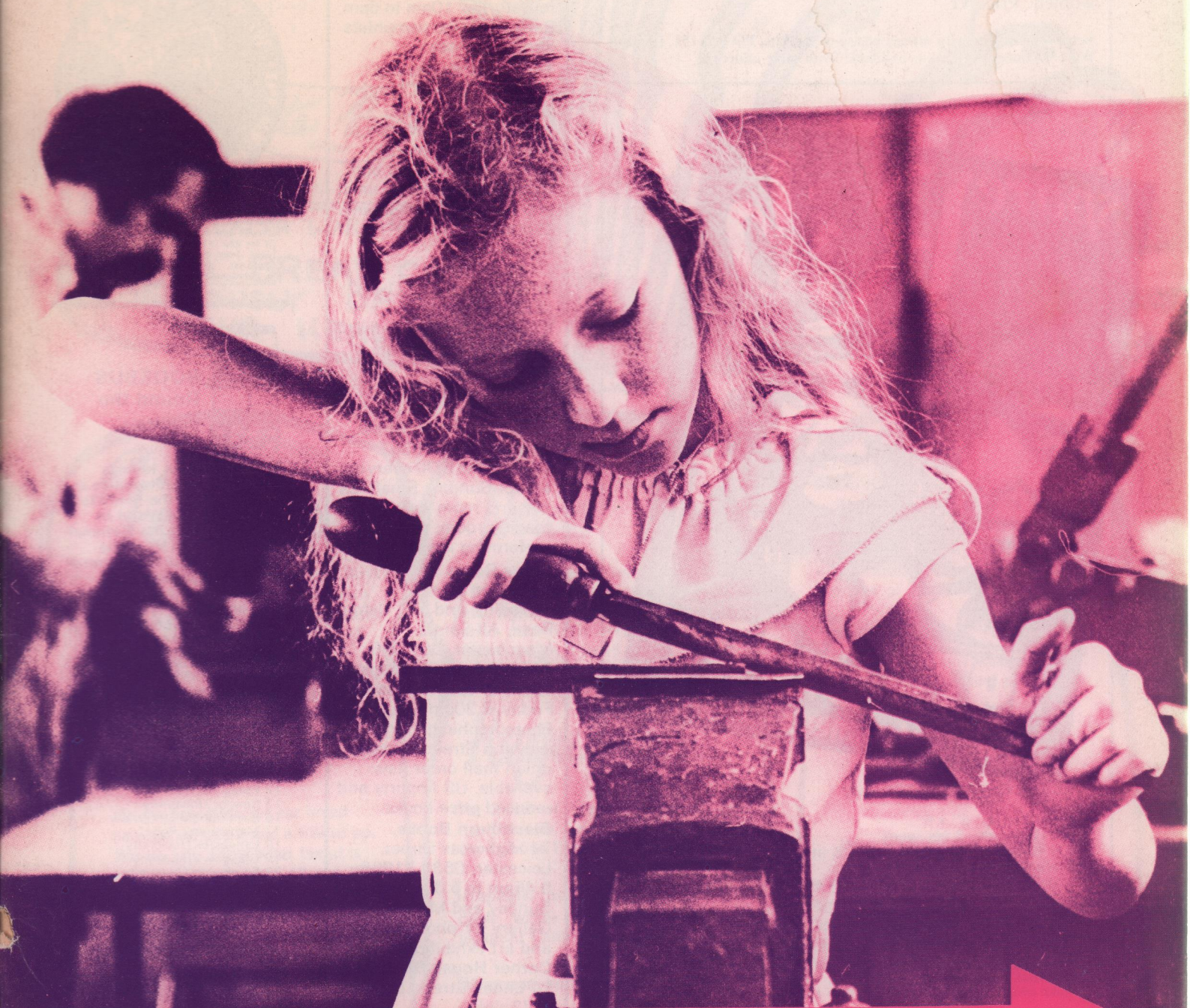


Womens VOICE

October 1978

Price 15p

Issue 22



"I want to be an engineer"

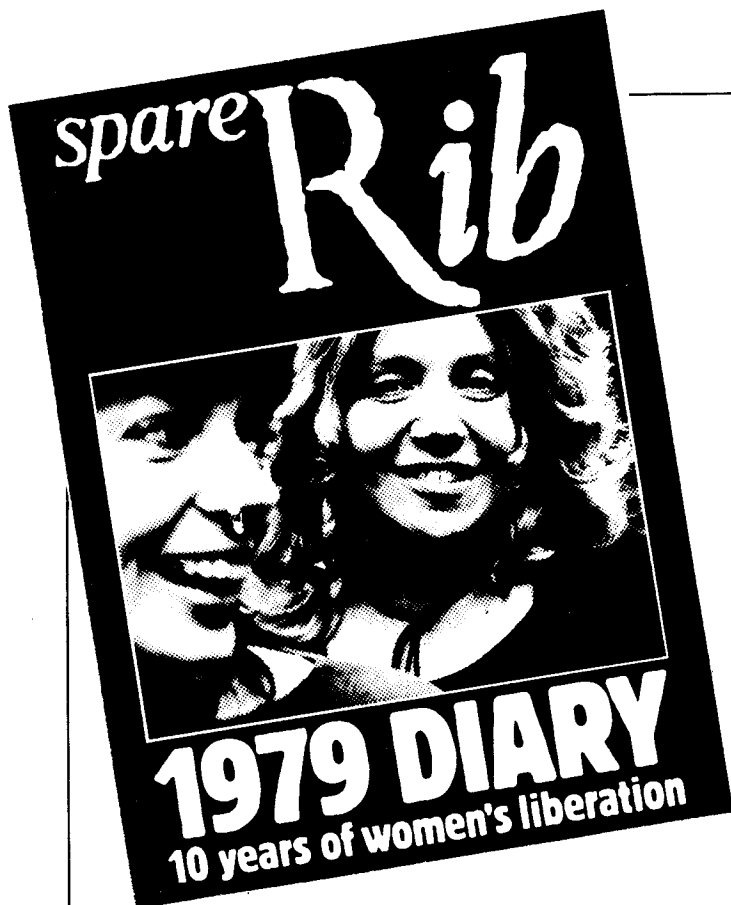
TANKIT'S TANKIT'S TANKIT'S

Specially produced by Teachers Against the Nazis.
Material for classroom use.

Tankit 2 a set of multiracial stories and rhymes for lower primary schools. Includes a 20 minute tape. Price £2.

Tankit 3 Women and the Nazis, explaining the policies of the German Nazis and the National Front concerning women. Price £1.

Send your orders, with money please to Tankits, PO Box 151, London WC2. Details of other kits available from same address.



- ★ hard cover, 6" x 8"
- ★ 112 pages—2 per week
- ★ 4 pages of useful addresses & info
- ★ blank pages at back for notes
- ★ illustrated, printed in navy and orange on buff
- ★ £1.50

Please send me copies of the 1979 Spare Rib Diary
I enclose a cheque/PO for £
Make cheques payable to Spare Rib Ltd

NAME

ADDRESS

To: Spare Rib, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1

Where to buy books

THAP Books
59 Watney Street, London, E1.

01 790 6256
9.30 am to 5.30 pm. Part of multi media arts project. Own publishing unit. Wide selection of books about East London.

The Corner Bookshop
162 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2 0532 454125
10am to 6pm weekdays, 11am to 5pm Saturdays. Wide range of feminist books.

Single Step
78a Penny Street, Lancaster.
Telephone 65388 Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm. Radical books, pamphlets and magazines.

The Other Bookshop
328 Upper Street, London, N1.
01 226 0571. Monday to Friday 9.30am to 7pm, Saturday 9.30am to 6pm. Large selection of feminist and socialist publications. Mail order service.

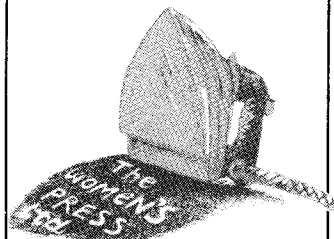
Key Books
25 Essex Street Birmingham, 5. 021 692 1765
9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Wide range of socialist books.

The Public House Bookshop
21 Little Preston Street, Brighton. Tel: 28357.
10.15am to 5.30 every day except Sunday. Small tea bar and room for use as reading room, or performing area.

Grass Roots Books
1 Newton Street, Piccadilly, and 109 Oxford Road, All Saints, Manchester. 061 236 3112/3 for both shops.
10am to 6pm Mondays to Friday, 5.30pm Saturdays. Photographic gallery (Newton Street). Trade union mail order lists available. US imports and reduced price books.

Blackthorn Books,
74 Highcross Street, Leicester, 0533 21896.
9.45am to 5.30pm, closed Sunday and Monday. Gallery for photographic and art exhibitions.

Corner House Bookshop
14 Endell Street, London, WC2.
01 836 9960. 10am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. Special section and information service on education.



THE WOMEN'S PRESS LTD - catalogue now available. Please send a SAE to 12 Ellesmere Road, Bow, London E3 5QX. Books can be ordered direct (please add 30p per book postage and packing).



This tasteless badge has now been reprinted in vile blue with disgusting orange and white lettering. You can get it for 20p (+7p p&p), 10 for £1.70 post paid, from MAAM, that is Movement Against A Monarchy, Box M, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.



BOOKBUS
Round the colleges

The Bookbus is touring colleges and universities in October with the film *State of Siege*, + the *World in Action* film on the National Front (on loan from the ANL), + a photo exhibition of the fight against the National Front in Lewisham + a speaker on *Why You Should be a Socialist*.

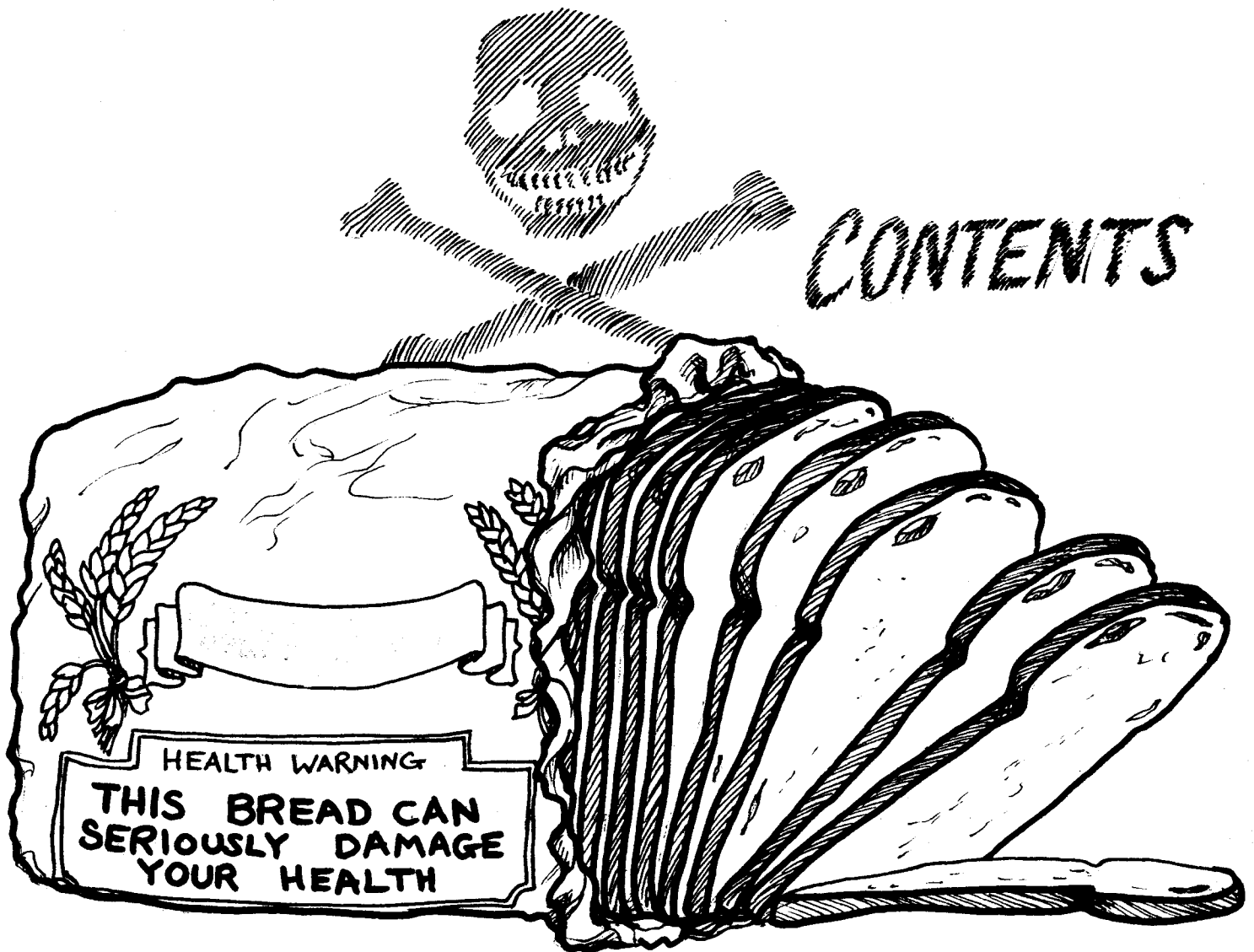


- October 9 Cardiff University
- 10 Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest
- 11 Aberystwyth University
- 12 Coleg Harlech
- 13 Bangor University
- 16 Birmingham University
- 17 Manchester Poly
- 18 Lancaster University
- 19 Glasgow University
- 23 Edinburgh University
- 24 Stirling University
- 30 Essex University
- 31 Cambridge
- November 1 Norwich



Organised by the Socialist Worker Student Organisation

CONTENTS



What are little girls made of? 'Boys will be boys and girls will be girls'—but what about the girl who wants to be an engineer? pages 13 to 15

Women against the Shah: hatred for the Shah of Iran boiled over when thousands of women and men took to the streets. page 17
Why is he so hated—read this and you'll know.

