

Womens VOICE

SEPTEMBER No9 10p



**INSIDE: LEWISHAM AND THE
FIGHT AGAINST RACISM · RAPE
CRISIS · UNDERSTANDING
CYSTITIS**

WILL YOU JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM?

Every one of us that was at Lewisham was proud to be there. Not because we like street fighting, as the Press would have you believe. On the contrary, there were times when each of us wondered if our presence was really vital. As you felt your feet being lifted off the ground and the last ounce of wind in your lungs squeezed out in the crush, a thousand people deep, being at home just watching it on the tele seemed the better alternative.

But when we saw the Nazi National Front humiliated, their flags and banners torn down and their march broken then we knew we had to be there—every last one of us, even if we *were* scared stiff.

There has been a lot of hypocritical double talk since then, especially from Labour MPs, who have all the right things to say about the National Front and the danger from their Nazi views, and in the next breath condemn the people who oppose them the *Socialist Workers Party* in particular, for being violent thugs, maniacs, only looking for a fight with the police.

The National Front are Nazis, make no mistake about it. They may not strut around publicly in black shirts, giving Nazi salutes, advocating gas chambers for the blacks, but their politics come from the same stable as did Hitler's, Mosley's and Mussolini's.

They are racialsists. They're for kicking all blacks, born here or not, out of the country. They beat up blacks, harass black women, put bricks through windows where black people live, through their shops, and smash up their mosques. They'll beat up anyone who opposes their views. In the last few weeks they have in London successfully set fire to the SWP headquarters, socialist and community bookshops and the Lewisham Law Centre.

At election times they put on their mask of respectability; but underneath the face is the same. They point to rising prices and poor housing, the inability of Tories and Labour alike to solve the problems, and then say the blacks or the trades unions are to blame.

Their politics are poisonous. Tolerance and free speech in the



Womens VOICE

Womens Magazine of
the Socialist Workers
Party

Elvis—for some of us our teenage heart throb. Page 4

News: women on strike at Beechams, Batchelors, in Kilwinning. Save our Hospital, Plaistow Maternity. Page 5 - 10

Herstory: didn't you know it was sexism that defeated the Normans. Page 11

Rape Crisis: how we can organise against rape. Pages 12 -13

Womens Health: cystitis is an illness which you may get any day. Page 14

Unions: if you're a teacher or take your children to school take some extra copies to sell in school. Page 15

"We win. We win". Faith Foster tells *Womens Voice* the good news about Lewisham. Page 16 - 17

Your Rights: We forgot that the law is different in Scotland last time. Page 17

Reviews: Daughter of Earth and the Catholic Church. Pages 18 - 19

Your Voice: We get more letters than we can possibly print. For the next issue get them to us by 21 September. Pages 20 - 22

Womens Voice News: what you've been up to. Page 22

Whats on: for the next issue we need ads to reach us by 21 September. Page 23

Correction . . . In the last issue of *Womens Voice* (re: battered women), we said, incorrectly, that an unmarried woman could *not* apply for an injunction against the man she lives with. It should have read, *can*. Please correct it on your copy, and on any copies of the posters that have been displayed.

Cover: Black girls in Lewisham after the National Front had been humiliated. Photo: Syd Shelton.

Next issue: Please get everything to us by 21 September. Write to *Womens Voice*, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 01 739 1878

Printed and Published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

1930's allowed Hitler to power. The battles like those in Cable Street kept Mosley out. We can't afford to be tolerant where they're concerned.

That's where we part company with those people who defend the fascists right to demonstrate in the name of freedom of speech and the democratic process, as if they applied equally to fascists and everyone else.

Had they been allowed to march through Lewisham it would have been a triumph for racialism. We turned the tables on the National Front and their triumphal march was reduced to a back street scuffle amid a hail of bricks. It was the *only* way to stop them.

Prayers have never changed the course of events, and people who stand in the middle of the road will get trampled by the jackboots of the NF.

But, we hear some people say, we are being just as violent as they are, our presence is provoking the police, where will it get us but into more violence, like at Ladywood and at Carnival. It's as if the violence we saw at Lewisham was something new. It's not. If you're black in Britain then violence is part of your daily life.

Do you remember the old Asian woman in Leamington who was burnt to death by fascists, who broke into her house and set fire to her clothes? Black girls in Lewisham are so afraid of being questioned for loitering by the police that they will take a taxi to school rather than stand and wait for a bus.

In the Brick Lane area of London white thugs and fascists have waged a campaign of terror against the Asian community.

When fascists were out on the streets of Leeds selling their paper recently they took a little time off to beat up an Asian woman. When the police arrived they didn't even ask her name.

That's the everyday violence that black people put up with—at the hands of the fascists and the police. That has to stop. And only our numbers can do it.

Had we been 20,000 strong at Lewisham, and not 5000, the police would not have dared to try and clear a path for them, and the NF would never have poked their noses out of their side street. There would have been less violence.

Keeping the National Front off the streets is only part of the battle. When it comes to elections their politics are the politics of despair for a lot of women and man—they know the Labour Government is selling them down the river; blaming the blacks is an easy way out, and a lot of people fall for it.

We need to argue and organise for our own political ideas. Where ever we live or work we have to persuade, reason, cajole the people we meet to see through the propaganda of the press and television, the smooth words and promises of the Labour politicians, the racist filth of the National Front.

We are not just fighting against the National Front we are fighting for a different sort of society—where there is no racialism, no shortages, no bad housing, no starvation wages. That won't come with prayers either.

We *need* you to be on the demonstration the next time the National Front march in Manchester on 8 October. Even more important, bring your workmates, your union branch banner, the women from your estate.

We *need* your financial help now that our offices have been burned out by the National Front.

And we want you to decide which side of the fence you are on. Are you with us in this fight? Yes? Then join us, *join* the *Socialist Workers Party* and we'll see this battle through to the end together.

YES! I'LL JOIN THE FIGHT

● Can you send me information about my local *Womens Voice* group and the Socialist Workers Party

● NAME

ADDRESS

Post to: *Womens Voice*,
6 Cottons Gardens, London E2

ELVIS



Back in the days when everyone on the BBC talked with the same plum in his mouth, when ITV hadn't reached the regions, and the only respite from Max Jaffa and music while you work was crackly Radio Luxemburg, caught on a furtive wave band through an old wooden wireless - there was Elvis Presley.

Across the southern states a hundred thousand Mary Whitehouses sat steaming in front of their TV sets - even when the cameras were under orders to stay above his waist!

He was the man they warned us about. He was young and energetic, he had the craziest body we ever clapped eyes on, he sang black-rooted rock music with a raw rich voice that went straight to your gut.

I wasn't even old enough for teenage romance yet, and my big sister's record collection was half a dozen forty-fives but we made the most of it. Those songs were the background to our fantasies.

He would be moody and dark-haired and angry as a

caged lion and kind and gentle too. He would be wild and fast living and homeloving and good to his mother. He would be restless and poor and we would drive in his pink cadillac to a big house in the country. He'd be tall. He'd have the best singing voice in the Western hemisphere. He'd solve all our problems.

Most of all he'd love us. He'd never move away from his roots, no matter what they did to him. They'd make him rich but in his soul he'd be poor.

Elvis Presley had a lot to live up to. A lot of fantasies were invested in him.

They knew that, of course. They knew all his power and his appeal. Within a year of his first record they pulled the full machine around him, the promotion, the packaging, the stardom, the what-toothpaste-does-he-use.

Even then with sheer sexiness and a kind of terrific innocence he kept on singing. Even in the films, Elvis the jailbird, Elvis the native American, Elvis the poor boy from the backstreets, from the back woods.

And although we defended him long after we should have, we knew when the turning point came. When the talent was being wasted, when self-parody took over, after the army and Colonel Parker got control of the man, and Elvis stopped

appearing live and that endless string of stupid films about Elvis the filmstar began churning out. That's when most of us switched fantasies to the Beatles, boys from the backstreets nearer home.

They got Elvis Presley good and proper. The voice was still there, the basic talent and energy. But they got him, like they got every bit of vitality thrown up from the bottom of society. They cage the butterfly, watch it grow fat and lovely, rip off all the money they can make from its beauty and then watch it die. They do it to men and women alike. They exploit male fantasy with Marilyn Monroe and watch her die. They exploit women with Elvis Presley and he dies too. Even the ones who fight them off, like Hendrix and Joplin die in the end.

And the brutal fact is it's our fault. We're party to it all. We make the system work. We ogle and we fantasise and we let that poor bastard stand on the stage and do it all for us when we should be doing it for ourselves. What we can't have, we expect him to have a thousand times over. Only it kills him with oppression and boredom and surfeit. And then when he dies, in the prime of life, we take the lesson they dole out to us.

You see, they say, its better to be ordinary and stay poor and then you won't make his mistakes. And we buy it, over and over again.



Womens World

by Judith Condon

AUEW—WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH!

"The only time we see these bastards is when they're down here looking for votes!"

These were the words that were thrown at me when I turned up at Kilwinning, site of a 17 week long strike in Ayrshire, Scotland.

The dispute is over a £7 claim for parity with fellow workers in another of the firm's factories, and the managements attempts to force a

production speed-up onto the workers.

The 120 strikers—90 of them women—work for Essex International an American owned company that makes car components for Chrysler, Ford and other car giants.

I had turned up to campaign on behalf of Ian Morris, the Rank and File candidate in the forthcoming

AUEW election for president. Although unused to being called a bastard by fellow workers, I began to understand the women's anger when I saw who walked in at my back Bob Wright, the Broad Left hope in the same election. As he approached, he whispered out of the corner of his mouth: 'Is this strike official?'

The answer, that it was, seemed enough to satisfy him that he was sufficiently informed about the issue to 'wow' the women into voting for him. But the women were unimpressed. As one said: 'I wouldn't vote for him, he's too prosperous-looking.'

Sadly, it is not only the presidential campaign that has embittered the Kilwinning workers. When I visited a second time one woman told me: 'If we lose this we're throwing off the AUEW.'

The union has failed these workers. They were out for 15 weeks before the local union official deemed to visit the factory they are occupying and only then when his own post came up for re-election.

Instead of leaving the Ayrshire workers to their own efforts, the AUEW should have organised immediate, effective blacking of all firms using Essex International car components. That would have crippled the car giants who, you can be certain, would soon have 'persuaded' the firm to give in. But the union had done little to win this dispute. During the 17 week occupation only one offer has been made and that showed the contempt the American bosses have for the mighty AUEW.

Through ACAS, the management offered to allow the workers back on two conditions: that they stayed clear of the factory for 3 weeks, while an inventory of stocks and equipment was made; and that when they returned they would accept an undisclosed number of compulsory redundancies! **No wonder the workers are bitter.**

But they are wrong to think that the AUEW is represented solely by trade union officials. They are the union, along with thousands of other engineering workers. By getting together with rank and file members everywhere, they will win their fight.

They must send out speakers across the country to explain their case and argue for support, both financial and industrial.

People are not stupid. Other workers know that lousy employers all over Britain are waiting for the Kilwinning women to lose, so that they can move in and undercut local union rates, and speed up the work rate.

The tactics which led the Trico women to eventual victory can be followed: All factories in Glasgow and the West of Scotland must be contacted for support. Kilwinning workers must travel to factories using Essex International or United Technology's components and urge fellow workers to black supplies.

Finally the workers of Kilwinning must help to change the course of this union of ours. Ian Morris stands for rank and file activity, for workers helping each other out by



George Ward, Grunwicks boss, tightening his belt? (above pic.) Unlikely his profits are still rolling in!

The women and men of Grunwicks are now in their second year of picketing. Any hopes that the Scarman Enquiry would settle the dispute have now been dashed. Ward has ignored the Scarman recommendation to re-employ the strikers and improve conditions—he is just sitting back thumbing his nose at the strikers and the whole trade union movement. Ward will have a well worn thumb unless other trade unions pull their fingers out and take industrial action to support the courageous Grunwick strikers.

NEWS



... continued from page 5

solidarity of action. If you want a decent union vote for Morris. Not because he will get that for you himself, but because he will work for the rank and file in their fight to get it for themselves. **WILLIE**
A *Womens Voice* election leaflet

for the presidential campaign is available for AUEW factories that employ women. If you want copies phone the Womens Department, 01 739 1878, or write to 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Voting in the election begins on 12 September.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS OR IS IT?

Name the products in these TV slogans: ... Mousse rounds off a meal perfectly. She's the girl with the sun in her hair ... Fancy calling new ... Margarine ... proved to fight tooth decay. Somehow other beefburgers don't taste the same.

How did you score? Anyone who watches ITV from time to time will get most of the answers. It's quite a range from toothpaste to beefburgers. But they are all made by the same firm—Unilever.

CHECKLIST.

