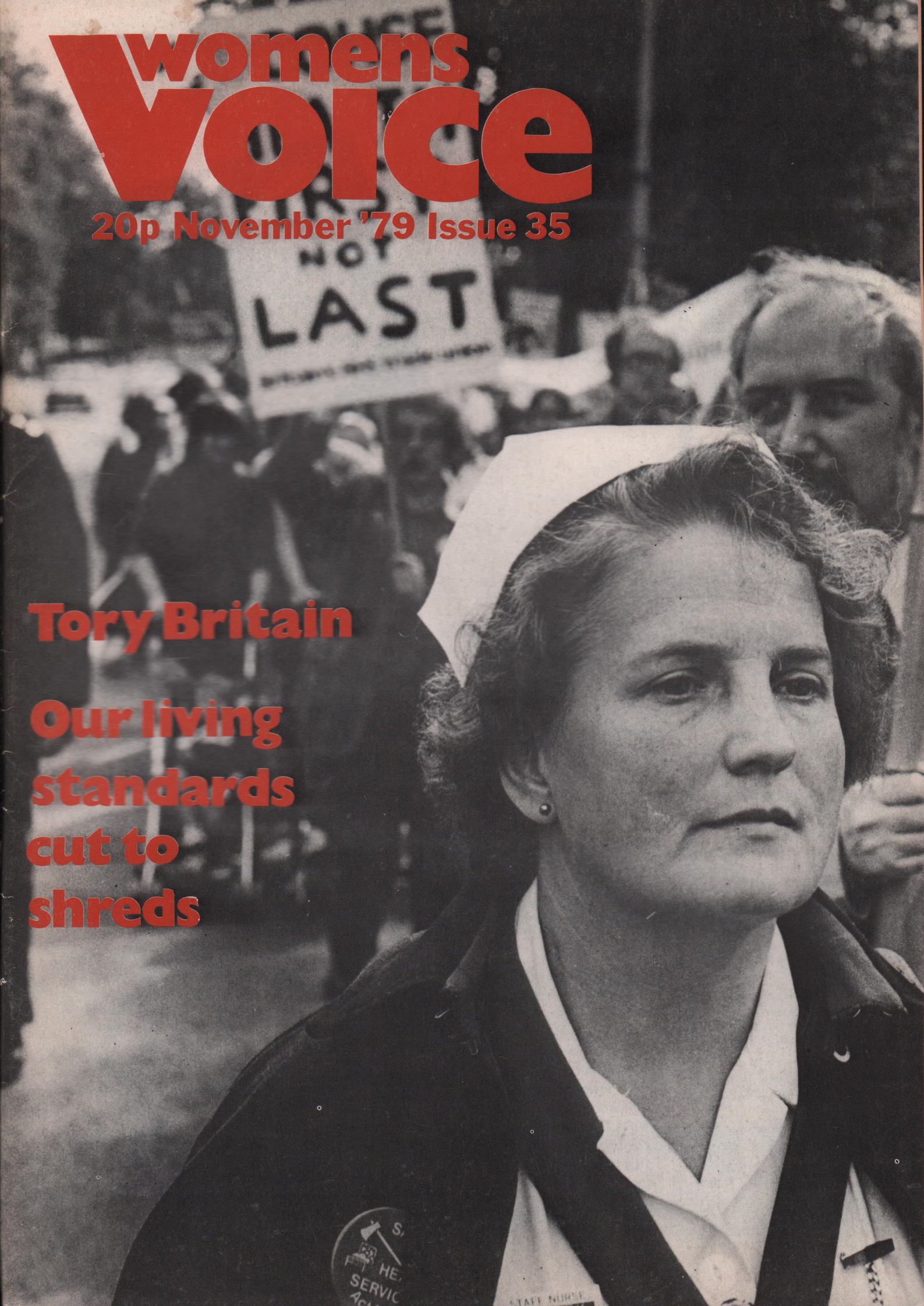


# womens VOICE

20p November '79 Issue 35

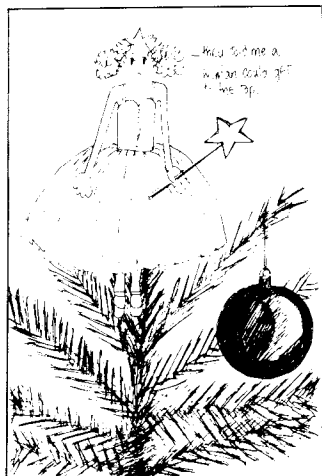
**Tory Britain**

**Our living  
standards  
cut to  
shreds**





# Happy Xmas sisters...



Designed by the women who illustrate *Womens Voice* each month: Cary Ackroyd, Jill Brownbill, Vicky Colbeck, Sophie Grillet, Liz Mackie and Maureen Williams. A set of six cards, with envelopes, will cost you £1.50 including 30p for our postage and packing costs.

All proceeds from the cards go into our funds, so give us a hand and stop pouring money into the coffers of the big card printers all in one go!

Orders with money to *Womens Voice*, Box 82, London E2.

**ORDER YOURS NOW**



# OUR POINT OF VIEW

## Our right to decide

EVERYDAY we take decisions. Little ones, about what to wear, what to eat. Shall I buy strawberry jam or raspberry? Can the cleaning wait or should I go to the launderette? Our lives are filled with a million mindless decisions.

When it comes to the important things someone else decides. Where to build new council houses, or a new hospital. Whether a piece of land will be used for a factory or a playground. Whether to spend more on defence or cut money from the education budget.

These decisions are made by a different class of people, away in the boardrooms and corridors of power—well out of our reach—even though they dramatically affect the quality and pattern of our lives.

They don't always have it their own way. It is possible for workers to get together and force a decision in their own interests. Trade Union members do win wage rises and improvements in conditions at work. Tenants Associations do, sometimes, keep their rents down, or get their repairs done. Cuts campaigns can stop vicious cuts by a local authority.

We don't always win. Sometimes, when forces are evenly matched between the two

contending sides, we reach deadlock. Then it seems as though we can never win.

The campaign to defend our abortion rights is just the same. Our elected leaders, the MPs in Parliament over whom we have so little control, want to increase their power to take decisions for us. They want to limit our control over our lives. So they have come now for the third round in the battle to change the 1967 Abortion Act.

Whatever our own personal views about abortion, whether or not you would ever want an abortion yourself; whether or not you think there is something morally wrong about abortion, the question is who decides.

We have won some control over our bodies and our lives. Does the state, through its Parliament and its Church spokesmen, have the right now to take that control out of our reach?

Do they have the right to take away our power to decide whether or not we want to be nine months pregnant and 16 years bringing up a child?

The decision in Parliament will take ten minutes, the time it takes MPs to file through the division lobbies. For us the decision will be with us for the rest of our lives.

womens  
Voice

Womens magazine of the  
Socialist Workers Party

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Cover photo Ian McIntosh JFL

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If you have an idea for Womens Voice, but you don't know how to go about writing it down, write to us, or phone, and we'll help you put pen to paper. Get a group together in your area and we will organise a writers school for you.

Next editorial meeting will be 28 November — ring us for details.

Letters, news, reviews, articles or whatever must reach us by 14 November for the December issue.

Printed and published by East End Offset, Box 82, London E2.

WOMENS VOICE . PO BOX 82 LONDON E2 . 01 986 6222

## ABORTION CAMPAIGN: FIGHT TO WIN

WE CAN win this campaign and defeat the Corrie bill.

This demonstration is the boost the campaign needs, but one big demo won't win it for us. Tomorrow we have to start on the next round.

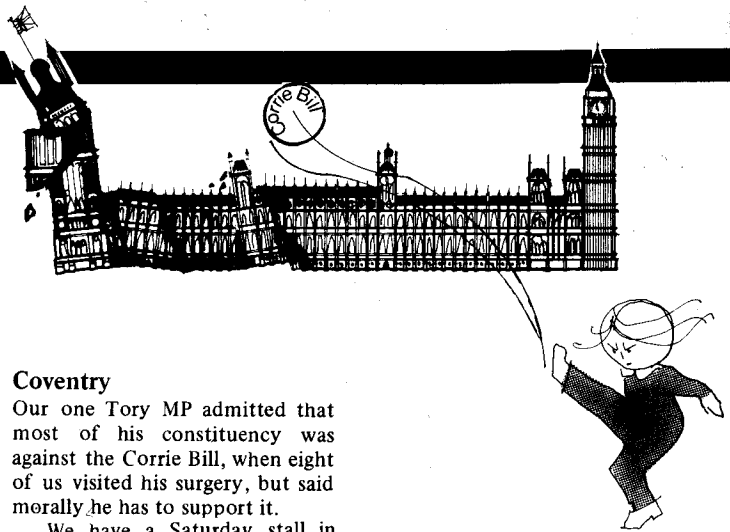
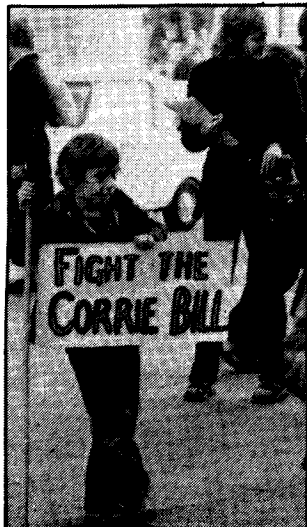
Five years ago, when James White introduced his anti-abortion bill, none of us would have dreamed that the TUC would go so far as organising a demonstration, but it has. Now we have until February to push the TUC even further. Every member of a trade union branch should start moving resolutions through Union Executives to the TUC committing it to call a lobby of Parliament, in the day time, the day the Corrie bill is debated.

There are still thousands and thousands of men and women that we can involve in the campaign. In every town we have to organise factory gate meetings, petitioning at factories and workplaces in the lunch hour, visits to shop stewards committees, special union branch meetings

We have to organise everything and anything that will win the campaign local publicity: pickets of MPs surgeries, sit downs in the road, demonstrations.

If we can make a bigger impact by co-ordinating events nationally we will: perhaps a Sunday designated as church day, when we will leaflet the Catholic churches (the suffragettes went so far as to burn them down!), a week of activity round schools.

Our campaign does have massive support. We have to mobilise it.



### Coventry

Our one Tory MP admitted that most of his constituency was against the Corrie Bill, when eight of us visited his surgery, but said morally he has to support it.

We have a Saturday stall in the precinct and have collected 900 signatures and have distributed 1000 local and 1000 national leaflets.

Penny Hicks

### Manchester

Students for Life planned a film showing in the students union at Manchester University, but came up against some lively opposition. Fifty pro-abortion students clapped and chanted forcing the film show to a halt. This particular Life film was sponsored by Nestles, the dried milk producers now famous for the damage they have caused to so many babies born in underdeveloped countries.

Terry Straiton

### Bournemouth and Poole

We are petitioning against Corrie and are getting great support. The alarming thing is not one person we approached - about 600 - knew anything about Corrie. The Trades Council 'couldn't' offer us any help. Anyone interested in joining our group, please contact Carol on Lychett Minister 3164.

Lesley Dike

### Newham

A day care abortion clinic has been opened in Newham, East London. It goes under the name of a gynaecological unit because the consultant working there, Mr Arendt, argues that abortion should be no different from other care provided for women.

The unit has six beds and a sympathetic staff.

Counselling will be available but Mr Arendt believes that for some women this is an intrusion on a decision they have already made, and which they have every right to make.

Lesley McBurney

### Sheffield

Fifteen women from NAC and Women's Voice dressed in black or wore arm-bands and carried a placard with a wreath pinned to it to mourn the women who have died in backstreet abortions. We collected 400 signatures in an hour.

We will continue such stunts

and organise meetings in factories where possible.

Madeline James

### Hackney

Campaign Against Corrie organised a picket of Hackney Hospital on 13 October and read a letter by a gynaecologist stating his support for a woman's right to choose.

We continue to leaflet local markets, talking to women about the Corrie Bill and collecting signatures.

Janet Hucket

### Birmingham

We picketed a meeting organised by SPUC, the Catholic anti-abortion group, advertised in the Cathedral as 'the case against abortion'. The idea was to heckle and argue with people as they went in, but in the end the meeting was so poorly attended that our services weren't required. Those we did speak to obviously had no idea of the real reasons why women seek abortions.

Jenny Austin

*'No Priests under our skirts!'* was one of the slogans chanted as 30,000 women marched through Paris on 6 October. The abortion law in France is due for review at the end of this year after a five-year trial period. The law was an improvement for French women but it was nowhere near progressive enough. It made abortion legal up to 10 weeks of pregnancy, but the cost could not be reclaimed from social security, like any other operation (there is no NHS). Abortion was still illegal for immigrant women and minors.

The fight goes on, with another mammoth demonstration planned for late November.

### Spain

Eleven women are on trial in Spain for illegal abortions. The demonstrations in their defence have been broken up by the riot police, something we expected under the fascist government. Spain is a catholic country. Telegrams and messages of support for the women on trial should be sent to: El Editor, El Pais, Calle Miguel Yuste 40, Madrid 17, Spain.