On the breadline: we eat bread because we like it and it fills us up. But do you know what bread is really made of? pages 18 and 19

Safety at Work: October marks the start of new laws about safety at work. Here are some guidelines page 20

Nursery victory, abortion horror stories, Irish hypocrites, revolt of the low paid, fights in the public sector, jobs versus microwave ovens and lots more pages 5 to 10

Our Point of View: 'If you can peel the potatoes you're not disabled'—the Labour Party in Action. page 4

Hospitals: not just statistics Peggy Eagle writes about the Greenwich Hospital Campaign page 11

Women at work: a new series about fighting for our rights at work page 12

Do it Yourself: Selling Womens Voice page 16

Reviews: Making sex happy, a new look at sex books for kids, review of an unmarried woman page 21

Health page: one woman talks about breast cancer page 22

Womens World page 23

Your Voice: pages 24 and 25

What's Going On page 26

Articles, news, ads, to reach us by 16th October please your letters by 20th October at the latest Send to Womens Voice Box 82 London E2

Cover photo: JANE HENRIQUES

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The cruellest cut of all

OVER 9000 disabled women have been deprived of their pensions in a shocking piece of government discrimination and cruelty.

In order to get the non-contributory disability pension, you have to prove that you can't have a job. But if you're a woman, you *also* have to prove you can't do any housework.

Of course it's blatant discrimination—based on the idea that women should spend their lives having to depend on a man.

And it's cruelty. Disabled people need extra money for the extra heating and washing they require—quite apart from things to make their lives easier. The pension's only a miserable £10.50 a week, but that's £10.50 more than nothing at all.

Last month one brave and persistent woman challenged the Social Security officials. She is able to do some jobs around the house, but not all of them. She took her case to a tribunal and they agreed she should have the pension.

Her victory would have meant some money, at last, for thousands of other disabled women, who had also been turned down.

The Labour government was horrified. They moved like lightning to change the rules and ensure these women get nothing. Four days after the tribunal hearing new regulations were whipped through parliament. The very next day they came into force. Disabled women will not get a pension if they can do any housework at all!

It's almost unbelievable, isn't it? When it comes to making a change that will benefit people, there's never enough time. Months ago a change was promised to the regulations on this very pension to allow people who have been abroad for holidays or treatment to start getting their pension again as soon as they return, instead of having to wait six months. Has the change been made yet? No.

As usual, the excuse is money. Paying out would have cost between twenty and forty million pounds a year. A lot of money to the women concerned, but less than a hundredth of what they've just decided to spend on a new tank to kill and disable more people. It seems disabled women come bottom of Labour's priorities.

That's why we say Labour isn't

socialist—and can never bring socialism.

In the socialist world we are trying to build, it's the disabled and needy who'd get the most attention and the most care—not the least.

There'd be far fewer disabled people anyway, because we'd have decent antenatal care and maternity units. Half of all spastic children are handicapped only because they are deprived of the proper care during pregnancy and birth. Tragedies like the Thalidomide babies, born deformed because the drug manufacturers didn't bother to test it properly, just couldn't happen.

But there will still be some people who are disabled. And for them, no effort will be spared, no possible resource denied. For those whose lives are hardest, the greatest luxuries will be reserved.

That's what we mean by socialism. That's what we're fighting for. Will you join us?

The Equal Rights for Disabled Women Campaign is trying to get the housework test abolished completely. They can be contacted at 5 Netherhall Gardens, London, NW3. Tel 01-794 1836.



Mark Risher (JFL)

It's only when handicapped people start fighting that they get noticed. The Campaign for Disabled Women now has to fight the law and the Labour government to get disabled women their full rights.



RIGHT to work women on the march to Brighton where they picketed the TUC. When they got there the Sun paper insulted them, the police took their sandwiches and broke up their sing song on the beach. Even so they shook the complacency of many and let's make sure they're not forgotten until next year's Right to Work March.

THE RIGHT TO PLAY

Recently we learnt that our local playgroup was going to be closed. This particular Preston Playgroup opened last year under the Job Creation Scheme. We were told it would continue with the support of another body. So it was a blow when the fully trained nursery nurse, Val, was told she had a week to pack up and find herself another job (big joke!)

Preston Womens Voice Group decided to hold an emergency meeting of the parents. At 12 hours notice about 25 parents turned up. We wanted to get organised before meeting the voluntary committee which runs the playgroup.

We decided to get in touch with the local MP and write letters. But everyone felt that we had to take a stand ourselves. One parent suggested that we inform the committee that we would remain on the playgroup premises until given guarantees that the playgroup was staying. This was unanimously supported and a rota drawn up of the hours parents could manage to maintain a 24 hour occupation. We painted Womens Voice posters with slogans declaring 'NO CLOSURE' 'MORE PLAYGROUPS NOT LESS' and 'WE NEED OUR PLAYGROUP'.

So, in fighting mood, we met the Committee. They said they intended to close the playgroup but it would open at some future date. Being a suspicious lot, we said we didn't see the need to close it down for any period of time and that surely an extension could be granted to the existing nursery nurse. This we were told was impossible. We replied that we knew it was possible as extensions are fairly common practice. We asked the Chairperson to get in touch with Manpower in Manchester to get an extension for Val, while we made ourselves a cup of tea.

Rather sheepishly the committee members walked out as the meeting broke up round them. In just half an hour they were back to say that the playgroup would stay open.

One victory under our belt, we decided to meet again in two weeks time to form a permanent committee of the parents to keep a watch on events. It's not good enough to run a playgroup on Job Creation Schemes or such. There are unemployed nursery nurses who deserve more than a 6 month job here and then lengthy periods out of work. Also, a playgroup becomes very important to the parents and the children. One of the first jobs of the Committee will be to get the Lancashire Country Council to take on the responsibility of running it.

We can see what good it is doing the children. They become much more outgoing, friendly and develop a lot more skills under the supervision of a trained nursery nurse. It is the only opportunity the mothers have during the week to have some time to themselves.

We were prepared to fight hard to keep the playgroup. One mother said she had never seen herself as part of an occupation but if that was what was necessary to save the playgroup then she would be there 24 hours. Now we've got it, we're not going to let go.

Mary Beaken, Preston

WORKING POOR

Every few months the press gets hysterical about scroungers who live off social security rather than do a decent days work. Womens Voice always argues that people would rather work than suffer the degradation and harassment of life on the dole.

After all one and a half million scroungers is rather hard to believe.

Now new figures released by the Low Pay Unit prove us right and the gutter press wrong.

* 1974 130,000 people in full time work earned less than they could get on the dole.

* 1976 the figure was 290,000 an increase of 123 per cent. If we count dependents the figures rise from 360,000 to 890,000.

* 6.3 million people live on or below the poverty line. And the poverty line really means poverty!

For instance a two child family living on £32.60 not counting rent is on the poverty line.

Working people are getting poorer and poorer—no matter what Callaghan or the press tells you.

Nalگو Action

Social workers in Tower Hamlets and Southwark in London and Newcastle, are still taking industrial action. They are picketing town halls, handing out leaflets to the public and organising petitions.

Social Workers are fighting for the right to bargain with local employers and for regrading. Their wages are far lower than those of similar other local government officers like health inspectors.

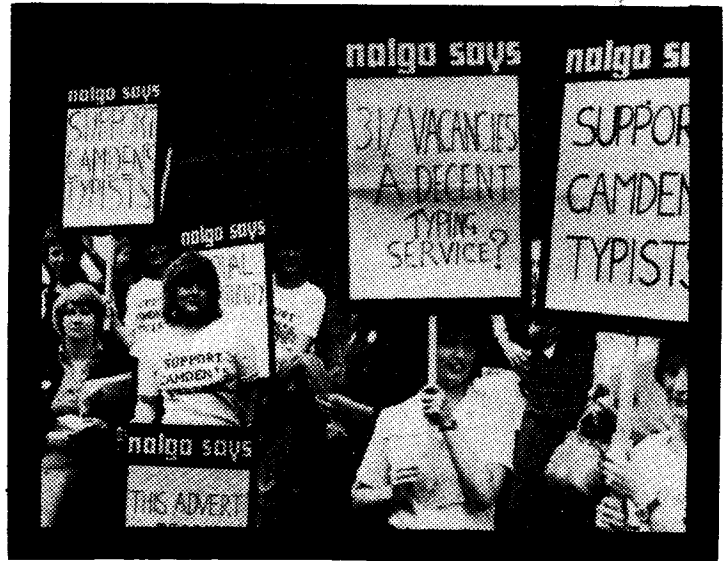
It is mainly women who keep the social services going. But as in most local government jobs the men have the higher paid jobs while the

women are on the lower grades. It is the women now who can't live properly and are demanding that their jobs are regraded.

Social workers in other areas of the country have drawn up claims and are very likely to be out soon.

NALGO ACTION the rank and file organisation for NALGO members is putting out bulletins and keeping different groups in touch with each other. If you want to find out more Contact Dave Weiss 120 Whitehouse Way Southgate, London N14 7LU Tel 01368 8851 (h.) 01 01-267 4433 ext 231 (w).

Aren't men silly



It's a sellout

The 81 Camden Council typists are back at work after a two months strike. Their union NALGO took away their strike pay when Camden Council made an £3-a-week offer.

Ann Johnstone told Womens Voice, 'We're going back to work but only because we've been forced back. We're very bitter and very angry. Nobody expected us to go on strike because we're women. Nobody expects typists to be prepared to take a stand over this.'

We're not just working for pocket money. There are lots of single women here with children. There are married women with mortgages and single women on their own who have to support themselves. By taking away our strike pay, the union left us with no option. They supported us in the beginning and

then abandoned us. But we've learned how to organise ourselves now.

Phyl Johnson a supervisor added, 'In my department there are meant to be 12 people. But we've only got six. After the way the council have treated us, we're not going to be prepared to put ourselves out for them in the future as we used to. Some people haven't got anything out of this at all so far, the most is about £4 a week.'

The council are not interested in providing people with a good service. They're just interested in holding down our wages.'

Fiona Kern added 'We started off united. The council and the union executive have tried to divide us. But we're still united.'

Jean Gray.

JOIN THE TYPISTS CHARTER

Typists throughout local government are dissatisfied with their wage scale. The Camden claim is in many ways a model for typists everywhere We are setting up a TYPISTS CHARTER to unify the battle for better wages and prospects for typists.

- ★ 1979 pay claim: regarding of all typists to C2/C3
- ★ An end to qualification bars
- ★ AP 5 for typing supervisors
- ★ better training opportunities

No to word processing.

ALL TYPISTS AND SECRETARIES IN NALGO AND NUPE WELCOME. For information of the Camden Typists claim, details of the settlement and further information on the Charter write to Womens Voice Box 82 London E.2.

Horsey Hipocrisy

Sally Edwards was sacked from her job as a stable girl.

The reason? Her sister, Mary, who was expected to stay overnight with Sally, stayed with a boyfriend instead!

The industrial tribunal (who do realise this is the twentieth century) found that Sally was unfairly dismissed. They awarded her £50 compensation.

She did not get her job back.

Putting on the Brakes

POWER BRAKES Portsmouth was taken over by 'American Standard' in 1977. The company promised a bright future and more employment. Since then the workers, mostly women members of the AUEW have been threatened with layoffs and redundancies. On August 15th they were finally locked out.

Redundancies were offered and rejected by the steward. However 18 shop floor workers accepted. The remaining workers were forced to increase production and have been repaid for their hard work by being locked out.

Management provoked the dispute after the stewards put in for a 12% increase—they were offered 7% which they rejected. The company then withdrew its offer and gave 24 hours notice that either the workers accept 5%, in line with Government Guidelines, or they would be locked out.

The women organise themselves very well and use a rota system for the picket line based on their section in the factory. Many of the women with children take them along to the picket line or leave them with relatives or friends when possible.

The women's husbands give them every possible support and encouragement including turning up to picket. Many husbands work alongside their wives in the factory and while the strike was unofficial got no money for over a month apart from donations from other factories and unions.

There is a tremendous feeling of solidarity amongst the women and the lockout has made them even more determined to fight for as long as it takes to win.

Portsmouth Womens Voice



Hundreds of people from NUPE and many other unions marched together on the Low Pay demo on 16th September in Newcastle. So did Womens Voice, the Right to Work campaigners and Socialist Workers Party. We were all calling for a basic wage of £60 a week.

At the rally Alan Fisher (NUPE) and other speakers emphasised the run down of the National Health Service. Everyone laughed when someone shouted out that 'Ennals should be put into hospital so he could try out the Labour Party's new Health Service!'

This march is one of many taking place all over the country. Led by NUPE, it could mark the start of the revolt of the low paid. A press release from NUPE says - 'I would like to challenge any Minister to say whether they are aware of what a 5% increase on £42.50 really means (ie £2.12 before stoppages) . . . 5% of bugger-all is bugger-all.'

Mail Order Rip-off

MAIL order workers in the Littlewoods group voted in September to reject their annual pay package.

At Peter Craigs in Preston, where nearly 1500 staff work, they received a visit from the full timer for the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW). The workers, nearly all women, assembled in the canteen. The official addressed them over the tannoy and the main point of his talk was how they were restricted by a government guideline of 5 per

cent.

Preston Womens Voice were contacted and put out a leaflet exposing the 5 per cent myth. We pointed out that the TUC totally rejected the 5 per cent and USDAW voted against it as well.

APEX clerical staff at GEC Preston have worked out that they need at least 17.2 per cent just to keep up with inflation and have put in a claim for 28 per cent.

USDAW conference regularly votes for a 35 hour week and a £55 minimum wage. We said that union officials should put their money where their mouth is.

The leaflet got a terrific response and the meeting rejected the deal.

The workers were then told that they would have to abide by how the vote went nationally. There are Littlewoods mills at Sunderland, Crosby, and Liverpool, under the name of Janet Fraser, and other well known catalogue names.

Preston workers want to know of other mills prepared to put up a fight. Maybe we could start a national news sheet showing the different rates of pay and highlighting disputes. In future we would be more prepared for the lousy deals management and union officials think up.

Mary Beaken



NEW
£60 a week
offer

FREE SEND TODAY

if you want a living wage we'll put you in touch with our local agent
Write to Womens Voice
Box 82 London E7
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

NAME _____
MRS MISS _____ Please give initials

ADDRESS _____
Including house number

TOWN _____

COUNTY _____ POSTCODE _____

Womens Voice

the greatest name in womens rights



Annoying Tories

A Tory Council in Wandsworth means that we have to organise, demonstrate and picket all the time to stop their malicious attempts to cripple the social services and benefits in our community.

