

womens VOICE

Womens magazine of the Socialist Workers Party

April '81

Issue 51

Price 25p



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we are women workers
fighting for our jobs'.**

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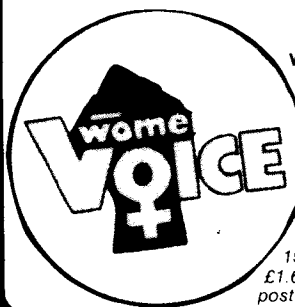
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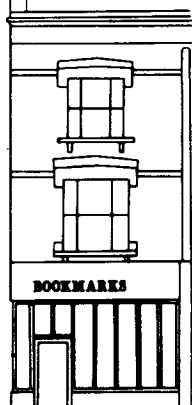
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BOOKMARXCLUB Winter '81

This is the list for the first quarter of 1981. You may join for the quarter simply by selecting books to the value of £6.50 or more at book club prices (heavy type) — the normal retail price is in brackets. Books may be collected from Bookmarks or will be sent by post.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1 Southern Africa After Zimbabwe £2.20 (2.95) by <i>Alex Callinicos</i>. Black rule in Zimbabwe and how apartheid in South Africa is being undermined by a wave of worker and student struggles.</p> <p>2 Ireland, from Civil Rights to Civil War £2.90 (3.95) by <i>O'Dowd, Tomlinson and Royston</i>. Shows that the contradictions in the policies of the British state are an integral part of the problem in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>3 Stuart Hood on Television (£2.20) (2.95) Looks at the way words and images used by TV are chosen</p> <p>4 If This A Man/Truce £1.40 (1.75) by <i>Primo Levi</i>. An Italian partisan captured in 1943, describes his deportation to Auschwitz and his trip back after liberation</p> <p>5 Xeniths and the Robots 75p (95) by <i>Sheila MacLeod</i>. Role of emotions explored through attempts to programme robots to respond to them.</p> <p>6 Blood of Spain, The Experience of the Civil War 1936/9 £3.95 (4.95) by <i>Ronald Frazer</i>. Possibly the best history of the Civil War told by those who took part.</p> <p>7 Who's Watching You? £1.20 (1.50) by <i>Crispin Aubrey</i>. Countless examples of surveillance demonstrate the existence of an arm of state committed to the status quo.</p> | <p>8 Ever Since Darwin: Reflections on Natural History £1.20 (1.50) by <i>Stephen Gould</i>. Witty and readable articles about the links between biological and social theory</p> <p>9 The Word for World is Forest 75p (95) by <i>Ursula Le Guin</i>. Imperialism, American style, explored through Science Fiction.</p> <p>10 Hear This Brother £1.10 (1.50) by <i>Anna Coote and Peter Kellner</i>. Stuffed with up-to-date figures about how women are discriminated against.</p> <p>11 Emigrants £2.20 (2.95) by <i>George Lamming</i>. This novel describes the</p> | <p>experiences of four West Indian men newly arrived in Britain.</p> <p>12 A Great Love £2.00 (2.50) by <i>Alexandra Kollontai</i>. A story of a love affair, and two related essays.</p> <p>13 Women Workers and the Industrial Revolution £2.80 (3.50) <i>Ivy Pinchbeck's</i> classic work on the subject</p> <p>14 Unity Is Strength £2.20 (2.95) From the Latin American Bureau, a study of the working class in Latin America</p> <p>15 What Price Happiness, My Life from Coal Hewer to Shop Steward 60p (75p) by <i>Dick Beavis</i>. Autobiography</p> |
|--|---|---|

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OUR POINT OF VIEW



True blue budget

THE TORIES have consistently attacked the living standards of working people in the last two years. Their latest budget was no exception.

Twenty pence on a gallon of petrol will mean that food prices will leap. All produce is transported, and we will pay for the extra petrol needed through higher prices.

The increases on alcohol and cigarettes will mean that million of working people will have to cut out their small pleasures. The 50 pence increase in child benefit is long overdue and virtually worthless. It won't cover the cost of a pint of milk and a loaf of bread.

Income tax allowances will not be increased in line with inflation—and this government was elected on a promise of reducing income tax. It means that millions of low paid workers will be paying taxes they simply cannot afford.

The budget effectively hammered any personal expenditure and at the same time ignored pleas from the CBI, the bosses' union' to give financial help to industry!

The government forecast that the budget will bring in an extra £4.5 billion. That money will come from our pockets and it will leave the vast profits of Thatcher's friends, the bosses, undisturbed.

The Tories claim to be bringing down

inflation—not so that working people will have more money to spend, but so that the bosses can make more profit. They are 'shrinking' the economy—that means less production, less buying and selling. It means millions more thrown on the dole queues and cutting our services.

The economy is expected to contract by 4½ per cent over the next year. The Tories only concessions have gone to small businesses in an effort to promote private enterprise. Small business and private profit will not revitalise industry.

The economic crisis is not confined to Britain. It is an international crisis of capitalism. The solution is not through 'monetarism' (as the Tories call it) or though the 'alternative economic strategy' (as Labour suggest). Neither of these challenge the very system that produces crisis after crisis.

The problem is international and the solution is international: workers must take control of production of goods, and distribute those goods fairly and equally. We don't want small groups of people to profit from the labour of the majority.

But to change that we have to fight and we have to know what we're fighting for. It's called international socialism.

FEATURES

- The Lee Jeans occupation pages 14 and 15
- El Salvador pages 12 and 13
- Short story on the nationality law pages 16 and 17
- Rents, rates and housing page 11
- Interview: Marisa Casares-Roach, TGWU shop steward page 18

NEWS

- Civil servants' strike, abortion, typists, teachers, the People's March pages 4 to 10

REGULARS

- Health: drug companies page 19
- Reviews pages 20 and 21
- Your letters pages 22 and 23
- Dirty Linen page 23
- Dear Jane: glue-sniffing page 24
- Why I became a socialist page 25
- What's on page 26
- Our next editorial meeting will be on Wednesday 29 April. If you would like to come, phone 01-986 6222 for details.

The next steering committee meeting is on Saturday 11 April in Manchester. In accordance with the conference decision all Womens Voice groups may send one delegate.

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THE FIGHT CONTINUES ...

TWO-THIRDS of the workers in my office are women, working not for 'pin-money', but out of necessity. On Monday 9 March over 80 per cent of us, joined the civil servants' strike in support of our 15 per cent pay claim. We are being offered a measley 7 per cent! In reality that represents a wage cut.

We are being denied access to the findings of the Pay Research Unit—which was set up to compare the wages of civil servants with those of workers in the private sector. We believe that the results show that we are entitled to between 14-20 per cent of a wage rise. Government is saying that we have secure jobs and fat pensions. In reality thousands of civil servants' jobs are under threat from new technology, and the recent

Scott enquiry embarrassed the government by saying that civil servants should have index linked pensions.

Contrary to the media image of civil servants as well-off workers in bowler hats, the fact is that two-thirds of us earn less than the national average wage—we are low paid workers, mainly women.

The brilliant support shown for the one day strike throughout the country—with 100 per cent walkouts in places—shows that we have the power to win the full claim of 15 per cent with a £10 basic rise to protect the lower paid. We should give the workers who are on selective strikes the widest possible support. Already workers in Liverpool have been threatened with suspension for refusing to do work normally

done by workers who were on strike. This attack was met by mass walkouts to show Thatcher and Co that we will not be pushed around or made 'examples' of.

The Tories are out to smash workers' resistance in both the private and the public sector. The budget is just the most recent in a series of anti-worker measures that this vicious government have brought in. They are trying to make an example of the civil servants—we think they've made a mistake. We can follow the miners and the water workers by showing the way to fight back—with solidarity amongst workers.

Sue Caldwell
Newham and Waltham Forest
DHSS CPSA

LET'S GIVE 'EM HELL

'Too many people are walking down the road with redundancy money—it's time to fight back.'

Lee Jeans woman addressing the national Right to Work meeting, Saturday 14 March.

It is true that as long as workers refuse to fight back, unemployment will rise and prices will soar. It is also true that as the recession bites deeper and more and more factories close throwing millions of workers onto the dole, we face the arguments, even from the most militant male trade unionists, that women work for pin money, that women's jobs should go first—they're somehow less important—and that women aren't interested in unions, anyway.

The women at Lee Jeans in Greenock, BPC, a printing firm in London, and Longworth Hospital in Oxford have shown us that the reality is the opposite. They have occupied their workplaces in the fight to save their jobs. They are proving that all workers, men and women,

have an equal right to work.

The demonstrations and anti-Thatcher pickets up and down the country, involving as many women as men, have shown that working class people have had their fill of the Tories and their policies.

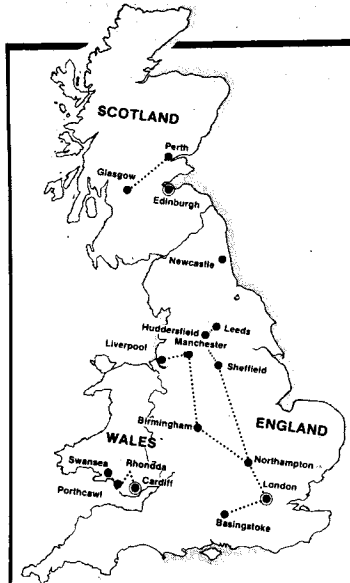
The next national focus for our anger against the Tories, and all that goes with them, is the Peoples March, organised by the North West Region of the TUC, and supported by thousands of trade unionists throughout the country. It leaves Liverpool on 1 May and arrives in London one month later, to be greeted by a mass demonstration and rally against the Tories.

The march will have a number of 'feeder' marches into it (see map), to help build and strengthen the march. It will be greeted in every town by trade union and Labour Party receptions. The Right to Work Campaign have sent out letters, asking for support for the march, to over 2,000 official trade union bodies.

Instead of visiting factories along the route to gain support from employed workers for

unemployed workers, the march will be visiting local cathedrals — is unemployment an 'Act of God'? — we think not. The fact is that neither prayers or soup kitchens will 'solve' the problem of unemployment. Only a united militant fightback, from employed and unemployed workers, can do that. Let's make sure that we make the march and the rallies as militant as possible — we don't want 'pie in the sky', we want the Tories out — and now.

It is important that Womens Voice members, and supporters, work to get as many woman as possible sponsored for this march, in liaison with the Right to Work Campaign. Dole queues must be visited. It is doubly important that we visit workplaces where the majority of workers are women and gain support for the march. We must forge the link between employed and unemployed workers, it is only through having this link that we can begin to achieve a militant fightback against unemployment.



What you Can Do:

- **Sponsor a marcher**
Contact Colin Barnet, 222 Stamford Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs, for sponsorship forms, and raise it in your trade union branch.
- **Support the marches**
Move resolutions through trade union branches, shop stewards committees and trade councils backing the marches and the receptions in the areas they pass through.
- **Organise for 30 May**
Campaign to send delegations to join the mass jobs protest against the Tories in London on 30 May with trade union banners.

Union Pride!

A SMALL furnishing factory called 'Royal Pride' at Greengate in Salford has become the centre of a dispute over wages and union recognition.

In November, the mainly female workforce joined the union—The Furniture Timber and Allied Trades (FTAT)—and began negotiation with their boss over the annual pay settlement, which for the last three years has been below union rates. This year, he told the shop stewards Val Harrop and Marie Fennel that he wanted them to take a cut in wages. Business was slack, and he'd had to swop his Mercedes for a Dauner!

After more talks the offer was increased to a measly 5% on their piece work wages. The women discussed his offer, though there wasn't much to say. They decided to call it a day and went on strike. Since February 27 they've maintained a picket from 7am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

All the production workers are now involved in the fight, and everyone has daily jobs of visiting workplaces, attending meetings and womanning the picket line. 'We're all in this together' said Maria. 'It's like everyone else—we fit or we join the dole queue'.

The strike is now official, and their boss has come up with the 10% rise they asked for, though he still 'won't allow the union to infiltrate his factory'. The strikers have all received 'notice to quit'—but they're determined not to quit the picket till they've won. 'Without the union we don't stand a chance, it'll just be a matter of time before he gets rid of us.'

The women of Royal Pride need your support now. Send messages and organise collections. Royal Pride Strikers, FTAT, 37 Anson Rd, Victoria Park, Manchester.

Kath Sykes



John Sturrock

OVER 10,000 people, mostly black, demonstrated in London earlier this month against the mass murder of 13 black youths in Deptford in January.

It was a show of real strength and anger against the Nazis responsible and the reaction of the police who insist on saying that they believe the massacre wasn't racist.



John Sturrock

FILLING THEIR POCKETS

'On December 8 last year I turned up at work to find we were being barred from our offices by security guards. We milled around in the entrance hall for a while, and then realised that someone was still at work on the sixth floor. Up we all went and found ourselves in occupation—it was as simple as that.'

Jenny Golden is a picture researcher for a book publisher, Macdonald Educational. Last year the management of the parent company, the British Printing Corporation, decided to sack nine of their employees, working for another part of the same division. They issued a list of names, but the union, the National Union of Journalists, refused to accept them. All 65 journalists employed in the division threatened industrial action to save the jobs of the nine members, and all 65 found themselves sacked and locked out that Monday morning.

'We had an inkling about the lockout and we'd arranged that all the other union members would come up and meet us outside our building if it happened. As it was they were able to join us *inside*. At first we felt totally bemused. Most of us had never been involved in anything like this, I've never even been on strike before.

'Our greatest fear was that the offices would be broken into by security people and all of us turned out. So we know we would have to be there 24 hours a day.

'At Christmas eight of us agreed to stay in for the five days of the holiday. Fortunately the electricians union told their member in the building not to switch off the electricity. So we had light and heat, and we cooked! People donated turkeys, hams, bottles of port, pheasant.

'We were all very glad to get out. We'd got on together very well, but the strain began to show after five days.

'After that we decided that eight a night was enough people so we drew up a rota. Only people with children were exempted, and out of all our number there were only three of us! That was apart from six pregnancies!'

From the middle of January until early March there were no meetings with management. They ceased to manage. The company was taken over by Pergemon Press, and now their future is in the hands of their new owner, Robert Maxwell. The redundancy notices for the nine were withdrawn in early March and everyone has been re-engaged. It's not a total victory and the future looks uncertain as Maxwell gets his plans underway—800 redundancies have already been announced in part of the company in Somerset.

