

MEDICAL HELP FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Every 45 seconds, a woman is sexually assaulted in America. The number of victims would total about 700,000 victims a year. Most victims are under age 18. The assailant is most often a lover, a friend, an acquaintance or a relative.

Women opt to keep silent about sexual assaults because, too often, they are made to feel more like the criminal rather than the victim. Fewer than half of all sexual assaults are reported, and many victims fail to seek help promptly.

But these women are also desperate for someone to whom they can speak with confidentiality, and many would like to speak with their personal physicians. Doctors, however, are often too clumsy or insensitive to counsel victims of sexual violence. While doctors are in a good position to identify and treat victims, they do not routinely talk to patients about sexual violence and patients do not routinely turn to them.

New guidelines just issued by the American Medical Association (AMA) should help improve doctors' skills. AMA's new guidelines remind doctors to be alert for physical signs of abuse and for evidence of psychological trauma, as when a woman or child panics or withdraws from the doctor's touch during a routine exam. The guidelines, which are being distributed to healthcare professionals, are part of a broader AMA effort to address the physical and mental scars of sexual abuse. The more doctors are aware of sexual violence and its consequences, the more effectively they can treat or help prevent it. AMA

C I P S



president Lonnie Bristow says that sexual assault is a "silent violent epidemic" that is "traumatizing women and children."

Source: Today
17 November 1995

THE BIBLE OF DEBT

World Bank-IMF
Commandments

1. Thou shalt worship us thy money gods.
2. Thou shalt not seek any other means of raising foreign exchange.
3. Thou shalt devalue, first, thy currency and then thy self respect.
4. Thou shalt open up thy economy and allow us to seal your fate forever.
5. Thou shalt not deny our multi-national "angels" the right to sell toothpaste and potato chips to thy people (and also gas them to death occasionally if required).
6. Thou shalt allow us to purchase thy real estate now and thy state later.
7. Thou shalt never commit "default" and shalt continue to serve the debt till thou droppeth dead.
8. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours low debt service ratio or self-reliant growth.
9. Thou shalt appoint our men as thy policy growth.
10. As a general principle, thou shalt crawl when thou art asked to bend.

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BRIDE PRICE

by the Women's Feature Service

Why should immigration authorities in Sri Lanka worry

about marriage? Because more and more foreigners are marrying local women for a brief fling with the exotic.

Some are interested solely in extending their visas. These mainly western tourists usually target uneducated women from rural areas.

After a brief marriage, they abandon their wives and move on, leaving behind families devastated by the shame of a deserted daughter.

Determined to crack down, the government has designed new rules to combat the practice. Foreigners who want to marry local women must now deposit a non-refundable sum of US\$ 25,000.

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IMPRISONED BURMESE IN POOR HEALTH

Dr. Ma Thida, a Burmese political prisoner is suffering from tuberculosis and small ovarian tumors.

According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Human Rights Action Network (AAASHRAN), Dr. Ma Thida, a surgeon, writer and previous assistant to Aung San Suu Kyi, has not been receiving the necessary medical care and has been placed in solitary confinement since 1993.

Dr. Ma Thida was arrested for providing medical treatment to people injured during the pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988. The demonstrations were often violently broken up by the military, resulting in hundreds of people getting hurt. Citing the 1908 Burmese law, the Unlawful Association Act, the Burmese military authority sentenced Dr. Ma Thida to 20 years imprisonment.