Soaps: **Lux, Persil, Omo, Radiant, Comfort, Sunlight, Liefebuoy, Rexona, Pears, Vim, Sunsilk, Harmony, Gibbs Close-Up, Signal, Pepsident.**

Foods: Blue Band, Spry, Stork, Summer County, Crisp & Dry Echo. All Walls goods (meats and icecream) Iglo Lawsons, Matternons, Unox, Bachelors, Birds Eye, MacFisheries, John West, Liptons.

Look at the checklist to see just how much of our lives this monster firm controls. Hundreds of products all made by one firm—while the name Unilever never appears on any of them.

There's one key word in the world of Unilever control. Control of the raw materials, of workers and factories, of prices at the highest possible level, and even of our tastes

and wishes.

Unilever owns plantations, chemical factories, fishing fleets ... they even own Britain's main animal feed firm so that they control the farmers. Right from the start, Unilever controls supply.

At the other end of production, Unilever owns the outlets—those big distribution vans with SDP on the side, supermarkets like Liptons, the factories for packaging the foods ... even the factories that make the frozen food display counters.

At every stage, Unilever makes a profit. At every stage, Unilever can force its competitors to put up their prices, because Unilever controls the raw materials and the outlets. Birds Eye gets fish for 80p while fishmongers have to pay £1.

That's how Unilever doubled its profits last year to £605 million. (That's over £100 for every man woman and child in the UK).

When you buy something made by Unilever, about a quarter of the money you pay goes towards Unilever advertising, to convince you to buy more. Wages account for much less—only around a fifth of

the selling price. So much for wages causing price increases!

Strikes are rare in Unilever factories. The whole way the factories are run is designed to keep militancy down ... to prevent workers from organising together. Unilever workers are on a mass of different grades all at different wage levels. Nothing is more powerful in dividing worker from worker in pay demands.

If strikes do occur, the whole monster strength of Unilever is brought in to break them. When workers at the Sheffield Batchcolours factory are on strike, what happens to the pea crop? It doesn't rot in the fields, that's for sure. A quick rearrangement, and the peas that should be dried by the Sheffield strikers are being frozen by Birds Eye workers. Unilever moves goods and raw materials from firm to firm, country to country.

This is why a strike at a Unilever factory demands more than the normal support from other workers. Unilever is a big, nasty multinational company—but it can be beaten.

Six *Womens Voice* supporters who protested against the William Benyon anti-abortion bill in July were arrested and charged with obstruction (four of them couldn't move anyway since they were chained to the railings).

***Womens Voice* groups should begin fund-raising now to help pay their fines. (We may need as much as £300 when their cases are heard in November).**

So gather your jumble, organise a social, collect at your next *Womens Voice* meeting—whatever and wherever you can.

Don't let our sisters down. Money to *Womens Voice* Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.



NEWS

MP VISITS!

"Why should we work in a hell-hole like this".

"I don't think you should".

"Right, well then how do you explain the dispensation the Government has given to Beechams to pay a 200 per cent dividend to their shareholders, when the same Government is supposed to be on holiday to us and can't agree we're a special case and need a decent wage increase.

"I don't know anything about it."

The argument is between John Watkinson, MP for Gloucestershire West who should know something about it and about sixty of his constituents who all work for Beechams in their Coleford factory. They make fruit drinks like Ribena, Schloer apple juice, PLJ and Chekwate. They earn a pittance for their efforts.

Women who work full time earn £35 before stoppages. The part time women get £24—for working 25 hours. They are so badly paid that most of them get free school dinners for their children, rent and rate rebates.

Now they're on strike for a decent wage—they want an increase of £24 a week. Well in excess of the Government miserable 10 per cent.

"I've got three children at school" John O'Shea told John Watkinson, "the company have offered us £2.50. Take tax off that and I'll be left with £1.50, to last me for the next 12 months. When term begins I will have to pay out an extra £1.50 for school meals. And that's a Government price increase. As a human being, standing here, I can't explain it to you how a Labour Government can do that to us."

PEAS DON'T BUY BATCHELORS

Do you buy Batchelors peas? If you worked for Batchelors in Sheffield you most probably wouldn't be able to afford to. The women and men who tin and dry the peas have been bled dry by their employers.

Now they're out on strike for money that was promised to them before Phase 1. They thought they would automatically get it once all the Phases were over.

It would cost Unilever, who own Batchelors, £3000 a week to pay every worker in their Sheffield and

"You go and tell your wife to manage on £30 a week" shouted out one of the women. John Watkinson mumbled something inaudible at his feet.

Then came the punch line.

"The individual case may be morally justified, but the principal is what matters. An action has to be controlled. We must all agree on that. We must all work for that."

"But the Government can stretch a point and pay the shareholders, yet they can't stretch a point and pay us."

"As I said I don't know anything about it."

"Well hear, read this, it's all in the papers."

John Watkinson apparently knew nothing of the scandal that had hit the papers that weekend when Beechams had been allowed to bust the 10 per cent limit on dividends and pay out a 200 per cent rise to their shareholders. Beechams have just announced profits of £132 million. They make it by paying their workers such low wages. And this Labour Government helps them.

"They can pay us this increase out of their excess profits. We don't want a penny here and there on bottles of squash which others will have to pay."

"The Government is holding a gun to the employers heads now, saying they'll take actions against anyone paying more than 10 per cent. That means phase is three is here, as rigid as ever, whatever the unions say."

Worksop factories the extra £2.80 they were promised. Peanuts, when you realise what an enormous company Unilever is.

Like all employers if they do pay up they will immediately pass the cost on to the people, just like the workers in their own factories, who can't afford to pay another 1p for a tin of peas.

They give with one hand, and take it back with the other. It's called running an efficient business, in the interest of making a profit.

Ealing Womens' Voice Group organised a picket of 'Safeways' supermarket, on Saturday when the shop was busiest. They gave out a leaflet, sold Womens' Voice stickers, and collected signatures for a boycott of Batchelors foods. They used a megaphone to talk to shoppers. Within 1½ hours they had collected £7, and persuaded many shoppers to support the boycott.

John Watkinson is himself a member of the TGWU, the union the strikers belong to, and the union whose conference decision in July to return to free collective bargaining after 1 August decided the workers to strike for their increase.

At last John Watkinson realised his morals and principals were all confused.

"It does seem odd that the Company is rolling in profits and you are so low paid, and there is no way of resolving it. I will write to the Chancellor."

"You could use a phone!"

"Anyway I must go now, I've been here for an hour and 10 minutes. Nice to have met you all."

"Last week the Tory came up here. They're no better. He told us to go to Leyland and get a job if we

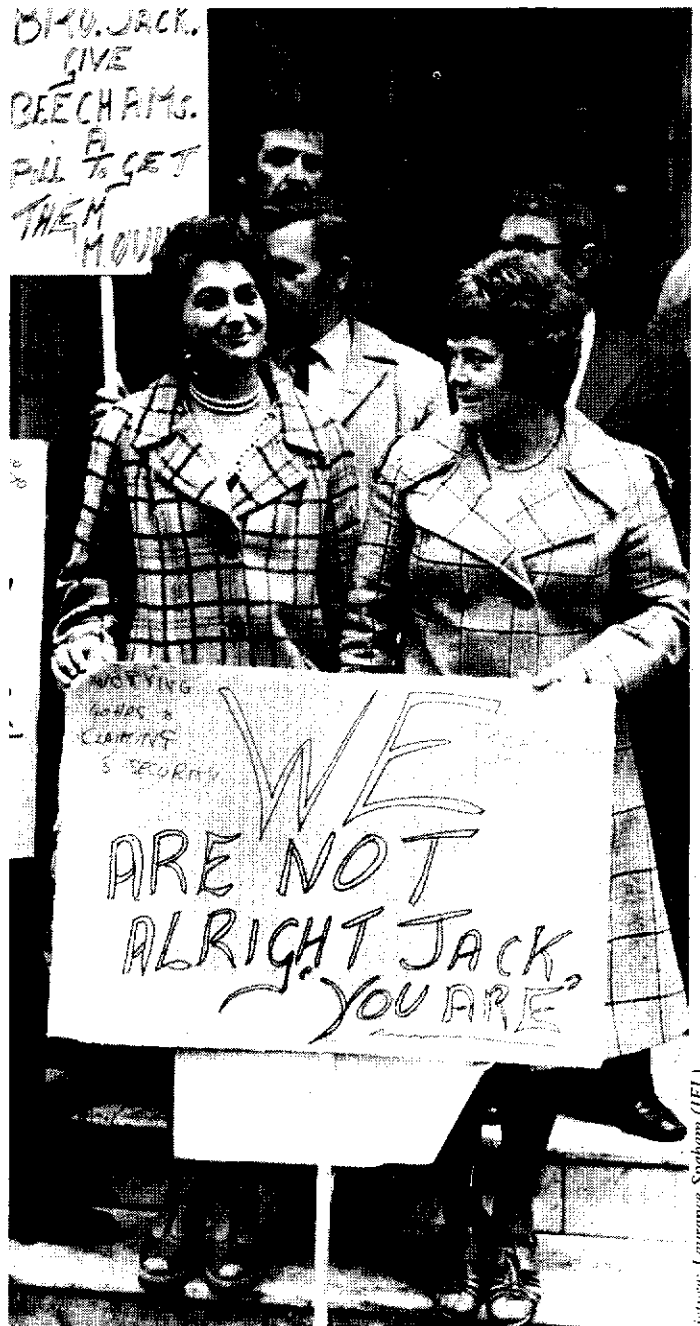
wanted more money. What do they expect us to do just pick up our children and our houses and go up there." said Carol Matthews as he went off in his car.

"No one would come and slog here unless you had too. I work part time and we arrange the shifts between us one week mornings one week afternoons so that we can take our children to school. The weeks our shifts clash I see my husband for three quarters of an hour a day.

"I get up at 6.30 to start on the early shift, and come home at quarter to one. He goes out at 1.30 I'm in bed when he comes home.

"This is our strength, standing here." said John O'Shea, "no one else is moving, not management, not the Government, not the TUC. So we're not moving either."

MARGARET RENN



picture: Laurence Spaham (IFL)



Picture - Phil McCowen

or the corporation, in spite of all the complaints. They admit they still don't know where the gas is coming from or what is causing it, and they can give no assurance that it isn't dangerous. Councillor Reid asked at the end of the meeting if the tenants felt reassured. They all shouted 'No!'.

The area now looks like Belson with a huge trench and a high wire fence. No fire engine could get near if there was an explosion. One resident, Nessie Pronk, has had her house flooded.

To make matters worse the Corporation has now dug a 7 foot hole under the houses, and it's possible that the whole of Calthorpe will have to be evacuated.

Despite promises, no information has been given to the tenants. The Corporation offers no hope of a solution. But the tenants are going to picket the Town Hall in Manchester. **SANDY ROSE**

Over 150 children under the age of 12 live in Blade St, near Lancaster town centre. There is no park or play area, and this summer the £5000 usually spent on a summer playscheme was used to 'beautify' the inner city for the Queen's Silver Jubilee 15-minute visit!

Blade St could be closed to through-traffic. But instead it is the scene of countless accidents and 'near-misses' involving young children.

The new Residents Association decided to petition the Council and Transport Committee to close the street off as a designated play area. While they were waiting for a reply another child was knocked down - receiving head injuries and a broken leg.

Then the women in the street were convinced that the council, with its layers of committees, and sub-committees was not capable of reacting quickly enough to prevent further accidents.

So on Monday 25th July the mothers put up barricades, the kids made placards and posters and Blade St became a play street whether the authorities liked it or not.

The police insisted that the barricades were removed, but pickets made up of mothers, unemployed people and some of the older kids, have succeeded in stopping almost all the traffic, apart from the residents' cars and delivery vans.

Rosaleen Holland, C'ttee member of the Residents' Association said that they followed their two public meetings with at least two more. Two of the Labour councillors came to the meeting, but the Council still hasn't done anything. The pickets are determined to stay until they win.

Blade Street will be the first play street, safe for all youngsters, in Lancaster because the women realised that the authorities wouldn't act to protect the children on the street until they were forced to. **KATHY WRIGHT**

Men clearing dust with protective clothing but the kids playing nearby how much do they inhale?

THEY ARE KILLING US FOR THE SAKE OF MONEY

From an article that appeared in the Barking and Dagenham Advertiser: 'Tragedy of asbestos worker... For more than 20 years Mrs Evelyn Porter worked at the Cape Asbestos company making brake linings and gas masks. The job finally killed her—13 years after she was made redundant.

Mrs Porter, 61, died of asbestosis in April. Last week an inquest into her death was told by pathologist Dr Peter Ellis that it was one of the worst cases he had ever seen. 'I found a vast number of asbestos bodies in her lungs. In fact I have never seen so many in one case,' he said. Verdict: died of an industrial

disease.'

