far, the main focus of our attention is the upcoming UN International Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, in September 1995. As the Caribbean NGO focal point, CAFRA continues to play an integral role in sensitizing the region to the issues of major significance. As such, this CAFRA NEWS issue carries quite a bit of information on several preparatory meetings to date in which CAFRA has been involved.

The NGO Forum will take place in Beijing from August 30 - September 8, 1995, and a campaign is on to increase the representation of black women from Latin America and the Caribbean so that more of their voices can be heard. The campaign is being led by the Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Women's Network. Read more about in our special pull-out on the Beijing Conference.

The question of prostitution in the Caribbean with special emphasis on what is happening in Curacao provides good reading. To work at the government-approved sex-house, women apply to the immigration department for a licence. Those 'lucky' to get through - after enduring a long waiting period - are usually the slim built, light-skinned ones in their early 20s.

The beleaguered nation of Haiti continues to be in the spotlight as President Jean Bertrand Aristide, after three years of exile, gets ready to hand over the mantle of leadership. In this issue of CAFRA NEWS, human rights advocates call for the creation of a Truth Commission "to properly deal with the rape and murder (in Haiti) ... when the rule of law was callously mocked."

We also wish to express our gratitude for the copy editing work done on this newsletter by Kiimi Salaam, an American graduate student, during her five-week internship with the CAFRA secretariat.

In sisterhood
Avian Joseph

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear CAFRA NEWS,

In connection with the last issue, I wanted to express appreciation for the article on the ordination of the first two female Anglican deacons in Barbados. However, I feel it would be interesting for readers to know that Rev Ms Sonia Hinds is an active CAFRA member. All the best for 1995!



Dianne Cummins

Dear Sisters,

I have constantly received, though sometimes quite late, CAFRA NEWS. You can't imagine the readiness, motivation, excitement and contentment to read these news, hear about all these activities, to know that so much has been done and is currently being undertaken by all our sisters here and there. I can tell you that I feel almost dependent on your newsletter.

As your representative in French Guiana, I want to work as a go-between or active link between CAFRA and Guianese women, individuals or members of women's organizations.

Among the women's associations working for real social, political and cultural change and attempting to build a new image of Guianese women, is "Femmes en Devenir," established in France and Guiana, and headed by one of my sisters, Sara Briolin. My main idea is to have a communication unit here, in Cayenne, for conferences, panel discussions or exchanges with members of CAFRA.

In sisterhood
Yours faithfully
Eugenie Rezaire, French Guiana

(cont'd on page 2)

LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

(cont'd from page 1)

Dear CAFRA,

Recently re-installed in Trinidad, it has been so good to see CAFRA regularly on the daily newspapers. Wow, we seem to be making some impact!

Sonia Cuales

UNECLAC Office

Dear CAFRA,

I believe that the smaller islands of the Caribbean are frequently overlooked and left out of projects sponsored by regional organizations such as CAFRA. A case in point - the recent Gender and Youth workshop held in Trinidad to which I believe no representative from the British Virgin Islands was invited despite the fact that we have many vibrant youth organizations empowered to speak on issues of territorial importance.

Though we have women farmers, we were not asked to take part in the Women in Agriculture project; though we have poets and writers, we have not been asked to participate in CAFRA-sponsored literary workshops, etc. CAFRA meetings are held and we find out afterward. I still don't know what the CAFRA proposal at the Curacao meeting was all about.

Our invisibility and marginalization are, of course, not exclusive to CAFRA, I read Nesha Hanniff's "Lives of Women" and wonder if the title shouldn't have read "Lives of Women from Certain Caribbean Countries." Except for Montserrat, none of the English-speaking Caribbean Dependent Territories are included (neither was the Bahamas). While these exclusions can serve to inspire us to produce our own material they also seem to work to reinforce the big island/small island dichotomy and to render us and our activities invisible.

I have communicated some of these concerns in past letters to CAFRA and mentioned the type of projects which CAFRA could organize and which I think would be of benefit to women in the Virgin Islands. Nothing has come out of these. I would like to know that my concerns are noted and addressed, otherwise I must question CAFRA's usefulness to me and the women of this territory.

Sincerely

Nina O'Neal

Women's Desk Office of the Chief Minister

Tortola, BVI

**"BELLY
WOMAN"**

is one of the
colourful char-
acters in the
traditional
Jamaican
Jonkunnu
Band.

Jonkunnu is a blend of our European and African heritage.

Belly Woman decries the sexual exploitation of our women during slavery. The white mask ridicules those women who accepted the situation in exchange for the status of the Great House.

FRAMING THE WORD

The two-day conference which took place at Goldsmith's Caribbean Centre, University of

London, from July 1-2, 1994, provided an opportunity for students reading Caribbean Literature to meet with and discuss the work of Caribbean women writers.

Interestingly, **Creation Fire: A CAFRA Anthology of Caribbean Women's Poetry** is one of the six major texts for the undergraduate course at Goldsmith's. During the conference, participants were told that the **History of Mary Prince Related by Herself** (1831) was the first literary work by an Anglophone Caribbean woman writer; the first attempt in "framing the word."

Unlike Cuban writers, there was a significant gap in fiction recorded by women in the English-speaking Caribbean between 1831

and the beginning of the 20th century. It was not until the 1970s and 80s that women writers began to gain recognition. That the first

Caribbean Women Writers Conference took place in 1988, 157 years after Mary Prince, underscores the voicelessness of the literary expressions of black Caribbean women writers.

Since the word was framed by men and the first "framers" were white males followed by white females, then by black males and

finally black females, it is not surprising that writing, for centuries, has been male-centered. Women, when they began to "frame the word," were greatly influenced by men's voices. Of the women in Anglophone Caribbean writing in the 1950s, Jamaican Louise Bennett was able to establish a distinctive woman's voice - a voice that spoke of female oppres-

sion and female sensitivity.

Guyanese-born Janice Shinebourne looked at ways to give voice and visibility to Asian women in Caribbean women's literature. Even as Afro/Anglo-Caribbean writers were gaining visibility in the 1970s and 80s, there was little or no literature written by Indo-Caribbean women. The depiction of Indo-Caribbean characters in the fiction of Roy Heath, Ian Mc Donald and VS Naipaul and in the lyrics of calypsonians underscores Shinebourne's claim to negative stereotyping.

Conrad James, a Caribbean post-graduate student at Goldsmith's College, dealt with changing patterns in black Cuban women writers. Their writing appeared to be less influenced by men. They were writing from the inside, revealing inner thoughts, feelings of love and resistance.

This participant came away with a strong reminder that women in literature, as in other spheres of human endeavour, have had to wait backstage for a long time! Women writers, particularly Afro and Indo-Caribbean women, will have to continue to fight to maintain their on-stage visibility.

by Sybil Seaforth



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND NGOS

The 28 participants came from as far as Botswana and Belize to participate in the annual three-week development workers' course sponsored by CARIPEDA. Seven men were among the 28 participants who gathered in St John Vianney, Trinidad and Tobago, from July 10 -29, 1994, to complete

the course.

Course objectives included the creation of a higher level of specialist competence in basic areas of development work and the establishment of a networking structure for collective problem-solving at the regional level.

The first week looked at Development Strategies for the Caribbean and the role NGOs could play in that process. During the second week, participants had to present projects to a funding board. CAFRA's representative at the course, Tara Ramoutar, presented as her

(cont'd on page 10)

THE BEIJING CORNER

REGIONAL COORDINATOR ADDRESSES CONFERENCE

(excerpts of an address by Virginia Vargas, Regional Coordinator of Latin America and the Caribbean, at the regional conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mar del Plata, September 1994).

We have arrived at Mar del Plata after a long process of consultation, having compiled the experience accumulated by the women of Latin America and the Caribbean in the past 20 years. We note with concern that despite the significant battles we have won because of our capacity to organize and mobilize, we are still just beginning to build a world without discrimination against women.

The draft document (from the NGO Forum) expresses our concern about the impact of structural adjustment programmes and their inherent gender inequality, the threats to the real exercise of citizenship posed by restrictions on democracy together with our serious concern that violence against women is taking on epidemic proportions.

The worsening of poverty and the widening of the gap between rich and poor are the most visible effects of the application of structural adjustment programmes. These policies prevent most of the population - particularly women - from enjoying the benefits of development.

Moreover, our region is undergoing important changes in the area of equality, which are essentially

attributable to the efforts of the Latin American and Caribbean women's movement. I wish to stress this point because we, as NGOs and women's movements, have helped to set in motion our countries' transition to democracy. We were key forces in defeating dictatorships; now, we want to be key forces in consolidating democracy.

We therefore call on the representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean governments to coordinate and discuss with women in civil society action designed to promote effective political, legislative and cultural change, with their sights set on the coming millennium.

Likewise, the struggle against poverty, particularly the feminization of poverty, obliges us to enter into a pact in order to ensure that our governments translate their wish to combat poverty into political and budgetary action. Lastly, the struggle against violence, which is based on common sense, calls into question the very foundation of the power relationship between men and women. It is therefore urgent to call on men's sense of responsibility and prevail on them to move from being aggressors and victimizers of women to being vigilant and active partners in eliminating violence.



THE BEIJING CORNER

CAFRA

CARIBBEAN NGOS SPEAK OUT AT MAR DEL PLATA

(excerpts of an address by CAFRA Member Gemma Tang Nain on behalf of Caribbean NGOs at the regional conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mar del Plata, September 1994)

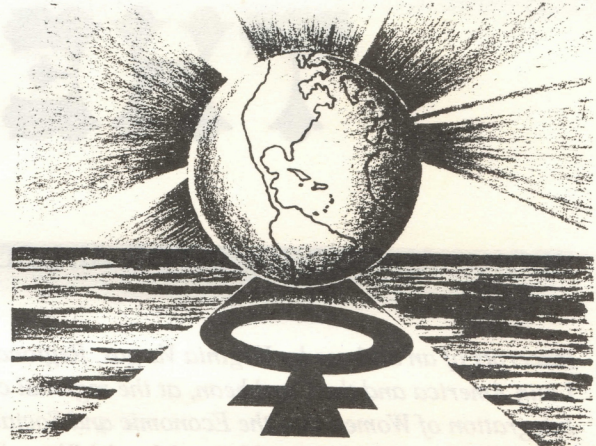
Gemma Tang Nain, CAFRA's Projects Coordinator, identified the following priority issues for Caribbean NGOs: poverty, education, health, inward and outward migration, trafficking in women, young women, political participation and power, violence against women, the environment, women in Non-Independent countries and Cuba and Haiti.

We are convinced that the present development model has produced the debt crisis. Structural adjustment programmes and environmental degradation continues to produce poverty and inequality between groups including nations, races, genders and classes. Within the model, women in particular are more likely to be poor as time spent doing unwaged work is time spent not earning. In addition, their participation in, and remuneration for, waged work are shaped by the lack of value ascribed to their unwaged work.

- **EDUCATION:** While in the post-colonial Caribbean, modernization and political independence have increased general access to education for both boys and girls, women's access to the full range of educational opportunities is restricted by a combination of differentiated curricula for girls and boys, sexist textbooks and traditional attitudes which perpetuate gender role stereotyping.

We propose that curricula be developed that are culturally and historically relevant and non-sexist.