Last week South West London Womens Voice organised a picket of Tory councillors who wanted to review (ie; chop) plans to set up a Day Care Abortion Unit at South London Hospital for Women which had already been agreed by the Area Health Authority, the DHSS and the late Labour Council.

About 50 of us - placards and leaflets, outside the Town Hall. Put off by the thought of walking through our picket, the Tories sneaked in through the back way. They must have thought they'd foiled us - until we occupied their meeting room and stayed there until they *did* take notice of us and let us have our say.

Its amazing what a picket of mostly women and kids can do - the next day we heard that the council had backed down - AGAIN! Our Abortion Unit will go ahead. But we'll be monitoring their progress closely to make sure they don't drag their heels. You never can trust these Tories—they'll do anything to line their pockets.

- Council houses up for sale.
- Attempts to chop direct works labour.
- Cut backs on council nursery provision.

Guess where some of the Tory Councillors interests are - that's right - building firms, private nurseries and houses for the rich and hovels for the rest.

Our Womens Voice group and the Wandsworth Fight Back Campaign are certainly giving them a rough ride and they're beginning to look rather green!

Marion Upchurch

Needle Nightmare

Marla Pitchford a student at Western Kentucky University Bowling Green faces 20 years in jail. She is accused of performing an abortion on herself with a knitting needle.

There is nowhere in Bowling Green and surrounding Warren County where women can have legal abortions. So Marla tried to end her five month pregnancy with a knitting needle.

After severe bleeding she went to the Bowling Green/Warren County hospital. Dr Roy Slovak treated her and in the process completed the abortion.

He kept the foetus and called the

police. Five days later a grand jury indicted Marla on charges of manslaughter and performing an illegal abortion.

The manslaughter charge was later dropped but Marla Pitchford still faces 20 years in jail on the abortion charge.

Marla Pitchford is not guilty of any crime. The crime is that this society forces women to use knitting needles, it forces women to go back to the street butchers.

It will continue to do so until women have the right to choose free, safe and legal abortions.

Christina Bergmark, Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

MORE women are having abortions on the National Health. There was an increase of 1636 residential abortions in the first five months of this year.

Action on Ireland

THE preliminary hearing of the International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland will be in London on November 8th to 10th. Representatives of the International Labour Movement will hear evidence from selected witnesses and decide whether there is a case for the Tribunal.

There will be a 'Week of Action' to bring the issue to the notice of the public. Womens Voice groups can help by distributing leaflets on women in Northern Ireland and general leaflets on the case for the Tribunal.

Contact: The Women's Subcommittee, The International Tribunal, 182, Upper Street, London N1.

Helena Kettleborough

**Did you know . . .
 . . . The £25 maternity grant would have to be increased to £68.50 to restore it to its 1969 value.**

Prostitute Frame-up

MARIE McMAHON helped expose corruption in the Dublin Vice Squad in a radio programme about prostitution.

So the Vice Squad picked her up one night and charged her with being a common prostitute!

When Marie came up for trial, 150 men and women crammed into the courtroom in support. Earlier they had picketed the court with bright placards saying 'Women aren't safe at night. From whom - Gardai (the police).'

The court delayed the hearing for two hours, hoping we would go away, but we didn't.

The judge dismissed two of the charges that she used indecent language to the annoyance of passersby, and that she was a common prostitute.

Marie was acquitted of the third charge 'using threatening or abusive words or behaviour to provoke a breach of the peace'.

We shook the courtroom with our cheers.
 Jill Wallis

We Want to Work

DRYLANDERS is a small clothing factory in St. Helens, Manchester. In the first few days the boss Jack

Also between £300-£400 pay was due to each worker, excluding their redundancy pay.

Nine weeks later, 30 workers, (27 women) are still occupying the factory with the aim of forming a Workers Co-operative. Some of the others already have jobs or have lost interest. But the Mersey 'Right to Work' campaigners have been giving their support.

The fight is just beginning. Orders are still coming in and the machinists have plenty of work, but they face court injunctions and the auctioneers.

Nine weeks later, 30 workers, (27 women) are still occupying the factory, with the aim of forming a Workers Co-operative. Some of the others already have jobs or have lost interest. But the Mersey 'Right to Work' campaigners have been given their support.

The fight is just beginning. Orders are still coming in and the machinists have plenty of work, but they face court injunctions and the auctioneers.

Three of the remaining workers talked to me; Pauline, Karen and Jimmy:

'We don't mind sitting in, we're fighting for our jobs and there's a good atmosphere; if it does go co-operative, we think there's a good chance of it staying together.'

The 27 women and those who are occupying Drylanders to the example of the women at E and D. Some of the women are giving their support to the women at Drylanders from local areas.

Not only had there been no warning about the closure, but also their union dues (GMWU) had been pocketed by the boss since April.

NEWS

Answer Back

'THEY'RE swamping our schools!.' Ever heard or said something like that before?

What is the reasoning behind that remark and how do you argue against it? First, however innocent a theory it seems—the reasoning is nazi: 'They are holding back our white kids.. send them back 'home'..... 'boost emigration, start extermination'. That's where that line of thinking goes.

The real problem is that there are too many kids in the classes, and not enough teachers. You can either blame the blacks, or you can blame the owners of the education system. It would help if the authorities were to put more money into the education system to expand and develop it instead of cutting special language classes. You can't expect immigrant kids to do as well as the others without special English teaching. Cut this and of course the whole class suffers.

Women Against the Nazis has produced a new leaflet, poster, and reprinted the old pamphlet with a new cover—all on the lines of fighting racism in the schools. The leaflets are distributed all over the country, on housing estates, in shopping centres, outside factories, schools, anywhere and everywhere. Don't leave your area out. You could get the poster, to put up in the local community centres, shops, cinemas, libraries. ... Order from ANL P.O. Box 151 London W.C.2



John Starrock



WHAT A CARNIVAL! 80,000 on the march. 80,000 smiles, people joining from the streets. Womens Voice sold by the hundreds, badges, balloons and booklets too. The carnival proved that Nazism=No Fun and that together, black and white, can have all the fun in the world.

Painting out the Nazis

MANY areas took part in the national day of paint-outs last month. But if you didn't get round to organising one in your town, it doesn't let you off the hook... All you need is a tin of paint (and enthusiasm) and its an activity which really reaps the benefits. All power to your paint pot. etc. etc.,

Kentish Town

The weather was glorious—just the ticket for a Women Against the Nazis paint-out.

The first of us to arrive at the agreed meeting place were very nervous. Going into an area where there are a lot of NF slogans takes a bit of courage. Especially if you've never done anything like a paint-out before—which most of us hadn't. It was certainly a case of the more the merrier. Eventually sixteen women turned up with what seemed to be as many children. Off we set armed with paint brushes and tins of paint.

We found what we were looking for. Nazi slogans on housing es-

tates, playgrounds and youth clubs. The kids had a whale of a time. Us women didn't get a look in. We were only allowed to paint out the slogans the kids couldn't reach!

The last slogan we found was on the local Greek church. We arrived in the middle of a wedding. We decided to go ahead and clean up the wall anyway. When we had finished a Greek woman congratulated us on our work.

Exhausted and covered in paint we sat ourselves on the steps of the health centre to work out a plan of action. All of us have paired off to leaflet a couple of streets each in the area with the Women Against the Nazis leaflet. We are all responsible for following up the leaflets with a visit to each of the houses. We've given ourselves a couple of weeks to get this done then we're having a meeting on a Sunday afternoon. We're all hoping to get women from 'our' streets to come along.

Like the paint-out it will be the first time some of us have dished out leaflets and knocked on strangers' doors—but there's a first time for everything.

Not so Cosmopolitan

30 NUJ and ANL picketers turned up outside Cosmopolitan offices Fleet Street in order to picket the magazine about an article on women in politics which carried an interview with a member of the National Front.

We handed out a special leaflet to the workers going into the building and an ANL leaflet to the passers by. Three passers by joined the ANL and many people expressed support for our action—we sold 12 Womens Voice.

Unfortunately only three journalists came out to express support which was good for them since they had been told by their NUJ FOC (shop steward) to ignore it. It is also interesting to note that the FOCs had been advised to leave the building at 11.30—half an hour before the picket began!

Teachers against Nazis

700 TEACHERS came to the Teachers against the Nazis conference in London.

An Asian teacher who has been sacked—just because he is black—spoke about how he is fighting to get his job back in Wolverhampton.

There were other speakers, workshops, Teachers Against the Nazis badges and tee shirts, lots of stalls with multi-cultural books, and best of all—TANKITS.

TANKITS are teaching packs with pictures, stories, poems, tape recordings. The TANKITS will be reviewed by parents and teachers for the next issue of Womens Voice.

NEWS

Microwave Menace

School dinner ladies are some of the first to suffer when local authorities start cutting expenses.

We women employed in St Helens, Merseyside, have just won a protection of hours agreement.

In the past we would get a wage rise in January, only to lose it and more at Easter when the teenagers left school. Our hours are based on the number of kids stopping for school dinners.

If 8½ children decided that they didn't like school dinners, 2½ hours were cut. It was terrible trying to get more hours if the numbers went up.

So we took industrial action for more hours and a protection of those hours we worked.

We had to end the dispute because of pressure from the mass media and parents, but most of all because of lack of support from some kitchens in the borough. But we did win something.

Our new agreement says:
Our present hours can't be altered for a year.
If extra kids start taking dinner our hours go up (on an agreed percentage).
If someone is off sick, we get a replacement sent in. In the past we did the extra work for nothing.
WE GOT ALL THESE

IMPROVEMENTS BECAUSE AND ONLY BECAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION.

The pressure on women in the school meals service is really great at the moment, for this is where the authorities are planning cuts.

In Liverpool the staff has been cut by 50 per cent by the introduction of convenience foods, like frozen vegetables, instant potatoes and meat in foil trays.

Some authorities are considering introducing a system called blast freezing.

For every five women in the kitchen now, three would be made redundant.

The fact that this system is expensive won't matter. After all, machines don't join unions or argue for better conditions.

This food will be cooked in microwave ovens—which is a danger to health, causing cataracts in the eyes among other things.

The heat comes from invisible rays—so how do you know if there's a leak?

Again the only way to fight back is by industrial action. Women in Leeds only threatened industrial action and the authorities backed down.

Sadie Blood, St Helens.

Microwave ovens are dangerous. If you work in a pub, or a school, which has installed one, read this carefully.

Microwaves can cause headache, nausea and depression. At higher exposures, they cause cataracts and sterility.

The Environmental Health Officers' Association lists four rules for safety:

- * Ovens must not be sited where workers sit for long periods.
- * Ovens must be regularly serviced and maintained.
- * Servicing must include a check on the level of microwave leakage.
- * Do not use any microwave cooker if the leakage level exceeds the recommended maximum—5 milliwatts per square centimetre at 5cm from any point on the outside of the cooker.



Mark Rasher (TFL)

Friends of Astrid Proll are campaigning for her to stay in Britain. Astrid used to be a member of the Red Army Faction. For us in Britain terrorism seems alien. But in Germany Nazis are still openly in power. Women have been blacklisted from jobs and harassed by the police for simply being active in the pro abortion campaign. For many young Germans terrorism seems the only way to hit back.

In Britain Astrid worked training young school leavers. She knowingly risked deportation every time she went to the police station to help kids in trouble. The police eventually recognised and arrested her. Astrid has said that deportation means her death inside eight months. Five Red Army members have already died in German prisons.

STITCH-UP

280 women textile workers at the Banner Shirt factory in Lanarkshire, finally went out on strike after repeated requests for a meeting to negotiate a pay increase. Management had introduced production targets which reduced their wages by £10 to £26.

One week later Mr Playfair! their manager, sacked them without redundancy pay, notice of dismissal, or holiday pay.

Eventually the company promised the women their jobs back with no victimisations and wage negotiations in November. The

women, many of whom are widows and single parents, reluctantly accepted. But they are determined to get a decent wage rise in November.

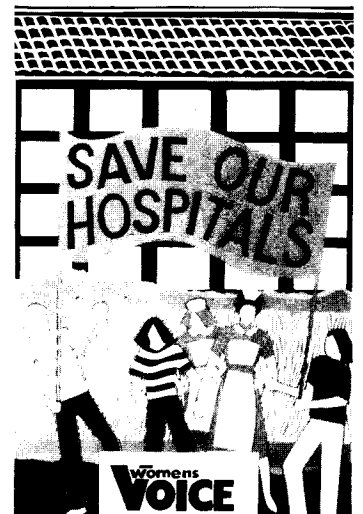
Helen Anderson, shop steward, had this to say: 'The women feel they were forced to accept the offer of their jobs back. They had no strike pay and even though they were unemployed, social security refused to pay them anything. But this is only the beginning. We will keep fighting for better wages and conditions.'

Marlyn Tweedia



We can win!
The Cynon Valley Hospital Action Committee has won a great victory at Aberdare Hospital in Wales. The cuts have been stopped, more operations will take place, more beds provided. The workers in the hospital organised a mass of support from local workers, shown here on one of their demonstrations.

Womens Voice posters for your local campaign.
25 for £1. Money with orders please.
Badges will be available soon. Send us your local campaign.
We can organise speakers for your meetings, on the cuts in the health service, and womens health. Phone Womens Voice 01 734 7410
Money with orders to Womens Voice, Box 82 London E2



+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE

"We aren't statistics"

The first time I heard of the closure of the children's ward at Greenwich District Hospital was when I read it in the local paper. It was the first the hospital workers knew too—even the sister in charge of the ward!

Two of us from Womens Voice went to the hospital the next day to get some information for the Womens Voice Hospital Bulletin that goes regularly to all our local hospitals.

The Nurses' reactions were 'Thank goodness someone cares. Please help us. We don't know what to do.' We went to see the union branch officials who said that they wouldn't touch any of the children if they were transferred elsewhere.

We asked the ambulance men to agree at their branch meeting, not to transfer children to the Brook.

We booked a room near Greenwich District Hospital, and wrote a leaflet. It was delivered to the area around the hospital by three Womens Voice members, and given out by the sisters in the ward. About 50 women came to the meeting. The sister from the ward spoke, along with Kate from Fightback and the branch secretary of St Nick's Hospital. (St Nick's is a general hospital in Plumstead that is being closed. The health authority want to close the GDH children's ward so they can use it for the patients from St Nicks.)