It occupied seven lines at the bottom of the back page. The same paper contained a half-page spread on page three plus a photograph of a smiling woman who had gained a husband as the result of a drastic weight loss.

So if you want to hit the headlines in Barking, just shrink your hipsize. Because if you murder your employees, nobody may ever find out. **Jan Nielsen, Ilford WV**

Since the tenants committee was set up to fight the leak of methane gas on the Hendham Vale Estate, Manchester, events have moved fast.

We wrote a series of letters to the Coal Board, Gas Board, Department of Health and Environment, and the City Engineers and Surveyors Departments. They all replied passing responsibility onto each other. The Coal Board and the Gas Board both said 'scientific analysis' proved it was not their kind of gas, but neither said whose gas it is! We invited the councillors to a public meeting. This at least drew the Gas Board officials out, though they hadn't been down for three months previously.

The 50 people who came gave all the officials and councillors a rough ride. The councillors admitted they had done nothing to contact tenants

WOULD YOU HAVE YOUR BABY IN THIS FIELD? OR ANY OTHER!



On 15 July the staff at Plaistow Maternity Hospital in Newham decided to stage a 'work-in' to stop the closure of the hospital. For over a year the chop has been hanging over one of the maternity hospitals in the London borough of Newham and now Plaistow has been singled out. The theory is that the other hospital at Forest Gate can cope until the new hospital is built. This is a joke. The new hospital is still an empty field and may be unsuitable for building on! And there is no plan for a maternity wing in the new building.

Forest Gate does not have enough beds and needs considerable renovation for which no extra money is even promised. It will mean pregnant women having to travel twice as far for their antenatal care and with the price of fares and infrequency of buses to Forest Gate they probably will be tempted to skip the important clinics and check ups.

Plaistow is a busy hospital. It is always full and very popular with families in Newham.

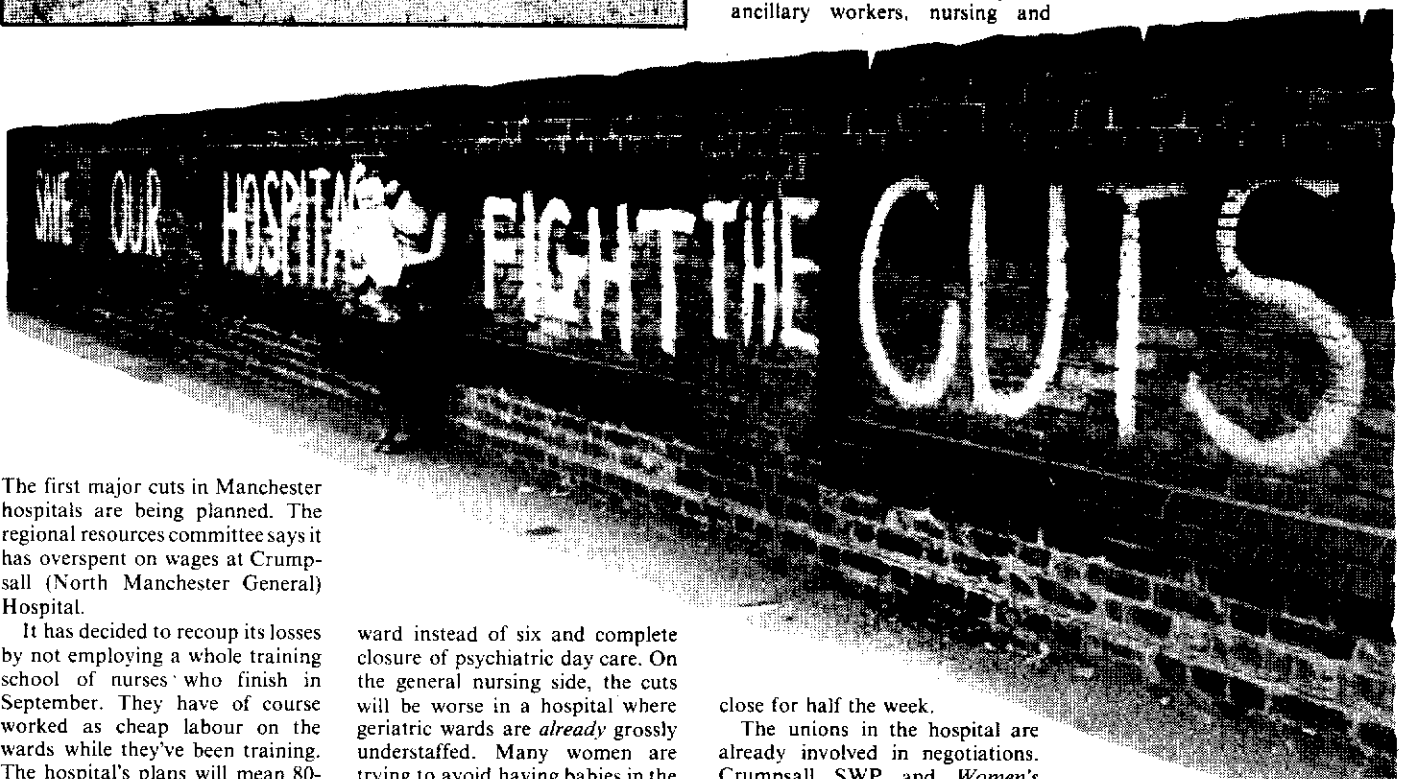
Local mums are active in the support committee. The Action Committee is supported by the ancillary workers, nursing and

medical staff. One Consultant is actively supporting the campaign. The key to keeping the hospital open is to make sure that local GPs continue sending their patients to Plaistow. They are being lobbied for support by *Womens Voice* supporters and so far 13 out of 30 practices have promised their continued support.

Local trade union support is being called for, and a delegate meeting has been called for September 15th. The local bus garage has sold hundreds of the 'Support PMH' badges and lots of conductors and conductresses are wearing them which is good publicity. This support needs to be spread so that when there is a threat of removal of equipment a picket can be quickly mounted. A demonstration is now being planned for 1st October.

If you would like to join the support committee and help to keep the hospital open contact Brian Walker at the Plaistow Maternity Hospital, Howards Road, London E15 (Tel. 552 3311).

JEANNIE HOLBOROW
PHOTOS BY JUDY ALLEN



The first major cuts in Manchester hospitals are being planned. The regional resources committee says it has overspent on wages at Crumpsall (North Manchester General) Hospital.

It has decided to recoup its losses by not employing a whole training school of nurses who finish in September. They have of course worked as cheap labour on the wards while they've been training. The hospital's plans will mean 80-160 jobs lost.

On the psychiatric side, the cuts would mean only one admission

ward instead of six and complete closure of psychiatric day care. On the general nursing side, the cuts will be worse in a hospital where geriatric wards are *already* grossly understaffed. Many women are trying to avoid having babies in the maternity wing because of the 'factory farm' conditions. The Casualty Department may have to

close for half the week.

The unions in the hospital are already involved in negotiations. Crumpsall SWP and *Womens Voice* supporters will be fighting a strong campaign in the community where we already have good links

with militant tenants through work with *Womens Voice*. **SANDY ROSE**

EQUALITY WE DON'T WANT



Women in Greece have a much worse deal than women in many other countries.

But a bill is going through the Greek parliament to start, for the first time, the conscription of women into the army.

Women will be conscripted for two kinds of emergency—war and 'internal threats' (ie for strikebreaking). Mothers, and women caring for the old and disabled will be exempt.

The Women's Liberation Movement in Greece is campaigning against the bill. The women reject the old story of 'national emergency, being used to divert attention from the real problems facing Greek working women. They refuse to

defend the Greek bosses against the Turkish bosses, at the cost of the lives of Greek and Turkish workers. They say:

'Women should refuse to be part of the state machinery which upholds and practices repression and chauvinism and actively breaks strikes and destroys the workers' movement.

'Women should refuse to justify their existence by answering the false dilemma of 'either mothers or soldiers'. Women do not owe motherhood to the 'nation'. Motherhood should be a free choice. The government is trying to strike a double bargain here: Either we augment the army, or the population! We mustn't let them win.

Our liberation will only come

through our struggles as workers. We do not want women to become bosses, we want to be rid of bosses altogether. We don't want to rape men as they rape us. In the same way, we do not demand equal rights in slaughtering, we want equality in fighting patriarchal and class oppression.' **WOMENS LIBERATION MOVEMENT ATHENS, AUGUST 1977**

ODDS AND ENDS

Mandy Huckins was fined a total of £341 by Bristol Magistrates' Court for painting anti-Benyon slogans on walls. The fine was made up of £7 costs, £134 compensation and £200

fine. The charge was 'criminal damage'. Please send donations to Bristol NAC, c/o Women's Centre, 59 Lower Union Street, Bristol, 1.

The Women Fight Rape Group in Brighton have held a 29-hour open air vigil at Victoria Gardens. The 29 hours represented 29 victims of rape. That was the number of local women who reported the crime to the police in 1975, the last year for which figures are available.

Following the vigil there was a march, led by Joan Jones, who spoke about her own horrifying experience of being raped. A thousand signatures were collected on a petition.

Brighton Women Fight Rape can be contacted by telephone on Brighton 65911.

HERSTORY: 5

in which Mabel meets the **NORMANS** (you know, THAT date)

The last Anglo-Saxon King, EDWARD the CONFESSOR was very saintly & built Westminster Abbey. This was not so good

GET THEE TO A NUNNERY

for his wife Edith. She refused to become a nun but he wouldn't touch her & died in 1065 without leaving an heir.

No!

EDWARD named HAROLD of NESSEX his successor (& poor EDITH married him too!) but there was competition from over the Channel & so came the date we can all remember (Halley's Comet was seen that year too)

1066

* actually in his stomach - popular myth due to misreading of an excellent comic strip of the time, the Bayeux Tapestry

AROLD GETS ARROW IN

WILLIAM the CONQUEROR had arrived. He may not have had God on his side, but he certainly had the Pope, eager for regular revenue from an obedient Archbishop of Canterbury

the NORMANS brought: feudalism, french manners, castles, serfdom, bureaucracy, cathedrals and....

A NEW!! SOCIAL STRUCTURE

KING
↓
BARONS (100)
↓
KNIGHTS (5,000)
↓
SERFS (1,500,000)

sounds horribly familiar

BUT THIS TIME THINGS WERE MUCH TIGHTER. A NEW NORMAN RULING CLASS WAS IMPORTED & THINGS GOT WORSE FOR WOMEN AND FOR ALL THE PEASANTS. IT WAS A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE & EVERYTHING BELONGED

CASTLES were built by forced labour & belonged to the knights

allez oop!

what's he say?

you can understand the whip in any language

TAYLEUR of WOODBORN

CATHEDRALS were churned out in great quantity & belonged to the Church

SERFS belonged to the manor which was owned by the lord

WOMEN belonged to their fathers until they became their husband's property

Even the **LANGUAGE** was fought over....

that be an ox... ..a sheep and a calf

...mutton et veal

cest beef

The **DOMESDAY BOOK** listed all livestock for tax + rent

Places like York, the West Midlands & the fens which resisted the inroads of bureaucracy were laid waste & ruined by famine

DOOM! the taxman cometh

WILLIAM DIED SAYING: I am stained with the rivers of blood that I have shed. innumerable multitudes perished through me by famine and sword

THE CHURCH FORGIVES YOU

When the Norman barons refused to accept a woman as ruler, their reign ended in anarchy and a new dynasty

The feudal system was to last for centuries after them

ANGLO-SAXON RULE

NORMAN RULE

Mackie

RAPE

A 29-year old married woman was raped after being beaten in the groin, chest and back with a shoe by a friend of one of her girlfriends. The rapist, a seemingly respectable and educated middle-class man, threatened that if she told anyone he would come back and murder her children. The woman was so terrified that she told no-one for twelve hours and only plucked up courage to tell the police two days after. She eventually decided that the only way to protect her children was to tell the police and, with the support of one of our counsellors, approached them with the intention of informing them but not necessarily proceeding with a prosecution. Having informed the police the case was taken out of her hands and the police said they were duty bound to prosecute. She gave a lengthy statement and visited the scene of the crime with detectives.

Two days after, the accused man was picked up, questioned and released within a few hundred yards of the woman's home. The police arranged to meet the woman at her home and question her again. It was agreed that our counsellor should be there but when the police turned up early the woman felt very threatened and refused access until the counsellor arrived. When the police requested her their attitude had changed completely. They said that they didn't believe her story, that the alleged rapist was a very nice man and wouldn't do something like that, and that the painful and marked bruising on her groin, breasts and back was either 'the result of rough love play', self-inflicted, or that her husband had done it in a fit of jealousy. They left saying that they expected to hear that she was dropping the case and added that if the allegation proved to be unfounded it would lead to a prosecution for wasting police time.