'None of us regret going through that experience. It's taught us a lot about ourselves and about our relations with other people.

'It was surprising to find yourself set up as an example to

others. We were invited to speak to numerous chapels, union meetings, conferences,

Bullying the teacher

SIX MEMBERS of the teachers union (NUT) all officers of the Lambeth Association have been suspended from the union for six months and barred from holding office for a further 18 months.

Three of them are women: Jackie North, Vanessa Wiseman, and Hilary Tarr, Dick North, John Esterson and Gary Jones are the others.

Jeannie Robinson spoke to Jackie North about this victimisation. 'Our offence was to support a march against cuts on February 4, called by other public sector workers in Lambeth. We held a special union meeting which was attended and only three members voted against supporting the action. They sent telegrams and taxis threatening to suspend us if we did not 'toe the line'.

'We felt it was a choice between breaking our own local union rules which make the decision of the general meeting final, and a national rule, Rule 8, which says that you need the permission of the national union before you can take any action.

'It seems that the national union decided to go heavy this time for two reasons. We were in the middle of an election campaign for the whole of London and it looked as if the

Right to Work meetings. And all of us spoke. People who had never even spoken at a chapel meeting before found themselves speaking to halls of a hundred people.

'We also became proficient at picketing. I really miss it. You could get rid of all that aggression that builds up by shouting at complete strangers. You could take it out on them rather than your colleagues!

'And we're obviously more politically aware than we were. I know now how the system in this country works. And most of us came to the conclusion that those people called management are no better qualified, possibly less qualified, than we are to make decisions. There is no respect left for their authority, no loyalty to their company, no belief any longer in working to fill someone else's pockets with the profits.'

Margaret Renn

'left' might win. Also teachers are beginning to want to fight for jobs. They decided to make an example of Lambeth to stop other members fighting on their own.

'I think they picked on Lambeth because we have a good record of always supporting militant action against cuts. Thousands of teachers have broken Rule 8 since it came out in 1974. They came out to attend Blair Peach's funeral last year, for example.

'Our record is also very good on fighting against sexism. We have always supported the National Abortion Campaign, campaigned for improved maternity leave, for better security for part-time teachers, and against sexism in the school curriculum.

'I would ask all readers of *Womens Voice* to raise this issue in their trade unions and stress that our 'crime' was to fight cuts.

We need motions and messages of support to be sent to the NUT, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1.

The appeal against these vicious sentences is on April 4, and we will be picketing union HQ at 8.30 in the morning. If you want further information please contact Rank and File Teacher, PO Box 82, London E2.

'My children can come home'

ANWAR DITTA'S children are coming home! The Home Office has finally backed down and agreed to let her three children currently in Pakistan, join Anwar in her Rochdale home. The official change of heart follows a five year campaign which culminated in a World in Action television programme that proved the children in Pakistan were Anwar's.

Anwar Ditta told Womens Voice

'I know of many other people who are in my situation. The Home Office is trying to destroy the families of Asian people living here. For four years I wrote to MP's and the Home Office, I did everything they asked and they always turned me down. In the last year I have campaigned publicly. My support committee has been a great help and a lot of political organisations have backed me. If it wasn't for that campaign, World in Action would never have done the programme and I wouldn't have had my children.

'My advice to anyone facing the Home Office is to fight for your rights, even if it takes your life. All immigration controls are aimed at us as black people. Look what happened to me. I had a blood test, internal medical examinations the whole works just to get my children into the country. In Britain you can adopt other people's kids. If you're one of my people they try to stop you bringing your kids into the country.

'Since I've heard my children can come home I've been flooded with letters and telegrams and flowers.'

The Anwar Ditta Campaign is still heavily in debt. Send donations to 127 Crawford Street, Rochdale.

touch with typists and machine operators in Sheffield City who have now started their own action group, and Janet, Lyn and Lorraine have been elected as union reps in their various departments.

So the fight goes on—we don't want to be taken for granted any longer. Would a qualified man work for our salary? The majority of typists in South Yorkshire are paid less than £3,500 p.a.!

Students picket sexist rag

MOST women students dread the approach of college Rag Week, knowing that they will be subjected to a barrage of sexist crap. At the LSE this year, the Rag Week Committee booked the dance group 'Hot Gossip', for a gig, as well as putting out a Rag Mag that was both sexist and racist.

Womens Voice argued that Hot Gossip were sexist, as they pandered to male fantasies by portraying women as submissive, and men as aggressive male studs. We also objected to them dressing in Nazi uniforms.

Together with SWSO we set up an 'Open Committee Against Sexism' which immediately attracted many more women students.

The first thing we did was to organise an alternative gig on the same night as Hot Gossip

were playing. We took posters publicising this gig around other London colleges.

On the night of the gig we occupied the room where Hot Gossip were booked to play, we were eventually thrown out, but we did delay them setting up their equipment. Then we mounted a picket on the door, and turned a lot of people away.

The alternative gig itself was a great success, over 400 people came and we made the national press the next day.

The Committee Against Sexism is now taking up the issue of violence against women. We are campaigning for hand alarms to be given to all female staff and students, and for alarms to be installed in all LSE halls of residence.

**Purna Sen
LSE WV.**



Typists tap out the message...

THE South Yorkshire Typists Action Group was set up last year. Typists in Barnsley seized the opportunity to get themselves organised. Lyn Nicholls and Jill Goodwin organised a meeting for the 300 plus local authority typists. Management was not pleased by this initiative—Lyn and Jill were invited to attend a disciplinary meeting. They accepted the 'invitation' but asked that their union representative also attended. Management speedily retracted the 'disciplinary'.

53 typists came to the meeting. A claim for upgrading and other improvements in conditions was drawn up and agreed. It was decided that a Special General Meeting of the Nalگو branch should be called to discuss the claim. Then 9 women were elected to form a committee for the group, to

distribute bulletins and keep everyone informed as to the state of play.

80 Nalگو members, mainly typists, attended the Special General Meeting. The motion called for support for the claim, the election of three typists to be co-opted on to the union's negotiating team, and the referring of any offer back to a meeting of the staff concerned.

The motion was passed with only one person voting against—a Branch Officer!

Since then the TAG committee has met fortnightly and produced and distributed TAG newsletters, as well as articles for 'NALGO Action News'. TAG also mobilised support for a motion on new technology at the Branch AGM. Technology but TAG's activity has now made it less likely that the union will get away with a sellout on word processors.

TAG has also been in

Divided we fall

Thousands of individuals and groups of people are losing their jobs daily and attract little more than statistical attention from the national press. Joanna Harris, the council inspector who was recently sacked, however, was built into some sort of Goddess to Freedom by the *Sun* and the *Mail*. The reason was that she refused to become a member of the closed shop which had been negotiated by the union in her workplace.

The Tories are attempting at every turn to weaken our unions and they know the closed shop is potentially our strongest weapon. They would love to send hoards of conscientious objectors into our workplaces to destroy what we've built.

When people talk about the freedom of the individual—the right not to strike, the right not to join a union—they ignore the rights of the majority to have organisations, and the rights of those who have fought long and hard, and have made sacrifices to achieve such a level of organisation.

Not once in the press hullabaloo about Ms. Harris did anyone question that someone who had not only made no contribution to the union but was directly opposed to it, should benefit equally with those of us who not only pay our dues, but play an active part in our unions, in order that the majority may benefit from improved wages and conditions.

The closed shop is a logical extension of building any sort of union organisation in a workplace. It says to the new worker, 'our organisation has made your job and conditions what they are. They may well need improving but we'll fight for that together. If you're to accept that job and conditions you must also accept some responsibility for protecting them, and for protecting the jobs and conditions of your workmates.'

As individuals divided against one another, we have little or no power over the bosses, who would run our lives for their benefit, not ours. If you've ever worked in a situation where wage rates and take home pay are a closely guarded secret, where what you get paid depends on how blue your eyes are, and whether you'll sneak on your mates, where work is allocated not by sense, but by who the foreman fancies, then you'll understand why we must protect union organisation.

The closed shop gives little enough protection, but it's a start. Would Joanna Harris have been happy to work in pre-union conditions, doing longer hours for less pay? Would she like shorter tea-breaks, no maternity leave, and no health and safety protection? How can you subtract this so-called right from the rights that the unions have fought for and won?

Joanna Harris was shown a lesson that many more must learn. Like the first group of workers to be sacked by Murdoch at the *Times*—all non-union members. A lesson the women at Lee Jeans are magnificently putting into practice. If you want to keep your job, don't just join a union—build it!



PARENTS WIN

WHEN NEWHAM Education Committee decided to try and close three small primary schools they expected little opposition. They couldn't have been more wrong. Pam Corr interviewed Rita Froment, Mrs Balty and Viv Duffill, three of the mothers from the Action Committee of Three Mills School for *Womens Voice*.

A few days after term started in September of last year all the parents received letters from the Education Committee telling them of a meeting to discuss the future of the school. The Education Committee seemed to take this meeting very casually, the Director of Education didn't even turn up! But the parents did—the school hall was crowded. It was explained that the closure of the school had nothing to do with the cuts—it was for educational reasons! At question time Rita was shaking as she stood up to ask the first question—'couldn't small schools be beneficial rather than detrimental to the children because of the individual attention it was possible for the teachers to give them?' Lots of other questions and ideas followed but none were answered satisfactorily.

The Three Mills school serves a small community cut off from the rest of the borough, it also serves as a community centre. The Education Committee wanted to transfer the children from Three Mills to Carpenters school. This means going along a route where there have been 10 accidents in four months—one being fatal. As Viv says 'there may be a subway near the main road but you can't be sure that the children will use it. We know

each other around here, we look after each other's children. We wouldn't be able to do the same if the school was further away.'

The parents set up a Parents Action Committee. To fight the closure the women had to do things that were totally new to them—they petitioned and lobbied councillors and council meetings, collected information and contacted the national and local papers. As Viv explained, 'The councillors eventually realised that we weren't going to go away. There was uproar at one meeting. They closed the meeting rather than talk about it in front of us. They want to take decisions that affect our lives behind our backs!'

As Mrs Balty put it, 'There were times when my head wouldn't stop buzzing there was so much to do! It wasn't cheap either, it cost us a few bob, but we all put some money in until we could do some fundraising.'

It was all worthwhile—it was a victory. The council was forced to drop their decision on school closures for a year. But as Mrs Balty pointed out, 'We don't know what will happen after that. The Action Group must stay together whatever happens. If they say it's going to close, we'll go in and occupy!'

VISITING BELFAST

For the two coachloads of women who drove from London to Belfast, our first image of Belfast came straight from the newspapers: armoured cars slewed across two side streets off the Falls Road, with soldiers sheltering flat against the walls, guns pointing to the pavement.

The soldiers were near the place we were going to, and the coaches stopped opposite. Some Saturday afternoon shoppers were idly watching the soldiers, but our two London coaches seemed to be at least as interesting. Perhaps the only nervous person was the young soldier who scrambled aboard our coach with his gun, anxious for us to move on, 'because there is a bomb'.

We were visiting Belfast at a time when the army is 'keeping a low profile'. But the signs of war were everywhere: the 'boundary' that we crossed going into the city, when a small patch of National Front and Ulster Volunteer Force graffiti abruptly gave way to huge H-Block symbols; the army barracks in a street of garden-

suburban houses, with its netting, barbed wire, pill box and radio aerials. The barracks have speed bumps built into the road beside them, thus slowing traffic on a major road into the city.

Most important, when we talked to republican families who were putting us up, we learned a bit about what it means to live in a community under siege: the arbitrary arrests and harassment, house-searches, the young people who cannot go to the other side of town to find work, for fear of being killed.

I think that many of us were a little frightened about visiting Belfast. But it is not as dangerous to visit as to live there. And the visit of a large solidarity group is valuable: not just to show our support and to learn about life in the Catholic areas—but also for the authorities to see that outside supporters are learning at first hand that it is not just 'men of violence' but large working-class areas that are at war with the Army and the police.

As our two London coaches drove from Belfast to Armagh on Sunday morning, along with



a number of local coaches, we were all stopped by the police. An officer who jumped on one of the London coaches asked

the driver 'Where are you from?' 'London,' said the driver. 'What,' said the man, 'all of you?'

AND ARMAGH

On 8 March, International Women's Day a crowd of about 800 women and men picketed Armagh Jail. We were right outside the walls of the jail, singing and shouting support to the 29 republican women prisoners inside.

It was a success simply to stage such a large picket outside the jail. Over the last two years the police have severely harassed International Women's Day pickets at Armagh. In 1979 11 arrests were made from a very small picket, and two women were themselves then imprisoned in Armagh. This is the third year that the picket has been held, and it seems it will now be a firm annual tradition, as long as there are political prisoners in Armagh.

The demonstrators came from all over Ireland, and from England, Scotland and Wales, including about 50 members of Womens Voice.

The picket took place on the eighth day of Bobby Sands' hunger strike for the five demands which stand for political status. He will be joined on hunger strike by other prisoners, both in the H-Blocks and Armagh.

The day before the picket seminars were held—for women only—in Belfast and in Dublin. Most of the women from outside Ireland went to the Belfast seminar, in order to spend more time in the North. Most women at the Belfast

seminar felt it was too brief, without enough time for discussion—though, for those visiting Belfast for the first time the discussion and socialising in the evening more than made up for that.

A persistently surfacing issue—which was apparently more fully discussed in Dublin—was about the relationship between republicanism and feminism in Ireland. This appears to be a knottier problem for some feminists outside the republican movement, than for those inside it—even though republican women may often need to assert their own rights.

It is perhaps knottiest of all for those who think that women's liberation *always* needs specifically feminist struggle and campaigning. The women in Armagh do not all necessarily think of themselves as feminists (and are certainly primarily republican), but they have become the natural focus for the women's movement in Ireland. And they are an example of women travelling towards sexual equality because of equal participation in a struggle against imperialism.

There is a proposal to hold a week-end conference, probably in August, to allow fuller discussion of many issues facing the women's movement in Ireland.

Janet Vaux

The Armagh Womens Song

(This is Marie Mulholland's version of a Meg Christioan song from Face the Music. The women in Armagh have adopted it as their own, and it is now known to republicans as The Armagh Women's Song.)

