

Birth control option, or Violence against women

By Ashli Robinson
The Voice

There's a new (actually very old) way of protecting yourself against disease and pregnancy. What is it? In some cultures it is a procedure that has been used for centuries; most women who endure this crucial sacrifice and disposition recognize this procedure as female mutilation.

Usually women in East Africa and the Middle East who wish to be married must undergo painful procedures of female castration. Close relatives, midwives Dayas' (religious leaders), and physicians usually perform the castration procedures.

During the castration, no anesthetics are used making the procedure dangerous and in some instances fatal! A woman's vaginal opening (labia minora) is sewn together only leaving enough room to menstruate and urinate.

Her outer labia is cut off and clitoris is cut and scrapped until the entire organ is removed. Clitoral removal ensures

no sexual pleasure or promiscuous behaviors.

One woman who endured this procedure recalls the event.

"I was terrified to say No. I dare not say NO! I wasn't fully comprehending what was happening to me.

"I cried and screamed for help and no one helped. I cried like mad..."



wanted someone very much to explain what was being done to me in vain. I was shocked and never was I able to comprehend until it was over.

Please don't make me remember what happened, I am trying to forget. I cried and screamed for help and no one helped. I cried like mad, shouting 'You all cheated me.' (Then the respondent wept silently with a choking voice.) "They told me: 'You must be purified like the rest of your sisters, you are no exception.' They attacked me by surprise.

I saw the Daya holding a razor, then she hurt me. I couldn't believe my mother was with them; they all attacked me one early morning while I was still sleeping." (Testimonial courtesy of

"<http://www.nocirc.org/symposia/>").

These procedures are performed on females as early as age eight. Most children haven't even had the traditional sex talk!

Fortunately, American women

have variety of choices for protection, such as cavalier condoms.

Feminist movements have also permitted women to make their own choices regarding healthcare and alternative lifestyles. So, on the annual visit to the gynecologist will women consider this new way of birth control. I should hope not!

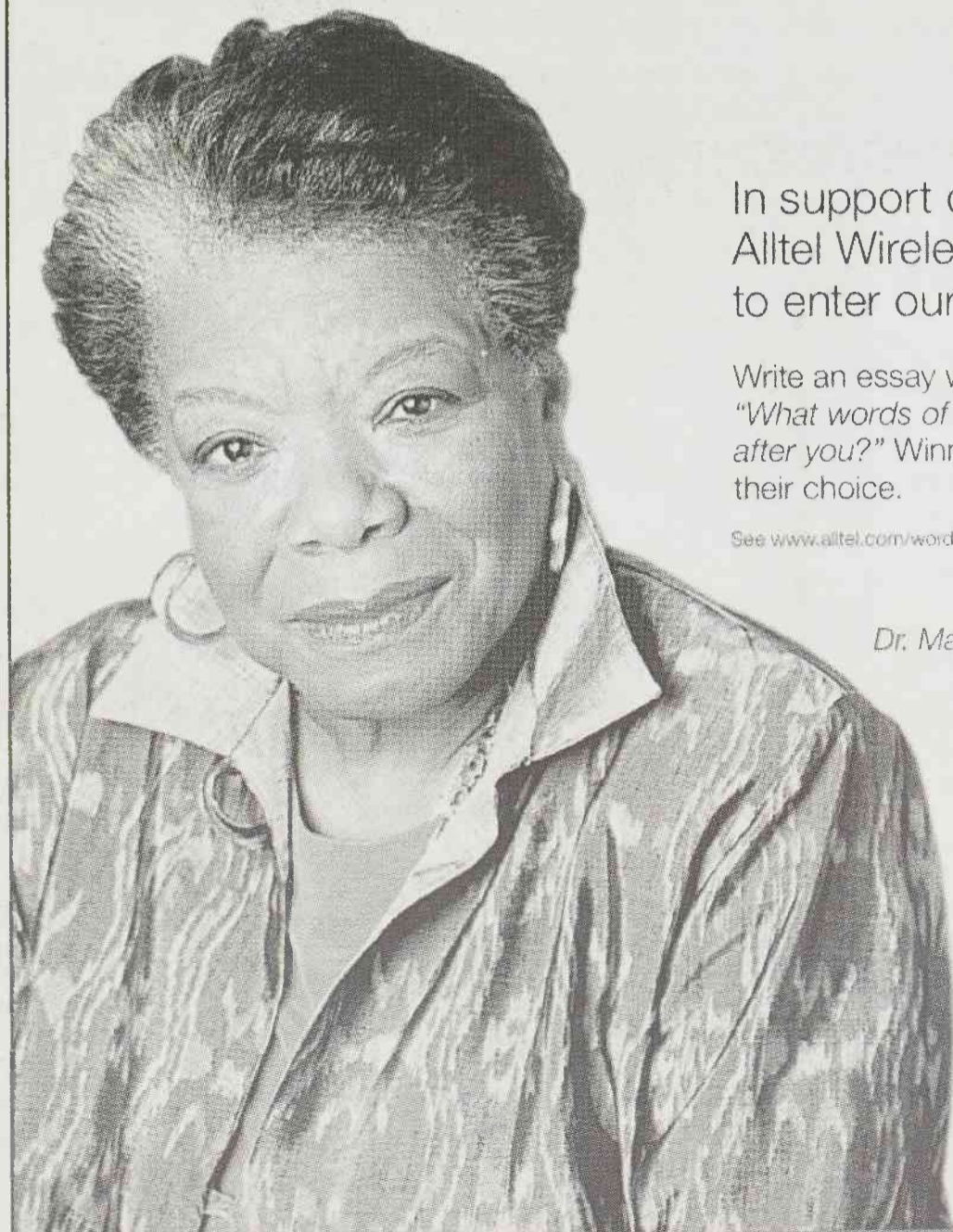
Information on Female Circumcision

Female genital cutting is today mainly practiced in African countries. It is common in a band that stretches from Senegal in West Africa to Somalia on the East coast, as well as from Egypt in the north to Tanzania in the south. In these regions, it is estimated that more than 95% of all women have undergone this procedure. It is also practiced by some groups in the Arabian peninsula [10], especially among a minority (20%) in Yemen. Although it is practiced by African Christians, Jews and Muslims alike, it is also known to exist throughout the Middle East, though it is veiled in secrecy, unlike in parts of Africa, where it is practiced relatively openly.

Information from- www.wikipedia.org

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