

Womens VOICE

June '78

Price 15p

Issue 18



Women organising against the nazis

rally COME TO THE WOMENS VOICE RALLY

A day of political discussion, debate, information and entertainment What is happening to women today, at home, at work, in the unions. How can we fight for womens liberation and socialism. What sort of campaigns do we need. Where, and how should we be organising. How can we build Womens Voice and spread our ideas to an even greater number of women. Just some of the questions we will be asking and answering in the main sessions of the day. We will also be organising workshops in the middle of the day, so that everyone will have a chance to say something. The workshops will have invited speakers, as well as women from local Womens Voice groups, information sheets, displays.

There will be workshops on:
Women at Work Maternity Leave, Equal pay, Workplace nurseries (in private industry and in the public sector).
Organising at work where there is no union, or a badly organised union. How to build a stronger union and involve women members where the union already exists.
Our history
How women have organised in the past: Alexandra Kollontai in Russia, Clara Zetkin in Germany, The Suffragettes and Sylvia Pankhurst in Britain.
Issues that face us today

Abortion, womens health, Women Against the Nazis, organising in school, Childcare. The extremes of our life, violence and love. Gay women. Second class citizens—black women in Britain.

How our sisters are fighting
Freedom fighters in Africa.
Women in Ireland.

At the end of the day we will draw the experience together and set out the next steps. Where we go from here. How we build Womens Voice into the fighting organisation that we know it can become.

Food

There will be food available most of the day—the sort of thing you can buy at

motorway cafes. Or you could bring your own—it should be sunny in June for eating outside.

Transport and Parking

You can see the building from the railway and the bus stations; it's no more than a few minutes walk. There is also parking for cars in the National Car Park under the Top Rank Suite.
Coaches can be parked nearby.

Children

We will even entertain the children! Toddlers will be in the nearby Poly, older ones will be taken on coach trips, picnics, swimming (weather permitting). Babies in cots will be in the Top Rank Suite.

**THIS SATURDAY
JUNE 10
11.30am
TOP
RANK
SUITE**

**Send 50p to Womens
Voice, Box 82, London,
E2, for a ticket.**

Where to buy books

THAP Books

59 Watney Street, London E1.
01 790 6256
9.30 am to 5.30 pm. Part of multi media arts project. Own publishing unit. Wide selection of books about East London.

The Other Bookshop Monday to Friday 9.30 to 7pm, Saturday 9.30 am to 6pm. Large selection of feminist and socialist publications. Mail order service.

Edinburgh Books Collective First of May Shop, 45 Niddry Street (off High Street) Edinburgh 1. 031 557 1348. Monday to Saturday 12 noon to 6 pm. Tea, Coffee and a meeting place.

Just Open!

Campaign Books

9 Rupert Street, London, W1. 01-439 8233. Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 1pm. A new bookshop for voluntary organisations, specialising in pamphlets. Founded by Friends of the Earth, NCCL, Inter-Action, National Council for Social Service.

Key Books

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

The Public House Bookshop

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

Corner House Bookshop

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

Grass Roots Books

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

Blackthorn Books

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

What's inside :

Cover photo:
by Bob Golden



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Womens Voice talks to women who are prepared to stand up to the National Front: Anna, Doreen, Josie and Karen, Sheila.

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Isobel Brown, life-long Communist and fighter against fascism

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- Articles, news, ads letters for the July issue to reach us by 23 June please. Send to Womens Voice, Box 82, London, E2.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Family life: The backbone of a nation?

JAMES CALLAGHAN, the Prime Minister, will do almost *anything* to win the next general election. His latest idea for gaining votes is to become the champion of family life. All society's problems can be solved by strengthening the family — that's the message the Labour politicians will be pumping out in the next few months.

What disgusting double-talk. Under Callaghan's government the pressures on ordinary families, and on women in particular, have been piled higher and higher. No nursery places; hospitals closed so the nearest one is miles away, and no buses to get you there; council housebuilding slashed; and all the time more unemployment and higher prices. That's Callaghan's record — and now he tells us he wants to strengthen the family.

Callaghan isn't interested in making family life any easier — if he was he'd put some money where his mouth is. What he wants is to jump on yet another Tory bandwagon. 'Worried about unemployment, inner urban deprivation and vandalism, Mr Callaghan feels the family unit is the bond and spiritual influence to combat excesses.' We're used to hearing right wing Tories go on like that, about the moral fibre of the nation, how we should do as we are told, and respect our elders and betters. It's only a few short steps to supporting hanging and birching, to opposing sex outside marriage and to believing that a woman's place is firmly in the home, and under her husband's or father's thumb.

For these moralists, the traditional family is important as a way of disciplining us, of teaching children their ideas of what's right and wrong, of making women do two jobs for the price of one, and ensuring we don't complain about it. If we were free to choose different ways of living and loving, we might challenge all their rules and regulations.

If the pressure gets too much, as it does for so many women for whom the family is an intolerable trap, there's always the tranquillisers. After all, if you 'can't cope' with being wife,

mother, worker, nurse, cook cleaner and dogsbody, you must be sick.

Lots of people are genuinely worried that things seem to be breaking down all around them. Life in the cities is rougher and more violent than it used to be. People are scared to go out at night. Estates get vandalised. Marriages don't last forever, and more and more families break up. No wonder people feel insecure.

When things are going badly, we can either turn to the past or to the future for some hope. Some people say that things used to be better, so if we turn the clock back and reimpose the old rules that will solve the problems. Harsher punishment will stop crime, stricter schools

will prevent vandalism, cutting dole money will make people work. These are the votes Callaghan is trying to collect.

We don't believe the old values offer any solution. They got us where we are now. This society is rotten to the core, and as long as it exists, so will poverty, violence and fear.

We want the pressure on family life to be eased right now — and that's why we fight for better nurseries, schools, hospitals, maternity pay and housing. But we want even more. We are fighting to build a society where women can be free — free to choose how we live our lives and who we share our lives with. We are fighting for a world where no-one is forced by financial or social pressure into a life style they cannot tolerate.

We want you to join us in the fight for that better world. Wishing and hoping will not bring it. Organising and fighting will.



NO I WON'T.
GO OUT AND BUY
YOUR OWN BLOODY
BRACES!



pictures: Syd Shelton

THE EGA STAYS!

Workers from the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and 300 supporters of the occupation marched out into the Euston Road, Central London, and stopped the traffic for 15 minutes on Friday 19 June.

Following this protest, Minister of Health David Ennals apologised for his 'oversight' in not informing the MPs Jock Stallard and Lena Jaeger of his decision to close the EGA on 21 July. Ennals said that he agreed that such short notice might cause 'inconvenience to patients'. In return he demanded that EGA staff show 'more flexibility' over the eventual closure which he is determined to carry out.

EGA patients, to judge by their enthusiastic participation from the ward windows in Friday's demo, think that any closure date is equally inconvenient'. And the backbone of the EGA staff has not become more flexible, but stiffer than ever.

You can join the magnificent campaign that women are mounting for the women's hospital. Call Arthur Churchley, shop steward in charge of the pickets on 01 387 2501 if you can help in picketing, or if you want to give your telephone number to be called on to defend the hospital in any emergency.

If you live outside London send messages of support to the EGA, Euston Road, London NW 1. Mel Bartley, EGA Campaign Committee



Picture: Nigel Norie (L.F.L.)

1,500 MARCH TO SAVE THE GREEN

1500 doctors, nurses, social workers, GLC and town hall staff, tenants' associations, Watneys Brewery workers, postmen, ambulance crews, teachers and electricians marched to save Bethnal Green Hospital.

All the letters, posters, leaflets, resolutions from trade union branches were worth it. We won't let them cut our hospital.

HOSPITALS WITHOUT WHEELCHAIRS

THERE ARE children suffering with worms in England in 1978. They are mentally handicapped children living in mental hospitals in the north of England. These hospitals have always been the poor relations in the health service. A new report shows that out of 46 mental hospitals in the countries, Prudhoe Hospital in Newcastle comes 44th in terms of spending.

The children lack basic essentials like wheelchairs. Their arms and legs grow deformed because they can't have physiotherapy. Some hospitals have no speech therapists. In one, the same bowl of water was used for washing eight children.

Only five of the 223 children surveyed went to any kind of special school. The rest were left all day with no educational or play facilities.

Sue who is a nurse at Prudhoe Hospital listed some of the ap-

palling conditions faced by staff and patients there:

- 12 hour shifts with a 10 minute morning break, an hour dinner break, and a 30 minute afternoon break.
- Lieu days stopped because of staff shortages.
- People given extensions rather than giving unemployed nurses a job.
- Training intake halved.
- One physiotherapist for 1400 patients.
- Two wheelchairs for seven patients.
- No special furniture for spastics.
- Two baths for 20 patients.
- Too many drugs used because of staff shortages.
- No speech therapist.

'Children in long stay hospitals' by Jack Tizard from Spastics International Medical Publications

NO INQUIRY INTO DANGEROUS DRUGS

THE GOVERNMENT has refused to set up an inquiry to discover why GPs prescribed a drug to women which is believed to cause deformations in unborn babies.

Primodos used to be the most widely used pregnancy testing pill in Britain. During the mid-sixties, 300,000 women a year were given the drug. Although the drug had been on sale since 1958, it was not until 1967 that studies showed a link-up between the taking of Primodos and the birth of malformed babies.

It took eight more years before the doctors were even advised not to prescribe Primodos. And as usual,

many did not bother to take that advice. As a result 40,000 more women were given the chance of heartbreak and tragedy. Even after a second government warning, GPs gave 6,000 more women the drug.

The drug was not taken off the market until this year. The parents themselves campaigned to get the drug withdrawn. They formed the Association for Children Damaged by Pregnancy Testing.

There are thousands of parents all over the country who still do not know why their children are malformed.

Is that why the government does not want any inquiry?

1 IN 4 WOMEN ON TRANQUILISERS

WOMEN'S OWN has come up with some startling evidence about women and drugs.

2,790 women replied to their drugs survey. Although women who take drugs may have been more likely to answer the questions, some of the results are very worrying. One woman wrote: 'My new doctor has signed a prescription for sleeping

tablets everytime I ask the receptionist, but not once has he asked to see me.'

How appalling, but how typical. The survey found that 65 per cent of the women got repeat prescriptions without seeing their doctor.

94 per cent of the women who did the survey are taking some kind of drug (higher than the national average). One third are on oral contraceptives.

One quarter are taking sedatives or tranquilisers, usually Valium or Librium. One in eight were taking prescription medicines for headaches and migraines. And one third of the women are taking three or more drugs. Once you start, you tend to go on. You get dependent on them.

Half the women suffered from side effects. Some went back to their doctor for advice, but most went on taking the drugs.

Doctors like to preserve their mystique. They rarely tell you much about your illness whether you ask or not. Thus two thirds in the survey were never asked if they were taking patent medicines as well as prescribed drugs. This is totally irresponsible, because certain drugs in combination can be dangerous or even fatal.

You might have thought the thalidomide disaster would have caused a drop in drug taking among pregnant women. According to the survey, the number has actually gone up, although 40 per cent of such women were 'very worried' that they did so.

This survey raises more questions than it answers. We need more information, a more critical attitude to the so-called welfare state, and more self-awareness.

This survey raises more questions than it answers. We need more information, a more critical attitude to the so-called 'welfare' state, and more self-awareness of what drugs are doing to our minds and bodies before we can hope to change this alarming situation.



Picture: Barbara Kufman

JOANS VICTORY IS OUR GAIN

WILLIAM Paton, who took out an injunction in the High Court to try to prevent his wife from having an abortion, lost his case. The application was 'completely misconceived', said the judge, 'the foetus has no right of action and no rights at all until it is born'. A few hours after the decision was made, Joan Paton had an abortion in one of the Pregnancy Advisory Service Clinics.

The BPAS pointed out that it is not at all uncommon for a husband or boyfriend to try to interfere with the woman's right to have an abortion. What is unusual about this case is that Joan Paton had the courage to fight it out. She had left her husband, taken out divorce proceedings and, finding she was pregnant, went to a BPAS nursing home for an abortion. There, she

was turned away, as her husband, financed by SPUC and encouraged by the 'save my baby' hysteria in the press, took out an injunction against her.

It is the third time in six months that SPUC have used the courts as a political weapon to try to erode a woman's right to control her own body. Immediately after the hearing, William Paton accepted the verdict, but a few hours later, spurred on by SPUC, he changed his mind and decided to appeal.

Joan Paton has had an abortion now. Her suffering and courage in fighting the case has revealed the inadequacy of the '67 Act. We need positive legislation to guarantee for women the right to self-referral and abortion on demand.

Miranda Chaytor



Picture: John Sturrock

SPUC SPRAYED

ON SATURDAY 6th May, S.P.U.C. (the anti-abortionists) held a stall outside a church in a busy shopping centre.

Cardiff Womens Voice responded to this by organising a picket which was supported by members of the local Womens Group and other comrades. We took along our placards and placed them next to their stall, and distributed a comprehensive leaflet explaining our position on the question of abortion.

S.P.U.C. Displayed some particularly disgusting and misleading posters of the foetus. We felt so strongly about them that eventually we took a can of spray paint to them.

Apart from this we made excellent sales of Womens Voice and found that in general public support was behind us.

Sara Romero
Cardiff Womens Voice.

ON MAY 20th, 200 people demonstrated in Thameside for the return of the menstrual extraction

centre at Thameside general hospital.

The director of Public Prosecution had ruled that the doctors could be prosecuted for performing abortions on 'non-pregnant women'. Among those present were Thameside and Manchester NAC, women from Thameside, South Manchester and Glossop Womens Voice, Big Flame and Thameside Trades Council.

The march was marred when policemen blocked the entrance to the hospital and threatened to arrest any demonstrators who tried to go through. This occurred even though permission had been given by the inspector in charge of the march to rally in the hospital car park. This inspector had conveniently gone home and police admitted that orders to stop the march had come from higher up.

Undaunted the demonstrators returned to the centre of the town and held a rally in the precinct. Speakers from National NAC and the Thameside Trades Council pointed to the importance of the Thameside decision as an example of SPUC's determination to fight women's abortion rights through the courts.