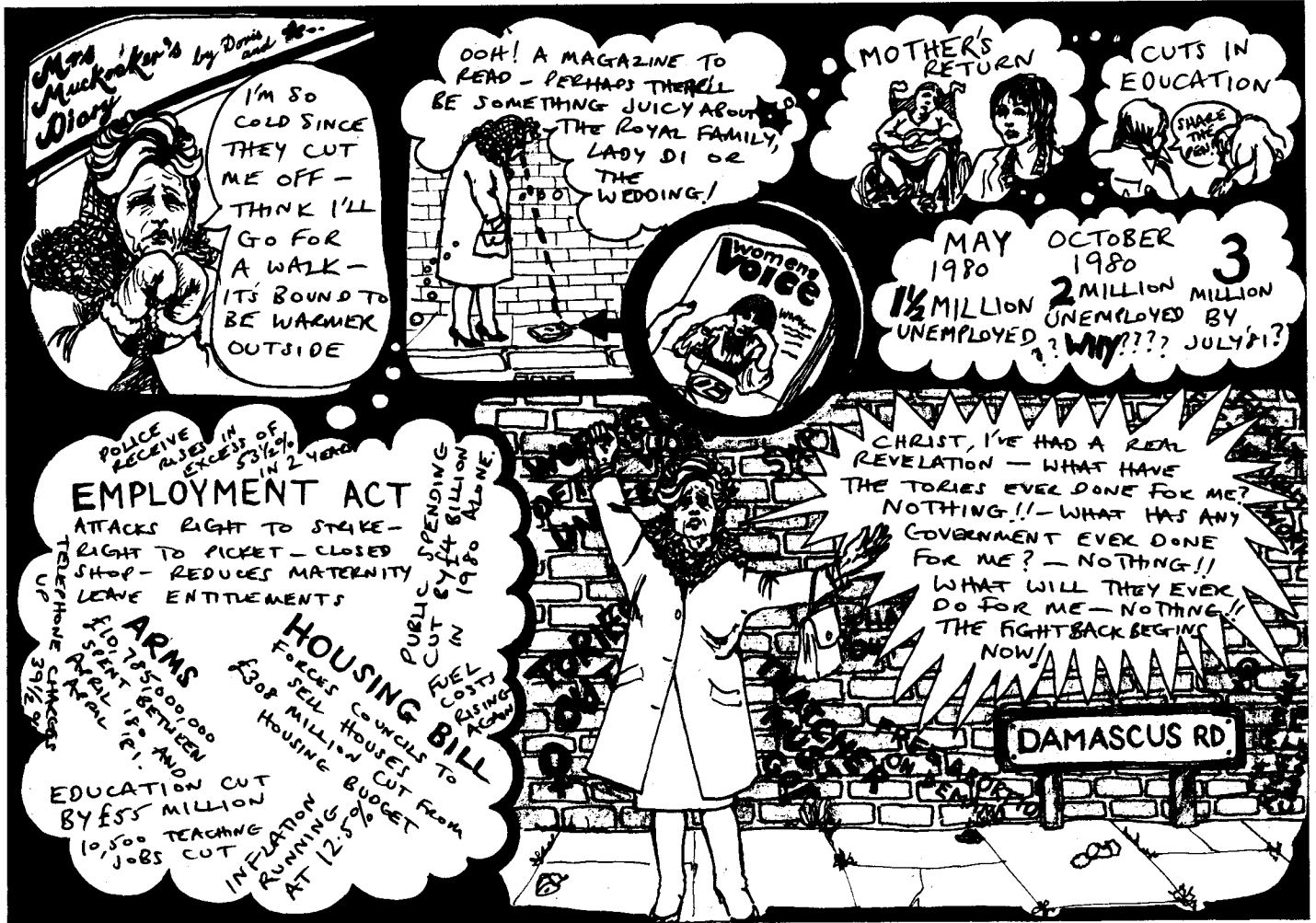
*I have dreamed on this mountain
Since first I was my mother's daughter
And you can't just take my dreams away
Not with me watching*

*You may fire a machine gun
But I was born a big strong woman
And you can't just take my dreams away
Without me fighting*

*This old mountain raised my many daughters
Some died young, some still living
But if you've come here for the taking our mountain
No! We ain't come here to give it!*

*I have dreamed on this mountain
Since first I was my mother's daughter
And you can't just take my dreams away
Not with me watching*

*You may fire a machine gun
But I was born a big strong woman
And you can't just take my dreams away
Without me fighting
No! You can't just take my dreams away.*



RECLAIM THE NIGHT

400 noisy women, singing and chanting, Reclaimed the Night in Coventry.

For the first time we could walk confidently, even aggressively, through our city's subways at night. We paraded past local cinemas shouting 'what do we think of Dressed to Kill—Rubbish!' past our local radio station and the *Evening Telegraph* offices.

We deliberately chose a route

that covered the most notorious spots in the city and we felt great! In fact we couldn't stop, when we reached the assembly point none wanted to finish.

We held a collection for the Lee Jeans occupation which amounted to £13 and made sure that Womens Voice was well represented with a banner, placards and Womens Voice.

Penny Hicks
Coventry WV.

Harrogate

IN Harrogate we've been distributing WV 'Playtex' leaflets to women at college and asking them to pass them on for others to read. Only one shop still stocks 'Playtex', that is a 'Discount Toiletries' shop.

Helen Loden

Sheffield

IN Sheffield the response to our two demonstrations outside Boots was much better than we expected. We handed out about 1,000 leaflets on both occasions. We also had a petition which was useful for getting people to stop and talk to us. Many women didn't realise the health hazards of Playtex.

The Boots management has had to take notice, especially when several leaflets were placed on the Playtex counters.

We may not have succeeded in getting Playtex taken off the shelves yet, but we have been able to spark off disgust and awareness in many women at the harmful gimmicks used by tampon companies.

Viv Bennett

AND PLAYTEX PICKETS

Bristol

Women's Voice and Women's Fightback groups picketed branches of Boots in Bristol, where the company displays a four foot replica of the tampon.

We leafletted customers warning that the tampon can damage women's health. We also approached managers of the various stores, pointed out the dangers of the tampon and

requested them to stop selling them.

We intend to keep up the pressure till they agree to stop selling the tampons. Anyone who wants to help, contact Bristol WV.

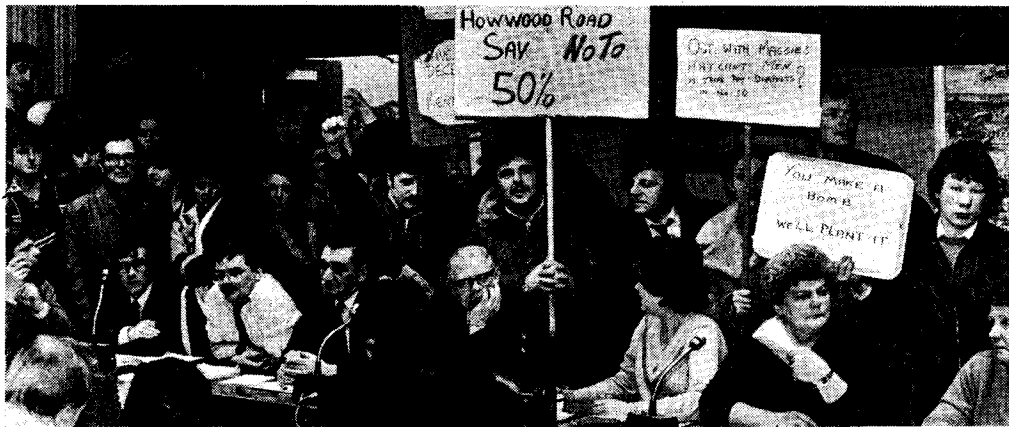
Katrina Tulley

Birmingham

WE ARE leafletting regularly about 'Playtex' tampons and

have been fairly successful. We plan to concentrate on a particular branch of 'Safeways' that has been very unsympathetic to people who have complained about the tampons being on sale there. We have given out about one thousand leaflets. We have had two successful meetings recently, one about women and the National Front, the last about the CND.

Jenny Austin



CAMDEN: UP 44%

IN THE TORIES' election campaign they promised that rates would not go up. In many parts of the country rate increases of 40 or 50 per cent are being implemented and they are

in Labour controlled councils. Labour councillors blame the Tory government for these increases because it was the latter who, as part of the cuts package,

slashed the Rate Support Grant. In some cases, where the councils were 'spending too much', the grant was stopped altogether.

One of these councils was the London borough of Camden. Heseltine stopped all money to the borough unless they agreed to implement 'money-saving cuts.' The Tory group of councillors called in an auditor to investigate the council's spending. The council had settled a strike in 1979 by manual workers by giving in to the union's demands—a 35 hour week and £60 minimum wage. The Tory's auditor claims that 'the settlement is excessive to the point of being illegal'.

Legal action against the individual councillors who were responsible for the settlement may mean they will have to pay for the wage increase themselves in the form of a surcharge—£66,000 each.

Faced with this threat the Labour council have decided to meet the government's demands. At their last meeting a rate increase of 44 per cent was voted for. The direct

building works department will be halved: 600 redundancies. A wage increase for the manual workers is unlikely as far as the councillors are concerned.

Much of Camden's money, as with other councils, goes on repaying interest charges. All councils take huge loans from the banks to pay for land and building and repay it over years. Tory policy has caused the interest rates to soar and this means heavy burdens on local authorities. Camden pays one third of its income from rates to the banks in interest—and that is not exceptional.

Thatcher and her government tell us that the reason rates are going up is because of irresponsible spending on services and high wage settlements. The truth is that Labour councils are putting up the rates to pay back the banks. That money means profit for the bankers.

Labour councils should refuse to make those interest repayments to the banks. That would deny the Tories and the bankers their profits; it would hurt them and not working people. But Labour has sold out to the workers and tenants in their boroughs by implementing Tory policy.

We have to look to our own strength to fight rate and rent increases, cuts and redundancies that we can ill afford. We can make a good start by ignoring the pleas of Tories masquerading as Labour councillors and organising rent and rate strikes.
Dee Davis

Jolley good show

THE article on the Shelter report in February's *Womens Voice* highlighted housing problems in Britain. Many of these problems—damp and years of waiting for councils to carry out repairs—can be found in Ditton Fields, a Cambridge Council estate. In December, a few tenants got together and decided that they needed an Action Group.

The group's main success has been in getting the Jolley family rehoused. They had been trying to get something done about the damp in their house for four years. After numerous complaints to the council, their house was given a damp course in February 1979. However, the council failed to comply with the surveyor's instructions to remove the damp plaster and re-plaster and re-point the house until 18 months after the damp coursing! The damp returned. After complaining to the Council—who did nothing—the Jolleys stopped paying their rent and were issued with a possession order. They told Tony and Bunty Briggs, and they decided to set up an Action Group to fight the eviction and to improve the estate. As Phyllis Jolley said, 'The group was started over our feelings of discontent. A lot of people round here live in exactly the same conditions I am living in. But people are

worried about the council; they are frightened of eviction.'

Then they wrote to the Council saying they wanted the possession order taken back, and leafleted the whole estate calling a meeting to set up an Action Group. 17 people came along. They decided to fight the Jolleys' case first and went along to the Housing Management meeting and successfully got the order lifted. A local Labour councillor offered to help the Group. The council agreed to rehouse the Jolley family.

Tony Briggs, who helped set up the Group said, 'The council say that they are short of money and labour. But if they re-allocated money to areas like Ditton Fields the work could easily be done, and there are 250 building workers on the dole in Cambridge. Setting up the Group has changed the area a lot. People talk to each other more, and you can't go down to the shops without someone coming up and saying "Come here, look at this..."'

The action Group would like to hear from other tenants groups to exchange information and ideas. Please contact the Ditton Fields Action Group, c/o Bunty Briggs, 321 Ditton Fields, Cambridge.

Maggie Falshaw

Paisley: 50%

OVER a thousand people, many of them women, attended a meeting called by the local tenants associations, in Paisley town hall. The mood was an angry one, as the area had taken a hard blow, with announcement of the closure of the Talbot car plant at Linwood, and a prospective 50% increase in rents.

Although the platform at the

meeting was all men, it became clear that women had been very involved in organising a fightback. One woman had got all 500 tenants in her village to sign a petition.

The message from the floor was clear—the fight had to come from the rank and file and in Paisley they are determined to win.

Marie Hayes

USA and EL SALVADOR

Fighting communist aggression

THERE HAVE been 13,000 political murders in the Central American country of El Salvador in the last year. That is equivalent to 200,000 murders in a country the size of Britain. The murders have been committed by right wing gangs which are operated by the US-trained and financed army.

US president Ronald Reagan has announced that he is pouring more money into that army and that American green berets are being sent to help it out.

Last month Margaret Thatcher was the first European leader wholeheartedly to back what Reagan is doing. She told him: 'In Britain you will find an ally, valiant, staunch and true'.

Reagan and Thatcher claim they are defending the area against 'Communist aggression'. Yet the only aggression in the area has been American aggression.

The US has sent its troops into the various countries of the region to overthrow governments and install dictatorships that will do what it wants, no fewer than 75 times in the last 150 years. In the 1930s it installed the infamous Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua. In 1954 it overthrew the democratically elected government of Guatemala and installed a bloody dictatorship there. In 1965 it invaded the Dominican Republic to overthrow the newly elected government.

It has behaved in Central America very much in the same way that Russia has behaved in Eastern Europe, and Afghanistan. Why has it done this?

The main economic resources of the area—the coffee, the fruit plantations, the sugar, the bauxite, the oil refineries—are owned by US companies. The giant US oil companies refine 56 per cent of their oil imports for the US in the area. The rulers of the US are determined to hang on to these resources, even if the price of doing so is endless murder in the dictatorships of El Salvador and neighbouring Guatemala.

But more is involved than just the US presence in the region. Reagan and Thatcher were deeply upset when the Americans lost the war in Vietnam in the early 1970s. It meant that American troops could no longer be sent to any part of the world where the interests of the giant

Most people in El Salvador live as peasants. The only income they have is from work on the large coffee, sugar or cotton plantations. Work is only available for about four months of the year. The wages are below subsistence level which is £5 per month, and women are paid less, at the same rate as children.