## CORRIE BILL LICENCE TO KILL

Mrs Susan Bradbury died after giving birth on 11 October. Her husband says that they had tried to get an abortion seven months before and had been refused one. He said: 'I feel that pressure was put on Susan to have the baby in spite of her condition. I believe it was a moral judgement and not a medical one. I knew her medical history and that's why I didn't want her to have the baby. But she had the same maternal instincts as any woman and was vulnerable to emotional pressure.'

Susan Bradbury had heart and lung disorders and only one functioning kidney. She was overweight and 35 years old. Five years ago she had a baby who only lived a few days.

Clive Bath, the hospital administrator at Withenshaw Hospital in Manchester where the Bradburys went to seek the abortion, said: 'Extensive tests were done and they were told that there were no clinical reasons why continuing the pregnancy would put her at greater risk than having a termination at that time.'

The fact that her medical condition was found to be so critical at the post mortem suggests that the tests weren't thorough enough. A police officer at the inquest at Chelmsford Coroner's Court suggested that 'an outside agency' had 'got at' Mrs Bradbury before she went for the consultation. Mr Bradbury had told him this. What was the outside agency which played on Mrs Bradbury's emotional vulnerability? SPUC? LIFE? Or maybe a representative of the Church at Withenshaw Hospital.

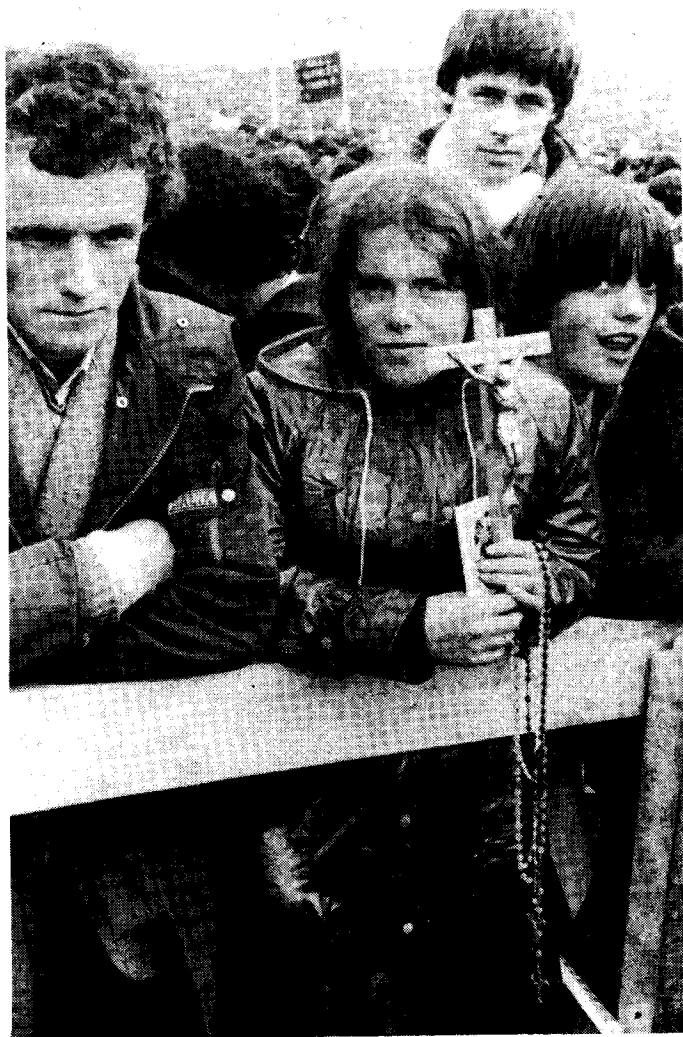
Susan is dead. She died after giving birth by caesarean section.

If the Corrie Bill went through stories like this would be two a penny. Why? Because Corrie would get rid of the charities, the only places where women know they will get sympathetic counselling.

The charities cater for 25% of all abortions. There are very few day care centres. The cuts in the NHS mean fewer facilities than ever. The Corrie bill is a direct attack on women's rights and will affect every woman. We will be deprived of choice, of the sensitivity of good counselling. There are many women who don't make the choice easily, either to have a baby or to terminate a pregnancy.

Abortion must be safe, legal and available on demand. Corrie's Bill is licence to kill.

Melanie McFadyean



Derek Speirs / IFL

## And the Pope said: **LET THERE BE MOTHERHOOD**

Two and a half million people are reckoned to have seen the Pope when he visited Ireland at the beginning of October. The entire population of the country is 5 million and of these 1 million are Protestant. Ireland is a Catholic country!

What does this mean in the South where self-proclaimed Catholics number about 95%. It means that the vast majority are regular Mass-goers and sacrament-receivers. But more importantly, it means that legislation is in line with Catholic moral teaching; that the bishops exert considerable direct influence on State affairs; that the Taoiseach (the Prime Minister) would welcome the Pope as 'Head of our Church'; that education is almost totally in the hands of the religious authorities.

Why was the Pope brought over to Ireland? A lot of lobbying

by the bishops and Knights of Columbanus (an arch-Conservative association of Catholic businessmen) preceded his acceptance of the invitation. The bishops and Knights recognised the growing liberalisation of Ireland over the past 10 or so years ('Beware of freedom', the Pope said when he came). The Pope came to Ireland to renew our old Catholic tradition.

What had been happening? Despite the Catholicness of the Irish people, hundreds of thousands were using 'artificial' contraception; thousands were going to England every year for abortions; marriages were breaking up even if the only institution to cater for that was the hypocritical and limited safety valve procedure of the Church itself; although still small, there was a growing call for the secularisation of edu-

cation; although heavily discriminated against by tax and low pay, married women were increasingly keeping on their jobs.

So, in the face of all this, what did the Pope say? He said 'May Irish mothers, young women and girls not listen to those who tell them that working at a secular job, succeeding in a secular profession, is more important than the vocation of giving life and caring for this life as a mother.' He said 'Respect the God-given cycle of life,' that 'marriage must include openness to the gift of children.' He referred often to the evilness of abortion and advocated the continued interference of Church in State affairs to guarantee the indissolubility of marriage 'through positive social and legal action.'

The Pope's visit was a great big festival and the people loved it. That does not mean they intend heeding what he said.

What of a religious backlash? Well, they say that there has been a renewal of spirituality - that people are rushing to the sacraments, that lapsed Catholics are returning to the fold. It is too early yet to say that the visit will have political repercussions - certainly the 'men of violence' haven't laid down their arms! But because the Church's influence is so well entrenched in Ireland any sign that can be taken as endorsement of this position is dangerous.

It means that from now on socialist and women's groups will have to take on the Church in a much more direct fashion. Any campaign directed against the Catholic Church will have to take into account that the vast majority of the people do support that Church and don't question its influence in secular affairs. The ordinary people, who, quite clearly, have their own opinions about issues such as contraception, divorce, abortion, religious control of education, however, must be encouraged to voice them and break the crushing power of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Mary Gordon

**Council Workers Against Corrie**  
**No Return**  
**to Backstreet**  
**Abortions**

Council workers versus Corrie just been set up. Badges, leaflets and more information available from 28 Stanley Buildings, Clarence Passage, London NW1. Tel: 278 2287 or 555 0793

# NO SOFT TOUCH

Corcoran is a particularly unpleasant man – he tried to sack all the active trades unionists at Adamsons Containers (ACROW) in Stockport because they were too well organised for his liking. What Corcoran didn't vouch for was total support from the rest of the workers and the victimised men's wives.

The workers went out on strike for re-instatement and after a month Corcoran sent letters to their homes. He thought that the wives would be a soft touch and would urge their husbands to return to work when they read the letter which said, that he wanted to have a friendly chat to sort out this 'unpleasantness'. What he didn't expect was that the wives would go down to the factory to have 'a friendly chat'.

Joan Taylor, wife of the con-

venor, said 'His reply to our request for a chat was to send for the police.' But Joan and the other wives hadn't trekked all the way down to the factory to be sent away again. They decided that if they weren't going to be allowed in, then no one else was going to get out. They blocked the factory gate, stopping staff from getting out for lunch.

Finally a police sergeant came but he found that Corcoran was easier to persuade than a group of angry women. He arranged for some of the women to meet him.

It was far from a friendly meeting. Joan was told that her husband would never set foot in the factory again. Corcoran cockily told her that in two weeks her husband would be on his own at the gate. Three weeks later the workers are still out on strike, solidly behind John Taylor.

Donations and messages of support to 6 Brooklands Road, Reddish, Stockport. Pat Jones

# Duff Strike

When Terry Duffy appeared on television to announce that the strike by engineering workers was over he said a great victory had been won.

After 10 weeks of industrial action and a massive show of solidarity nothing has been gained.

If the original claim for the minimum time rate (basic earnings) had been won this would have meant more money for the low paid in engineering, most of whom are women on a very low basic wage.

To make things worse the implementation date for the settlement will be the date local claims are settled. This means the few miserable pounds that might have been gained by some workers will be lost in the local claim.

Feeling amongst most engineers is that it was a complete sell-out. 13 days lost for no money. One hour off the working week in November 1981. Five days extra holiday spread over the next four years (not five days per year!). Higher productivity. No more negotiations on the shorter working week for the next four years.

What we did achieve was a massive show of solidarity among the members of our union.

Angela McHugh

Sawley Packing is a small subsidiary factory of Rolls Royce. During the engineers strike the workforce, mainly women, came out on strike. When Rolls Royce locked out the entire workforce the workers at Sawley Packaging were the first to start picketing.

Sylvia Pegg, shop steward at Sawley, told *Women's Voice*: 'Nobody has gained anything yet. It's mainly the hours we're fighting for. One hour off the working week now would make a lot of difference to getting someone off the dole queue. It should have been an all out strike from the start. If it had been it would have been over in two weeks.'

Sheila McGregor

# KEEP OUR HOSPITAL

32,000 people in Merseyside signed the Keep Wallasey Hospitals' petition and at a recent meeting almost a thousand people demanded the right to keep their hospitals open.

Jean Armitage (NUPE steward at the Victoria Central Hospital, which is due for closure) said 'They treat us like idiots. Telling us that there will be as good a service with no jobs lost. There will only be one huge, impersonal hospital instead of all the local ones we have at the moment. The new hospital (Arrow Park) has less beds and is miles from everyone in Wallasey. We need our hospitals where we live and we'll do all we can to keep them!'

At present we have specialist units for Rheumatology, arthritis, a general hospital, a women's hospital and a maternity unit (we have already lost the chest clinic). We are not even going to have an accident and emergency unit.

The Royal College of Nursing spokeswoman, Mary Atkinson, said 'Two years ago they moved all the furniture out of casualty and told us on the Friday afternoon that we were closed. All of the nurses were told to report to Birkenhead General for Monday morning. We fought them and the ward was re-opened.'

The other worry is, of course, the loss of nursing jobs. In the first document we saw from the AHA it said that there would be no redundancies. That was July, now they are saying no involuntary redundancies.'

Saturday November 3 – March against the closures. For further information and messages of support, write to Jean Armitage, 29 York Road, Wallasey, Merseyside.

Annie Dunn

# LOCKOUT ENDS

Seventeen women locked out from Trafford Carpets over a demand for pay parity returned to work after the GMWU official, Jim Glover, promised ACAS would intervene. He also said ACAS would not talk to them outside the gate. Misinformed and isolated they decided to go back united and attempt to build a union inside the factory.

ACAS refused their request for parity but subsequently they received one pound more on their bonus.

They have also elected two women shop stewards.

The women learned a lot about the union during the one week lock out – mainly that workers' strength lies with each other.

Jannie Brightman

# A Woman's right to drink

Been down to your local Trades Union Club recently?

Well if you're single and want to come to the one in Luton, I'm afraid you'll have to hang around outside and get a male member to take you in – even if you're a fully paid up union member.

Maralaine Scragg, an AUEW shop steward at Electrolux, is taking Luton Trades Union Club to court for refusing to accept her as a member. She told *Women's Voice* 'I'm furious, I pay the same Union dues as the men. I'm a shop steward, I attend all union meetings, yet most of the men that go to the club hardly attend any. I've been going to that club since I was a little girl (my dad's a convenor) and I put as much money behind the bar as anyone else.'

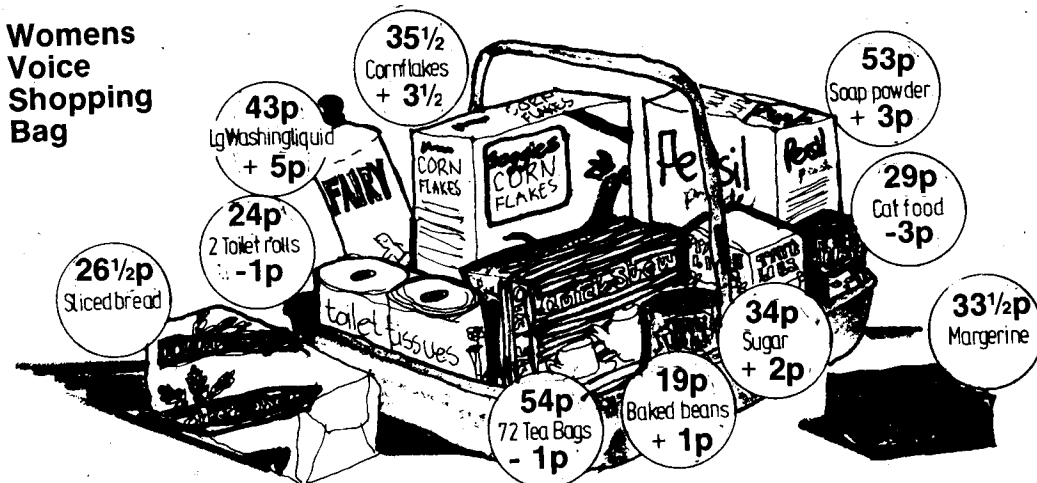
'When I went to see the president of the Club he got nasty. He said "I don't believe you're in a union – women don't join unions." Another woman I know, her husband died and she applied for full membership. The president told her to wait outside and get someone to bring her in – "We don't want loose women in here" he said.'