Picture: Bob Golden

HRH-OUR POVERTY

MEET Lena Sheehan and Sheila Murphy, two women who work in the canteen of the Institution of Civil Engineers in Great George Street, London, just a stone's throw away from the Houses of Parliament and the Ministries of this, that and the other.

Lena and Sheila both put in a tough forty hours a week in this professional institution cum club for the wealthy designers of motorways, tower and empty office blocks sewage systems and the like. For their pains they earn the generous pre-tax and deductions wage of just £23 a week.

That means they take home an incredible £18 a week! Sheila pays out £11 a week in rent alone and, she told Womens Voice, only manages to survive from one week to the next by doing every bit of weekend waitressing or Institution sponsored overtime she can get her hands on.

For months now Lena and Sheila's workmates at the ICE have been trying to force the management to link the canteen workers' wages to the rates paid in the civil service. The wages of all other workers are already linked in this fashion. And extension of the linkage would double the women's wages in one go and give them their first faint glimpse of what a living wage looks like.

Management headed by former investigative journalist and National Union of Journalists member Sydney Lensen refuse to do anything to increase these scandalous wages. They're even planning to contract out the catering to avoid having to pay an approximation of a living wage. Sydney Lensen agrees that it is immoral for anyone to have to work 40 hours and take home £18 a week. He also agrees that he is in a position to do something about this shameful scandal. But when asked by Civil and Public Services Association union rep Davie McClymont what he was going to do about it, £12,000 a year unlimited expense account free Granada Ghia Estate Car every two years Lensen replied that he wouldn't be doing anything.

As if to add insult to injury, the management of the Institution are staging an important little celebration at Great George Street on 1 June. They're bringing Her Majesty the Queen in on a state visit.

These vultures who will not increase canteen workers starvation wages are sparing no expense for the beano. They're laying on a buffet supper at a cost of thousands. There will be fine wines and brandies a plenty. And coffee will be served by Sheila and Lena working overtime which the Institution predictably pays at the miserable flat rate.

For the few hours that HMQ will be on the premises the 'executive' ladies lav has been completely refurbished. A brand new 'portrait' of Her Majesty has been acquired at a cost of £3000. This is more than enough to double both canteen ladies' wages for a year. New carpets have been ordered and the presidential dining room totally redecorated.

This exercise in hypocrisy and deceit may not however go totally unmarked by the intrusion of reality. Members of the CPSA at the Institution have been staging a series of guerilla strikes in protest against these starvation wages.

And it may just be that by the time this issue of Womens Voice has been published they were unable to contain themselves and insisted on taking action again on Queen Day, 1 June.

The double standards and unequal distribution of wealth and resources at the Institution are but a microcosm of society as a whole. They have combined to make two unfailingly loyal and generous women into militant trade unionists because they feel they have been cheated and misused. As Lena put it to Womens Voice 'For years I used to do unpaid overtime if it was a half an hour or so. I did it to help. But after a while I realised that I was just being used. We were apprehensive about joining a union. But we realised that on our own we would never get anywhere. Now we've decided we're not going to be used any longer.'

Laurie Flynn

EVERYONE TOGETHER



ST. BERNARDS is a large psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of Southall, West London. There are 1,500 staff and the majority of the domestic workers are Asian women, members of COHSE. They went on strike on 19 May for the reinstatement of their manager, Mr. Sithi, who is a man they all respect for having cleaned up the hospital.

Without any call from their union secretary, the women came out in sympathy immediately. They wrote their own leaflet in Punjabi, their native language, and organised its distribution on Sunday in their community in Southall. Southall comes alive on Sundays. The streets are full of people and the cinemas are open all day. Women are usually out walking with their husbands and children. But this Sunday, some of them stood outside the cinemas and gave out their leaflets. It may be difficult for white women to imagine what a bold step that was.

The few Asian male cleaners who are also out on strike, some of them husbands of the women, are mildly jealous of the limelight the women are getting — imagine, the first time on strike for all these people and it's the women who lead it. Some of the husbands are having to cook the dinners — also for the first time. This is what some of the women had to say:

'Before Mr. Sithi came, we Asian women weren't allowed to wear our trousers and we didn't have any rubber gloves to do the dirty work'.

'When I started working here, ten years ago, there was only one woman domestic on each shift. That meant preparing breakfast, going to the kitchen for the trolley, washing up, collecting the dirty laundry and checking it, cleaning and polishing the floors. That was from 7 am to 2.00 pm. without a proper break. I had 87 elderly ladies to look after. That's no joke!'

'We are like brothers and sisters with the patients. When we come back from holiday they are really glad to see us. You are soft with them. Sometimes one comes to the kitchen and asks for more milk or tea, so I give it to them. I've got one woman, she drinks 3 pints of milk a day. How can you refuse?'

Asian workers, unlike white workers, still know what a community is, and this is reflected in the way they organise. They have tremendous support from the Southall community. As a result of the leafletting one Sikh Temple sent a massive urn of sweet Indian tea and one old man handed it round to everyone. A few years ago these Asian women would not have spoken openly with men, but today they laugh and joke with them and most of them emphasise how much their husbands have helped. Also the extended family structure of the Asian community means that looking after children at times like this is not a real problem.

The strike ended after a union meeting where the regional secretary pronounced the strike 'unofficial' and advised the women to go back to work pending an appeal. Mr Sithi is a member of NALGO so COHSE members weren't justified in supporting him. The meeting was divided and confused and the voting was meaningless as the translation into Punjabi was so slow that many of the women voted against their own interests: most of the time it wasn't clear on what issue they were voting! Mr. Davis, Branch Secretary of COHSE is resigning in disgust, and, with many of the women, is applying to join NUPE. The women are going to 'go slow' for the nine days up to the appeal. Despite the confusion and demoralisation they have suffered, they are determined to carry on the struggle.

NO REPAIRS IN 6 YEARS

THE WOMEN of Kingshurst estate, Birmingham, are up in arms over the latest rent increases.

Margaret Lovelle and Margaret Walsh have organised a petition which has been distributed around the estate. Support has been magnificent.

'But what happens if you take the petition to the council and they throw it away' Margaret Lovelle asked. The next step is to set up an action committee.

The Kingshurst tenants pay their rent to Birmingham council and the rates to Solihull, which makes it very difficult to place blame for the appalling conditions.

'Repairs are the biggest problem. After the last batch of repairs they said, they wouldn't be coming around again for another six years,' said Mrs. Znajda.

The women aren't so much opposing the rent increases as objecting to them without any repairs or modernisation taking place.

Their complaints include electric plugs burnt out, damp walls, puddles in the living rooms, loose roof tiles, a front door that won't lock, etc.,

Margaret Lovelle has been waiting for 18 months for her six foot garden wall to be repaired — even though two inspectors have certified it as a danger.

The whole attitude of the council is summed up in this letter sent by the housing department:

'If you do not wish to continue as a tenant at the revised rent, it is open to you to serve a counter notice upon the council before 5 June 1978 requiring that this notice shall be treated as a notice to quit the dwelling on that date. If you take this step it will be assumed that you intend then to vacate the dwelling'.

You could say — pay up or get out!

Kay Hargreaves,
Birmingham Women's Voice

BUILDING FOR THEIR PROFIT OUR LOSS

PANTMEAD ESTATE, Bintley comprises about 300 houses and a block of single flatlets for pensioners. It was built by Chester-le-Street Council, in three stages and by three different contractors, costing in the region of £1½-2½ million. That's when the trouble started.

There were gales in the area and a lot of the roofs came off. It was found that every tile on every roof needed more pins and the legal battle between the contractors and the council is still going on. Worse

was yet to come. Three pensioners were found suffering from carbon-monoxide poisoning. They later died in hospital.

The gas came from a disused mine under the estate. 17 pensioners all in their 70s and 80s have had to be moved either to relatives or friends (which many of them don't have) or to social service homes in the area. The worst thing for them is that they have no idea when they can be back together with their friends.

In Ashington, Northumberland, classrooms at two schools are likely to be demolished because high alumina cement was used in the construction. High Alumina cement was a recognised material when the schools were built but it has now been found that a chemical reaction occurs which separates the cement base from sand and gravel. If this continues unchecked the beams disintegrate and the building collapses. The schools now have to be evacuated and will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to repair.

The whole thing is sickening when you think how unnecessary it all is. If the cost was not the most important thing when building houses, we would never have this trouble. They would be built to last and not for a quick profit for the builders.

Annie Dunn,
Newcastle Women's Voice.

£4000 COMPENSATION

I HAD a pop bottle explode in my hands during that hot summer two years ago. I couldn't get the top off. You know how you do — you try all kinds to get it off.

On the third attempt it burst. It scattered all over the floor.

I didn't realise at first I had cut myself bad. When I did, I ran to my next door neighbour and he took me to hospital.

I had to have everything sewn back together again. A nerve and a ligament were cut.

We decided to sue the pop firm. They sent their insurance representative here and he said he thought it was worth £250.

We hung on, kept ringing, but they kept putting us off. Finally we got in touch with a solicitor. It was 18 months before we got anything. The pop firm settled out of court and I got £4000.

But I still can't bend my thumb. We had to pay £170 for the legal costs, which we got back because we won. But it seems that legal aid is arranged to put you off going to court. I always thought legal aid was something working-class people got.

There were 20 other bottles burst that summer. One girl lost an eye. But I don't know if any of them took it up. They should have.

I would have a go again if it happened again.

Christine Bell, Workop

FIRST WOMAN TRAIN DRIVER

JACKIE ABBERLEY, 18, after six weeks in the classroom, has just passed the exam to become an assistant train driver with British Rail. She is the only woman to have got so far in the process of becoming a train driver.

After school, I did a few subjects at ordinary level at Hendon College then I went to work in an office for Camden Council, but I was bored so I left and tried to get a job as a carpenter. The firm I applied to would not even consider me: they said women hadn't the physical strength for the job, and offered me a place in their office.

In the job centre I found an advertisement for train drivers. It was just what I wanted. When I applied the interviewer told me that they didn't think it was suitable for girls because of the long hours, dirty work, and poor toilet facilities. But they didn't stop me getting the job. The boys at work don't treat me any differently — they accepted me as I am. The job requires a certain mechanical aptitude and physical

strength but women could do it easily.

It's a good job — exciting and interesting, with cheap travel — a job you can be proud of. I'll be an assistant driver for two years then I'll go to college for six months to learn how trains work so to be able to mend minor faults. Rotating shifts will be hard for women — they will have to be either single or have good relationships with their husbands but it can be done.

I think many of the legal barriers to equality have been removed by the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act, but you can't rely on the laws alone. Women should push themselves forward as individuals to get the good skilled men's jobs like train driving and carpentry. They are better paid and more satisfying than many women's jobs. Women will find it hard to fight against their upbringing, against discrimination by men and the system, but it can be done!

Interviewed by Sheila Mitchell

OUR SISTERS IN ARGENTINA

MENTION Argentina and we all think of the World Cup, or maybe imagine gauchos galloping over the pampas, rounding up the roast-beef-to-be. How many of us are actually aware that there is a military regime in control of the country? How many people know that thousands of men, women and children have been murdered in the two years since the bloody military coup, and that the repression there is more harsh and vicious than practically anywhere else in the world?

Until the coup in Spring '76 Argentina was considered quite a 'democratic' place; that is you had a limited power of organisation within the trade union movement, and you did not run the risk of being killed for expressing democratic or fairly left-wing views. The situation could not be more different now. The police and the military control the streets, and if you're fool enough to express the wrong views in the street or workplace you will 'disappear'.

This all makes the actions of a small group of Argentinian women breathtakingly courageous. In the middle of April some of the relatives of the 1500 or so prisoners who have disappeared (those whom the government will not account for — who are almost certainly dead) risked their lives to make a public protest. Through the underground network a public march was organised, and over 2000 women unexpectedly converged on the central square of the capital, Buenos Aires. The militia were ordered to disperse the demonstrators, but when the

soldiers asked the women to go away they wouldn't, and continued to walk in silence round and round the square.

When they tried to force them away by threatening to open fire on them, the women started to talk to them — 'I could be your mother. Just think what your mother would feel like if her son disappeared and no-one would tell her what had happened to him...' And according to onlookers the soldiers, instead of shooting, stood there crying.

Every week, at the same time and place, these women stage a silent march. It is the first open defiance of the military authorities since the wave of strikes which paralysed a large part of the capital through Oct-Nov of last year. More important, it is the first time that women have stuck their necks out. And the soldiers are refusing to fire on them.

As the World Cup starts in Argentina people are gathering at Westminster Abbey to demonstrate their support for the Argentinian people, masses of whom have been murdered in the same city where our Scottish heroes will be playing. They will be showering and changing in the place used by the military as an interrogation and torture centre; they will stroll the streets of Buenos Aires as no Argentinian dares to do; they will be received by President Videla, murderer of thousands (but you mustn't talk of that, it's Argentina's problem, we're only here for the football). At kick-off our brave sisters will again be risking their lives to protest at the disappearance of their families.

Ann Keene.



picture: Beahan Kidron

FOOTBALL IS FUN



park. A lot of boys say 'Oh, a girl, she can't play.' Most boys are against it. I just play for the girls' team, and don't really try to play with the boys, except my brothers. The boys in my street don't mind. But when you go over the park they act as if there's a law — that girls aren't allowed to play football.

It's surprising how many girls do like football when you get down to it; all the girls in my class think it's a good idea for girls to play. About three other girls in my street play too.

But a lot of girls get put off because they get laughed at and they can't find a team to play for. It's a shame really.

Don't let the men do everything. Show them that we are just as good. Sally Davison, North London.



I PLAY for a women's football team. Spurs Ladies. I'm fourteen and I play on the second team. I like playing forward — on the wing. It's a lot of fun.

In the League most of the girls are bigger than me — 17 or 18 — you get pushed around a lot. We train hard on Friday night for about three hours, but we do more training on our own. You have to be fit to keep up. Our coaches are mixed, men and women.