The raped woman took legal advice about making a complaint but had a breakdown before she could complete the process. Six months later she is still receiving psychiatric help and wants to put the whole thing behind her.

In this case the Police dropped the prosecution.
Rape Crisis Centre Report.

'It is well known that women in particular, and small boys, are liable to be untruthful and invent stories.'
Judge Sutcliffe, 8 April 1976, Old Bailey.

The Centre begins with a 24 hour emergency telephone line. If a woman phones and wants someone to go to her we'll arrange a visit if it is in Greater London, further than that there's not a lot we can do unless a woman can afford to visit us. That's why we really need centres all over the country.

If it's an emergency she may want someone to go to the police station or the hospital with her. If she doesn't want someone to be with her immediately then we'll make an appointment for her to come and see one of us. We go to hospitals, make appointments for VD clinics, pregnancy testing, and abortion counselling if they need it.

We have a rule against women staying here overnight on their own, as we get quite a lot of hoax and abusive phone calls. But we do want it as a centre that women can come to with a friend especially as some women

'It is dangerous to convict on the uncorroborated evidence of a woman.' Judge Rigg, 25 July, 1975, Old Bailey.

are raped in their own homes and won't want to stay there.

We have our own training programme which we all took ourselves before we began, and which any new counsellor takes. We also run a training course for women who are interested in setting up centres. We began by talking to people whose experience we could draw on: doctors, marriage guidance counsellors, lawyers.

That doesn't mean we know everything. We know our limitations. Rape can arouse all sorts of previous traumas and we'll refer women on to someone else, someone of course that we know or have worked with. We have legal advisors to phone when we're not sure where the law stands.

It's the police that are most antagonistic. They're suspicious because we're voluntary. We naturally don't insist that women who have been raped go to the police, nor do we persuade them to. We do explain what will happen to them if they do go because it can be unpleasant and a prosecution will drag on for perhaps a year. Going to the police can be extremely upsetting—some women say they find it more upsetting than the actual rape.

The most common reason why women go to the police at all is because they don't want other women, particularly younger women, to go through what they've been through.

If a woman is going to court we'll take her to see a barrister who can go through her statement with her, cover the sort of questions she'll be asked and explain the

The Rape Crisis Centre in London is the collective of 26 women, all of whom are trained and a half of existence the experience gathered debate about rape. Margaret Renn interview and Claire, for Womens Voice.

court procedure. We have an agreement now that we can sit in court at the Old Bailey so that a woman at least has a familiar face there. Remember, the woman herself is not on trial, she is only a witness, so she doesn't have any legal right to a solicitor or a barrister to help with difficult questioning.

What can happen in court defies imagination. Guardsman Holdsworth was charged with indecent assault not rape, because he used his hand. Rape is strictly penetration of the vagina by the penis. That's why the

MYTH: Nice raped.
FACT: In women of classes a been rap

MYTH: Wo beating, phy ing, the use sticks. In the 85 per cent of physical forc degree.

CRISIS

of its kind in this country. It is run by a
s counsellors by the centre. In its first year
y them is invaluable to our discussions and
e Centre's two full time workers, Catherine

Judge said she would have been better off
had she submitted to the rape, implying that
rape is just sexual intercourse when you
don't want it. In our experience the majority
of cases are accompanied by other forms of
brutality.

The judge in this case attributed more
importance to his life and his career than the
effects of the assault on her life and her
career.

In court cases it's not the sentence it's the
conviction that matters. Sending a rapist to

prison is not going to stop him being a rapist,
but there are two things worth considering:
convicting a man for rape does at least
recognise rape as a crime, and not a figment
of women's imagination. And for a woman
to bring a charge of rape is pretty shattering.
A lot of things are said about her in court, it
can drag on for a year, and then if the guy is
let off she appears the guilty one.

Sentences like those passed by Judge King
Hamilton, who sent three 15 year old boys to
prison for 10 years, are not what we'd
advocate. That's the judge reacting to the
publicity at the time.

There are other things we can do. We
spoke at a meeting on a housing estate in
Wembley recently. The women there knew
that the lighting was bad on the estate, with
too many dark corners where men could
wait. They decided to go to the Tenants'
Association to get it improved.

'You're 5'8" . . . you're too tall to be raped'. A GP.

More late night buses, better street
lighting would all help. They need cam-
paigning for. The tragedy is that women
solve the problem for themselves by not
going out at night, putting on their own
curfew. That's why we were glad to hear of
the demonstrations in Germany when
women went out to reclaim the night!

When women are threatened they
shouldn't be afraid to make a scene. Too
often they feel they are making a fuss over
nothing. That's the way women are brought
up. A woman might even be in a position to
hurt the man physically, but we're not
brought up to be nasty and defend ourselves
physically as little boys are. Rape is a violent
thing, and women have every right to be
violent in their own defence.

The other tragedy is people don't help
each other—we know of women who have
screamed when in trouble, knowing that
other people are around, and no one has
come to their aid. It's thought to be a private,
domestic matter, it's none of their business.
They're almost afraid of being told so.

And of course setting up centres like this
all over the country for women who have
been raped would help a lot. . . .

As we conclude in our report: 'The rightful
anger of women is a moving and creative
force, and in the end it is the only force which
will stop rape.'

The London Rape Crisis Centre can be
contacted:

By phone: 01-340 6145 (24 hour service) or
01-340 6913 (10-6 weekdays).

Postal address: Rape Crisis Centre, PO Box
42, London, N6 5BU.

'Lest it be suggested that any man or
any lawyer has some prejudice against
women, may I declare another interest.
Nobody is fonder of women than I am.

'Why does a woman say that she has
been raped? There may be many
reasons. She may have been raped, she
may be feeling contrition at having
gone further than she intended, she
may be a young girl who gets home
late and finds her mother waiting to
ask where she has been or a wife whose
husband wants to know what she has
been doing.

'Honourable Members would do
well to remember that rape involves an
activity that is normal. Honourable
Members should remember the words
of Ovid - and I translate them into
English for those who do not know
Latin:

'Whether they say yes or no, they all
like to be asked. And, saying she
would never consent, she consented.'

'It is part of the business of men and
women that they hunt and are hunted
and say 'Yes' and 'No' and mean the
opposite.'

-Nicholas Fairbairn, Tory MP for
Kinross and West Perthshire, House
of Commons debate, 19 July 1977.

...s don't get
...r experience
...l ages, races,
...lifestyles have

...ou're just saying you've
...en raped because you
...nt an abortion.' A GP.

...n enjoy rape.
...ften involves
...al restrain-
...knives and
...ited States
...pes involve
...to some

Muslim women like this hide from the
world; are we to do the same?



Womens Voice supporters in London
picketing The Sun newspaper in
August. The Sun is the worst of the
national newspapers for carrying
articles about rape alongside its page
three, 'Water Baby of the Month',
nude woman.

UNDERSTANDING CYSTITIS

Four out of five women will suffer an attack of cystitis some time in their lives. Recurring attacks can make life unbearable, ruin some women's lives, and lead to the breakup of sexual relationships.

Women are particularly susceptible to cystitis because of the way our bodies are designed, and that we cannot change. We have three openings between our legs. The

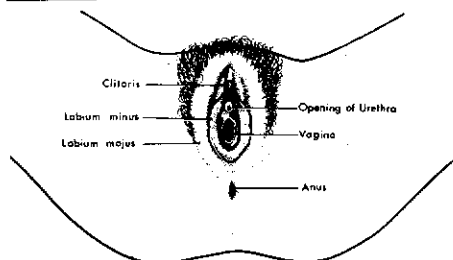
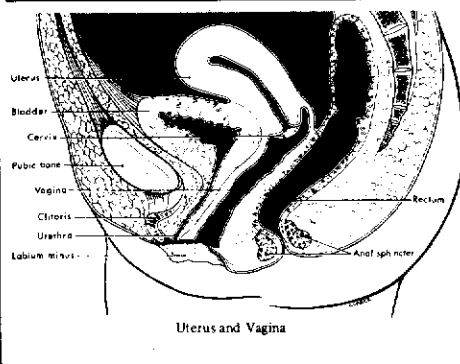


Diagram of vagina and urethra and their orifices (Perineum).

urethra (which we pee out of) and the vagina are close together. Further back is the rectum, the opening to the bowel. There are all sorts of bacteria living in the bowel which are normally harmless. But if they pass into the urethra or vagina infections can occur.

Once an attack of cystitis has started, it is physically and mentally impossible to 'carry on as normal'. The pain begins at the infected point in the urethra and travels up fairly quickly towards the bladder. You feel the need to pee all the time—but only produce tiny amounts of very concentrated urine, which is very painful.



Uterus and Vagina

Eventually the muscles which control the bladder are affected, and the bladder starts to leak slightly. The pain increases and there may be some bleeding. Germs may pass through the walls of the urethra into the bloodstream and this makes the woman feverish and can cause backache.

If cystitis is not properly treated, more serious diseases can result. The infection may travel up into the kidneys and cause a kidney infection (pyelitis). So it should never be ignored, even in its milder forms. It should not be passed off as 'just one of those women's complaints' which we somehow have to live with.

One of the commonest ways infection can

happen is during lovemaking. Bacteria can remain in the man's foreskin without causing him any discomfort, but when transmitted to a susceptible woman, trouble may begin.

As well as washing before having sex, it may be useful for a regular sufferer to make sure that her bladder and bowels are empty. Afterwards the woman should urinate to flush any bacteria out of the urethra, and wash.

If the lining of the vagina is damaged by rough lovemaking it is easier for infection to begin. So if a woman's vagina is too dry, making sex uncomfortable, she should wait until she is sufficiently aroused for the natural secretions of her vagina to make it slippery and easy to enter. Many women have found that being more aggressive and ready to refuse sex if they don't feel like it is a partial cure for recurring cystitis.

Men can help by simple hygiene—keeping their hands clean and their nails short. They should also keep their foreskins clean. In general they should be considerate and understanding of the woman's problem and her needs.

For regular sufferers careful washing around the rectum helps to prevent cystitis. This should be done in the morning, at night and after bowel movements or swimming.

There are anti-cystitis precautions that every woman can remember. Vaginal deodorants, perfumed soaps and talcum powders do no good and may damage delicate tissues, so they should be avoided. Any vaginal discharge that is very heavy and offensive despite normal baths should be referred to your doctor.

It is no good using antiseptic creams on the sore area. The pain is caused inside the urethra, not outside, and creams may cause irritation. Only use creams, sprays or pessaries if they are prescribed by your doctor. Cotton underwear is more comfortable and can be boiled without soap, avoiding irritating detergents which do not always get rinsed out properly.

When you feel an attack coming on don't just sit and suffer. There are a series of steps you can take to help yourself.

Avoid alcohol and coffee, as these are diuretics and make you pee, which you are going to want to do too much anyway.

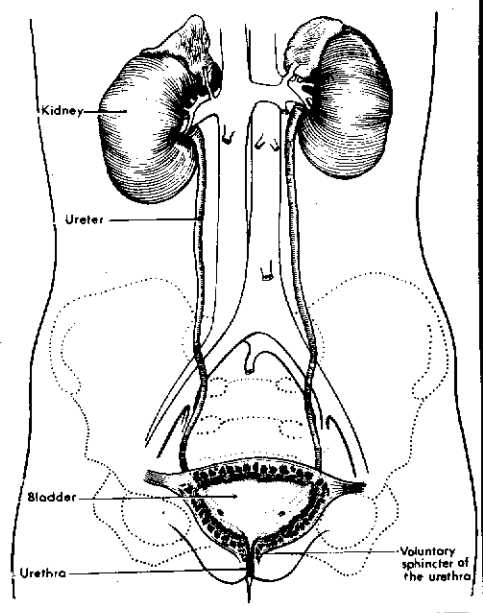
Drink a pint of water and make yourself two hot water bottles. Drink a little orange squash mixed with one teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda every twenty minutes for three hours.

Take a couple of mild painkillers, such as paracetamol. At this stage some coffee or a little alcohol may help you to start peeing properly.

At the end of this three-hour period, take a half pint of water (barley water is good, too) and go to bed with your hot water bottles, one on your back and the other, wrapped in a

towel so it does not burn, placed high up between your legs. Keep drinking half a pint of liquid every 20 minutes.

This routine, in the experience of many women, helps to prevent the attack getting to that 'desperation' point after about two and a half hours. (It is even worth taking your hot water bottles with you on holiday). As soon as you can, get to the doctor or the nearest Genito-Urinary clinic. The doctor should take swabs from your vaginal area to see what sort of bacteria are present. In the laboratory they can see which medicine kills these off most effectively. Cystitis is not caused by the same germs in all women—and it is not enough to give everyone complaining of pain and frequent urination the same old pills.