- **HEALTH:** Among the health issues of critical concern to women in the Caribbean are: sexual and reproductive health; chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer and obesity; and geriatric



services given that women represent the majority of the elderly in our societies.

With regard to sexual and reproductive health, we strongly support the right of each woman to determine what happens to her body and to control her sexuality and fertility.

- **MIGRATION:** Two kinds of migration are characteristic of the Caribbean; the long and continuing migration of our people in search of jobs and training; and the more recent large scale migration resulting from militarism and war.

In spite of the benefits we derive from the first form of migration in terms of remittances and the building of transnational families, we also suffer a loss of skills. Moreover, the migration of individual adults often increases the burden of child care on the women left behind to care for the children of migrants and leads to family dislocation and the neglect of children.

Migration as a result of militarism and war is producing massive strains on our subregion, both for the countries from which migrants come and for those who receive them. We recommend that a humanitarian solution be sought for the migrants, in particular women and children.

- **YOUNG WOMEN:** They are among the most disempowered groups in our society. Their situation has been aggravated by structural adjustment policies. We propose that particular attention be paid to the needs, concerns and contributions of young women, to facilitate their fullest participation in all forms of decision-making.

(cont'd on page 6)

(Beijing Corner...cont'd from page 5)

● VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

We are of the view that structural adjustment programmes have exacerbated the gap between rich and poor which has led to increased interpersonal violence. This violence is gendered in that regardless of the gender of the victim, the perpetrator is usually male.

However, men and women tend to suffer from different forms of violence and in situations of increased violence, women, because of their subordinate position in society, tend to be the prime targets. Violence or the threat of it shapes the contours of every woman's life, confining where she goes and when; determining what she does; limiting her freedom of speech, movement and assembly; and undermining her sense of personhood and dignity.

THE MAR DEL PLATA EXPERIENCE - *a commentary*

Much has been said, but little has been written, by Caribbean delegates who attended the Regional NGO Forum and Official Inter-governmental meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from September 20-29, 1994.

As the days of August 1994 came to an end, and the September days kept hurrying along, we sometimes wondered whether we would reach Mar del Plata at all, given the lack of information and mis-information that surrounded the preparations, including visa and travel arrangements.

We arrived at the international airport in Buenos Aires and had to take a domestic flight or travel by land to Mar del Plata, with some of us being robbed in the process. While some were met at the airport in Mar del Plata, others were not, and no protocol was in place for arriving Ministers of Government. The chaos worsened on arrival at the Gran Provincial Hotel, a huge 19th century-looking structure, where several of us were told that no rooms were available in spite of reservations having been made. Picture Ministers of Government being turned away and having to be assisted by other delegates to take their

luggage to another hotel.

The content of the NGO Forum consisted of a pre-meeting; plenary session; three main panels on Structural Adjustment and Poverty, Violence Against Women, and Democracy and Citizenship; and several workshops. The official government meeting consisted of two main parts - the plenary and the working or drafting group. Individuals and groups also organised their own meetings and caucus sessions. The Caribbean delegation, being one such group, organized nightly meetings. This decision was a good one, for these sessions helped us to survive in an environment of confusion and alienation, especially for the

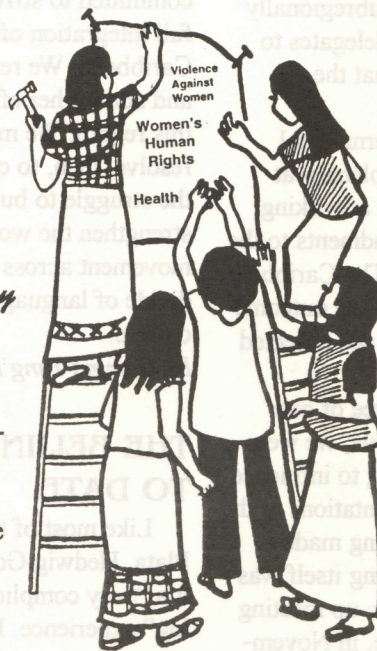
English-speakers who experienced what our Spanish-speaking sisters must often undergo in English-speaking settings.

The nightly Caribbean meetings also included the government delegates on two or three occasions. One night we met with Irene Santiago and Soon-Young Yoon of the NGO Secretariat in New York, during which we received an update on the preparations for Beijing.

In addition to serving as a forum for exchanging views and experiences among each other, these Caribbean sessions also focussed on how CAFRA's role as focal point could be further facilitated and it was out of these discussions that a decision was taken to form a Caribbean NGO Planning Committee. We

were also able to get half hour of air time each day on a radio programme, organised by FIRE (Feminist International Radio Endeavour). Our radio topics included the issue of Cuba and Haiti and that of the non-independent territories; violence against women; structural adjustment and poverty; and health issues affecting women.

The pre-meeting which took place in Buenos Aires on September 17 and 18, was expected to devise strategies for achieving consensus of the NGO position and for negotiating with the official meeting. Despite some difficulty in reaching consensus at this pre-meeting, there was some agreement, that the outcome of the panels and workshops would feed into



(cont'd on page 7)

(Beijing Corner...cont'd from page 6)

six commissions, organised to match the six headings outlined in the ECLAC document which the governmental meeting was due to address. The outcome of the commissions would then be taken to a plenary for achieving some sort of consensus among the delegates.

This was not to be however. While the conduct of the panels took place as planned, the process simply broke down afterwards. In the end, it was the failure of the methodology which led to the terrible feeling of alienation and disempowerment among the participants and which affected our ability to negotiate effectively as a unit at the official meeting. It appeared to make more sense to function subregionally through interaction with the Caribbean delegates to the governmental meeting, and this is what the Caribbean NGO delegation did.

After a brief opening plenary, the governmental meeting was divided into two groups, a plenary at which one could make presentations and a working group or drafting committee where amendments to the ECLAC document could be proposed. The Caribbean delegation was somewhat concerned that the outcome of its Curacao meeting (June 1994) was not reflected in the ECLAC document.

While the reality of a drafting committee of over 100 persons seemed illogical to some of us, we were faced with the choice of either attempting to influence that process or making/listening to presentations at the plenary, the outcome of the latter not being made clear. In the end, the governmental meeting itself was not able to complete its task and a follow-up meeting had to be re-convened in Santiago, Chile, in November 1994.

The experience in Argentina caused several of us from the Caribbean to again question the usefulness of having the Caribbean included in a region called Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, at one of our nightly Caribbean caucus sessions, someone called for a "unilateral declaration of independence" by the Caribbean.

Others cautioned that with the advent of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), such action would be a retrograde step, and that we women must accept the challenge of bridging the linguistic and cultural barriers between Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the very minimum, though, if the region is in fact Latin America and the Caribbean, professional

interpretation and translation services must be accorded top priority at such meetings. Of significance, too, is that greater efforts must be made to include Afro-Latin and Indigenous women in representations of Latin American women.

It must be acknowledged that the Regional Coordinator of the NGOs of Latin America and the Caribbean for the Beijing Conference, Virginia Vargas, remains committed to striving for full integration of the Caribbean. We respect and admire her efforts in this regard. We must resolve, then, to continue the struggle to build and strengthen the women's movement across the divide of language and culture.

by Gemma Tang Nain



THE BEIJING PROCESS TO DATE

Like most of the persons who travelled to Mar del Plata, Hedwig Goede, of ProHealth, Suriname, found it a "very complicated, expensive, long and exhausting" experience. For her, Curacao was closer to a true preparatory meeting. "It was not clear how the ideas of women at Mar del Plata will be brought to Beijing."

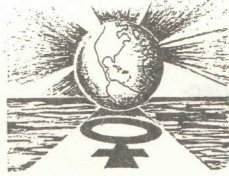
Goede was also very concerned about the role of grass root women at such conferences. "The way the conferences are organized do not leave enough room for true participation of these women. If you allow grass root women who lack conference experience and skills to participate, you must adjust your methods to them," she said.

She found the workshops at Curacao, around themes, provided an excellent way to work out ideas for the regional report. "However, while participatory methods were used, no true attention was paid to the dynamics of group processing," she said.

(cont'd on page 8)

(Beijing Corner...cont'd from page 7)

On another point, Goede said: "CAFRA was supposed to lead the meeting. It disturbed me that the leadership of CAFRA was constantly leaving the conference to meet in a selective group. CAFRA was concerned to get the CAFRA document done and lost interest in the process of the group of participants."



A YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE ON MAR DEL PLATA

The Mar del Plata meeting held quite a few pleasant surprises for me as a youth hailing from the Caribbean.

Apart from the NGO Forum and its activities which were conducted in Spanish, with few contributions in English, there was a fantastic Alternatives Forum which I attended. The workshops and panel discussions here were extremely interactive for all participants.

In these workshops, we dealt with everything from alternative forms of education, communication and health to sexuality, spirituality and attaining women's inherent power sources. The women participating had such a grasp of good feminist and gender ideals that the experience was a treat indeed. Apart from the information gleaned, I gained different approaches and what I consider progressive ways of accomplishing what could very well be a hard-to-reach consensus.

The young women attending the NGO meeting decided it was imperative that a good analysis of the situation of young people, particularly young women in the Caribbean and Latin American region be documented, specifically by young women. So we set about doing just that.

This meeting of minds and personalities of Latin American and Caribbean young women was another extraordinary exercise in feminist principles and so reassuring to know that so many of us are talented, committed and able to carry forward this movement for ourselves and those to follow.

As youth, we were concerned about the importance of young women's access to health care and information about their bodies, education and power structures, particularly access to policy and decision-making. Some 30 of us - NGO youth - met most

nights from 10 pm to 3 am, with the sole intention of producing a well thought out document that reflected young women's concerns and specific vulnerabilities.

In the midst of this, another activity was taking place. Under the auspices of Gertrude Mongella, UN Secretary General for the Beijing Conference, UNICEF and UNIFEM brought approximately 13 young people from the Caribbean and Latin America to Mar del Plata to look at the Platform of Action and point out areas where 'young women' could be placed in the document, alongside 'women' to ensure youth visibility in the document.

This process was not as creative, feminist or gender conscious as the other youth meetings. More than that, the very important differences between Caribbean and the Latin American youths were not in the least taken into account.

I would like to suggest that CAFRA liaises with the focal points for the UN conferences coming up and make sure the youth chosen to represent the Caribbean have a good gender grounding to make significant input into the processes.

At the inter-governmental talks - the Plenary and Drafting Committees - minor lobbying efforts were seen by the UN-sponsored Youth Caucus. However, quite a few of the NGO youth made significant efforts to highlight the areas in the documents and gained entry in both Plenary and Drafting Committees via Barbados' and Guyana's insistence and support.
by Michelle Cave, CAFRA Youth Representative

NGO YOUTH CAUCUS-Resolution

We agree that presenting alternative development models for human societies, is both necessary and timely.

- *It is imperative that we target our youth with strategies that have inspired many of our efforts ...the creative, spiritual and artistic components need to be explored as fundamental to our national education curricula.*
- *To facilitate the continued fuelling of our efforts as women, addressing the real and identified needs of our communities, we need to identify and locate this power and authority in us, not outside of us, and we must strategise to ensure that this knowledge is our children's.*
- *We need to define ourselves as women, composed*

(cont'd on page 9)

(Beijing Corner...cont'd from page 8)

of positive and vital qualities necessary to the progression of our people - analytical and intellectual ability, sexuality and spirituality.