Peasants move to the cities to escape rural poverty but life there is often no better. They live in cardboard shacks without

local labour they can make goods cheaply and sell them back home for big profits. Trade unions are prohibited, in the zone, elsewhere they are severely repressed.

UNION REPRESSION

Since the 1930s trade unions have been repressed and their leaders murdered. General strikes in 1944 and 1968 ended in mass killings by the army. The ballot boxes have been rigged in general elections. All the



companies were threatened. As the world economic crisis gets worse US big business feels more desperately than ever that it needs force to protect it, wherever it operates.

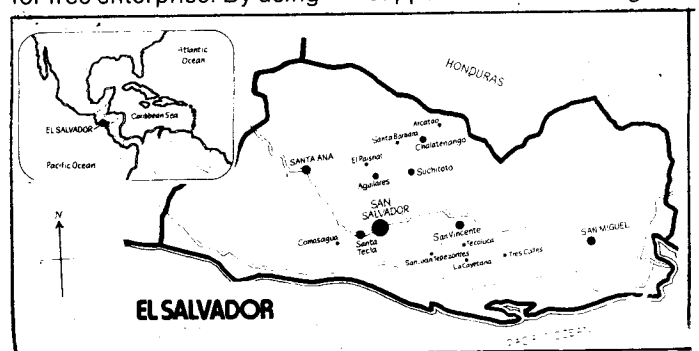
Just as the Russian army threatens the strike movement in Poland, so the American army wants to be able to threaten popular movements in the Middle East, Southern Africa, and Latin America. The 13,000 political murders in El Salvador are meant to demonstrate to the rest of us that it is serious.

Mary Williams talked to Miriam Baires from the liberation movement FDR about the fight against repression and the part women play in it.

electricity or sanitation ... An astonishing seventy three per cent of all children under five suffer from malnutrition.

San Salvador, the capital, has a free trade zone. This is an area where the multinational companies can operate without import or export taxes—a paradise for free enterprise. By using

reformist solutions have been tried. We must now unite to end all dictators. In this sense there is no separate womens struggle. We see that womens lives cannot be separated from the fate of the class as a whole. The men also understand this and since the mid 1970s have supported and encouraged



EL SALVADOR — AN OUTLINE

AREA

Approx. 8,100 sq miles or 21,000 sq. km.
(Wales = 8,000 sq. miles)

POPULATION:

(Estimates for 1975)

Total	4,092,000
Density	505.2 per sq. mile
(Average for Central America = 93.7)	
Growth	3.5% per annum
Rural	60.5% of total population (1971)

THE PEOPLE:

Race	predominantly <i>mestizo</i> (mixed Spanish and indigenous blood)
Language	Spanish
Religion	Roman Catholic

MAIN CITIES:

Capital	San Salvador
Population	731,679 (1971)
Growth rate	6.24% per annum (est.)
Others:	
Santa Ana, population	162,937
San Miguel, population	104,233

LAND:

1.9% of population own 57.5% of land

DISTRIBUTION:

91.4% of population own 21.9% of land (1971)

the political activity of women. The Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) was formed in April last year and includes trade unions, peasant organisations, students, communists and some sections of the church.

GUERRILLA GROUPS

A few women join guerilla groups and leave their children in special camps in the city which look after the children of political comrades. But women fighters are unpopular. Not only do the women see fighting as a man's activity, but the men also do not like

women fighters and will ask to be transferred to another section to avoid women if they can.

Womens participation in the struggle is not on equal terms to men because they bear the double burden as workers and mothers. It is only in the last few years though that this has taken on a revolutionary character.

REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

Since the 1930s there has been an awareness of womens struggle. It began with intellectual women trying to involve workers in politics. It did not have a mass base and soon disbanded. In the 1960s there was a campaign for female literacy especially in the rural areas.

This campaign lost its meaning as it did not attack the fundamental causes of womens inferior position, and groups of women began to concentrate on the economic struggle. In the last few years more women have become aware of their double burden and the

struggle has taken on a revolutionary character.

POPULATION CONTROL

Contraception is a major issue. The United States have financed mass contraception and forced sterilisation on women because they want to control the growth of population. We do not want to be part of the US population control. We want the right to control our own fertility and have children in safety. At present out of every 1000 live births there are 52 deaths. I have heard of peasant women returning to their work only hours after giving birth. Many of our struggles are for basic amenities.

SEXISM

Latin American men are notorious for their sexist attitudes towards women. But in the Liberated Zones there is a growing awareness of the problem and there is mutual understanding between the sexes. But the fight for women to play a full role in society goes on. We are

putting our hope in the younger generation. Nearly half the population of El Salvador is under the age of 15 years. They are militant and can accept change.

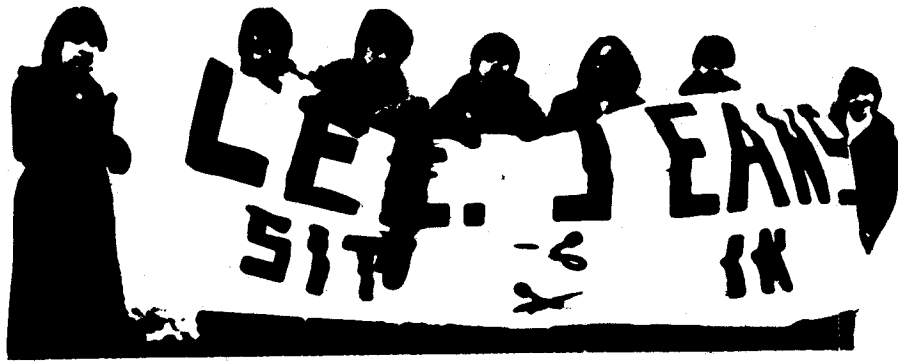
Further Information and Donations:
El Salvador Womens Campaign,
c/o Latin American Bookshop,
29 Islington Park Street,
London N1.

One of the things which makes it easier for the US to operate military murder gangs in countries like El Salvador is its military presence in Britain. There are more nuclear bases here than anywhere else in Europe. And they are to be further built up with the installation of Cruise missiles.

We urge readers of Womens Voice to join in the demonstrations against these which are taking place at Easter. It is our chance to protest at the nuclear insanity of Thatcher and Reagan, and to help stop the war drive that is destroying El Salvador.

CND EVENTS IN APRIL

- 14 - *Trans Pennine March - Leeds to Manchester via Bradford, Halifax, Hebden Bridge, Rochdale. Rallies and gigs en route.*
- 14 - *West Yorks - March Across the Sky - night of flares and fireworks.*
- 16-18 *Midlands March - Wolverhampton to Rugby, via Dudley, Birmingham and Coventry - 'Jobs not bombs'.*
- 18 - *London - five regional marches - North East to Wanstead: North to Mill Hill; West to Southall; South-West to Cheam, South-East to Streatham.*
- 18 - *Plymouth - march and rally*
- 18 - *Bath Caerwent march and rally*
- 18 - *Reading march and rally*
- 18 - *Southampton march and rally*
- 18 - *Swindon march and rally*
- 18 - *Oxford march and rally*
- 18 - *East Anglia - various demonstrations.*
- 20 - *East Anglia - demonstration RAF Honington.*
- 20 - *Festival - music etc. - Aldermaston.*
- 20 - *London - vigil - High Holborn Military Command Post.*



'WE are no 'rag trade' girl workers fighting for our jobs available to us. Women's jobs any other, and we aim to fight for them.'

Jobs in Greenock in the west of Scotland are hard to come by. The local paper last week had just four vacancies—the only one for women was a part time cleaner in a private house. When the women at Lee jeans heard that their management, the VF corporation, were to close the factory, there would be little else for them. So they occupied to save their jobs.

Since the factory was built just over ten years ago threat of redundancy has been

It was fear of that future which made them do something that far bigger and 'stronger' work-forces haven't yet done: occupy the factory and hold all the stock inside it to save their jobs. The first they knew of the closure was when they had a meeting to discuss a wage rise. Management told them that far from getting a rise, the factory would be closed down in April and all production moved to Ireland.

The VF factory stands on a hill above

a choice of hamburger or sausage with beans and roast potatoes, followed by sponge and custard. Afterwards, a woman comes to give a keep fit class to those who want one, which helps work off some of the calories. Before that we get some entertainment from two young boys who demonstrate their disco dancing. What is amazing about the occupation is the very large numbers actively involved. There are three groups for different shifts. The girls we talked to liked the night shift best. 'We sit up and chat and have discos' 'No our parents don't mind—they support us'.

Some of them have been out visiting other workplaces for support. A group has been round the mines in Alloa, another three are setting out for a week in London the day we arrive, more of them have been collecting outside the shipyards along the Clyde. They are thrilled that the Govan Yard in Glasgow has put a levy of 50p a week on all its workers for the occupation and has this week brought them £1500. Fergusons, a small yard in Port Glasgow gave them £113 in one gate collection on Friday afternoon.

Many of the women are single and have worked there since leaving school. Some have already had a spell on the dole. The work itself is hard. No one makes a whole pair of jeans; they make pockets, or waistbands, finish pockets. The work is intensive. One girl reckoned she got through 42 bund-



hanging over them. It was originally owned by Brentford Nylons who twice declared closures and paid off the workforce. As one of the girls says now: 'It's third time lucky—we're going to win.'

The VF Corporation who make Lee Jeans chose Greenock for their factory because it was in a depressed area. The traditional industries connected with the port on the mouth of the Clyde, sugar refining and shipbuilding, have disappeared or declined. One of the few growth areas has been building and maintaining nuclear missiles at nearby Holy Loch.

The government has been willing to give new industries large grants to bring any work at all to the area. What is now becoming clear is that these companies have taken the money and run as soon as it is no longer available. Now that grants and tax in Ireland are more favourable they have decided to transfer all production to their factories there.

The women occupying Lees know what closure means: no hope. 'We'll never get another job' 'We'll be on the broo (dole) for ages' 'It will mean lower wages—at one firm round here the workers have already accepted a ten per cent wage cut.'

Greenock looking down over the Clyde and the Hills beyond. It is a small, modern factory on a small modern industrial estate, one of hundreds built in the last twenty years to provide new jobs. Already one of the other factories is boarded up. But VF—where they make Lee Jeans—is different. The workers there, mostly young women, have decided they don't want their factory to close and their jobs to go. So, as the posters in the canteen window proclaim, they have occupied.

The factory is like one large warehouse. Today it lies quiet. New machinery stands motionless. Sewing machines, pressing machines, washing machines have been quiet now for nearly two months. By every machine, under pink sheets, there are piles of finished jeans. Pastel pink, blue and yellow are this summer's fashion colours. They should be in the shops by now. But they aren't moving. Nothing leaves the factory until all the jobs are restored. The women have nearly £1 million worth of stock in their control and they aren't giving it up.

Inside the canteen it's a different story. Groups of women sit round tables, chatting, knitting, playing music. A few of them are preparing dinner for the rest of us. Today it's



girls. We are women
 jobs with the only weapons
 jobs are as important as
 prove that women can

Report by Lindsey German



les of 60 pockets a day. Another, a pocket finisher, got through 121 bundles. The basic rate is £49 plus bonus which is made up through piece work. If the fabric is shoddy and takes longer to sew, it is the women on piece rates, not the company, who suffer.

Last summer the company announced it was closing the cutting department. Since then jeans have arrived ready cut from Ireland in polythene bags, and are only sewn and finished in Greenock. The women now say they should have realised what was coming when that happened. Since then whenever the fabric is too poor to sew, or has been cut wrong, it has to be sent back to Ireland. Clearly it makes more sense for the company to move the sewing under the same roof.

Even by the company's standard there is no reason to close the Greenock factory except their desire for higher profit and 'rationalisation'. There is still a chart on the factory wall which shows Greenock as coming highest in the group for overall performance and meeting production targets. The women bear this out and say that they have always been happy working there, although as one says, that 'has nothing to do with the company' but is because they all get on well.

The tailors and garment workers union (NUTGW) recently established a closed shop in the factory—undoubtedly another reason why VF Corporation want to close it down. Even so it took the union leaders six

weeks to make the occupation official. Up to then the women lived on tax rebates and donations. Now they are hoping for official strike pay although they don't expect it will be much. But being short of money is something they know they will have to get used to if the factory closed. Because of that, as they say, the whole of Greenock is behind them. Local shopkeepers supply them with food. Everyone in the area knows they can't afford any more closures.

Cathy Robertson is 20 and has worked at Lee Jeans for 3½ years. She is engaged to a plumber but doesn't know when they'll get married. When we were there a discussion started about the right to work for women. Cathy has strong views. 'The government should be ashamed about the unemployment. A woman's place is at her work. Half the women now are keeping their men. My mammy is. My daddy's unemployed and me and my sister are sitting in here. My other sister's at school. Mammy earns £18 a week doing part time work in the canteen at Scott Lithgows. That's our money. If I had to choose I wouldn't give my daddy a job before me. A woman's got a right to a job as much as a man.'

'If I knew I was going to die next week I'd go down to London and kill Margaret Thatcher.'

They know the government is to blame for making unemployment worse. 'Get Thatcher out for a start. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer'. The other girls agree. 'We need a walk out everywhere in the country to bring them down'. 'We need a national strike.' Catherine goes on: 'it's the same round the world with unemployment. Reagan wants unemployment. And look what he's doing in El Salvador. Everyone's got a right to live. I'm going for the vacancy in Lady Diana's kindergarten.'

The women at Lees aren't worried about the economic arguments of whether jeans can be produced cheaper in Ireland. They know they have the right to a job and that is their strength. The support they have received from all over the country has heartened them and has shown they have inspired other workers with their fight.

Letters of support are pinned up on the canteen notice board. One is from an 87 year old in Derbyshire. Another from a woman in Manchester says: 'Please accept my small donation for the splendid fight you are all making to keep your factory from closing. As a 67 year old ex shirt maker, made redundant in 1970 after working 34 years at the same factory, I know the feeling personally—when one's job is lost....Only the workers will help the workers'.

She is right. The women say 'Most people thought we would give up because we're women'. They haven't given up after nearly two months. With the active support of trade unionists all over the country, they won't be giving up at all—they'll win.



