

10p No7 July

# Womens VOICE

**Womens Liberation**  
**Your union: APEX**

**Mrs Desai talks about Grunwicks**

**Vaginal infections**

**The Ballad of Unequal Pay**





# WHAT RIGHT HAVE THEY

What right have a handful of rich and powerful men to inflict their own bigoted views on us?

William Benyon, gentleman farmer, Member of Parliament, hypocrite and bigot.

The week before the big National Abortion Campaign demonstration in May, Mr Benyon was sorrowfully announcing the death of his anti-abortion Bill. Three weeks later it was back with a chance, and a little help from a group of Labour MPs who are begging the Government to give MPs time to vote on it.

If the third reading of the bill is successful the 1967 Abortion Act will be reduced to nothing. Doctors will be pressured to stop giving abortions. The charitable clinics will be closed. The police will be free to intimidate women who have abortions.

Every one of those Labour MPs who voted for Benyon's bill should be persecuted and humiliated. Those who suffer such self-importance that they put themselves above the members of their unions that sponsor them in Parliament should be forced to abide by union policy.

Time is short. Our rights are threatened. The life and health of thousands of women are at risk. Act fast, act now.

Justice Wien, officer and gentleman, former Major in the Dragoons, said in court as he let off a guardsman previously convicted of a brutal rape: 'She would not have been so seriously injured if she had submitted to rape.'

So now we know where this important judge stands. Women should tolerate rape. If they don't they must take what is coming to them.

His statement means that there will be more rape, and more sexual humiliation for women.

Why should we live in fear of rape? We live in a society that breeds the sexual frustrations worked out by the young guardsman. He said he was sorry. At the time, when he rammed his signet ringed hand up the young girl's vagina, he thought he could ignore her pleas to stop. Sex is something to be bought and sold, or taken by force.

Women can't defend themselves against that abuse by saying yes, please take my body and do with it what you will. Nor can you change it by sending men to prison, or cutting off their balls, however much you may want to. We are glad to know there's one less soldier in Northern Ireland. We hope he will be consumed with guilt. But what can we do?

On our own—very little. We can paint slogans—every barracks, and every court, should have been daubed. But the next morning the bloody judge is still there, sending pickets to prison, squeezing huge fines out of papers like *Socialist Worker*.

Get rid of the whole hoard of the rich and powerful is what we have to do. You can't do that on your own. But you can do it if you organise together.

# Womens VOICE

Womens Magazine of  
the Socialist Workers  
Party

**Womens World:** What did you learn in school today, dear little girl of mine? I learnt that sex is always bad—the famous speak out on their hang-ups. **Page 4**

**Cuts, cuts and more cuts:** the student nurses who fought the cuts and won, with a song to sing on your next cuts demonstration. **Page 5-6**

**Unemployed?:** Recent figures reveal that over one million women are now unemployed but women are joining the fight for the right to work. **Page 7**

**News:** Sainsburys workers out on strike, inflation—who is footing the bill, NALGO's 'lovely ladies' conference are just some of the issues covered in this months news section. **Pages 8-11**

**The Ballad of Unequal Pay:** Joan Penfold sent us a poem about the women at Yardley's fight for equal pay. **Page 12-13**

**Womens Voice Debate:** Women in Eastern Europe—are they liberated? **Page 14**

**The Womens Voice Interview:** Womens Voice talks to Mrs Desai about the Grunwicks dispute for union recognition **Pages 15-16**

**Health:** Vaginal infections are something that plague women throughout our lives but what can we do about it? **Page 16**

**Unions:** Temp workers in APEX. **Pages 17**

**Reviews:** What's your favourite book of the year? Review it for Womens Voice and you may win a book token. **Pages 18-19**

**Your Voice:** An all time record for the number of letters sent in! We're trying to cram in as many as possible. **Pages 21-22-23**

**Whats On:** Don't forget to send us details of your meetings and events! **Page 23**

Next issue: please make sure you get your letters, articles, news, ads to us by 20 July. Send to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Phone 01739 1878.

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



William Benyon, MP, gentleman farmer.



Justice Wein, officer and gentleman, former Mayor.



# Womens World

by Judith Condon

## REVEALING ALL

What did they tell you about sex?

This is the question the Sunday Times put to three leading members of the Festival of Light and Anti-Abortion campaigns. Their answers reveal a great deal about them.

The only positive information, was at the level of 'dirty old men' and having periods. James White, who goes on to say he got his sex education in the army (whatever that means) even to this day has not talked to his mother about having babies.



**Lord Longford**  
'Nothing. My father died in the First World War, but I remember my mother once giving me a warning about homosexual attentions.'

**James White**  
'I grew up in a very very Presbyterian family. My mother is still alive and even to this day she has never mentioned the subject. You're even crossing the borderline if you tell her someone is pregnant.'



**Mary Whitehouse**  
'I had no official sex education at school or at home. I do remember my mother was very embarrassed and told me so. We had a very good PE mistress at school though, who told us when we were twelve or thirteen all about menstruation.'



After all the resignations and the jail sentences, it makes you wonder who they've got left in the Porn Squad. Talk about the boys in blue.

James Humphreys, king of the strip clubs, has had his revenge alright. From Dartmoor prison to the Flying Squad Dinner. You shall go to the ball, Cinderella.

The hack writers always had a cliché for when there was a sniff of police corruption in the air. It came out so persistently they must have had a file on it. PC, for police corruption. Ah yes! The rotten-apple-in-the-barrel. Doesn't every barrel have one. So far no one's come up with a cliché for the Porn Squad. The rotten barrel in the barn? The rotten barn on the farm? But where will it end . . .

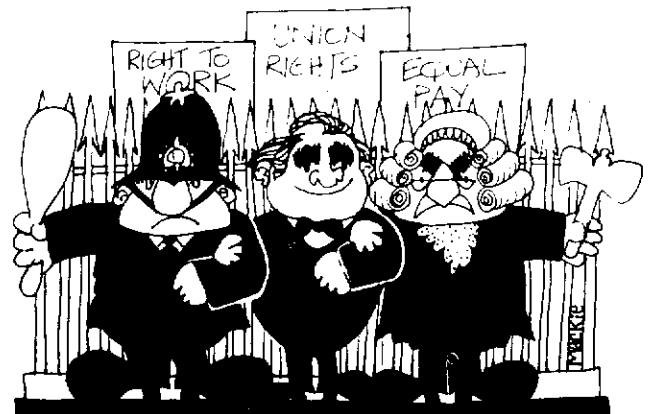
Even if the porn squad are letting the side down we are

being defended from depravity.

It is still not permissible to advertise contraceptives on television or on public transport. The Independent Broadcasting Authority, the Advertising Standards Authority, and London Transport Advertising are all standing firm for decency and fair play. 'Black Emmanuelle' yes. Preventing unwanted pregnancy, of God forbid.

And then, the Government is having an enquiry into the workings of the laws on obscenity and indecency. So along comes Michael Alison, Tory spokesman on home affairs, to protest. For heading the enquiry will be Professor Bernard Williams, well-known humanist.

Alison wants an inhumanist instead. A chairman 'oriented towards the Christian religion.' Which brings us back to apples.



What exactly do you do? That was the question *Spare Rib* put to Marie Patterson, who sits on the TUC General Council in one of the two seats reserved for women, and serves on the TUC Women's Advisory Committee as well as being a Commissioner on the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Did you think her job was championing women in the unions? Listen to her reply.

**'Most of (my work) is nothing about women. About one third of my work you could define as 'women'; talking to women, talking about women's rights to all sorts of people, mostly men.'**

Then she was asked if she thought the Trico equal pay strike would have ended quicker if the men had come out with the women. The exchange goes as follows:

**'I'm not sure, myself. I'm not convinced I know what the Trico strike was about.'**

**'Why didn't you find out?'**

**'Well, I've got enough to do without finding out about other people's strikes.'**

Claybury Hospital announced that it would not offer jobs to any pupil nurses finishing their State Enrolled Nurses course this summer.

This meant that most of them would be deported—since they had been encouraged to come from overseas countries like Malaysia to qualify and get secure work here. (The SEN qualification is not recognised by any other country and is utterly worthless outside Britain.)

Without a job, they could not get a work permit when their student visas expired. So they would be chucked out of Britain. That would be bad enough. But what's worse is that those nurses are desperately needed at Claybury.

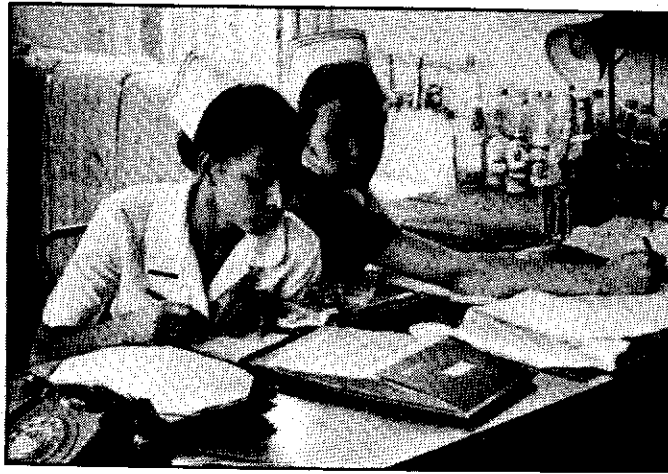
Val Gillan told *Womens Voice* how the student nurses in her union CoHSE (Confederation of Hospital Service Employers) fought for and won jobs for those nurses. Claybury Hospital is one of the largest psychiatric hospitals in England.

"It's really sad. Especially on the terminal care ward. The patients can't feed, clothe, wash themselves, and are totally dependant on overworked, frustrated nurses for their physical, psychological and social needs during the last months or days of their lives. Sometimes we only have three nurses for 28 patients on that ward. You have to rush everything you do. It's terrible really. You can't give the care these old people require.

The amount of money given to psychiatric hospitals is much smaller than that given to general hospitals. The staffing ratios are the same, compared to other psychiatric hospitals. But our geriatric population is much higher and growing. Understaffing, old buildings, bad or no equipment—I'm not kidding. No realistic after care service.

Understaffing is so bad that about 700 hours extra duty hours (overtime) are worked every week—Jobs for 170 nurses.

Given this situation where management were refusing to take on necessary qualified nurses we decided



## The cuts today and the dole tomorrow



we had to do something.

We knew we had to do something very dramatic. To break through the apathy. Everybody was talking about things and not *doing* anything. Then management broke the code in our negotiating procedure.

We had to do something to let management know that we were really very serious about how we felt about the situation at Claybury Hospital and the National Health Service. And we wanted to do it without putting patients in danger.

All the nurses who took part were on days off or on their holidays. We had tried picketing the Area Health Authority before. The office is in a beautiful house in our grounds. But the pickets had no effect due to the isolated position of the building in the hospital grounds.

We decided to occupy the area health authority office. I was dragged out of bed to get there at seven in the morning. Only a few of us knew about it because we didn't want to let it filter back to management. There were about 8 of us.