Unfortunately, the present cuts in the health service make it more unlikely than ever that the sort of patient research that needs to be done to solve the riddles about the causes and cure of cystitis will be done. As well as getting together for mutual support and self-help, women will have to take part in the wider fight to extend and improve the health service and make it responsive to women's needs. Four out of every five of us can expect to suffer from cystitis some time in our lives just because there is no profit to be made from finding a way of preventing this.

The U and I Club, 9E Compton Road, London N1 (tel 01 359 0403) puts sufferers in touch with one another, to end the feeling many have of being isolated with their problems. It also provides helpful and informative literature on cystitis, the latest research, and ideas on how to prevent and deal with it. Regular sufferers would find its booklet very useful.

By SIAN HILLIER



By JEANNIE
HOLBOROW

'The trouble with the NUT is that it is full of women' say the other teaching unions, but this is really in its favour. Whilst 60 per cent of all teachers are women, women make up 73 per cent of the NUT. Even so, the union is still largely run both locally and nationally by men, in particular male head teachers.

Unlike other unions organising women workers the problem is not getting women into the union but getting them active and involved in fighting for better conditions and pay.

The cuts in spending on education have hit women teachers particularly hard. The falling birth rate is being used as the latest excuse to cut teachers in primary schools, who are nearly all women. Teachers are being transferred to other schools, with no choice in the matter, leaving the original school short of a teacher. In London, mainly Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Southwark it's the women teachers that are leading the fight against these compulsory transfers. Outside of London teachers in Tameside and Kirklees are fighting back.

Then they are cutting part-time teachers, 90 per cent of whom are women. Some local authorities are not only getting rid of part timers they are also reducing the hours that are worked so that these teachers are not covered by the Employment Protection Act. (For more information on this Act see *Womens Voice* 6).

As a way of fighting cuts, some schools in London have been refusing to take classes for teachers absent for three days, forcing the Borough to employ more teachers. The NUT has not supported them, calls the action 'unofficial' and will not defend members who face victimisation because they are fighting the cuts.

All parents should support these teachers as they are fighting for a better education for their children.

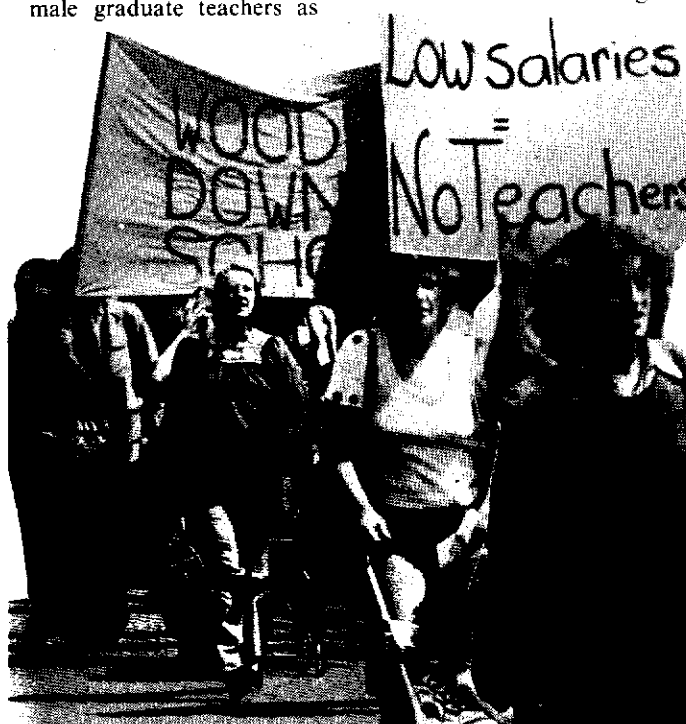
Equal pay does not mean equal earnings. On average women teachers earn 20 per cent less than men teachers. It took over 50 years to win an equal pay agreement in 1955, it was implemented in 1961. It is typical of the speed with which the NUT fights, for it first voted to fight for Equal Pay in 1919! But still, because there are separate pay scales, men get the better paid jobs on the higher scales. There are more higher paid jobs in secondary schools where there are fewer women so this helps the men's earnings but it accounts for only about a third of the pay difference between the sexes. There are twice as many male graduate teachers as

women, as most women do the three year teacher training course. This accounts for a further small part of the difference. What we need is for the whole separate scales system to go and one

National Union of Teachers	Tel: 01-387 2442	
Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1.	Male	Female
Membership	84,458	315,691
National Executive	41	7
Full-time officials	40	1

single scale of pay for all classroom teachers established. This is what 'Rank and File' teacher supporters are fighting for.

The real difference in women teachers earnings



Rank and File resolution for NUT Conference.

Conference instructs the Executive to negotiate nationally the following demands:

Maternity Leave

- 1) To be extended to 9 months. Three months before and six months after birth on full pay with no withholding of salary during the period of leave.
- 2) The parent's job to be safeguarded in his or her own school during the three years after the birth of the child.
- 3) All maternity leave provisions to apply equally to unmarried and married teaching full or part-time.
- 4) Paternity leave for two weeks by agreement.
- 5) Paid leave for post-natal and ante-natal visits to the clinic.

Nursery Provisions

Nursery provisions to be provided for the children of teachers and other school workers.

Abortion

The Executive to campaign actively:

- a) To defeat any attempts to introduce restrictive legislation.
- b) For the right of all women to adequate provision, through the NHS to contraception and abortion on request.
- c) To resist any changes in the 1967 Abortion Act which would produce conditions detrimental to the health and welfare of women.

Equal Pay

The Executive to actively support initiatives taken by workers and other unions in struggle for equal pay.

UNION VOICE

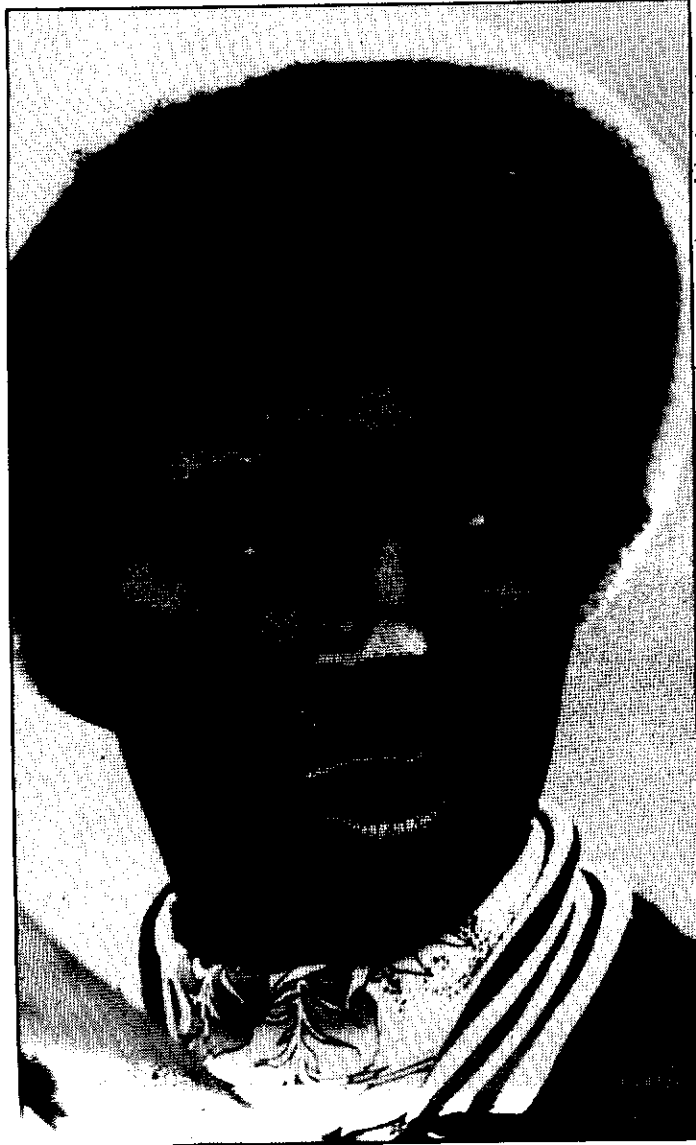
comes because they are discriminated against in promotion. They are less confident and less willing to push themselves and because of family commitments less able to move from school to school. Even in primary schools often regarded as 'womens work' there are fewer and fewer women head teachers. Seven times more men apply for Primary school headships than women, and men in Primary schools are now much more likely to have the higher paid jobs. In Redbridge this year there are only two new primary teachers being appointed and one is a male graduate teacher. All women teachers can tell of questions at interviews irrelevant to the job. I was asked 'Can you guarantee to stay for two years?' In other words, 'You won't have a baby will you?' Once you have children promotion is even less likely.

Prejudice and outmoded ideas are the major reason for women not getting equal earnings. That's why we need to get women teachers involved in the union and in the school, fighting for the single salary scale for all. Then the vision of equal pay of 1919 will be achieved.

Different issues have brought women into activity in the union. Perhaps it is wearing trousers in school, replacing broken windows, fighting to keep a good teacher, to keep down class sizes. 'Rank and File Teacher' wants to link up schools and teachers involved in all these struggles and so strengthen each fight. 85 per cent of women teachers are on the lowest two scales. They are the key to building a rank and file movement in the union, and to changing the male head teacher domination we have at present.

For further information or copies of Rank and File Teacher write to, Rank and File Teacher, 12a Upper Tooting Road, SW17.

'WE WIN WE WIN!'



Picture: John Starrock (Report)

At 5.30am on Monday, May 30 police smashed down the front and back doors of Faith Foster's home in Childeric Road, Deptford, South East London, with axes. At the same time 200 more policemen and dogs were doing the same to other houses in the area. They turned the house upside down.

Christopher Foster, one of Faith's ten children, was ordered outside into the street with only his underpants on. Chris and four others, including his girlfriend Cathy, were taken to Penge police station. Cathy was stripped to her underwear. Two policemen went into her cell. They called her 'diseased' for living with black people. One of them banged her head with his helmet, saying he would 'knock some sense into her'. They released Cathy, who called at Faith's house further up Childeric Road and explained what had happened. Ninety kids were being held.

The police would not tell Faith why her son was being held. 'It so technical it can't be discussed on the phone' they said. She waited two and a half hours before police spoke to her at the station. They said there was no charge. Chris was only 'helping with inquiries'. All he had to do was 'inform' on his friends and they would let him go. If not, they would charge him, along with the rest of them, with conspiracy; a charge, they said, that could give him life imprisonment.

Faith saw her son and told him what the police had said. He told her there was nothing to inform on. His friends had done nothing. So Chris, along with twenty other youths, whose ages ran from 12 to twenty years was charged with 'conspiring with persons unknown to rob persons unknown in the London area between April and 2 May'.

little animals and I'll see to they stay in'. (The Queen was due to visit on 14th June

Chris Foster

We're cleaning up the place for the Jubilee.

'I've never seen such a judge, as the one that heard the bail applications. It's deplorable. He was a little pig. A most dangerous judge to sit in court and try children. He knew that most of them should have been in a juvenile court. Some of them were as young as 12 years. Only nine got bail (out of 21). Chris was released on bail six weeks later along with the others, who have been rearrested and rearrested.'

The National Front have made Lewisham a priority area ever since these kids were arrested, and this was one of the reasons why they decided to march through Lewisham on 13 August. I asked Faith what she felt about the NF:

'They are all mad men and women.'

'Our people came here 33 years ago. In the West Indies and Africa the books in schools were all English. They taught us to speak English, to sing the National Anthem and to see England as our Mother Country. So, when the Queen came to the

West Indies and said your mother country needs you to build it up, we people sold all we had and came to England. We came in proper style, not in banana boats we paid our way and we got down to business and worked with our hearts and not our heads. If it had been the other way we would not have become cheap labour. And now the job is done they want us out.'

'The National Front said we would never see anything like it. They were going to march 2,000 people through our community into Lewisham. I thought "They're nuts. What are they marching for?". A lot of the older people here didn't realise what the National Front stood for. If the Socialist Workers Party hadn't leafleted our community on what the NF were, the 13th would not have been successful. You know the police would not stop the NF from marching. I'll tell you why. They thought the blacks and the whites were at war with each other and that the anti-racist whites would stay at home. Then the NF and the police

could walk over us blacks in triumph. But they were wrong. Blacks and whites triumphed over them.'

'Most of the blacks on the march were the youths. They feel it more, they were born here. They understand the English way of life. And I'll tell you another thing: if things don't change for the better, real blood will be flowing in the streets. Our kids, they want work. They are determined to get work.'