HOW THEY CAN WIN:

The solidarity of other workers has been a magnificent example of how men and women can unite to fight unemployment. Make sure you're involved in helping.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Collect money at work.
2. Send messages and letters of support
3. Organise to go round factories and other workplaces to get money and support for the occupation.
4. Order Right to Work Campaign posters and leaflets
5. Picket local shops which stock the jeans

Send messages and donations to
 Treasurer Lee Jeans Shop Stewards Committee, 4 Brougham Street Greenock.
 For posters and leaflets write to RTWC, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4
 or Womens Voice, PO Box 82, London E2

I BECAME AN ALIEN ^{by} Brenda Brown



H.M. GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD. 

NAME - SCHMIDT (Smith) BARBARA

NUMBER - 0052718 (F)

ORIGIN - SAXONY, GERMANY

STATUS - DISPLACED PERSON.
NO NATIONALITY

KEEP THIS CARD WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES ^{BY} _{DOOR}

MY NAME is Barbara Smith. I have blond hair, blue eyes, and a pink and white complexion. I have lived in England all my life, and so have my family. My mother has a book of photos of the Royal family, and my little brother has a Union Jack sewn on the back of his parka. We were always very patriotic.

I had never thought of myself as an alien.

I was pleased when the Government passed a bill to tighten up on immigration controls. Things were getting tight, with unemployment figures sky-high. People were almost willing to work for nothing just to keep in a job, and would almost cut their brothers' and sisters' throats to get one. We didn't

want any foreigners coming along to make things worse by adding to the competition.

Then they brought out a series of laws which re-defined British nationality, and introduced the compulsory repatriation of non-British patrials. At first I thought this would be a good thing; if all the foreigners went back to their places of origin, there would surely be enough jobs for the rest of us; that was what the newspapers said, and most people seemed to agree with it.

One morning at the custard factory, the three black women were absent from our section. They never turned up again. People said they must have been repatriated. One of them, Euda, was a

mate of mine. She was always good for a laugh, was Euda. But when our section was 'rationalised', there was a machine doing my old job of loading the tins onto the line. So I was glad to be able to step into Euda's old job, controlling the pump that filled the tins with custard powder. I still missed Euda in a way, but I thought she was probably glad to get back to Jamaica.

I missed Anila even more when she and her family moved out of their house, next door to mine. What upset me the most was that I never had time to say 'Good-bye', or to find out where she was going. They left so suddenly.

Still, the new people were glad to move into Anila's house. They were tired of living in a seventh floor flat with a baby.

It took me quite a few days to realise why the Samaras family had moved out of the fish-and-chip shop. But gossip gets around. They had been sent to live in Cyprus. I hesitate to say 'repatriated', because they had lived here all their lives. It must have been a strange experience for them. I was glad I was not an alien.

Then one day the letter came through my door. I thought it must be a mistake. It said I had to call at the local Police Station, to assist the police with enquiries into my inherited patrial culture.

'What's all this about?' I snapped at the detective, who sat writing at his desk. I had to have a day off work to go down there, and with jobs being so tight, I didn't want to take those kind of risks.

'Sit down, Miss Smith,' he replied, without looking up. Years of conditioning to obey had left their mark on me. I sat down meekly and waited.

'Please don't worry, Miss Smith,' he began, gazing sympathetically into my eyes. 'We have invited you here so that we can make a few routine enquiries. A few small problems have arisen around the question of your inherited patriality.'

'But that's nonsense. I'm as British as you are.'

'In that case, you will have nothing to hide.'

'Of course not.'

'That's right. You'll be looking forward to spending Christmas with your family?'

'Oh yes, we'll be having a family gathering.'

'Do you have a Christmas tree?'

'We'll be getting one. We always have one.'

'And candles?'

'Yes,' I replied, happy enough that the interview seemed to be losing its direction.

'You seem more at ease now. Tell me about your childhood.'



-IMMIGRANT - ALIEN-

'Well, there were three of us children. Our parents looked after us well. My mother used to play the piano and sing for us. I remember she was very fond of Schubert. And my father told us stories.'

'Can you remember one of the titles?'

'I think "Hansel and Gretel" was one of them.'

He sifted through some papers, and smiled. 'Well, Miss Smith, or should I say Schmidt, you have been most helpful. Your information bears out the results of our enquiries. We have reason to believe that your ancestors came from Saxony, in Germany.'

'But I tell you I'm British!' I was almost in tears. He reached out and patted my hand.

'Tell me, Miss Schmidt, don't you often feel very alienated?'

'I'm not sure what you mean.'

'Well, take your appearance, for a start. You are typical of the Germanic race — blue eyes, blond hair, pink cheeks — very nice too, if I may say so. Then your name — Smith is an Anglicised version of the German *Schmidt*. All the details which you have supplied about your family background show that the Germanic culture is an integral part of your inheritance. The use of Christmas trees and candles are old German traditions, and the musical entertainments of which you speak are an integral part of German family life. You even mentioned a German composer, and the story you remember, "Hansel and Gretel" is an old Germanic folk-tale.'

'But all this could apply to anyone.'

'There are a lot of you Germans here. From the fourth to the eighth century AD, there was a succession of Saxon invasions of Britain. Now that jobs and housing are so scarce here, we feel it would be better for you to go back where you came from.'

'What do you mean? I've lived here all my life!'

'Believe me, you will feel much happier in Germany.'

'But I don't want to go to Germany. You can't force me. What about the Queen? Her ancestors are German.'

'The Queen is of course a special case. Don't worry, Miss Schmidt, you will get used to the idea. We will be in touch with you in due course.'

Before I was allowed to go home, I had to allow them to photograph me and take my finger-prints, down in the basement. I felt that I should have been able to protest about this, but it was useless.

The next day, when I arrived at work, I found I was being made redundant. A machine had been installed which could do the whole operation, with only one

woman to control it.

I tried to get another job, but it was impossible. I began to get so depressed that it was a real effort for me to get up in the morning.

One day, when I was standing in the queue, waiting for my miserable money from the Social Security, I noticed people looking at me with hostility. I overheard someone say, 'There's one of those bloody German Saxons again. They came over here ten centuries ago, causing nothing but trouble. And now they think they can live off the Social Security, while the rest of us go to work and pay taxes. If I had my way, they'd all be repatriated.'

On my way home, I bought a newspaper. There was a large picture on the front page, of a blond-haired man and woman. The headline said 'SAXON COUPLE IN SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD'. It was the same that night on the television. Saxons seemed to be causing all sorts of trouble. I did not understand it at the time, but now I think I know the reason. Formerly, all the trouble used to be blamed on black people, but now they had all been repatriated. So someone else had to take the blame when things went wrong. Now it was the turn of the Saxons. And I was one of them.

Whenever I went shopping, I always seemed to be last in the queue. People refused to sit by me on the bus, preferring to stand. When I saw people who used to be my friends, I hesitated about speaking to them in the street. Sometimes they would answer, but often they did not seem to hear. It was my son I worried most about. The other children were always calling him 'Blondie,' or 'Kraut'. He often came home with unexplained bruises.

I dreaded the moment when they would come to take us to the Detention Centre. At least they came for us both together. So I was able to reassure my little boy.

We sat on hard wooden benches and waited. Every now and then we were called to join various queues. We had to queue to be searched, then to be examined by a Doctor. We stood in another queue waiting to be questioned, and were issued with pieces of pink cardboard. The official sat there, ready to stamp them for us.

I looked at my card. It said 'Displaced Person. No Nationality'. I turned to the official. 'What does this mean? First we're British, then we're supposed to be German, and now we're displaced persons.'

He glared at me with hatred.

'They don't want you Saxon bastards

over in Germany either,' he spat out. 'They've got enough problems of their own, without importing a crowd of Trade Unionists and professional agitators. There's a recession in Germany as well as here. But why am I telling you this?' he added, darkly. 'You Saxons know what is going on. It's my belief that you are hatching some sort of international plot. As everyone knows, well over half the world's capital is controlled by you scheming Saxons.'

I was overcome by a burning sense of injustice. 'How can you say that we are Trade Unionist Agitators and scheming capitalists, both at the same time?' I demanded. I was becoming so angry that years of conditioning into being passive and obedient could not prevent me from speaking out.

His light, almost colourless eyes were glazed with a strange fanaticism. 'You are the rats under the floor-boards! We will drive you out!' His voice was raised in a high-pitched crescendo. Suddenly I was shouting back at him.

'It's all lies,' I shouted, 'All this nonsense about race and culture and Saxon and Briton. All this shit about Blond troublemakers and Mediterranean scum! It's just your way of getting rid of us because so many of us are redundant. While we were working, we were British, but now we're on the scrap-heap! And you're frightened! That's why you're splitting people up like this against one another! You know if you didn't split us up, we'd smash the lot of you bastards who just manipulate us all the time for your own ends!'

And I, who had never sworn in my life before, and hardly ever shouted at anyone, stood there swearing and shouting about the wicked lies they were telling.

I was grabbed from behind. Two strong men had my arms pinned behind me. The more I struggled, the more they twisted my arms, until I thought they would break. I was crying with the pain, and I could hear my son screaming. Then something banged down on my head. And there was only darkness.

It has been difficult writing this. I have only one hand free. My other hand is handcuffed to that of my neighbour. We are sitting on the hard wooden floor of the lorry. When it jolts, we are very uncomfortable. We cannot see where we are going. It is cold. I want to use the toilet. There are about twenty of us here. What have they done with my son?

Where are they taking us? And is there any escape?

Brenda Brown

-DISPLACED PERSON-



Marisa Casares-Roach came to England from Spain in 1967. For the last ten years she has worked at the Heathrow Hotel in Hounslow, as a waitress, a swimming pool attendant, and now as convenor for the 360 Transport and General Workers' Union members at the hotel. Marisa was interviewed for *Womens Voice* by Harriet Sherwood.

KNOWLEDGE BRINGS CONFIDENCE

"When I started working at the Heathrow Hotel the union was just beginning to get organised. The union official said to me "You're going to be a shop steward"—and I didn't even know what a union was!

"So I said to myself, if I'm going to be a shop steward I want to know what I'm talking about. I sent away for books, pamphlets, and details of courses, and every night I would read everything to teach me about the union.

"There were three male shop stewards and me, but soon after I was elected as senior shop steward. My first aim was to get a steward in every department—we had only four for everyone and now we have 13. I asked the T&G to organise a weekend course for us. Before we went on it we were all working separately; when we came back we worked as a team.

"But I still wasn't satisfied, so I went on a week-long course organised by the T&G.

"The course was 110 men and six women. I asked the organiser why that was and he told me that women don't apply for the courses. It's much more difficult for women—who's going to look after the kids for a week?

"Then I went to the T&G national conference—and I really found out what politics is.

"We had three motions on the agenda and they were all deferred—we'd made too

again" because I always make trouble.

"There are so many problems in catering. One is language. All the notices on boards and union papers have to be translated. Many of the foreign workers are so frightened of joining the union in case they lose their work permits—especially the Filipinos at the moment. We have to have fights over religious matters—if some of the girls have to wear trousers because of their religion and management says no, we have to fight for the girls' religious rights.

"About 70 per cent of the T&G membership in the hotel are women. When I sit in branch meetings I look for women who are prepared to speak up. I take note of who they are, and then when there is a vacancy for a shop steward I go to them and ask them to stand.

"They always say to me "Oh no, I couldn't be a shop steward". Of course you can, I say. They're very unsure of themselves so I say if you become a shop steward I will accompany you to every meeting with management until you tell me you don't need me any more.

"In the beginning they phone me every five minutes. At first I handle the cases for them, with the shop steward present. After a few minutes of speaking to management myself, I say to shop steward "Do you agree with what I'm saying?" Then they begin to back themselves and they get

ment.

"It's very difficult at first for, say, a chambermaid to stand up to management, because they're so used to the idea that the bosses are gods. One of the shop stewards used to say "Good morning" so meekly to management; now she tells them to get lost better than I do.

"We're very solid at the hotel. Once the women in the restaurant phoned me and said that they couldn't work properly because they didn't have enough equipment—like cups and spoons—and management wouldn't provide any more. So we all sat down in the kitchen and left the people in the restaurant to wait. Management came down and said to the cashier at the till "Give the guests complimentary coffee until this is sorted out". She refused. He then went to the chef who had already prepared some meals saying "Whose meals are these? I'll give them to the people waiting". The chef replied "Are you a union member? No—and if you touch those plates I walk out." Within a few minutes we had so much new equipment we didn't know what to do with it!

"I agree with having special union courses for women, because women often need that extra confidence before launching into mixed courses. But I don't agree with special reserved seats on union committees for women, because I believe we should win elections as good trade unionists, not just because we're women. We have to

we're as good as them.

"Women often don't put themselves forward for conferences and committees because they don't know about them. Male branch secretaries sometimes don't pass on information about women's committees or conferences or information about abortion campaigns because they don't think it's important trade union business.

"That's why I think Women's Advisory Committees are useful. I sit on the T&G women's committee, and we use it as a link to try and organise women in all sections of the union. But we have to fight to stop them becoming talking shops. When women are standing in union elections, let's face it, we have to rely upon the votes of other women.

"I believe that knowledge and education are the real key in union work. That's why I encourage my shop stewards to attend courses. It's good for dealing with the problems that arise on their sections, but also when they've learnt how to formulate a pay claim or whatever, they're in a better position to challenge policy within the branch. That makes our branch meetings more interesting and it makes our branch stronger, rather than everyone accepting what I say without question.

"Knowledge brings confidence. If you know what you're talking about, and if you know you've got the backing of the union members, you need to

WOMENS HEALTH

Keep taking the tablets

Only advertising and oil are more profitable industries than drug manufacturing. In 1979 doctors wrote more than 370 million prescriptions for drugs, costing £750 million. Drug companies make these huge profits because they know doctors will prescribe drugs by their trade names. The chemist then has to dispense these particular drugs and cannot substitute an identical, but cheaper, alternative which would be just as effective.

The best example is Valium. Valium is a trade name. It costs 78 per cent more than diazepam, the same drug by its *pharmaceutical* name. The difference in cost goes straight to the drug manufacturer, Hoffman La Roche.

A survey into the 13 most commonly prescribed drugs found that if pharmaceutical equivalents had been prescribed instead of drugs by trade names £25 million would have been knocked off the National Health Service annual bill. For these drugs the manufacturers' price was 40 to 50 per cent above the pharmaceutical equivalent.