We asked the cleaner if we

could come in and she refused. One of the office workers came in at 8am so we got in when she went in with a little hassle.

We immediately barricaded the doors—which were many, using the very expensive furniture. You go to one of our geriatric wards and see the difference.

We put a flag out the window which said something like 'This building is under occupation by student members of CoHS'.

These two women AHA workers were going hysterical. People kept coming in the doors. We decided we were too few to hold the building so we took over the switchboard room.

From there we stopped all the incoming and outgoing calls, explaining to people ringing up why the switchboard was occupied. It was a very effective piece of propaganda.

Most of the callers were sympathetic to us. Nurses on duty got together in the main building and sent down support and tea.

We occupied from 8am till noon. Then we left the building. That same day we went to the prize giving ceremony for nursing students from all the different hospitals in the area, which was conveniently held in our hospital.

We had placards and I was carrying a big red CoHSE banner. We walked into the assembly hall in silent protest. Much to the amazement of the hierarchy. The main slogan was '*Prizes today, the dole tomorrow.*'

When Claybury nurses were called for their prizes, one of them stood up and made a speech, saying he was refusing the prize and explaining why and what we were doing. And called on other members of CoHSE who were receiving prizes to walk out in protest immediately and the walk out followed.

That's really it. A few days later the eleven state enrolled nurses in question were employed.

The fight goes on for more money for our hospital because it's really being squeezed to death.'



Some of the GMWU women are confused. Their union have told them not to do anything.

But recently we got a phone call from dinner ladies in Burtonwood, Cheshire. One school is having 27 hours cut! So a member in our branch is having a meeting with them. See next month's *Womens Voice* for the result.

**Sadie Blood, NUPE shop steward, Newton-le-Willows**  
Our dispute started about eight months ago. We were working to staff guidelines set for 1952, and we found that women had to go in early or go home late to get the work done. It got to the stage where we couldn't cope.

We had more accidents—broken arms, broken legs, that sort of thing—just through rushing.

What they were doing was if say eight children stopped having dinners, they would cut 45 minutes off our time. When a new dishwasher came, they cut 8 hours.

Then there are convenience kitchens. They started them just over a year ago—frozen veg and all that. They cut about ten hours from the staff. For two months this was OK.

Then they asked the cook to start baking and that again. I suppose they found it was too dear. But they did this without increasing the hours again.

We had 13 or 14 meetings, but they refused to alter the staffing hours.

So we decided to start strike action. In Newton-le-Willows every Friday for the past three weeks we have picketed St Helens' Town Hall. Next week we will close four schools, and the week after that, four different schools. Twenty-three schools are affected.

We are getting quite good support from the teachers. They aren't allowing sandwiches to be brought in.

The trouble is that the General and Municipal Workers Union is refusing to support us in NUPE (National Union of Public Employees). The school welfare, that is the meals supervisors, are dishing out dinners and yet the dinner ladies are having their hours cut.

**Jenny Weinstein, Secretary, Weir Campaign Committee**  
The Weir Maternity Hospital in South West London is being occupied. Midwives who work there were told to find other jobs because it would be closing in July. Then all the protest started. The petitions, street meetings, marches, meetings.

The Area Health Authority were hoping that by July most of the staff would have found alternative employment, doctors would have stopped referring patients, the hospital would have been run down and the closure would be a fait accompli

But because there has been so much protest, people haven't tried to find other jobs and doctors are still sending patients.

The Community Health Council have submitted a document disagreeing with the closure. They say—quite rightly—that there won't be enough maternity provision if the Weir is closed.

The Campaign Committee has written to doctors offering more information, and we have received 15 replies so far.

We are hiring a coach to go to the Area Health Authority meeting where the closure will be discussed. That's 6 July at 3.30pm outside the Weir Hospital. Anyone in the area who wants to come to join the protest is welcome.



## NURSERY TUNES

Stop cutting our nurseries, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
stop cutting our nurseries and messing up our kids!

Spend more time with your children, dear people. Vote Labour;  
spend more time with your children—it's good for the home.

But you're cutting home building, Mrs Williams, Mrs Williams;  
you're cutting home building—we haven't all got one!

Then get out more dear people, dear people. Vote Labour;  
get out more and broaden your minds.

But you're cutting public transport, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
you're cutting the buses and raising the fares!

Take the kids to the rec. then dear people. Vote Labour;  
take the kids to the rec. then, it's laid on for free.

But the rec. bores them stupid, Mrs Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
the rec. bores them stupid, and supposing it rains?

Then leave them with a neighbour, dear people. Vote Labour;  
leave your kids with a neighbour, and give yourself a break.

But the neighbour's at the launderette, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
she's out at the launderette, and she's left hers with me!

Get some Valium dear people, dear people. Vote Labour  
take Valium dear people; stop worrying, take Valium!

But you've just cut our clinic, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
you've just cut our clinic, so where shall we get some?

Try the hospital dear people, dear people. Vote Labour;  
try the hospital dear people, dear people—*they'll* help.

But you're closing down the hospitals, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
you're closing down hospitals—Christain Scientists, Vote Labour!

But the country can't afford them, dear people, Vote Labour!  
the country can't afford them, and we must pay our way!

There's two million jobless, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
there's two million jobless—how are they going to pay?

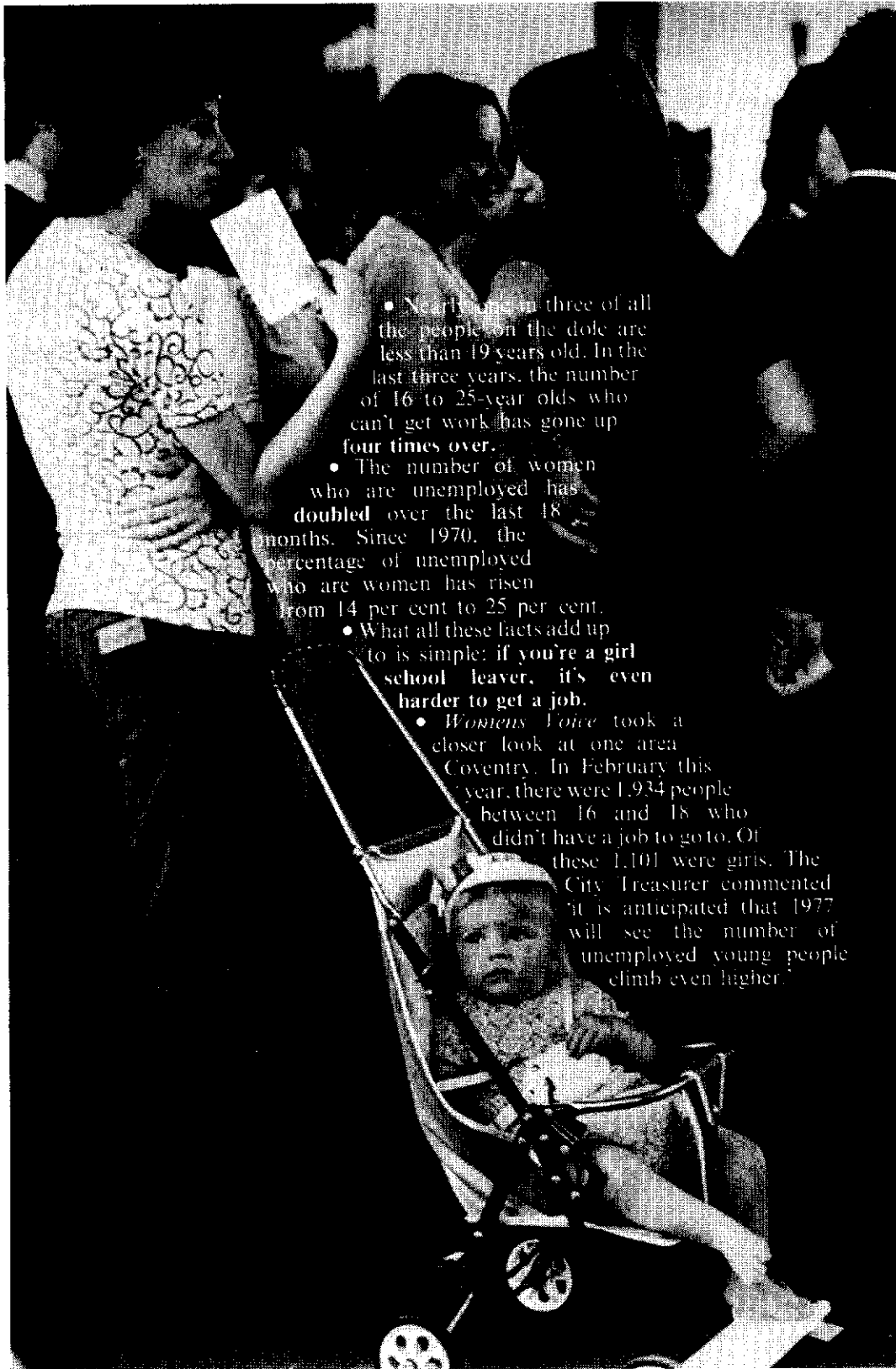
We can't all live off handouts, dear people. Vote Labour;  
you've no right to handouts, and there's still vacant posts.

Where's the nursery for our kids then, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
where's the nursery for our kids then—stop cutting our nurseries!!

O the country can't afford you, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Williams;  
the country can't afford you—take your cant and get out!!

(To the tune of 'There's a Hole in My Bucket')

Rip Bulkeley Oxford SWP



- Nearly one in three of all the people on the dole are less than 19 years old. In the last three years, the number of 16 to 25-year olds who can't get work has gone up four times over.

- The number of women who are unemployed has doubled over the last 18 months. Since 1970, the percentage of unemployed who are women has risen from 14 per cent to 25 per cent.

- What all these facts add up to is simple: if you're a girl school leaver, it's even harder to get a job.

- *Womens Voice* took a closer look at one area Coventry. In February this year, there were 1,934 people between 16 and 18 who didn't have a job to go to. Of these 1,101 were girls. The City Treasurer commented it is anticipated that 1977 will see the number of unemployed young people climb even higher.

I am one of the half million housewives who are not registered as unemployed. Being a housewife and forced by the system to stay at home I have been made to feel that I have no right to work when there are so many single women on the dole.

Housewives are made to feel guilty. Their husbands cannot or will not accept their right to work because they have been brought up to look on them as 'maintenance engineers'. The sole purpose is to maintain them as workers, their children and their homes, without payment either from them or the state.

We hear so much these days of scroungers. One person living off another. If that's a scrounger, then all housewives forced to stay at home are scroungers in every sense of the word. We are forced to live off our husbands because of the inadequacies of the system.

I live in Sunderland, a town which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. The Plessey factory is being closed down, the very factory I hoped to return to when my youngest child goes to school in September.

So housewives must all get together and show the strength of the workforce maintenance engineers and win the right to work!

That's why I'm going on the march.  
Edith Graham.