Maralaine approached the Equal Opportunities Commission who said that they can't act, as hers is an individual case. The local full-time official gives her his full backing, but she can get no financial backing from the AUEW.

Meanwhile Maralaine has taken a petition round work and all the shop stewards and women in her department have signed it. Her father is trying to get the membership rules reversed at the next (male) club members meeting. *Women's Voice* is trying to get support for her at the Trades Council and is urging all women union members to write to their local clubs, demanding the right to full membership.

Jane Spragg

# Womens Voice Shopping Bag



Total in June 1979 £3.13

Total in October £3.51 1/2

Increase 38 1/2p

## BLEEP SACKING

Veronica Holder, a West Indian shop steward at the National Temperance Hospital in Central London has been sacked. Why? Mr Davidson, a hospital management official claims that Veronica was sacked for refusing to bleep a doctor when a nurse asked her to. He added that there was a history of 'previous misdemeanours'. When asked what that means, he replied 'lack of co-operation with management, and rudeness.'

The real story is rather different. On July 12, a nurse asked Veronica to bleep a doctor. This is part of Veronica's job as lodge portress. The doctor concerned had asked not to be bleeped while off duty and at the time he was off duty. Veronica did try to reach him. There was no answer.

The workers Veronica represented are largely West Indian, Portuguese and Spanish.

Veronica is articulate and unafraid and has taken up many cases for the workforce in the hospital. She was a diligent and caring shop steward, who recruited a lot of people to NUPE.

The incident for which she was sacked may not have anything to do with her union activities but it is obvious that hospital managements don't like people like Veronica. It would seem that they were looking for something to pin on her. This view is endorsed by Mike Taylor a NUPE district officer.

The Camden and Islington Area Health Authority and the District Administrator have turned down her appeal. The case is going to an industrial tribunal.

Militant hospital workers are being victimised nationwide. It's part of the orgy of Tory reaction. Good shop stewards are a menace, they fight back.



Women picket the Merton, Wandsworth and Sutton AHA meeting.

In South London our health service is being savagely butchered in the interest of 'saving' money. Professor Cameron at Guy's Hospital spells out what that means. 'It is quite straight forward. If there is a reduction in allocation people will die.'

In-patient services are being cut by 10%, out-patient services to be closed one day in six, special units at King's Hospital for the care of new born babies are to be cut.

Whole hospitals for the chop, patients being thrown out of hospitals before they are properly recovered to make room for others.

Abortion and maternity facilities will be cut drastically as hospital beds get phased out 'temporarily'. Every hospital will have wards and beds cut, services run down and staff cut.

Jobs and lives are at stake

simply because it costs money to give people the treatment they deserve. If you can afford to pay then there's no problem.

Joyce Bernard IGWU branch secretary at King's takes up the story: 'People have to ask themselves do they want a national health service or not.'

At King's we are already understaffed, waiting lists are getting longer and people's health is now at stake. We feel private patients have priority here, it's the poor that will suffer. People have to be suffering really badly before being taken in. We have to make it clear in the hospital we want staff replaced not cut.

The T and G branch at King's are refusing to co-operate with the commissionaires (the people appointed to replace the sacked Area Health Authority.)

Joyce says 'We have to fight for all hospitals, you don't get anywhere just fighting for one. All hospitals have to get together - all hospitals throughout the country.'

NUPE have called for a day of action on November 7th. There will be a march from Clapham Common to Parliament which town hall workers and teachers are also supporting. Assemble 12 am Clapham Common.

Linda Quin

## SERVICES SAVED

**WE DID it.** We forced the Council to change its decision. All that leafletting and picketing, shouting and demonstrating worked.

Islington Council's social services committee decided to slash £30,000 from services to the under-fives. This meant 17 play groups and mother and toddler groups would be forced to close. Day nurseries, toy libraries and child-minder facilities would be under threat.

Islington Under Fives Action Group got to work. A demonstration was planned for the Saturday before the crucial council meeting that could reverse the decision. Money was collected and an advert put in the local paper. Leaflets were produced and put through thousands of letterboxes in the area. Newspapers and radio stations were contacted. And of course all the local playgroups and child care centres were kept fully

involved.

On the day, there were well over five hundred of us - the biggest local march any of us had seen for years. Women of all ages, men, and lots and lots of kids. We marched to the town hall, and there was no way we could be ignored.

The night of the council meeting we held a picket. After the success of the march, no-one was surprised that several hundred people turned out once again. It was dark, but we had music playing, and there was an enormous roar every time a councillor turned up for the meeting. A tremendous feeling of optimism filled us.

That night the councillors threw out the cuts plans. Services to under-fives in Islington are safe till the end of the year. And now we know we can make the council listen to us,  
Elana Dallas



Ian Mackintosh IFL

# Answering back

## Can Benn lead the way?

AT THIS year's Labour Party conference in Blackpool, the left won two significant victories. The Labour Party is to be more democratic.

It will be easier to get rid of an MP who isn't doing what the constituents want, and the promises in the manifesto—the promises with which Labour goes to the electors in a general election—will be decided more by the Party as a whole, instead of just MPs.

As socialists, we argue that the more democratic the Labour Party is, the better. But as socialists, we don't believe it'll make very much difference.

Every Labour government there's ever been has claimed to stand for socialism—and every one of them did more for the wealthy capitalists than it ever did for the working people who voted for it.

It was the last Labour government that started the policy of the cuts, that allowed unemployment to go up from half a million to 1½ million, that sent in soldiers against workers striking for a decent living wage. Tony Benn, leader of the left in the Labour Party, was a cabinet minister at the time. Having him at the helm instead of Jim Callaghan is hardly likely to improve matters much.

But if the party was truly democratic, controlled by its ordinary working class members, isn't that the way to get a socialist government?

The problem is that society isn't democratic. No matter how well-meaning and sincere in their socialist politics Labour MPs might be, they do not have the power to bring about socialism.

Why did the last Labour government cut welfare spending? Because there was a sterling crisis, and the only way to 'restore confidence' in the economy was to cut the welfare state. Who caused the sterling crisis, and whose confidence needed propping up?

It wasn't MPs, and it certainly wasn't us that sold sterling and caused a crisis. It was bankers, foreign exchange dealers, currency speculators, treasurers of multinational corporations. None of them are elected, but they *can* force elected governments to do their bidding.

If the crunch came, if a Labour government held firm to socialist policies despite a collapsing pound and a siege economy, if it really did try to legislate more wealth and power to the workers, that government would be removed by force. Melodramatic? It happened in Chile in 1973, in Cyprus in 1974, in Spain in 1936.

The ruling class are not going to give up their power and wealth without a fight. They will not be gradually legislated out of existence.

No-one can achieve socialism for us, we can only build it ourselves. We will have to wrest the power from those who hold it, and to do that we will need the strength of every working class woman and man.

What matters are not the struggles in the conference halls, but out on the streets against the cuts, in the workplaces for better wages and conditions, wherever women and men take it into their own hands to try and better their lives.

## Jean Ritchie for

# page 3!

'They scrub their earnest faces. They never wear make-up and they never ever wear bras.' Who are they? And who said this about them?

It is the Spare Rib Collective according to Jean Ritchie in an article in *The Daily Star* of October 17th.

Jean Ritchie refers to the SR Collective as 'way out wild women'. Like the editorial board of *Women's Voice*, they are a group of dedicated feminists, and are neither wild nor way out.

She quotes Angela Phillips, Ruth Wallgrove and Ruth Petrie extensively. She accuses them of hysteria, of being excessively unfriendly to her. She whines that she was 'accused' of wearing make up and high heels. She smugly 'pleaded guilty'.

'Their intensity is unnerving and can't be doing much for their cause,' she arrogantly claims. But it is thanks to women like the Spare Rib Collective that attitudes to women have begun to change.

Angela Phillips of the Spare Rib Collective said 'She's only taken elements of what we might have said and she neither understood or wanted to understand what we were saying. She was very angry. She didn't take any notes nor did she appear to have a tape recorder. She didn't ask any of us about our personal lives although she quotes me as refusing to say who the father of the child I'm expecting is. She didn't ask me! I was fantastically upset.'

We don't need that kind of treatment from other women, least of all those who claim to be in favour of equal rights for women.

We say Jean Ritchie for Page three. Think of all the tyres that would be screeching then, and she wouldn't have to wear a bra. How liberated can you get?

## VIGIL FOR JUNE

A silent, all night, torchlight vigil was held outside the Scottish court when June Greig's application for her appeal against conviction was heard at the end of September.

The vigil began at midnight. The BBC and press came, and everybody's spirits were kept up by a constant supply of coffee and tea from the court caretaker.

In the morning our numbers were boosted with the arrival of a minibus from Stirling and lots of local support. There were 200 people on the picket when the judges and court officials arrived.

Sixty of us were allowed into court to hear the case. The judges looked a bit over-awed when they saw so many of us!

June finally came in to court just before lunch. She looked in a very doped state, and had to be held up by two prison officers.

By the afternoon she seemed better, and did look up to see us there giving her support.

The judges granted leave to appeal. They also called for the notes of evidence of the original trial when June had lodged a special plea of self defence. Her lawyer argued that at that time the trial judge had mis-directed the jury.

The full appeal is now likely to be held in November.

We are continuing our campaign with as much, if not more, determination. Please continue your support for June.

Lyndie MacIntyre and Sharon Kilpatrick



# NEWS



## WOMEN PROTEST UNTIL IRELAND IS FREE . . .

A woman in Turf Lodge Estate, Belfast, left her flat recently to go to work. She had a nasty shock: Painted on her door were the words 'Die Now Cunts...Rest in Peace'. The women of Northern Ireland cannot and will not rest in peace until peace is theirs.

The All Ireland Women's Anti Imperialist Conference held in Belfast in September showed how a varied and militant feminism is emerging in Northern Ireland and building links with the South.

At the conference women from Women Against Imperialism stressed the importance of getting the army out, but at the same time fighting the oppression of women. 'Women's oppression is part and parcel of imperialism,' said Martha McLelland of Derry WAI.

Craigavon Women's Group is quite different. 'It is politically and religiously mixed. Some women are anti imperialist and some in the group are not,' said Brid Rusdy.

A woman from Sinn Fein described the change in the Republican movement towards

## On the streets until the jails are empty...

women's liberation. 'We are beginning to see more in Republican News about women. It used to concentrate on the national struggle. But the struggle will get nowhere without women's revolution at the same time.'

The Relatives Action Committee was started by women. Maire McRory spoke about the changing consciousness of women as a result of the war. 'The RAC was formed over removal of political status for prisoners. We have come too far and learned too much to go back. Women will be on the streets until the jails are empty.'

A 32 county Feminist Federation had been set up to link women in the North and South.

'This conference means an awful lot to us. It links us although we are split over the differences of anti-imperialism and feminism,' said a woman from Dublin.

Despite the fundamental differences in the feminism versus nationalism argument, the Irish women's groups are less fragmented and aggressive than their English sisters. They are working together. Ireland has been carved up for too long.

On the Sunday afternoon 40

women and children from the conference joined a demonstration in support of political prisoners. As we marched peacefully through the city, a sudden wall of soldiers and saracens blocked our way.

It seemed inconceivable that the soldiers would open fire. They fired into the crowd. Rubber bullets screeching past our ears.

Feminists in Ireland cannot ignore British oppression. In England we cannot ignore the continuing atrocities suffered by the people of the North.

Eleven women were arrested and charged with assault and obstruction during a picket outside Armagh Jail on International Women's Day. Their fines are mounting up. Send donations to Anne Marie Loughran, 7 Rivald Park Drive, Belfast.

## Until the British are gone . . .

I spent five days in Ireland. I spoke at meetings in Craigavon, Dublin and at the Belfast conference.

My message for Irish women was clear. Their repression is similar to Iranian women's being rooted in religion, male domination and horrific living conditions.

Iranian women who fought alongside the men to overthrow the Shah but did not raise their own demands are now facing a new regime which does not consider them capable of taking active parts in society and politics.

Women in Iran organised against the anti-women forces after the revolution. They took to the streets in their thousands. They succeeded to a certain extent, but they were not organised before the revolution and after it they were not supported by the revolutionary left movements.

In Ireland women now realise that it is necessary for them to organise themselves against male domination, at the same time as organising the whole population against British imperialism and



Cloagh Boyd JFL

capitalism which cause such misery.