There's a law in the Football Association that boys and girls can't play in the same team. A lot of girls are as good as boys. It's just sex-discrimination. They use it to try to stop girls from playing.

I also play with my brothers in the

GET THE WOMEN'S VOICE HEARD

ONCE UPON a time a girl in Margate would have been found in a swim suit looking pretty on the beach.

Times are definitely changing. A few brave ladies could be found last weekend debating union policy at NUPE's (National Union of Public Employees) annual conference.

NUPE's membership is 70 per cent women. The largest single group of members are school dinner ladies. NUPE also represents many nurses, domestics and nursery nurses.

I jumped at the chance to be a delegate to conference. It seemed a fantastic opportunity to meet up with my fellow nurses from all over the country.

When we arrived at Margate, however, there was only one woman for every 20 men. I began to wonder if the women had no points to bring up at conference. On Saturday evening I was asked to second a motion asking for a women's national advisory committee. I declined as it seemed unnecessary. Surely a female majority union was dealing with its women's problems along with the men's!

It was quite an experience to find myself in what had previously been

a man's world, listening to debates and voting for the union's future policies.

I was lucky enough to be with the Socialist Worker delegates who were by far the most active group at conference. Every debate became of prime importance. The enthusiasm was contagious.

Major decisions were made for restructuring conference. Local government working conditions were keenly debated but although many issues such as school staff services and home help would affect our women members, it was still the men that led the debates!

News bulletins were produced to explain the major issues to the rank and file each day. On Monday morning the union's future wage strategy was to be decided. A resolution called for a £65 minimum wage and a 35 hour week, and above all else for provisions for action to win these policies.

Enthusiasm and tension ran high. Some speakers were in favour of the deal but claimed that as their branches consisted mainly of women, it would be impossible to rally any support or action from them!

Eventually this resolution was

lost due to the craft of the general secretary. The most significant point about this debate is that a woman's voice was not heard throughout.

Monday afternoon dealt with issues from the health service, largely a female domain. Again the men led the debates, but a few of us women delegates did find our feet and speak for ourselves.

Several important resolutions were accepted to improve pay and conditions for ancillary and nursing staff. The fight to get these policies must be taken up in the workplace with our women colleagues.

After conference on Monday we attended a meeting of the Anti-Nazi League. We decided to start a NUPE against the Nazis movement. We ran a stall throughout conference to promote this.

We were then invited to the mayor's reception where we were wine and dined and entertained by dancing girls. I think it was this final point that made me realise that NUPE's attitude to its female members has to change.

Tuesday was a much better day for the ladies at conference. Several of us made speeches. I seconded the resolution for a women's national

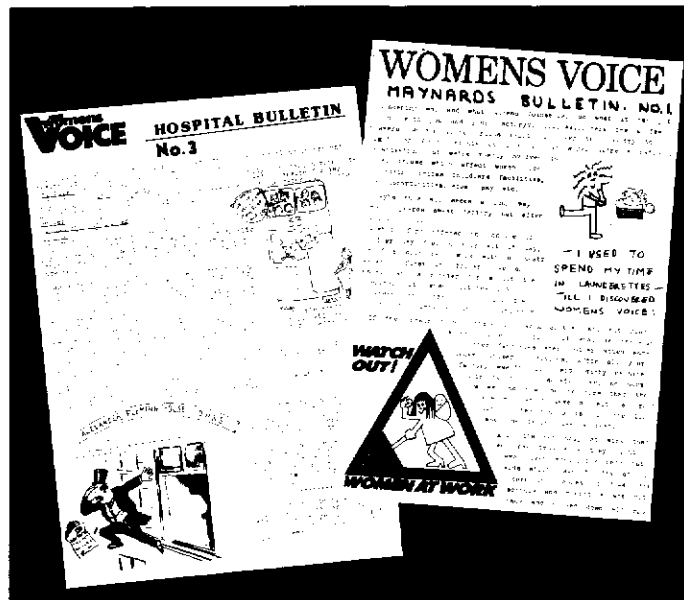
advisory committee to deal with problems specific to women. We received good support from the hall. Only one patronising gent spoke against the motion and was jeered by the hall.

Unfortunately the motion was lost on a technicality. But even with this promising day only ten women spoke out of 800 delegates.

Conference closed Tuesday and we held one last meeting to organise a way to keep the action going. Then we ran for the 5.48 train to return home full of new ideas and enthusiasm.

I had learned more about the society in which I live and work in these few days than I would have believed possible. I intend to pull out all the stops to attend conference next year. I hope any readers who have the opportunity to attend a conference will jump at the chance not only to have a fantastic time, but to play a part in the running of our future and above all else to get the women's voice heard.

**Teresa O'Connor, branch secretary,
Cheadle Royal Hospital**



THE WOMEN'S Voice bulletin of the month comes from Maynard's, North London.

'Wondering who and what Womens Voice is, and what it has got to do with you and your factory?'

Well, here are a few answers. Women's Voice groups exist all over the country to fight for Women's rights at home and at work. We're a national organisation but we're mostly involved in local issues which affect women such as rising prices, childcare facilities, job opportunities, equal pay etc.

Maybe this all seems a long way from Maynard's sweet factory but after all...

- which firm offered the choice of a four-day Xmas holiday without pay, or four days paid work without heat?

- which first aid officer gave an aspirin and a plaster for a cut the hospital put seven stitches in?

- where are there no official teabreaks and dirty working conditions?

If the answer to all these is Maynards, then why not read Womens Voice and find out what is happening in other factories where other women work under similar conditions?

□ Send three copies of your Womens Voice bulletins to: Bulletins, PO Box 82, London E2.

NOW FOR BETTER WAGES

ON 21 APRIL, four women walked out of their work at Glasgow University Students' Representation Council, in protest at the suspension of their shop Steward Helen Reilly.

Last year, when the women first joined NAI.G.O, Helen negotiated a contract of employment, a procedure agreement for discipline and had exposed the SRC's low pay: 'We were only getting £22 for a 37¼ hour week,' she said. We won a 35 hour week and we're paid on the union scale — £32.50. I take home £25.'

The strike was called because Helen, who had called one of the supervisors a 'silly little bastard', was charged with gross industrial misconduct. 'This usually means something like rape or disemboweling or making bombs'. She said. 'I think they wanted a clean

out so they could get in some nice non-union girls'. The women held a quick meeting and decided this was a clear case of victimisation. They walked out.

They didn't get much support and, even worse the student paper represented Helen and the strike as a 'trotskyist plot.' Helen is a member of the Labour Party but her boyfriend is in the SWP! The women were condemned as 'naive pawns of the SWP'.

But they won. At her disciplinary hearing Helen got off with a verbal warning. The girls used the only weapon they had: to strike. And this is all the more courageous since most are under 21 and had never belonged to a union before. There is still a struggle ahead to get a decent wage and they'll need all their organisation for this.

Jennifer Ross

Percy Robinson, of Goole, Yorkshire, was sentenced for stealing to 100 hours of community work — cleaning and washing up at a seaman's mission. So he sent his wife. After all it's women's work.

(Sun, Wed 26 April)

Timothy Veasey was turned down for a job with Coventry Turned Parts.

The managing director, Mr Ivor Jones had told the employment exchange that the job was more suitable for an older woman because it was so boring. A Birmingham industrial tribunal accepted the firm's reason: It was so boring that a monkey could be trained to do it.'

(Telegraph 9 May)

A YEAR and a half ago we started work producing Womens Voice magazine. We were determined that we needed a new paper for women which could argue for all our socialist and feminist ideas. And we were criticised from both sides before we had even started. Some socialists, mostly men, said it wasn't needed, and doubted our capacity to do it. Some feminists said we weren't independent enough to succeed.

Well, in the short time since then we've interviewed women on strike, firemen's wives, school cleaners and dinner ladies. Women who never dreamed they could put pen to paper have written to us about their everyday lives, their marriages, their housing problems, their children's education, their orgasms, their rights to maternity leave or lack of it, their unemployment, then they've gone out and sold the paper. Our circulation has risen from a couple of thousand to 12,000.

As we found the readers so we found the women who also wanted to *do* something — Womens Voice became more than just a magazine to buy, read, enjoy and put aside. In Wolverhampton the headmaster of a local school was so horrified at the pro-abortion leaflets we handed out at his school that we hit the television and newspaper headlines as he called in the police.

During the firemen's strike we organised street meetings, demonstrations, children's parties along with the firemen's wives. We are trying to spread the campaign for better maternity leave amongst women who work in local government.

Around the country we now have groups of five, ten, fifteen women meeting, talking, organising and above all challenging the way things are. We've got more confidence to do things because we are doing them ourselves — freed from all the patronising attitudes that we used to put up with. We've been making our own decisions — not just making the tea!

With our own women's organisation we can always be sure that the issues that affect women most will not be forgotten: it's women who need maternity leave, care most about the lack of nurseries, object most strongly to the

inequality in pay. We can be sensitive to the seemingly insignificant problems that have excluded women even when they were interested in politics: the time of meetings, the lack of babysitters or creches, the fear of speaking at meetings full of strangers.

In this way Womens Voice is a part of the women's movement that has resurged in the last 10 years. We owe a great debt to the Women's Liberation Movement for waking us up to the ideas that the socialist movement had forgotten over the previous 50 years.

But that's not all we've found out. We've also got a feeling of what we're up against, not just men or male prejudice, but the brutality and poverty of a class society. *We don't control that society.*

There was a time for instance, when the building of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital must have seemed the greatest achievement. Now it's about to be closed down. The 1967 Abortion Act was an enormous step forward, and now we wait for each fresh attempt by its opposers to destroy it completely.

That's because we live in a society over which we have no control. An unequal world divided between those who own it and control it, and the rest of us. That's why we say that to fight for women's liberation we have to change, at the same time, the society we live in.

When we say Women's Voice is the magazine of the Socialist Workers Party that's what we mean — that we see no other possible way of achieving women's liberation except through a revolutionary change in how society is run. Like everything else, that needs organisation, a revolutionary party that is committed to that battle — and won't give up without seeing it through. The Socialist Workers Party is such a party, and those of us who are members are proud to be so. We don't believe in trusting others to fight for us, we have to be a part of the fight ourselves.

There are other socialists in the women's movement who will agree with us. The more we see of the Tory backlash against women, the speed with which we watch Labour politicians agree with them, the harsher reality becomes. The Socialist

WE ARE TAKING DECISIONS NOT MAKING THE TEA



Feminists are looking for a way to lead the women's movement to face up to this reality. We have to work together wherever and whenever we can.

We also have to argue with them that there is a difference between knowing what we want and knowing how to get it. Being a socialist, like being a feminist, can be a very worthy state of mind — what matters is what *we do*. If we are saying we have to change society, build a socialist society, then we have to have the organised strength to achieve it. We have to be prepared to challenge the power of the State authorities, and that needs the power of the whole working class.

It sounds an enormous task. But we begin with ones and

twos. We want every woman who reads Womens Voice to come to our Rally and to join Womens Voice. If there isn't a group where you live or work we'll help you to build one.

With your help we will build Womens Voice into a much bigger and stronger national organisation, linking up the groups so that we can become more effective fighters. You don't have to be a member of the SWP to join. So long as you agree: we need to fight for women's liberation and we need to fight for socialism. That's all we ask.

A socialist women's organisation can't be created overnight. But we have the will and a great deal of determination.

Margaret Renn

WOMENS VOICE INTERVIEW

'I was born in the time of Victoria — in 1894. My father was a labourer. He made certain that my two sisters and myself had a chance to do more than be skivvies in big houses, which is what most working class girls were forced into. I got a scholarship to the high school and became a teacher in 1915.

I was socially moved by two things. First by the hunger and misery of some of the 60 children I taught. That was a normal sized class at that time. Some of them came to school in winter without shoes and without breakfast.

The second thing was the war. In the August of 1914 all the young men in my teacher training college went to camp for cadets, but were drafted into the army when the war started. They went to the trenches and we never saw one of them again. Not one of them survived the war.

Those two things combined. I said to myself, 'I am sure humanity has developed enough to run the world better than this.'

I joined the Labour Party as soon as individuals could. In 1918 as I was literate they made me secretary of the first Women's Section. We advised the Tyneside council on the design and building of houses there.

But the Labour Party wasn't enough for me. I read Ibsen and Shaw. I defy anyone to read Bernard Shaw's prologues and plays without being churned up with anger and ideas.

I joined the Independent Labour Party and two months later I went as a delegate to the Hands Off Russia Campaign Conference in Durham. We were protesting the British government's attempts to break the Russian Revolution of 1917.

I was politically confused but I was quite certain I wanted to change the world.

I spoke for the first time under the Hands Off Russia Campaign banner. The older members decided they should let the young ones have a chance to speak.

Well, I got up on the platform, and I got wound up. They had to pull my coat to get me to stop. The miners came round me afterwards and said, 'A lass, you will be as good a speaker as Ethel Snowden, who was the most famous woman speaker in the Labour Movement in those days.'

I met the two sons of a Russian emigre family who had been exiled to Siberia in the same village as Lenin was. That was the first time I heard the name Marx. The father would talk to us as we sat on the hearthrug in front of the fire. I remember so clearly he started by saying, 'What is a commodity?'—the first line of Marx's Capital. My eyes were opened to the structure of capitalist society.

I joined the Communist Party in



ISABEL BROWN A LIFE DEVOTED TO POLITICS

Isabel Brown is 83. She has been a member of the Communist Party since December, 1920, when she and 16 miners in South Shields, Tyneside, set up the first branch of the Communist Party.

She has spent a large part of her life fighting fascism — the first time round. During World War II she became Women's Organiser of the Communist Party and a member of their Executive.

December 1920 before it was officially formed.

Sixteen miners and I formed it. I was never made to feel unequal. It never occurred to them or me. All my political life I have always been treated as a human being irrespective of sex.

I married in January 1922 Ernest Brown, a Communist Party organiser. We had a son, Kenneth, and we used to take his pram down to the socialist hall. I would tuck him away while we held our committee meetings.