'Well, I wanted the police to guard our street. The NF were planning to assemble at the bottom of it, in Clifton Rise. It was so obviously a dangerous place for attack by the NF, as they knew our address. But how could the police guard it? The police are the NF and the NF are the police. In the end, South East London SWP protected it. The NF that day was small: at the most 500. Not even the Queen's jewels are protected by the police like the NF were. I thought the police were not allowed to march, but they did that day, behind and alongside the NF. The press made out that the SWP are hooligans and this, that and

the other, but they never started it. The press and TV are biased. Why did they not show pictures of what the police did to us on the march?

'The NF couldn't march through Lewisham. We wouldn't let them. We stuck to our word: "They shall not pass".'

'I caught the bus into Brookley with my friend to see the end of the march as I couldn't go all the way; my daughter had only just come out of hospital after having her appendix out and couldn't be left for long. We walked down Ladywell Road and what I saw, my heart was laughing inside. I had not been so happy for so long.'

'My friend, she starts waving her arms about, shouting: "We win! We win!" I say to her: "Cool it, before they arrest you". We walked all the way back to New Cross. People kept stopping us and telling us what happened. It was good. I was really, really happy'.

INTERVIEW BY
PEGGY EAGLE



YOUR HUSBAND BEATS YOU. HOW TO STOP HIM.

You apply to the sheriff's court for an interdict. It's possible to obtain a 'temporary interdict' within a day or two of application. This is temporary, but will be made permanent after a further hearing - about one or two weeks later. No witnesses are needed for the interim hearing, often heard by the sheriff in private.

For the hearing for a permanent interdict

witnesses are needed to corroborate your evidence. The witness should be able to give evidence of hearing something that went on, or seeing you fairly shortly after your man beat you up.

WHAT IS AN INTERDICT PRECISELY?

An interdict is an order made by the court forbidding the man to molest you, visit you, telephone, bother or annoy you or your children in any way. But you cannot get an interdict to stop him living in the family home unless you are the sole owner or tenant. But if you have moved out somewhere else, the interdict can forbid him to come there.

YOU ARE NOT MARRIED, BUT THE MAN YOU ARE LIVING WITH BEATS YOU. HOW TO STOP HIM.

A cohabitee can apply for an interdict.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR HUSBAND/MAN DEFIES THE INTERDICT.

A) Call the police - but by the time they arrive it might be too late. If there is no actual assault, all the police will probably do is warn the man. Even if there has been an assault, the police will not charge him unless there is some corroborative evidence, eg a witness. Criminal proceedings can not be started by the woman herself.

B) Go back to the sheriff's court to bring proceedings against the man for breach of interdict. Breach of interdict is contempt of court, for which the man could be imprisoned. In many cases however there is only a fine. But going back to the sheriff's court is no defence against the man turning up on your doorstep - action can only be taken afterwards.

There is no equivalent to the injunction backed by power of arrest in Scotland.

Courts in Scotland have no power to order the husband out of the home, unless the woman is the sole owner or tenant. In fact if the husband is the sole owner or tenant, he is legally entitled to order

his wife from the house, no matter how he has behaved to her.

If a house is jointly owned or rented, the wife has a right to stay, but since the husband also has the right to stay, the woman may have to leave for her own safety or that of her children.

Joint council house tenants are not always as good an idea as they seem. Some local authorities are more reluctant to evict the husband in this situation, and many women have found themselves landed with arrears of rent to pay off before they can get the sole tenancy either of that house or another.

The unmarried woman is in exactly the same position as the married one. If she is sole owner or tenant, she can evict the man and obtain an interdict forbidding him to return if necessary. If he has contributed to buying the house, joint ownership is important, since, unlike the married woman, there is no chance of getting a share after they separate. SHEILA GH MOOR

YOUR RIGHTS

SCOTLAND: BATTERED WOMEN YOUR RIGHTS

ONCE A CATHOLIC

Play by Mary O'Malley
Royal Court Theatre,
London

'Once a Catholic', is a comedy written by Mary O'Malley, daughter of an Irish Catholic immigrant, showing at The Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London. The play, written from Mary's own experience, with great humour and insight, is set in a Catholic Convent school in Harlesden, London in 1956-57. It traces the fifth academic year of one class.

All the pupils, born in England, are daughters of Irish Catholic immigrants, all called Mary (... McGinty, Gallagher, Malley, Mooney, etc). The teaching staff are Irish nuns. The main theme is the sharp contrast between the puritanical teachings of the Catholic Church on sex, virginity and marriage, and the girls' own first sexual emotions and experience in an outside world dominated by Elvis Presley and 'Teddy Boys'.

Underlying the conflicts and confusion, is the terrible guilt that the Church instills and reinforces in its classrooms. Mary O'Malley, with devastating wit, shows how normal healthy, sexual adolescent feelings are immediately suppressed by the nuns as wicked, dirty, shameful thoughts - a mortal sin, which will cast them into the eternal fires of hell!

But school stops at 4pm, and the girls are faced with reality when they walk out into the streets of Harlesden; most manage quite well to explore their new sexual emotions with their boyfriends, *despite* the nuns, but the fear of mortal sin and eternal damnation is always in the background.

Although 'Purity in mind and body' as taught by the nuns is the underlying message of the play, it shows how the Church interferes and judges on all aspects of peoples' lives. For example, the terrible threat that Communism presents to the Church. The girls are told that after the 1917 Revolution in Russia, Our Lady of Fatima appeared to some peasant children in Fatima in Portugal, with

the purpose of starting a counter-revolution - with 'Divine Authority'. The irony of it is that the girls don't really understand what Communism means - just that it is something really evil and 'the devil's work'. 'If you see a Daily Worker paper, tear it up - you will be doing a great service to mankind!' the nuns tell them.

To be passive and gladly accept your lot in life, was another message: 'Every good Catholic must accept all the suffering and hardship that God sends his/her way: "Thy Will be Done - I take this punishment for my sins."

20 years later, Vatican II has brought, some changes in the Church's teachings - because of the vastly-declining church-going congregations and as a result, loss of power and influence over peoples' lives. It has been forced to liberalise certain attitudes, ie that of birth control which is now largely a matter for your conscience. Missing Mass, although still a 'grave' sin, is no longer 'The greatest sin - even a man who murders his wife in a fit of passion will probably be forgiven - but

never for missing Mass!' as the resident priest tells the girls. In the classroom, although striving for high academic standards, the girls are left in no doubt that the highest and most important goal they can achieve is that of becoming a good Catholic wife and mother. 'All parts of the body are sacred' the nuns tell them, 'but none so much as those parts connected with motherhood. These parts are to be guarded and protected against violation - sex is for the procreation of children, inside marriage.' Even Tampax was forbidden!

Mary O'Malley's play is brilliantly written, acted and produced. It is very funny and gives strong satirical caricatures of nuns, priests and girls throughout. In parts, it had the audience almost rolling in the aisles! The nuns are like every nun we ever knew, and it was like stepping back into class again, all those years ago, so true were some of the lines in it.

However, *Once a Catholic* (Always a Catholic) doesn't have to be ... as can't be seen by thousands of ex-Catholics who are now

active socialists, despite the teachings of the Church.

We thoroughly enjoyed the play, and it is well worth a visit. The Royal Court Theatre has special rates for block bookings or student unions, and if you get the chance, you should try and see it.

Helen Lavelle and Gerry Norris

DAUGHTER OF EARTH

by Agnes Smedley
Published by Virago at
£1.95

Everyone who has read this book has been really enthusiastic and excited about it. Powerful, passionate and inspiring, it does more for feminism than any number of worthy volumes.

FIONA WILLIAMS reviews it for *Womens Voice*.

Agnes Smedley was a revolutionary socialist and feminist, and 'Daughter of Earth' is



an autobiographical novel describing her personal and political development. She wrote it when she was 30 (she was born in 1892) in an attempt to come to terms with the contradictions in her political, sexual and emotional life: conflicts she faced not just as a woman in American society, but as a working class woman working in male-dominated American revolutionary organisations.

Marie, 'Daughter of Earth', is brought up in the misery, poverty and degradation of a farming family of the American West. This is a real Western, none of your John Wayne, Raquel Welch variety. Marie sees the lives of the women around her—on the one hand there is her own mother, downtrodden, subjected to a life of childbearing and humiliating servitude by her husband and society, an old woman at 30, dying eventually of starvation and overwork.

On the other hand there is Aunt Helen, financially independent, but only through prostitution, risking certain sterility and possible death through crude abortions and syphilis.

Marie determines that the way out for her is through education, and she tears herself away from her family. But an unresolved conflict struggles in her mind and dogs her life. She is appalled by the humiliation and degradation that women suffer through marriage, and if love means marriage then Marie will have none of it. She will not be dependent on a man, either financially or emotionally. 'The world' she says 'is filled with women who weep, enslaved by the institution of marriage and by their love for men.' But she cannot escape the feeling, borne of the ignorant Puritanism of her childhood, that sex is sinful. Her own emotions are the vic-

Daughter of Earth is one of the books that the Bookmarx Club has made available to its members. Later this year they are offering Sylvia Pankhurst's history and autobiography 'The Suffragette Movement'. It's the best read about the suffragettes, no romanticism and lots of

political ideas: the changes the campaign went through; the horrors of hunger striking contrasted with the bigoted ideas of our then rulers; the crucial debates inside the Labour Party and among socialists which so often went against the women prepared to fight

for the vote in favour of the men who weren't. It's long but for the ideas she debates its well worth it. The great thing about belonging to the Bookmarx Club is that you read books and immediately find other people reading the same ones. We can share the ideas we read about, so

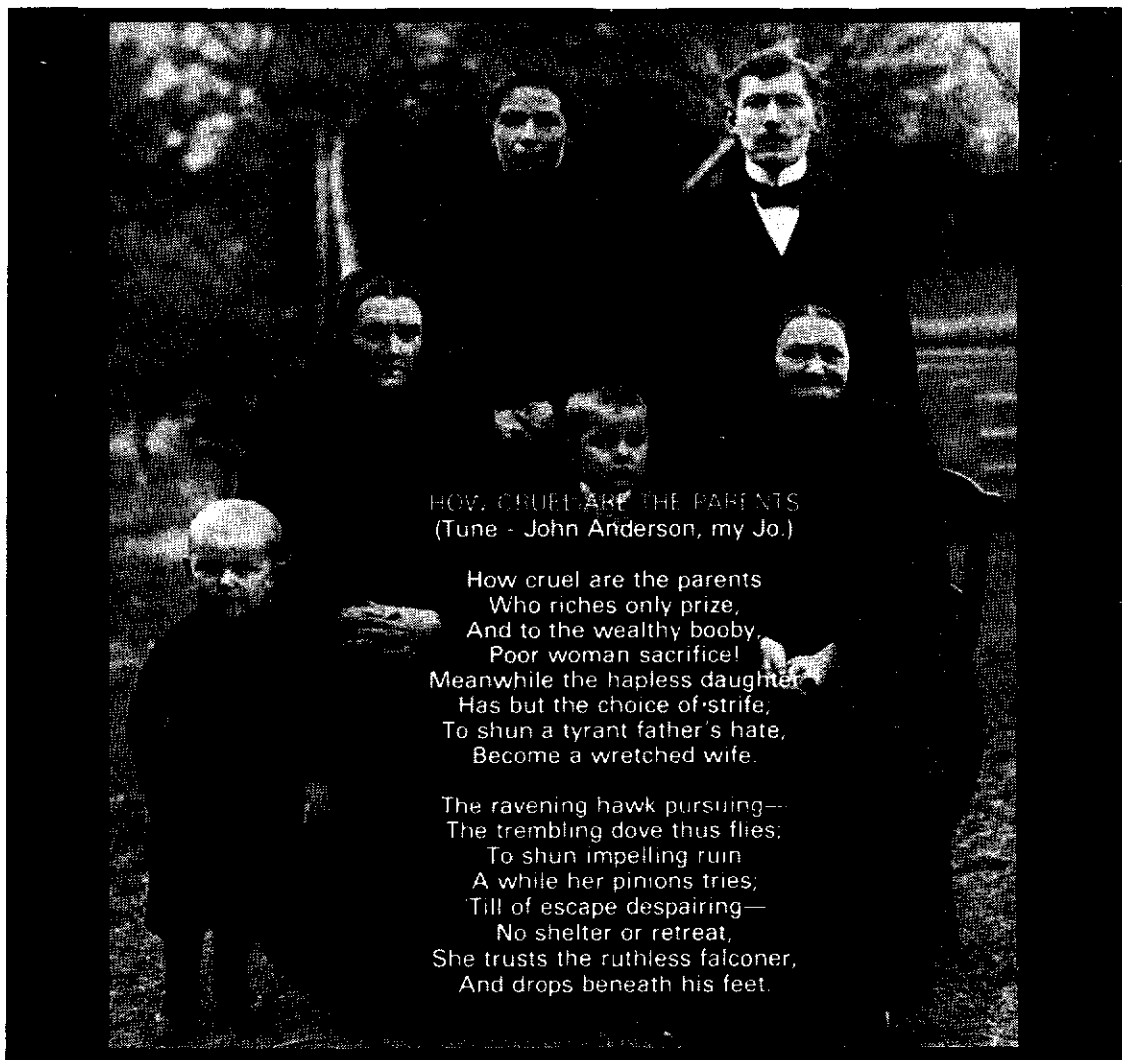
that each book almost doubles in value. If you want to become a member it costs £4.50 a quarter. For that you get several books at a great saving. You can pay monthly or quarterly. Write to Bookmarx, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Reviews page will publish other poems of interest that readers send in. If you come across something, address it to Reviews,

Women's Voice. This poem by Robert Burns, written in 1785, the year before his death, was sent in by Hugh Robertson, of

Aberdeen. It describes the misery of forced marriage, and the degradation awaiting women who tried to escape.