Since I qualified as a doctor in 1961 a fantastic number of new drugs and treatments have appeared on the market. It's very difficult to get correct, unbiased information about them since most of the information is put out by the drug companies themselves. This takes various forms:

- Visits by drug company reps to my surgery can be as many as five or six a week. It is estimated that there is one drug rep for every seven GPs in Great Britain. They tell me about the drug they are pushing that month and bring with them all sorts of free gifts advertising the trade name of the drug—pens, pads, mats, glasses, diaries, calendars.
- About 40 free journals and newsletters are in circulation which are financially dependent on drug advertising. These arrive through the post.
- Once hundred weight of drug advertising material is pushed through my letter box each month.
- Post graduate talks and film shows, financed by the drug companies, and followed by four-course dinners and free drinks are regularly organised. If I went to all I could—possibly two a week—I would have to treat myself for obesity.

At my next busy surgery, because I am short of time, there is a great pressure of work and I get tired, I know that in spite of my socialist principles I will sometimes allow myself to be influenced by all these advertising pressures.

So what can I do? Help is now on its way in the shape of the new *British National Formulary*. It has taken 2½ years for the Department of Health, the British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society to produce. It lists a wide choice of drugs and preparations available for the treatment of a particular disease or condition and has provoked bitter criticism from the drugs companies. Why? Because it is going to hit their profits. It is seen as the spearhead of a campaign which could cut £75 million a year from the drug bill which is paid for by the DHSS and your £1 prescription charges.

The *Formulary* encourages doctors to prescribe by pharmaceutical rather than trade name, and it 'black lists' nearly 600 compound mixtures. It also stresses how harmful it can be to encourage patients to take large quantities of laxatives, pain killing tablets and vitamins. No wonder the drug companies are upset! Not only will their profits from doctors' prescriptions be cut; but people may stop buying all those proprietary medicines from chemists and supermarkets.

These are some of the facts in the *Formulary*:

- Misconceptions about bowel habits have led to excessive use of laxatives. Simple constipation is usually relieved by increasing dietary fibre—by eating granary bread and bran. Laxatives should be avoided.
- Hypnotics (sleeping tablets) and sedatives should not be prescribed indiscriminately and should generally be reserved for short courses to alleviate acute conditions after the causes of sleeplessness have been established. The increasing trend to prescribing more than one of these drugs for the same condition is not recommended: it may constitute a hazard and there is no evidence that side effects are minimised.
- Analgesic (pain killing) requirements may be profoundly affected by the attitude of both patient and doctor to pain. In many cases where analgesics might normally have been given, a placebo (a substitute which



doesn't contain any drug) has provided substantial relief. Compound analgesics of, for example, paracetamol, aspirin and codeine, are not recommended. They may increase the cost of treatment unnecessarily and complicate the treatment if an overdose is taken. On the 'black list' are 51 compounds of analgesics. These probably do not give any increase in pain relief.

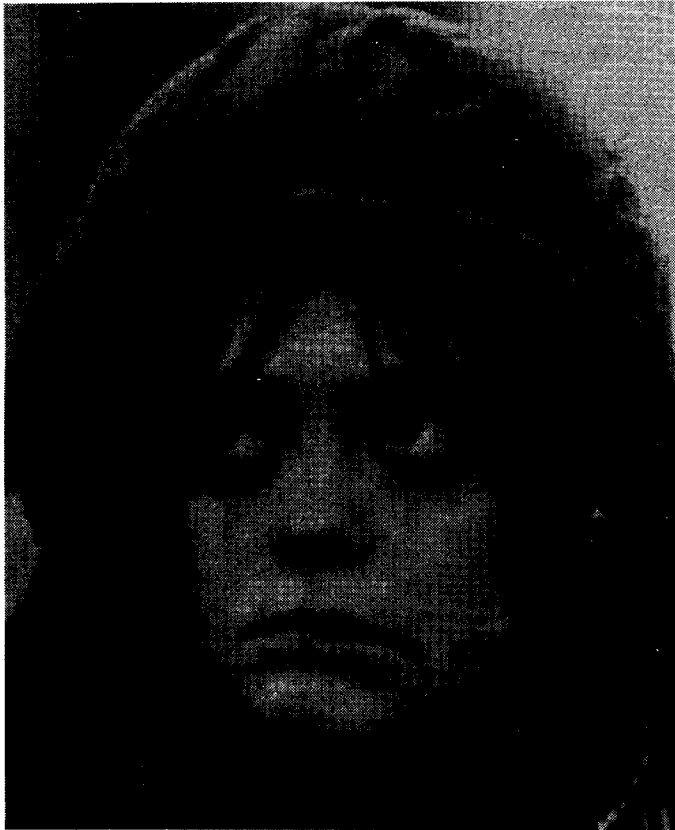
- Other than in special cases, like pregnancy or premature birth, the only justification for iron treatment is the presence of a demonstrable iron deficiency. Vitamins are used for the prevention and treatment of specific deficiency states—for example, gastro-intestinal disease, or old people with poor diets. Treatment of a large variety of conditions in which there is no evidence of vitamin deficiency is not justifiable. There is no evidence that the taking of Vitamin C prevents colds. The use of tonics as a remedy for loss of appetite depends on suggestion (a very profitable business!).

We have to be aware that our body is a finely balanced equation of chemicals and, just as the fine balance of our environment can be upset by the misuse of fungicides, fertilisers and poisonous gases, often used for profit, so our bodies can be grossly disturbed by the misuse and excessive use of unnecessary drugs. And this is the first official information document about drug therapy which I have read in recent years which so much as suggests that this may be the case.

However, lest we be fooled! The involvement of the Department of Health in this book is part of the cuts campaign within the National Health Service. But it is aimed at the drug companies, and for the first time it means that the DHSS is in direct conflict with the very profitable interest of these massive multinationals.

Jean Lewis

REVIEWS



PRIVATE BENJAMIN
DIRECTOR: HOWARD
ZIEFF

SUDDENLY THERE seems to be a rash of films that centre around women at work or in struggle of some sort. *Private Benjamin* would claim to be one of them.

Perhaps we should be thankful for small mercies and slap Hollywood on the back. At least women are now being given active rather than passive roles. But *Private Benjamin* as Hollywood's latest idea of the 'active' woman, who according to the press release 'opts for independence', is one small mercy we can do without.

sunshine and yachts.

Everything you'd expect to happen in a film about a woman joining the army unfortunately happens. Judy moans about her hair and fingernails, totters on her high-heels and collapses into tears with monotonous regularity. Eventually, however, she begins to shape up and gets assigned to an all-male elite air unit. At least competence and skill are rewarded, you might say. But no—the General promotes Judy because he fancies her. Witness a rape attempt at 13,000 feet.

However, our heroine ends up in Paris, forced out of the army for associating with a

prospective hubbie on the jaw and walks away to freedom.

In short *Private Benjamin* is a thoroughly silly film, relying on stereotypes and cliches for its laughs. More sickening is the implicit derision of foreigners, lesbians, Jews, and a woman's ability to cope in the male-dominated big wide world.

Goldie Hawn is reduced to big blue eyes and a winning smile. By the same token all women are rendered incompetent, silly, and irrational, with looks as their only credentials.

Private Benjamin is the sort of film we can do without!
Marta Wohrle
Claire Allum

1001 Women's Days and Nights

a revue written and performed by 'Bloomers' (Eileen Pollock, Noreen Kershaw and Eve Bland).

WHAT is the present tense of the verb 'to be a woman?' Answer: 'I am sorry, You are sorry, She is sorry ...'

Bloomers' hour-long show is a series of quickfire sketches on the theme of the daily minutiae of woman's oppression. It is constantly amusing and often excruciatingly funny — watch out for the artists trying to paint with the kids hanging about, not to mention the husbands in the pub agreeing how easy it is to look after the house all day.

Three powerful performances, acute observation, self-parody, and wonderful original design by Miranda Melville make this a show not to be missed; I recommend it to all feminists with a sense

of humour. You can catch it during April at:

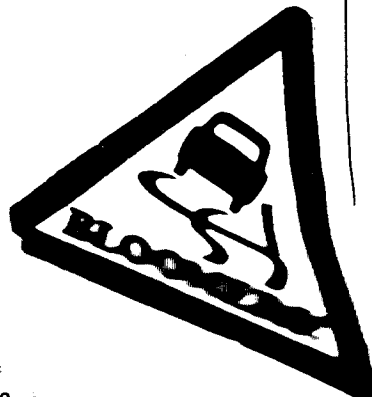
Jacksons Lane Community Centre, Archway Road, London (2nd, 3rd, and 4th) York Arts Centre, York (23rd, 24th, 25th) and with luck there will be a week's performances in Huddersfield.

Susan Pearce

THE UNIT LAMP RADCLYFFE HALL VIRAGO £2.95

RADCLYFFE Hall became notorious in 1928 for writing *The Well of Loneliness*. This novel was soon at the centre of one of the most famous obscenity trials in British law. Her case was lost and the book was banned for no other reason than that its subject was a lesbian love affair. Radclyffe Hall fought all attempts to silence her, proclaiming her own lesbianism publically, demanding that lesbianism be socially recognised and deliberately challenging the law.

In *The Unlit Lamp*, she tackles another equally dangerous subject at that time the obscenity of



parents to be lured into the army with promises of) night. With a breath-taking decisiveness Judy socks her)

unthinkable

NINE TO FIVE

'It's a rich man's game, no matter what you call it— You spend your life putting money in his wallet.'

THE FLUORESCENT lights in the office give you a headache. You're fed up with the petty rules which dominate your working life. The boss asks you for the fourth time in a morning to get him a cup of coffee. If only you could get rid of him...

Nine to Five is a two-hour fantasy about getting rid of the boss. Three women workers come together after a day of frustrations. Violet (Lily Tomlin) is outraged that her overdue promotion is given to a man of less experience because 'this job needs a man, Violet'. Doralee (Dolly Parton) is furious at the boss for telling everyone they are having an affair. Judy (Jane Fonda) walks out after another worker is sacked for discussing salaries in the toilet.

The three of them go back to Doralee's home and spend the afternoon fantasising about what they would do to



the boss, given the chance. This is one of the best scenes in the film: a real feeling of sisterhood as they laugh uncontrollably, united in their hatred of the boss.

After a number of accidents the women kidnap the boss and keep him tied up for six weeks. In that period they make radical changes in the office in the boss's name:

they introduce equal pay, a creche, job-sharing; they redecorate the drab surroundings.

The film has been criticised because the women don't organise into a union and they don't get rid of the boss by their own direct actions. These criticisms are valid, but the film is only a fantasy—it's not meant to be

an inspiration to workers to unite and overthrow capitalism.

If you go to see the film expecting a revolutionary message, you'll be disappointed. If you go expecting a good laugh and you're prepared to accept the politics, you'll love it.

Harriet Sherwood

receive a useful education.

Her middle class family, rich in respectability but without the income to support their pretensions, cannot accept that Joan wants to find a job rather than a husband. She is made to feel guilty for wanting her independence. 'What would it look like? What would people say? You must consider other people's feelings,' she is told.

The family's idea of considering others is for Joan to be confined to their small, selfish world. It is in this description of the politics of family life that Radclyffe Hall excels. She shows how Joan's father ruthlessly wields power over the mother who then exerts the same destructiveness over the daughters. Joan is trapped. Her only hope comes from her close and loving relationship with another woman, Elizabeth. They plan to live and work together in London but neither of them have yet realised the strength of the economic, social and sexual bonds that oppress them.

Sylvia Gibbs

FEMINIST FABLES SUNITI NAMJOSHI SHEBA FEMINIST PUBLISHERS £2.25

CONSIDER this story:

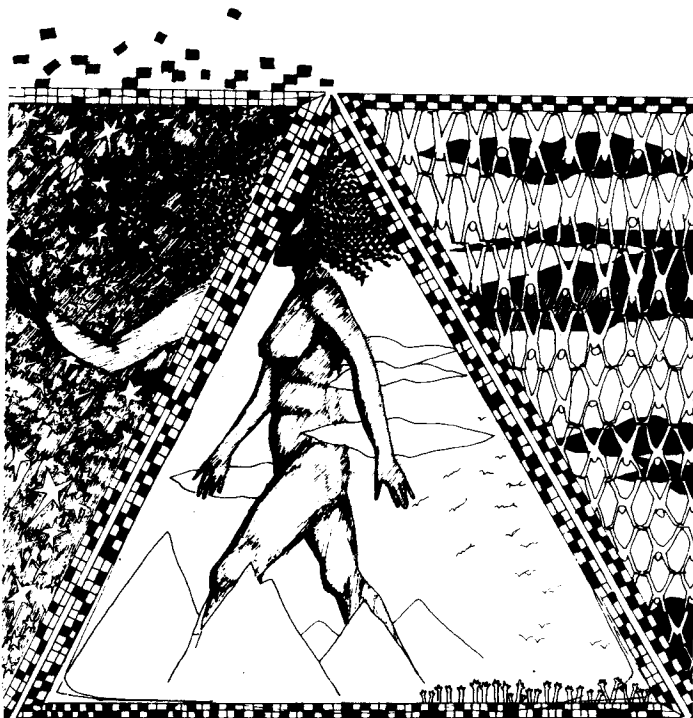
One day a turtle decided to emulate the prowess of his

legendary ancestor. He challenged a passing hare to race with him and the hare accepted. She was placed at a fifty yard distance, while he was stationed a foot from the finishing line. When the race was done, the turtle had beaten her by a good two

inches, which, he said, clearly established the superiority of turtles. The hare demurred. 'You only ran a foot. I ran fifty yards.' But the turtle was unmoved. 'That,' he told her 'is the luck of the game. You really should learn to be a good loser.'

If that makes you grin, chortle or even guffaw then pay attention. There's lot's more where that came from. For this book is a delightful collection of wry and witty observations about men and women written up in a traditional fable style. It's really a joy to read and would make any woman a welcome present to cheer a hum drum day.

Anna Paczuska



Last month's *Womens Voice* contained a review article about *Poplarism*. Readers might like to know that the book *Poplarism* by Noreen Branson is currently available in paperback from Lawrence and Wishart, priced £2.95.