- It is imperative that we create whole human beings that grow from within, with a view to developing leaders sensitive to issues we need to document; enforcing policies necessary to alleviate the ills that hamper sustainable development.
- These leaders of the future will be different from those of the present, because constructive views of power and authority, will be located internally and operated from a position of justice.

THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN CHILE

The Regional Coordinator of the NGOs for Latin America and the Caribbean, Virginia Vargas, and one representative from each of the six subregions were invited as observers to attend the 20th Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Gemma Tang Nain represented CAFRA and the Caribbean subregion at this meeting.

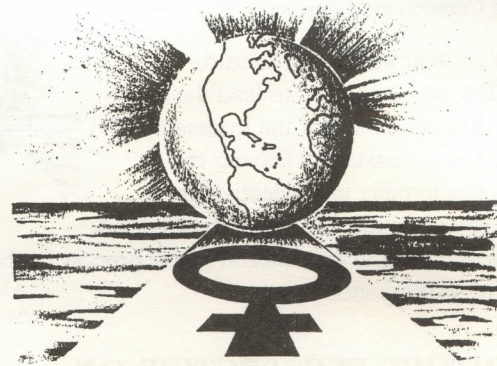
The agreements reached at Mar del Plata were taken as given and therefore it was not possible to reopen that document. The meeting was called to address the strategic actions which had not been finalised. The NGO delegation was satisfied that its proposals were accepted, by and large, by the official delegates.

"The exercise called for great ingenuity and creativity as we modified and shifted sentences to realise our objective" Gemma Tang Nain noted. Expectedly, some coherence and style had to be sacrificed but the important thing was to ensure that the language of the NGOs was included in the document.

Following the official meeting, the NGOs held two meetings, one to evaluate the NGO Forum in Argentina and one to strategise for the future, up to Beijing and beyond.

FIVE-MINUTERS ON WOMEN'S LIVES

A special feature of the Fourth World Conference of Women will be the presentation of a variety of



five-minute videos, filmed around the world, on the lives of women. The five minute project is an international co-production and was initiated at WACC's Women Empowering Communications Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, in February 1994.

Each five-minute video, which will make use of music, humour and folk tales from around the world, will be a complete unit in itself and 25 units are planned. The project which is being coordinated in Canada will make tapes available to women's groups and development organizations. Further information: Kristine Greenaway, The United Church of Canada, Division of Communication, 85 St Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4T 1M8.

NGO FORUM ON WOMEN - BEIJING '95

The NGO Forum at the Fourth World Conference on Women will take place from August 30 - September 8, 1995. A registration packet which includes information about the Forum, a registration form, visas and hotel rates is available. The registration fee for the Forum is \$50 USD per person.

The NGO Forum Secretariat encourages participants to seek funding from a variety of sources including government, embassies, private foundations and local resource centers. The Secretariat is sponsoring a project called "Send a Sister to Beijing" to raise funds for travel scholarships for women leaders from diverse sectors and experiences whose voices need to be heard at the Forum. They will be women who have never attended an international conference. For registration: NGO Forum on Women Office, Suite 1500, 211 East 43 Street, New York, NY 10017. For accreditation to official conference: 2 UN Plaza, Room 1204, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: (212) 963 - 3463.

(Beijing Corner...cont'd from page 9)

CARIBBEAN RADIO SERIES

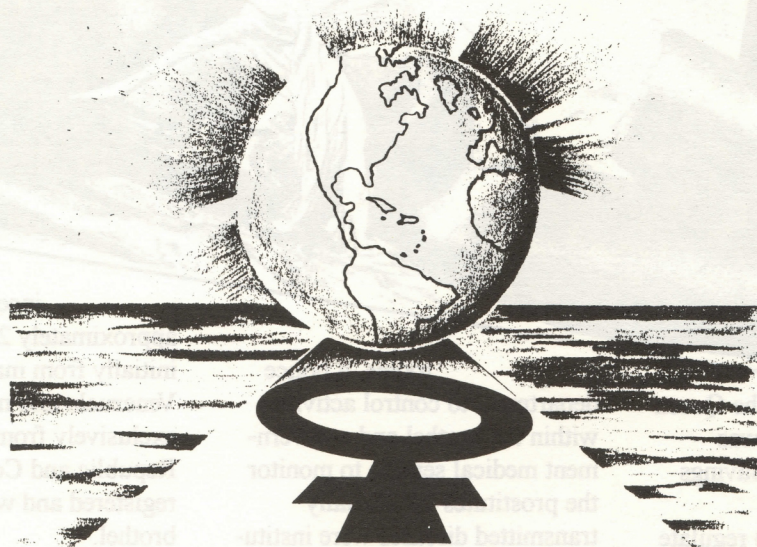
Homefront is the title of a new regional radio series exploring the status of men and women and the issues that affect them. It is part of the Public Education Programme in preparation for Beijing.

The 90 five-minuters which started in July are being produced by the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) in association with UNICEF, UNIFEM and the University of the West Indies Women and Development Unit (WAND). Taking into account our historical, social and economic background, Homefront will look at Caribbean Development in terms of human rights; legislation; violence; gender power relations; the family; migration; economic recession; and poverty. Once a month, listeners will have the chance to have their say on these issues in a one-hour regional CANA call-in programme. **Children in Focus (Apr - Jun 1994)**

MOVE FOR MORE BLACK WOMEN AT BEIJING CONFERENCE

Black women from Latin America and the Caribbean have initiated a campaign to have black women participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The signatories of a declaration issued by the Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Women's Network demand among other things that the protocol for the presentation of country reports be revised in such a way that reports include an ethnic and racial perspective underlining the socio-economic, political and legal situations of black women.

The Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Women's Network can be contacted at: Casimiro de Moya 104, Gazcue, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



(Development Strategies and NGOS...cont'd from page 3)

project, "Women in Politics."

The module for the final week was Evaluation as a Tool of Management. Participants were given guidelines and indicators on how to evaluate a project.

Tara sums up her attendance at the course this

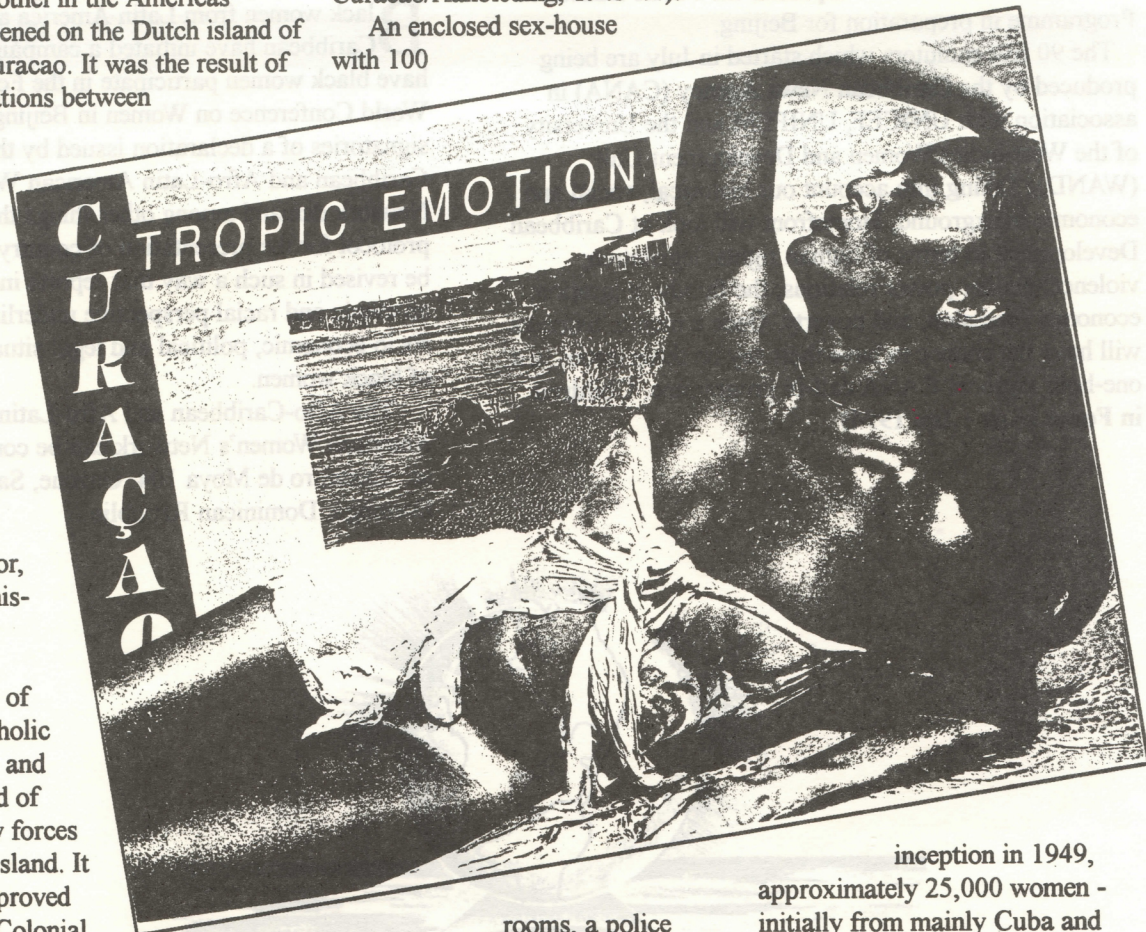
way: "As a worker in an NGO environment, I benefitted from interaction with both participants and facilitators. Some of the participants were development workers employed by NGOs which deal with projects in communities and had a great deal to share with the rest of us."

Le Mirage? - Prostitution in Curacao

In 1949, the largest single brothel in the Americas opened on the Dutch island of Curacao. It was the result of deliberations between

the Colonial Government of Curacao/Aanbieding, 1943-44). An enclosed sex-house with 100

hands of the Bakhuis family. Since its



the Chief Police Inspector, the Minister of Health, Fathers of the Catholic Church and the head of military forces on the island. It was approved by the Colonial Governor on behalf of the Queen of the Netherlands and was financed by the Dutch Savings Bank.

The rationale was to regulate prostitution on the island by catering to the sexual "needs" and demands of various single men - sailors, the US military, Dutch marines and migrant workers employed by the Royal Dutch Shell company - and to protect local womanhood from the "physical and psychological consequences of an evil" (Proposal to

rooms, a police department to control activities within the brothel and a government medical service to monitor the prostitutes for sexually transmitted diseases were institutionalized. Mr Bakhuis, a local businessman, was permitted to run the sex-house under a hotel license, and women from other Caribbean territories were recruited to work at the "hotel" for three months.

Christened "Campo Alegre" (The Happy Camp), the sex house still operates today under the name "Le Mirage" and is still in the

inception in 1949, approximately 25,000 women - initially from mainly Cuba and Venezuela and now almost exclusively from the Dominican Republic and Colombia - have registered and worked in the brothel.

They apply to the immigration department for permission to work at the hotel and the selection process is handled by a female administrator attached to the Vice and Morals Police Department. The women must attend weekly medical check-ups at a designated clinic and carry valid health certificates with them at all times.

(cont'd on page 12)

*(Prostitution in Curacao...
cont'd from page 11)*

They may return to the brothel again, after one year.

