

MAJOR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE RACIAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Fairfax, VA—At a time when the world is increasingly torn by racial, ethnic and religious strife, the Third U.S. Women-Church Conference will challenge that trend at a major national conference which celebrates women's racial, ethnic and religious diversity. From April 16-18, 1993, more than 2200 women (and a

"Women-Church Weavers of Change" Challenges Religious and Secular Institutions

few good men) will gather at the Civic Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico to explore the richness of women's spiritual and social experiences and develop new strategies to challenge injustices in both secular and religious institutions.

This pioneering conference has been initiated by Women-Church Convergence, a coalition of more than forty groups rooted in the Catholic tradition, which reached beyond past boundaries to join with organizations and individuals from other religious traditions to co-create this Conference. Over 100 speakers, artists and presenters are slated to deal with four central themes: Spirituality, Economics, Violence/Healing and Education.

Albuquerque hospital chaplain Catherine Stewart-Roache, summed up her hopes for the conference this way: "It will be a time to gather women from all over the country to the southwest to discover our spiritual space and the spirituality in each other - in forms as diverse as the landscape."

Some of the scheduled speakers, presenters and artists are: New Mexico artist and author Meinrad Craighead, Silvia Cancio (sociologist and educa-

tor and one of the conference planners), Lynn Gottlieb (Rabbi and story-teller), Lucy Le Kissance (Associate Director of Indo-Chinese Catholic Center), Nancy Hughes (writer and filmmaker), Kathy Key (Community leader, Apache nation), Chung Hyun-Kyung (feminist theologian, World Council of Churches, Korea), Rosemary Radord Ruether (feminist theologian and author), and Harvard Divinity School Professor of Scripture and author, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza.

Adrian Dominican Sister, Dr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., co-chair of the program planners, observes: "As a Roman Catholic Theologian and an African American woman religious, my reading of the meaning and message of Jesus in the Gospels impels me to work for the transformation of the sinful social structures of racism, classism, sexism, and imperialism which marginalize, deny the humanity and take the life of the masses of poor people. This conference is an attempt to help women of diverse religious, racial-ethnic and sexual orientation cross the barriers which prevent them from seeing, valuing and forming communities of transformative action for the liberation of all people."

On the final day of the experience, women will have their choice of over thirty rituals and religious services to attend.

Co-chair of the media committee, Alma Fairth Crawford

FOR THE LADIES

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Medical Groups Agree On Breast-Saving Treatment

(NU) - More breast cancer patients can be offered breast-saving treatment rather than mastectomy, according to recent standards established by three major medical groups.

For the first time, the American College of Radiology, the American College of Surgeons and the American Cancer Society have developed standards to determine which patients could be offered breast-saving lumpectomy and radiation therapy. A lumpectomy removes the primary breast tumor and adjacent breast tissue. It is followed by daily radiation therapy to the breast for about six weeks.

The medical groups agreed that candidates for this treatment include:

— Women whose early-stage breast cancer was detected only by mammography.

— Women with a small lump that was felt but whose cancer has not spread to surrounding tissue.

— Some women with tumors as large as two inches, if lumpectomy and radiation therapy will provide a good cosmetic result.

"At least one-third of all breast cancer patients could have these treatment options," said Dr. James Cox, chairman of the Commission on Radiation Oncology for the American College of Radiology. "That number might be as high as half of all breast cancer patients today, because mammography is detecting breast cancers earlier."

Survival Rate Studied

The three medical groups developed the standards after considerable discussion and extensive review of major studies. The studies show that the survival rate for many breast cancer patients is the same whether they undergo mastectomy or lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy.

"Ultimately, the decision as to which option is best is up to the woman and her physician," said Dr. David Winchester, medical director of the American College of Surgeons Cancer Department. "Each woman must evaluate how her choice of treatment is likely to affect her sense of disease control, self-esteem, sexuality, physical functioning and overall quality of life."

notes: "As a United Church of Christ minister, this conference represents the 'united and uniting' spirit our tradition cherishes. As an African-American woman committed to human liberation, this coming together of justice-seeking women is a big step down our path to freedom."

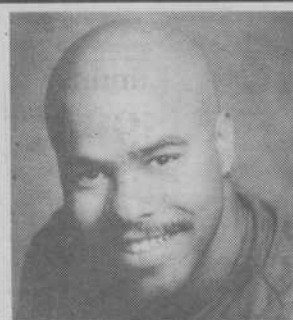
One of the three coordinators of the Conference, twenty-four year old Stacey Conchita

Simmons, who's background is Naraganset-Pequot/African-Bermudian, remarked: "I am excited knowing that women from all walks of life will have a space to dialogue, sing, care, dance and work towards unity. Women-Church Weavers of Change will be a place to be able to see the difference one thread makes to the weaving called womanhood."

DR. MAE JEMISON TO STAR ON EBONY/JET SHOWCASE



The first Black woman in space, Dr. Mae Jemison, will star on a great new edition of EBONY/JET SHOWCASE the weekend of February 5th (check local listings for day and time). Dr. Jemison says she knew as a child that she would one day explore the universe: "It didn't matter to me that all the astronauts that I saw were all White males who were in the military, and who were test pilots, I still felt that I'm going to go up there one day, some kind of way." A Chicago native, Jemison will also reveal little seen clips from the Endeavor mission. Jemison is pictured here accepting the 1992 AMERICAN BLACK ACHIEVEMENT "TRAILBLAZER AWARD" from her mentor, actress Nichelle Nichols of "Star Trek" fame.



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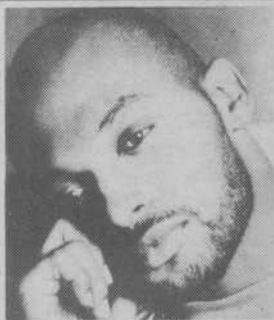
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Wedding Facts and Fancies

(NAPS)—Do most women really aspire to be "June brides?" Fact is, only 11 percent of weddings occur during the month of June. The majority of weddings in the U.S. actually take place in the second half of the calendar year.

Helping today's brides select the right dress, wedding site, band, photographer and florist—and cope with such tough contemporary issues as dealing with divorced parents and in-laws who are of different cultures, religions or races—is a new book called *Modern Bride Wedding Celebrations: The Complete Wedding Planner for Today's Bride* (John Wiley & Sons, \$14.95). It's by America's foremost wedding authority, Cele Goldsmith Lalli, Editor-in-Chief of the country's #1 bestselling *Modern Bride* magazine.

Lalli helps brides handle modern wedding issues with charm, grace and tact. The book takes the bride through each planning stage and comes complete with checklists and answers to many commonly asked questions.

Modern Bride Wedding Celebrations is available at many local bookstores or you can order a copy by calling 1-800-CALL-WILEY.