2054 children were admitted to Greenwich District Hospital last year.

887 medical cases, 1167 surgical cases.

573 were children from the waiting list, the other 592 emergency admissions.

The Child Poversty Action Group carried out a survey on one-parent families in Greenwich (officially a deprived area). 48 per cent of their children were chronically ill, had heart defects, asthma, bronchitis, nervous disorders.

50 per cent of hole in the heart babies are either dead or the damage done to their hearts is passed repair by the time they get to the top of the waiting list.

Two nights later we visited Roland Moyle MP and Minister of Health at his evening surgery. 25 of us went and warned him that if our kids' ward was shut, he'd better watch his step!

The meeting was well reported in the local press. On Monday 11 September I went down to the hospital again. It was said that we had better move quick. We only had two weeks before kids would probably not be admitted. (This later proved to be a rumour, but the closing date is the end of this month!)

The demo was agreed at the evening meeting and the leaflet given out for distribution.

The immediate area was done—schools, nurseries, estates, roads, the hospital, the bingo hall. Hand written posters were put up in shops.

We got organised in fours to march down to the area health authority and give them a piece of our mind.

All along the road we talked to each other about the children's ward. Our kids would either be nursed at home or in adult wards probably as far as Sidcup or Dartford Hospital.

One woman went ahead to see if anyone was there. The man agreed to come out. He mumbled about statistics. 'We aren't statistics', one woman shouted, 'We're people!'

A man showed his daughter to him. The girl often has to be rushed to the ward in the middle of the night. He went back in to hisses and boos and shouts of 'No ifs, No buts. Save the children, Stop the cuts!'

We announced our next meeting and also a picket of the next Area Health Authority meeting. Then we

like pouring salt on our wounds.

They said the decision had been taken and that was that. We told them something different.

We gave them the warning—'we've only just begun'. It's obvious by their reactions, we've put the fear of God in them.

Well, what is next? A demo from Greenwich District Hospital to Woolwich (the day the CASUALTY closes at St Nicks). Leaflets have gone out. A printer has just run off 250 'dayglow' posters FREE.

Me and three ancillary workers have started going round factories asking for support. They can't do much since the time is so short, but they have agreed to send us some money and pass resolutions at their branch meetings. Now the contact has been made we can go back again.

The health cuts don't just mean the closing of hospitals and wards. It means staff shortages, longer waiting lists, clinics cut or closed down. It means lives put at risk. It means suffering.

Don't give yourself time to think that 'we can't do this or we can't do that'. Just get in there and get going.

There's lots of work to be done. It's bloody hard work, but Womens Voice has to take the initiative in starting a campaign. No one else will.

If you want advice or support, all you have to do is phone the Womens Voice office and ask for it.

Peggy Eagle
South London.



Newcastle

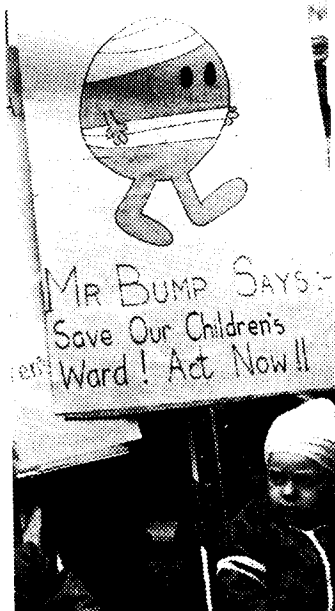
Newcastle Womens Voice are putting bulletins into their local hospitals. Here is one extract:

A proposal has been accepted that Newcastle Education Committee turn the now disused Walker Park Hospital into sheltered workshops for the unemployed.

While we all agree that these facilities are needed must it be at the expense of this badly needed hospital?

Walker Park was a friendly gynaecological unit with a much used accident department. It was closed over two years ago 'for Xmas' and all equipment, beds included, was removed.

Walker has plenty of disused premises, so why do the workshops have to be at the cost of this sadly missed hospital?



Jane Henriques



Jane Henriques

Friday morning came. AND SO DID 350 WOMEN WITH THEIR CHILDREN!

We blocked the cross roads off and on for about an hour. One bloke tried to drive through us and we asked him to stop

We explained why we were protesting, he tried again, so we sat on his bonnet.

He jumped out, hit out at a man there. One of the women punched him in his mouth. We were all angry and shouting.

marched back. We were all so pleased with ourselves. So confident.

'Much better than washing up.' And when some bloke leaned out of a lorry going by and shouted at us, 'Go and cook your husband's dinner!' 'Up yours!' was our reply.

The picket was at a bad time (4 pm) for mothers at home, but 50 of us turned up with kids. The chairman started off by telling us to keep our kids quiet or he'd get us chucked out. The arrogance of this man was

WOMEN



AT WORK

THIS month we launch our union page written by working women for working women. We will deal with joining unions, negotiating wage claims, Health and Safety, how to be a good shop steward and lots more. If you have any questions you want us to help answer — write to us, Industrial Page, Womens Voice, Box 82, London E2.

I STARTED my first job after seven miserable months on the dole. I would probably have worked for nothing, I was so overwhelmed at their 'kindness' in giving me a job.

The other girls in the office were much the same as me—hard working, eager to please, neat and ever so nice. That's the way we had all been brought up.

But after a while I realised that I simply did not have enough to live on. I had to go into the boss's office and ask for more money. It turned out to be the most humiliating experience of my life. I walked out of the room defeated. One of the women at work was a member of a trade union and she started talking to us about joining.

We thought that being in a trade union would help us to explain our case to the bosses.

But it took two years of fighting before management signed a recognition agreement.

During that time the 'fair-minded' bosses showed us their whole armoury of lies and dirty tricks, even making 76 of us redundant! The list included all the original trade union

activists.

So we learnt that being nice gets you nowhere. We also discovered that being in a union is not enough. You have to fight hard for your rights. But we did it.

If you have started work where there is no recognised union, remember that under the Employment Protection Act you can be fired at any time in the first six months.

So don't stick your neck out too soon but do try and get to know as many people as possible in all departments.

Discover their grievances: ★ bad pay ★ long hours ★ poor working conditions ★ bad canteen food ★ uncomfortable seats ★ 'No talking' rules ★ not being able to go to the toilet when you want ★ redundancies.

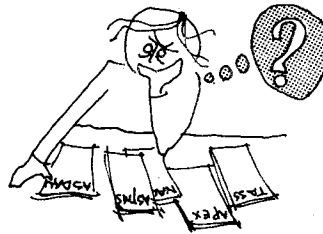
Find out if there are any union members: If it is a factory is there another in the same company which is organised? Is another section of the workers already organised in another union? If it is an office, is there a shopfloor union?

Find out the likely listeners. Who else is in favour of union membership? You can find out a lot about people's attitudes in canteen discussions about last night's telly or news or today's papers. There might be someone who has been in a union.

Don't scare people away by handing out leaflets on your first day—or by haranguing people into

buying a copy of your favourite leftwing paper.

It may be harder not to throw your dinner over the local office racist but be careful.



Find out the best union to join: In many industries there is one general union which everyone can join. Ask the advice of experienced trade unionists and ask your local Womens Voice group. Or write to us nationally. You can also write to the TUC, Great Russell Stret, London WC1.

If you can join any one of several unions ask around to find out the record of the local union branches. If you can, join a branch with some sympathetic hard working trade unionists. Find out if there is a local / national rank and file group in your industry. Write to the rank and file centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Whatever the fulltime official is like—be patient, you *have* to work with him/her.

Join the union! The address will be in the yellow pages. Insist on a copy of the rule book. Find out as much as you can about the union; and where the local branch meets and start attending. Discover who are the members who do the work ★ other women in the branch ★ is there anyone else trying to organise their workplace. You will probably get most of this information in the pub afterwards so develop a strong stomach for beer and a lot of patience.



Working for the recruitment meeting: 'By now you have completed your first six months and you will know ★ a lot of people ★ all the workplace grievances there are ★ how to hide your yawns in long boring meetings. It is time to organise your first recruitment meeting. You will need ★ money ★ the use of a duplicator ★ a meeting room ★ a bit of nerve.

Your union full time official should give you most of this. If she is awkward and won't help, then you have to put a motion to your local branch or district. Seek advice from more experienced members. Your Womens Voice group will help.

You may need a woman speaker.

Try your branch and your Womens Voice group. Pick someone who can explain how trade unions helped them.

Recruitment leaflet: The Womens Voice group can help produce this. Posters are a good idea. Keep the leaflet short. Say when and where the meeting is — lunchtime is best. Mention problems at work and say how a union could help.

Picking the room: Have the meeting nearby, possibly a local hotel or pub. Many women hate going into pubs on their own—so have someone near the door to show them the way.

Involve all sympathetic workers in the organisation. You'll feel less alone and they'll learn a great deal.

Giving out the leaflet: Give out the leaflet a week before the meeting. If the firm is rabidly anti-union your Womens Voice group can help distribute as people go into work. But it is better if you and fellow workers do it—that way people know who to ask.

Be ready for nasty remarks and a lot of patient listening. People often feel ashamed about wanting to join a union and can be secretive. Many will have an individual problem like being on the wrong grade. Explain how much easier it is for a group of people to get problems solved. Tell them that their problems may be shared by several others—and that as a part of a union they can get together and work out the solution.



At the meeting: Keep the meeting friendly. Introduce the full time official and any other invited speakers. Encourage people to ask questions no matter how basic. Don't worry if only a few turn up. You may need several meetings before you get a group of people together.

The hard slog: And now for the hard bit. People will have survived so long without a union that they'll not see the need to join.

Management will make a few concessions to show 'unions aren't needed here.' They may start up a staff association—don't touch that.

You will have to explain to new members why nothing can be achieved until the union is recognised—which means that everyone will have to start working to get more workmates into the union.

NEXT MONTH: Keeping up morale and winning union recognition.

I am helping Mummy to dust.



Dust dust

I am helping to sweep the floor.



Sweep sweep



Peter helps Daddy with the car, and Jane helps Mummy get the tea.

Good girl, says Mummy to Jane.

You are a good girl to help me like this.

Good good girl



Jane thinks: Stuff this!

It's about time I got myself out of these sexist books and started giving girls an example of all the other things we can do!

Right on, right on Jane

WHAT ARE LITTLE GIRLS MADE OF?

'We played doctors and nurses in school today Mummy.'

'Oh yes.'

'Jimmy was the doctor, and Emma and Susie and me were the nurses.'

'Why weren't you the doctor Rosie?'

'Girls can't be doctors Mummy - they are always the nurses.'

GIRLS are taught to accept their future role as wife and mother while boys are encouraged to be strong and aggressive as every 'good father' should be. Very often the talents of girls are held back and frustrated while those boys who enjoy playing with dolls or sewing have to hide their interests and are taught to look on house work and child care as women's work. Many people think the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act changed all that—but has it?

What are little girls made of?

When your child learns to read, the chances are that he or she will be given the Ladybird Reading Scheme starring Peter and Jane, a suburban pair of stereotyped twits.

The world of Ladybird is very different to the world most kids live in. Mum always wears an apron and stays at home in her semi-detached to look after her white middle class kids. Such books are sex biased class biased and racially biased. Ladybird is the most widely used scheme but many schemes are just as bad.

Peter has a toy
and
Jane has a toy.

new word has



Lots of new readers have appeared in schools with trendy comic pictures and are set in Stepney not Surbiton. But underneath the gloss the attitudes are still the same. Mums cling to dish towels and saucepans, girls do nothing but goo over babies while dads go to work and the pub.

But there are a few books which tell a different story. In these girls lead exciting lives and men *help with the housework!*

A series called Trend Readers shows girls riding motor bikes, flying aeroplanes and fishing. In my favourite story 'I Like Me' a podgy girl who is being

recent survey found that 98% of the schools would not let boys and girls under 16 do the same subjects. Football is for boys, netball for girls, home economics and childcare for girls, metal work and woodwork for boys. Only a few schools offer such subjects to both sexes.

When girls get to the age of 11 or 12, they start to fall behind the boys. This is usually because girls start thinking that boyfriends and clothes are more important than schoolwork. Adults want girls to prepare for motherhood, they don't encourage them to get qualifications which will get them a well paid job.

'The incentive for girls to equip themselves for marriage and home making is genetic... with the less able girls schools can and should make more adjustments to the fact that marriage looms much larger and nearer in pupils' eyes than it has ever done before... her interest in dress, personal appearance and problems of human relations should be given a central place in her education'.

1959. The Crowther Report, written about the education of 15-18 year olds.

bullied by an overgrown sadist suddenly turns out to be a karate expert... and 'Karate Bop, Karate Wham,' she beats him up—Great!

Monster books is a fine set of readers based on stories that children have made up. Published by Longmans, they are about Monster and his adventures. And, Hooray! he is a domesticated soul who cleans his house and looks after everything himself.

The picture in secondary schools is much the same. The text books are just as sexist and the subjects taught even more segregated. A

Can you remember the sort of careers advice you received in school? Especially designed to make sure you end up in a badly paid unskilled job. There was a 'good' job in the bank, civil service, or Marks and Spencers for those with 'O' levels or filling up shelves in Tescos for those without.

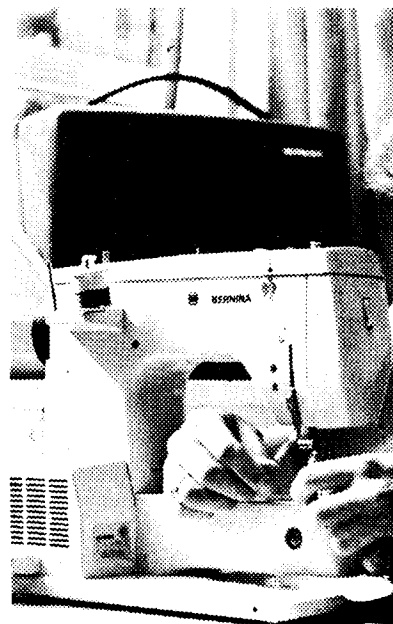
So any girl who steps out of line and wants to be a bricklayer or engineer is likely to be laughed at—there just aren't the facilities you see!