In 1993, approximately 250 applications came to the administrator's desk, each month, but only 35 - 40 made it through the selection process. About half of the final candidates had worked at Campo before. The women licensed to work at the brothel were generally in their early 20s, "light-skinned" (brown or mulatto) with silky or bleach-blond hair and slim built: the stereotypical image of the sensual, sexy Caribbean woman.

Use of the hotel and meals were also obtained at a cost. In 1993, prostitutes at Campo paid Netherlands Antilles Guilders (Nag) 50 per day for a cubicle with a bed and shared bathroom, Nag 13 per meal from the in-house restaurant, Nag 25 per week for the medical check and had to be on the compound between 6pm and 6am. Twice a week, a strip show would be held, drawing an audience of about 300 men. The women charged their clients anywhere from Nag 35 - 100 per trick; oral sex could be performed for Nag 25; anal sex was in great demand from the men but was more expensive or was refused by the women.

To cover their living expenses, the women had to have about two clients per night. The average was three - and on weekends around seven. One young woman interviewed said she would entertain up to 15 men a night.

Few of the women are full-time prostitutes. The majority incorporate a stint of sex work into their lives as domestic helps, factory workers, teachers, hucksters, traders, mothers and wives. Some

are hoodwinked into the work, and arrive in Curacao without being aware of what they have applied for. But an equal number of applicants know what the hotel is all about. In short, Curacao has a range of activities which exploit and profit from female sexual energies - several of which are supported and legitimized by the state. Small hotels are scattered around Willemstad, relying on the sexual labour of women who visit the island as tourists for two to three weeks. A couple of escort services also operate, offering female sexual services exclusively to tourists, "VIPs" and travelling businessmen. Curacao also has a substantial number of male prostitutes who cater mainly to male clients. They associate mainly in closed parties. Much more hidden, are the men who sell sex to women - mainly at the tourists resorts - working from beaches and bars. Another dimension to the sex trade in Curacao is

the development of a telephone sex line which in 1991 was available to callers in England, Sweden, Italy and Germany. Trafficking in Colombian cocaine is also linked to the sex trade. "Base" - a derivative of the cocaine, similar to crack, is widely smoked and users, particularly women, ranging from age 14 to 60, are selling sex for as low as Nag 5 in order to score a hit. According to policemen (the Chief as well as street patrol officers), there are about as many women working the streets and small hotels, selling sex to men, as there are in Campo at any given time. Just about half of the women are monitored by the police and department of health; the others work clandestinely. The majority are Latinas, commonly referred to as "Sandoms" - foreigners to the island. However, all are in extremely vulnerable positions. If documented and on the island with licenses to work at Campo, there

(cont'd on page 13)

Prostitution, Migration and Development

Essays, articles or reports are requested for a collection on sex work and prostitution in and from Third World countries. Of interest are writings which focus on prostitutes' experiences and definitions, but overviews of working conditions, laws and regulations, histories in a particular country, specific sexual arrangements and migration patterns are also welcome. Essays should not exceed 25 pages. A proposal - a working title and brief abstract of about 100 words - should be submitted to: Kamala Kempadoo, Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America, University of Colorado, Campus Box 339, Boulder, CO 80308 - 0339, USA. Tel (303) 492 - 4555; Fax (303) 492 - 7799. The anthology is being compiled in collaboration with Licia Brussa and Jo Doezema at the Mr A de Graaf Foundation for Research on Prostitution, in the Netherlands.

*(Prostitution in Curacao...
cont'd from page 12)*

are still few avenues for support in cases of conflict with clients, managers of the sex business or police. They also face isolation due to the hours they must work and the stigma surrounding women in sex work. As a result, they are forced to be dependent on middle-men for papers, application letters, permits, airline tickets, travel arrangements, accomodation, etc. There are also health risks. Clients bribe them to have sex without condoms thus increasing the exposure to HIV-infection, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Ironically, while prostitutes are continuously under government scrutiny, their clients are completely ignored. Calculations over the years have led to estimates of a minimum of 90,000 paying male visitors per year to Campo alone and 150,000 visits if the women are to make any profit. The figure would probably double if the clandestine trade was added. And although prostitution was initially legalized to cater to male visitors and migrants, in 1993, the majority of paying clients were Antillian and Caribbean men of all classes. Prostitution, one could safely argue, is firmly and securely embedded in the Dutch Antilles. It can hardly be called a "Mirage."

by Kamala Kempadoo

THE CARIBBEAN PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

The idea for a Caribbean Peoples' Assembly was initiated by the Trinidad and Tobago Oilfield Workers' Trade Union in 1991, against a background of intense implementation of structural adjustment policies in the region and the drastically declining standards of living.

CAFRA's selection as a member of the steering committee provided an opportunity for a regional feminist perspective to be brought to the deliberations of the Assembly. The Assembly's theme was "Towards a Peoples Agenda for the Sovereignty of the Region and the Welfare of our People."

The three-day programme was held from August 19 - 21, 1994, in Trinidad and Tobago. More than 200 persons attended with participants coming from 25 Caribbean countries, seven diaspora countries and 170 persons from outside the region. The non-English-speaking Caribbean was also well represented. Large delegations came from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Puerto Rico and Suriname. Caribbean youth also had a significant presence.

As part of the Steering Committee, CAFRA has an important role to play in the post-assembly process which includes report production and follow-up.

Here now is an excerpt from a

"Summing Up" on the Assembly by Michael Brown, ADA's delegate:-

Updates on developments in Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic were given special attention. A call for help from Caribbean people, for greater solidarity and collective effort by the region was made by the Haitian delegation.

The spokesperson from the Dominican Republic told of deterioration in basic services provided by government, indis-

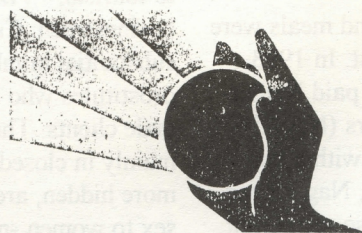
criminate exploitation of resources by foreign investors from Canada and USA as well as political inefficiencies which manifest them-

selves in widescale thuggery and fraud.

The Cuban delegation highlighted the US' increased aggression and the media's continued propaganda against Cuba. The delegation lamented the effects of the tightened embargo. They also expressed a strong sense of loyalty to the Cuban state.

Common problems explored by the assembly included Caribbean identity, integration and sovereignty; an appropriate development strategy for the region; education; youth; women and communication.

The large youth presence and meaningful participation was very noticeable at the assembly. They were very vocal in putting forward concerns affecting them, key among these being unemployment, the breakdown in family life and the declining state of education in the region today.



AVENGING THE WOMEN OF HAITI

Well within three weeks of his return home from exile as Haiti's popularly elected President, Jean Bertrand Aristide has a government functioning under his new Prime Minister, businessman Smarck Michel.

There are doubts and cynicism about the "rehabilitation" by the Americans of the Haitian military even as President Aristide and his Prime Minister settle down to a new style of good governance, facing, as they do, threatened dislocation with IMF-linked prescriptions to reduce the Haitian public service by half, or the dismissal of some 22,000 workers.

Prime Minister Michel's Minister of Women's Affairs - one of three new ministries in an 18-member cabinet - would find that there are no shortages of demands for immediate action to right the criminal wrongs against Haitian women over the three years of dictatorial military rule.

On the initiative of a coalition of Haitian women and human

rights groups based in the USA and working with organisations inside Haiti, an "urgent action" petition has already been filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the gross violations and degrading crimes, including gang rapes, committed against women of Haiti.

The cooperation of the Barbados-based human rights network, Caribbean Rights, and the Trinidad-headquartered Caribbean

Haitian human rights advocates have already urged the creation of a Truth Commission or some similar body that could properly deal with the murder, rape and other crimes victims suffered when the rule of law was callously mocked...

Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) has already been sought by the "coalition" for justice.

In their case, presented on September 26, to the Inter-American Commission, the coalition's petition outlined, in some 600

pages, the atrocities against women, among them pregnant women and women who had just given birth.

The document lodged with the Commission explains how rape was viciously used as a tool of political repression during the three years of the military dictatorship.

Haitian human rights advocates and their allies, in and out of the Caribbean region, have already urged the creation of a Truth Commission or some similar body that could properly deal with the murder, rape and other crimes victims suffered when the rule of law was callously mocked by some of the very officers granted amnesty or still located within the ranks of the Haitian army.

The call by CARICOM Secretary General Edwin Carrington for a CARICOM diplomatic mission in Port au Prince should be considered as a priority issue if the Community governments are serious about helping in Haiti's national reconstruction beyond the Aristide presidency.

(by Caribbean journalist Rickey Singh. Reprinted from the Week-end Nation, Barbados, Nov. 1994)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Compiled by Cathy Shepherd

AIDS EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

The Trinidad and Tobago National AIDS Programme recently completed a unique outreach project which was aimed primarily at village women who had not completed a full secondary education and were over 30 years.

With funding from the UNICEF Caribbean Area Office, the project entitled "Women's Outreach for AIDS Education and Motivation" was launched in 1992 in 18 villages throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Utilizing a face to face communications strategy, lay persons with the support of professional health care workers were trained to use informal education techniques and to act as group leaders.

The project created teaching aids suitable for adults with low reading levels and demonstrated alternative approaches to informal education. According to Asha Kambon, then Communications Coordinator, National AIDS Programme, the teaching aids were so well received that they are used outside the specific project and are in great

demand even outside Trinidad and Tobago.

At the end of the project, 13 of the 18 village groups had completed their course of training/motivation and members of these groups have been involved in distributing information to their peers about HIV infection and condom use. In some areas, men have been actively involved in the groups.

The National AIDS Programme plans to do a follow-up in 1995.

WOMEN IN ALTERNATIVE CONDOM DISTRIBUTION STRATEGY

In the face of the increasing incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, among women in the Caribbean, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) is seeking the support of CAFRA in an "alternative condom distribution strategy."

According to CAREC's Social Marketing Officer Marilyn Jones, "we (CAREC) are about to engage in an energetic STD campaign which will place some focus on condom use as a means of prevention.

"Our research shows that many women have been reluctant to take the initiative to protect themselves in sexual relationships with males whose lifestyle may be placing them at risk. It is possible that one solution to this problem, along with education and information, would be to make condoms more accessible to women."



From: Speak, December 1992/January 1993.

The plan is for CAFRA and other women's organizations to ask member agencies to accept a stock of condoms which would be available to members at their request. Initially, this alternative condom distribution strategy will be introduced on a pilot basis in three countries - Trinidad and Tobago, possibly Dominica and another country not yet named.

news

WOMEN AND STDs

The much anticipated female condom has not proved to be the answer to the Caribbean woman's need for protection against sexually transmitted diseases. Apart from any concerns there may be about its practical value, it is not currently available to our region and, at any rate, the cost would be prohibitive.

What's left for women as a prevention measure against STDs is the age-old male condom - the only known protection against AIDS and other STDs for those who are sexually active and at risk of infection.

The vulnerability of women to STDs is increased by the fact that some of the diseases are asymptomatic in many women and being unaware of their presence, they remain untreated, leading to greater damage to their health and further spread of the disease(s). Note also that it is not uncommon for a person to be diagnosed with more than one STD at the same time. STD infection, in some instances, may lead to blindness, deafness, infertility, cervical cancer, arthritis, crippling heart trouble and even death.

