

Development (USAID), program administrator, said.

"Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving local prosperity," Hilary Clinton said during the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen last March.

The program has several broad aims, said Dr. Nils Daulaire, chief policy adviser to the USAID. At primary school level, it will pay for expert help in determining the reasons for the low enrollment rate among girls. "In some countries, especially as they reach adolescence, girls don't attend school because parents fear they are not safe," Daulaire said. Teachers will be trained to accept and integrate girls into a classroom, where they are usually ignored.

For older girls and young women, new literacy projects will incorporate lessons in health and sanitation to benefit the family, the USAID officer said. (Today, 9 March 1995)

Year of the Family— fiction only

PAPUA NEW Guinea should not be

In this game, the older male is an easy winner. A 13-year-old girl is by no means on a level playing field with an 18-year-old boy. Nor is a 15-year-old on a par with a 26-year-old.

To put it bluntly, a substantial number of the men are what can only be called sexual predators. A substantial number of the teenage mothers are what we used to call jailbait.

Remember jailbait? Maybe we ought to think about changing the sexual behavior of men as well as women. Maybe statutory rape is an idea whose time should return.

Statutory rape was the creation of a double standard. It implied that a girl below a certain age was too young to consent to sex. The object of the law was to protect female virtue. The subject of the law was likely to be a 17-year-old boy hauled to court by the irate parents of a 15-year-old girl.

But in the era of sexual liberation and equality, the old laws were re-written. We went from a double standard of gender to a single standard of power.

Today the object of the law is not female chastity but sexual abuse. And

"The girls have a dream, the boys have a desire. The girls dream of being carried off by a Prince Charming who will love them, provide for them and give them a family. The boys often desire sex without commitment or babies without responsibility for them."

the subject is generally an older man or woman who has sex with an underage child.

I know that dusting off the laws and applying them to men who father children with young teens has its limits. We have different views of coercion and of consent than we used to. Teenage mothers could become more reluctant to point the paternity finger. I'm wary of matching policy that throws mothers on the streets with one that throws fathers in jail.

But look at the figures. Look at the culture. We're talking about adult men and adolescent girls.

We're talking about 'the game.' You don't have to be a Victorian to believe that society has an obligation to defend our young. Or that we have an obligation to state this clearly, publicly, unequivocally.

These days we are quick to attack teenage mothers. How about trying to protect them? Tell the girls they're too young. But send the word out to men. The word is 'jailbait'.

from Today, 26 February 1995;
Macrimo Building, 1666 EDSA corner Escuela Street
Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines



News and Notes

celebrating the International Year of the Family when women in the country are being raped, beaten and treated like animals, the National Council of Women said.

Council president Dame Josephine Abajiah stressed during a Family Life Seminar in Port Moresby that women are the central point of any family life and should be treated with respect. In Papua New Guinea, however, women have been subjected to various forms of subordination and abuse by their own spouses. Abajiah challenged Papua New Guinea's men to recognize women as human beings and accord them the dignity and equality they deserve. (WINA, Vol.1, No. 1, 30 November, 1994; WINA-Women, Information & News Agency, P.O. Box 439, Republic of Nauru)

Perverse preferences in Tokyo

CATERING TO sadomasochists, fetishists and perverts, Tokyo's myriad sex clubs offer almost every conceivable perversion that degrades women.

For example: One club allows customers to abuse pregnant women; another sells female excrement. A third allows men to grope girls made up as old ladies. "The fee is ¥30,000 (US\$316), everything included. You can choose up to two girls and play with them for two hours," answered a male voice on the telephone.

Another place was a five-story condominium on a back street in the Shinjuku district. In one of them, the room resembled a magnificent drawing room of a daimyo's mansion.

Men pay between ¥50,000 and ¥160,000 (US\$526 and US\$1,684) to tie, whip or burn women with dripping candle wax or give them enemas. (Today, 11 March 1995)

The glass is really there

Three years ago, Elizabeth Dole, then US secretary of labor, initiated an investigation into the so-called glass ceiling. The glass ceiling, women and members of minority groups charged, was what they crashed their heads against as they climb up the corporate ladder. You can go only this far, the men on the top rungs seemed to say, and no farther.

The bipartisan Glass Ceiling Commission has now reported that, yes, indeed, such an invisible barrier exists. Despite 30 years of affirmative action, 95 percent of senior management positions are still held by white men, who constitute only 43 percent of the workforce.

Affirmative action has borne more fruit at lower levels. White women hold close to 40 percent of the jobs in middle management, but black women hold only 5 percent and black men even less.

Something blocks their further advance up, other than a lack of qualifications or capable candidates. Thirty years since, and the number of women and minority members who have acquired the education and skills to move up has risen considerably. But the time lag appears still not long enough to erase the fears and stereotyped preconceptions employers bring to female and minority candidates. No employer would assume that a white male is too lazy or ill-trained, or even genetically bound to fail. Yet those assumptions are constantly brought to bear on Hispanic, black and female applicants, the report suggests. Moreover, women and minority members have no access to the kind of mentoring and other forms of support that white men automatically receive from other white men.

The commission report should be required reading for Senator Bob Dole, who sponsored the legislation establishing the commission but is now trying to end the very programs that may one day demolish that glass ceiling. He might also reread the autobiography he wrote with his wife several years ago. On her first day at Harvard Law School, Elizabeth Dole recalled, a male classmate asked her what right she had to take the place of a man who could be counted on to make good use of a high-powered legal education. Although Mrs. Dole later crashed through the glass ceiling, right at that moment, she had a very clear view of its reality.

from *International Herald Tribune*, 18-19 March 1995