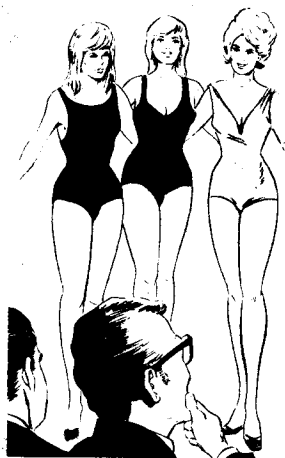
So it's not surprising that only 7% of girls do apprenticeships (mainly in

Girls are
50% of 'O' level
44% of 'A' Level
36% of university
graduates.
16% of university
graduates
11% of university



Boys enjoy sewing and girls metalwork do what they want.





CHAPTER 5

I don't know how many girls
 want to be the Carnival Queen.
 Every week there are more pictures
 in the paper.
 We shall know in a fortnight.
 I do hope it's Joy.
 I've got a bet on her,
 and will lose tenpence if she loses.
 Mum doesn't like betting
 so I didn't tell her.
 Dad does the Pools
 —what's the difference?

41

Books for secondary kids with reading difficulties can be really insulting to women.

to change. But teachers and parents all over the country need to get together and build on what has been done.

At my school, Starcross, North London, we run a model 3 CSE course in community rights. One half term is given over to Women's Rights and we tell the kids about topics like the suffragettes, women in music, the media and education, sexism, the women's movement and women's rights.

The topics are made interesting by outside speakers. We had a women's

... candidates.
 ... candidates.
 ... under-
 ... post-
 ... professors.



network. More schools should let kids
 Photos: Jane Henriques



hairdressing, where a trainee earns £15 a week!) And that only 9% of girls do day release while 60% of girls in London go into clerical jobs.

But it is not only school books and subjects that are sexist. The whole way in which schools are run leads to the idea that men do one kind of job, women another.

Many schools have separate entrances, and toilets and playgrounds for boys and girls, it's separate columns in the register and boys versus girls in the games and quizzes. Boys help teacher with the heavy jobs. .

. 'I want a strong boy to carry the projector' . . . while girls do the domestic jobs like

rock group in—'Jam Today' who told us how difficult it was for women's groups to get work. We had someone in from the Rape Crisis Centre and Claudine, the woman plumber interviewed in Womens Voice is coming to talk to us. The kids love the course and this is shown in the good exam results. Which all goes to show that education doesn't have to be boring or sexist.

HAVE a look at the readers and textbooks used in your kids school. Tackle the teacher if they are old fashioned and sexist.

Bookshops like Centreprise, Stoke Newington High St London N16 produce a good books newsletter.

'We try to educate girls into becoming imitation men and as a result we are wasting and frustrating their qualities of womanhood at a great expense to the community. . . in addition to their needs as individuals our girls should be educated in terms of their main social function—which is to make for themselves, their children and their husbands a secure and suitable home and to be mothers.'
 1963 The Newsom Report—Half Our Future, written about less able pupils 13-16.

tidying the cupboards and watering the plants.

Kids see that men do the responsible jobs—the school keepers, the media resources officers and of course the heads and deputies. The domestic jobs are done by women—the cleaners, the dinner ladies, the cooks. All this has a subtle but effective influence on kids at school.

But some parents and teachers have started to chip away at all that prejudice. Some schools teach metalwork to girls and sewing to boys. Even the exam syllabuses are starting

Get your Parents Teacher Association to have a meeting about sexism in kids books. If girls are stopped from doing some subjects read the NCCL pamphlet 'Sex Discrimination in Schools; How to Fight it'.

Women's Studies and Women's Rights courses have been started by some women teachers. Often their heads or the Examination Boards won't accept them.

Parents can help by putting pressure on Heads and governing bodies. Teachers can use their union to ban sexist teaching materials and hold meetings in their local association. Older pupils can use their union the NUSS.

Women against the Shah



Britain and Iran are great friends—at the highest possible level. We sell them arms, they sell us oil.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh often visit Iran for the odd friendly banquet with the sleek handsome Shah.

Recently that nice man, David Owen, sent a memoranda saying that torture was far too strong a word to use about the Shah's methods of control. Did he believe what he wrote—or was he anxious not to offend the Shah and risk all those lovely arms deals. Read this and judge for yourself.

BLACK FRIDAY

Friday, 8th September 1978, will be remembered forever in Iran as Black Friday. On that day more than 3000 unarmed men, women and children were shot dead on the streets of Tehran, the capital city.

An Iranian woman wrote down what she saw on Black Friday. She managed to get this story smuggled out of the country. It tells of the courage, the compassion and the slaughter of thousands who have risen against a brutal and bloody dictatorship.

Martial law was declared at 6.00am that morning. In spite of it huge numbers of people gathered early in the morning in the main square. Some hadn't heard of the declaration, others were defying it. Twice the troops ordered them to disperse. The people stayed where they were.

Then came the order to shoot to kill. But the front lines were made up of women, and the soldiers refused to shoot them. One soldier shot his commander, then turned his gun on himself.

The first to fire on Black Friday were Israeli soldiers. Four thousands had been drafted in a few days before. There were rumours that the Iranian troops would no longer obey orders.

The Israeli troops shot the women in the front lines and then machine gunned the men behind them.

The people retreated.

A great rage seized the crowd. They set fire to the traffic control points at the main junctions to the square. The traffic officers tore off their epaulettes and threw their guns to the ground. People seized cars and trucks, built barricades across the main streets and set them alight.

In Shahbaz Avenue the people burnt the banks: some were stripped of their equipment and that was set alight in the streets. They passed by buildings which were inhabited.

The soldiers could not get past the barricades. So they shot at us from a fleet of helicopters. Hundreds fell dead and wounded on the street.

The people commandeered cars and motorbikes to get the wounded to a nearby hospital. By then the government had ordered all hospitals not to admit the wounded.

By 11.00am there were queues of people outside the hospitals. They had come to donate blood for the wounded.

Suddenly an ambulance raced up to the hospital. The doors burst open and SAVAK (Secret police) agents jumped out. They turned their guns on the queues of blood donors and shot them. They stormed into the hospital and beat up the people inside, seized the blood bottles, threw them out on the street and then forced people to leave the hospital.

By 12.30 the police had broken through the barricades on Shahbaz Avenue and were shooting everyone in sight. People took shelter in the houses nearby—the householders let them in willingly.

People rushed to help the wounded. Large numbers of nurses and a few doctors went to the hospitals and volunteered to treat the injured.

Sevveom Shaaban Hospital stands in a narrow street surrounded by houses. In the street outside women were sewing stretchers to carry the wounded. The nurses sent messengers out to ask for things they were short of and the people provided it. Ice, Cotton cloth, for bandages, fruit and food were immediately brought in from the houses nearby.

This I saw but I heard later that the same thing happened at other hospitals in the city.

Savak agents tried to enter Sevveom Shaaban hospital in disguise but the people guarding it stopped them from going in.

Later that day people burned down a store in Farahabad Avenue. Before they sent fire to it they took out all the food and divided it between themselves. 'This is ours', they said. 'It has been robbed from us and we are taking it back'.

By 5.00pm on Black Friday the shooting had stopped. People came out of their houses and started queuing outside the bakeries. They were queueing to buy bread, that's all, but the soldiers came and shot at them too. The bakeries were forced to close and thousands went hungry that night.

When the shooting was finally over, the troops brought in fire engines to wash the blood from the streets.

On Saturday the number of dead was 3,400. The following day it had risen to 3,500.

At midnight in another part of the city, I was told, people heard faint cries coming from a hole in the ground. There they found dozens of wounded who had been picked up off the streets by soldiers and buried alive.

In Tehran's cemetery the price of an ordinary grave is about £35. A deluxe grave costs £70. But the families of those slaughtered on Black Friday were being charged £100 to bury their dead. The money was raised. The bazaar traders collected it for those who could not afford the price of a grave.

SELLING WOMENS VOICE

SELLING Womens Voice is a real pleasure. It is the one thing that we can all do and do well. It is also the best way we have of getting our ideas across to other women. Besides selling to friends, workmates and neighbours your Womens Voice group should organise sales to women we don't yet know.

High Streets and Shopping Centres

It is never a good idea to have just one woman selling on her own. Better to have several women together and make a bit of a splash.

Always pick a spot where you won't be trampled underfoot by busy shoppers or pinned against a supermarket wall. Nobody will see you or the magazine if you do. Try and find a place where there is a steady flow of shoppers and space for you to move.



While we're on the subject of moving, it is a waste of time standing about like a coathanger, clutching Womens Voice to your bosom. Walk up to women, and ask them if they would like to buy a copy of Womens Voice. Explain that it is a magazine about women's rights, point out something of interest in the current issue and mention your local campaigns. Shouting the odds at the top of your voice can put off the most intrepid would-be-reader.

It's a good idea to duplicate a slip of paper which explains that you have a group in the area and welcome new members. Put a phone number on it. Point this out to women who buy the magazine and ask them if they are interested in coming along to a meeting.

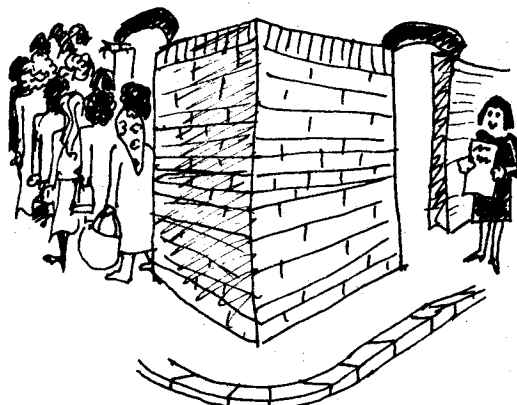
It is self-defeating if you martyr yourself to sales. There is no point in expecting any woman, especially if she has children, to sell for more than an hour and a half at a time. Anyway, talking to all the women who buy Womens Voice should exhaust you after that length of time!

Factories, Hospitals, workplaces

When you've chosen where you are going to sell, find out a bit about life inside. What's made there, what working conditions are like. Is there a union.

Most important of all, find out when and where the women arrive and leave. There's nothing worse than turning up and finding out they're left by another gate. Produce a leaflet if you can, explaining

what Womens Voice is, and relating it to what you know about the factory: facts about equal pay, the union the women belong to.



Pick a day to give out the leaflet, and get there in plenty of time. It's best to be there when the women are going in, so the leaflet can be read, and passed around inside. Always remember to talk, that way the women will get to know you. Have someone selling Womens Voice as well.

Then follow up with another sale one or two days later, preferably on a Friday, when everyone has been paid.

All the same points then apply as selling on the streets: talk to the women, tell them about your meetings, cover the same shifts once, or twice, a month.

Housing estates

These sales you can organise to fit in with the times your Womens Voice sellers have free: weekdays, early in the week—no one has any money left to buy even Womens Voice by Thursdays—evenings, weekends.

Remember, a lot of women at home would just like someone to talk to so don't expect to whizz round a block in half an hour. Hold Womens Voice up so they know what you are selling, and let them flick through if they are interested.

Very rarely will you get asked awkward questions; far more likely that you will have to advise about leaking roofs, aggressive gasmen (or husbands).

Keep a list of where you have sold, who was out, and where not to revisit. That way you will know what you are doing next time out.

Sell twice a month if you can, each time covering one or two new blocks or streets, and going back to sell the new issue to the ones you have already sold to once.

Before you start agree a time to finish, and go round someones house for a drink.

Never throw away unsold copies of Womens Voice. Collect them up at the end of the month and give them away as sample copies—on housing estates, in doctors and dentists waiting rooms.

DIY DIY DIY DIY DIY



Safety at Work

WORKING people have struggled for centuries to get better working conditions in mills, sweatshops, offices and factories.

Today you still have to fight for the best deal at work. The better organised you are the better your conditions of health and safety.

In 1872, British miners won the right to choose their own worker inspectors. But now because of new laws, trade unions in all industries and services have won the legal right to elect their own safety reps. The new legislation came into effect on October 1st.

It is the union's responsibility to elect safety reps and employers must have nothing to do with it. Until now, shop stewards have usually tried to do the job. Some unions like NUPE and AUEW want them to keep doing it along with other duties. Other unions, say that all newly elected reps will only deal with health and safety issues.

What about management safety committees?

Many workplaces have some form of joint-management-union safety committee, but most of them are talking shops. If you have one—get rid of it and set up a fully independent union safety committee.

What sort of safety reps?

It is important to elect keen and active trade unionists. Many trade unions have been much slower than managements to realise the importance of health and safety. Often managements have encouraged weak trade unionists to act as safety reps. It is important that all safety reps should have the status and authority of shop stewards. Health and safety reports should be high on the agenda of ordinary union meetings—don't hve them off or dismiss them as something only a few people are interested in.

These are some of the things you need to sort out.

* how many reps you need * their powers *how they can be elected *how they fit into the existing union structure.

What can safety reps do?

As much as their union organisation lets them. The regulations of safety reps and Safety Committees provide some basic rights: safety reps can investigate, inspect, obtain information, take up problems with management and call in help to deal with health and safety issues.

But these are only the minimum requirements,

you can win a much better deal. Workers at Vosper Thornycroft won the following agreement:

- 1 Rights of regular inspection at times determined by the union representative.
- 2 To 'stop the job' where hazards are evident. The operator is transferred to alternative work to maintain earning level. Where alternative work does not exist then the operator will wait, while still earning their 20p bonus.
- 3 To accompany the factory inspector on visits, to receive photostat copies of reports from the inspector on conditions in the factory and to receive details on and be consulted about the issuing of notices by the inspector.
- 4 To inspect the site of an accident before it is disturbed.
- 5 To adequate time off with pay for both technical and trade union training.

Effective safety reps must keep in touch with other workplace reps and stewards. A union health and safety committee can be set up as part of a joint shop stewards committee. (If you don't have a JSSC, now may be the time to set one up. Health and safety is just one issue which is strengthened by a united union approach).

Vosper Thornycroft workers won the following rights for their union committee:

- 1 To negotiate a comprehensive safety agreement
- 2 To negotiate with management on content of statutory safety policy.
- 3 To receive and discuss inspectors reports.
- 4 To monitor substances and processes and have the necessary facilities to do this.
- 6 To decide on the form of accident records and statistics
- 7 Information on all substances and processes being used
- 8 The right to consult with and have on the premises technical experts appointed by the unions

Other workers have won the right to regular medical inspection paid for by management.