LETTERS



Try Sage Tea

Dear Womens Voice,

I suffered for many years from cystitis, and would often be unable to get out of bed. In despair I turned to sage tea. Not only is it cheap but it worked. Interestingly, sage tea also helps ones periods if you have menstrual problems. The recipe for one tea pot is: one teaspoon of dried sage, one teaspoon of cider vinegar (which doesn't work like normal acid based vinegar), one teaspoon of honey, if you want sweetening. You can add undiluted orange juice to taste.

If you get a bad attack drink a pint of sage tea first, keep drinking all day and if you can keep warm in bed. If you suffer regularly cut out tea and coffee and change to Chinese teas and decaffeinated coffee. I would recommend drinking only sage tea for a month.

Hope this helps our suffering sisters.

Eunice Sharples
Darlington

PS. All alcoholic drinks should be stopped.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

Dear Womens Voice,

While I agree with Christine Fellowes in her review of 'A Sense of Freedom' (WV 50) that '...obviously the environment Jimmy Boyle was raised in...encouraged violence,' I feel that her concluding paragraph is simplistic, naive and misleading. She states that '...under a different society...ie socialism...these conditions wouldn't arise...' but omits any explanation of the complexities which underlie violence. While violence can be seen in the light of broad structural/economic factors, the psychological and emotional environment

is also of crucial importance.

Within a socialist (ie a more 'human') society it is possible that violence would be understood and diminish but unless the correct emphasis is placed upon the importance of personal relationships and the expression of (undistorted) emotion it is not appropriate to assume that socialism can be equated with a less violent society. Too often *Womens Voice* offers a simple socialist solution, insulting our intelligence, without really discussing the complexities involved.

Amabel Sutters
North London

SORRY DEAR!

Dear Womens Voice,
Jane Foster's *Dear Jane* in *March Womens Voice* was very well timed for me. I had just had a row with a man at work who persists in calling me 'dear'.

'Well Dear' I said, and proceeded to let him have it, and he hasn't called me dear since. But has he changed? Has he learnt anything? Did it do me any good?

Just in case anyone saw Carol Bunyan's play *Sorry* on tele — it's exactly the same situation. It's no good trying to handle these things on your own — from patronising 'dears', 'luvs', and 'petals' to attempted rape — you've got to talk to other women about it and get their support. If not, you're on your own, trapped and frustrated. You're in a 'bad mood', 'nervy' or just 'got no sense of humour'. Get some other women with you and act together. Your own confidence, and what you can achieve will soar.

This particular man where I work can't possibly say that six of us have suddenly lost our sense of humour — too much of a coincidence.
Jean Wright
Borrowash
Derbyshire

reasoning power — and I think, and believe, that women have the power to change attitudes by 'woman power'. All my life I've been a believer in the logic of most women. I am sorry to qualify with 'most', but, unfortunately, it is necessary. Many women are still not thinking straight about what they really want. I'm lucky, I suppose, I've been married for 40 years to a man who has always been a committed feminist. Our five sons and daughters have been brought up in this atmosphere — to think and act for themselves — to live through their own experiences — good and bad. The girls and the boys learnt complete equality of the sexes at a very early age, at least in a family situation.

After many generations women are, at last, able to speak out and take an active part in most areas, but there is still a long way to go. The fight has just begun, but if all our sisters give their support in the words of Marx 'We've nothing to lose but our chains'. We still do have chains — breaking them won't be easy — but not impossible.

D. Harris
Biggleswade

Typists Success

Dear Womens Voice,
I thought you would be pleased to hear that while doing a three week typing course I managed to sell 14 copies of *Womens Voice* to the women on the course, who had never seen the magazine before. It was great to see all these women sitting around reading the magazine and discussing some of the issues in it, instead of the usual *Womans Own* or *Cosmopolitan*.

This shows that there are a lot of issues in WV that all women can relate to. Things like the Playtex tampons issue and the article on valium sparked off quite a few conversations. The story of Sandra the secretary particularly appealed to them.

Nothing to Lose

Dear Womens Voice,
I enclose my subscription for one year. I have been getting your magazine second hand for several months from my daughter who is an active member both in the women's movement and SWP, but I feel it's now time for me to stand up and be counted.

I am 61 — like all the newspapers do I give my age — always the women, but not often the men! This, of course, does not inhibit my

I hope this may give other women encouragement in selling the magazine.
Kitty
Bristol

You're kidding!

Dear *Womens Voice*,
I would like to add a suggestion to Pat Jones' letter concerning the lack of creche facilities at a NALGO union meeting. Perhaps an effective way of getting this needed service provided would be for all women and men who have children to bring them to the next union meeting. The disruption that this would cause would make the problem all too visible and perhaps lead to action being taken to supply a creche for future meetings.
Stacy Smith
East London

IT'S ABOUT POWER

I'm writing in response to the article in February's *Womens Voice* on paedophiles. As a mother of a seven year old child this article disturbed me. I could not understand how on one page there could be a condemnation of rapists and yet a few pages later a considerably more sympathetic approach towards paedophiles. Surely, just as rapists impose their will on women so child molesters impose their will on children. They are both concerned with power relationships, and in my view paedophiles are synonymous with child molesters.

I agree that children should be able and allowed to form their own relationships but can this honestly happen between an adult and a child?

Just as I want women to be able to walk through the streets at night without fear so I would want children to feel safe and to be safe in any lonely place.
Sue Baylik
Enfield

ROYAL RHUBARB

We didn't think we could let the Royal Wedding announcement go by without at least a mention. So here we present the best of the ludicrous things spoken by the Royals, or by the press about them. Choose your own favourite.

"She will have a choice of seven places to call home"
The Observer.

"Her future security is assured. her husband, in time, will become one of the richest men outside the Arab world, yet still live largely at public expense."
Anthony Holden, The Observer.

"Proud to be square."
Prince Charles.

'She is used to taking her turn in the shared bathroom and digging out her tights from the line of undies drying on the radiator.'
The Sun

Where's Lady Di going to stay until the Wedding? "It's a real problem because the Royal Palaces in London are full to bursting with Royals."
BBC Radio 4

And where will the Honeymoon be? *Woman* magazine recommends the Royal yacht Britannia because: "They won't even be disturbed by the crew, who wear plimsolls so they can move silently around the deck, and at night are commanded by special hand signals rather than raucous shouted orders!"

'Despite all the attempts to find former boyfriends, no evidence could be advanced that she had done anything more than hold hands with horsey boys at hunt balls. Eventually even her uncle was quoted as saying "She has had no lovers."
New Standard



This is a description of an ordinary day in Lady Diana's life: 'Shopping at Harrods, perhaps, for something for the flat. or tea in Fortnum and Mason in Piccadilly before looking in the window's in Bond Street, going for a wander amongst the fabrics in Liberty's'.
Daily Mail.

"A woman not only marries a man, she marries into a way of life—a job"
Prince Charles.

Where will they live after the marriage? Highgrove House is valued at a mere £1 million. "It has no curtains or carpets, but the bedroom is decorated! It's marvellous to have someone to sort it out."
Prince Charles.

"The perfect candidate is young enough not to have been seriously involved with other men—something said to have been an important consideration to Prince Charles and his advisors."
The Times

The wedding won't clash with other important events: "Wimbledon and the Open golf will be over and the big race at Goodwood doesn't start until 2.30pm" These little details were sorted out by a Mr Morgan who liaises with the Royals for the BBC. He was the one who "over a cup of tea or a gin and tonic, I can't remember which" persuaded them that the last week in July would be a most convenient time. How nice of him.
The Guardian

"The bride had to be someone ... who was young enough to have a large number of children if necessary."
Mr Harold Brooks-Baker, Debretts Peerage

"I'm like my daughter. I've got good long legs."
Mrs Shand Kydd (Diana's mother)

'It can only be a good thing that Lady Di is the first future queen this century who has held down a proper job and done her own house-keeping.'
The Sun.

'Like many fair-haired beauties, Lady Di has her eyelashes dyed so that she wakes up beautiful each morning without using mascara.'
The Sun

'A royal engagement and a summer wedding could not have come at a better time. The mundane facts of British life at the moment are pretty grim. The dreary statistics of unemployment and falling production, strikes and threats of strikes, have depressed us far too long. What better than a royal romance to warm and cheer all our hearts?'
The Express.

DIRTY LINEN

SANDRA



Dear Jane

THE POPULAR press has made great play of the perils of glue-sniffing over the past couple of years. Horror stories about young people dying as a result of sniffing, or being brain damaged abound. Anyone who lives or works in inner city areas, near schools, or youth clubs etc, may have noticed the tell-tale signs of glue-sniffing: discarded plastic bags or rags containing glue, empty tubes and containers of household glues and adhesives. Glue sniffing or solvent abuse has been around for over 20 years, although it has only received real publicity over the past ten years.

The most commonly inhaled substances are household products like adhesives, glue, paint thinner and nail

varnish. They give a high or intoxicating effect that can last from a few minutes to half an hour. The effects will make the sniffer seem drunk and disorientated—very similar symptoms to alcoholic intoxication. Young people who have been sniffing may also have running noses and eyes, and sometimes red patches like cold sores around the mouth. The chances are that they will also reek very strongly of the substance they've been inhaling.

That briefly is what happens when solvents are sniffed. The dangers don't arise directly from the substances which are sniffed, but the circumstances which surround sniffing. Putting plastic bags over the head to maximise the effect can result in

drowsiness or unconsciousness leading to suffocation. If they vomit, they may choke or asphyxiate on their own vomit.

Glue sniffing is usually a group activity, involving ten to 14 year olds, who often find some out-of-the-way place to sniff. If there is a crisis while sniffing, they could be somewhere inaccessible and potentially dangerous such as derelict houses, wasteland or railway yards.

Solvents aren't actually addictive physically, but some people can become psychologically dependent on getting intoxicated. What's really sad is that for an increasing number of young people there will be problems that are not just going to go away. Boredom, unemployment,

lack of hope for the future can't be brushed aside.

Glue is cheap, legal, easy to obtain, easy to use and provides temporary escape. For young people under the age for drinking alcohol, with little money, getting high on glue is the only means they have of getting intoxicated.

The pursuit of intoxication, change of mood, exhilarating feelings are things we all pursue. No wonder that young people want the same things. If the accepted is unavailable, they find their own means. The question is why do any of us need these things. The real indictment is that our society offers increasing numbers little except the buzz of glue sniffing.

Youngs Worried

why I became a socialist

Bryanne Kirk was involved in the womens movement during its early years. She talks about how she became interested in womens liberation and how eventually she came to socialist ideas as well.

My upbringing was very conventional. I was born in 1937 of an English protestant father and a Southern Irish Catholic Mother. I went to a convent school, and left at 17 to go into the Women's Royal Airforce. I signed on for six years. When I came out in 1962, at the age of 25, I had to start my life all over again. That's when I left this other person behind and became the real me.

I suppose my feminist instincts had been with me from a very early age. I was born just before the second world war, and we lived near an airfield. There were lots of planes flying overhead and I came to love those planes. When I was three, or perhaps four, I found out that little girls don't have these sorts of interests, 'they' weren't going to allow me to do what I wanted. You either knuckle down to what 'they' think, or you resist it. The seeds were sown, even if they did stay underground for years.

There was really no politics in my upbringing, my father was a Liberal and my mother a tory, and they bred into me an acceptance of the world as it was. I was never restricted in any obvious way, I could do and read what I wanted, and my love of planes took me into the airforce, without any resistance from my parents.

A lot of important events happened while I was in the airforce. The Hungarian uprising of 1956, the birth of CND, but the reality of it didn't touch me until I left and joined the civil service.

There was the uproar in the Catholic church over birth control. The Vietman war was on television every night. All one's life one had been told that America is the defender of christian values and democracy and then I saw them napalming those grass huts. I began to ask questions. Once the questioning began all those conventional ideas I'd been bought up with fell like a pack of cards.

The first thing I joined was the women's movement. It began in about 1969 in Hemel Hempstead. Audrey Wise, who was the MP for Coventry, spoke at a NJACWER meeting—the National Joint Action Committee for Womens Equal Rights. We started a womens group out of that, with a few of us meet-

ing together in a sort of consciousness raising group. We were a bit of a political mix, and some of us got invited along to another group, started by some maoists. We became the Union for Womens Liberation. I liked the name.

But what an experience. Here I was, approaching 28, and I heard the marxist analysis of capitalism for the first time, and everything just began to fall into place. Things I'd felt became understood.

The womens movement formed itself more coherently in 1971, with the meeting in the Oxford Union. The Womens National Coordinating Committee was formed, as a sort of umbrella body to which everyone sent delegates. All sorts of women were involved, IMG, IS, the Women's Liberation Front (another maoist group). We had a couple of parades in London. And then the traumatic Skegness conference was organised, and nothing was the same again.

I've always felt that it's possible the CIA planted women there to wreck it. I'd been around for a couple of years, at conferences and meetings, and while there were quite a lot of American women involved, we got to know most of them. Those who came to Skegness came from nowhere.

The WNCC had drawn up an agenda, papers were written, workshops organised. It began at 9 am, and by 9.30 am it was in ruins.

There was no rational basis for wrecking it. There was no point of principle. A lot of resentment existed towards our Union because we had a very well worked out political position, which was just too much for a lot of those women to accept. The intellectual effort for many of them was too much, they were tripping on feminism. There were a lot of comfortably off women, who were experimenting, sleeping around, sleeping with women, getting rid of their husbands. I know it was played up by the media, but even so, for a lot of women it was just playing.

By the end of the conference the WNCC was wrecked and the womens movement has never got over it. Had the conference been a success, had some sort of united front been formed, a committee been set up, it could have been very different. As it is, I think the womens movement now is no further on than it was in 1971.

The Union produced its own condem-

nation of the conference—by putting the blame for the disaster on the Gay Liberation Movement, and other 'petty bourgeois deviationists'. Which wasn't true. Within a few months I left the Union, and the womens movement.

By the end of 1971 I had weathered a massive course in politics and the British Left, and gave it up.

I got involved in local things like Shelter, we did a bit of fund raising, but not much else. And the Gay Liberation Movement.

It wasn't until 1977, when the Anti Nazi League was formed that I felt I had to become involved again. I'd been worried about the National Front and the fascists for some time and asked a few people about calling a meeting. We started the local ANL branch.

I met members of the SWP. I'd never heard of them before but wherever I went I kept meeting people wearing these little red fists. Then I found out that the SWP had once been called the International Socialists. And I remembered those IS women I'd met back in 1970. They'd always made sense, always had a sense of humour, knew what to do, and generally got on with things.