I made the May Day speech in Castleford, Yorkshire, in 1926 on the eve of the General Strike. I saw some lads at the edge of the crowd in cadet uniform. So I said, 'I want *all* of you to remember that it's your mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers that will be on strike. Don't let the government use you against them.'

I said that because the army had been used against striking miners at Featherstone which was only 4 miles away in the Victorian period.

I was arrested. The charge was that by acts and words I was guilty of causing disaffection among His Majesty's civilian population and armed forces. I got three months' imprisonment.

Five weeks after getting out of prison, I was asked to speak at a Yorkshire miners' meeting. They were still on strike. The other workers had been betrayed by the TUC leaders and gone back to work, but the miners wouldn't give in.

I could see the women with little underfed children in their arms.

So I started by reading out some of the gush about the royal baby. The present Queen Elizabeth had been born two days before.

I said, 'I am in favour of the best conditions possible for any woman bringing a new life into this world. But compare this with *your* situation'.

I was arrested and charged with sedition, a very serious charge. I got three months' hard labour and a £50 fine or a further three months. We had to pay the fine—Bradford Trades Council alone collected £180.

In 1931 I was put in charge of the solidarity movement for workers in struggle that the Communist Party started. There was me, a desk, a pencil and a ruler. So I had to go out and get others to help. There was an office of 12 in the end.

This developed into the Relief Committee for Victims of Fascism. In 1932 the dockers in Hamburg, Germany, went on strike. They were fighting the Nazis even then. We sent 60 food parcels to them — our first solidarity action against Hitlerism.

We were anxious to show that the German workers were not all fascists.



There was a long, hot feeling still from the Great War.

I went to Germany to speak many times. In fact, I spoke at the last democratic meeting in the Sports Palace in Berlin. My voice was heard against the fascists there. The next day Hitler won the election and five days later invited Hitler to take over the government.

Shortly afterwards the Reichstag of the German Parliament, was burnt and 19 men were charged with setting the fire. Three Bulgarians, a German MP and a little Dutch boy.

An international Court of Enquiry was organised. We got Stafford Cripps to introduce the hearings and several lawyers from the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Britain. Cripps was talking about the Danes but couldn't get half his speech into the meetings. Daily reports were printed in the Times and these were translated and circulated in German.

We invited the Labour Party to send an observer and the Enquiry was held in the Court of the Law Society.

The evidence was against the responsible Germans who had no chance to escape. The charges were sent to Leipzig Court in Germany on legal form in British law.

The world was waiting for our campaign and made money. As the remarkable evidence by Dantroy himself succeeded in the trial of the three Bulgarians and the German MP. But alas it did not help Van der Lubbe who was charged with responsibility for the Nazi incendiarism.

My book on the trial of the accused was written in the autumn of 1936 and was on the shelves in the autumn of 1937. It was on the shelves in the autumn of 1937. It was on the shelves in the autumn of 1937.

funny for him — and this is the first collection of the floor and ceiling.

These days we are in a position to be able to do a great deal of work. It is a very difficult situation. It is a very difficult situation. It is a very difficult situation.

The campaign against Hitler was carried out by the Spanish people. It was carried out by the Spanish people. It was carried out by the Spanish people.

The Spanish Civil War started in 1936. It was a very difficult situation. It was a very difficult situation. It was a very difficult situation.

When we got back we printed a pamphlet with all this information and it was taken to the Labour Party conference in Edinburgh. When one speaker tried to say the Germans and Italians were not involved in the Spanish war, there appeared a forest of pamphlets waving in the air. My heart jumped with joy.

That pamphlet and a Spanish woman who spoke changed the Labour Party policy. People were learning what fascism meant by flocking to our meetings. Everyone was organising — the Quakers, the Salvation Army, the Save the Children Fund.

The National Joint Committee for Republican Spain pulled together the efforts of all these groups in every town.

tons of cod from Grimsby, 100 tons of fish from the North Sea, and tons of potatoes from Lancashire. We sent 29 food ships. We raised £2 million in money and supplies in support for the Spanish republicans.

If I needed £50 I would write letters to some of the trade union branches we had collected in our card file. I knew I would get the money the next day.

Our work was the working class. They were the best. But they were joined by all people who had feelings against Hitler — from the very Duchess of Atholl to Liberalism, Labour to Communists.

I am convinced that the huge amount of fascist campaigning organised in the morale of the British people during the war.

Fascism has been seen again in Britain since the National Front. Everyone got to know the danger of the National Front. We have got to get right to the heart of the people.

Now, the Jews were the target of the National Front, but they weren't so much. We have got to be told that a party is not a party. The fact is that we have got to see that. The fact is that we have got to see that. The fact is that we have got to see that.

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by Jenny Jackson

ANNA RAE BURN needs little introduction to women in this country for an incredible 60 million people read her Problem Page in 'Woman' magazine, in addition to the London audience for her phone-in programme on Capital Radio. But Anna Raeburn does not simply offer advice in reply to cries of misery and inadequacy; she is deeply concerned about the society which she sees as largely responsible for people's unhappiness. And one particularly disturbing aspect of that troubled society is the National Front.

When the Anti-Nazi League was formed Anna signed the founding statement. Here she talks to Womens Voice about her reasons.

Anna: I have an absolute gut hatred for the National Front. I feel a real horror that fascism should raise its head again in this century. That it happened once in the thirties is already a scandal; that it should happen again is more than flesh and blood can stand.

I was inspired by Lewisham. I am extremely proud that the left in this country finally said 'Sod it! We'll fight!' I saw it as a real step forward. I had a friend there, filming with a TV crew who said: 'It was fantastic it wasn't a deputation of senior citizens

of the Labour Party, it was a lot of young people, black and white, who simply said: 'No more!' I hate the idea of violence, but it is inherent in the system, and if Lewisham was violence, then I'm for it! **WV:** Have you any personal experience of the National Front?

Anna: I do feel personally threatened by the NF—I am not Jewish, although I am of Jewish origin, but they will take one look at my profile and get rid of me. And not just me either: the gays, the socialists and anyone else who doesn't join them will all be got rid of as well.

WV: Have you noticed any change in the attitudes of the women who write to you—have the ideas of the Womens Movement had much influence?

Anna: The role of women is changing slower than people think it is—these ideas take time to filter through. The Womens Movement, both here and in America, was middle class in content, purely because less privileged women didn't have the time to think, their lives were a battle to get things done. But now working class women are beginning to express their sexual difficulties, their problems in being one-parent families, or in just coping without a man.

We are women ag



More and more women now have to work, as two incomes are needed to run a home. The work is usually soul-destroying, nursery facilities are bad or non-existent, the children are attending understaffed schools, and they live in depressing estates or high-rise flats. And of course in this situation women are

very susceptible to the kind of dangerous nonsense that the NF offer. 'The NF will provide strong government, they will get rid of all these blacks (or Jews or gays) who are to blame.' In short they offer a fantasy, a dream— instant, blessed, order. And to women whose lives are mostly shattered dreams this can be very attractive.

WV: What can women in this situation do?

Anna: They have to fight. You and six women on your block get together and decide: 'Damn it, we've had enough of caring for all these children every day, till we are tired and ill and nervous.' And you organise yourselves, then you demand funds and facilities. This has to be done at grass-roots level, people must change their own lives, not depend on the state to produce the goods.

WV: As a socialist, do you think that if we achieve socialism a Problem Page will still be necessary?

Anna: I would be terribly happy if the answer were 'no' and, although I think people will always feel the need to confide, it is certainly true that if we had decent housing, schools, nurseries and jobs, and were more at peace with ourselves, many of the women who now write to me wouldn't. But women have amazing potential, and they can change their lives by organising themselves, by using the anger that they feel. And it is very important that women should involve themselves in Women Against the Nazis and in the Anti-Nazi League.

'It goes without saying that the present permissive abortion laws are illegal.....The widespread availability of contraception methods dare one say it, we would wish to see a society that respected



ainst the nazis!

THE EDUCATION authority kept it quiet for a few weeks, but on Tuesday we found out: the National Front were going to hold an election meeting in our school the coming Thursday.

The general feeling in our school, Walthamstow Senior High for Girls was one of shock, repulsion, and disquiet.

News spreads quickly in school and within a few hours we'd decided that we would picket the meeting. If we couldn't stop them coming, we were at least going to show that we want nothing to do with nazi scum!

We got together and printed some leaflets. We girls went to all the other schools in the borough and received great support (although some police tried to stop us at some schools). You see, everybody knows that our school may not have different sexes in it but we do have different races and we all got along well together. There was no way the Front were going to destroy that.

On Wednesday anti-nazi slogans had been strewn across the walls, a few girls tried to put up posters but were detained. Girls wrote letters to the education officer complaining. No lessons were carried out that day. It was impossible.



The atmosphere on Thursday was electric. Nobody could concentrate on their lessons with the thought of what sort of filth was going to sit on the same chairs as us that evening.

During the morning about 50 fourth year girls walked out of their lessons and sat in the playground. A senior teacher came out and told them that the meeting was nothing to do with the school.

But the girls weren't going to be fobbed off with that. Obviously they had more sense than their 'elders and betters' in the education office.

Thursday evening came and so did 400 anti-nazi demonstrators. We didn't just have banners and posters. We had hatred, loathing and nausea for the Front.

And we had voices. Voices that told everybody that we were united against the Front. 'We are black. We are white, we are fucking dynamite!' We didn't need any prompting from the older people that joined us on the picket. We knew the bullshit the Front were talking and we the kids weren't going to take it.

We made sure they heard us from 8pm when their meeting was supposed to start until 10.15pm. They were too afraid to come out the front door. The police had to sneak them out the side entrance.

It was a triumphant night. But alas all good things come to an end. After the picket broke up. Police went around and arrested 18 youths—mostly black. Some weren't even on the picket.

Josie is now on the defence committee, trying to raise money for the fines these youths have to face. We have set up a School Kids against the Nazis, which is organising discos and a sponsored sports day to raise money. We have written and laid out our first local SKAN bulletin which we're going to sell at all the schools.

They got 18 of us, but there's a few hundred more left and we're carrying on the fight.

Josie Henwood and Karen Hart



THE NATIONAL Front are one group that do not like other colour skins apart from their own. If the National Front did come into power, they'd stop all protests and demonstrations and trade unions, because they'd be scared that they'd overthrow them. I think the National Front just couldn't come into power—although people do go on demonstrations with them. I don't think a lot of people will vote for them, because they know that they take all the power. I know, and I'm 13, so people do know they're disgusting.

Doreen

ould be scrapped. There is indeed a case for abortion to be made altogether demands reform Finally, principally one of wife, mother and home maker.!

is a symptom of a more general abuse that and cherished the feminine role, as



Richard Verrall.

Spearhead IOI, January 1977

Organise your street against the Nazis

TWO MONTHS ago, a friend of mine, who lives in the same street as me, suggested that we get together to form a local ANL group. There had already been a meeting in NW London, covering a vast area, but we felt that we had enough people who were interested to be able to set up a small branch in our locality.

There were 10 people at our first meeting. We called ourselves Kilburn and Queens Park ANL, and decided what we would do. The 4th May Council Elections were then only four weeks away, so we had to get going. We contacted various local groups... trade union branches, the local Labour party, the local community centre, for sponsorship and to ask their help in giving out leaflets. With the money we collected for the supporters cards we were able to stock up on leaflets, and then carry out extensive leafeting on the surrounding housing estates.

Then we had a street meeting in Kilburn High Road. We weren't properly prepared at all, no banner, no table, no megaphone even! Until we were able to borrow one from the Labour Party who were out canvassing. However, we gave out lots of leaflets, all the different ones there are, including those advertising the carnival. The response was good. We collected 5 names and addresses, lots of people came up to talk, and several wanted to take leaflets for their workplaces and schools.

After the carnival, we held a second street meeting, with all the right equipment this time (the banner was important, so that you can be seen) and were much more successful. 12 names, £8.60 in supporters cards, and 25 badges sold.

Street meetings are obviously a good way to advertise the ANL, and give people who are interested the opportunity to contact us. Following our experiences we've decided to hold one every other week.

There are other activities planned to involve more of the local community. The group is meeting fortnightly to plan local activities and to discuss the politics of the NF: a local festival, a stall at the Community Street Festival, contacting the local churches for meeting places and money are just some of the things we plan. You see, once you start, you realise that there is no lack of things to do and no lack of people to do them. Our branch is growing at a phenomenal rate.

Once you have a fairly good branch set up, you can break down into smaller units, so that we could end up with an ANL group on every street!

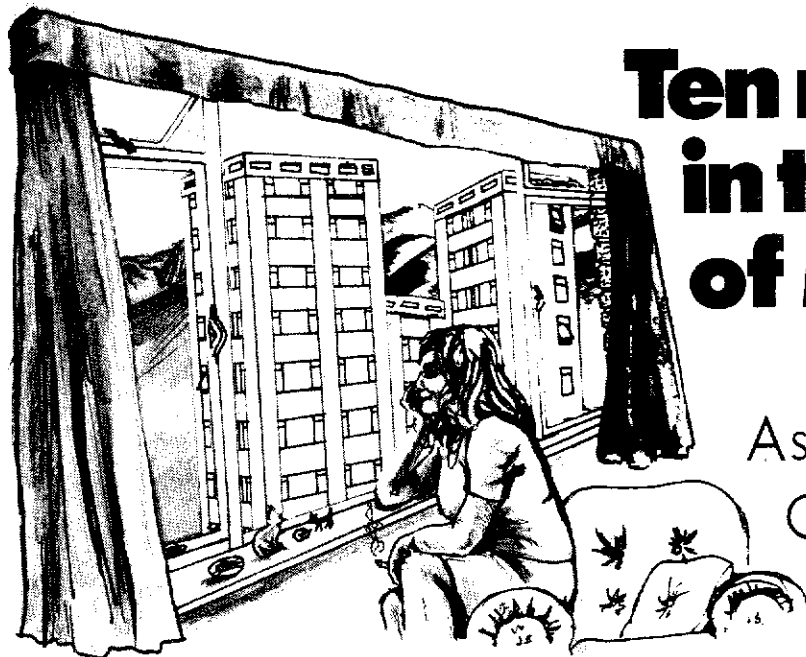
Sheila Robin

THE WOMEN Against the Nazis pamphlet is now ready. It is very clear and simple—needs no further explanation. All you have to do is knock on the door and sell it!