# One million women out of work

The official figure for unemployment amongst women is 400,000. The real figure is more like one million. Women who have paid the married women's stamp don't get dole money and don't register. So they don't appear on the official figures even though they want to work.

## Join the Right to Work March to the September Trades Union Congress, Blackpool.

Friday 2 September, Liverpool, to Tuesday 6 September, Blackpool.

If you want to go on the march tell your Womens Voice seller, or write direct

to the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## A WAGE RISE IS A PRICE CUT

'We breathe in artificial air and see in artificial light. You have to stand on a table if you want to see out.'

These are the conditions for packers at Sainsbury's depot in Basingstoke. Jackie Dorkin, who has worked as a packer for ten

years, continued, 'This is the first time in the ten years I have worked at Sainsburys that the production line have stuck out. We are not going to be beaten.'

The production line and warehouse workers at depots in

Basingstoke, Buntingford and Hoddersdon are on strike. Half of them are women.

They are striking for an extra £3.75 a week. The basic for packers on the production line is £33. The cutters get a basic of £39. (Only one of the three meat cutters on the picket line had a complete set of fingers. Sainsbury's going rate for a finger is £500 compensation.)

This wage claim would break the Social Contract—which is probably why the two unions involved—T&G and USDAW—are not making it official.

These Sainsbury's workers need extra money in their wage packets to keep up with the rising price of tea, coffee, and bread, etc, etc.

A picket of Sainsbury's in Reading turned delivery drivers away and leaflets were given out to all the shoppers explaining the reasons behind the strike.

Management retaliated by getting the shopworkers (who are not on strike) to come out and hold up placards saying the strike was unofficial etc.

But this backfired. Some passers by thought the shopworkers were also involved in the dispute. Other shoppers got very cross because management were suing the shopworkers to do management's dirty work. One shopper went in and complained to the manager. A few minutes later, he called all the shopworkers back inside!

*Womens Voice* readers should organise pickets outside Sainsburys around the country, with leaflets explaining why workers must fight for higher wages to compensate for rising prices. Raise collections and send the money to Sainsburys Strike Committee, Basingstoke Labour Club, Sandys Road, South Ham, Basingstoke, Hants.



picture: Phil McCowen



You don't often hear complaints about the rising price of venison for someone's sandwiches.

## STOP PRICE RISES

We got fed up with food prices rising. So the week after Sainsbury's announced profits of £26 million (£9 million more than last year), we decided to invade our local sainsburys.

We had planned to go in with a megaphone, march around, give out leaflets, put up posters.

But in the event we decided to just have about 8 of us go in and give out the leaflets to shoppers and talk to them. At the same time there were four people selling *Socialist Worker* outside the door.

The leaflet was short. The gist of it was 'Did you know that you have to spend £1.83 to buy the same amount of food that cost £1.00 a year ago? Did you know that Sainsbury's just announced £26 million profits



We can't force them to keep prices down two years of the social contract has shown that's not on. But we can fight for higher wages now £15 a week increase.

Those of us who took shopping baskets and kids with us stayed in the store between 25 and 40 minutes. The others got thrown out straight away.

Even though it wasn't as dramatic as we had planned, it was quite exciting. And the following week, sales of *Socialist Worker* went up from 14 to 20, and more housewives bought it.

The possibilities of similar action with Mothercare, Tescos, etc can be imagined. Why don't you try it?  
Jenny Jackson, Walthamstow WV

## OUR FUTURE TO FIGHT FOR

A few weeks ago 1600 C. A. Parsons workers received redundancy notices. You may have seen them on television, marching through Newcastle when Jimmy Carter came to town.

Sheena Murdoch's husband is one of those 1600. She talked to *Womens Voice* about the misery caused to her family by the threat of the dole queue:

'The worst thing is that the whole family will be uprooted because unemployment is so bad in the North-East.

'Bob has no chance of another job in this area, so we will have to leave. Our kids will have to leave their school and friends. I will have to give up my job.

'What makes it so daft is that we moved here from Bristol because they promised Bob a secure job. You see, we had three small children at the time, and I was pregnant again, and our future prospects in Bristol seemed dubious. Parsons assured Bob his long-term employ-

ment, and they paid our removal expenses!

'Then we couldn't believe it, four months later Bob was made redundant. It's so crazy, they paid for us to come up here and then that happened!

'All the men who had got redundancy notices marched into the managing directors

'They then had a work to rule, with occupations and sit-ins as well. Alex Glasgow and some local bands came down to entertain them—they got a lot of outside support. And in a few weeks they were all reinstated.

'This time it's not just to save the 1600 jobs. It's also the take-over of Parsons by Weinstock and GEC. In fact all the closures on Tyneside, some of them related to Parsons. I want there to be jobs for my children and other people's children on Tyneside. We've fought before and won. We can't give in to the Weinstocks of this world—they've pushed us around for long enough.'  
Norma Reid, Newcastle



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

**Women on the demonstration against the closure of Parsons. Women will lose their jobs, their husbands will lose jobs, their children will have no jobs to go to.**

## 'WE'RE NOT ON OUR OWN'



Picture: Phil McCowan

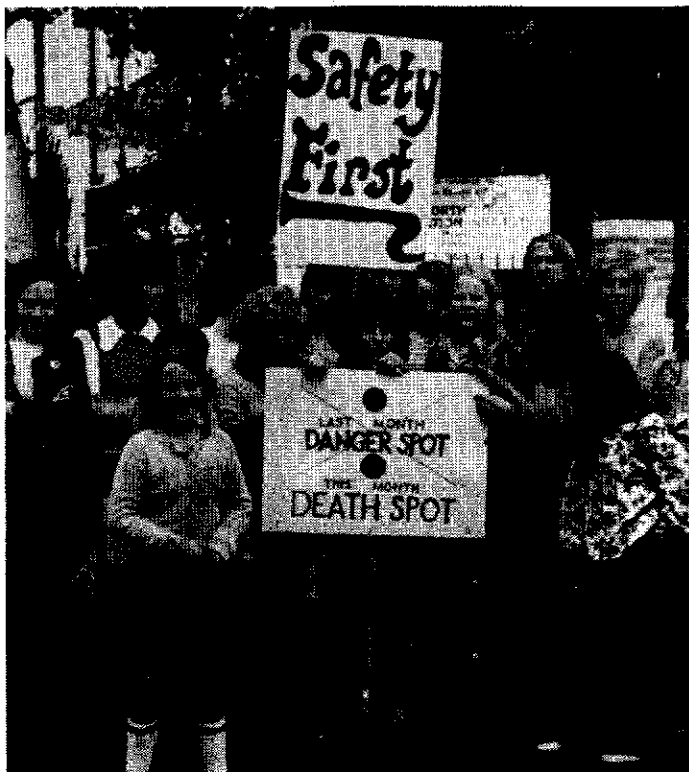
**Jaegers in Oxford Street, London. When a striker came down from Laird-Portch she discovered that the woman who sells the skirts she makes is badly paid too.**

The women at the Laird-Portch factory in East Kilbride returned to work at the beginning of June after a six week strike for equal pay.

Ellen Nicklin, the factory convenor writes: We came out on strike for job grading and that's what we got. They didn't give us any money, and they'll most probably try to negotiate us out of any, we're a bit sceptical. But the officials were delighted and we did get them to commit themselves in public to calling us out on official strike if the negotiations broke down.

A lot of the single women, the widows and divorced women found the strike very hard financially. But everyone had their problems. Some husbands don't like their wives busy all the time and would come down to the picket line and just say 'right, get up the road'

We were amazed at the support we got from other trade unions. We felt we weren't on our own any more. That gave us a lot of confidence. We must have had about 50 *Womens Voice* collection sheets, and lots of others just wrote and said they had read about the strike in *Socialist Worker*.



## A COST COUNTED IN LIVES

Beechings Way is a notoriously busy main road running through a housing estate in Tivvydale, Gillingham.

On one side of Beechings Way stand the three local schools and the shopping centre. Consequently half the children on the estate have to cross every day, and the road is regularly crossed by elderly people and women with prams. There is a lollypop person but no pedestrian crossing.

Last year an elderly man and an eight-year old boy were knocked down and killed in separate incidents. There was a spate of other accidents, one when a police car knocked down and seriously injured two women.

Three local women, Jo Daniels, Sheila Guy and Sheila Anderson decided they had had enough. They formed the Tivvydale Ladies Action Group and mounted a campaign for a Pelican crossing.

First they wrote to the Borough Engineer, but got no reply. Then they organised their first demonstration, on Tuesday June 17th. It was well attended and stopped the traffic for half an hour. Next day, lo and behold, arrived a letter from the Borough Engineer which said that after the first fatal accident a census had been done and it was decided a crossing was

not justified. However, since there had been a second death there would now be a further investigation. Such decisions are worked out according to criteria laid down by the Department of the Environment. They hold up the cost of installing a crossing against the number of accidents that have occurred.

'In other words, the women's action group told us, 'You had to go down there and get killed more often before they would do something'.

Their response to the letter was to organise right away for a second demonstration on the Thursday. This time support was tremendous, and they closed the road completely. Then Gillingham local councillors joined in the campaign. They took the matter to Kent County Council who turned it down. They organised a meeting on Beechings Way where the county surveyor could see the problem for himself, and listen to local opinion. After all these delays, the county councillors condescended 'to let their hearts rule their heads' and pass the matter to the Environment Department as a special case.

Now a further three months have passed. It is a year since the first demonstration. 'But they needn't think we're forgetting', say the women. 'We're going to press on.

## 'YOU BEAUTIFUL NALGO LADIES'

'I'm so glad to see all you beautiful and attractive ladies here . . . spread yourselves out so I can feast my eyes on all of you from the platform.' So saying, the President of the local Government workers union NALGO, began the first day of their annual conference, in June.

His comments are doubly insulting when what you see are about 100 women out of 1500 delegates in a union where women make up almost half the membership.

There was also one baby—the request for a creche had been ignored.

The officials too are nearly all men—branch officers, full time officers, and the National Executive. And worse, nearly all are men in highly paid, managerial jobs, when 70 per cent of the membership earn less than the national average wage.

It's their control over the union that ensures NALGO's continuing support for the social contract. Percentage increases and talk of restoring differentials which benefit the higher paid are music to their ears.

A lot of the low paid women just don't bother to get involved. But that is to lie down and allow yourself to be trampled into the ground. So we organised a *Womens Voice* meeting on the last evening of conference, to discuss the struggles for womens rights, and socialism, from Grunwicks and the EGA to the ways in which people were organising in their branches. 60 people came and there was a real feeling of comradeship between the men and women there, which contrasted sharply with the bickering and sniping, boyscout unchained, atmosphere of the conference.

Conference did give the green light to reorganise local branches into a shop stewards' system, which will mean clerks and typists being represented by clerks and typists, rather than managers.

Last word to one delegate from Leicestershire area who said 'married women working are creating unemployment'!

If you are a member of NALGO and not yet in touch with the NALGO Action Group which will fight for £15 now and women's rights contact us at 24b Haverstock Street, London, NI.