Robert Burns also had a good feminist line on the creation. 'On Man He tried his prentice hand, and then created Woman.'



tims of double standards of morality for men and women, even though intellectually she despises such double standards.

Soon Marie meets other socialists, and dedicates her life to the struggle. She works as a journalist on a socialist newspaper, is involved with the Wobblies (the militant American workers' movement—the Industrial Workers of the World), with the birth control movement, and most passionately of

all, with exiled Indian revolutionaries fighting for the freedom of India.

Ironically, far from solving her personal conflicts, the unwitting compliance of her comrades with conventional attitudes towards women and sex confuses her more. She finds the only solution is to have secret affairs, isolated and alienating. She says 'Had all of these people (her comrades) known that I had love affairs, they would not have respected me.' What an indictment!

'I longed for tenderness, for love, but these I feared. When one loves, one can easily be enslaved and I would not be enslaved. Freedom is higher than love. At least today. Perhaps one day they will be one.'

Would Agnes Smedley find it different if she were active today? Certainly she would find many more ordinary working women, not weeping, but fighting together for their rights, and in that process

facing her problems, discussing them and making an impact on revolutionary organisations. Though Agnes Smedley does not resolve her conflicts in this book, it is enlightening and inspiring for us all, women and men.

This book is available from Book Marks, 265 Seven Sisters Road London N4, price £2.10 including postage

YOUR VOICE

Their morals, our lives

Dear Womens Voice

After reading your article on 'Their morals and ours' (WV 8) I felt inspired to write and tell you about the difficulty we had in obtaining an abortion for my fifteen year old sister. As we all know abortions are very difficult to get, but Stockport is one of the many areas in which it is even harder unless of course you have the money to pay for it.

Our first obstacle came with the family GP, who totally ignored her and didn't even ask her for a specimen. This led to tension at home as it was thought we would have to pay privately for it and there was no way in which this could be done.

We went back to the GP a week later and this time, after getting a test elsewhere, he willingly wrote to a hospital for an appointment, two weeks later the long battle began.

On arriving at the hospital, Pamela was apprehensive about what was going to happen to her. A figure in a white coat then began to ask questions. He never let his feelings show,

whether for or against, and we sat there feeling as if we were asking for something totally illegal.

Two hours later we came out feeling degraded and humiliated because we had to crawl for the abortion, dragging out all Pamela's personal life. Telling this complete stranger that we live in squalid conditions, living on social security, and the struggle we have feeding the family. After listening to this the doctor condescended to allow Pamela the operation and said 'If you get pregnant again don't bother coming here as we won't give you another one.'

With this thought in her mind Pamela went into hospital nervous and scared because everyone she saw in hospital thought more or less that she was doing something wrong—'Never mind the conditions dear, this is a baby and you should love it'—not thinking that this attitude could ruin her life before it begins and also that the way in which they treated her could have an even worse effect on her than actually having the baby.

On the ward itself, Pamela was faced with a nurse who was against abortion and went out of her way to get this message through to Pamela with the result that she came home crying the following day. While she was at home we noticed a dramatic change in her. She was withdrawn into herself and just wasn't interested in what was going on around her anymore. Whilst in this depression she finally said what it was that upset her—'If there was nobody around I would throw myself down the stairs rather than go through with this operation'.

When she went back into hospital again I asked if I could stay with her before and after the operation to keep her nerves down a little. When they came to collect her for the theatre the sister asked the nurse to escort her to the theatre; the nurse replied 'No I won't, she's having an abortion, I'm not having anything to do with her'. This absolutely astounded me and I felt like smacking her in the face! As it was Pam was asleep and didn't hear it but if she had,

what would it have done to her mentally?

The following day I picked her up from hospital and the change in her was bloody remarkable. The guilt feeling which everybody had tried to inject in her was gone. The sheer relief had brought back the sound of laughter which we hadn't heard for more than four weeks now.

Those guilt feelings should never have been allowed to set into her mind. She made the right decision in not having the baby because she realised what the future holds for her.

But the doctors and the anti-abortionists don't bother to think of this when refusing to do an abortion or when trying to talk her out of having one.

And it means that we have to fight even harder for our abortion demands to save fifteen year old girls going through traumatic experiences, and making it easier on the mind for all the girls and women who want to have an abortion. WV reader, Stockport.

Demonstrate against just these sort of narrow minded attitudes in Birmingham 29 October—organised by the National Abortion Campaign.

Dear WV,

Your article 'The Truth about Drugs' WV8 - I should like to offer some constructive criticism. I felt the article was missing the point.

The drug companies are only supplying a demand. The overworked doctors have little alternative. Society needs to change, we must fight for better housing and working conditions, more nurseries, more help for battered wives.

Drugs can't change society, it just makes people lethargic and uncaring about their conditions. The caring professions do fight but so often have to reluctantly offer second best to their patients.

Katy Agars, Sheffield.

You and your genes

Dear Womens Voice, I was pleased to see the article on Women and fascism in this month's *Women's Voice*.

I had recently read an article in the Sunday Times about a 'new' theory being popularised by Richard Dawkins in a book called 'The Selfish Gene'. Dawkins says, 'The female has only one egg. The male has millions of sperm.' From this he apparently deduces that women have a genetic urge to stay at home and bring up children

because they have fewer chances of reproducing their genes. While males have an urge to make sure their genes are in as many children as possible.

So it can be 'proven' that a woman's place is in the home—and man is naturally polygamous.

Ridiculous and illogical as such ideas may appear, they are being given some credibility by being discussed in a 'serious' newspaper.

Cathy France, Crewe.

Despite the fact that the Sex Discrimination Act means that joint mortgages should be based on the larger income whether it is the man's or the woman's, all I got in response to pointing this out was, 'Well, really dear, your husband can't have the babies.' and 'If you were my daughter, I would advise you to buy a nice new semi (built by the speculators from lousy materials), and 'Most couples with a joint income of £6,000 have saved more than £1,000 for a deposit'—not if they have to run a car and a motorbike to get

to where they work and pay high rent!

I eventually got our mortgage from a building society which respects women and the law, but I've kept a couple of quid in dear old parental C&G which should entitle me and a few friends to disrupt their Annual General Meeting. Just for the record I am writing to the Equal Opportunities Commission although my only redress is in the County Courts and who has time for that when they are house-buying? Sue Sayers, Derby.

Mortgaging women

Dear Womens Voice, Seeing the ad on your back cover for the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society (WV June). I thought you would like to hear how C&G really treat women.

I am 24 and earn £4000 per annum. I saved with the Cheltenham and Gloucester as it was my local building society since I was 16.

In March of this year I saw the house of my dreams. Being a

house in the inner city, I didn't think a mortgage would be easy, but the estate agent advised me to fight it out with the Gloucester Branch Manager, so I did.

I've never heard so much insulting junk in all my life. Although I had been married a year, all he wanted to know was 'how much does your fiance earn?' My husband is an underpaid sewage worker grossing £44 a week.

HOW MUCH?



DOES KALI COST YOU!

KALI—GODDESS OF DESTRUCTION—DEVOURS PROFITS—DELIGHTS IN ACCIDENTS, DAMAGE AND INJURY
BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL, Chancellors Rd., London W6 9RS.

Fear of Jong

Dear WV,
Fiona Williams' review of 'Fear of Flying' prompted me to try to open a discussion about the nature of *Womens Voice*. We have got to decide whether *Womens Voice* is a political Spare Rib or a paper to organise working class women's struggles and draw them into the struggle for revolution.

For me, it is the latter, definitely. Our experience in North East Manchester is that after the initial enthusiasm for the paper, it is largely in the areas where we are *working* on issues—on estates or at work that sales are continuing to expand.

Secondly, it seems to me that every article that is written has to be assessed on how far it connects with working class women's consciousness.

Many articles do, but the book review did not either in style or content. Nor have a number of other articles and letters, particularly those on orgasm and abortion, with the notable exception of Mary Phillips' letter. She made clear

what many of our working class supporters feel that they are so oppressed that they have no time/energy to sit back and explore their real sexual inclination or relationships.

Everybody I know who has read it thinks Erica Jong's book is middle-class, unreal and utterly boring, describing the same inward-looking hang up throughout her tour of Europe. I kept wondering if she had an all-European National Westminster overdraft to finance it all.

There are two dangers in Fiona Williams's approach. One that we deal with the problems of relationships, sexuality in middle class terms only and therefore working class women don't want to know what we have to say about it.

Secondly, that we offer a middle class solution of *passive sitting on the sidelines 'understanding and imagining'* and therefore relating only to our own lifestyles and backgrounds. Sounds like what we criticise the women's movement for.

YOUR VOICE

Dear WV

Where to start commenting on the enclosed material (*see picture opposite*) has had me sitting here bemused and angry for a while now. But I think there are several points to be made.

First, the black model who posed for this very peculiar picture can only have had money in mind as she made ready to ram the stuff down her own throat for the picture. She can't have been thinking much about what that picture does for women and for blacks in the eyes of a white male dominated society.

What did she, the government-sponsored British Safety Council or its woman PRO, Linda Chick think the average sexist racist white male would make of the picture? Nothing to do with work safety.

And secondly, the main point, look who the BSC is so concerned for in this grotesque piece of work - the employers. It is their profits the BSC is concentrating on - not the blood and tears, the pain, suffering and loss suffered by those

maimed or killed by the profit makers. And not a word about the families left behind after industrial fatalities.

If you read the catalogue of horror published every year by such industries as construction and farming, you can't help but be moved by the needless waste of life and faculty. Not money. Unless you count the millions spent by the NHS trying to put back the pieces employers have helped pull apart.

But the British Safety Council has in its mind the £600 per minute devoured by the Hindu goddess, Kali, that the model portrays. It's Director General, James Tye, does actually say: 'It's just shortsighted superstition to believe that accidents must happen. They are caused and can be prevented, but industry prefers to put Kali on the pay role.'

From which the only conclusion to draw is that Mr Tye is using the bosses' language to get his message over - it's the only thing they understand.

Sara R Smith-Petersen, Kettering.

Letters to *Womens Voice*, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

The possibilities for working class women's change of attitudes to their personal lives come through struggle, eg Yardley's strikers and husbands attitudes, when they are engaged in struggles collectively (however small) the strains in relationships show their real nature; their gaining confidence and mutual support leads to a new willingness to look at their *whole* situation in life. If we are working actively alongside them we can draw out *with* them the revolutionary nature of these changes. We *cannot* prescribe that they will be the changes middle class women have experienced through women's liberation; we have to have an open mind.

Sandy Rose, Manchester.

Dear WV,

Erica Jong's book 'Fear of Flying' is an indulgence to read, but a very welcome one. I found I identified a lot with what she wrote, although I have never had analysis and never floated round Europe.

In writing about her past, she brought up loads of things which I thought I was the only one to feel, but which most women must go through but never talk about - how you worry if your periods haven't started and your breasts not developed when your friends' have, how you feel you are not a

'woman'. If the man lying in bed with you can't or won't give you an orgasm, do you give yourself one, do you even know how? Why when you have a steady boyfriend or are living with a bloke/husband, does some other man suddenly excite you so much that you can't stop thinking about him - what should you do about it?

In this society, women are isolated so much, even from other women who feel exactly the same as they do. You can begin to overcome this by being involved in something in the union, at work, or with the women who live in your street, flats, etc. This sort of activity *does* pose the biggest challenge to relationships to husbands, fellow workers, bosses.

But at the same time, our lives are plagued by secret worries about all sorts of things, and it is a help to realise that we are *not* alone, that most women are trying to work out all sorts of things about their lives. The problem is that these worries dominate most women's lives, to the exclusion of interest in work, unions etc. This is what we have to overcome, and if books which bring out all these things help, and are easy to read, we should recommend them. Anyway I think most of us deserve a little self indulgence once in a while.