In Dublin a collection was taken to send a telegram to Iran's Prime Minister protesting against the imprisonment of 14 socialists, 12 of whom are sentenced to death and 2 women who are sentenced to life imprisonment. They were 'tried' in their absence and had no access to a lawyer.

In some Irish revolutionary socialist parties such as Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Socialist Party, there is a feeling that the woman question is secondary. Women will automatically gain their freedom under socialism. This is exactly the feeling of the Iranian revolutionary left. I do not believe that anybody can be free automatically. We all have to fight for our freedom. There is no revolution without women's liberation.

Mandana Van der Kamp

## Until rights are won

Josie Airey, a mother of four who lives in Cork, attempted to have her violent husband barred from her house. The courts would not protect her. There is no divorce in Southern Ireland, only 'judicial separation'. In 1972, when Mrs Airey first tried to get an injunction, judicial separation cost £1000. There was no civil legal aid.

Mrs Airey used to be a market stall holder and her estranged husband is a lorry driver. He wasn't paying her maintenance. In the court she was told at the time to go outside and make up with her husband.

She went to the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg who found the Irish government guilty of two breaches of the European Convention of Human Rights. Article six says all citizens should have access to the courts and article eight protects family life.

As a result of this case district courts can now grant three monthly injunctions against husbands.

The Irish government, thanks to the tenacity and determination of Josie Airey, will now be forced to recognise demands for legal aid. Her efforts will make the government rethink its archaic family laws which virtually condemn men and women to lives of misery with each other when all the love and/or tolerance has gone from their relationships.

Mrs Airey said she felt great. She said, 'It means that I am a free woman. My marriage isn't dissolved but at least it's terminated.'

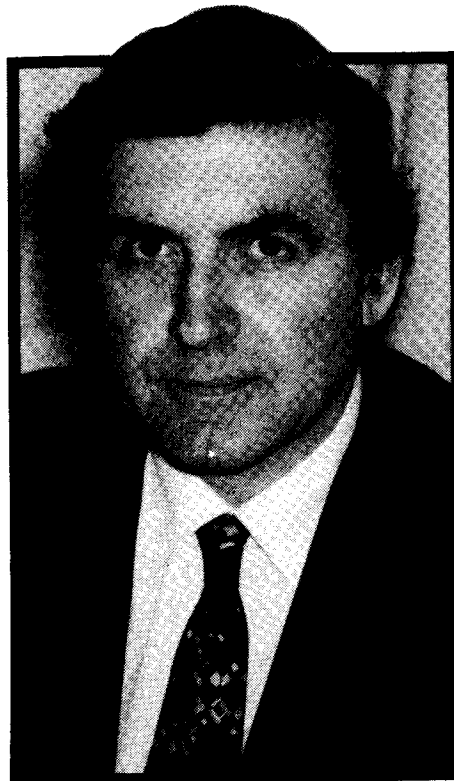
Nannies, au pairs, public schools...

# MOTHERS LITTLE HELPERS



*AS PART of their programme to take us back to the jungle, the Tories have been announcing a package of changes to the laws affecting women. They've also been announcing cutbacks in the social services and in education designed to drive women back into the home, shouldering total responsibility for family welfare. Already, because of the outcry in their own ranks, they have dropped their proposals to ban the foreign husbands of British women from settling here. They realised it would affect white women married to Americans and New Zealanders, as well as 'immigrant' women married to 'immigrants', that is to say black women. And they've axed their plan to remove job protection from pregnant women working in small firms. But the underlying intentions of their strategy stay the same. And their first line of attack is to talk a lot of clap-trap about Motherhood.*

**PATRICK JENKIN**  
*He used to be with Distillers who gave the world thalidomide.*



Patrick Jenkin, Social Services Minister, has come up with a reason for why modern society is bedevilled with terrorism and violence, strikes and other forms of crime. It's because children were separated from their mothers in World War II, he said recently.

He was speaking to the National Childrens' Bureau conference in Bath.

'I am convinced that a mother is by far the best person to look after her young children,' said Patrick. Which is probably why he had an au pair for his four fledglings, Flora, Bernard, Charles and Nichola.

Jenkin really cares about children. He used to be a top man with Distillers, who gave the world thalidomide, and who encouraged him to go into politics. When Jack Ashley pressed in the House of Commons for Distillers to be forced to pay compensation to the children their drug maimed, The Tories put on their whips to vote against the bill.

Jenkin's new theories about the need for women to stay at home and care for their children 24 hours a day are very handy for explaining why he's cutting social services at every level. In fact he doesn't actually believe in social workers. They're all members of the Socialist Workers Party anyway, he said recently.

But Jenkin's penchant for saying stupid things isn't a new thing.

His real claim to fame came in 1974 when he was Minister of Energy under Edward Heath. He had a brilliant idea to save electricity. We should all clean our teeth in the dark, he said. Monica Jenkin, his wife, even claimed she had unplugged the fridge, and was photographed washing up at her sink (no less) to prove she wasn't using her electric dish washer. Only trouble was, an enterprising news photographer photographed the Jenkin residence at night. Every single room was bathed in light. Even the porch had it's lights full on.

Jenkin was so embarrassed he ordered his wife not to speak to the press again.

Which is a shame. Because Monica has been a real brick in her time. In fact way back in 1952 when Patrick was starting out in his career at the bar, she went out to work to keep him. 'I was supported', he says, 'by my wife's earnings as... (wait for it)... a nursery nurse.'

Written by Judith Condon

**MARGARET THATCHER**  
*It all looks different when you can afford a nanny.*



One person who has kept unusually quiet on the subject is Margaret Thatcher. While Jenkin prattled on about mother being best, her mind probably went back to those distant days when her twins were born. Thatcher, then a lawyer, was at work within weeks of the birth. But then, it all looks different when you can afford a live-in nanny.

It was none other than Thatcher herself, then Tory Education Minister, who in 1972 announced with a lot of ballyhoo the Heath Government's plans to expand nursery education on a big scale. Seven years later, Thatcher presides over the cuts that are closing down nursery schools all round the country—which means we're worse off than ever, because the expansion never did take place.

**SIR KEITH JOSEPH**  
*He's keen on the sanctity of the family but not just for any one.*



Sir Keith Joseph, closest of Margaret Thatcher's mentors, is keen on the

sanctity of the family, and the importance of motherhood. But not just for any one.

'The balance of our human stock is threatened', he said in 1974. He went on to out-line how too many children are being born to women in social classes 4 and 5 (working class women to you and me.)

'They are producing problem children, the future unmarried mothers, delinquents, denizens of our borstals, sub-normal educational establishments, prisons, hostels for drifters. Yet these mothers, the under twenties in many cases, single parents, from classes four and five, are now producing a third of all births.'

'Some are of low intelligence, most of low educational attainment. Many of these girls are unmarried, many are deserted or soon will be.'

Sir Keith has four children. He and his wife were divorced last year. But don't go condemning him. After all, he's in social class one.

**SALLY OPPENHEIM**  
*She's minister for Consumer Affairs—a good choice. She's some consumer.*



Sally 'I would not call myself a rich woman' Oppenheim is the minister for Consumer Affairs. A good choice. She's some consumer.

Not long ago she gobbled up £600,000 when she sold her plush house in Hampstead. Then she and her husband paid close to a million pounds for their enormous estates in Norton and Sandhurst over in Gloucestershire. Then there's the town house in Gloucester itself . . . one needs a little pied-a-terre in the constituency don't you know? . . . and the three splendid Nash Terrace houses in London.

Our Sally knows a thing or two about prices. Why, the price of sojourning at those health and beauty farms has simply rocketted of late, likewise the ocean cruises and the winter breaks in St Moritz. And even when you do manage to put a few pennies by for a rainy day, some yobbo comes and steals it. £100,000

worth of jewels and furs from her London residence in a single raid.

But Sally didn't study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for nothing. She's always prepared to make a stab at acting hard up. 'When my daily\* asks me if I want a second cup of coffee and I refuse,' she says, 'she can't understand it. But I don't think I should drink it when it's so expensive.'

(\* readers note. 'Daily' . . . a word used by the upper classes for the woman who does their cleaning.)

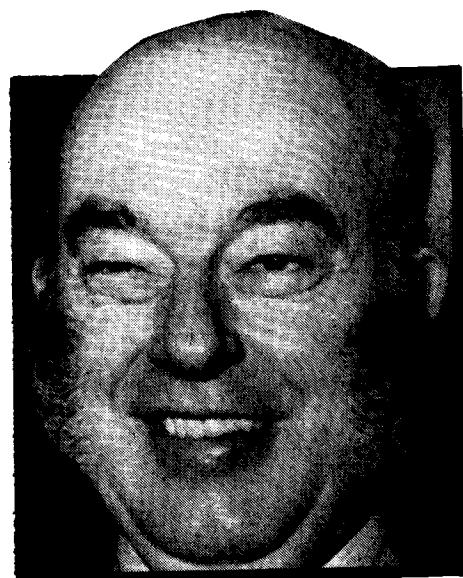
Aunt Sally ('I consider my wealth is irrelevant to my job') has three children. She agrees that children need their mothers, so she sent her's off to boarding school. Son Philip got himself into some jolly scrapes up at Oxford. He and a friend were found to have tormented a rather timid fellow student by dumping him on a dark and lonely road, fifteen miles out of town, with the word 'rapist' written across his face—one of a series of assaults on the man. Well, he was a bit wet, you know, explained young Philip. What a splendid example of a good Tory up-bringing!

Sally is very strong on morality. She once tried to move an amendment to section eight of the 1969 Families Act to compel doctors to inform parents when they prescribe contraceptives for teenage girls. A case of 'tell the truth and shame the devil'.

Only on one famous occasion Sally told rather less than the truth about her age. She always claimed to have been born in 1930. 'Who's Who' published the date she gave them. Yet the Tory central office gave her birthdate as 1928. 'They've got it wrong', said Sally. 'Central Office often get things wrong'. It took a newspaper to track down her birth certificate and break the bad news. Sally was born in 1928.

Must have been her splendid record on arithmetic that got her the job as prices spokesman.

**RHODES BOYSON**  
*He thinks the welfare state is evil.*



Dr Rhodes Boyson expresses it more simply than the rest. He believes totally in the survival of the fittest. 'I think the welfare state is quite evil', he says.

## WOMEN AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Day school, 3 November, 10.00 am  
Supported by South East Region TUC  
Harkness Hall, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1  
Speakers include Audrey Wise, Jane Barker, Marianne Craig  
Films, workshops, and much much more  
Creche available — please contact Ann  
Vinden 01-388 2366



# BEWARE THE NEW MACHINE

Miss Smith you've  
done so much work on  
our nice new machine  
that . . .

You're sacked!

OFFICE work is changing fast. Most largish firms, in London at any rate, now use word processors. Considering their wide use I find it surprising that more people are not aware of their implications.

Only last summer as a temporary typist in London you were in great demand. This year agencies are not able to produce the work. A call to four agencies at the beginning of October produced no work at all for the following week.

One 'temp' was told 'get out of temping, there will be no jobs in six months'. Obviously, this decline is not entirely due to the introduction of word processors but the impact made by them is certainly being felt already.

A word processor is a computerised machine, something like a typewriter, on which your work appears on a visual display unit (VDU). These machines can do the work of two to six typists. For example, when draft documents need correction (e.g. paragraphs need adding, deleting, rearranging) this can be done at the press of a button. Or standard letters can be produced to look like individually typed ones also at the press of a button.

All that retyping of long documents or that same old letter over and over again, is now done away with. Sounds like a good idea doesn't it?

But these machines have enormous implications for the jobs of every trained typist. With a word processor, you are no longer in control of your machine, the machine is now in

control of you. The work you are required to do appears on the VDU, it monitors the speed of your work, as soon as you have finished one piece of work up appears the next.

No more chats over the typewriter, cups of coffee when you feel like one, no more answering the phone or filing (the word processor has a memory so work can be retrieved by the press of a button). The work of the whole office is supervised by one person, the rest of us become production line workers.

There is increasing distinction between the work done by, say, a personal secretary and a word processor operator. The personal secretary's work entails doing a few private or personal letters, making appointments, answering the phone. The major part of her typing is done by the word processor. The typing pool is being replaced and personal secretaries are now working for two or three bosses instead of only one. This has happened on a wide scale already, jobs are already disappearing.

It's not word processors themselves that we should be against. They could take away much boring work. But this will only be achieved if we controlled the technology so that it was used for the good of everyone, not merely to make more profit for the bosses and put more of us out of work.

If we accept these machines it must be on our terms, not on theirs. To be strong enough to do this we need to belong to a well-organised union. The Women's

Voice pamphlet *Job Massacre at the Office* not only goes into more detail about word processors, it gives step by step instructions on how to go about getting a union branch going. It is an excellent pamphlet.

Women's Voice members must take up this issue now, taking the pamphlet into any place where women office workers work. Everyone in office work needs to get organised in a Union now.  
Barbara Robathan

## DANGER! EYES AT RISK

I became a VDU operator in 1976 and stuck it out for nearly three years. My job was to process information, by typing on a computer terminal.

The job demands that you sit still all day, staring at a screen which is about 25 inches from your face.