Cathy Bearfield, Hackney NALGO

## DUSTBIN BARRICADES

A group of mothers in Clayton Manchester have been fighting for two years to get their streets closed to traffic. Barbara Thomas and Anne Homer told *Womens Voice*: 'Cars use Howgill Street where we live, and the neighbouring streets, as a short cut to avoid traffic lights on the main road. We fought for six years, to get No Access signs on the streets because our children have nowhere else to play.

'Cars come tearing down the street and especially police cars. Soon one of our kids or an old person will be knocked down.

'We have had barricades up, and several demonstrations. For the last ten days we have been out in the wet and cold from three till six pm turning back cars. Some drivers are sympathetic, but some do it night after night and get abusive. We've called the police. They came for a couple of nights and booked the drivers.' One police inspector told Mrs Hower to 'keep her kids indoors. She asked him where his children played and he said 'I'm all right, we've got one and a half acres.' So I replied, 'Right, children get your coats on. You'll be all right there.' Now the Planning Department have told us we can leave our dustbins out to block the road until we get the bollards.'

Sandy Rose, Manchester.

**Remember all those press reports about scroungers and people living off the welfare state? One piece of information you won't have read is that 300,000 children did not claim the free school dinner they were entitled to during the last year. That's a saving for someone of £8.7 million on the free schools dinner budget.**

Why should a bloke in Whitehall sitting behind a desk tell us what we need down on Beechings Way? We live here and we know what we want and we don't care about any 'criteria'.

Already they have managed to have a playing field fenced to stop children running out into the road. And when the street lighting was turned off as part of the public expenditure cuts, they protested and the lights were swiftly restored.

The council say they cannot afford to make a crossing within

permission. Yet meanwhile plans go ahead for a prestigious sports centre costing millions. How can anyone justify this kind of priority? How many more people will be injured or killed before they can 'afford' to do something? The women who live near Beechings Way have learned a bitter lesson. 'You can't rely on other people to do things for you. If you feel something strongly enough then you must get up and do something about it.'

By Marjorie Hawkins.

picture: Phil McCowen



## O'HALLORAN DEBAGGED?

Remember the National press coverage when Womens Voice picketed the surgery of Michael O'Halloran—headlines referring to 'North London boot boys—MP KO'd by mob—MP knocked unconscious etc? Of course we didn't touch him; who would?

But the saga goes on—Michael O'Halloran now claims in a statement to his Islington North constituency party that he was, 'Kicked and badly bruised, and my trousers ripped to pieces. I was finally rescued by some of those attending the meeting upstairs and by Chief Superintendent Hanson of the Holloway 'N' Division police.'

To even the most trusting of people who might have some misplaced belief in the honesty of our MPs it must seem more than slightly odd that no arrests followed this so-called attack even though there were several members of the

local police force on the premises.

Our local *Womens Voice* group was so angry at the blatant lies in the national press that we decided to lodge a complaint with the Press Council. Since then we have learnt that the version of the 'incident' that was taken up by the press was phoned in by a reporter on the Islington Gazette, who, by chance, happens to be a Labour Party Councillor from a neighbouring borough!

It certainly shows how 'useful' it is to have friends in Fleet Street. And it shows just how far MPs will go when under pressure from local constituents.

With the Beynon Bill now getting dangerously near to being made law we must get more local people to show that they will not put up with such a blatant infringement of personal liberty by a handful of bigoted MP's.

**Abortion on demand. This principle was carried at a conference of delegates of the Parti Quebecois in Montreal, Canada, in May. Premier Rene Levesque, who leads the party, immediately announced that the government would not consider itself bound by the resolution.**

## CATHOLIC JUBILEE

A new abortion bill has been defeated by two votes in the Italian Parliament. The bill was first carried in the Lower House four months ago. Even though it didn't give abortion on demand it did mean an end to the old fascist law, which doles out prison sentences for any woman who commits a 'crime against the race'.

The Catholic Church and its party the Christian Democrats are jubilant. The sanctity of the family, and the repressive laws and ideas that go with it, are preserved. If it were to crack their power would be threatened and with it the whole

structure of bribery, corruption and backwardness that has governed Italy for the last 30 years.

That's why the women's movement has made such a huge impact in the last four years, and why abortion has become one of the most explosive political issues in Italy.

Since the defeat the women's movement and the radical party have begun to campaign again for a referendum to give free abortion on demand. Yet the Communist Party and the revolutionary socialists in Parliament have decided to represent the same inadequate law.

'Bullying queers is fun because they don't fight back'. This certainly seems to be the motto of the police who have recently gone to town with mass interrogations of homosexuals in Bradford, Cornwall, Evesham and Belfast, following the pattern set by centuries of State persecution throughout the world.

Twenty one years ago a similar campaign, again in Evesham, led to three suicides. For gay people, the first step towards resisting the everyday insults, the bullying and the beatings, is to 'come out'—to openly say 'that's me you're talking about'. Until homosexual women

and men are able to be openly gay, most of the violence, discrimination and pain will stay hidden.

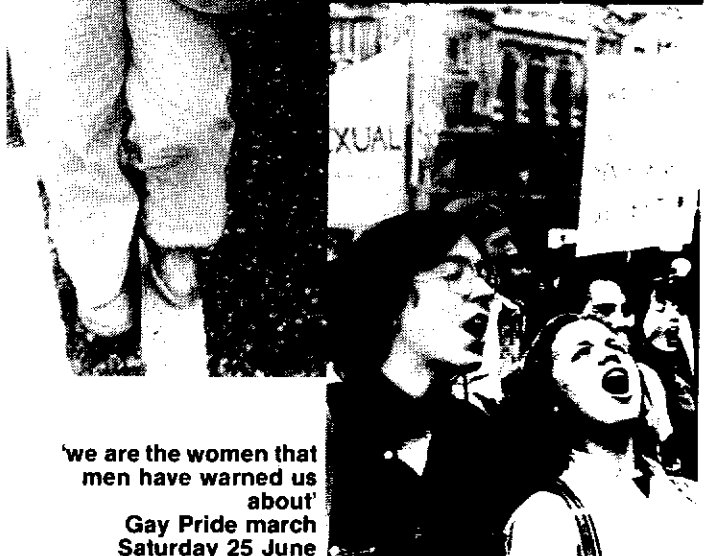
The Gay Pride March on June 25 was not large by most standards but it was a massive and magnificent display of defiance. It allowed thousands of gay and non-gay women and men to show their contempt for a system which dares to interfere in peoples' right to have relationships with others as they want to. It emphasised once again that Gay is Good and Gay is *Free*.

Out of the closet and into the streets!

## GAY PRIDE!



picture: John Starock (Report)



**'we are the women that men have warned us about'  
Gay Pride march  
Saturday 25 June**

We'll take your case to arbitration.  
So we took it there, and lost,  
And then we looked round to count the cost.

We're all washed up and got the blues,  
While brother Jack counts our union dues.  
But I know I have been a fool,  
For the union acts like a governor's tool.  
They always say 'Get back to work,  
Good trade unionists never shirk',  
But if the officials were paid for what they do,  
They could not afford their union dues.

Jack said, 'Girls you must be meek.  
And later on you will reap  
A rich reward when you're in heaven  
But until then you're in grade seven'.

So we're not waiting for the lord to welcome us aboard,  
We girls must pick ourselves up and fight,  
If we want our equal rights.  
We'll build a bond stronger than before,  
And get back there outside the door.  
If you think about those who have the wealth,  
It proves God helps them who help themselves.

By Joan Penfold, Shop steward, Yardleys, Basildon



# THE BALLAD OF UNEQUAL PAY

I worked at Yardleys in '73,  
When a Union Man came up to me.  
He said come and join the T and G.  
And all their praises he did sing,  
He said they will get you everything.  
So we listened to his views,  
And went to pay our union dues.  
But soon our hopes had all faded,  
We found they had us all downgraded.

Then brother Fred said, 'Now girls don't fret,  
The union hasn't finished yet.  
I'm sending you on a tribunal,'  
He meant he was sending us to our own funeral.  
The girls left the place in tears,  
At the incompetence of brother Sears.

So we went outside the gate,  
Determined to settle our own fate.  
Whilst out there we soon found  
Mincelegs came to do us down.  
Then along came brother Ron Todd,  
For when he spoke we thought he was God.



## Eastern Europe: are women liberated?

'Inspired by the great creative tasks facing the country, young girls went to work at the construction sites of the five year plans. They built hydro-electric power stations, heavy industry enterprises, and played their part in strengthening collective agriculture. Joint labour raised the relations between men and women to a higher level and strengthened their feeling of comradeship and collectivism'.

This is the official view of women—typical of the propaganda that comes out of Russia and Eastern Europe. It paints a picture of a happy lady in 'a boiler suit carrying her spanner and controlling her destiny.

Reality is rather different.

Over 90 per cent of women go out to work in Russia. It is claimed that this liberates them. But a recent document from a dissident group in Czechoslovakia looks at it another way.

They say 'There is in Czechoslovakia a high level of employment for women, but the majority of women do not work from a longing for a fuller life and independence, but under economic pressure from sheer necessity.'

Just as in Britain the Equal Pay Act did not mean equal earnings for women, so in Eastern Europe the formal laws granting equality do not mean that equality exists. In Czechoslovakia women earn on average less than 30 per cent of what men do. The figure is similar for other East European countries.

And as the Czech document points out 'The social situation of women is also made worse by the systematic neglect of the development of services of all kinds.' Social services like nurseries are totally inadequate to fit the needs of working women. In Russia 12 per cent of

children get nursery places, in Czechoslovakia 10 per cent, in Poland 15 per cent. Grannies are still the standard babysitters for working women.

In the absence of state help, you might expect the new 'socialist' men to help out. Again propaganda claims that they do. But a survey of working women in Moscow and nearby towns showed that less than half of husbands helped their wives to bring up the children, about a third helped with the cooking, and only a sixth helped with the laundry. Housework is still seen as women's work.

But it doesn't stop there. Moral attitudes towards women are bad too. According to official propaganda prostitution, venereal disease and pornography are all part and parcel of capitalist society. If they occur in Eastern Europe they are 'survivals of the past' and not part of today's society. They do exist but generally no-one ever talks about them. A Lithuanian newspaper blew the story recently because it was so concerned at the extent of the problem.

Infecting another person with VD is a criminal offence in Lithuania.

One 26 year old woman was detained for treatment and charged with having infected six men. She got 6 years in prison and was fined 2,300 roubles (about £1,600). Presumably the men got off free.

But, it's not just that housework is seen as women's work, and that official morality is loaded against women. The way that women are treated in any society stems from the position that they occupy in the family. In Russia and Eastern Europe that is alive and kicking in its traditional form.

After the revolution in 1917 all kinds of measures were

introduced to try and revolutionise the family and liberate women. But that has all changed now. As a recent Russian book about women says, 'Concern for the family resting on the principles of communist morality is defined in the Soviet Laws as a cardinal task of the Soviet State.'

