

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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ESCAPING FROM TRADITION

The government of Ontario, Canada, has initiated a programme designed to encourage girls in grades seven and eight to consider non-traditional career opportunities.

The critical need for such programmes was revealed by a study of female high school students. Students in grades 11 through 13 had gross misconceptions about career choices, believing that the children of working mothers become delinquent, and that a university education would lower their chances of marriage.

Most of the students did not aspire to high-paying jobs, and of the few that did, only half expected to realize their dreams.

The Ontario Open Doors Program, as the project is called, would connect the high schools to a network of successful women willing to speak to students, and to encourage links between students and professional groups and individual role models.

Women and Environments, Vol. 6 No. 3, Fall
1984

ALL ABOARD FOR CHINA!

Women's International Network News is organizing a tour for women to the People's Republic of China, in March 1985.

Current plans call for tour members to spend 14 to 17 days in China, including visits to four cities and meetings with the national leadership of the All-China Women's Federation.

The tour is expected to examine a range of issues that are significant to women's development in China. These include health, family planning, legal status, participation in politics, the arts, and agricultural and industrial development.

The cost, excluding airfare, is expected to be between US \$2,050 and \$2,300. For further information, contact Fran Hosken, WIN News, 187 Grant St., Lexington, Mass. 02173, U.S.A.

New Directions for Women, Vol. 13 No. 5,
Sept./Oct. 1984.

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PILL A MENACE TO WOMEN'S HEALTH

A \$150 million lawsuit has been filed by 32 Australian women against several American contraceptive manufacturers, with the women claiming that oral contraceptives made by the companies caused strokes, blood clots, and blindness.

The lawyer for the women has claimed that some of the pills had already been banned in the U.S. before being dumped in Australia.

The women have formed themselves into a group called the "Pill Victims Action Group."

Outwrite Women's Newspaper, No. 29, Sept./
Oct. '84

WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE IN INDIA

More than 500 women from all aspects of social and political life in India came to share and learn from each other at the recently concluded second national conference on women's studies in Kerala, India.

The Conference on Gender Justice considered issues around women, the law, employment, and women in the political process.

The women discussed issues in workshops and sessions, the most popular session being "Women in Struggle." This session, according to participants, recognized that women have always participated in struggles like the reform and independence movements against social evils and the colonial powers, and more recently in the tribal movements and unions for wages and against atrocities.

Conference papers recognized that, historically, women's participation and the particular form it takes have not been studied. The conference therefore attempted to look at this issue from a woman's perspective.

Outwrite Women's Newspaper, No. 29, Sept./
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THE PHILIPPINES - A WOMAN SCIENTIST'S DREAM

Forty per cent of the research scientists in the Philippines are women, says a recent study on the status of women in science. The same study stated that only 13 per cent of Ph.D scientists and engineers are women in the U.S.

Purdue University Professor, Jane Butler Kahle, reports that teachers' attitudes in the classroom make a big difference in encouraging girls into science-related fields.

She pointed out that in classrooms where teachers set up a visually stimulating environment with posters, pictures, models, equipment, and

projects, as well as encourage girls to participate -- girls were twice as likely to like sciences and twice as likely to consider a career in a science-related field.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY?

The first full study of sexual harassment at a British university has been carried out by the Women's Committee of the Oxford Students' Union.

The 361 replies to the Committee's questionnaire mentioned 63 incidents of sexual harassment. Over half of the incidents involved a man in authority - tutors, doctors, supervisors, and visiting academics.

The women reported five assaults, two attempted rapes, and two incidents of rape or coerced sex. They said they were angry, frustrated, and frightened by the harassment, but felt there was little point in complaining.

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