Setting up an office

Employers must provide facilities and help, including facilities for independent investigation and private discussion with fellow workers. The regulations don't spell out what these facilities are. But you'll need an office, or at least a desk, with a

typewriter, files, telephone etc.,

You'll also need a 'library' with technical information, legislation, accident and illness records and other useful information, all paid for by management.

What about training?

Management *must* give safety reps time off, with pay to do their job and be trained for it. Training should be done by trade unions or trade union courses, even if you also attend the course your employer organises.

For more information send for A Guide for Safety Reps

BSSRS Work Hazards Group
9 Poland Street London W1
Or contact Women at Work Hazards Group at the same address.

Disinfectants

I am a hospital cleaner. In my job we use a lot of disinfectants which sometimes spill on my skin which is painful and causes rashes. Can you tell me how dangerous this stuff is.

Most disinfectants are phenol based. Phenol can cause bad dermatitis and if its concentrated can cause severe burns. When diluting it you're at great risk and if accidentally swallowed it is highly poisonous.

As with all dangerous substances used at work you should demand a safe substitute. Meanwhile you must follow basic safe handling procedures.

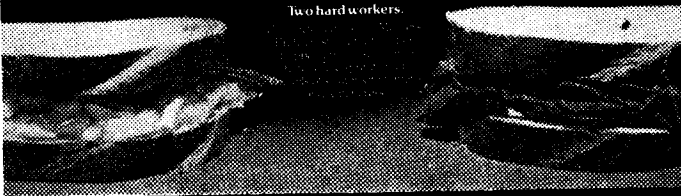
Insist on the provision of high quality gloves and aprons. Make sure that any concentrated disinfectant is clearly labelled and diluted via pumps not just poured into containers. Such disinfectants should only be used in well ventilated premises.

But we shouldn't have to use dangerous chemicals at work—when we don't know what the long term hazards are. Why don't you elect a safety rep and do a small scale survey of the hospital—you'll find you're not the only one with dermatitis.

* Hospitals are dangerous places to work. BSSRS Hospital Hazards Leaflet tells all 5p.

Tea for two and two for tea.

Two hard workers.



Some of the additives used in bread are banned in other countries because they are thought to contribute to liver disease.

White bread can contribute to causing heart disease, cancer, diabetes—the list is endless.

Two busy mums.



The kind of iron added back into flour cannot be properly absorbed by the body (because it is in the ferric rather than the ferrous state) It just passes straight through the gut. They don't even add enough Vitamin B1 and B2 to compensate for losses. (From Our Daily Bread).

Fibre content in bread has fallen by one-fifth since the war. White sliced bread is 75% air by volume and 40% per cent water by weight.

Two much.

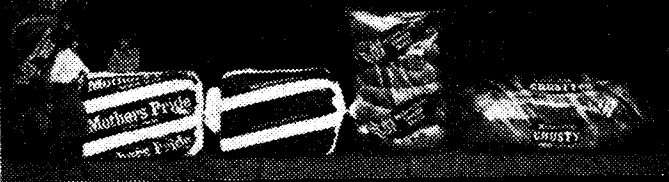


Yellow dye is slapped into buns without any measuring device to ensure it does not exceed the allowed limits. These dyes are made from minerals. Egg or saffron would do the trick just as well.

'Eleven million tasteless, branless, germless and synthetically adulterated loaves are consumed daily in this country.'

Sunday Times, 18 December 1977

Mums and Mothers Pride make such good things together.



The most poisonous thing in bread is not so much the additives but racism. Throughout the world bakeries run on cheap immigrant labour.

Ted Keys, Maintenance Engineer, Sunblest.

Noise rates in a bakery is 93-96 decibels. In the House of Commons it is 20 decibels. You get temporary deafness in the bakery.

Ted Keys, Sunblest

'Bread is a big business in this country, which may explain the unique quality of the British loaf. It helped Rank Hovis McDougall make a massive £34,458,000 pretax profit in their year to September 3'

Daily Mail, 7 December 1977

Food Thou

It would be fine if we could all eat steak every night but most working women have neither the time nor money to eat well. Most families are stuck with the cheap and nasty food churned out on conveyor belts for our 'convenience'. Take bread for example. Low income families have to spend twice as much of their food budget on bread as higher income groups. They have to fill out on stodge because good food is too expensive. It's particularly serious when it comes to our daily bread because that is where we should get most of our nutrients. In fact there is good reason to believe that the bread we are sold is actually harmful to our health.

Sliced Bread - The greatest Thing?

Pick up any sliced loaf. You'll find it's made by one of two firms. Associated British Foods (AFM) and Rank Hovis McDougall (RHM). They have monopolised the entire bread trade between them. Take out the middle and roll it in your palm. You will be left with a soggy ball of grey unappetising dough. This substance is a combination of water, air, liquid paraffin, gluten, bleach and adulterated flour.

Graded Grains make bigger profits . . .

In its original form, wholewheat flour is very nutritious - it contains essential minerals, vitamins and oil. Many women suffer from anaemia and can particularly use the iron that flour contains. But ABF and RHM who control the milling of flour have discovered that if they split the grain up for the production of white flour, they can make a bigger profit. This process reduces the protein content of bread to about a quarter. But that's not all: then they proceed to pump additives into the flour in order to produce your daily Plunderloaf as cheaply as possible.

The main problem is to keep the ovens going. This means they can't use ordinary animal or vegetable oil—instead they use liquid paraffin which is a suspected carcinogen. That means it can cause cancer. In 1966 when bread manufacturers used particularly heavy doses of liquid paraffin there was a con-

siderable increase in bowel cancer that year. Maybe it's just coincidence!

Workers at the Sunblest bakery in East London say the control of its use is very haphazard although it is supposed to be strictly regulated.

We don't know everything about the 24-odd additives that go into our bread but we do know that bread can be made without them if the bakeries put our needs before their kneads.

On the Bread Line

All bakeries depend upon very cheap, usually immigrant labour. Managerial methods are very Victorian. They have a high level of accidents because they keep production going at a very high speed. They kill off about four workers a year in the coolers; these are kept at about 80° Fahrenheit at high humidity, and maintenance engineers are expected to crawl into them. Recently one engineer lost his nerve and fainted at Sunblest's. They had to pull him out and rush him to hospital.

The trays for bread are rife with bacteria and waste is left lying around because it costs money to dispose of it immediately. The floors are always slippery so that workers have to scrunch their toes up to walk around. The cutting machines are sped up so much that cut fingers are an everyday occurrence. Sunblest's at Walthamstow have the highest accident rate amongst London bakeries.

Shirley Brosnan worked at Sunblest for ten months. She packed rolls eight hours a day for 62.5p an hour:

'The first thing that hits you when you walk into that place is the deafening noise. You can't have a chat with the other women unless you shout in each other's ears. We all get temporary deafness working there. The work is hard, boring and heavy. I was pregnant when I worked at Sunblest and the thing that used to kill me was carrying the heavy trays. It was also hell to have to stand up all the time. We repeatedly asked management if we could have chairs, but they refuse anything which would make life easier for us. You couldn't even go to the toilet between breaks. I used to get up and walk out anyway. They

for ght

operate at that place by bullying you all the time so it's very important to stick up for yourself. We had four foremen to 11 women. They were just called foremen because they were earning 12p an hour extra than us for doing similar work.

I was always cutting my fingers and bruising my ankles. The conveyor belts are so fast we just can't keep up with the pace. Once I got so angry, I let the loaves fall off the belt into a heap and then threw some at the boss.

Things could be changed inside that bakery. They have already won a campaign to get seats. If I were to go back, I'd start up a decent social club - there are six languages inside that building and we need to find ways of socialising together to break down the barriers. They even

employ workers to stir up trouble among ourselves - they try and cause conflicts between the Punjabis and Pakistan workers but the workers are getting wise to it. There was a strike over Bank Holiday and everyone stood together in the end.

The first thing for the women there is a demand for equal pay. As a matter of fact I don't think the 11 women in the packing room understand what strength they have. Practically every part of the bakery is automated except theirs. If they stopped work, the whole bakery would be affected.

If you want to know more about bread there is a very good pamphlet produced by Agricapital Group, 9 Poland Street, London, W1 called 'Our Daily Bread' which costs 50p.



"I would stick to my diet... only I keep getting hungry!"

The one thing you can't prescribe is willpower. But bread could be the next best thing. It can stave off the dieting patient's hunger without piling on the calories. And the more satisfying the diet, the better the chance of success.

Bread is not the enemy many slimmers believe it to be. An average slice (1oz/28g) contains only 69 calories - about the same as an ounce of lean beef. What's more, it supplies the protein, calcium, iron, B vitamins and energy the slimmer needs more than ever.* And, of course, wholemeal bread provides extra fibre too.

Bread was part of the patient's former eating habits. A reduced amount has its place in her future diet. She knows bread, likes bread and needs bread. Three good reasons for including three daily slices in the diet you want her to keep.

In the average daily diet how much goodness does bread supply?



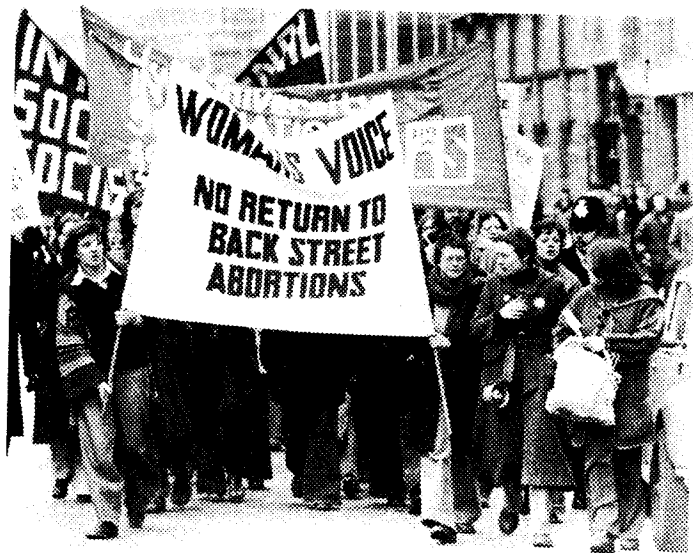
13.4% of the calcium, 18.8% of the iron, 13.9% of the niacin, 22.3% of the thiamin, 15.8% of the potassium, and 14.5% of the energy.
Source: National Food Survey 1974.

Free leaflet - postage paid

For more information write to: Dept. G51, Flour Advisory Bureau, 21 Arlington St., London SW1A 1RN for details of the 'Slim with Sense' diet prepared with the advice of scientific and medical authorities.

*100 grams of white bread (from a 28oz loaf) provides 176 calories, 25mg calcium, 1.7mg iron, 0.16mg thiamin 1.7mg niacin and 243 calories.

ISSUED BY THE FLOUR ADVISORY BUREAU



Womens VOICE Conference

Last June Womens Voice held a big rally in Sheffield. Our slogan was for 'Womens Liberation and Socialism.' Since then the Womens Voice magazine and the Womens Voice groups around the country have been organising to put these words into action.

We know we can't change things overnight, but every day we can spread our ideas and involve more women in our fight for equal rights, whether the campaign is for a nursery, against hospital closures or for equal pay. As we work our confidence grows: women get on their feet for the first time to speak at a meeting, or organise demos and pickets without ever having been on one in their lives.

None of this would happen if we didn't have this special organisation for women. Organising together releases the talent and the ideas that are otherwise wasted while we stay in the backroom making the tea.

But there's more to Womens Voice groups than just wanting to organise women. We are socialists too. To achieve womens liberation we have to have a socialist society; women cannot have any real freedom in a society which is so unequal and repressive, where we have no real control over the important decisions, so that every victory that we do win can easily be lost.

We can organise women on our own, but we can't fight for socialism alone. For that we need a socialist party, like the Socialist Workers Party. Womens Voice is the sister

organisation of the SWP.

Now we want to make our organisation stronger. On the last Saturday in October we will be holding the first national meeting of Womens Voice, inviting delegates from all the Womens Voice groups around the country.

At the meeting we will elect a Steering Committee made up of representatives from different areas and workplaces. Women who have the experience of building Womens Voice.

We have a heavy agenda which includes the Womens Voice hospital campaign, Women Against the Nazis, organising at work. There will be a practical session when we can break into groups to learn some of the skills we need, or discuss in detail some of our common problems. There will be financial reports and reports on the groups.

It will be the first chance for a real exchange of ideas and experience. The Steering Committee will have to continue to do that, and there'll be more meetings in the future.

We'll report the meeting in Womens Voice, and over the coming months we'll have to work hard to live up to all our expectations. Then we will be able to build Womens Voice in numbers, influence and activity.

Delegate Womens Voice Conference, 10.30 Digbeth Civic Halls, Birmingham.

I WAS 42 at the time. One night while undressing I felt a lump in my breast. It was the most awful sensation.

Ten months earlier I had complained to my GP about a fluttering sensation in my breast. He had examined me and found no lumps. This time he just sent me away, telling me not to worry. He must have thought I was neurotic.

Another year went by. I was on holiday and suddenly I felt movement in my breast every day.

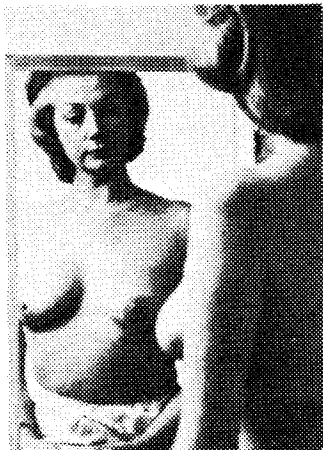
I came home and discovered that the local health centre was doing cervical smears. I had the smear then mentioned the lump in my breast.

The doctor examined me, then sent me to another doctor who sent me to Hackney Hospital.

I went into the hospital on the Friday and they removed my breast on the Monday.

When I came round from my operation the thing that struck me most vividly was that I would be walking down the street lopsided. I thought everyone would be looking at me.

I have no criticisms of the way I was treated at the



hospital—of course I didn't like losing my breast but I'd sooner have one breast off and be alive. But even after I'd lost my breast I wouldn't let them tell me what I'd had. I think if the doctor had told me I had cancer I'd have committed suicide. Now it doesn't bother me.