Measures are being introduced to make sure that women and men pair up efficiently and breed for 'socialism'. Matchmaking, a practise that has been outlawed since the Revolution is being reintroduced.

A recent issue of the 'Literary Gazette' carried an advertisement for 'a single man 48, five feet five inches tall' who wanted to meet a 'blond woman under 35'. Also an ad from a 32 year old divorced woman with a child who wanted a man—one who doesn't drink.

In its next issue the magazine announced that more than 2,000 replies had been received.

**'You know any English woman wouldn't put up with the life that women do in Poland. We couldn't stand it. The men never lift a finger round the house. All the food queues are women. It's terrible'**

**Rose Gadusky an engineering worker from Letchworth after her first visit to Poland last year.**

All these facts show how far removed the claims about liberation are from reality. Women go out to work because they have to. They do two jobs, because the state does not provide social services. Men's attitudes are far from revolutionary, and the family is deeply entrenched.

Does this mean therefore that the Revolution in Russia failed women, that socialism is not the way forward for women's liberation?

Some feminists have used the example of eastern Europe to justify their claims that socialism is not the way forward. They point to the failures and say they prove that the male dominated socialist left cannot achieve women's liberation.

Others chiefly members of the Communist Party, defend present day Eastern Europe. They admit that not every thing is perfect and say that laws on their own cannot bring full equality for women. But they do claim that the conditions for

women's liberation exist. As the new draft of the Communist programme says 'existing socialist countries have ended legal and economic discrimination against women'.

There is neither women's liberation nor socialism in Eastern Europe. There was a workers' revolution in Russia in 1917 which briefly established socialism. It was sparked off by a demonstration of women textile workers in Petrograd. And women's interests were reflected in the laws that gave them full equality, in the setting up of communal eating places, laundries, nurseries. Groups of people formed communes and tried to explore relationships outside the traditional family.

But poverty, civil war, starvation and demoralization defeated the workers' revolution. The revolution failed—and with it women's liberation. Capitalism regained control in Russia and was later instituted in Eastern Europe too.

Women were forced out to work not for their liberation, but to build up industry in order to compete with western capitalism. Vast sums of money were spent on arms. Little was spent on nurseries. Official propaganda claimed that the wholesale mobilization of women into the factories and the cornfields was the proof of their liberation. In fact it was merely a drive to get the whole adult population to work for the five year plans.

Today the economic system in eastern Europe is run in competition with Western industry. That means that laundries take second place to machine plant, factories are built before homes.

There is neither women's liberation nor socialism in Eastern Europe.

**Anna Paczuska**



**'A nice hair-do surely makes a woman happy'**  
Photo and caption from Soviet Women an official Soviet publication published in 1975.

# UNION VOICE

# APEX

Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and  
Computer Staff

22 Worple Road, London SW19

01 947 3131

	men	women
Membership	63451	78315
Executive members	13	2
National Officials	5	1

I am a temporary office worker, employed by an agency which hires me out by the hour to other employers. Each week I fill in a time sheet and the agency pays me a week later for the hours I do. My usual hourly rate is 90p but sometimes I get less.

I am a member of APEX—Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs—but the vast majority of agency workers are not in Unions.

The trade union movement as a whole is strongly opposed to agency workers—and not without good reason. Because they are not union members, agency workers undermine union organisation wherever they work. When unemployment is low and office workers in short supply—as was the case in London a few years ago—agency workers are used to keep wages down.

If an employer wants more staff, it is cheaper to pay the high fees charged by the agencies for a few temps than to increase pay across the board in order to attract more staff.

Agency workers have often been used to break strikes. The arguments against them are not much different than the arguments against the lump (contract workers) in the building industry. A temporary workforce is near impossible to organise and it is difficult to establish standards of pay and conditions.

For a long time the TUC has been pressing the government to abolish agencies—but without considering the needs of the temps who work for them. Working for an agency does have its advantages—the main one being that you can take days off more or less when you want, and up to a point you can arrange your working hours to suit yourself.

This means a lot of mothers can work for agencies when they would not otherwise be able to get a job; they can fit in their working day with school times and stay at home during holidays. It makes it easier for students to get work in their holidays—many people don't realise that student's grants are only meant to keep them during term-time.

Labour exchanges have always dealt with temporary vacancies, and now more and more of them are running a special 'temps' register—not only for office jobs but for catering, nursing, factory jobs and all sorts. If the labour exchange places you in a temporary job, you are employed directly by the organisation you are working for. You get the same rate for the job as the permanent workers and no-one's taking a cut. Obviously this is better for all concerned, but not many employers use this service.

Trade unionists whose employers use agency staff should demand that the bosses go to the labour exchange for their temps instead of agencies. This is especially important in the public sector, since it is your money and mine that the civil service and local authorities are pouring into the agencies' coffers.

Better still would be for public services, and other large employers such as the banks, to maintain their own pools of flexible part-time labour—this would at least give temporary workers a better chance of joining unions and taking an active part in them.

Education authorities already do this with 'supply' teachers—there's no such thing as a teacher's agency—yet health authorities spend thousands and thousand of pounds

on agency nurses—money that should be spent on giving permanent nurses a decent salary!

A few years ago, local authority workers took industrial action in support of a claim for increased London Weighting. Part of their action was non-cooperation with agency staff. At that time, agency temps were not only covering for holidays and sick leave, but were covering permanent vacancies—employers know that agency staff are expendable and don't have to be given redundancy pay.

In the meantime, the people who work for the agencies are getting a raw deal, and the unions don't give a damn. It is the agencies and the bosses who use them that they should be attacking, but all too often individual temps are victimised by the trade union members they work with.

More temps should be encouraged to join APEX, or the clerical sections of the Transport and General Workers Union or the General and Municipal Workers Union, which both accept temps as members. Then we could begin to organise and make our voices heard.

We would be able to demand nationally agreed pay scales—as it is, the agencies just pay as little as they can get away with. We would be able to demand holiday and sick pay, and travelling expenses. We would be able to negotiate proper contracts that give us more protection and security.

If you are a temp and want to start organising, please get in touch with me, so we can get together.

Sue Spicer, APEX, Brighton. 26b West Hill Rd, Brighton, Sussex.



Picture: Robert Goldén

What  
causes thrush?  
And what can be done  
to cure it? Is it just one of  
those diseases from which women suffer?  
Why doesn't the medical profession find a cure?

## VAGINAL INFECTIONS

As with any part of the body, there are many diseases which can affect the vagina. Some of these are venereal—that means, caught through sexual contact. Many are not. The non-venereal vaginal diseases are very common, and although they do not have such serious consequences as untreated VD, they can be very uncomfortable and annoying.

Also, because these diseases only affect women, there is not very much research done into their causes and cures. Many doctors regard having some sort of vaginal irritation, as long as it is not VD, as more or less a normal and inevitable part of being female.

All women have some vaginal discharge. It helps to keep the vagina moist and clean, and is a natural protection against disease-causing organisms. The amount of the normal vaginal discharge changes with your menstrual cycle, and can also be affected by your emotional state, sexual arousal, and some types of drugs.

This discharge is slightly sugary—which means that disease-causing organisms can grow in it. As the body's own defence against this, there are healthy bacteria called lactobacilli. These bacteria break down the sugar and change it into a weak acid called lactic acid. This acts to kill the germs since most disease-carrying organisms are at a disadvantage in acid surroundings.

If you have a sore vagina, an irritating discharge or an unpleasant smell, there is something wrong. If a doctor tells you there is nothing wrong what he or she should say is, 'I don't know what is wrong'. A discharge on its own, unless it is so heavy as to cause discomfort, is not necessarily a sign of anything the matter.

There are two main non-venereal vaginal infections, thrush and trichomonas. Thrush is probably the most common and has other names (monilia, candida, 'Yeast', 'fungus'). It is caused by a tiny fungus, candida albicans. This fungus may be found in a healthy vagina in small numbers. But if for some reason the normal balance of the vaginal fluid is upset, there may be an increase in the number of candida and this causes irritation and discharge. The main symptom is a terrible itching, and this may be the only symptom present. There may also be some heavy white discharge; a burning feeling before, during or after urination, and pain during sex.

The lactobacilli in the vagina keep these fungi at bay. If they are weakened, the fungi can grow too fast. The lactobacilli may be damaged by taking antibiotics. The level of hormones in the body also affect the acidity of the vagina. This is why some women are more prone to thrush when they are on the pill, or pregnant, or just before and during menstruation. At these times the level of the hormone oestrogen is changed; the vagina is less acid, and so the fungi find it easier to survive.

The most common medicines prescribed for thrush are Nystatin

and Canesten. They are fungicides (ie they kill fungi), and can be used in the form of cream or pessaries.

Trichomonas (or 'trich') is caused by a trichomonad, a tiny organism that feeds on other cells. Once again, these are organisms that may live quite harmlessly in the vagina of some women without causing any bother.

Once again the main symptom is soreness, itching and discharge. It may hurt to pass water, and the vagina may be a bit redder than usual. But the only way to tell which disease is present is to have your doctor do a swab, that is, take some of the fluid from your vagina with a swab and have it analysed in a laboratory.

Like the fungus candida, the trichomonad prefers to live in a less acid environment. But unlike candida, it is definitely known that trich is passed on by sexual contact. It can also survive in the open for a while, in a warm moist place, so it can be passed on through towels and lavatories if you are very unlucky.

The most common form of treatment is Flagyl. This is taken by mouth and must be obtained by prescription. All sexual partners of anyone who has trichomonas must also be treated with Flagyl.

The problem is that all these drugs, while they may help all sufferers in the short run, still seem to leave many women with painful and very annoying vaginal conditions which come back over and over again. It is possible that these recurring cases have something to do with the woman being run down, emotionally upset, or with the quality of her sex life.

All the doctors know for certain is that *anything* that alters the acidity of the vagina makes you more susceptible to thrush and trichomonas. What is not very well understood is just *how* tiredness, stress, and emotional upsets affect your hormone levels, and hence the rest of your body.

It is not likely that doctors who practice as members of a male-dominated middle class establishment will put much effort into finding the cure for a condition that affects mainly ordinary women. Furthermore, if they do suspect that the cure lies not in some form of wonder drug but in lowering the amount of stress that women have to live under, then their high stake in keeping us all in our places in the present system will make them blind themselves to any further discoveries.

This is why womens self-help groups can be important in tackling some of the medical problems that affect only women. If any readers have had experiences of these groups, WV would be glad to hear about them, and whether they helped you with your helath problems.

Mel Bartley

Researched by Essex Road Womens Centre Health Group.



# Mrs Desai once worked at Grunwicks. For 10 months she has been on a picket line determined to win the right to belong to a union.

Mrs Jayaben Desai came to Britain eight years ago from Tanzania in East Africa. She is forty-four years old and married with a young family. Over the months of the Grunwick dispute she has spoken for the strikers at many meetings, and conferences, including the Working Womens Charter Conference in May. Mrs Desai is treasurer of the strike committee. As the mass picketing outside Grunwicks finally brought this long strike to a head Mrs Desai spoke to John Rose of the bitter experiences she had there, before she and two hundred workers walked out last summer.