Then, as you go round, try and get the women who buy it to come to a meeting, in someone's house in the same block, or the local community hall. Not a great meeting but the sort where women can decide what they want to do on their estate.

Write and let us know what happens, any little snippets of news and ideas.





Ten minutes in the life of Mrs X

A short story by
Christine Dagleish

Smilng isn't something that I do a lot of, particularly in the winter. Looking out from 2 storeys up onto grey stone walls and dull skies isn't exactly heart warming. Concrete and uniformity—that's winter for you if you live up here.

But now, look at the shine from the car roofs, the clear blue sky, the aeroplane trail. There are even birds singing—yes, birds. Write and tell that to the local evening paper. 'Birds Come to Alcatraz'. I can just see the headlines. Wasn't there a real bird man of Alcatraz? Ah yes, that was a prison. I chuckle to myself. Some people would argue that this was too. I take a sip of tea and rest my elbows on the windowsill. When I think about it, I'm a prisoner up here all through the winter. You go out shopping once a week—scurry round town, can't wait to get back to your centrally heated cave. Once that door shuts behind you, it's as if you're suspended in mid air. No one can touch or disturb you and pry into your boring dull day. Safe, that's how you feel. Come to think of it, after that description, I really wonder why I bother with living. But I do. Oh, I'm not desperate—don't start getting worried, please. It's just that, when you think about it, I'm a very unexciting person. I live in a very unexciting flat in an even more unexciting area. Like I said before, concrete and uniformity. Perhaps I'm slowly turning into a slab of breeze block or whatever it is they build these things out of.

I imagine myself, slowly turning into a slab of grey stone. Panic, as it creeps up my body. I throw my head back and laugh. Slab of stone indeed!

Amazing how laughter, a smile, a feeling of life, comes easy in the sunshine. I open the window wide and let my arms and upper body soak in this regenerator. Even the back end of a bus, a matchbox model on the road to my left, looks friendly.

The sun's rays bounce off the telephone box, off the metal climbing frame in the kids' concrete playground, off the bits of broken glass, the empty cans. Two months ago, I would have noticed them as rubbish, more ugliness in an already over ugly environment but not now. If they weren't there, I think, there'd be no sparkle from the sun, nothing glinting, dancing on the ground, moving, living.

I can feel myself getting ready, it won't be long now. Another cup of tea first though. 2 workmen busy themselves with repairs on the roof of one block of flats. They have a radio. It's not my kind of music, but I must admit, it fits the scene. Reminds me of holiday time, when the kids are off school and we go to the park down the hill. I smile again. Radios in boats on the lake—radios in the grass—radios to accompany football, tennis, bowls. I wonder what it would

be like without them in the park in summer. Difficult to imagine when you've never known it otherwise. They're part and parcel of Spring and Summer, living up here.

It's lovely and warm stood in this spot, resting my chin on the palms of my hands. I close my eyes and breathe in deeply. If I lie on the settee in the lounge I can sunbathe—well, not yet, not in April, but later on maybe, when it's really summer. I could get really brown. People'd think I'd been abroad for a holiday. My laugh for that one is tinged with irony. Yes that *is* a laugh.

Two kids, no husband, no money. This is as near to a holiday as I'll ever get. Tea's finished. There's cleaning to do, clothes to mend, a few pots to wash. I've three letters to write, all concerning money. There's a bill on the table that I just can't afford to pay and Gavin has torn his best pair of trousers from top to bottom. Somehow, he must have a new pair. Incredible, two months ago, I'd have been tearing my hair out, cursing everything and everyone, wondering how? how? Today, I just lift my face to the sun, eyes closed and smile. And the strangest thing is, that I don't know why.

I lower my head and look at the grass, the footpath, the road in the near distance. Well . . . ready or not? No. Not quite. A little while longer. That's the girl from number 22. Just had her fourth child. She must only be about 23 or 24. I don't talk much to her, except when I'm taking the rubbish along the deck to the chute. And that's something else too. That rubbish chute'll stink if the weather stays warm. Rotting, smelly potato peelings and tea leaves. Oh, for heaven's sake, shut up. Just enjoy the sun whilst it's here.

She never seems to smile either. I often see her going along to the shops. I don't know how she can afford to buy stuff there. Still, I was the same. When the kids were little, I couldn't manage them in town.

If you look in the distance, straight ahead, you can see the moors. They always fascinate me on days like this, because of their colour. They're blue grey, a darker version of the sky. I think they look so beautiful, unreal—I know that the kids make up fairy stories about those hills. On a day like this, I can understand why. Mind you, the scaffolding on the block of flats opposite spoils the view a bit. I wonder what they're repairing?

Two birds fly by. I suppose winter's just as bad for them as it is for people. People like me that is. I bet they're really happy now that it's spring.

You ready then? Well I think so. I stand up straight. Yes I'm ready. I'm happy, I'm smiling—I feel good. I put on a jacket and I'm ready to go for my first walk of the year. I smile to myself. It *must* be the sun.

WHAT IS so important about the right of women to be treated by women? Why should socialists fight for this?

It is the right of any patient or group of patients to be treated sympathetically. We support the demand that patients should be treated as people, not as items on some sort of assembly line, being processed through the hospital system. Health problems are not just a matter of encountering a bug in the air or the water. Health is not an individual problem, but is related to the sort of lives we are forced to lead in this society. When women demand to be treated by women it is a step towards a better kind of health service.

We do not want to see health care made into a scarce resource that GPs and receptionists deny us access to. The child welfare clinic, the health centre, the hospital out-patient and casualty departments should be open to all who feel they need help. People need to be encouraged to use their health service, not discouraged.

In Islington, the four Well-Women Clinics were under-used until the Community Health Council ran an advertising campaign about them. Now the waiting list for an appointment is between 5 and 15 weeks long for these clinics. But if no publicity had been done, no doubt Mr. Ennals would have seen these clinics, like the EGA itself, as 'expensive luxuries', that 'most women had no use for'!

HEALTH FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN

By people who need help, we do not just mean those with obvious symptoms of disease. Feelings of extreme tiredness, being run-down, depressed, having the fear that one may harm one's children, paralysing loneliness; these are just as real problems as bronchitis or diabetes. All the evidence of modern research shows that stress and prolonged misery lead on to disease, anyway. Yet what we have now is a disease industry, not a Health Service. Any yet in health more than anywhere else, prevention is essential. Many preventable diseases, once established, are near-impossible to cure.

Mr. Ennals seems to think that money can be saved, for example, by stopping the 'over-prescription' of drugs such as tranquillizers. In fact, what is needed to do away with the need for tranquillizers is *more* not

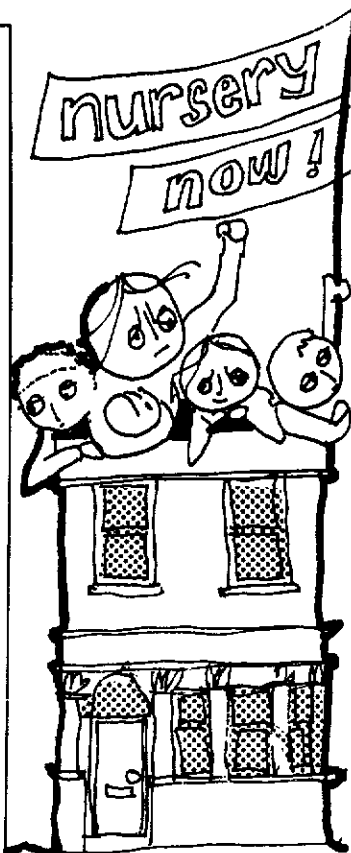
less resources to be devoted to women's health. Doctors need time to understand the woman's underlying problems; health centres and clinics need more nurses, health visitors and other caring staff. They also need creches and other facilities to encourage women to form their own self-help groups.

Improvement in health care for women are incompatible with cuts. They require the expansion of our present health service. This is why the Women's Committee of the EGA Campaign is continuing to fight for the new Well-Woman Clinic, to be available to all women, without the ration-ticket of a GP's letter.

If we do not fight we will continue to see the Health Service go backwards. Like Fords or British Steel, the NHS is cutting out the smaller buildings, concentrating on bigger and more impersonal 'units of production', boasting 'efficiency' by trying to get patients out of hospital as quickly as possible. They are also introducing productivity bonuses and 'workers participation' in the health service, just as in private industry. The closure of small, friendly places like the EGA is just what this strategy demands.

It is women who, at the moment, are most willing to begin the fight to reverse this and begin to demand the sort of health service we need. The fight for a Women's Hospital is the spearhead.

Mel Bartley



FOR MOST women who work, when it comes to deciding to have their first baby, the choice is the baby or the job.

A working woman with a family loses her job with each pregnancy and then is faced with finding a new job when her children are of school age or old enough to be left in the care of a minder.

Together with the loss of her job goes loss of promotion prospects, holiday entitlements, increments and all other conditions based on the number of years she has worked. If she returns to work, she has to start again at square one.

The circumstances of pregnant women vary greatly. Some women are driven back to work almost immediately because of financial considerations. The woman is single or she and her husband feel that his wage alone would not support the family comfortably. Other women prefer to take up work again as soon as possible after the birth and feel secure that the baby is being well cared for while she is at work. Others prefer to return to work some time in the future when the child is of school age.

Whatever their circumstances, most women will return to work some time after leaving their jobs to have a baby.

And every mother wants to know that the safe, healthy and happy upbringing of her children is not endangered by her premature return to work in conditions prior to childbirth that endanger the safe birth of her baby.





Maternity Leave

workplace, before they can be enforced. That's often a way of getting a much better agreement.

Maternity agreements are not restricted by pay laws or agreements between the TUC and the Government and even the best agreement is comparatively cheap for most employers: there aren't that many pregnancies; abysmally bad nursery provision means many women never return to work; and the State repays employers the cost of the maternity pay allowed under the EPA (six weeks full pay).

So it was good news for all working women when the provisions for Maternity Leave came into effect from April 1977 under the Employment Protection Act. It seemed as if the conflict between being a mother and working had been removed.

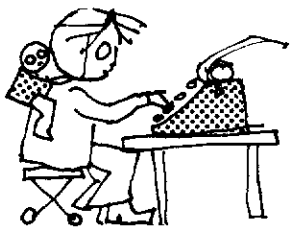
Under the Act, each woman has in law:

- The right not to be unfairly dismissed on the grounds of pregnancy.
- The right to Maternity Leave and to reinstatement after Maternity Leave.
- The right to Maternity Pay.

In fact, the Act is pitiful and disappointing. The period of paid leave is not long enough and the Act does not guarantee job security to *all* working mothers. Only women who have worked for the same employer for two years are entitled to reinstatement.

Womens Voice believes that every woman whatever her circumstances, has the right to bring up her children free from financial worry. Every child has the right to be reared in a comfortable and caring home.

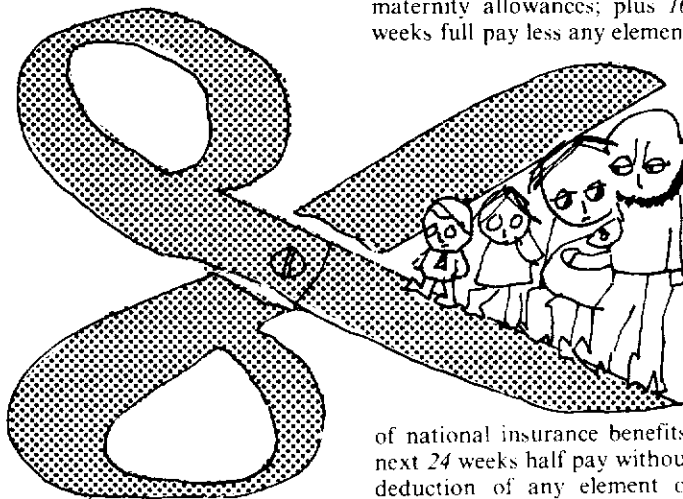
We need to win for all women and children a whole range of maternity and child rights and benefits.



INSPITE OF what you may have been led to believe ours is the *worst* European country for maternity leave and other welfare rights, particularly those affecting women.

In Denmark women get 50 percent of their salary for five months on maternity leave. In Sweden the mother or father can take 34 weeks leave at 95 per cent pay.

Although many unions have model or national agreements on maternity leave they have to be negotiated locally, in your



There have been victories for maternity provisions -- at Little Ilford School in Newham, London, the teachers struck until an extra teacher was appointed to cover for a pregnant colleague; in Rawlpugs, Glasgow, pregnant women are allowed a shortened working day and extra rest periods; at the BSC Footwear factory, in Leicester, Pat Corby won the right to be found another, equivalent, job when her own work became too heavy.

In all of them women have fought for the conditions they think are best.

What do we want?

Eligibility: No qualification period for maternity leave and full rights for part time workers.

No one has yet won this provision, but many agreements are much better than the two years at work condition of the EPA. The Stratford Express Group NUJ chapel has won 'all female employees shall be entitled to paid maternity leave provided they have had 10 months service with the company'.

Length of leave: a maximum maternity leave of 63 weeks on

full pay, 10 weeks before the birth and a year after.

The EPA provisions give only 29 weeks unpaid leave after the birth (though you may receive maternity allowance for seven of these weeks). This provision is useless, particularly for single mothers or families with low incomes. Having a baby requires more money, not less.

The best agreement won so far is in the London Borough of Camden (NALGO and NUPE) 'Six weeks full pay less flat rate maternity allowances; plus 10 weeks full pay less any element

of national insurance benefits; next 24 weeks half pay without deduction of any element of national insurance benefit'. Galleon Roadchef (GMWU) gives 20 weeks full pay for women of seven years employment.

Continuity of employment benefits: all the benefits of continuous employment should continue to accrue in spite of maternity leave -- promotion, holidays, sick benefits, annual increments. Such an agreement has been won by the unions working for the H.J. Heinz company (TGWU, AUEW, EETPU, ASTMS, ACTSS, TASS).