In the hospital I was measured for my prosthesis (false breast). The fitter was a most jovial man. He made me parade up and down and he said: 'You're gorgeous.. you've got the most gorgeous figure' and he just passed it off. He made me feel that at least I wasn't a monstrosity.

My prosthesis is very good. It's foam backed with rubber at the front. It contains liquid which moves as you do. But some are terrible—they're filled with birdseed. All types of

WOMENS HEALTH

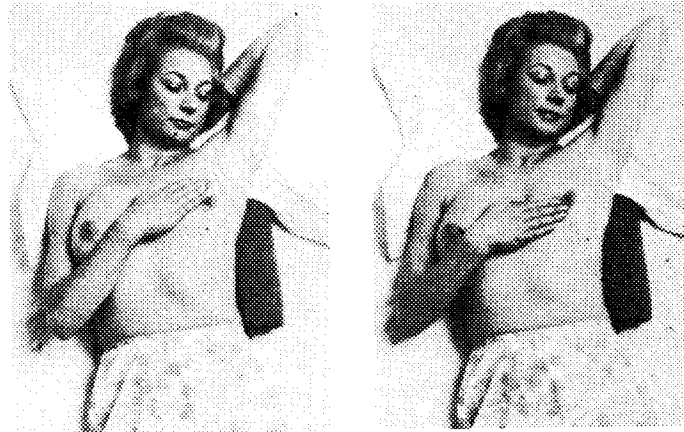
prosthesis wear out very quickly. They should give two at a time. I get at least one a year, but I do know women who only get one every two years.

After the operation, I'd go to bed and think I might not wake up in the morning. After two years I thought: Well, I've got a chance. As the days go on you know that you're living. After

three years I knew that I was all right for sure.

I never try to hide the fact that I've had breast cancer. Many women think its the end of the world. But it's not. I go swimming, I sunbathe. My prosthesis shows a small bit, but if it doesn't offend anybody it certainly doesn't bother me.

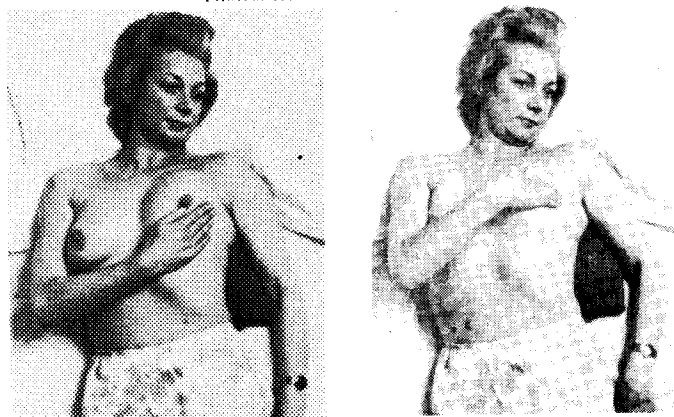
I've adapted my swimming



Breast cancer is a major health hazard for women. 10,000 die of it every year. Early detection of small lumps is the difference between a very good and a very poor chance of survival. Also, the United States Bureau for Cancer Research has estimated that at least seven out of every ten cases of cancer (all the different kinds) are caused by some form of environmental factor (food additives, chemicals at work, polluted air, etc.), and can therefore be avoided in the first place by stricter controls.

Yet until recently little research and less action has been undertaken into its causes and the best methods of screening. The government are quibbling over setting up a national screening service—meanwhile women are at risk.

Photos: Health Education Council



BREAST CANCER: One Woman's Experience

costume. Mind you I think a lot more could be done in this area. I did send off for one special costume, but it was horrible—I looked about ninety in it.

Many women can't accept what has happened to them. At first you think that men will ... cringe, turn away. But all the men, the 'boys' I knew at school—it's never made any difference. The people I work with always made me feel the same as everybody else.

I got my moral support from my family and friends. If you've got people around you who care—it does help. It must be awful for people who've got no family—IT MUST BE A HEARTACHE FOR THEM.

But the most important thing is if you can talk about it. If you can talk about it then your problems are over. We talk about it if we get flu or break our arms. I can't see the difference. It shouldn't be so important.

I go and see women round here who've had the same operation. Their families say to me: —Go and give them a bit of moral support.

I've never got involved with the Mastectomy Association but I've heard about it. I think



it's a good idea. Women who've had mastectomies go round helping other women. I think that's a very good idea.

For more information: If you have had a mastectomy and wish advice and support write to Betty Westgate Mastectomy Association, 1 Colworth Road., Croydon, Cro 7AD

If you want pamphlets about self examination write to Womens Cancer Control Council 1 South Audley St London W1

This organisation has mobile units which can be used by local authorities or by firms. Doctors in these units show women how to examine their breasts and test them for lumps in the breast and for cervical cancer. The Health Education Council 78 New Oxford St WC1 also has very good leaflets on breast examination.

Director of Housing
City Hall, Beaumont Fee,
Lincoln, LN1 1DE

Dear Madam,

With reference to your application to be rehoused I regret to inform you that it cannot be accepted on to the Housing Register. It is the policy of the Housing Committee to take no action in the case of an estranged applicant prior to an established separation or divorce and it will not be possible to assist you in your present circumstances. I can only suggest that you apply again when your marital position is resolved.

Yours faithfully,
Director of Housing.

Discrimination in Housing

Dear Womens Voice

Something needs to be done about the discrimination against women by Council Housing Departments.

I enclose a letter from Lincoln City Housing Department rejecting a woman's application to go on the housing register on the grounds that she was 'estranged' but not divorced.

The sister desperately needed a house as she was living in one room with her two children. What right have the housing Committee got to demand she gets divorced to go on the list? Surely that's her business.

Jeffer Clements,
Kent

Beginners, Experts and Ladies

WOODWORK

Monday

Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 noon and 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday

Thursday

Well equipped workshop. Beginners, experts and ladies welcome.

F.E. Centre, St. Ronan's Road

Mr. D. J. McMeehan

Mr. D. J. McMeehan

Mr. D. J. McMeehan

Mr. G. L. Booth

From the programme of the South Portsmouth Further Education Centre.

Portsmouth Womens Voice Group.

HELP

Working Womens Handbook

Dear Womens Voice

Jo Fitzpatrick and Ursula Huws are writing a 'Working Women's Handbook' for Pluto Press. They want to hear from women workers active in fighting for equal pay, against discrimination for maternity leave and creche facilities, or against sexism. What agreements did you win? How did you organise?

If you don't have time to write at length, we'll gladly visit you. Contact us via Leeds Trade Union and Community Resource and Information

Centre, 29, Blenheim Terrace,
Leeds 2.
Tel 0532-39633.

Rape Crisis, Edinburgh

Dear Womens Voice

Members of the local women's movement have recently set up the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, offering free and confidential advice and help to the victims of any kind of sexual assault.

If you need help, or would like to offer help, contact the Rape Crisis Centre via Box 120, Head Post Office, Edinburgh, or ring Edinburgh 556 9437.

Ruth McIlroy
Edinburgh WV Group

YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VO
ICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOU
R VOICE UR VOICE YOUR VOICE OUR VOICE
YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VO
ICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOU
R VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE

PERIOD PAIN

Dear Womens Voice,

Mary Littlefield's article on period pains and premenstrual tension was very negative and uninformative.

I read a far more helpful article in the August 26th issue of Woman's Own by Claire Raynor. She describes how (at last!) some research has been done into premenstrual pain and tension by Dr. Katharina Dalton (It had to be a woman) who has written a book called 'Once a Month', to be published in October by Fontana, in paperback.

Basically, different groups of women need different answers. For some, just cutting down drinking or taking mild diuretics (now obtainable from chemists without prescription) can relieve fluid retention and cure pain. For others large doses of Vitamin B, to correct a deficiency, cure the trouble.

Some G.P.s are now offering progesterone therapy if a deficiency of this hormone is the cause of pain. But my own feelings are against the use of artificial hormones since I was informed by a doctor that all ultimately cause cancer.

Perhaps Womens Voice

writers should ensure they do all their research before telling us to carry on with paracetamol and aspirin! You should pester your GP or family planning clinic for help, or campaign for a well-woman clinic in your area. Anyone who can't get hold of the article in Woman's Own can get one from me (via Women's Voice).

Sandy Rose,
Manchester.

Ed replies:

It is scandalous that St Thomas's and University College Hospitals, both in London, are the only two in the country carrying out large-scale research into premenstrual tension. UC has a nine month waiting list, while St Thomas's has just had to CLOSE its pre-menstrual tension clinic because of overwhelming demand and too few resources! However, enquiries by post are welcomed by St Thomas's, who also have available a leaflet for women sufferers. Write to: The Department of Gynaecology, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London, SE1.

A Finger of Fudge is Just Enough

Dear Womens Voice,

Of course fat is a feminist issue, but why didn't your article mention all the advertising by sweet manufacturers, and the manufacturers of sweet drinks, puddings etc. that tells us that sticky sugary products are the best proof of motherly love? (A finger of fudge... to give your kids a treat, etc).

Girls don't always become fat at puberty with the horror of realising they're going to become women. Very often they, and their brothers, have been fat (and had rotten teeth) since babyhood, because mum is

trying to live up to the television ideal of motherhood.

Lucy Warburton
South East London

P.S. I've got a friend who lost 6 stone by dieting. I don't know if her basic shape changed or not, but people who hadn't seen her for a while didn't recognise her. And she's fitter, and happier, and will probably live longer. So don't knock dieting too hard.

We want to hear from you .
Send your letters to Womens Voice, Box 82, London E2

WOMENS WORLD

by Judith Condon

"Suddenly, the baby changed sex."

I BORROWED 'The Baby Book', published by Good Housekeeping, from my local library. Now I was fully prepared for the book to be addressed entirely to 'the mother' and for the baby being called 'he' all the time. I know how some feminist writers on babies have deliberately written their books using the pronoun 'she' all the way through, just to correct the balance.

What I wasn't prepared for was what met my eyes half way through. Suddenly, from he and him on every page up to page 106, —suddenly, the baby changed sex!

You'd be as surprised as I was to see it, changing sex before your very eyes. Let me quote the paragraph.

'Your baby's legs and feet', runs the heading.

'Many a proud father has taken one look at his new-born daughter and groaned. 'She's bow-legged!' But she won't continue that way of course; the natural curving of the lower leg is normal, if alarming to the uninitiated . . .'

The paragraph goes on to elaborate a little, and then the chapter closes. Next paragraph we're back with our bouncing boy.

Ah, I thought to myself. Bow legs is something that obviously affects girl babies alone, and the author has left us to work that out for ourselves.

But what about all those chapters on feeding and bathing. Did they only apply to boy babies then? What about the earlier paragraphs in this chapter, on growth size and development, fresh air and temperature, teething. The baby was definitely a boy then. Exactly what was it that happened between the end of teething and the beginning of legs and feet that suddenly turned him into a girl?

Puzzled, I thought I'd better read on and all would become clear. 'Common Questions about Young babies' the next chapter was called.



Right. Back to sanity. Vomiting, bowel functions, nappy rash, eczema, all obviously to do with boys. Perhaps girl babies, who aren't getting fed and don't seem to need bathing, perhaps they therefore don't vomit and don't get nappy rash. I was learning fast. Girls are obviously the best choice. All you've got to worry about are bandy legs. The rest they do for themselves.

I was just getting settled into a sense of security on the matter, when damn me if the little wretch didn't change sex again.

Half way through the section on birthmarks, would you believe. Not even the decency to do it under a new heading, but sneaking it in half way down the page. Here we go again.

'It is however, particularly distressing if the mark is on the face or some other obvious place, and parents may be utterly sick of the endless remarks of strangers, ranging from the interested 'what has she done to her face?' to the downright condemnation, 'You should have something done about that mark, poor little thing!'

'To stop these comments and spare the child embarrassment when she gets old enough to sense their meaning, you can camouflage the marks with one of the excellent cosmetics now available . . .'

Again the chapter ended, and all seemed to return to normal. The boy baby was getting into even more problems. 'Clinging', came next, then 'Those terrible tantrums.' He might lie down on the floor and scream and kick or throw himself about. But not to worry.

'All this, however, does not indicate future delinquency or mental instability—he has as good a chance as a placid boy of becoming Archbishop of Canterbury.'

I was totally reassured. Obviously tantrums could have no relevance whatsoever to girl babies, who after all have no chance whatsoever of becoming the Archbishop of Canterbury. My goodness, why didn't everyone just have girls, the world would be free of tantrums, and archbishops too, come to that.

I almost began to wonder whether there was any point reading any further. Don't have boys. The solution seemed so obvious.

But I had only to turn the page once this time, and it was happening again. 'Other behaviour problems', was the heading. 'Showing off.'

Mother was being told not just to slap children down when they want to be the centre of the stage. 'They respond to and live up to the roles that they are assigned,' it went on. You can say that again!



'In conversations with other adults (meant to be overheard), you can say for instance, 'She is so good with the baby and such a help with him,' or 'He makes friends with the shy new ones at the playgroup,' or 'She is so helpful when we have guests, making them feel at home and handing round the cakes.'

By now you will be getting my point, I hope. Our little girl, bless her, crops up only once or twice more in the book. There's another paragraph on Feet and Legs, this time in the chapter on 'Under Five Difficulties.'

By now she's graduated from bow-legs, her father will be pleased to hear.

'A pigeon-toed stance looks ugly, especially in a girl, but usually there is nothing wrong with the feet, you will find, when you check with a doctor.'

But we don't need to add any more examples.

The incredible thing is, this book was revised in 1974. It is not an old, out-of-date book, as you might be thinking. It has been produced, the foreword assures us, with major revisions and 'in line with current research and methods in the ever-changing field of baby and child care.'

And the author? One Dr Jane Vosper, no less, with Jean Shapiro, head of the Good Housekeeping Family Centre as editor and revisor.

Take these two women together, and what can you say? They ought to be ashamed of themselves. They have displayed the most thoroughgoing and unconscious prejudice imaginable, and the pity of it is that it's all so utterly predictable. Or, as 'Nursing Mirror' says in the blurb on the book jacket, this book 'would make an excellent present from any husband to any wife to celebrate her pregnancy.' He could always exchange it for his money back if the baby wasn't a boy, I suppose.