It's potentially damaging to your health for several reasons. First, you are prevented from exercising most of your body, you can only leave your seat to go to the toilet. Where I worked we had no fresh air and the central heating was stifling. I suffered from continual colds and coughs.

Our chairs were supposed to be adjustable but most of them were broken and the firm didn't waste money mending them. Most women had backache or neck cramps.

The lighting was the fluorescent strip variety, which shone on

the screen so that you couldn't see the print without turning up the brightness, and this really hurts your eyes after the first couple of hours. What we needed was soft, individual lighting, which we controlled.

The print on the screen was lime green (this is the cheapest to buy) and it makes you feel sick. Other colours are available, cream and soft pink are more comfortable to look at.

Having done this work for a few months I realised that my eyesight was affected. When I left work I could hardly see across the road, although this used to wear off after a couple of hours. We all suffered with frequent headaches, and carried aspirins around with us.

When I left that job, I got my eyes tested and was prescribed glasses to compensate for my blurry short-sightedness. But I realise how lucky I was — my eyes have improved and I don't wear glasses now.

But one girl I worked with went blind in one eye very suddenly. She went to the hospital and they asked about her work. They thought it probably contributed to her condition. She left the job and fortunately her sight returned. She didn't come back!

We had three short breaks in an eight-hour day. I've heard it's recommended to have a five-minute minimum break every hour, just to rest your eyes. It has been said that VDU's only exaggerate existing eye troubles — but the vast majority of people have potential problems with their vision anyway.

The only thing that VDU operators can do to improve such dangerous working conditions is to organise through trade unions, with specific health and safety demands. Regular visits from an eye specialist would help, and a shorter working week is vital, not only to share the few new jobs which are replacing the old ones, but also to prevent unnecessary risks to operators' eyesight.

— HEATHER BIRCHALL

**M** IMAD lives on Sabra, a refugee camp close to the heart of the Palestinian area of West Beirut.

A busy market lies at the centre of the camp where two wide roads meet. Narrow alleyways, thronged with children playing and laughing break off to twist and wind through the camp. One and two storey breeze block homes are crowded in on each other—in the last three years West Beirut has had to find space for a quarter of a million refugees from South Lebanon, Palestinians and Lebanese forced to flee from Israel's air raids and sea attacks.

Once the camps consisted of tents and tin shacks, squalid and miserable without roads, running water or electricity. But with the rise of the Palestinian resistance ten years ago in Lebanon, the people have organised to build solid houses, bomb shelters and sewers, nurseries and clinics, co-operative shops and bakeries. And everywhere the people who once farmed the land of Palestine grow plants. In tin cans and pots on balconies and flatroofs, sprout vines and tomatoes, flowers and even fig trees.

The poverty is still devastating. When the winter rains come the roads are deep in mud and in summer thick with dust. In some camps there are open sewers and inadequate shelters. But the Palestinians have set about transforming their camps as part of their struggle one woman said to me.

Im Imad comes to greet us at her door with several children crowding round her feet. I wonder at a woman who has borne 15 children, has spent 30 years in the camps, has survived the disaster of 1948, the attacks of the June war in 1967, the 1970 massacres in Jordan and the bloody two years war in Lebanon (1975-1976). All designed to annihilate her people and crush their resistance. I had expected to meet a worn, bitter and exhausted woman, weakened by her efforts to survive. But instead she is tall, strong and deeply joyful and generous.

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*'Go and tell the women in your country about us. Tell them who we are, why we are here, and how we are fighting.'*

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She wants to talk about her country. 'Go and tell the women in your country about us', she says to me. 'Tell them who we are, why we are here, and how we are fighting.' The door was open on to the street and friends and relatives came in as we talked and added to her story. We were sitting in the main room of her home, a room about fifteen feet by twelve with a sloping concrete floor, a single bare light bulb hanging from the ceiling, two wooden chairs and a pile of mattresses which were rolled out on the floor at night.

'I was born in Kfar Ana, a village near Tel Aviv, Palestine. All the people in our village were peasants working in the fields. I remember my father and a Jew from Melbis, a neighbouring village, whose fields lay next to each other. They had no fence or hedge between them and they worked together to



irrigate them as one field.

'We lived like brothers and sister with those Jews who had always lived in Palestine. (A small part of the Jewish population did not come with successive waves of immigration, but had lived there for centuries).

'We visited each other, ate with each other and we children slept in each other's houses. That was until the Haganah (the official Zionist army), who were foreigners came to Palestine. We heard the grown-ups saying that they were killing Palestinians who worked in fields owned by Jews. Then one morning we saw the murdered body of one of the men from our village—they had dumped him on the rubbish heap.

'The Haganah approached the mukhtor, the headman in the village, who was rich and owned nearly all the land in the village. They paid him a high price for it and then sent a beautiful woman to steal the money off him. After that, he sold all his land. Our families had rented the land from him and farmed it for hundreds of years. Now we had no land and no work.

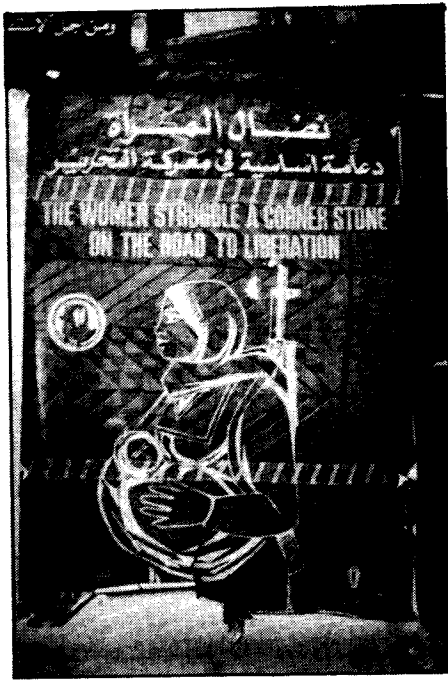
Some found jobs on a British camp near the village and a few had a little land of their own. The Jews had a boycott on Palestinians then. They had a law which said they could employ only Jews, not us.

After this many foreigners came to Palestine—British, Americans and Haganah and started the war. We were poor and had only a cow and the women's jewelery (the main form of women's property among peasant and bedouin arabs, a security against divorce and widowhood and only parted with under extreme pressure).

## **PALESTINE 'Everything in our lives is struggle'**

*In 1948, with the help of the British army, almost one million Palestinians were driven from their land, and the state of Israel was created. Tens of thousands of families have lived ever since in refugee camps.*

*The Palestinian resistance movement is fighting to regain the land of Palestine. During a recent visit to Lebanon, Vanessa Stillwell talked to two women who have played an active part in the resistance movement, and organised among the women in the camps.*



'We sold everything to buy guns but the foreigners had better arms. Every night they fired on our village. We children didn't understand what was happening. Everyday, the Hagannah and British smashed two or three villages and in the end used planes to bomb us. We had only a few simple guns and couldn't fight that.'

'I remember the night we left. I was six years old. The village of Deiar Yassin was near. (This village was massacred by the Irgun, a terrorist gang headed by Begin, now Prime Minister of Israel.) My father and uncle, when they heard about it, rushed home. They piled some bedding in the cart, put us on top and then took us from our home and village.'

*'Our families had rented the land and farmed it for hundreds of years. Now we had no land and no work.'*

'We never saw it again. King Farouk of Egypt did a deal with the foreigners. They put us in big lorries and drove us to Gaza where they pushed us out.'

'They just left us standing there on the bare earth. We had nothing. The United Nations came and gave one sack of food for every 10 families, a little flour, sugar and some sardines. We were hungry but still the Zionists used bombs on us, even there in Gaza. The Egyptians pretended to defend us by shooting down the planes but they just shot sawdust at them.'

'I lived in Gaza for 21 years. When I was 13 my parents married me off. I didn't want to get married then because I couldn't tell a good man from a bad one. I never went to school. My parents didn't think it was important for girls to learn, they just knew it brought shame on a girl if she didn't get married young. I only met my husband the day our parents signed the contract.'

'He was 16 and I had to live with his family

on another camp. In Palestine nearly all girls married someone from their own village, so even though they had to live with their husband's family they didn't have to leave their village or move away from their own family.

'I wouldn't make my daughters marry if they didn't want to. My eldest daughter did marry at 16—she agreed to it as he was my cousin's son, but she worried how she would manage her new life. She's in Gaza now and has three children. I was 14 when I had my first baby. I was frightened then.'

*'We were hungry but still the Zionists used bombs on us, even there in Gaza.'*

'I was seven months pregnant when the Israelis attacked and occupied Gaza in the 1967 war. We all went without food for a week. The Israelis captured my husband who was fighting in the PLO and put him in prison for three years. We all had to escape to Jordan. The PLO was very strong there—everyone supported it. But then King Hussein sent the army in and they murdered 9000 of us. We call that time Black September. My brother, Jemmel, was killed in the fighting and two of my sisters were killed when they bombed our house. That was in 1970, when we came here to Sabra camp.'

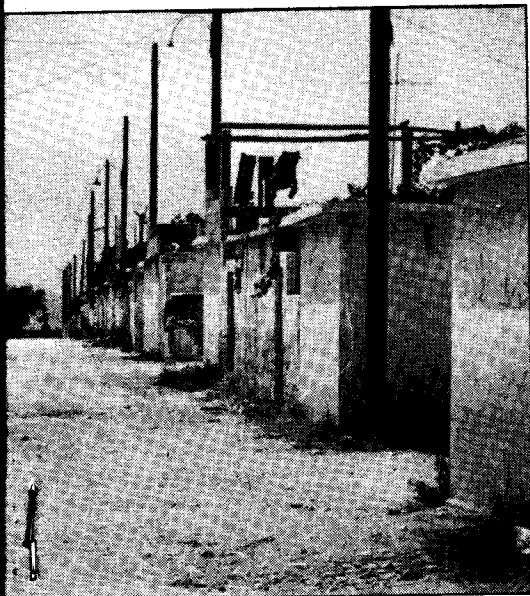
'When my husband was released they deported him to Egypt. He made his way to Jordan to find us but it was only three months before we had to leave. We have no choice where we live. We have no passports and cannot leave.'

'In the civil war in 1975 we cooked for the commandos, made the bread, fetched the water. Some of the house was destroyed but we repaired it again. We all helped each other. I had 13 children then and was pregnant but I walked every day to take bread and water to the fighters. When Tel-al Zaater fell (the Palestinian camp besieged and shelled for 55 days by Phalangists and Syrians) there was no United Nations or foreign aid for the survivors, except for the ones who were badly wounded. So we took them in. Those that needed food, we fed them. Those that needed clothes, we clothed them. Those who were sick were admitted to our hospital on our camp.'

*'I had thirteen children and was pregnant but I walked every day to take bread and water to the fighters.'*

'When the Phalangists, the fascists, shelled our camp, sometimes three or four children would be killed together. The bakery was badly shelled and in that explosion every family lost someone. The bread was ready and the children had gone to collect it for their families. There is not a family in this camp who has not lost someone and not a child here without a scar.' Abit Abir, her little daughter sitting next to me, lifted up her foot—only half of it was there. She showed me the huge scar on her thigh where





sew so they can be independent of their families and work outside the camp. If any one of us women has a problem, all of us help out.

'Then we also have meetings to talk about politics and health care on the camps. It is very important for us to understand our politics and to tell our children about our history. They have to carry on the struggle. What we want is to live in peace with the Jews in our own country. We shall never give up fighting for this ever, even if we die here. Please go back and tell this to the women in your country.'

OM OMZI lives in Rashidiyeh camp, a few miles north of the Israeli border. There is a sadness and emptiness here. The streets are half deserted and people look tired and drawn.

*'I have given birth to many children for Palestine.'*

'In 1972, 20,000 people lived here. Now there are only 3,000. Everyday Israelis and Haddad (fascists from the Lebanese army) bomb us. Yesterday a father was killed and his son wounded. The bombing started at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It is the month of Ramadan now, so we can only eat after it gets dark at 7pm. We all had to rush to the bomb shelters when the raid started and it went on all night. That means some people haven't eaten for 48 hours.

'The Israelis know this. Usually they attack during the day because it's easier for them to see their target them. Most of the men work in the fields, a few kilometres away. When the shelling starts so many die then,

'Then raids always start with seven or eight cluster bombs. It's been much worse since the Camp David agreement. Fifty have been killed or badly wounded since then. The Israelis have had a free hand since then—America doesn't stop them but supplies them with planes and bombs. They want to push us further north to the other side of the Litou river so they can take the water and control the land.

'We want to go on living here. I am Lebanese and came from Bint Ubeil. I married my husband, a Palestinian, 13 years ago and have lived here ever since then with our two boys and three girls. We need many things on the camp and elect popular committees to organise the work. I am on the Camp committee as a representative from the Womens Union.

'In the Union we teach first aid and simple military training and we run a nursery. When the Israelis invaded and tried to take Tyre, which is north of here by the sea, the old women cooked for the fighters and the young girls nursed in the clinic.

'Then we have to organise the cleaning of the camp as there is no one else to do it. Many homes have been smashed and worst of all, they shelled the school killing some of our children. They only bomb the camps, hardly ever the military bases or training camps. They are trying to terrorise us now like they terrorised the Paliestinians to leave the country.'

they had taken skin to graft on to her foot.