Return to Work: the right to return to a job on the same grade for up to five years after maternity leave.

A lot of women want to stay at home when their children are young, others are forced to by the almost total absence of nurseries. For years this has meant returning to bottom grade jobs, on the lowest wages.

Even if you don't get a full years leave or long term job protection its worth negotiating special arrangements. ASTMS at Longmans publishing have won 'return to work on a three day week basis for a period of four weeks on full basic salary'.

The same union at Counterpoint have negotiated a right to redeployment into suitable alternative work at the request of the employee.

There are many other points to be fought for, and some of them are already beginning to appear in agreements.

- Leave to continue if the child is born dead
- Leave for adoption
- Leave for fathers
- Time off work for both parents to attend antenatal and childcare clinics, and when children are sick.

Model Agreements: Many unions have drawn up negotiating targets and made agreements to fight for. **APEX** -- want all women to have rights to maternity leave regardless of the length of time they have worked.

NATFHE -- want to include couples who live together in maternity rights, with one year's paternity leave.

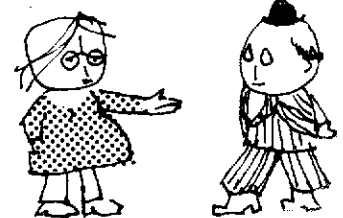
GMWU -- perhaps the best overall model -- want 30 weeks' paid leave, 10 to 15 days' paternity leave, part time work on return, the option to alter hours if previous hours were unsocial, (for fathers too).

An outstanding clause in the GMWU model is 'The Company will seek to find suitable permanent alternative work for the temporary employee on the return of the original employee from leave'.

It's up to you: It's local negotiations which count. Make sure it's the women who negotiate in your workplace and make sure you are all fully informed about what you want and what others have won. Hold a meeting; contact people who know the law. Most important, contact women who have been successful in winning good agreements. Womens Voice can help if you contact us.

There's a lot of useful information in

- Maternity Rights for Working Women (NCCL)
- Guide for Negotiators (TUC)
- Blackmailed Back to Work (Womens Voice, 15p)
- Work and Parenthood (EPOC), with thanks for information in this article.



Illustrations from 'Mums & Dads' by Wendy



TRUDI, MARSHA AND NAJINDRA: THE SISTERS

THE SISTERS is a play about three schoolgirls, their ambitions and the way in which they are slotted into their roles in society. Set in an East London school, the play proceeds along comic lines as we meet the characters.

The girls are: Trudi — a working-class white girl; Marsha — an English black girl of West Indian descent; and Najindra — a middle-class Indian desperate to become Westernised like her

friends, who insist that she suffer an 'Ordeal' before she can be their 'sister'.

We have a representative of several types of male adolescent in Specs, Weasle, Psycho and Softy. Then there is Freddy, 'our hero', who typifies the stereotype to which the boys must try to conform.

The adults in the play are Mr. Butterworth (dishy history teacher) and the female careers teacher. She symbolises both the sort of

woman the girls would like to be and at the same time the force which stops them developing into individuals.

With much witticism and joking the audience sits back and laughs at the pathos of the situation, showing us just how easy it is to laugh at. But in the second half the writer cleverly heaves the reality home, and, using abstract, shows the true horror of the whole set up.

The Asian girl has an arranged marriage forced on her and her white boyfriend leaves her shattered with the comment 'once a Paki always a fucking Paki'. The West Indian girl is unemployed and gets an offer of a job as a topless go-go dancer Trudi gets pregnant — losing her virginity was her way of showing she was *somebody*. She gets even more desperate.

It was interesting to watch the audience

changing their comfortable expressions as the attitude became more serious. I enjoyed the play immensely. It really showed, for me, the attitudes to women in our society and the ways in which they feel obliged to become second-rate sex-objects. It showed the face we call education and how easy it is to talk about it without realising just to what extent we play our part.

Sarah Tuakli

RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE

USUALLY when I read a book, I skip over the blurb about the author/ess; until I finished the last page of *Rubyfruit Jungle*. Corgi claim that Rita Mae Brown is 'one of the founding mothers of both the gay and women's movements' and she has 'extraordinary drive, charisma and leadership'. For once, Corgi, I believe you.

Rubyfruit Jungle is a masterpiece. Apart from being the funniest book I've ever read it is the most sensitive in illustrating the problems of being gay, poor and a woman. The story, based on Rita Mae Brown's life, is very real. Gladly, though, it never once leaves you feeling forlorn and helpless. Never once does she ask for pity.

Molly, the leading

character, tirelessly argues and acts against people's blind racial, class and sexist prejudices. Living in a narrow minded Southern town in the States didn't help matters one little bit when it begins to dawn on Molly that she really prefers women to men. The fact that she is a 'bastard' made it easier in people's small minds. After all most 'bastards' turn out to be a bit

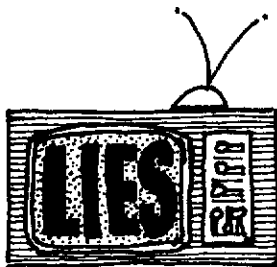
peculiar don't they?

That is only the start of the story. Molly is thrown out of college for being gay and that fits the pattern perfectly. Eventually, working by night and studying by day, she manages to make a short film. The rest of her class, all men, just can't understand why on earth she filmed an ordinary working-class woman who just tell her life of poverty and degreda-

tion. They don't understand. The film business stand firm against her being employed in a man's job. They say her experience would be a useful back up for what turns out to be a glorified secretarial job.

Despite all this Molly doesn't hate men or resent 'straight' women.

Her relationships with women aren't all plain sailing. Most of the women that she has



I HAVE this wild fantasy of hundreds of women besieging the ITN studios shouting 'We want Reggie: Show us your legs Reggie.'

You may well ask what have Reginald Bosanquet's legs to do with socialism. The answer is of course,

absolutely nothing. The next question is, what have Angela Rippon's and Anna Ford's (as yet unrevealed) legs to do with *feminism*? The answer again is absolutely nothing.

If you cut through the ballyhoo surrounding Ford and Rippon you find a pretty ordinary job. News readers are only journalists. But they are also the public and visible face of the BBC and ITN News, so they have become symbols of authority. Only a few years ago TV managements were claiming that

audiences would not accept women new-readers because 'they lack the authority of a man', but more recently they have become dimly aware of women breaking out of some of their old ghettos. Maybe after all they *would* be plausible sellers of their news. There could be novelty value as well!

They were right. The BBC has reaped a rich harvest of publicity and prestige with Rippon. Moreover, the two companies also discovered that they too, like other companies selling a line, could effectively use glamour and sex to compete for an audience for *their* version of The News.

News is not 'objective'. It's selected edited, filtered and presented to reflect the views held by those in authority, whether Tory or Labour, on politics, law and order, industrial relations and everything else. News invariably supports the establishment. But the public can be wooed to Kelloggs or Quaker for breakfast and Rippon or Ford for supper. News is just another product. TV



organizations use new-readers to sell a view of the world to us consumers, just as any other industry does.

ITN's answer to the posh Rippon, she of the eyebrows arched and tweezed almost out of existence, is someone rather more human, as you would expect from the commercial channel. But they are both now doomed to be 'personalities', and to command Brand Loyalty just as if they were tins of soup or tubes of

toothpaste.

Anna Ford has liberated herself into a job worth £14,000 a year. Very nice. But she and Rippon have in fact not liberated anyone or anything.

Perhaps change can come from the bottom in the TV industry, but it certainly isn't going to come at 9 o'clock of an evening from the new priestesses of the telly god in the corner of your living room.

Daisy Dormer

MARRIAGE

A woman's a fool to get married:
It's hard labour without getting paid.
He'll be o.k. most of the time,
Just so long as he gets his own way.
You do your best, try your hardest —
But he doesn't like rice,
And you should do that,
You'll never be as good as his mom.

Every little drink becomes a deluge
That washes him home in a mood;
You'd better get his supper,
Listen to him yammer,
Then lie back and think of Paul Newman.

No matter how often you tell him
That you just can't take any more,
He didn't do it, he can't remember —
No matter that's all in the past.

You can issue your ultimatums,
Try patience, anger and tears,
He'll never leave you
(No one else would have him)
And if you try to go
He'll threaten you with the kids,
And you know that you'll never escape.

If you're daft enough to get married,
For their sake don't have any bairns;
They'll chain you to him, and,
Worst of all your sorrows,
Is knowing they'll end up like you.

Lee Huntrods

affairs with cannot understand her instincts against possessiveness and total monogomy. Molly is determined that she doesn't want marriage with either woman or man. She wants to live. Living means fighting.

The very last paragraph of Rubyfruit Jungle sums up Molly's magnificent fighting spirit.

'Damn, I wished the world would let me be

myself. But I knew better on all counts. I wish I could make my films. That wish I can work for. One way or another I'll make those movies and I don't feel like having to fight until I'm fifty. But if it does take that long then watch out world because I'm going to be the hottest fifty-year-old this side of the Mississippi!'

Gail Cartmail

TURNING POINT

FOR EVERY woman who has ever faced the dilemma of choosing between having a family, or a job which fulfils her, there is a marvellous new film: *The Turning Point* starring Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine.

Bancroft and MacLaine play two women, old friends, who meet again twenty years on from the time when both were talented aspiring ballerinas. Both were in line for the leading part in a new ballet which would establish the one who got it as a major star. MacLaine finds that she is pregnant, so makes a tortured decision to opt out and have a family. Bancroft gets the part and becomes

the leading dancer of her generation. Now she is ageing, being eclipsed by young rising dancers, suffering daily humiliations as she is gradually edged into retirement. And she is desperately lonely, her life is without warmth or affection. MacLaine on the other hand is surrounded by a rumbustious and caring family but aches with bitterness over her lost opportunities. Both women are now reliving their shared past through MacLaine's daughter, who is an aspiring ballerina of the new generation.

The relationship between Bancroft and MacLaine, then, is the centrepiece of the film, and notably so in a film industry which

generally regards deep friendship as the prerogative of men. The depth and conflict of their emotions finally emerge in a superb climactic scene where the women let fly with all the pent up rage, frustration and thwarted expectation of twenty years. The acting in this scene is as good as I have ever seen on film.

The film is beautiful to watch, the ballet scenes being an added bonus. This film offers no answers, but it is a moving documentary of the misery and frustration which women can face when they reach 'the turning point' — and for many years after.

Norma Brown.

YOUR VOICE

83. EXTRA LARGE 6-ROOM DOLL'S HOUSE

Designed to bring out the housewife in every little girl. A delightfully attractive, 6-roomed doll's house with 5 front windows, front door and up-and-over garage door, all of which open. With open back to white walled rooms, patterned floors and staircase.



Junior housewife

Dear Womens Voice
I thought you might be interested in this advertisement for a doll's house, particularly its first sentence. It came from a Heinz Baby Club catalogue.

Fraternally
Hugh O'Donnell
Hamilton

Student teacher out in the cold

Dear Womens Voice
Read the papers recently? Exports up, inflation down. Unemployment — never heard of it? Well, I have, along with about two million others. For the last four years I've been training to be a teacher — come on, they cried, we need you. Funny because most of that time has been overshadowed by the prospect of no employment. Two years ago 127 colleges of education occupied over the threatened closures, reduced intake, unemployment and all cuts in public expenditure. What did we get? Support from the majority of student teachers, support from comrades in the classroom. What else? Sympathetic murmurings but no active support from the NUT, that great union which fights the cuts from Hamilton House, nor alas from the NUS. There were mutterings from the Ministry and a sigh of relief when the summer holidays came. That year a handful of students got teaching jobs, the next year even less, and this year I've yet to hear of anyone who's been offered work, and the

situation is meant to be getting better!

So where are we now? Twenty colleges have been axed, reduced intake enforced and students are fighting over yellow bits of paper euphemistically headed application forms. And the NUT? Well they send sunny letters to us all saying, well done, now you're a qualified teacher you can be a full member of the union. Unemployment? Well, it's there but it's not so bad, we can't do anything about it. And teachers got a pay rise, you know we fought for that!

Personally I have another problem. Having qualified last year with a Cert. Ed., I'm now doing a degree. More money, they say — better chances of a job. The truth is, sorry you're going to cost us so much to employ. — (£3,000 too much?). Come on, don't kid us that classroom sizes are smaller and there's too many teachers — why has the demand for supply teachers drastically increased? Make sure if you leave a school that your place is definitely going to be filled before you hand in your resignation. There's plenty of us out here.

Hopefully,
Anny Northcote
North London

Passport office strikes again

Dear Womens Voice
In your May issue you printed a letter which described the problems a woman had with the Passport Office. My passport recently expired and I wanted to renew it but I have changed my name.

On the document I had to complete I could choose to be known as 'Ms' but had to state whether I was single, married, divorced or widowed, and although this is my own passport I was obliged to give my husband's name and date of birth.

His passport has no reference to his marital status unless his wife is to be included on it.

Jan Williams
Muswell Hill, Lond.

Bloomin' marvellous — bloomin' con!

Dear Womens Voice
Enclosed cutting is a real laugh: just proves that secretaries are seen as a sort of wife/girlfriend substitute. Also, what will Interflora think of next to fill in the gaps between Mothers Day and Christmas.

I work as a temp and half the time in the offices all I do is make tea, answer the telephone, and of course I'm there for 'the boss' to let off steam at. Half the time offices seem to employ 'receptionists' merely as a status

symbol as they don't do anything that the men in the office couldn't do themselves. They just like having some woman at their beck and call.

The idea of spoiling your secretary once a year and treating her like a slave the rest of the time is similar to the two-sided way women are treated by society anyway. In Kinflicks Lisa Alther puts her finger on it — men put women on a pedestal — then treat it as a footstool.

P.S. There was a very interesting article in Spare Rib last month about secretaries too.