There are three main reasons why women appear to be particularly at risk of being infected by AIDS and other STDs:

Biological - Semen carries a far higher concentration of HIV than vaginal fluid and women have a larger exposed area. In addition, sexual intercourse (especially rough sex) can cause trauma to the vaginal membrane, hence exposure to blood.

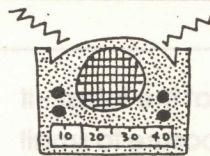
Epidemiological - Women tend to marry or have sex with older men who are more likely to have had more sexual partners and are more likely to be infected with an STD; consequently, there is the likelihood of other sexual partners being infected.

Social and economic - Women tend to find themselves in sexually subordinate situations, either because of a perception that this should be so, or, because it is not unusual in the West Indian context to find that there is a strong link between a woman's need for economic support and a submissive attitude towards the male who provides that support.



CNIRD LAUNCHES RADIO PROGRAMME

The Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) launched a radio programme entitled "Networking" in October 1994. Aired three days weekly on FM 100, the five-minute programmes cover a wide range of



issues including entrepreneurial development, transport, education, health and the media, with an emphasis on solutions to problems in society. The first three-month cycle ends on January 20, 1995. CNIRD plans to distribute the programmes to countries in its network which stretches from Belize to Guyana.

news

WHAT NORPLANT IS

JAMAICA

"GOOD RESPONSE" TO NORPLANT

Family planning officials in Jamaica report a good response to the contraceptive implant, Norplant. Out of 300 persons who volunteered to use the drug after it was registered in 1991, only about 20 have had the implants removed compared to a drop-out rate worldwide of about 15 in every 100 users in the mostly developed nations. Reasons for the drop-out (in Jamaica) are largely centred around disturbances in the menstrual flow, although two persons indicated they wanted to get pregnant.

The Jamaica National Family Planning Board has been testing Norplant in three of the island's main health centres. Selection was made among individuals, who after some training on its use, requested the contraceptive. The drug is not available except through one of the three clinics where the individual's medical history is assessed and counselling is given.



Norplant is a registered trademark of the Population Council for contraceptive subdermal (under the skin) implants. It consists of flexible, non-biodegradable tubes filled with levonorgestrel, a synthetic hormone of the progesterin family. The

function of this hormone is to prevent ovulation and thicken the cervical mucous to make it impermeable. The implants are placed under the skin on the inside of a woman's upper or lower arm. From here, the hormone is slowly released, at an almost constant rate, for several years.

Norplant must be removed after five years, at the latest - if not, and a woman gets pregnant with the implant still inserted, foetal exposure to small amounts of levonorgestrel involves unknown and known risks like ectopic pregnancy, and may be life threatening.

SIDE EFFECTS: As with most other medications, Norplant has side-effects. Women report headaches, mood or weight changes and up to 70 per cent of known users experience irregular bleeding. The area where Norplant is implanted can become infected and removal can be difficult. In particular, women who smoke heavily, who experience abnormal vaginal bleeding, blood clots or any circulation or heart problems, liver disease, or have had breast cancer are strongly advised against using Norplant. Also, women with health histories that include diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure, migraines or frequent headaches, depression, epilepsy, and gall bladder or kidney diseases, should consider Norplant use with extreme caution.

SAFETY: Julia Scott of the US National Black Women's Health Project outlines some safety considerations in an article in the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights Newsletter (no. 42, January-March 1993, 16-18). Women using Norplant do not have natural menstrual cycles and experience irregular and frequent bleeding. Irregular bleeding is also one of the early symptoms of endometrial or cervical cancer and if its occurrence is not taken seriously and merely put down to Norplant use, there is a serious risk of missed or delayed diagnosis of a more serious condition. Norplant can also pose a serious health risk to the child of a breastfeeding mother who is using Norplant at the same time. After the

(cont'd on page 18)

Norplant must be removed after five years, at the latest - if not, and a woman gets pregnant, foetal exposure to small amounts of levonorgestrel involves unknown and known risks like ectopic pregnancy and may be life threatening.

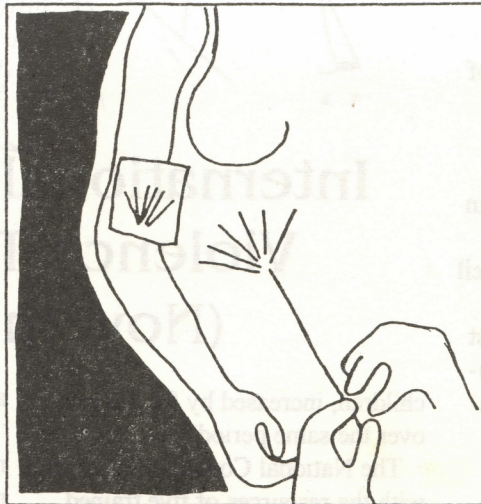
news

(What Norplant is...cont'd from page 17)

second year, Norplant's effectiveness decreases for women who weigh over 154 pounds. The surgical insertion and removal procedure can result in keloid formation or thick, permanent scarring in African women -making removal difficult and requiring access to specialised care. Finally, long-term safety data is as yet unavailable.

USER NEEDS: A 1993 book, *Norplant: Under Her Skin* (B. Mintzes, A. Hardon and J. Hanhart, eds; published by Women's Health Action Foundation & Working Group for Medical Development Cooperation) looks at Norplant from a user's perspective. It reports on field studies in Indonesia, Finland and Brazil between 1989 and 1991 and includes a case report of a Norplant training session in Thailand and a description of Norplant experimental trials on Egyptian women. The editors conclude by formulating a set of priority issues that need to be addressed in future Norplant trials, to meet users' needs:

- the recognition of women's reproductive rights in the provision of Norplant;
- the effect of menstrual disturbances on women's lives, sexual practices and libido;
- medicalisation of side-effects and the safety and effectiveness of hormonal treatments for side-effects;
- sterile technique at both insertion and removal in order to prevent infection with HIV or



Hepatitis B; ● access to removal services; ● adequate long-term follow-up; ● the promotion of Norplant in women's magazines and in the press, the accurateness of the information provided, since, in many cases, the information is biased and promotional.

NORPLANT LAWSUITS:

Meanwhile, a July 8 article in the New York Times reports that some 400 Norplant users in the United States are seeking to join a class-action lawsuit against Wyeth-Ayerst, the company that sells Norplant in the US. Their major complaint is that they suffered severe pain and scarring during removal of Norplant from their arms. The lawsuit seeks damages and an

injunction to prevent Wyeth-Ayerst from selling the contraceptive to doctors who have not been trained to insert and remove it.

And in Brazil, the Public Ministry in Rio de Janeiro initiated a lawsuit in February 1994, aimed at determining who can be held accountable for the adverse consequences of Norplant use. The Ministry's action came on the heels of charges presented by 13 women who had Norplant administered without their knowing the method was still under trial in 1985.

(*Jamaica Observer/Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights Newsletter*)

MONA CAMPUS HAS SEXUAL HARASSMENT GUIDELINES

The Mona Campus Jamaica, University of the West Indies, has issued Sexual Harassment Guidelines for Students. The guidelines define sexual harassment as "verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which the perpetrator knew, or should have known, was offensive to the victim."

Three courses of action are suggested: asking the offender to stop; seeking help from the Dean of Students, Student Counsellors and/or Wardens; or making a formal complaint through the Deputy Principal's Office which may invoke university disciplinary procedures.

news

In Trinidad and Tobago, the newly formed Women's Forum for the Eradication of Violence declared November 25 a National Day of Peace, publicising the call in the media. The Women's Forum is a group of concerned citizens committed to exploring the root causes of violence in the community and networking with other NGOs in an effort to find solutions.

The Dominica National Council of Women organised a week of activities to reject violence against women and children from November 18 - 26. Among these were a press conference; newspaper articles on "Violence against women and its effects on the family," and "Male Responsibility and Violence Against Women;" the distribution of pamphlets nationwide; launching of the publication *Domnik-en Women*; a church service; radio and television programme discussions; an essay and poster competition; and a public panel discussion.

Pamphlets distributed to the public included: *Violence - a crime against women and children*; *An open letter to my non-abusive brothers*, by Ezra Blondel; a quiz - *Are you a victim of abuse?*; and, *Battered women - breaking the cycle*.

The Women's Bureau supported the week of activities by producing a fact sheet on violence against women and children in Dominica. Reported cases of child abuse increased by 45 per cent from 1991-1993 while reported cases of violence against women and



International Day Against Violence To Women (November 25)

children, increased by 95 per cent over the same period.

The National Council of Women, with the resources of five trained part-time counsellors, offers a counselling service and 24-hour crisis line. Funding is being sought for the formal training of counsellors across the country. For further information write to: The President, Dominica National Council of Women, P.O. Box 745, Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica.

CAFRA Guyana.

The Women's Rights Campaign and the Women's Studies Unit, University of Guyana, hosted a media encounter on November 24, to sensitize the media on the reporting of rape and domestic violence cases. Speakers included Dr. Janice Jackson, Head of the Women's Studies Unit; Attorney-at-Law and member of the Guyana Women Lawyers Association, Roxanne George; CAFRA National Representative, Doreen Holder and Women's Rights

activist, Danuta Radzik.

Among concerns raised were the role and responsibilities of the media; legal limitations regarding the publication of victims' names; and the need for in camera hearings for domestic violence and indecent assault cases. Though 11 media houses were invited to attend the session, only two sent reporters to cover the event while two sent photographers.

In an editorial about the Encounter, the Guyana Chronicle endorsed the need for greater sensitivity on the part of the media and called on government to establish a Family Court in 1995.

Also in Guyana, an Open Forum to mark the International Day Against Violence To Women was held on November 25 at St. Stanislaus College, Georgetown. Addressing the forum were Attorney-at-Law, Sheila Chapman-Wong and Reverend Margaret Roberts of the Lutheran Church. An urgent call was made for the

(cont'd on page 20)

news

(Violence to Women...cont'd from page 18)

establishment of an emergency hotline and a shelter for battered women.

GUYANA

Strip-searching of Guyanese women

Following recent (Dec. 1994) strip-searching of Guyanese women at Timehri Airport, Guyana, CAFRA wrote to President Cheddi Jagan calling for the institution of drug detection practices that were not abusive of human dignity.

Excerpts of CAFRA's letter: *"While CAFRA recognizes the need to address the drug problem throughout the Caribbean, we feel strongly that this must be done in a manner consistent with human rights and the protection of the dignity of women and of all persons. Measures such as those which have been applied in Guyana, which require women to take off their garments and spread their legs, are simply not acceptable. Referring to this form of search as "body pat search" does not reduce the humiliation it imposes.*

Moreover, neither women nor the others we so often target as groups for this harassment, are usually the main channels for the influx of drugs into the region. This kind of targeting therefore, smacks of an attempt to disguise the ineffectiveness of the security forces in confronting the main actors in the drug trade.

In calling on the Guyana

government and other Caribbean governments who are involved in similar practices to institute measures of drug detection which are not abusive of human dignity, CAFRA offers its services in identifying such methods for the information and action of the Guyanese authorities."

BARBADOS

Female politician is Deputy Prime Minister

Billie Antoinette Miller has become the first female politician in the Caribbean to sit as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Miller served as chair of the NGO Steering Committee for the UN Conference on Population and Development, a task she later relinquished to run for election.