Anna Coote, well-known feminist researcher and writer, now works for 'The New Statesman'.

That respectable magazine is about to up-date its looks and, no doubt, hopes to expand its circulation.

So how about a bit of agitation to change your male-chauvinist name you lot? How about it, Anna?

Public Meetings

Edinburgh Womens Voice Meetings
Sunday 8 October, 7.30pm, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place. 'Women and the Trade Union Movement'. Speaker: Jennifer Ross (Glasgow Womens Voice).
Sunday 12 November, 7.30pm, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place. 'The Education Cuts'. Speaker: Myra Armstrong (Teacher). All welcome. For details of further meetings, sales and babysitters, phone Penny 557 0731.

A Week of Action Against Rape Glasgow
Sunday 1 October, to Saturday 7 October. Meetings in Drumchapel and City Centre. Reclaim the Night march on Saturday night.

WV Meetings

● **Aberdeen Womens Voice**, for more information telephone Liz 51059.

● **Acton & Harlesden Ring** Carrie 993 0356 or Pete 969 9812

● **Birmingham** at Greyhound Cider Bar, Holloway Head. For dates and babysitters phone Jenny (440 5794) or Janet (472 7216). All women welcome.

● **Black Country** Sundays fortnightly, 2.30, 27 Glen Court, Compton Road, Wolverhampton 23233 for information. Children welcome.

● **Bristol** meets on Wednesday fortnightly in the Dockland Settlement, City Road, St. Pauls. Contact number, 559424.

● **Canterbury** every other Tuesday at Jolly Sailor Northgate. Phone Barbara (Lyninge 862742).

● **Cardiff** every other Tuesday, 7.30 at Union Books, 58 Bridge Street. For babysitters phone Bronwen (Cardiff 43470)

● **Croydon Womens Voice** meets alternate Tuesdays. Phone Maureen 660 0989 or Yvonne 664 3768.

● **Coventry** meets every other Wednesday, 8.00pm at The Hertford Tavern, off Queens Road (near the Butts). Phone 450-570

● **Exeter** Wednesday 12th July at 7.30pm there is a meeting to form a new Women's Voice Group, at 15 Barnardo Rd., Phone Exeter 38023

● **Finchley and Barnet Womens Voice**, fortnightly meetings, for information contact Anita 883-4968 or Glenis 346-7627.

● **Fleet Street** meets every other Wednesday at the Hoop and Grapes Farringdon St lunchtimes from 1-2. Ring Maggie 822 3780 (work).

● **Glasgow Womens Voice** for information phone Clare (959 8924) or Sheila (424 1048).

● **Glossop, Derbyshire**. First and third Tuesdays of every month at 110 Victoria St., Glossop. Phone Glossop 61873 or Claire Glossop 64735 All welcome.

● **Kentish Town** meets regularly phone Gail (485 0954) or Sheila (263 0351) evenings. Babysitters provided.

● **Hackney** phone Pauline (800 3586) for information and babysitter.

● **Halifax** details from WV and SW sellers every Sat 12.30-2.30 Co-op Arcade on the Precinct.

● **Highbury** group is about to take off. First meeting Tuesday 8 October at 8pm. For details/babysitting, ring Elana 439-3764 (days). All women welcome.

● **Hornsey** for information see local WV sellers or phone Alison (263 3477) or Janet (444 8922).

● **Islington Womens Voice** meets regularly phone Sandy at 802 6145 for details.

● **Lampeter** Tuesday evenings in college. Details from WV sellers or write c/o SDUC Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales.

● **Lea Valley** meets regularly. Phone Mary, (802 9563) for information and babysitters.

● **SE Manchester** meets at the 'Albert', Rusholme, 8pm, Wednesday, 16 October, Women in Sierra Leone Speaker Fadima. Wednesday 1 November, Women in the Welfare State, speaker Kath.

● **Medway** meets alternate Mondays. Ring Helen, (Medway) 270 689 for information and babysitter.

● **Newcastle** meetings are the second Tuesdays of every month, Bridge Hotel, Newcastle, at 8.00p.m. (Nr. High Levelbridge), Telephone Number: 813877 Newcastle.

● **Newham** meets Tuesdays and Thursdays fortnightly. Phone Wendy 790 2373. Babysitters available.

● **Norwich** every other Tuesday at 8.30 at Black Boys Pub, Colegate.

● **Preston** We meet every other Tuesday at the Windsor Castle, Egan Street, (near Meadow Street) at 8 p.m. September 12th, 26th and so on. Come along and join in our discussions and activities. Telephone Mary—Preston 55739 for more information or if you need a babysitter.

● **Reading** first Wednesday of every month. Phone 62150 for details.

● **Sheffield Womens Voice** meetings, fortnightly, The Prince of Wales pub, Division Street, Sheffield. 7.30pm. Next meeting, 18 September. For information contact Sheffield 26233.

● **Shrewsbury** the first Wednesday of every month. Other meetings too so phone 58830 for details.

● **Edinburgh street sale** every Saturday 2-3pm. at the Mound, Princes Street. Meet from 1pm onwards at the Cafe Royal (behind Woolworths). Womens Voice readers welcome to turn up and give us a hand. For more information phone Penny 557 0731.

● **Slough Womens Voice group**. Meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Slough Library, Ring Mary—Slough 24093.

● **South London** meets fortnightly on Tuesdays. Next meeting 10 October 8.00 Tate Library, Brixton Oval. All Welcome.

● **South West London** Activities/Estates Sales Tues. October 10th Always on a diet? come to a discussion on Fatness is a Feminist Issue. For more info and or babysitters ring Marion 673 1329.

● **Tower Hamlets** meets on alternate Mondays. Babysitters available phone Heather 739 6668 (home) or 534 7825 ext. 13.

● **Walthamstow** meets every Sunday 3pm. For details ring Jeannie 531 8340, or Pauline 521 4768.

● **York** Meets every 3rd Saturday in the month (ie 21 October) at the Royal Oak Goodramgate. Full creche facilities. Food on sale—do drop in! WV Jumble sale, Oct 14th. Phone York 25155 for details.

● **We want to organise a toy library** so that we can hire out equipment for creches. We'll start off with London and see how it goes. We need more toys, and helpers. If you can ring Womens Voice 734 7410

WOMENS VOICE T SHIRTS

Womens Voice Fights for Womens Rights

Small, medium, large all one price £1.50 plus large SAE. Colours: white, red, dark blue, light blue, yellow. Similar Sweat Shirts, £3.50. Cheques and postal orders made payable to Kentish Town Womens Voice to: Vera, 175a Kentish Town Road, London, NW5. 10% discount order over 10.



● **Postcards**, 5p each, plus 10p postage for orders under 20.

● **This Ad Degrades Women**, stickers, 100 for 50p including postage

● **Posters** with Womens Voice and blank space for your own meetings, £1 for 40

● **Back copies of Womens Voice**, issue 2-18, any 5 for 50p including postage. Money with orders please to Womens Voice Box 82 London E2.

Womens Voice Kicks Back

Do you want to be in a Womens Voice Football Team? If so contact: PO Box 82, E2.

small ads

Lesbian Line Fancy Dress Bop
Lesbian Line is now a year old and needs your support to keep this vital service for women open. 3 November, 8pm, Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, London SE1. Fancy Dress optional. Waged £1. Unwaged 50p. Women only.

National Abortion Campaign Leicester
Saturday 4 November, 2pm, Victoria Park. Out-patient abortion now! Demonstrate for a new out-patient abortion clinic now. Ring Leicester 546878 for further details.

The Other Cinema
Films by women and about women to show at your meetings. Complete list available of the films we have for distribution. Send SAE to The Other Cinema, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7JJ. Telephone 01-734 8508.

If you want to advertise on these pages write to **Womens Voice Box 82, London E2** for a rate card. Small ads and classified 5p a word, prepaid.

Bookmarx Chain

BIRMINGHAM: Socialist and TU Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12 (open 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday)

CARDIFF: SWP Books, 58 Bridge Street (open afternoons on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and all day Saturday)

COVENTRY: TU Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road.

EDINBURGH: Bookmarx, 130 Morrison Street (two minutes walk from Haymarket Station).

GLASGOW: SW Books, top floor, 64 Queen Street, C1.

HULL: Socialist Books, 238 Springbank (open 10am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday)

MANCHESTER: TU books, basement, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3.

SOUTHAMPTON: October Books, 4 Onslow Road.

London: Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 01 802 6145. 10am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON ABORTION

Will you be represented?

Saturday 25 November, Caxton Hall, London

Registration 9.30am onwards

Organised by the National Abortion Campaign and Labour Abortion Rights Campaign

Delegates forms available from NAC, 30 Camden Road, London, NW1

Join Womens Voice...

WOMENS VOICE fights for womens rights. We want equal pay with the highest paid; maternity leave without restriction; the right to a job; nursery places for all children so that mothers can chose to work; and an end to discrimination in education, training, jobs and benefits; the right to abortion on demand.

To fight for these changes is only a beginning. Womens Liberation means we have to free ourselves from the grip of the rich and powerful whose oppressive rules and ideas are fostered on us from our earliest years. This means we have to fight for socialism too, to free us from a society divided between those who have and those who have not.

To fight we have to be organised: Womens Voice is a sister organisation of the Socialist Workers Party.

Fight with Womens Voice for Womens Liberation and Socialism.

join the fight!

Womens Voice Groups

Scotland

Dundee
Edinburgh

Central Glasgow

West Glasgow
Glasgow Drumchapel
Aberdeen

Wales

Aberystwyth
Cardiff

Llanelli

England

Bath
Birmingham
Bristol

Bristol University

Cambridge

Canterbury

Coventry

Derby

Grimsby

Lancaster University

Leeds

Leicester

Liverpool

Manchester South East

Medway

Newcastle

Norwich

Nottingham

Oxford

Preston

Plymouth

Pontefract

Reading

St. Albans

Slough

Sheffield

Shrewsbury

Stockport

Sunderland

Wolverhampton

York

London

North East London Poly

Central

Fleet Street

Finchley/Barnet

South

South West

South East

Hammersmith

Bedford College

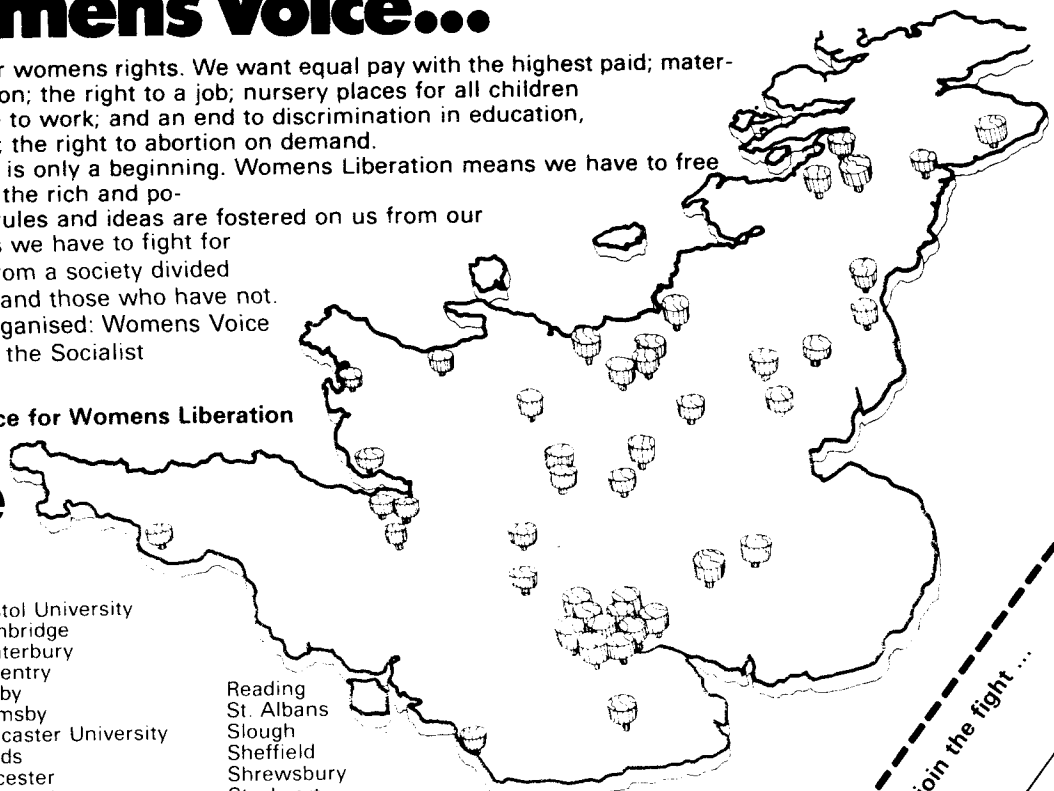
Lea Valley

Kentish Town

Islington

Walthamstow

Tower Hamlets



I want to join the fight ...

Name

Address

Send to Womens Voice
PO Box 82, London, E2

FEEDBACK

Tell us what you really think of Womens Voice. Fill in the questionnaire at home or in a Womens Voice Meeting—and send back to us quick as you can.

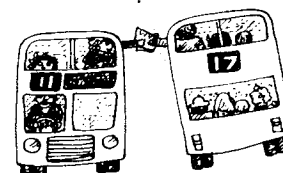
1. I read Womens Voice

- every month
- occasionally
- this is the first time



2. I get my Womens Voice

- from a friend
- at work union meeting
- from a street seller
- from a newsagent
- on subscription



3. What do you do?

- fulltime work
- part-time
- I'm a full-time housewife
- I'm a student
- I'm unemployed and want a job

4. My job is

5. My union is



6. What do you think of the different parts of Womens Voice?

	Very Good	Alright	Poor
Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our Point of View	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do It Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Womens Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Voice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Questions Answered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Womens World (Judith C.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Door	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. What are your likes/hates?

- a) Which part of Womens Voice do you read first?
- b) Which regular part of Womens Voice do you like best?
- c) Which bits of Womens Voice don't you read?
- d) Which regular part of Womens Voice do you dislike most?
- e) Which feature article have you liked most recently?
- f) Which feature article have you hated most?



8. How can we make Womens Voice better?

I would like to see

.....

.....

.....



Please send your reply to Womens Voice, P.O. Box 82, London E2 9DS.