Yours
Jenny Austin
Birmingham

Mothers and babies I

Dear Women's Voice
Isn't it strange that all campaigns concerned with children, like nursery campaigns, are considered women's issues. Surely children are society's responsibility, not just the mother's yet nursery campaigns are, with a few exceptions, composed solely of parents and women. It is true that in reality, women are more discriminated against than men for lack of nursery provision. But aren't the effects of that discrimination, just part of what we are fighting against as socialists?

Lack of nursery provision means women have to accept shit-work; low-paid part-time work with little trade union representation. It is also part of the class struggle, since the working class have least chance to use nursery facilities: in 1974, for every 400 children, only one child from a working class family got a place in a nursery. Getting nursery provision is part of any campaign for the right to work, for without them, the real unemployment figures are disguised.

Some of the ways women are treated because they have children are disgusting. For example, the women in our university refectory are taken on the basis of how old their kids are and whether they have had childhood illnesses. If the kids haven't had measles,

SECRETARY'S WEEK
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TELL HER
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mumps etc., the manageress assumes the women will be away from work too often. Like any other workers, these women are being judged by how much labour they can put in.

Surely the fight for nursery provision is part of the fight against unemployment, bad wages and poor conditions — it's not just a women's fight.

Yours
Jane Spencer
Manchester University Nursery
Action Group.

Mothers and babies 2

Dear Women's Voice
Looking through issue no.17 I came across the 'Your Questions Answered' section. The first letter contained a suggestion that the writer would like to have a baby but that as she earned twice as much as her husband she would go back to work and he would stay at home. 'I don't believe in all that maternal deprivation rubbish', she said.

It would be wrong of me to jump to hasty conclusions about the writer. Hers is a short letter. But one thing I would like to remind the readers — male or female — is this. It's worth remembering that no matter how oppressed women are in our society — they do at least have a voice.

And in that they are singularly better off than babies. We adults, particularly women as they are the primary instruments of childbirth and child nutrition through breast-feeding, have a responsibility to understand our babies' needs. Babies cannot emancipate themselves. To say that maternal deprivation is an illusion is tantamount to saying that women don't exist! Their natural destiny unless interfered with is undoubtedly to bring into the world new human beings. And until lactation is over and the baby weaned, the woman is very much needed — not by society, although capitalism takes full advantage of her condition and exploits it to the full — but by her baby. Bottles are no substitute for tits, and timetables are no substitute for spontaneously responding to the baby's needs. How can we expect to bring up a generation of socially responsive human beings if we make them rely on unhuman objects and rotas when they are at their most sensitive — when every little thing is laying down the basis of their future relations to the world?

Of course woman's natural destiny can be interfered with and that really is no-one's business but her own. If women wish to control their destinies then society should be responsive to their needs. But if the woman decides she wants a baby she should realise that it means more than just bearing the child then going straight back to work leaving the husband, willing though he may be, to look after it. The one thing left out is the baby's feelings. I would like to include a quote by Vivian Jarow of the Primal Institute, Los Angeles.

'I have often heard professional women who are pregnant planning to not return to work soon after the baby is born by hiring competent household help. I cannot express strongly enough my contempt for this sort of motherhood. If a woman is not planning to do mothering in the true sense, she shouldn't become one! This is not an achievement to be placed alongside the diploma and the marriage certificate. This is the life of a human child that definitely needs his real mother close to him, nourishing his body in much the same way as she did before he was delivered.'

The Women's Liberation Movement has many important things to say about equality between sexes. But there is no way a man can truly 'mother' his child. He can certainly share and contribute a great deal, but he cannot breast-feed the baby in the first year of life and I believe this experience, with all the softness, holding, and love surrounding it, is crucial in the prevention of neurosis.

Why not fight for nurseries which are institutions for mothers — places which make mothering easy and desirable — where women are left free of the household burdens which oppress them. Women shouldn't confuse motherhood with wifehood. The two are not synonymous and her liberation from oppression by men and the capitalist system has nothing to do with liberating herself from her responsibility towards her child. Women's liberation should consist of freeing herself from those conditions which force her to be a mother against her will, force her to be a wife in isolation from her friends, and force her to experience actual motherhood as an extra burden alongside the household chores, resulting in the use of nurseries as dumping grounds for unwanted infants.

Yours faithfully,
F.M. Farrar
Exeter.

The IUD and aspirin

Dear Womens Voice
I refer to a letter about Intra-Uterine Devices and anti-prostaglandin drugs from A. Marais in Womens Voice May 1978. I beg to differ with her advice. In the absence of any evidence to support her suggestion that IUDs work by stimulating the production of prostaglandins or that aspirin and other drugs increase the pregnancy rate, I regard it as of vital importance to refute her assertion that women who have a coil fitted should beware of taking aspirin and similar drugs.

IUDs are good safe reliable contraceptives in the majority. Their tendency to produce period pain in the early months of use is readily treated by the use of pain killing drugs, and new users should not be apprehensive of using them if necessary. I believe such scare-mongering does a great disservice to the cause of contraception.

Yours,
Susan E. West
Medical Student

MS?

Dear Womens Voice,
Children in Finland will automatically take their mothers' surnames under a proposed new law expected to be passed soon. They can be given their fathers' names if both parents agree. Under this bill, a woman has the right to keep her surname when she marries, and a man may adopt his wife's surname.

It's always interested me that women object to the title Mrs because of assuming their husband's name, but don't object to their surname before they marry because it was their father's. It seems there's now an alternative.

Yours in sisterhood,
Beth Light

Prevention better than cure

Dear Womens Voice
I am completely in favour of abortion whenever a woman needs it. But prevention is better than cure, and the anti-

abortionists gain credibility from the implication that heartless liberated women want to use abortion as a 'normal' form of contraception.

Abortion is not lightly undertaken but, unfortunately, sex without contraceptive precautions often is. Until women (and men) stop thinking that 'it won't happen to them' or worse still that pregnancy is a kind of deserved punishment for being 'naughty' then the drastic step of abortion will continue to be necessary.

Yours
Sophie Grillet

To punish or not to punish?

Dear Womens Voice
What about that man who held up his 14 year old daughter by her feet and swung her round and round? They ought to do the same to him. That's the sort of argument I've been meeting where I live about the case of the little boy in Brixton who was beaten, burned, neglected and starved to death.

His father got life and his mother got two years in prison. 'Good thing too,' was the reaction of some people to the father's sentence. But a lot of women seem to be quite shocked by the mother only getting two years. After all, she did know what was going on and she did actually burn the child with cigarettes.

The things that some women, I know would do to the parents if they got hold of them are far worse than what they did to their boy. And the whole thing seems to cause a sort of frantic hysteria, similar to the idea that blokes who make heavy breathing phone calls ought to have their balls cut off.

Sterilise them I hear you cry. Then they won't be able to do it again. But that sort of thing is just a brutal sideswipe at the surface of the problem. By the time families get into a state like that it's already too late. What we need is a system where families who can't cope with the hassle of small children get support, someone living in, more space, extra money and all the help possible bringing up their kids. Instead we get cuts in the social services.

The death penalty or life imprisonment isn't going to solve this problem.

Mary Phillips

YOUR VOICE

YOUR QUESTIONS...

Dear Womens Voice
 I'm fourteen and at school—a comprehensive for girls only. At the moment we are being made to choose our option subjects for the fourth year. They are offering us practical subjects like home economics and family and child care—ugh! I want to do metal-work and technical drawing because I think I would like to do an engineering apprenticeship when I leave school. Can I do anything to get these subjects provided in my school?

Anna Fraser

Dear Anna
 The Sex Discrimination Act passed in 1975 did cover education and though it provides for equality in schools on paper, the situation is still very unequal especially for girls

in all-girl schools.

I think you should organise on this issue. Are there any other girls who agree with you? If there are, organise a petition and collect signatures demanding that provisions be made for these subjects in your school. Copies of this can be given to your headmistress, to the local education officer and to the nearest Equal Opportunities Commission Office.

Also contact your local newspaper who may do a story. I'm afraid it may sound cynical but I don't think you will get these subjects in school mainly because of the expense involved but I think you should still go ahead. Good luck—write an article for Womens Voice to let us know how you got on.



One way to change life in your school: Fiona Marks (left) and Purna Sen took matters into their own hands at their school in Finchley, North London. In protest against the dreadful books for 'young women' in their school library, they went to school in boys uniform. The headmaster went mad, suspended them, and was then forced to reinstate them so they could sit their exams.

Dear Womens Voice,
 I am a single woman of thirty and you may think I am biased but I have a lot of really good, intelligent, strong women friends but I never seem to meet any men with the same qualities. Am I looking in the wrong places or don't they exist?

Liz Pedder

Dear Liz
 I must say in all honesty that the best people I have met in the last ten years have been women. Perhaps it is because of the

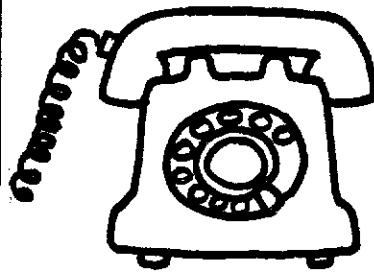
Womens Liberation Movement that women are beginning to assert themselves and fight their oppression and this develops the qualities that you mention. This puts men in a defensive position and many of them are scared to approach strong women because they are scared of being labelled sexist. They feel much safer with submissive women who allow them to get away with their chauvinism.

As to where you find strong men... that's a difficult one to answer but perhaps women could write in with suggestions.

ANSWERED

LESBIAN LINE

01 794 2942



LESBIAN LINE is a phone service for women, operated entirely by women, and offering help, advice and information.

Lesbian Line originated in the summer of 1977. This is the first time a woman has been able to ring up and be sure of speaking to another woman, whether she just wants information regarding women only events and places, or the opportunity to talk at length to a woman who will have had experiences similar to her own.

We provide the opportunity for sharing information, making links between different groups already in existence, helping isolated lesbians and bisexual women, and encouraging the formation of a wider network.

01 794 2942

Those of us at Lesbian Line do not see ourselves as a group of experts, but as a group of women with, between us, a wide range of ages and backgrounds and considerable experience we would like to share with other women. We respect every woman's need to make her own individual decisions about her life and sexuality. However, as well as the more open forms of prejudice against lesbians, we also recognise the total lack of support available to most women considering a lesbian experience. Invariably they are told to work at their relationships with men, and the possibility of relating to women is not really taken seriously.

In every aspect of our lives the heterosexual image is thrust upon us. Most women have been brought up either in total ignorance of lesbianism, or to regard lesbians with disgust or pity. Heterosexual women are often wary of relating to us as friends, and for us the first attraction to another woman can be very frightening.

For society the very existence of lesbians challenges the expectation that women are put on this earth in order to find a man and get married. It undermines the traditional view of women's role as being passively dependent. For men the independence of lesbians poses a particular threat to their ego. Society prefers to close its eyes to the existence of lesbians. But this apparent indifference is not to be confused with acceptance.

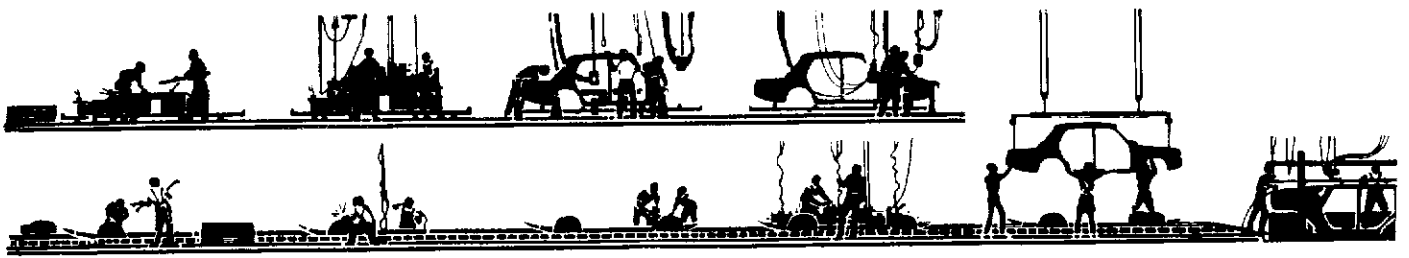
01 794 2942

Unlike male homosexuals lesbians are not discriminated against by law—but we face losing our children in custody cases, are assumed to be unfit parents, and risk losing our jobs if openly homosexual, particularly if we work in contact with children.

Seldom, if ever, are we shown the positive aspects of lesbianism: our closeness and strength together, our potential for developing alternative ways of leading our lives as women. We hope to offer a positive image of lesbianism to all women who contact us and communicate to them a sense of confidence and self-worth.

At present we are open for any woman who wants to ring us on: Mondays and Fridays - 2pm to 10pm
 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - 7pm to 10pm
 Letters can be sent c/o BM Box 1514, London WC1V 6XX.
 We also hold small social gatherings to enable women who ring us to talk, and meet other lesbians.

LESBIAN LINE'S TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 01-794-2942



WOMENS WORLD

by Judith Condon

THOSE WOMEN WHO SHOOK THE COUNTRY

JUNE 1978 marks a very important anniversary. Exactly ten years ago this month 127 women machinists at the Ford factory in Dagenham came out on strike. Their action was to have a far-reaching effect on all our lives.

The women machinists, members of the National Union of Vehicle-Builders, were demanding their work be upgraded. They wanted to join Ford's 'C' grade.

We are skilled workers, they said. We are tested on three kinds of machines. Why then are our wage rates always below the bottom unskilled rate for men? On the surface it was a simple question. But no sooner had you asked such a question, in 1968, than you found yourself having to ask a thousand more.

This was the background to the strike. Fords had, over the years, been introducing a so-called 'scientific' system of evaluating jobs into wage bands, from 'A' at the bottom to 'E' at the top. This had already sparked several disputes among the men.

The jobs done by women were separately graded. They were classified as low-grade work. Whatever skills women possessed were always rated 'low' on the management's scale.

Within the trade unions equal pay had never been a fighting issue. The Trades Union Congress had passed its first resolution supporting equal pay for women in 1888. But in all that time, all we'd had was promises and fine words on the one hand, and abuse on the other.