No political novice, Miller has been associated with a number of progressive legislative reforms in Barbados. She is reported to be particularly proud of having piloted the 1982 bill that decriminalised abortion in Barbados "in the interest of safe motherhood and the rights of women." (WAND/Women's Health Journal)

BELIZE

Certificate Course for Domestic Engineers

Twenty-five women completed a 10-week **Certificate Course for Domestic Engineers**, organised by the Belize Women and Development Organisation (BOWAND),

from April 5 to June 7, 1994. The course which covered areas like labour laws, social security, child development and use of hazardous products sought to improve the standard of work of domestics, train them in various skills and create a more positive awareness towards domestic workers.

On completion of in-class sessions, participants were given hands-on experience in the field. Four of the women who were previously unemployed have been able to find full-time jobs with individuals who heard about the course and were willing to hire a graduate. For further information, write to BOWAND, P.O. Box 1243, Belize City, Belize, Central America. (*A Woman's Turn*)

WOMEN AGAINST CRIME

A committee called **Women Against Crime** has been formed in Belize to help government and communities come up with workable solutions to deal with the increasing crime and violence in that country. In an effort to draw public attention to the seriousness of the crime situation, the group organised a rally and march and circulated a petition outlining its proposals to combat crime. In all, 700 signatures were collected and presented to Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel and Opposition Leader George Price. (*A Woman's Turn*)

CUBAN WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE

Vilma Espin, President of the Cuban Federation of Women, told a Barbados gathering recently Cuban women have been able to break out of traditional careers

news

largely because of three significant developments in the early period of the Cuban Revolution.

In 1956, Cuban women demanded the right to carry weapons and to be frontline soldiers. By 1959, the women were promised and received equal opportunity of participation. Later, the Cuban Federation of Women was born and its revolutionary work included education, training, fighting and literacy work. Organised at the municipal level, the Federation is now active in formulating legislation. The women have succeeded in having the family code and maternity legislation changed.

Kathleen Drayton, CAFRA member and the Women and Development Studies Unit said early gains by women in the Commonwealth Caribbean were made in the Garveyite and trade union movements.

By the 1980s, there was systematic developments in the indigenous women's movements - WAND, Sistren, Red Thread, Working Women, Women's Studies and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies.

According to Eudine Barriteau Foster, The Women's Forum, Barbados, a comparison of the two sets of experiences showed while women in the Commonwealth Caribbean were struggling for formal and meaningful recognition, the revolutionary Cuban state recognized the involvement of women in the public affairs of the country. However, imbalanced gender relations continue to permeate all Caribbean societies.

Annual Campaign for the Decriminalisation of Abortion in Latin America - September 28

In 1990, at the Fifth Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Encounter, a decision was taken to declare September 28 as the Day for Decriminalisation of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean. Of primary importance was the fact that in many of our countries, complications from unsafe and clandestine abortions are the major cause of death for women of reproductive age;

thousands of women from this region die each year due to illegal abortions.

This year's campaign was coordinated by the Mexico-based Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (Reproductive Choice Information Group), GIRE, who distributed posters and pamphlets (in Spanish, Portuguese and English) detailing the incidence of abortion and the status of reproductive rights in the region. For copies, contact the CAFRA Secretariat or GIRE, Apartado Postal 19-308, 03901 Mexico, DF, Mexico.

ILLEGAL ABORTIONS AMONG YOUNG GIRLS

One per cent of illegal abortions is estimated to result in the death of the woman. This mortality rate is more than 1,000 times lower when the abortion is done legally and under medical supervision. Five million of the 50 million abortions carried out each year are amongst young girls aged between 15 and 19. Because they are inexperienced, they realise they are pregnant at an advanced stage, frequently after the first three months.

They often consult backstreet abortionists after having tried dangerous drugs, bleach, quinine, detergents or having tried to stick pointed objects such as knitting needles into their womb. Abortion complications amongst young girls are often more serious than amongst older women because they are often badly informed about available health service facilities and are afraid of consulting them. In many African countries, as many as 60 per cent of women in hospital due to abortion complications are under 20 years old.

by Malika Ladjali, Sante Sexuelle et reproductive des jeunes, study carried out for the Independent Commission, April 1994.

news

FROM THE SECRETARIAT:

STAFF MOVEMENTS

At the end of August, CAFRA's Liaison Officer, Allison Apparicio, resigned from the post to pursue studies abroad. Jacqueline Burgess, a university student and women's activist of long standing, was appointed in the post on a temporary, part-time basis until the end of the year.

Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen assumed the post of Coordinator from September 1. She is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the programmes and activities of CAFRA in the region, consistent with the Association's mission, goals and objectives. Rawwida served as Coordinator from April 1985 to July 1991, before two and half years study leave. She returned to the Secretariat in January 1994 and held the post of Projects Coordinator until August 31.

Gemma Tang Nain was appointed Projects Coordinator, with responsibility for developing, coordinating, monitoring and sourcing funding for CAFRA's research/action projects and programmes in the region, effective September 1. Prior to this appointment, Gemma served as Acting Coordinator from September 1992 to August 1994.

MEETINGS HELD

The Regional Advisory Committee of the Women in Caribbean Agriculture (WICA) Project, met on November 29 and considered the reports of two consultants: Elsie Doñe Molina's

RECEPTION FOR VISITING PUBLISHER:

In November, CAFRA and the UWI Bookshop hosted a reception in honour of Jessica Huntley, Managing Director of Bogle L'Ouverture Press, London. The Guyanese-born publisher made a stopover in Trinidad and Tobago to promote interest in Asian, African and Caribbean publications handled by her company. Local writers, librarians and booksellers attended the reception which was organised by former Women's Creative Expression Project Coordinator, Sybil Seaforth and held at the Senior Common Room, UWI, St. Augustine.



Cathy Shepherd (left) and Sybil Seaforth (right) look on as Jessica Huntley (centre) introduces her company's new publications.

report assessing the action phase of the WICA project in Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and Gaietry Pargass' investigation into the need for research on women in agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago. The Committee accepted Doñe Molina's recommendations to use the data to influence national and regional agricultural policy and prepare educational materials. It also accepted the recommendation that CAFRA undertake a national survey on women in agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago, including case studies on selected themes and of specific communities.

Members of the WICA Regional Advisory Committee are former WICA project staff Cecilia Babb, Josephine Dublin and Joan French; Gaietry Pargass, former plant pathologist-turned-lawyer; Grace Sirju-Charran, UWI Lec-

turer in Plant Sciences; CAFRA Chairperson, Rhoda Reddock; the Coordinator and Projects Coordinator.

CAFRA's Continuation Committee, a sub-committee of the Regional Committee with responsibility for policy formulation and programme direction, held its first meeting from November 30 to December 1. Among matters discussed were the 1994 narrative and financial reports of the Association; special programme activities; networking; secretariat matters; and matters outstanding from the sixth meeting of the Regional Committee.

The Committee accepted a recommendation to appoint a full-time staff member in 1995 to work on preparations for the Fourth World Conference of Women (CAFRA is the NGO Focal Point

news

for the Caribbean Region) and adopted a modus operandi for Regional Committee meetings. April 2, 1995 marks the Tenth Anniversary of CAFRA and an Ad Hoc Anniversary Planning Committee was appointed to come up with ideas for commemorating the occasion. Members of the Committee are Andaiye (Guyana); Diane Cummins, Joan French (Barbados) and Nadia Raveles (Suriname).

At a two-day meeting on the region's preparations for Beijing, representatives of the **Caribbean NGO Planning Committee** listed a number of expected outcomes:- the emergence of a clear NGO agenda for improving the status of the women of the world, increased political will on the part of the governments to achieve same, and the establishment of a Committee representative of the state and civil society to monitor implementation of the Plan of Action emerging out of Beijing.

The Caribbean NGO Planning Committee comprises representatives of women's NGOs in the Dutch, English, French and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. It was established by CAFRA after the Regional NGO Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

INTERNATIONAL CARIBBEAN WOMEN IN CANADA

Pearl Reid-Noriega, a minister and director of a woman's shelter in Port of Spain, and Paula Thomas, a freelance photographer

and CAFRA member, were among a group of ten Caribbean women involved in a Caribbean-Prairie exchange programme in Canada during the last quarter of 1995. Sponsored by Canada World Youth, the 13-week exchange also involved ten Canadian women from the West.

Each woman chose a partner to live and work with for the duration of the exchange programme. The women spent four days each week at agencies such as the YMCA, Tara House, Options for Women, Boyle Street Co-op and the AIDS Network. Fridays were dedicated to education and discussion on such topics like HIV and sexuality.

The Canadian women in the programme came to the Caribbean on October 29 for the other side of the exchange.

(excerpted from Edmonton Journal, October 18, 1994)

PHILIPPINE WOMEN DRAFT RAPE BILL

A coalition of Philippine-based women's groups have drafted the women's anti-rape Bill and are calling for a new definition of rape.

The group - **Sama-samang**



Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan Para sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan (SIBOL)- is demanding a reclassification of rape as a crime against persons in an attempt to convert it from a private to a public offence. In this case, a complaint can be filed by any citizen, therefore increasing the probability of prosecuting an offender.

SIBOL also urges the legal system to go beyond penile penetration as the only index in determining rape to the inclusion of sexual violations using objects or targeting other body openings. This definition will put an end to the view that only women can be rape victims.

In addition, the Bill recognizes the possibility of rape in marriage. Although a married couple have a right of consortium, it cannot be enforced in such a way that violates a woman's right to liberty.

The draft Bill is also seeking the revocation of current evidentiary requirements as the Philippine courts to admit evidence on the complainant's sexual history on the assumption that prior sexual conduct is indicative of a tendency to consent more readily.

Women's groups, NGOs, civic organizations and individuals concerned about women's rights are urged to send letters of support to ensure the passing of the Bill. *The Hon Rep Jose de Venecia, Speaker, House of Representatives, Quezon City, Philippines *The Hon Sen Edgardo Angara, Senate President, Senate, Manila, Philippines. For efficient coordination of the campaign, copy your letter to: SIBOL, 1548 Scout Limbaga, Bgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City, Philippines. Tel - (632) 969287; Fax: (632) 9225004

news

AFRICAN WOMEN SEEN AS MINORS

"Until 1985, all African (black) women were perpetual minors ... being a patriarchal society, women have little control over their bodies viz childbearing," says an attorney from Zimbabwe.

This was one of several comments received by The Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy, USA, in response to a 1994 international survey done by the organization on "Laws and Policies Affecting Women's Reproductive Health." The centre received 128 responses from 64 countries.

In response to the question on laws or policies which interfere with women's reproductive health, the majority of respondents - 56 from Africa out of a total of 90 respondents - pointed to laws which criminalize abortion and sterilization and which limit contraceptive usage.

On the question of writing new laws for the country, an Australian respondent called for a Bill of Rights that would directly guarantee women's rights to bodily integrity and autonomy; and repeal of abortion-related sections of each State's criminal code to make abortion like any other legal medical procedure.

With regard to laws and policies to be eliminated, responses

from Pakistan wanted a repeal of the "Hudood" Ordinances which make it very difficult for victims of rape and sexual violence to prove the offence committed. A Tanzanian respondent urged for a



reversal of the policy that requires women to get their husband's consent for tubal ligations. By far, respondents voted for the removal of of spousal consent and gender discriminatory inheritance and labour laws.