I can hardly begin to describe how bad things were inside this factory. First the wages were appalling.

We took home £25 for a forty-hour week. We were made to work compulsory overtime, sometimes with only five minutes notice, which is impossible when you have a family. Then inside we were treated badly. If you didn't keep up the speed you were sacked. Mothers could not take their sick children to the doctor because they wouldn't give you any time off. Always they said you would be sacked if you disobeyed orders. One lady, who was pregnant, was told she could not go to the clinic during the working week, although there is no other time you can go. You even had to put up your

hand to ask to go to the toilet.

Ward, the managing director, relied on a man called Malcolm Olden to do his dirty work. He is the man who now drives the bus bringing the scabs to work. He is an out and out racist.

He used to come round with the wage packets and throw them at us as though we were dogs. He used to tell us how lucky we were to earn such a lot of money.

He thought we were all stupid. He insisted we listen to English music because he said it would make us all work harder. When we asked for either no music or Indian music he regarded it as sheer audacity. 'I'll decide the music,' he would say.

'You're working on the machines' He thought we were like machines.

Mrs Desai has been arrested several times on the picket line. She has been singled out for special abuse by Ward and his followers.

On one occasion Olden was standing and abusing her outside the gate. A policeman had his back to both of them. Olden then claimed he had been assaulted by Mrs Desai and the policeman dutifully arrested her.

An accountant who has quit Grunwicks in the last few weeks, Rasheed Mohamed, confirms both that Olden is a racist and that the management of this sweatshop have behaved like dictators. 'I

remember the day I was taken down to the police and named Mrs Desai as a terrorist. He then came back into the factory and told us he had asked Mrs Desai if she had shaved her moustache off. He thought it was a great joke and he was very proud of himself.

In spite of all the beating and the abuse Mrs Desai and her comrades are standing firm.

'We will not back down now,' she says. 'We want to bring this factory to a stand-still. Our fight is for all our rights, and for our dignity. We hope all trade unionists will stand by us.'



Stella Brown

**A New World for Women;**  
Stella Browne -  
Socialist Feminist  
(Pluto Press £1.50)

THIS is a book about Stella Browne who lived between 1882 and 1955. It tells about her fight as a socialist and a feminist. She thought it very important that not only should we fight as socialist women for a change in the ownership and control of workplaces and production, but also that women should be able to control reproduction and their own bodies. She believed that women could be fully 'equal' by being financially and socially independent, and that this would be accompanied by a strengthening and deepening of sexual relationships and love between men and women.

Writing in 1917 Stella Browne connected the demand for birth control and abortion to a whole series of changes women's position which included co-operative house-keeping schemes, good housing, a national health service, better maternity provisions, legal changes in the bastardy law and laws on separation and divorce, and national education with sex instruction. She was a member of the Communist Party until 1923 when she left because of differences over birth control and abortion. For the Communist Party these demands were seen as unimportant, or at best humane reforms to alleviate the lot of working class women. For Stella Browne they were a central part of fighting women's oppression.

During 1923, she toured the South Wales coalfields giving meetings relating birth control to housing, education and unemployment, and giving information about contraception to working class women. The Workers Birth Control Group was formed in 1924 and the women campaigning for birth control produced the slogan 'It's four times more dangerous to bear a child than to work in a coal mine'. In actual fact in the 1920s 39,000 women, mainly working class, died in childbirth in England and Wales.



Stella always related the situation here to the struggles abroad, to the savage repression in France, the retraction of fundamental women's rights under Stalin in Russia, and the constant propaganda among German socialists. In the 1930s she shifted her efforts to the legalisation of abortion. Between 1926 and 1935 about 500 women died every year from backstreet abortions. She made it clear, however, that she was campaigning on 'a woman's right to choose' not as many others, on a 'control of population' or 'unfit to have children' platform.

In 1936 the Abortion Law Reform Association was formed, and a district nurse from the North of England wrote: 'Poor women live under the spell of fear and are always trying to get themselves right. Working women want abortions. Why should not the poor have it? Let the poor have what the rich have already got.' For Stella Browne, abortion, like contraception, was essential for women's control over their bodies, but other supporters of abortion did not see it like that, but as a social means of reducing maternal deaths.

This book is important,

because what Stella Browne believed and fought for is still as crucial today as it was then. We may have contraception—it still isn't foolproof. We may have better facilities for abortion—they have to be constantly fought for. The role of the oppressed woman is still very apparent—you have only to look at the tired worried faces going round the supermarkets to know that vast numbers of women still feel frustrated, discontented and in a void, knowing that they are capable of far more than they are ever given a chance to show or do. Because of their economic dependence, and their emotional and sexual needs, these women will simmer below the surface and then erupt. This book draws our attention to and illustrates the combined needs of working class women.

But the book also illustrates how the whole socialist feminist movement in the 1920s and 1930s was dominated by middle class intellectual women, and I'm sure that a lot more would have been learnt and won by integrating and working more with working class women.

Jean Lewis

Play to aid  
cuts campaign:  
That's  
Double Shift

'I liked it very much, it was funny and also sad. It is about women and nurseries. It's about the cuts and the Trades Council. It shows an argument between the women who are losing their jobs as nursery nurses and the Trades Council. There is a lot of singing in it and the costumes are very good.'

That's Counteract's play 'The Double Shift' seen through the eyes of a 16 year old girl. It starts just after the War with the optimism of 'There'll be nurseries all over, from Scotland to Dover, Tomorrow women will be free,' and takes us through what's actually happened since then as it affects women both as mothers and workers. It spells out what happens to women on their own with small children, who can't get out, and how they are treated when they try to get their children into nurseries or get jobs as nursery nurses (if you don't finish the course, you have to pay back your fees).

It shows how pressure is put on people not to apply for nursery places—after all, they are for 'inadequate people who can't cope with their own children, you're not inadequate, are you?' Most important of all it finishes up after a strongly Trades Council meeting with the women who are trying to save a nursery from the chop calling on all those interested to start a fighting campaign which doesn't rely on the Labour MP or the Trades Council chairman who keeps looking at his watch.

It lasts 80 minutes (but they also do a 45-minute version) and I saw it at a meeting called by Southwark Trades Council which has set up a nursery and now a wider play care campaign and wants to make contact with anyone involved in campaigns or activity around care of children.

Contact:  
Southwark Trades Council:  
Linda Smith, 41 Camberwell  
Grove, London S.E.5.  
Counteract: 27 Clerkenwell  
Close London EC1R OAT  
(251 4977).  
Nina and Mary Phillips

WOODIE  
GUTHRIE'S  
DUSTBOWL

A LOT of the time when people talk of the hungry thirties it seems like a long time ago. It really isn't a long time ago.

Bound for Glory is about Woodie Guthrie, American folk singer and poet of those times—when even the soil was so exploited it gave up. His songs are still young.

Guthrie drew his inspiration from the pains and struggles of migrant farm workers, lured in their thousands to California in the mid-thirties. He never gave up on them, even when black-mailed by the radio companies to change his material. His wife couldn't take it. The hard times, sitting huddled and hungry while a dust storm blew through the house, stayed too much with her.

The system does its best to destroy people like Woodie Guthrie, and Bob Dylan after him. Sometimes it kills the singer but the songs live on. Go and see Bound for Glory for a real shot in the arm.

Judith Condon.

Useful  
Games

AS A teacher, I am always trying to find interesting ways of putting ideas across to kids. As part of our Community Rights course at school we have used two games which have gone down very well. Some parents have shown interest in buying these games, as they are much more useful than Monopoly or Chuedo.

The first one is Snakes and Ladders—the Social Security Game. It was devised by the Camden Community Law Centre and is designed to teach kids their rights in relation to Social Security Benefits. It is played just like Snakes and Ladders, but contains information on social security benefits: for example 'Discovered Co-Habiting—go back to 19' or 'Husband on strike, wife makes successful claim—go to 70'. We all have had bad experiences of trying to find our way round the red tape that surrounds claiming any benefit, and I think this game is useful in teaching us

all our rights.

The second game is called **Resettlement** and aims to give some idea of the problems and difficulties faced by the Ugandan Asians as they went through the process of finding a home, getting a job, and so on. It is not fair, and chance plays a large part as it does in real life. It is played in pairs and each pair is a family whose aim is to get a home, a job and a school for their kids. All these are represented on different cards. If you land on the 'Stateless' square, you have to face all the difficulties of gaining right of entry to Britain. I found this a very valuable game and a lot of the kids got totally involved in it, and were much more sympathetic to the problems of immigrants than they had been.

Both games are available from: Advisory Service, Community Service Volunteers, 237 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9NJ Tel: 01-278 6601. Price, Resettlement 80p, Snakes and Ladders 50p. **Alison Kirton, North London**

### Some new books of interest

There have been a whole number of books published recently that Women's Voice readers might like to know about.

**Catching Them Young** by Bob Dixon (Pluto Press £1.80) is about the ways ideas are forced on children through comics and books. Volume 1 deals with Sex and Race and Class in children's fiction, while Volume 2 explains how the ideas of the ruling class, those who control the way society runs, are made to seem natural and right in children's fiction. Pluto have also published **Socialism and the New Life** by Sheila Rowbotham and Jeff Weeks (£1.80), which is about Edward Carpenter and Havelock Ellis—two pioneers in the field of sexual politics. They raised questions about the connections between personal and sexual life and political change which still need to be answered.

From Virago, the feminist publishers, have come two autobiographies of feminists of the early twentieth century. **The Hard Way Up** (£1.75) is about Hannah Mitchell, who was a working class suffragette and socialist. **The Tamarisk Tree** (Virago £1.95) is about Dora Russell, who lived and worked with the early campaigners for birth control, maternity leave and the vote. Two expensive books from Tavistock Social Science Publications, who have a new series on women. **Women and the Welfare State** by Elizabeth Wilson (£2.20) is heavy — it's peppered with quotes from Marx, Althusser and the like—but it's an important book for people concerned about the theory of welfare policy. She argues that the importance of the welfare state for capitalism is in promoting and maintaining a particular form of the family. **Women at Work** (£2.20) is a disappointment—it doesn't really go any further than the CIS report **Women Under Attack**, and that only costs 45p.

### LOOK OUT!

**Womens Voice is holding a competition to find the most popular book of 1977. All you have to do is write down the name of the book, and who wrote it. Then tell us why you like it, and post it to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 to arrive by 1 September. First prize: A booktoken worth £3.**

### As it was

**Life as We Have Known It** by Co-operative working women. Edited by Margaret Llewelyn Davies, Virago. First published 1977

THIS book is about the lives of women working inside and outside their homes in the early part of the twentieth century. The best thing about it is that the women themselves do the talking. In

their own words they describe the work they did as children and adults and their experience of childbirth and marriage.