Some skilled unions had at least insisted on 'the rate for the job'. This meant that so long as women worked alongside men doing the same skilled work, they would be paid equally. Male workers knew if they allowed women to be paid less, then the bosses would begin to employ women instead of men.

But such jobs were few and far between. Most women in industry, like the Ford machinists, were confined to 'women's work'. And they earned on average half as much as the men.

Suddenly in June 1968, 127 women workers stepped right through the mine-field.

Why? they asked. Why is strength always rated higher than dexterity? Why don't we get training in so-called male trades? Why should we have all the domestic responsibilities, and be penalised for the fact?

And the answers that came back, from bosses and government and male workers and even other women workers who had been mentally culled into not believing their own value—non of the answers satisfied.

The women machinists went on strike from June 7th to June 28th. They brought Dagenham to a standstill. Their sisters at Halewood came out in support.

They descended in coachloads on the Vehicle-Builders annual policy meeting in Felixstowe. They invaded the hall with their banners and caused an emergency resolution to be passed — a resolution deploring the absence of women delegates from the conference as well as supporting their strike.

In a much-publicised gesture, Barbara Castle, newly appointed Minister of Employment and Productivity, invited the women stewards to tea. She persuaded them to return to work with assurances. Later in the summer they settled, not for equal pay, but for 92% of grade 'C'. The effect on the car industry was not great. Women went on being segregated in low-paid sections.

But the women at Fords had spraked a fire that was to grow and grow. As Rose Boland, leader of the stewards said, 'I think the Ford women have definitely shaken the women of the country'. And the men too, we might add.

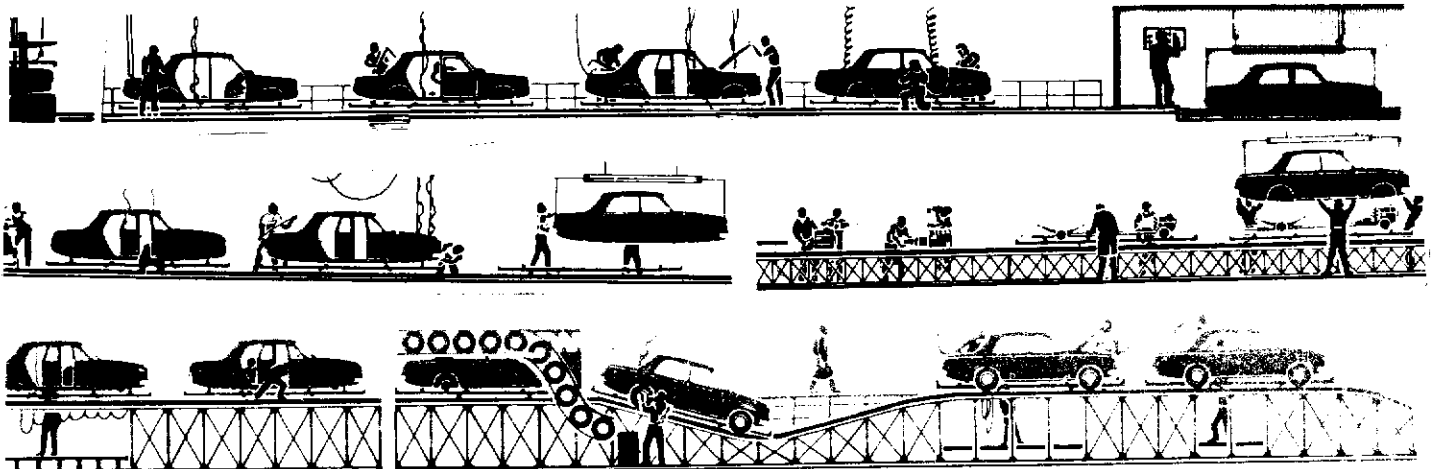
Eventually there followed considerable reforms, some more effective than others. Barbara Castle went on to pass the 1970 Equal Pay Act, giving employers five years to wriggle through the loopholes. Joyce Butler and others pioneered an act against discrimination.

The effects of the 1967 abortion reform were beginning to dawn on us. We were given rights over property in the case of divorce. But the spirit of the Ford women fed into an even wider movement, that was to affect even the most hidden areas of our lives. For 1968 was also the year of the most extraordinary and revolutionary happenings around the world.

In Vietnam the liberation forces had staged their magnificent Tet offensive. Black consciousness was stirring a whole new movement in the United States, while millions marched against the war. Students were rebelling in France and Germany. The biggest ever general strike in France brought down a secure regime in just a matter of days.

Incredibly the struggle against oppression and imperialism flared afresh among students and workers in Eastern Europe too. These events are being celebrated elsewhere this summer.

Set against them the strike of 127 women at Fords Dagenham may seem insignificant. Not so. For it was part, unknowingly, unconsciously at first of the beginning of a new movement. Working women are back in action, it said. We're out from our kitchens and up from under. And what's more you've seen nothing yet. For these were the first new stirrings in our young lifetime of the most profound and important revolution of them all — the rising of the women.



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

WV Meetings

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

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

● **Brighton** every Tuesday. Phone Sue (21060) or Manuela (Henfield 3843). Baby sitters provided.

● **Bristol Womens Voice** meets fortnightly in the University Students Union, Queens Road, at 8pm on Wednesdays. Next meeting, Wednesday June 14th. For details see WV or Socialist Worker sellers in the underpass outside Lewis Stores on Saturdays.

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

● **Cardiff** every other Tuesday, 7.30 at Union Books, 58 Bridge Street. For babysitters phone Bronwen (Cardiff 43480).

● **Edinburgh** for information contact Susie at Book Marx, 130 Morrison St, Edinburgh. Open 10am-6pm.

● **Glasgow** for information phone Christina (424 0118) or Sheila (424 1048).

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

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

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

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

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

● **North Manchester** fortnightly on Mondays. Phone Maureen Tottoh (205 2867) after 6 for details.

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

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

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

● **South West London** on alternate Tuesdays. Phone Marion 673 1329 for more information.

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

Public Meetings

● **Bristol Womens Voice** Public Meeting **The Suffragette Movement**, Guest Speaker Gill Brown, Wednesday June 7th, 8pm University Students Union, Queens Road

● **Hackney Womens Voice**: Monday 12 June, 8pm **Women and health** with a speaker from the local Women and Health Group. Come and hear what we've got to say, and say what you've got to say. If you need babysitters, ring Pauline on 800 3586.

● **Hornsey Womens Voice** Public Meeting **Battered Wives** — Women and Violence Monday 12 June Highgate Woods Lower School for details and babysitters ring Alison 01-263-3477, or see your local WV seller.

● **North London Womens Voice** public meeting: Politics of Sexuality, Monday 19 June, 8pm, Central Library, Fieldway Crescent, Holloway Road. For details and babysitters ring 802 6145. Tuesday 6 June Womens Voice planning meeting.

● **South West London Womens Voice** Next Meeting: 13 June: Pornography, local speaker. at 91 Bedford Hill, Balham, SW12. 7.45pm

Discos 'n fun

● **Kentish Town Womens Voice** fund raising social. Saturday June 3, 50p entrance. Ring Di/Vera 267 5059 for details.

● **Lea Valley Womens Voice** fund raising party: Saturday 3 June. 27 Nelson Road, Tottenham N15. Greek Food, booze and dancing! Entrance 50p.

● **Blackmailed Back to Work** A Womens Voice pamphlet about maternity to leave in NALGO. Available now! Price 10p. Send money with orders: 10p

Jumble Sales

● **Kentish Town Womens Voice Jumble Sale**. Saturday June 24 at the Camden Labour Centre, 8 Camden Road, NW1. Doors Open 2.30pm, admission 5p. Any offers of jumble please phone Doula, 607 2138, evenings. We will collect.

● **North London Womens Voice** Jumble Sale, 3 June, 2.30pm. Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, Finsbury Park. Jumble and offers of help, ring Bookmarks 802 6145.

each, plus 10p postage, orders under 10, plus 20p postage order over 10. Money with orders, to Womens Voice, Maternity Leave Pamphlet, Box 82 London E2.



● **Womens Voice** needs your help. Can you type drive design draw write

Do you have a few spare hours a week to help us? Please, we need you. Ring us or write.

Womens Voice

THIS ADVERT DEGRADES WOMEN!

● **This Ad Degrades Women** Stickers now available - sorry for long delay in sending them out to those who ordered. 50p a hundred. Money with orders. Write to Womens Voice Stickers, Box 82 London E2.

CLASSIFIED

Women in Manual Trades:

A group of women training or working in traditionally male jobs such as building, gardening and mechanics, are trying to build up a national register which women can use to contact other women doing the same or similar work in their area. We are also collecting information on women's experience in applying for training and jobs. If you are doing this type of work or have tried to get into it, could you write and tell us about it. (We will treat all personal details as confidential).

There are two groups—London, 21 Bouverie Road, London, N16, or Leeds 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds 7.

Workshop

North West Socialist Feminist workshop on Ireland Saturday June 3rd, 10am-6pm, Bolton Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton. Details from Ros, 69 Venice Street, Bolton.

Socialist Feminist

New Women welcome at North London Socialist Feminist Group. Meeting Thursday 1 June, 8.00 at Camden Women's Centre, Rosslyn Lodge, Lyndhurst Road, Rosslyn Hill, NW3. Belsize Park Tube. Come at 7.00 for food. Details from Hester (day) 485 6672 or Lynn (eve) 484 8346—and for childcare.

The Bookmarx Chain

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

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

COVENTRY: TU Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road.

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

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

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

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

SOUTHAMPTON: October Books, 4 Onslow Road.

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

South East London

WOMENS HISTORY WORKSHOP

What is Womens History?
Childhood in London
Women munition workers

Saturday 1 July 2pm - 6pm
Goldsmiths College, Lewisham Way, New Cross, London, SE14.
Free admittance

WANTED VOLUNTEERS

in the Womens Liberation Movement to give up half a say to act as stewards at the Great Exhibition to be held in Westminster Hall for three weeks from 3 July to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Votes for Women. Contact:

Rape Crisis

Centre If you have been raped or sexually assaulted and want someone to talk to or need legal or medical advice the Rape Crisis Centre runs a 24 hour telephone line. Contact us anytime day or night on 01 340 6145 or PO Box 42 London EN6 5BU.

Lesbian Line is a new phone service for women operated entirely by women and offering help, advice and information. 2-10pm, 01 794 2942.

Join Womens Voice...

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

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

Fight with Womens Voice for Womens Liberation and Socialism.

join the fight!

Womens Voice Groups

Scotland

Dundee
Edinburgh
Central Glasgow
West Glasgow
Glasgow Drumchapel

Wales

Aberystwyth
Cardiff
Llanelli

England

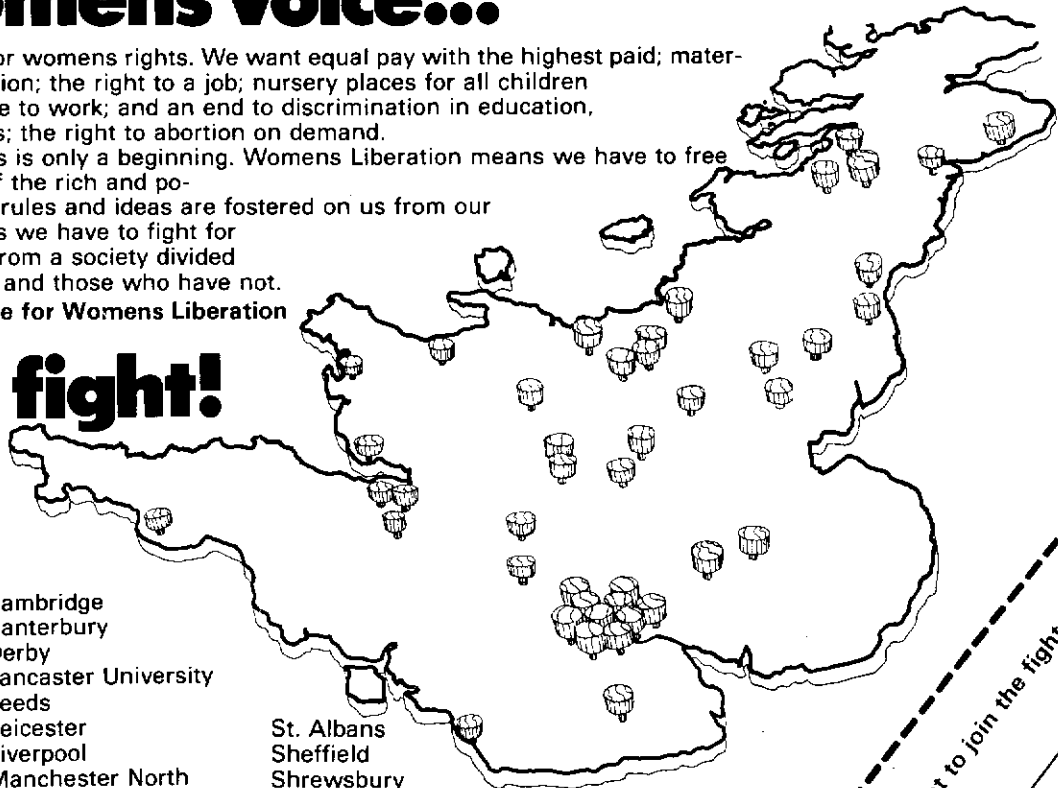
Bath
Birmingham
Brighton
Bristol
Bristol University

Cambridge
Canterbury
Derby
Lancaster University
Leeds

Leicester
Liverpool
Manchester North
Manchester South East
Newcastle
Norwich
Oxford
Plymouth
Pontefract
Reading

St. Albans
Sheffield
Shrewsbury
Stockport
Sunderland
Wolverhampton
York
London
North
North East London Poly

Central
South West
South East
Hammersmith
Bedford College
Lea Valley
Kentish Town



I want to join the fight.
Name _____
Address _____
send to Womens Voice,
PO Box 82, London E2.

WOMEN'S VOICE FIGHTS

OUR STORY CONTINUES...

ART.....BLOT BROWNBILL
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NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION



.. for free abortion on demand...



.... for equal pay.....



... against hospital closures...

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