NEW UNIFEM DIRECTOR NAMED

Noleen Heyzer of Singapore has been appointed Director of the UN Development Fund for Women, effective October 15, 1994. Heyzer holds a Masters of Sociology degree from the University of Singapore and a PhD in Sociology from Cambridge University.

Prior to this appointment, Heyzer worked for several years in a number of gender-related fields: from Social Affairs Officer, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, to officer in charge of the Gender and Development Programme in the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to

Research Officer and Visiting Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, England.

She is the author/editor of ten books and more than 20 articles and papers on development and women's issues. Heyzer is also a founding member of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), a network of women leaders from the South.

DATABASE ON ASIAN CHILD PROSTITUTION

The creation of a recent database on the international fight against tourist-trafficking in Asian children is expanding rapidly. Purchased with the support of WACC and EZE, Germany, the database has 50 subsections with information on child prostitution, AIDS and tourism and trafficking in children.

In an article taken from *Action 178* (August 1994), it was noted that Asian and Western Governments and international bodies concerned with the problem are responding positively to the international campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT). Child prostitution is supported by specialist holiday tour operators in Europe, North America, Japan and paedophile networks.

Over the next two years, ECPAT plans to increase its staff and hopes to develop an E-mail facility so that data can be available in many countries. For further information: ECPAT, 328 Phaya Tai Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

news

50 YEARS IS ENOUGH

The year 1994 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - institutions which have been promoting and financing inequitable and unsustainable development overseas, creating poverty while destroying the environment. So says a group of US organizations spearheading a campaign to end the type of development proposed by the IMF and World Bank.

"50 Years Is Enough" was chosen as the campaign's slogan to express the strongly held (by growing numbers of people around the globe) belief that World Bank/IMF prescribed development cannot be allowed to continue.

The campaign is calling for the full participation of affected women and men in all aspects of World Bank/IMF projects, policies and programmes. Interested? Write to 50 Years is Enough, US Campaign, 1025 Vermont Avenue, NW Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005, USA. Phone (202) 463-2265 Fax (202) 879-3186; E-mail: wb50years@igc.apc.org

WORLD BANK AND THE GENDER COMPONENT

While the World Bank has publicly proclaimed that women's participation in development is "essential not only for achieving social justice but also for reducing poverty," a confidential report by its own staff paints a grim picture.

The confidential report, "Gender Issues in Bank Lending: An Overview," completed in June 1994, found that since 1967, only 615 out of 4,955 projects contained "some" gender components, and that 353 of those were approved since 1988.

The report also found that between 1988 and 1993, only 257 bank staff (of a total 7,200) had received formal training on how to integrate gender concerns into program design and implementation and that most of the participants were junior staff who attended voluntarily.

Two months after the comple-

tion of that report, the Bank publicly released a different report - "Enhancing Women's Participation in Economic Development" - in an attempt to signal high-level institutional support for integrating gender concerns into World Bank programs and policies.

Commenting on the Bank's latest move, Lisa Mc Gowan said the Bank must move quickly to create and utilize mechanisms to bring women to the table so they can be full partners in the design,



implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and policies that affect them. Without these steps, the Bank will continue to perpetuate poverty and marginalization of women.

INDIA BANS SEX PRE-SELECTION:

The Indian Parliament has passed a Bill banning the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination. The most commonly used technique is amniocentesis in which a sample of amniotic fluid which surrounds the embryo is taken with a syringe from a pregnant woman to determine the condition of the foetus.

The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1994, allows such

techniques to be used only for matters related to the health of the foetus and the pregnant woman. Misuse carries a prison term of up to three years and a fine of Rs10,000 (US\$319). The offense is subject to judicial investigation and is non-bailable. The Bill also stipulates that only registered clinics can perform the techniques.

Press reports indicate that about 50,000 female foetuses are aborted every year after sex determination tests. A number of feminist groups in India

news

oppose sex selection for different reasons. They argue that this does not offer real choice and it is part of the effort to control the behaviour of pregnant women. Women's groups in India have mounted public education and other political campaigns to change the social values and attitudes towards women which are the root causes of female foeticide. *(Women Envision)*

OAS ADOPTS CONVENTION ON PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and

Eradication of Violence Against Women was adopted by the Organisation of American States (OAS) at its June 1994 General Assembly. This is the first formal treaty focusing specifically on the subject. The treaty provides the Inter-American system with a means to educate and promote attitudes which reject violence against women and requirements for the punishment and eradication of that violence. It is open for signature and will take effect as an international treaty when two thirds of the member countries have ratified. Contact Linda Poole, CIM, General Secretariat, OAS, Washington, DC 20006, USA. *(Women's Watch)*

ACTIVISM AGAINST

GENDER VIOLENCE

From November 25 - December 10, the annual campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence will continue its efforts to raise awareness of violence against women as a human rights issue and to build the political pressure necessary to secure commitments to women's human rights. The campaign urges all supporters to use the 16 days to continue pressing

for women's human rights and, where possible, to publicly ask what action governments are taking to secure these rights.

Past campaigns have involved more than 120 countries in such events as petition drives, speeches, vigils, rallies, film festivals, radio and television programmes, newsletters, lobbying posters, T-shirts or buttons. This year's campaign takes place under the slogan "Awareness, Accountability, Action: Violence Against Women Violates Human Rights." *(Go Between)*

INTERNATIONAL GAY COMMISSION TO PRESENT AWARD

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) invites nominations for the Felipa de Souza Award, to honour individuals and/or organisations that have made significant contributions toward securing the human rights and freedoms of sexual minorities anywhere in the world. The IGLHRC defines sexual minorities to include lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, transvestites, transsexuals and others oppressed due to their sexual identities or sexual conduct between consenting adults. Persons or organisations may nominate themselves; an individual can be nominated posthumously. Deadline for nominations is February 28, 1995. Send completed nomination to: Human Rights Award, IGLHRC, 1360 Mission Street, #200, San Francisco, CA 94103, USA. Fax: (415) 255-8662. E-Mail: IGLHRC@IGC.APC.ORG.



CONFERENCES - 1995

ADVERTISEMENT

January 26-28: Critical Perspectives on Human Rights in the Caribbean, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. Co-sponsored by CAFRA and Caribbean Human Rights Network, this regional conference is one component of a CAFRA project of the same name. One of the projects aims is to critique human rights theory and practice in the Caribbean from perspectives of gender, class and race/ethnicity. The six panel themes are: Rights, Democracy and Development in the Caribbean; Issues of Definition of Human Rights: the Inclusion of Gender; Current Directions in Human Rights in the Caribbean; Socio-economic Rights; Rights, Culture and Discrimination; and State Compliance with International Human Rights Standards.

February 28 - March 3: International UNESCO Symposium on Women and the Media: Access to Expression and Decision-making, Toronto, Canada. Aims to identify the obstacles that limit women's equal participation, regardless of culture, to expression and decision-making in and through the media. Women working with traditional and modern media forms (i.e. film, video, photos, written documents, sound recordings/radio) are invited to submit work demonstrating innovative ways of communicating information/ messages about women's media through different media. A sample of the most significant submissions will be selected by a Committee for presentation at the Symposium and afterward at the NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference of Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995.

July 16-27: 7th International Cross-Cultural Black Women's Studies Summer Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii. Presents an opportunity for women of diverse cultures and their organisations to interact on global concerns pertinent to their ways of life, prior to the 4th World Conference on Women. The focus is on Pacific Women: Culture, Identity and Self-Determination. Emphasis will be placed on celebrating women's leadership in progressive movements and on training in personal decolonization, spiritual healing methods, media imaging, communications networking, group goal setting and consensus and coalition building. Write to: Black Women's Summer Institute, Information Headquarters, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 1150 Carroll

WOMEN'S BOOKCLUB LAUNCHED

A Women's Voices Bookclub Foundation has been launched in Canada and its founder and director is Hungarian-born Dr Anne-Marie Pollowy Toliver, architect, university professor and author. The bookclub is a non-profit organization the promotion and distribution of publications. Net proceeds will be used to support women's organizations, organizations with women's programmes and organizations that will use the funds to improve the quality of women's lives through scholarship, research, etc.

Its aim is to make the bookclub an easily accessible source of the best of women's writing. The foundation also works with women's organizations to provide specially selected collections.

For additional information: Phone 416-488-4063; Fax 416-488-6015 or write to: PO Box 338, Plymouth, Montserrat, WI Phone 809-491-5881; Fax 809-491-7881 or 1881 Yonge Street, PO Box 48061, Toronto, Ontario M4S 3C6, Canada.

Street, Brooklyn, New York 11225, USA. Fax: (718) 270-5126. (See Fellowships below)

August 7-9: USAID Third HIV/AIDS Prevention Conference: Evolving Responses to an Evolving Epidemic, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C., USA.

Aims to report on progress to date of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded HIV/AIDS prevention projects and future directions for prevention activity. For information call Al Nimocks at (703) 516-9779.

FELLOWSHIPS/ SCHOLARSHIPS

The Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network Scholarship Programme was launched at the annual meeting of the

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Network's Advisory Board, in Chile, in December. With support from the MacArthur Foundation, the programme will provide theoretical and practical training in comprehensive women's health care from a feminist perspective. For more information, contact the Sexuality and Health Feminist Collective, Rua Bartolomeu Zunega 44, Pinheiros, 0426-020, São Paulo, SP Brazil. Fax: (5511) 813-8576.

The International Cross-Cultural Black Women's Studies Summer Institute, through the **Dr. Phyllis E. Jackson Sisterhood Fellowship for International, Cross-Cultural Cooperation**, will sponsor a woman from one or more of the six global regions who is actively organising grassroots women in a community-based organisation. To apply, send a one page statement or audio recording about your organising activities and how your participation in the Institute will help your work. Include your name, return address and telephone number. Nominations will also be considered. **Before May 1, 1995** contact: Dr. Celia Alvarez, Women's Studies, Arizona State University-West, P.O. Box 37100, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85069, USA. Tel: (602) 543-3311; Fax: (602) 543-3312.

The Center for the Study of Philanthropy's **International Fellows Program** is designed to bring younger scholars to New York for three (3) months starting each March to study American philanthropy and nonprofit organisations. Three fellows will be appointed each year. Fellows will have an opportunity to design and pursue a research project (specific topics will be chosen each year). Fellows are expected to produce a written summary of their research findings and present it in a seminar.

Eligibility: open to scholars and graduate students below the age of 36, who are currently studying, or wish to study, voluntary sector activities. Applicants must have a high degree of fluency in English. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated research skills. **Fellowship includes:** stipend to cover living expenses, dormitory housing accommodation, return travel expenses and limited travel outside New York. Submit proposals by **October 1** (awards announced by November 30). Contact the Center for the study of Philanthropy, Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York, 33 West 42nd Street, 1525GB, New York, NY 10036, USA. Fax: (212) 642-2141.