The strongest thing that comes out is the way in which the women become stronger as they work together. Some talk of the need to join trade unions, nearly all of them describe how frightened they were when they first spoke in public and how quickly they came to have confidence in themselves through their activities.

But as members of the Women's Co-operative Guild, there is little that Womens Voice readers can learn from their struggles. Their organisation was limited—they merely tried to make their lives a little better in the world as they found it. They saw no way of shaking the foundations of that world to create a totally new society.

Despite this, if you are interested in reading the words of working women in earlier years, get your library to order a copy, or spend the £1.25 to buy one. **Sandy Kondos**



How life began for the women who write in *Life as We Have Known It*.

# YOUR VOICE

## Now about orgasms...

Dear WV

I found the review in *Womens Voice* number 6 alarming because it seemed to accept a basic idea that we can do without men and indeed that a woman can get satisfaction better on her own. The article never really got to grips with what's behind it all.

Surely, the question we should be asking is, why does it seem that solitary wanking is preferable to sexual intercourse? Why is the 'so-called vaginal orgasm' as the article puts it so infrequent? What makes so many women frustrated by their inability to come when they fuck?

The answer is not at all complex or mystical. In the society we live in, most girls (and boys) are brought up in cramped conditions, sharing rooms, never able to relax or have any privacy. There is simply no question of full, satisfying human relationships—more a sort of humourless desperation about everything (got to get to work on time, mustn't miss school, got to have meals at a certain time, get the washing, cleaning, ironing done).

There's no time for conversation, relaxation, sex, playing with the children, going out, except on special occasions when it's allowed (like public holidays, jubilees etc—no wonder a lot of people welcomed the jubilee: it gave them a bit of time off). Sex has to fit in with a timetable like everything else. It's usually only possible at night, with one particular other person, for a limited time because you may both be worn out by the demands put on you in the daytime, or for teenagers a quick bang through in the back of a car or down the bottom of the flats. And of course, the children may be sick, or get up and want nappies changing or start playing with matches, or interrupt which puts a lot of people off, especially if they already feel useless.

Capitalism smashes all personal relationships, wherever it can. We have to fight that. We have to say we don't believe that all kinds of different orgasms are impossible, any more than

we believe that you can't 'have it' under water just because we ourselves haven't actually had it under water.

We have to fight to ensure that after the socialist revolution all heterosexual and homosexual encounters stop being what a five year old I know described as 'the bum bum game I'm not playing it when I grow up, it's boring.' Bloody hell! If women don't stop letting themselves be dominated and start exploring and questioning things for themselves perhaps we'll give up sex and all other human activity and the human race will die out. Let's fight for a society built on solidarity, not solitude.

Mary Phillips,  
South London.

Dear WV,

It would be a pity if the article on Women and Orgasm in the last issue of *Womens Voice* were to be the first and last word on this aspect of sexual politics.

If, as the figures suggest, many women are leading unsatisfactory sexual lives then we can either hope this will change in some magical way under socialism—when we will supposedly be able to talk freely about our sexual lives—or we can begin, here and now, to sow the seeds of change.

Dear WV,

I was very pleased to see *Womens Voice* taking up the issue of female sexuality in your article on the female orgasm (W.V. 6). One aspect of female sexuality that your article overlooked however, is that of lesbianism. The article made it perfectly clear that the concept of the 'vaginal orgasm' is a masculine idea and that it is quite possible for women to have sexual satisfaction without sexual intercourse. One of the conclusions of this must therefore be that women can have quite "normal" and satisfying sexual and emotional relationships with each other.

Lesbianism is not a symptom of middle-class decadence and we must not be afraid of raising inside the working class and labour movement the oppression which we experience as gay women. As your article said most women are not economically independent or in a position to choose how they live. Therefore most of us fall into relationships with men, marriage and children. Capitalism doesn't give us the right to choose anything and it most certainly doesn't want us to choose to go outside this pattern.

The sixth demand of the women's movement is for sexual self-determination and for an end to discrimination against gay women, I hope W.V. will continue to take up this aspect of our oppression and how to fight it.

Gill Butler  
Putney, London.

If women have better orgasm, or find it easier, through masturbation then it follows that masturbation should form a part of everyday sexual relations between men and women. That would require, however, an enormous change in the attitudes of men.

Penetration is accepted as 'normal'. Sex is designed for men. Men expect to be excited and satisfied, and the woman fits into that pattern.

If masturbation is to become a part of sexual life then men will have to accept being the passive onlooker; or lend a helping hand.

That would mean a revolution in men's attitudes to women out of which both women and men would benefit. Margaret Renn  
Stoke Newington, London

Dear Womens Voice,

Five years ago I left my husband, nothing unusual in that. But until that I had been living in the last century.

Brought up in an obscure socially remote house, stiff with staff and social conventions like the hunt ball, I was not well educated and caused a family upheaval by training to be a SRN!

Tensions in the family and the village were soon eased by a socially acceptable marriage.

So far so good, except that as a fairly 'modern woman' I was not prepared for the seemingly minor sexual battle I was to encounter in my marriage.

My husband assured me that my frigidity was not my fault, and his regular visits to prostitutes did nothing to allay the guilt I felt for letting him down in all sexual matters.

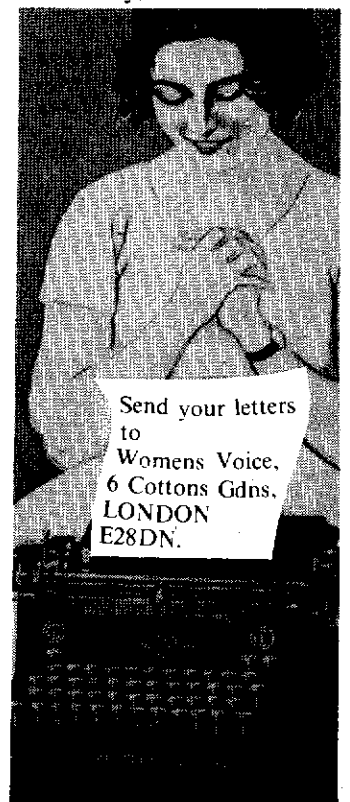
My personal feelings of guilt were only heightened by the fact that for years I had masturbated, and had been able to achieve far greater sexual satisfaction myself than with my husband.

There have of course been other men, but still the 'black dog' of masturbation has lingered on. Only when I saw the article in *Womens Voice* did I suddenly realise that masturbation did not have to remain a guilty secret, alongside the faked orgasms, but were as much a part of my own sexuality as the occasional satisfactory vaginal orgasm.

Now, though still somewhat hidebound by my overconventional upbringing, I am certainly more aware of my own sexual potential and I feel I can give more freely to any sexual relationship through my own sexual awareness.

*Though I think men in general will not relish this approach, there are those who realise or must be made to realise that their own sexuality will not be diminished by the more sexually aware woman.*

Carol Gray, London.



# The tribunal our funeral

It seems to me that for something that's law we shouldn't have to fight for equal pay.

We are feeling pretty depressed at Yardleys about losing at arbitration. We knew we didn't stand much chance. ACAS is the best tool the Governors have, and we are there with the unions sanction.

We know our worth, we work hard, and we will fight until we get what the law should obtain for us by right.

The Equal Pay law should be looked into so that there are no loop holes for management to find. What surprises me is that Yardleys Cosmetics are mostly bought by women, and yet they don't believe in women's rights.

**Joan Penfold  
Basildon**

*Joan also enclosed a poem—see the centre pages.*

# On the pro's debate

Dear Wv

Why are women advocating the legalisation of prostitution?

It is legal already. Our job is to get it made illegal. Only soliciting is illegal at present, which is of course both illogical and hypocritical while prostitution is not itself against the law.

It is now claimed that prostitution should be treated as a "social service", men being society and women providing the service. There is said to be a need for prostitution under capitalism! The traffic in sex is a social evil, and it is a bit thick to describe it as a necessity.

Sexual intercourse is not work, and prostitutes are not comparable with prison warders, social workers or psychiatrists. These, unlike prostitutes, will all be necessary for the achievement of socialism.

There are unfortunate women who are driven to hiring out their bodies to avoid destitution, but there are others who choose to degrade themselves in this way in order

to get money without working—an achievement which, as long as it is highly successful, is much admired in capitalist ideology.

Sexual intercourse should always be voluntary, not mercenary, on the part of both partners. The buying and selling of it should be prohibited.

Mothers should be supported by the state. It is up to socialists to work towards these objectives, not against them.

**Kathleen Jones  
Shrewsbury**

Dear Wv

Prostitutes organising was not given much attention in the debate.

In 1974 Rolling Stone Magazine carried a report of the First National Hookers Conference in America. One of the organisers Margo St James said 'As a woman/whore, I feel equality will never be achieved until women's sexuality ceases to be the source of our shame -- until the men are forced to abandon their pussy patrols.'

She started COYOTE, the organisation which called the conference. At the Conference 58 year old Flo Kennedy made an important point. 'Why', she asked is the FBI orchestrating 'a national campaign of busting prostitutes while everyone else is sucking their way to success anyway?'

Then she explained. 'The government must maintain guilt as a tool of oppression over those whom they niggerize. Migrant farmers are brought in illegally, then they're on the defensive and can't fight for their rights.'

COYOTE had organised women to fight for their rights. They had campaigned against the compulsory (undiagnosed) treatment of prostitutes for VD when arrested for prostitution and had even organised a hookers' boycott of crewmen off a ship from torture-infested Chile. We support all such actions. The trouble is that we tend to look at prostitutes as a separate layer of the population. In fact prostitution is the other side of the coin to marriage.

As Rolling Stone commented: 'There is not exactly a surfeit of compassion for the addict who must prostitute her body in order to obtain drugs— who takes a cock in her mouth as a prerequisite for a needle in the arm— but is she any less a whore than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, legally married to a man who aligns his fortune with those who have reaped power from the assassination of her previous husband?' Quite.

**Anna Paczuska.**

# YOUR VOICE

Dear Wv,

Just a little note to say how much I enjoyed reading your magazine. Your ad on the back page caught my eye, so I'm enclosing a copy of an ad which has made my blood boil for some time.

I am over the "normal" weight, and find this ad most distasteful. Incidentally, the manager was not very pleased with it, but it has been distributed.

If you print it, will you please send me an extra copy of the magazine.

Anyway, comrades, thanks for speaking in a loud voice and saying that which would only be muttered if it were not for people like you.

**Hilary Hoare  
Wales.**

## Abortion: Italian women protest

Dear Wv,

Fifty thousand people from all over Italy marched through Rome for abortion rights.

It was late afternoon but the streets were still baking hot. Some women from Naples carried five huge placards with the names of women who have died from back-street abortions since the beginning of the year—'Maria Chimini died at Seveso 21 January 1977', and so on and so on.