But it was Blair Peach's death that pushed me over the edge of understanding about the nature of the state we live in, and after that I joined the SWP.

I always was on the side of the marxist analysis of women in the womens movement, rather than on the side of the separatist feminists. I don't know why, it's probably something to do with the underlying characteristics of the individual. At that point it's not something you choose. I can't see any point in trying to persuade a radical feminist of the class nature of her oppression, just as I don't think anyone who starts with a class position can really understand their separatism.

Socialist women get involved in the Right to Work Campaign, the ANL, CND, but you never see the feminists there. A difference in response leads to a difference in behaviour, a class analysis leads to activity.

Where does separatism go? Womens aid centres have grown out of the womens movement, it's true. But the best of the feminists are still not further on than they were in 1971.

The radical feminist, separatist view is based on nothing that is objectively real. Society is made up of men and women. Separating the women from the men is going nowhere. There is a value in separatism, but there is no way of getting round the problem of capitalism. You have to go back into the mainstream of society, into capitalism, at some point, and deal with it. It means putting your intellect first, before your feelings.

Womens Voice is an organisation that fights for women's liberation and socialism. We fight for: Equal pay Free abortion and contraception Maternity leave and child care provision The right to work Against all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, or race. Women's liberation is only possible through women organising and fighting for themselves. Women's liberation can only be achieved by linking its struggles to those of the working class and overthrowing the capitalist system. *Womens Voice* supports the aims of the Socialist Workers Party. It is organisationally independent but based on the politics of the SWP.

Your nearest Womens Voice Group meets

join the fight!

I want to join the fight ...

Name _____

Address _____

Send to Womens Voice
PO Box 82, London, E2.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

WV groups

- **ABERDEEN WV** Liz 51059
- **ABERYSTWYTH WV** c/o Students Union, UCW, Aberystwyth
- **ACTON WV** Ruth or Jude 740 6660
- **NORTH BIRMINGHAM WV** Maggie 021 449 4793
- **SOUTH BIRMINGHAM WV** Jill 021 459 1718
- **BLACK COUNTRY WV** 27 Glen Court, Compton Road
- **BRADFORD WV** Trish Bradford 585 913 for details of meetings and activities
- **BRIGHTON WV** phone 696897
- **BRISTOL WV** Katrina 46875
- **BURTON ON TRENT WV** Kim 33929
- **CANTERBURY WV** Barbara, Lyminge 862 742
- **CHELTENHAM WV** meets every Thursday. For babysitters and information, Jacqui 551 370
- **CHORLTON WV** Claire 226 1048
- **COVENTRY WV** meets Hertford Tavern fortnightly. Mondays 8pm. 361 585
- **COLCHESTER WV** 22 5650 for details
- **DUDLEY WV** Brigitte Brierley Hill 78308
- **EALING/SOUTHALL WV** Christine or Jane 571 1838
- **ECCLES AND SALFORD WV** Jannie 707 2557 or Ann 737 3800
- **EDIINBURGH WV** Penny 57 0731
- **EDGE HILL COLLEGE WV** Bev Southport 212 140
- **ENFIELD WV** Nora 807 1741
- **FINSBURY PARK WV** Wendy 01 254 9632 (days)
- **GLASGOW WV** Clare 357 1157
- **GLOSSOP WV** Derbyshire - Carol, Glossop 64287
- **GLOUCESTER WV** Maggie Gloucester 413910
- **HALIFAX WV** every Friday 12-1pm, Co-op Arcade on the Precinct
- **HAMMERSMITH AND WEST KENSINGTON WV** Ginny 749 7292 or Eileen 960 6088
- **HATFIELD AND WELWYN WV** phone Cathy Hatfield 65238
- **HEMEL HEMPSTEAD WV** Val, Berkhamstead 74468
- **HORNSEY WV** Maggie 341 1182
- **KENTISH TOWN WV** Pauline 586 5693
- **KINGSTON WV** Emma 979 9682
- **LAMPETER WV** c/o SDUC Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales
- **LANCASTER WV** ring 36196
- **LEEDS WV** Gilda 622 800 or Bev 457 098
- **LEICESTER WV** Fiona 0533 62855
- **LEYTONSTONE WV** Anne (556 5595) or Pam (558 1509)

- **LIVERPOOL WV** Jane 727 1182
- **LOWESTOFT WV** c/o 107, Montgomery Avenue, Lowestoft
- **LUTON WV** Denise 35 Chatsworth Road, Luton
- **MEDWAY WV** Lici, Medway 571628
- **NORTH MANCHESTER WV** phone Sandy 205 0384 or, Maria 205 7657
- **NEWCASTLE WV** Liz 854 782
- **NEWHAM WV** Pam 534 1417
- **NORWICH WV** c/o 56 Benedicts St, Norwich
- **NOTTINGHAM WV** Chrissie Langley Mill 62356
- **PIMLICO WV** Helen 730 7983 or Leslie 834 0760
- **READING WV** Shirley 585556
- **ST HELENS WV** Carol, St Helens 28178
- **SHEFFIELD WV** Sue 613 739
- **SOUTH LONDON WV** Sally 720 5768
- **SOUTHWARK WV** c/o PO Box 82, London E2 9DS or Elaine 670 3774 (day)
- **SOUTH WEST LONDON WV** Marion 947 0560
- **STOKE ON TRENT WV** Sandra 814094
- **TOTTENHAM WV** Mary 802 9563
- **TOWER HAMLETS WV** Helen 980 6036
- **WALTHAMSTOW WV** phone Sue 521 5712
- **WREXHAM WV** Heather 87293
- **WHALLEY RANGE WV** Claire 061 226 1048

Small ads

SPEAKERS from the Contraception Action Programme and/or the Right to Choose Group based in Dublin will be undertaking a speaking tour between Saturday March 28 and Saturday April 4, including meetings in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling—Glasgow meeting Thursday 2 April. For further details of all meetings telephone Marian 041-429 0038.

MATERNITY RIGHTS \$ POSTERS COVERING CHANGES IN MATERNITY PROVISIONS UNDER THE Employment Act 1980. Posters cover: Maternity leave, rights to maternity pay, right of return to work. £1 for a series of 5, inc. p&p. 20% discount on orders over 20. Available from Manchester Law Centre, 593 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester 13.

RADICAL Nurses Group—next national meeting, April 11 at the Health Education Centre, 49 Hardman Street, Manchester. Starts 10am. Contact the RNG, c/o 51 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester M21 1FA, for accommodation. There will be a creche and a pooled fare: Anyone who wants to receive

mailings should send a SAE and £1. Make cheques and POs payable to the RNG.



MAY 9 FESTIVAL for womens rights against Tory attacks. Badges available at 20p each or £8 per 50. Black on orange. Posters available mid March. Both from: 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

Thatcher degrades Women badges. 20p. Available now from the Womens Voice office

WE WOULD be interested to hear from any comrade who would like to introduce topics to be discussed under the general headings: Imperialism, Peasantry, People's History, Labour Party and Social Democracy, Labour Party and Trade Unions, Labour Movement and Education, Labour Movement and Unemployment, Labour Movement and Defence and Disarmament, Teaching History, Trades Councils and their History.

Please contact Andy Durr, 235 Ditchling Road, Brighton, as soon as possible.

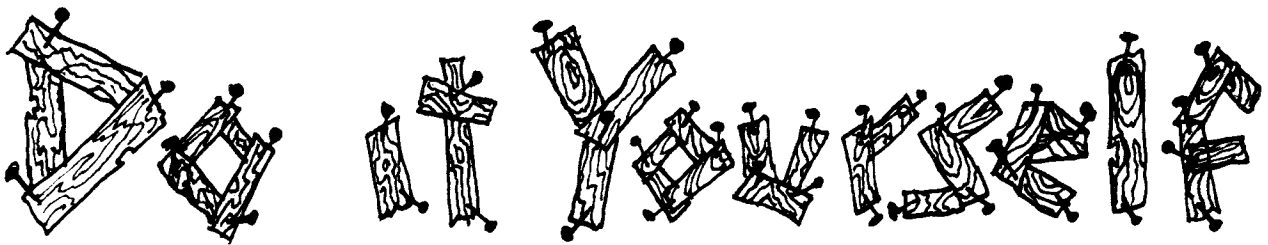
• **LESBIANS supporting Womens Voice/Socialist Worker contact the Womens Voice Lesbian Group. Jane Scragg c/o PO Box 82, London E2 9DS.**

WV public meetings

Tottenham and Hornsey WV meeting
Fat is a Feminist Issue
Speaker: Pam Williams, Monday 30 March, 8pm Haringey Womens Centre, 40 Turnpike Lane N8. Women Only.

GAY VOICE group meeting Tuesday 7 April.
Speaker, Simon O'Dell from Stevenage Gay Political Group 'Gay Youth'. Details from Richard St Albans 69041

PORNOGRAPHY AND SOCIALISM
St Albans SWP meeting Thursday 30 April Details Jane St Albans 68678.



PRODUCING A LEAFLET

A WOMENS VOICE leaflet may be the first contact an unsuspecting member of the public has with our organisation. It is important that our leaflets are clear, readable, attractive—and gets our ideas across at the first reading.

Most of the leaflets that Womens Voice groups produce fall into two categories: to publicise a meeting or an event, or for distribution on a picket line or in the street on a single issue. But whatever the leaflet is intended for, there are a number of ground-rules to follow.

How will it be printed?

It is important to establish this before writing and designing the leaflet as the method of printing will determine what sort of headlines and illustrations you can use.

Duplicating: this is the method most groups use because it's cheapest and quickest. There are two ways of duplicating a leaflet; wax stencils and electro-stencils. If you use a wax stencil you type your words straight onto the stencil, put it on the duplicator and away you go. Wax stencils mean you can't use any illustrations other than drawings done by biro straight onto the stencil. Your headline will have to be done using a letter stencil or free hand, again in biro. Electro-stencils mean better-looking leaflets, but you need access to a special machine as well as the duplicator. If you're using an electro-stencil, you can include any illustration (black and white), letraset headlines and your text all stuck to a piece of paper from which the electro-stencil will be made for use on the duplicator.

Printing: printed leaflets are more attractive than duplicated ones because they are cleaner and clearer—but they cost more money. Professional printing is probably well out of the scope of most impoverished WV groups, but it's worth checking with local offset printers for prices, and they will give you advice about artwork.

The Text.

Keep it as short as possible. If your leaflet is to advertise a meeting then make sure the title or subject of the meeting is prominent. The leaflet must include the date, time and venue of the meeting and usually the speaker. This may sound obvious, but lots of leaflets miss out vital information. It should also include a paragraph about the issue—a bit of background and what Womens Voice says about the subject. But unless that's short and concise, people will probably not read it.

If you're writing a more general leaflet about a local dispute or campaign you will need more background information. If it's a strike the leaflet should include who, where, why, how many, how long. Sentences should be short and the language simple. Always highlight the most important points rather than start at the very beginning of the story. If it's for a campaign it must explain why we are campaigning around the issue. All these leaflets must say what people can do—for example, help on picket lines, don't buy the product, resolutions to trade unions, collection of money.

Once you have written your draft, show it to at least two people for their comments. Go through it, sentence by sentence looking for repetitions, spelling mistakes, checking grammar. Never use three words where one would do.

Headlines

A headline should always be relevant to the text. Again, keep it short. Don't spend hours trying to think of something original and witty—make it simple.

If you're using an electro-stencil you will be able to use the Womens Voice logo (heading). Cut it out from the contents page as the logo on the cover will be too large for most leaflets. Stick it down on your artwork—the top right-hand corner is usually the best place.

Illustrations

The best sort of illustrations to use are cartoons or line drawings. If you don't have an artist in your group, search magazines and Womens Voice for drawings which can be reproduced. Stickers work well when reproduced on leaflets, but photographs are more of a problem. Clear lines reproduce much better than shades—photos often come out either a pale grey or a black smudge. If you do want to use a photo make sure there is plenty of contrast in the black and white.

Design

When you're typing the copy (text), type it into two narrow columns rather than a wadge of type stretching the whole width of the page. It's easier to read narrow columns than wide ones.

Don't cram too much onto one page—it's better to have space than confusion.

Make your headline fairly big and put at the top of the leaflet. Make sure it stands out in the design.

It's better to stick to a simple design—use straight up and down columns rather than leaving the reader to wonder where the rest of the sentence continues.

Printing and Publishing

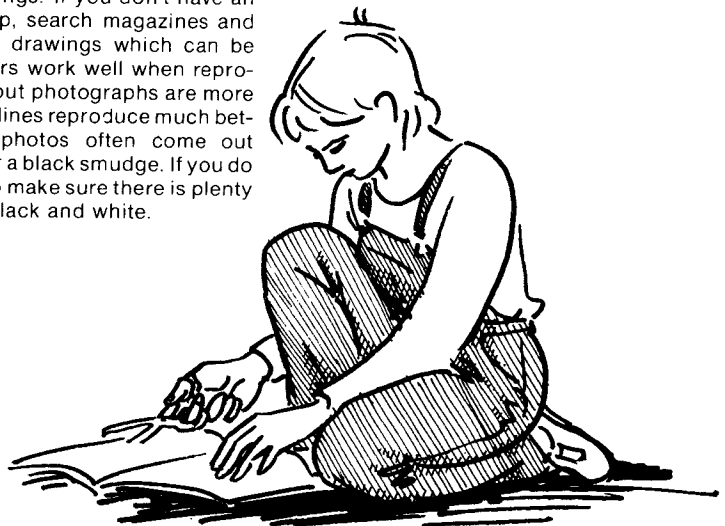
All leaflets and publications by law must say who they were printed and published by. If you've had the leaflets duplicated yourselves then simply say, right at the bottom of the sheet in small type:

'P&P Womens Voice,'. The dots mean you have to fill in an address. Never put one of the WV members' home address on a leaflet. If necessary, use the national address, PO Box 82 London E2.

If you've had the leaflets professionally printed, use the words 'Published by Womens Voice, PO Box 82 London E2, printed by'

Where We Stand

You may want to include on your leaflet information about Womens Voice. Reprint the words under Join Womens Voice in the back of the magazine.



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**womens
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