Liz Balfour, Hackney

YOUR VOICE

We liked that cover!

Dear Womens Voice,
In answer to those 'insulted' people who wrote about the cover of WV7. We sold a lot of copies front cover forward—and one of the women I sold to thought it was a picture of her sister!

She herself, didn't look anything like the woman on the cover but she seemed a lot less bothered about the trivia of what image is projected on the front cover than you do.

Let's face it, some women dress like the one on the cover and some wear Levis. Either way—what does it matter?
Jacquy Hayman, West Middlesex

Dear Womens Voice,
Why were some readers offended by the front cover of WV?

If the picture was thought to be repulsive and degrading, then that is because women are degraded in this society.

What working class woman has the time, money or energy to look 'nice', when she probably works all day, perhaps in a dirty, depressing factory for slave wages, then has to go home and shop, cook, clean, etc for the family? How can you have a 'nice' figure after years of childbearing or when your only pleasure is food?

WV is right to show women as they really are—and for fighting to change the conditions that make them 'repulsive'.

Cathy France, Crewe

Dear WV,
The critics of last month's WV cover are so wrong. To my mind it was the best cover since the

excellent WV 1.

The picture of the untidy woman with the full super-market trolley shows the degradation of working class women. For me, the picture summed up perfectly what the present system of society does to healthy women - turns them into broken down mothers and junk food consumers.

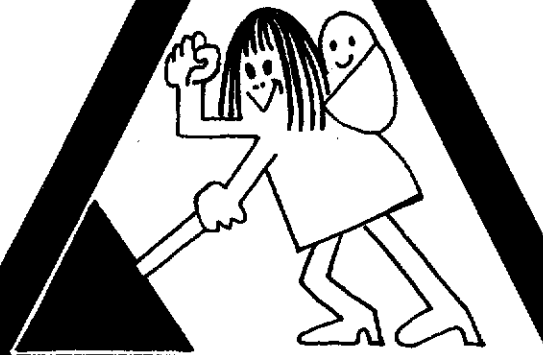
Those who consider the picture to be an insult are falling into the feminist trap of glorifying all womanhood.

We don't need a monthly dose of pictures of jolly militant women to maintain our credibility among working class women.

**Franternally,
Steve Faith, Edinburgh**

WOMENS VOICE NEWS

WATCH OUT!



WOMEN AT WORK

PAISLEY

Paisley, Scotland, is to set up a *Women's Voice* Group. The aim is to involve as many women as possible who want to actually *do* something about their oppressed and exploited conditions of life.

The group is going to start by showing a video film of community life on a new council estate in Scotland. The films are made by women who live on the estate. They will be at the meeting to talk about the link between the film and the need for women to be revolutionary socialists.

If you are interested in women's activities in Paisley, contact Elaine Innes, 44 Glenshira Ave., Dykebar, Paisley, or ask your *Women's Voice* seller.

CARDIFF

In Cardiff in one year there were only 8 abortions per 1000 women, whereas in nearby Swansea there were 13 per 1000. Most Cardiff

women who want abortions have to go to the BPAS clinic in Birmingham or Brighton—which costs at least £85 altogether.

The problem should have been solved in 1973 when money was allocated for an out-patient abortion clinic. However, the consultant gynaecologist, Professor Hibbard is opposed to abortion, and the staff for the clinic have never been appointed, nor has the equipment been bought. So one man is responsible for imposing immeasurable suffering on thousands of Cardiff women.

Women's Voice decided to set up a stall on this subject, in the docks, by the Bute St. shops. From 10 until 4pm we sold WV, gave out a leaflet and collected signatures on the Cardiff Abortion Campaign's petition for the opening of the clinic. We also had some BPAS leaflets, and books about relevant subjects from the SWP bookstall.

There was a lot of interest. One girl took the petition down her street, and came back an hour later

with 50 names.

We tried to get the newsagent to take *Women's Voice*, but she refused. So we'll go back to sell the next issue.

The stall made a good impact. We got police permission for it, then it was just a folding pasting table, a couple of chairs, a few books, papers, leaflets and our banner, with two wooden stands for the poles (we found the stands kicking round the SWP bookshop and borrowed them). Clipboards and clips are useful for the petitions.
Cardiff Women's Voice.

STOCKPORT

Stockport *Women's Voice* members found out for themselves how disgusting SPUC is, when they attended the first meeting of the local SPUC branch. A local doctor tried to blind the audience with scientific terms and statistics, as well as telling a series of lies about the conditions in which women are forced to seek abortion. She just denied the existence of backstreet and self-induced abortion, ignoring BMA evidence that restrictive abortion laws will not reduce the number of abortions at all! She brushed aside the reports of the girl who died after drinking two bottles of gin in an attempt at abortion.

Then it was the turn of SPUC audience members. A *Women's Voice* supporter who told how she had been raped at 14, was shouted at by several SPUC members who thought that even women who became pregnant through rape should be delighted to be able to produce a beautiful child!

Their treatment of another woman was even more inhuman and callous. She was a Catholic, who had used contraceptives, but had suffered several miscarriages, as well as having 12 children. She seemed to want reassurance from SPUC that 'God would forgive her' for an abortion. SPUC members howled her down, and the chairperson accused her of deliberate murder.

When *Women's Voice* members

tried to put the case for a woman's right to choose, they were screamed at and abused. The members concluded that women must go on the offensive in the abortion campaign. If we wait for another James White or Benyon, we will be giving SPUC the chance to grow. **STOCKPORT WV GROUP**

N. LONDON

On Monday 15th August, the North London *Women's Voice* group held a small informal meeting on sexism, entitled 'Cor, what a lovely pair of knockers'—*Is this sexist?* The speaker was a sister from Reading who threw out several points for discussion and then worked around them.

Sexism is something that we, as women, meet every day, whether it be through advertising (the car that can't be sold without a woman spread over the bonnet) in your place of employment, where, if it is male orientated women will probably be degraded in one way or another, or in the day to day family life—there sexism is rearing its ugly head.

The discussion was readily taken up by the women present, and the informal atmosphere had a good effect on everyone present, giving us the freedom to join in, which is not always possible. The arguments were strongly brought forward. We must stamp out sexism and sexist behaviour wherever we find them, but in doing so we must make sure that in our arguments we don't come over as anti men. This is where the women's liberation movement tends to fall down. In future I would like to see more *Women's Voice* meetings on this scale, involving women from different districts.

Leading on from this, a *Women's Voice*/SWP public meeting has been arranged, on 'What is Sexism?' The speakers will be Judith Condon and Kathy Tait, who is shop steward in the engineering union. It's on Wednesday September 14th at Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Road, London N17 at 8pm. If you need a babysitter, ring Mary Robson on 809-9563. Everyone is welcome.

MARY ROBSON

WV Meetings

● **Lea Valley Women's Voice/Socialist Workers' Party**
Public meeting—WHAT IS SEXISM?
Come and argue...
Speakers Judith Condon, Kathy Tait

(AUEW shop steward)
Wednesday September 14th 8pm Lord Morrison Hall, Chestnut Road, London N17
If you need a babysitter, ring Mary Robson 802-9563 Everyone welcome

● **Aberystwyth WV discussion groups.** Every other Tuesday.
Farmers Side Bar, 30 August - Abortion
15 September - Women in Ireland.
27 September - Women at Work

● **Cardiff WV groups** meets at 58 Bridge Street, SWP Bookshop, Cardiff. 6th and 20th September, 7.30pm.

● **Edinburgh WV.** For information about WV work, contact Susie at Book Marx, 130 Morrison Street, Edinburgh. Open 10am-6pm everyday and most evenings.

● **Islington baby murdered by the cuts.** Islington Womens Voice Public Meeting to launch anti-cuts campaign in the area. Speaker: Linda Quinn, September 12, at 8.00pm. The Florence Pub, Florence Road, London, N1.
If you need a babysitter, ring Mandy on 607 8067.

● **South East London Womens Voice** meets alternate Mondays at the Womens Centre (above the Task Force shop) Deptford High Street, SE10, 8.00pm. Further details from Peggy 853 2070 (day)/Anne 855 1920 (eves.)

● **York Womens Voice Group** meets alternative Mondays (5th and 19th September and 17 October) at the Falcon, Micklegate. All Welcome.

● **South East London WV group** meets every other Monday, 8pm, Women's Centre, above Task Force, Deptford High Street, SE10. More details from Peggy on 835 2070 in the daytime or Ann 855 1920.

● **Leeds WV Group.** Public meetings. Wednesday 21 September 8pm at the Victoria Hotel, Great George Street, Leeds 1. 'Women and the Unions'

Discos 'n fun

● **Leeds WV Social Evening** - with food, music, and live entertainment Saturday 10 September 8pm, The Central Station pub, Wellington Street, Leeds 1.

● **Mobile disco and rock band** available at affordable prices for Womens Voice functions etc in London. SAP01-890 3255.

● **Hounslow Hospital benefit Rocknite.** Saturday 22 October. With Cadillac, SADisco, late bar at Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge. Admission by advance tickets only, £1.25 each. Now available from NALGO Ealing Area, c/o 87 Waters Drive, Staines, 59277.

Self Defence

● **Womens Voice self defence lessons** every Thursday, West Greenwich House, Greenwich High Road, SE10, 8.00pm, 50p (males welcome).

Mobile Clinic

● **A mobile clinic** will be outside the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital (Euston Road) to screen women for cancer. If you haven't been examined for the past year it is advisable to attend because early detection means quicker recovery. Dates: Monday 19 September until Friday 23 September.

WV Schools

● **Weekend schools for SWP women members:** Practical sessions include writing for Womens Voice, writing and producing leaflets, public speaking. Political discussions include: organising women workers, women the family and capitalism, Britain in crisis. Newcastle, 24/25 September, Shieldfield Day Centre, Clarence Walk, Sandyford, Newcastle. Starts 11.30 Saturday, to 3pm Sunday. Cheap lunches, creche accommodation. Send your registration and 50p

fee to Womens Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Limited places, register now.

● **Womens Voice writers school.** Saturday 17 September, London. Where to begin, how to take an interview, preparing your copy, what the finished page should look like. Limited number of places available, so book now. Write to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens London E2, or ring 01 739 1878.

Courses

● **Workers Educational Association/London University Extramural 24 week course.** The Political Economy of Women: A Historical Perspective. Tutors Barbara Taylor and Sally Alexander. Tuesdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Beginning September 20 at City of Westminster, Victoria Library, Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1.

WV Meetings

● **Paisley WV Group** introductory meeting. We are showing a film of community life on a new council estate made by the women who live there. Guest speakers include a few of these women. Everyone welcome. Paisley Town Hall, Monday 12 September, 7.30pm.

Conferences

● **Midlands Socialist Feminist Conference.** 'Feminism, Sexuality, and Abortion' Saturday 15 October, 10am, Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry. The aim of this conference will be to examine the question of female sexuality in terms of women's role in capitalist society. In this

way we hope to develop an understanding and definition of our sexuality in order that we may formulate a coherent and effective strategy for the realisation of socialist feminist demands for control of our sexuality and our lives. Registration forms from Carolyn Pickering, 37 Gaveston Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, Phone - Leamington Spa 32965

● **Coventry Solidarity with the people of Chile:** Public meeting, Saturday 10 September, 10am-noon in the shopping precinct, Coventry.

● **Demonstrate to support the Elisabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women.** 4.00pm, at DHSS Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, SE1. Show Health Minister David Ennals he cannot dare to close this women's hospital. It may be your last chance to do so!

Going to College

● **Take Womens Voice to College in September:** If you are going to be a student next term, or if there is a college near where you live, why not take some extra copies of Womens Voice to sell during freshers week - the first week of term. Why not set up a stall and organise a meeting? Everything you need is available from Womens Voice: extra copies of this edition, back copies of Womens Voice and blank Womens Voice posters so that you can write on details of your local activities (£1 for 40). No return to back-street abortion posters - 30 for £1. This advert degrades women stickers - 3 sheets for 50p. Money with orders for back copies, posters and stickers please. Send to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Socialist Worker Public Meeting

BUILD A NEW SOCIALIST PARTY

Friday 23 September
Friends Meeting House
7.30pm Admission 10p

FIGHT AGAINST WAGE RESTRAINT

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT
DRIVE THE NAZIS OFF THE STREETS

WHAT IS GOING ON? meetings plays
discos badges pamphlets campaigns concerts

**IF AD'S LIKE THIS MAKE YOU SICK
SUBSCRIBE TO WOMENS VOICE TODAY!**



**LAST YEAR IT WAS RED ~ THIS YEAR IT'S
GOT MUCH BIGGER AND TURNED GREEN!**

Letraset Information