I used to work in Northern Italy and I had all kinds of ideas how oppressed women in

Southern Italy would be. Then I went to Sicily. Women are fighting back. They also were demonstrating for abortion rights. Their growing confidence is everywhere to be seen. 'No longer prostitutes No longer Madonnas At last we are women'

In Italian this slogan rhymes. To hear it ringing through a place like Sicily is fantastic as are the thousands of women who marched through Palermo demanding their right to choose.

**Jean Wright**

## All behind equal pay rights

Dear Womens Voice,

It wasn't until I was handed a collection sheet for the Laird Portch strike, that I realised how many groups of women there are not in full-time employment, from whom a collection could be made.

My first reaction had been—'Who the hell can I collect money from?' But after a bit of thought, I came up with plenty of potentially sympathetic sources, ie playgroups, pram-clubs, one o'clock clubs, dinner ladies, lollypop ladies, Housewives' Register groups, etc.

I visited my local playgroup and was amazed at the feeling of solidarity with women there was— even amongst the hardened anti-unionists there always are in church-organised groups.

One and all were behind the

right to equal pay, even those women who never intended to go back to work themselves, if they could avoid it.

My visit to the local Housewives' Register group was less successful as it provided ideas for a debate but little donation of hard cash!

The two dinner ladies at the school were sympathetic to the cause, but too broke to give more than a few pence.

However, on the basis of this limited but encouraging support, I would urge all pram-pushing and housebound Wv members to approach their local groups with collection sheets, whenever necessary, without trepidation!

**Cynthia Dyson,  
Walthamstow Wv**

continued over



# YOUR VOICE

Dear WV,  
You might remember reading in *Womens Voice* 4 that the Womens Theatre Group came to a rally in Glasgow with their play 'Out on the Costa del Trico', and did a second show in East Kilbride.

I'd like to tell you what happened and how it can help you organise.

When we knew the play was coming we printed tickets, leaflets, posters. We sent the tickets to all the union convenors in the local factories and as a result one convenor, Ellen Nicklin, who was involved in equal pay negotiations, came to see the play.

This was our first contact with Laird Portch which you now know developed into a six week strike for equal pay.

Because we had made friends with Ellen it was easy for us to offer our help when the factory came out.

Ellen thought it was a pity that the women couldn't see the play now they were out on

strike, so we got in touch with the Theatre Group again and they squashed a visit into their schedule.

They planned to do a show at 12 noon, to a mass meeting and then a benefit show and dance at night in East Kilbride.

But the union full timers had an offer from management and, without consulting the local shop stewards, they called a mass meeting for 12.30 the same day.

The play went ahead anyway. Most of the strikers knew it was on—and it was a great success. More than 100 strikers and supporters came to the benefit.

From that very first showing of the play we were able to take our work and our politics to many people. The extent to which we were appreciated can be judged by the number of people who have come up to thank us now that the strike is over, and by the high number of *Womens Voice* and *Socialist Worker* we now sell. Sheila Arthur Glasgow.

Dear WV,  
We get a lot of trash in our postbag, mainly from manufacturers who cover the cost of glossy handouts by upping the price to the customer. Most of it goes in the bin, but we saved you this. Thought you might like it.

Sara Smith-Petersen, Linda Chappel, Northants Evening Telegraph, Kettering.

Enclosed was the most revolting full colour advertising handout for skateboards. Apparently, women are an essential ingredient if you want to sell skateboards.

Dear WV,  
We are setting up a Womens Group in Taunton.

I am a regular reader of *Womens Voice* but Taunton is not exactly the hub of socialist activity! but I feel sure I'd be able to sell quite a few copies of *Womens Voice* at the meeting. Can you get 10 copies to me by then?

Margarita Colquhoun.

Every month we get new orders for *Womens Voice*. We are now distributing it to nearly 130 towns and cities around the country. We print 8500 copies.

Dear WV,  
On Sunday I attended the Working Womens Festival in Matlock, and bought my first copy of *Womens Voice*. The festival was mainly concerned with women's need for equal pay.

However, I feel there is another facet to this problem,

Women still content themselves with second rate work. They know that if they intend to raise a family, there are difficulties involved in any work which is demanding, involves responsibilities or long hours

Please can we fight for radical solutions to this problem? I suggest job-sharing is the real answer; people being employed for 3 full days a week, so that husband and wife could share both earning the income and raising the family. Each would have four days at home with the kids, and women would also have the satisfaction of continuing with the social contact at work.

Why should women have to choose between a job and a family—men don't!  
Mal Varley (mother of two) Southwell, Notts.

## HERSTORY: mabel meets the ROMANS

## Womens Voice Meetings

### ● North London Womens Voice Group Public Meeting: Rape—is there any Justice for Women?

British justice recently decided that a Guardsman's career was more important than the vicious, horrendous attack he carried out on a young girl. Alison Kirton (NUT), opens the discussion on the ways the law discriminates against women. Monday 18 July, 8pm, The Beehive Pub, Stoneleigh Road, Tottenham, N17 (nearest tube Seven Sisters).

### ● South London Womens Voice Group:

Day trip to Littlehampton, Sunday 24 July. Anyone interested in going contact South London WV, 737 0914 or 737 1791.

### ● Canterbury Womens Voice Group

Meetings at the Jolly Sailor, The Borough, Canterbury at 8pm. All welcome. Tuesday July 12 - The Family Tuesday July 26 - The Suffragette Movement.

### ● N.E. Manchester Womens Voice Group Grand Barbeque

Saturday 9 July, 8pm At Maureen Tottoh, 6 Pensby Walk, M'c 10, 205 2867. Food provided, bring a bottle. Admission 50p, children welcome.

### ● Merseyside Womens Voice Group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays, 8pm, County Hotel, City Centre.

Each meeting discusses a particular issue plus activity for the coming fortnight. Next meetings July 12 and 26; thereafter every 2 weeks. All welcome. Contact: top floor, 2a Dawson Street, city centre, for further information.

### ● S. London Womens Voice Public Meeting on EQUAL PAY with

Womens Theatre Group performing 'Out! On the Costa del Trico' at Vauxhall Centre, Walnut Tree Lane, Kennington Road, SE11. 8.00. Admission 30p

● South East London Womens Voice Group meets alternate Tuesdays at 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton Road, SE7 For further information please ring Peggy 858 8400

### ● South London Womens Voice and Right to Work Campaign Public Meeting on UNEMPLOYMENT.

Featuring 'Whistling for Milestones' by Alex Glasgow and performed by Pirate Jenny Theatre Group at Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Rd., SW9

● South London Womens Voice Jumble Sale. Sat 9 July at 11.00 St Matthews Church opposite Brixton Town Hall.

### ● North London Womens Voice Fund-Raising jumble sale:

Tuesday 12 July 7.30pm, YWCA (Tottenham Community Project), Tottenham High Road, N17. Entrance 5p. Refreshments available.

## Conferences

### ● Welsh Women 2/3 July.

A weekend at the Old Union, Laura Place, Aberystwyth, Dyfed. Aiming to make contact between feminists and groups of women organising in Wales. Also will be discussing the National Womens Aid Federation groups. Details from An or Haley, Tyn-yr-helyg, Llanrhystyd, Dyfed (Nebo 364) Registration £2,00 (£1.25 claimants).

### ● Socialist Feminist Day Conference

'The Crisis - Women in the Home and in Employment' Saturday July 9, 10am. Birmingham University Union (Council Chambers) Registration 75p - written contributions welcomed. Contact Birmingham Women's Centre, 76 Brighton Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, Tel: 021-449 0684

## New Pamphlets

### ● Highness

The new CIS Jubilee anti-report 60p and 15p postage. It has the funniest picture ever of the queen on page 2... Available direct from CIS, 9 Poland Street, London, W1.

### ● International Socialism 100

'Women and the Family' by Joan Smith.

Today's economic crisis is forcing changes in the role of the family which inevitably tend to increase women's oppression. Read about the family, and capitalism in ISJ 100. Available now.

International Socialism is the journal of the Socialist Workers Party, which carried notes on current events, reviews of new books, economic analysis, and political debates. Price 50p IS 100 is available to 'Women's Voice' readers post free during July, from: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

### ● CIS Latest in excellent Crisis Series from Counter Information Services.

Packed full of facts on how they have been ripping us off left right and centre. Available from CIS, 9 Poland Street, London W1, prices 60p plus 15p p&p.

## Campaigns

### ● South London Save Our Hospitals Campaign.

Area Health Authority Picket at Nurses Hostel, Springfield Hospital, Glenbourne Road, SW17. July 6th at 4.00 (Womens Voice supporters meet at 3.30 if possible and bring kids!)

## Plays

### ● Counteract present the Cuts Show.

Tour is from June 20 - July 16. Contact Counteract, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1

### ● Care and Control.

A gay sweatshop play about the experiences of lesbian mums struggling to get custody of their children. Usually it is assumed that mum is the obvious choice when there is a custody dispute. Of course in the eyes of the courts lesbian mums are a different kettle of fish! This play challenges the attitudes of the courts and the archaic legal system. 29 June-2 July at Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11

7 July at Lanchester Poly 13 July at Open University, Milton Keynes. 14-17 July at Birmingham Arts Lab.

### ● Lunchtime at the Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie Street, London, E1.

June 6-18: British premiere of 'Rosie' by Harold Mueller. One woman show with Mary Sheen. As Rosie talks and drinks, her story begins to emerge. Half Moon Production. Translated and directed by Steve Gooch. 1.10pm. 50p.

## Exhibitions

● Not just art, more a way of life/An open exhibition of womens' art. Sending in dates: Oct 1-15. All women welcome to submit one exhibit. Please try to limit to 4 sq/cubic feet.

The object of the exhibition is to explore the way women's art grows out of their lives. Please include a legible description of how you came to make this piece of art. Women are also invited to submit work for our on-going programme of exhibitions. Womens Art Alliance, 10 Cambridge Terrace Mews, London, NW1. Tel: 935 1841, 11am-6pm, Mon-Fri.

## Posters Badges etc.

### ● Six Questions on Abortion.

Womens Voice Abortion posters available. 50p for 20 incl. postage from Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

### ● Equal Pay and Abortion sticky badges

3 dozen for 50p from Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

### ● Scream for a nursery

badges in green, white and black from 153 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. £4 for 50 post free.

### ● SPUC OFF tee-shirts available now!

White background and purple lettering. Small medium and large from ALRA 88 Islington High Street, London N1. Price. £1.99 incl. p&p.

## Benefits

● Jam Today Benefit. 13 August at Waterloo Action Centre, Bayliss Road, London SE1.

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

Womens Voice stickers . . .  
This ad degrades women!

Three sheets of stickers, 50p including postage  
Money with orders to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



**What's bored and on the shelf?**

**16 inch-sizes of honed bore tube  
available ex-stock from TUBES**

**DOES THIS AD  
MAKE YOU SICK?**

If it does then you should be  
a regular reader of Womens Voice.  
And if you've got an ad which  
makes your blood boil send  
us a copy or take a photograph  
for this page.

Please send me a year subscription to Womens Voice  
I enclose £2 (£3 special air mail rate)  
Name .....  
Address .....