COURSES

June 26-July 14: 16th Annual International Human Rights Training Programme, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec. Three-week, intensive summer session bringing together more than 100 participants from over 35 countries. Intended for non-governmental organisations involved in advancing human rights issues, the programme seeks to advance the cause of human rights through education and practical training. Candidates of qualifying organisations must meet the following criteria: be an active member (or associate) of a dynamic, democratically functioning NGO with a human rights mandate; be in a position to influence the work of the organisation upon completion of the programme; have a university degree or equivalent experience; be proficient in English or French (oral and written). **Deadline for submission of applications is March 15, 1995.** For application forms, contact the CAFRA Secretariat or Leanna Hordichuk, Programmes Coordinator, 1425 Blvd. René-Levesque ouest, B 307, Montréal, Canada H3G 1T7. Fax: (514) 954-0659.

July 10-16: 24th Annual Thornfield Workshop on Sexuality: Female and Male Gender, Orientation and Lifestyles, Thornfield Conference Center, Cazenovia, New York. Graduate workshop designed for anyone who wishes to become more knowledgeable and comfortable with human sexuality. Explicit films and presentations are used to generate an ongoing exploration of attitudes and values in daily small group meetings. Workshop topics include: techniques for educating on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues; incest and other abuse; the bible and sexuality; male/female issues in sex therapy; and sexuality and people with disabilities. Cost of workshop with room and board: US\$ 875.00. For more information, contact Alison McCain Deming, Director, P.O.Box 447, Fayetteville, NY 13066-2226. Tel: (315) 637-8990.

July 17 - August 25: Gender Training for Development, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, UK. Aims to train women and men in gender analysis and enable them to train others. The course is designed around four central elements: 1) gender concepts and frameworks including sectoral analysis and institutional implementation strategies; 2) programme design, project cycles and

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planning framework; 3) needs assessments, research and analytical techniques; 4) programme monitoring and evaluation. Fee: £4,500 plus VAT (bed and breakfast accommodation included). Admission: education to degree level and/or relevant experience. Applicants are advised to explore the possibility of **financial assistance** through their employer, and local/regional offices of the Development Division of the British High Commission, British Council, UNDP, European Development Fund and the World Bank. For applications forms, contact the CAFRA Secretariat, or: Sally McAleese, Training Coordinator, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK. Fax: (01603) 505262.

July 31 - August 11: Gender and Race in Cuba: Nineteenth Century Narrative (Coordinated by Prof. Luisa Campuzana, University of Havana); and **Gender and Race in Cuba: Film** (Coordinated by Prof. Ambrosio Fornet, San Antonia de los Baños International School of Film and Television). Offered by Casa de las Américas. Duration: 20 lecture hours. Cost: US\$ 75.00 each. Certificates of attendance and a postgraduate certificate from Casa de las Américas and the University of Havana, will be awarded. Send applications by **30 June 1995**, to: Luisa Campuzana, Director, Women's Studies Programme, Casa de las Américas, 3ra. y G, El Vedado, Havana, Cuba. Fax: (537) 327272. E. Mail: casa@tinored.cu. **August 29 - September 7: Training Skills in Gender**, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, UK. Aims to provide participants, already familiar with the theory and methodologies of gender analysis, with the practical skills and confidence to design and conduct effective training for gender and development planners and practitioners. Fee: £1,220 plus VAT (bed and breakfast accommodation included). Preference will be given to participants on the **Gender Training for Development** course. Applicants are advised to explore the possibility of **financial assistance** through their employer, and local/regional offices of the Development Division of the British High Commission, British Council, UNDP, European Development Fund and the World Bank. For applications forms, contact the CAFRA Secretariat, or: Sally McAleese, training Coordinator, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK. Fax: (01603) 505262.

ON THE BOOKSHELF

1. Aguhob, Sylvia; UNIFEM; Intermediate Technology Development Group. **Dairy processing**. New York. UNIFEM, 1994. 72 p. (Food Cycle Technology Source Book, no. 9)

Provides information to enable traditional women dairy processors to improve their efficiency and the quality of their products.

2. Alan Guttmacher Institute. **Aborto clandestino: una realidad latinoamericana**

(Clandestine abortion: a Latin American reality). New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994. 32 p. Examines the two main strategies for avoiding unwanted pregnancy in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic: contraception and induced abortion.

3. Amnesty International USA. **Breaking the silence: human rights violations based on sexual orientation**. New York: Amnesty International Publications, 1994. 53 p. Surveys human rights abuses against gays and lesbians worldwide and suggests steps towards a different future.

4. Bunch, Charlotte and Niamh Reilly. **Demanding accountability: the global campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women's Human Rights**. New Brunswick: Center for Women's Global Leadership, 1994. vi, 169 p. Documents women's organising strategies leading up to, during and after the 1993 United Nations World Conference on Human Rights.

5. Cook, Rebecca J. **Human rights and women: national and international perspectives**. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994. xiv,

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phia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994. xiv, 634 p. Compilation of reports and case studies from various regions in the world, combined with scholarly assessments of various aspects of international law as these rights specifically apply to women.

6. Cordero, Margarita. **Comunicaciones para la mujer en el desarrollo** (Communications for women in development). Santo Domingo, Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina, 1994. 97 p. Presents the findings of research on the position of women in mainstream and alternative media in the Dominican Republic.

7. Corrêa, Sonia and Rebecca Reichmann; DAWN. **Population and reproductive rights: feminist perspectives from the South**. London: Zed Books, 1994. xiii, 136 p. Describes and analyses the history and contradictions of the population field's past and present policies; presents a comprehensive framework on sexual and reproductive health and rights; examines the barriers to implementing this framework; and offers forward-looking strategies for Cairo and beyond.

8. Eersel, Marthelise and Hedwig Goede; Pro Health. **Violence against women in Suriname: a study of reported cases**. Paramaribo: Pro Health, 1994. 36 p. Examines 1990 data on violence, based on police and medical records for Paramaribo and surroundings.

9. Henderson, Peta and Ann B. Houghton, eds. **Rising up: life stories of Belizean women by women of the Orange Walk District**. Toronto: Sister Vision Press, 1993. 302 p. Comprises 18 stories of Maya, Mestizo, Creole and Garifuna women who live in Northern Belize.

10. Ilkcaracan, Ipek and Helen Appleton; UNIFEM; Intermediate Technology Development Group. **Women's roles in the innovation of food cycle technologies**. New York: UNIFEM, 1994. x, 90 p. (Food Cycle Technology Source Book, no. 11)

Highlights the broad scope of expertise that exists in rural areas and argues that in the process of developing technologies, women, as users and producers, need to be consulted first, because they are the real 'experts'.

11. Isis Internacional. **Familias siglo XXI** (Families in the twenty-first century). Santiago: Isis Internacional, 1994. 158 p. Multidisciplinary perspectives point to the need to analyse profound changes in the family from the perspective of gender relations.

12. King, Ursula. **Feminist theology from the**

Third World: a reader. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1994. xiii, 434 p. Anthology of 38 readings from Christian women around the globe, grouped under five headings: doing theology from Third World women's perspective; women's oppression and cries of pain; the Bible as a source of empowerment for women; challenging traditional theological thinking; a newly emerging spirituality.

13. Mohammed, Patricia. "Social history of post-migrant Indians in Trinidad from 1917 to 1947: a gender perspective." Ph.D thesis submitted to the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, 1994. xvii, 296 p. Argues that in the post-indentureship period, continuity and change in the system of gender relations in Indian society, was expressed through the negotiations in gender relations between Indian men and women, which took place at the level of community and family.

14. Nieves Rico, María. **Development and gender equity: an uncompleted task**. Santiago: UN, 1994. 47 p. (Serie Mujer y Desarrollo, no. 13) Analyses the potential of a gender-based development strategy as a new means of addressing gender inequality.

15. Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad and Tobago. **Surviving sexual assault**. Port of Spain: Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad and Tobago, 1994. 19 p. Provides information about the legal and medical procedures involved in cases of sexual abuse and services available to survivors in Trinidad and Tobago.

16. Reddock, Rhoda. **Women, labour & politics in Trinidad and Tobago: a history**. London: Zed Books, 1994. 346 p. Provides a social history of women's work and political struggles in 20th century Trinidad & Tobago against the background of slavery and indentureship.

17. Riaño, Pilar, ed. **Women in grassroots communication: furthering social change**. London: Sage, 1994. xvii, 315 p. (Communication and Human Values).

18. UN. **Report of the International Conference on Population and Development**. New York, UN, 1994. (A/CONF.171/13) Preliminary version of the ICPD, which was held in Cairo from September 5-13, 1994. 155 p.

19. UN. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. **Strategies for confronting domestic violence: a resource manual**. New York:

UN, 1993. 122 p. Identifies many different strategies that Governments, police, social service agencies, health workers, community organisations and women's groups around the world are using to confront the violence that women suffer in their own homes.

20. UNIFEM. **Hiaru: profiles of Caribbean women's projects.** Bridgetown: UNIFEM, [1994]. 53 p. Portfolio of 20 projects related to sustainable development, which are spearheaded or implemented by women and women's groups within the CARICOM region.

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New from CIPAF

(Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina, Apartado Postal 1744, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)

As part of its project "Communications for Women in Development", CIPAF has published a series of educational booklets designed to provide background and reference material for media work, courses, talks and/or training workshops in schools, community organisations, NGOs and/or political parties. The titles are as follows:

1. **Mujer y comunicación manual** (Women and communication manual). 29 p.
2. **Mujer y legislación en República Dominicana** (Women and legislation in the Dominican Republic). 26 p.
3. **Mujer y desarrollo sustentable** (Women and sustainable development). 16 p.
4. **Mujer y economía en República Dominicana**

(Women and the economy in the Dominican Republic). 12 p.

5. **Mujer y salud en República Dominicana** (Women and health in the Dominican Republic). 20 p.

6. **Mujer, organismos y eventos internacionales** (Women, organisations and international events). 16 p.

Available from WAND

(Women and Development Unit, School of Continuing Studies, The UWI, Pinelands, St. Michael, Barbados):

Toward total wellness: women in the Caribbean. Compiled and edited by Sue Adams, Coady International Institute. Selected bibliography of periodical articles available in WAND's Documentation Centre. Cost: \$US 20.00 plus postage.

The Caribbean NGO Policy Development Centre (CPDC)

has produced an **Economic Education Resource Kit** based on information presented at the 1992 Regional Economic Education Workshop held in the Dominican Republic (CN 6.4, October-December 1992: 13-14). Comprising a summary report of the workshop and 15 information cards, along with a guide for using the cards, the kit is intended for use at community level workshops on economic issues or economic education. Contents: how Caribbean economies work; global economy & the Caribbean; international financial institutions; trade institutions; impact of structural adjustment policies; alternatives. Available at a cost of US\$ 35.00 from: CPDC, P.O. Box 35, Brittons Hill, St. Michael, Barbados.



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Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)

We are a network of individual researchers and activists and women's organisations who define feminist politics as a matter of both consciousness and action. We are committed to understanding the relationship between the oppression of women and other forms of oppression in the society, and are working actively for change.

Membership spans the Dutch, English, French and Spanish-speaking countries of the region as well as the diaspora. It is open to women living in the Caribbean and Caribbean women living abroad who support CAFRA's general aims and objectives.

A brochure outlining the aims and objectives of the association is available on request.

Structure of the Association

The decision-making bodies of CAFRA are:

- (i) The General Meeting of the membership of the association;
- (ii) The Regional Committee of elected national representatives and members;
- (iii) The Continuation Committee, a sub-committee of the Regional Committee; and
- (iv) The Secretariat, comprising programme and administrative staff headed by the Coordinator.

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