'The Israeli planes bombed our camps hoping it would make us stop our military operations to free our country. When the Israelis fight us we fight them. We refuse the agreement that Sadat made with the Israelis and the Americans and we'll go on fighting. We won't give up. There is one thing in our minds and that is Palestine. We shall never forget Palestine. We want only our land, not anothers. Without a country of our own, we have no identity.

*'Without a country of our own, we have no identity.'*

'My children ask 'Mama, where is our country? I tell them that our land is Palestine, but the Israelis stole it and forced us out. I have given birth to many children for Palestine and I am pregnant now. When they grow up I hope they will all be fighters. I don't want them to be doctors or high jobs like that. It is better that they go to the South and fight the Israelis. My two married sons and my sister Amina are all commandos.

'I joined the General Union of Palestinian Women in 1973. For a few months there was some fighting between the Lebanese army and the Palestinians. The womens union came to the women on the camps asking if they would join to help care for people in shelters and for the injured in hospital.

'We opened a nursery two and a half years ago. It takes 50 or 60 children from two to six years. Three of mine go—and they love it so much they always get there early. We also opened a sewing works to teach girls how to

# Womens Voice: the way forward

*WOMENS VOICE* first appeared in its present form in January 1977. It was launched by a group of women in the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) as the women's magazine of the SWP.

The mid-seventies were exciting years. Large numbers of women were becoming involved in political activity, many for the first time. The National Abortion Campaign, organising against the first attack on the 1967 Abortion Act, drew tens of thousands of women on to the streets, petitioning, holding street meetings, marching and demonstrating.

The introduction of the Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act led many women to expect equal rights, or at least an improvement in their conditions at work. The failure of the laws brought a degree of anger and militancy. The first wave of welfare cuts, and opposition from the public sector unions, particularly NUPE, involved thousands more. 'We're women, we're workers and we're fighting' was our slogan, and it fitted the mood of the time.

The experience of working in these campaigns showed us that women were interested in SWP politics, particularly on issues that affect women directly. *Womens Voice* was launched as a way of introducing our political ideas to more women, and drawing more women into political activity with us.

The magazine enjoyed an immediate success. Building on the work that SWP members had been doing, particularly in NAC, sales grew rapidly, and so did *Womens Voice* meetings. Once the magazine was established, meetings became regular rather than one-off, and the formation of *Womens Voice* groups to organise activity quickly followed.

Within the SWP, we won the argument that special forms of organisation are necessary to involve working class women, that we need *Womens Voice* to reach out specifically to women, and that we must deal with problems that affect us as women, as well as issues affecting the working class.

*Politics isn't just about the ideas in people's heads, or the statements on the back page of a magazine, it's also about action*

But the growth of a whole number of *Womens Voice* groups, and the active involvement of women who are not members of the SWP, raised new questions. A debate began, both within the SWP and within *Womens Voice*. What sort of organisation are we trying to build, how should the groups relate to each other at a national level, and in particular, what should *Womens Voice's* relationship be with the SWP?

These were the central questions debated at last month's SWP women's meeting, and at the *Womens Voice* delegate conference.

Should *Womens Voice* cut its links with the SWP, and try to build itself as an independent organisation, with no specific connection with any other political organisation? Those who supported this position argued that we need to build an active socialist feminist organisation in

which non-aligned women, and women from different left groups would participate, and that a link with the SWP would inhibit such participation.

They argued that our understanding that there can be no womens liberation without socialism was sufficient guarantee that *Womens Voices* politics would be revolutionary, and that a commitment to the entire programme of the SWP would put women off, and would lead to our being dictated to by the male leadership of the SWP.

We argued that although *Womens Voice* needs its own structure for decision making, it has to be firmly and openly based on the politics of the SWP. Politics isn't just about the ideas in people's heads, or statements on the back page of a magazine, it's also about action and involvement. We need to be linked in with the day to day activities of a party that is trying to unify all sections of the working class, if we are to be as effective and clear-sighted as possible.

It wasn't accidental that it was the SWP that built *Womens Voice*, it arose directly out of the SWP's politics; politics centred on the belief that socialism can only be achieved by the working class *itself*, that we have to liberate ourselves, no-one can do it for us. Our political links with the SWP are not something to be ashamed of or glossed over—*Womens Voice* is committed to fighting for socialism, and the building of a revolutionary party. It is impossible to be committed to this in the abstract: that can only lead to confusion, internal dissension or a watering down of our politics. History is littered with the corpses of organisations that drifted to the right because they weren't clear about their commitment to revolution, or that died a premature death locked in arguments between different factions.

*This argument was accepted by the conference. The following resolution, moved by Bedford Womens Voice, was carried by a large majority:*

'This group proposes that the following statement be adopted as our programme and should be on every *Womens voice* card and in every issue of *Womens Voice*. *Womens Voice* is an organisation that fights for Womens Liberation and Socialism. We fight for: equal pay, free abortion and contraception, maternity leave and child care provision, the right to work, against any form of discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation or race. Womens Liberation is only possible through women organising and fighting for themselves.

Womens Liberation can only be achieved by linking its struggles to those of the working class and overthrowing the capitalist system.

*Womens Voice* supports the aims of the Socialist Workers Party. It is organisationally independent but based on the politics of the SWP.

It was repeatedly stressed that a commitment to SWP politics in no way meant that non-SWP women would be excluded. We do want women to join us, selling the magazine, building the groups, fighting in the campaigns, arguing the need for womens liberation and socialism. Will you join us in the fight?

Lindsey German



# LESBIANS

Lesbian women suffer isolation and misunderstanding, even among other women. Here Mary and Rose talk to each other about their personal experiences, and make some suggestions about things Womens Voice groups could do.

**MARY:** How long did it take for you to realise you were a lesbian?

**ROSE:** Well, it was a pretty long time. It's very difficult to feel positive about your sexual feelings as a lesbian when all the images around you are so negative.

Old-style lesbians with tweeds and monocles are pointed out, warnings are given at school, words like dyke, butch and lezzie are all you have to identify with. Or of course there is the wall of silence.

I was 20 before I talked to anyone else about being gay. For years I explained to myself all the emotional feelings I had towards women as hero-worship or admiration—making them sound OK.

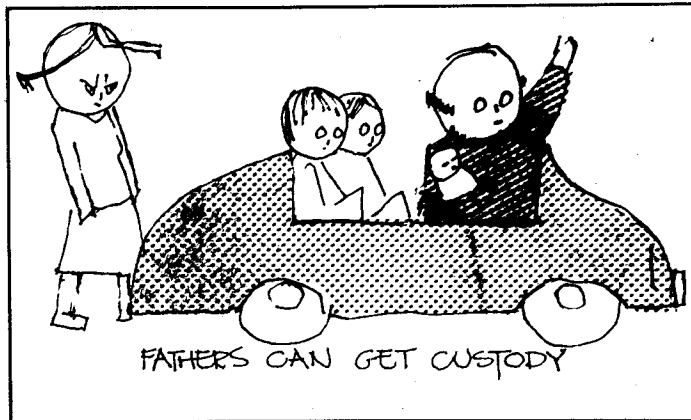
**MARY:** Do you still feel negative about being gay?

**ROSE:** I felt quite a lot of guilt initially, but after talking to other lesbians and gay men I came to see that it's not us that's wrong, but society that warps people's sexuality. You're only allowed to be heterosexual—and then only in very restricted ways, him Tarzan, me Jane.

**MARY:** What kinds of reactions have you had from coming out?

**ROSE:** The strangest reaction I got was from some

## Fighting the wall of silence



people I'd known a long time who said 'Don't be ridiculous—we know you!' I got the impression that the women I shared a flat with were a bit nervous about being left alone with me, but I didn't feel confident enough at the time to tell them how ridiculous they were being.

Parents are very difficult to tell. My mother just said I had a low sex drive, and so I could 'do without' men. Other women said their parents felt they'd done something wrong in the way they'd brought them up.

**MARY:** Have you talked about being a lesbian at work?

**ROSE:** It's difficult. I feel as if I have to catch exactly the right time. It's a decision you have to make every time you change jobs, move area, meet a new person.

**MARY:** There's no law against being a lesbian is there?

**ROSE:** Well no. But the state does still interfere in our lives. Being a lesbian makes mothers live in fear of losing the child they have brought up as a result of a custody case—fathers can get custody just because the mother is a lesbian. But people's attitudes are what affect us daily.

Lesbians are often discriminated against at work. Recently a woman bus driver in Burnley was sacked for wearing a badge saying 'lesbians ignite'. A passenger had said it was offensive to him, but she refused to remove it. She lost her job when the union failed to support her.

**MARY:** Why do gay people wear badges?

**ROSE:** It may sound silly,

but gay men and women are invisible unless they wear badges. People are always assumed to be heterosexual.

Some people say 'What you do in bed is your own concern and nothing to do with anyone else—so why make such a fuss about it?' But in fact all kinds of people do try and stop gays leading their own lives—preventing them being teachers, mothers and so on.

**MARY:** What's lesbian liberation got to do with women's politics?

**ROSE:** We're women. So we suffer the same oppression as heterosexual women. I'm sure I've been refused jobs in case I was about to get married and have kids, but I'm also sure that if I'd said 'well actually I'm gay' I wouldn't have got the job either.

Behind the renewed attacks on abortion rights lies the assumption that women's place is in the family, producing children and being provided for by a man. It's the same assumption that's behind a lot of the hostility towards lesbians.

People's individual prejudice about homosexuals is fostered and encouraged by the male-dominated capitalist system we live in. Capitalism needs heterosexuals in neat nuclear families, the women housewives, the men breadwinners. It's a picture that lesbians and gay men just do not fit into.

The idea that homosexuality is something odd or perverse is ridiculous if you contrast it with many aspects of 'normal' heterosexual life. Men never touch each other, except for the occasional back-slapping or pretending to fight. Men can often rape women with impunity—especially their wives. Women are still men's property in many ways.

**MARY:** What do you think of the labels 'gay' and 'straight'?

**ROSE:** At the moment

## Fighting the wall of silence

everybody is just pigeon-holed. I'm a lesbian, you're a housewife and so on. The aim must be to move towards a situation where everybody would be able to have a breadth of experience, rather than a narrow socially imposed limit. If that happened, the labels would become irrelevant.

I don't want to be tolerated as someone with an unfortunate affliction, or as an 'honorary' heterosexual. But at the moment, the labels do matter, and we have to speak out.

**MARY:** Have you told your children?

**ROSE:** They could hardly fail to notice! I think children need to learn about their sexuality. Often sex is shrouded in so much secrecy that children don't even know the kinds of questions to ask.

It's important that people who look after children don't just tell them about heterosexual intercourse as if that was the only kind of sexual relationship.

**MARY:** What about organising as gays?

**ROSE:** At the moment there are a few gay caucuses in trade unions, mostly in the white collar unions like NALGO, the local govern-

ment union. As you might imagine, there are more men than women in the groups, and outside of the big cities the groups are tiny, if they exist at all.

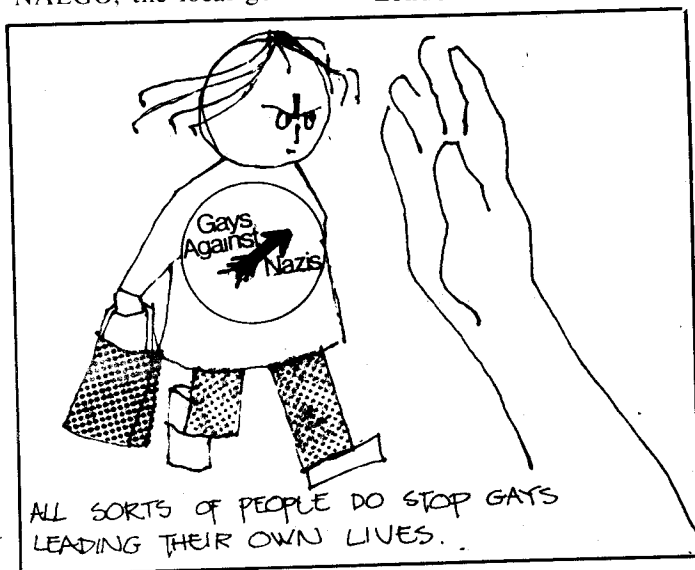
Gay groups in unions are important to defend workers who may be victimised and for isolated homosexuals to get in touch. Gay groups can fight for equal rights motions, which many unions accept, to be extended to gay people as well as women, blacks, and the disabled.

**MARY:** What can Womens Voice groups do?

**ROSE:** Many women don't work at paid jobs, many aren't in unions, and even those who are may well be intimidated about asking their union rep about a gay group. It's important that Womens Voice groups take up the issue of lesbian oppression and provide support and information to individual lesbians and to the gay telephone counselling services which are now in many towns.

There are films which can be hired, slide kits, books, pamphlets and badges. Speakers can be invited to meetings, and gay workers or lesbian mothers who are being victimised need our support. There's a new pamphlet called Gays At Work that groups can use.

**MARY:** We also feel that it's important to organise a lesbian network for Womens Voice supporters, and are planning a meeting. Please contact us: Womens Voice Gay Group, c/o Womens Voice, PO Box 82 London E2.



# WOMENS HEALTH

## DEPO-PROVERA— NO THANKS

*A short time ago, Women's Voice received this letter from a woman who had been given Depo-Provera, without any explanation of the dangers of the drug: We print her letter here.*

I was an ante-natal patient at the Elizaeth Garratt Andersen hospital during the most critical weeks of the hospital's survival earlier this year. The staff were always helpful, understanding and caring in their attitude towards the patients and took great care over their work.

The EGA does not have a maternity wing so mothers go to the Whittington hospital, attended by their EGA doctor. My labour and stay in the post natal ward were exceptionally happy and I was always given as much help and advice as I needed, in feeding and looking after my baby.

A few days before leaving the hospital, the doctor prescribed the rubella vaccine, as I was not immune to german measles. She also prescribed the injection, Depo Provera, saying briefly that it was an injection to prevent me from becoming pregnant during the three month screening period for the vaccine.

The doctor *knew* I was breastfeeding, knew I had been anaemic throughout pregnancy and I'm sure that my anti-natal notes mentioned that I had suffered from cystic mastitis while on the pill two years ago.

I spoke to one of the staff midwives about the injection and she reassured me that it was OK and would not harm me or the baby in any way. Even though I generally refuse drugs unless really necessary, I was in a relaxed and trusting state of

mind, and believed that everything they did would surely be for my good.

So a few hours before I left hospital I allowed the sister to give me the injection. Beside my bed she left a letter stating that the substance would not affect the breastmilk and that I should experience no side-effects.

After leaving hospital I contacted the National Childbirth Trust, who put me in touch with people who had information about the drug. I was feeling very unwell, as if I had been heavily sedated. Within a day I learned that the drug has been withdrawn from the market in the USA, after research had shown it to be cancer causing, and that the drug does enter the breastmilk.

No research has been done on the possible effects on children who have been breast fed by mothers who have had the injection.

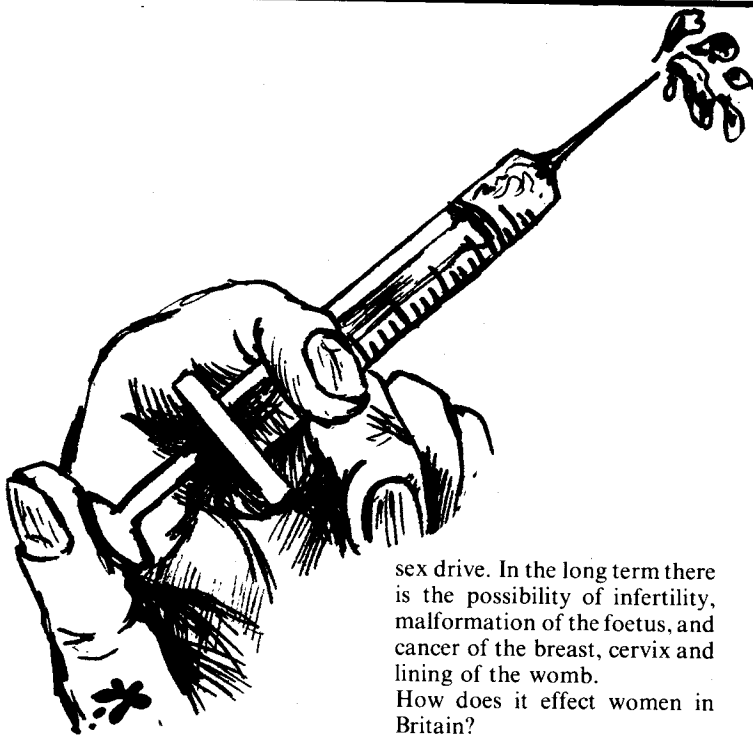
That night I decided to stop breast feeding my baby. Despite the advantages of breast feeding I felt I could not subject my week old baby to such a large dose of hormone.

I feel very bitter because I particularly wanted to breastfeed my baby.

I feel angry because the drug so obviously should not have been given me. I was not given any information and was not in any condition to insist on some other method of contraception.

I feel angry at the attitude which even a woman doctor could have, that contraceptive drugs are prescribed for a woman according to the doctor's assessment rather than an aware and conscious choice made by the woman herself.

Lastly I feel angry that this drug, with the fairly common side effect of bleeding which may last three months, was given to me, particularly as I am anaemic. I am physically and emotionally exhausted at a time



# LEFT BY THE PATIENTS BED...

## DEPO-PROVERA

*You have been given an injection of this substance which will protect you from pregnancy for 90 days. It prevents you ovulating.*

*You should not notice any side effects and breast feeding will not be affected, although the supply of milk may increase.*

*Some women will notice spotting or bleeding of an irregular nature but, unless this is very heavy or painful, it may be disregarded.*

*If you are worried, consult your doctor and explain that you have had this injection.*

when the greatest demands in my role as mother are upon me.

I only hope that my experiences can be used as an example to discourage the misuse of this drug, and that we will be able to alert other women about it.

(name withheld)

## DP—THE FACTS

WOULD YOU willingly subject yourself to a contraceptive which has been shown to have possible links with cancer?

Depo-Provera is such a drug. In March 1978 the USA's Food and Drug Administration banned the drug because of its connection with an increased incidence of breast cancer, and deformity in the newborn if the foetus had been exposed to the drug while in the womb.

Despite that decision the World Health Organisation condones the use of the drug. It is being used on a massive scale as part of an imperialist population control programme, and is now being given to mainly poor women in 76 countries.

What is Depo-Provera? Why is it dangerous?

An injection of Depo-Provera consists of a massive dose of a synthetic hormone far more than is found in the birth control pill. The list of its possible 'side-effects' is long. It includes: Menstrual chaos, weight gain, severe depression, migraine, loss of orgasm and

sex drive. In the long term there is the possibility of infertility, malformation of the foetus, and cancer of the breast, cervix and lining of the womb.

How does it effect women in Britain?

Depo is *only* approved by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines for two short term uses; women whose husbands have just had a vasectomy and women who have recently had an injection against german measles. But doctors are using it much more extensively.

In Glasgow, as we reported in issue 4 of *Womens Voice*, women are allocated 'points' for things like bad housing, and social security—eight points mean an automatic referral to the family planning clinic with a recommendation that the woman be given Depo. Reports are now coming in that Depo is being used in family planning clinics and hospitals all over London.

In the London Hospital, Whitechapel, two thirds of the women being given the drug were Asian, and all were working class. Out of 184 women using Depo: 13 had bleeding problems; four needed scrapes; four were referred to out-patients because of absence of periods; and five referred because of irregular bleeding. This ignores 'milder' symptoms! 'Promiscuous' teenagers in care, women who have just had an abortion, newly delivered mothers and the mentally handicapped, are all being injected. The sinister aspect of this surreptitious use of Depo is the way it fits in with the Government's philosophies.

With rising unemployment the Tories want to force women back into the home. Abolition of maternity leave and the right to return to work, closure of nurseries and day care centres, even the cutting of school meals, all make it harder for

working class women to go out to work. And the Corrie Bill will mean most women won't be able to get abortions.

But it is not part of their plans to allow 'problem families' to reproduce uncontrolled. Depo Provera fits in with this. It could ensure that 'undesirable' women (in the government's view) are not allowed to reproduce, and ethnic minorities could be bulldozed into accepting Depo as *the* contraceptive.

All of us would be deprived of control over our own bodies. As women and as socialists it's up to us to fight the use of this drug.

Sandra Knight and Tessa Wear

Depo-Provera is the only injectable contraceptive. If you are offered an injection to stop you becoming pregnant: refuse. A doctor or nurse may not give

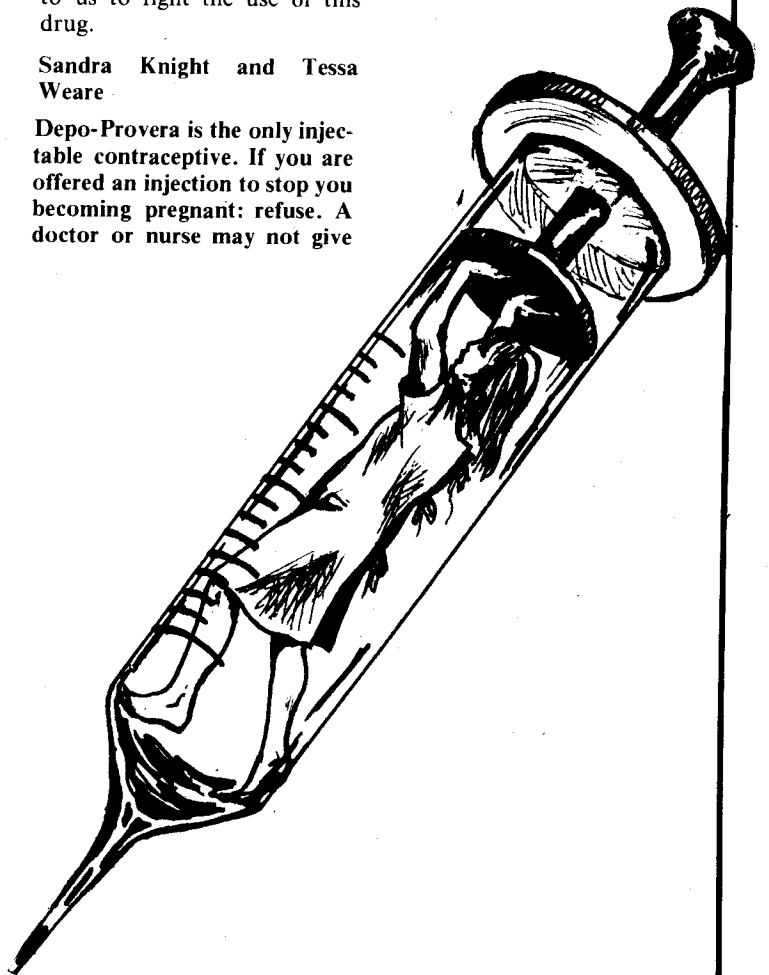
you the drug if you refuse, s/he is assaulting you—a criminal offence.

If you are the victim of pressurisation by nurses or doctors to use Depo-Provera, write to *Womens Voice*.

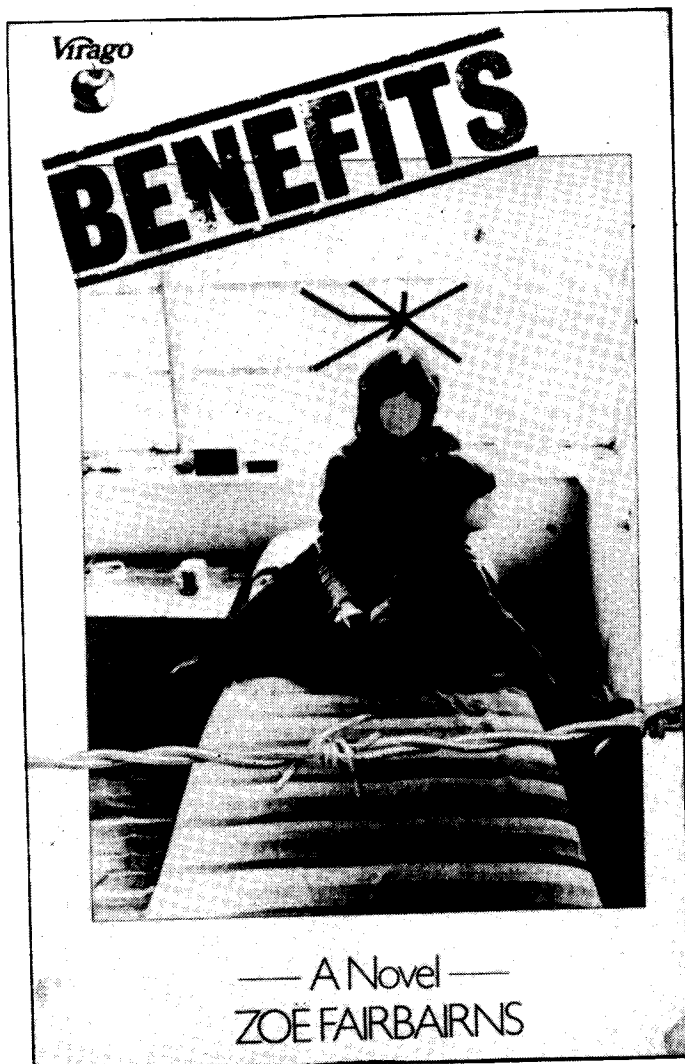
If you want to join the fight against Depo-Provera contact: Campaign against Depo-Provera

c/o ICAR, 374 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

or write to Sandra Knight, c/o *Womens Voice*.



# REVIEWS



**Benefits.**  
**Zoe Fairbairns.**  
**Virago £2.95.**

*Benefits* comes out at the right moment. James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment is threatening severe new attacks on the rights of pregnant women. It is tempting to see women's oppression as having its roots in gender and fertility. Men can't, after all, be attacked for being pregnant.

In *Benefits* we go into the next century. The Family Party is in power. Women are paid benefits to stay at home. But the European government of Europea, with its headquarters Europop, decides that benefits will be withdrawn from pregnant women. They want to control fertility. They select good Family Party women to be

mothers while other women are forced to have space age IUD's fitted.

There is a core of feminists, known as The Women, who operate from a squatted Tower block. They gounderground and fight back by encouraging thousands of women to abandon their children, it's a motherhood strike. It doesn't change anything.

The president of Europea decides to put contraceptive chemicals in the water. When a woman is selected for pregnancy, she takes antidote pills. The antidote pills go hideously wrong and the women give birth to monsters, none of which live.

After this ugly fiasco, The Women emerge again. In a riot of fury a new generation of women, black and white, rise in anger against the state. They have a conference, not of their choosing, but they use it to

encourage each other to take power over their lives. The book ends on a fighting note.

Zoe Fairbairns writes consistently and thoroughly. It is a good idea to write a futuristic book, a book that warns through fiction of the potential horror of the next century. Unfortunately, like so much feminist writing, the book is unremittingly intense, gloomy and earnest. There is no fun or laughter. I didn't identify with any of the characters and we need to identify with the women in feminist literature.

If feminists themselves can't feel any sense of kin with the characters, there isn't much hope that the thousands of uncommitted readers will be inspired by the novel. We need inspiration and hope from feminist writing. (Funnily enough, I felt most sympathy for the husband of the main character. Zoe Fairbairns

treats him with warmth and understanding, something all too rare in feminist writing).

The problem with reviewing feminist novels is the fear of being unsupportive to sisters in the struggle. Ultimately *Benefits* fails as a revolutionary novel. It's feminist but it's not revolutionary. The women come out fighting at the point at which their fertility is threatened. The implicit and dangerous suggestion is an assumption that we are involved in a gender struggle and not a class struggle. This is perhaps the crux of the conflict between Womens Voice politics and the 'fragments' of the Women's Liberation Movement.

It is difficult to review a feminist novel with so little sympathy and I wish I could have avoided it. *Benefits* for all the criticisms, is an interesting and brave book.  
**Marilyn Maclean**

Lives of Women.  
 Did you enjoy our spread on biography and autobiography in last month's Womens Voice? We're hoping you did so here's another one.



**Lillian Hellmans'**  
**Autobiography**  
**An Unfinished**  
**Woman**  
**Quartet £1.50**  
**paperback**

*Lillian Hellman is probably best known to most people as*

*the title character portrayed in the film Julia. Julia, was based on Hellmans' novel Pentimento. It told the story of her journey into Germany during the rise of the Third Reich. Her mission was to smuggle in cash which was to be used as bribes to secure the release of people already incarcerated by the nazis.*

*Hellman had no romantic illusions of her own bravery. She constantly refers to her fear as being overcome despite herself. In fact she turned down an opportunity to be among the handful of journalists permitted to go with the front line of Russian troops on their Polish offensive in 1945—the offensive that played a crucial role in the defeat of the barbaric Nazi occupation. Later she was to visit one of the notorious Polish concentration camps, Maidanek, shortly after it was taken from the Nazis—'I was in an enormous rectangular cement chamber filled with bins that held thousands of shoes arranged by size and colour. I touched a pair of red shoes... we came to the death ovens, large for men and women, small for children ...*

smoke was still gently puffing from a large brick centre structure. 'This was to be Hellmans' last contact with the nazis. Her first was very different.

In the summer of 1929 she decided to study for a year in Bonn. She was to go on a 'nice picnic with large, healthy, blond students.' I thought I was listening to a kind of socialism, I liked it and agreed with it. 'She was given a pamphlet about their organisation—a publication on the Hitler youth movement. They 'asked if I would like to become a member, no dues for foreigners if they had no Jewish connections.' She was lucky as Hellman was often not a Jewish name in Germany. She left Bonn the next day.

Much later, in 1952, she was to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Her refusal to testify in Joseph McCarthys' hysterical kangaroo courts was typical of her life long hatred of reactionary regimes. She was later to be involved with the American Civil Rights Movement and the campaign against the American domination of Vietnam. Hellman, in recording the events of her lifetime, explains the insanity of a system that throws up ideologies such as fascism. Her comments on her experience of the Spanish Civil war—the fight against Franco's fascist party points to her frustration. 'They (the International Brigade) had come great distances to fight here and when the war was over, if they came out alive, or with enough arms and legs to seem alive, there would be no world for them and no reward. They seemed to me noble people. Because I had never used this word before, it came hard to say it to myself even in the dark, and, as if I had a vision of what I had missed in the world, I began to cry.'

What Lillina Hellman, had missed in this world is what we all miss—justice, equality, the freedom from oppression and exploitation. Reading an Unfinished Woman reminded me of the desperate need for us to fight for a different sort of society where our needs would dominate the greed of the rich and powerful. This is my tribute to Lillian Hellman—a brave woman, despite herself.  
Gail Cartmail.



### Cut The Slits (Island Records)

I've always enjoyed the Slits' live performances. They never mind making mistakes or making a hideous racket—anything rather than slip down the slope into easy-listening banality. They've worked their way through two and a half years' daring experiments to emerge with a dazzling first LP. Their tunes are madly catchy, ferocious as punk, elastic as reggae.

It's hard to pick my favourite tracks out of so many goodies. 'Love and romance' is a hysterical, sarcastic rant, shrieking cliches:  
**I'm so HAPPY! You're so FINE!  
Kiss kiss kiss fun fun LIES!  
I'm so glad that you BELONG to me  
Oh my darling who WANTS to be FREE!**

It's witty but it's also frightening because it stresses the strength of the false images which bombard us.

'Spend spend spend' combines an urgent rhythm with a hankering melody to describe our pathetic attempts to compensate for unhappiness by going on shopping sprees:  
**Recently my life seems to have no meaning  
I'm stuck with someone,  
we're not communicating  
I want to buy (can you be**

affected?)

**I need consoling (you could be addicted)**

**I need something new,  
something should be here  
will do**

**I want to satisfy this empty feeling.**

On all the songs you get a strong feeling of collaboration between the three women, Arianna (the singer), Viv (guitar) and Tessa (bass). (They haven't had a permanent drummer since Palmolive left and joined the Raincoats.) They swop around on vocals, bouncing off each others' voices, advancing and retreating, trying out different ways of using their instruments, and always relying on the insistent rhythm to keep things from slipping right out of control.

'Typical Girls' is the snazzy track they've chosen to release as a single, and I can't wait to see them to do it on Top of the Pops! We're told about all the typical things that typical girls get up to:

**Don't create! Don't rebel!  
Typical girls are looking for something  
Typical girls fall under a spell  
Typical girls buy magazines  
Typical girls feel like hell  
Typical girls worry about spots, FAT, obnoxious smells...**

Then at the last minute burst out with:  
**Who invented typical girls?  
Who's bringing out the new improved model?  
They're another marketing ploy  
The typical girl gets the**

typical boy.

Brilliant. But talking of marketing ploys, what about the cover of this album—the three women photographed in a 'jungle' wearing nothing but loin clothes and lots of mud? You could say it's a good joke, a parody of the glamorous porn on other record covers; you could say it's a gleeful celebration of our sexuality (at least it was the Slit's own idea, not the record company's and the photos were taken by a woman photographer, Pennie Smith).

But you could point out that colour posters of this picture are being sold at £2.50 each; and you could be outraged, like one woman who hadn't heard of the Slits before, but saw the poster, with the words 'Cut' and 'The Slits' on it, and felt personally violated. To her it seemed the most blatant encouragement to those men who see women as lumps of flesh, to be cut up lumps of shit to wallow in, and then flush away.

Any attempt to assert our sexuality is bound to be corrupted, because men's perception of us, and our perception of ourselves, has been so distorted. How do we reclaim our bodies for ourselves? I don't know, and I don't think the Slits do either.

But I respect them for trying to face the contradictions head on in 'Adventures close to home';  
**Don't make it personal  
I choose my own fate  
I follow love, I follow HATE  
Lucy Toothpaste**

# LETTERS

## Motor bikerider

Dear Womens Voice,  
'What the hell are motor cyclists doing on the road?' asks Mary Ann Stuart in WV33. She says she drives a car and nothing would persuade her to get on a motorbike again.

Lucky her! Doesn't she realise that most of us don't have the choice?

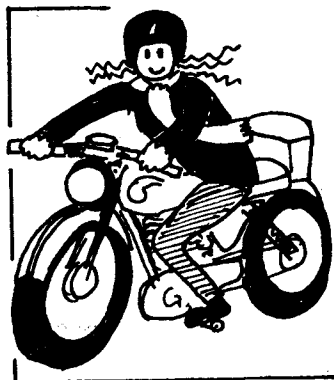
I have to travel 26 miles a day to get to work and back, and would love to travel in the comfort of a car—especially with winters like ours—but the only transport I can afford is a motorbike.

Many working class kids ride motorbikes partly because they want some degree of freedom after spending 11 years being oppressed at school, but also because it's often cheaper than the high cost of public transport. Until we have a socialist society where public transport is run for the convenience of the people, we're going to have large numbers of motor cyclists on overcrowded roads.

A more positive approach would be to try and ensure that motorcyclists get some training in road safety. I'm involved in a scheme to teach school leavers how to ride safely, and awareness of other road users who all too often make the roads unsafe for the motorcyclist. In a capitalist society there is far too little emphasis on safety—far more money is spent on advertising motor bikes than on training schemes.

Obviously profits are more important than lives!

Pat Jones  
Stockport



## Friend in need

Dear Womens Voice,  
A group of women involved in 'Friend' Merseyside, the local gay counselling service, have recently set up a separate line for women. The number is 051-708 0234, and provides a confidential service entirely run by women.

At the moment we operate from 7-10pm on Tuesday and Thursdays, though we hope to extend this. If a woman does not mind speaking to a man, she can call Friend's general line on 051-708 9552 any night of the week from 7-10pm.

Women call us up with all sorts of problems, so if anyone has any useful information, particularly relevant to Merseyside, eg Housing, court cases, social security etc. we would be glad to hear from you. It does not need to necessarily refer to lesbians—while the majority of women who ring us are lesbian or bisexual, they quite often need help with problems not connected with their sexuality.

Contact us at 14, Colquitt St,  
Liverpool 1  
In Sisterhood,  
Fiona Callow  
Friend Lesbian Line,  
Merseyside

## Equal to men

Dear Womens Voice,  
I wonder if Anna Paczuska would please enlighten me as to what she means in her review of the biography of Rosa Luxemburg when she says 'She was never a feminist believing herself to be the equal to any man'?

Surely feminists must believe themselves equal to any man? Surely the struggle is to get equal opportunity for women? If we believe we are not equal to men then what are we fighting for?

Maureen Hannington

## Trash!

Dear Sisters,  
How is this for chauvinistic

advertising? I personally am disgusted that magazines for women can actually allow such trash to be published.

Yours in sisterhood,  
Comrade in Sheffield

## We have to pay

Dear Womens Voice,  
A month or so ago, when my period was 19 days late, I rang my doctor's surgery to enquire about a pregnancy test. I was told that 19 days was rather early and that it would be better for me to wait until I'd missed another period as early tests sometimes produced false negative results.

If I waited for a while, I was informed, I could save myself from having to pay out twice. Pay??? I'd always thought



Nobody minds if your husband looks his age

pregnancy tests were free on NHS.

Not so in Berkshire—I'd have to pay £4 a time whereas I knew my sister in West Yorkshire had had free tests during both of her pregnancies. I checked up with a friend in Yorkshire who'd recently had a test and found that, yes, it had been free! So just what is going on?

The implications of paying for pregnancy tests are very disturbing especially for working class women. Few of us would want or even be able to pay £8 for two pregnancy tests and so the temptation will be to hang on a while longer until the pregnancy seems fairly definite.

Women who want children could miss out on important anti-natal care and those of us seeking a termination will have less time in which to arrange one (this, of course, will be even more significant if the Corrie Bill goes through).

But is this just happening in Berkshire or are other regions making women pay out? Perhaps sisters from other areas could write in with their experiences.

Shirley Grier  
Reading Womens Voice



## Local library?

Dear Womens Voice, Having reported back to our group the discussion we had in the 'readers and writers' workshop at the Womens Voice conference, we all decided we would like to review some books for the magazine so it would be really good if you could send us one (or more—we're enthusiastic!).

Actually we'd like to pass on a tip as well. We all pool all our feminist and political literature on a sort of extended loan basis so that sisters can get to read a lot more without the huge expense of buying everything. It's still in the initial stages but seems to be working well.

In sisterhood—  
Dee Davis  
South West London



Lord SPENS



## Dear Ladies

Readers might remember our comments on Lord Spens, who, in one of his more profound remarks in the House of Lords, suggested the country's unemployment problems would be solved if all married women stayed at home. Well, we heard from his most gracious Lord...

I would be grateful if you would send me a copy of 'Job Massacre at the Office', as mentioned in today's Guardian.

It seems to substantiate some of my speech ten days ago, in the course of which I made a tentative suggestion to which a number of ladies have taken exception.

Yours Faithfully,  
Spens

## Home cure

Dear Womens Voice, When pregnant women get those classic cravings for certain food it's because their bodies are telling them what they need. When I told a doctor that honey was a good cure for what he called 'honeymoon cystitis' he thought I was very funny.

Honeymoon cystitis is the name given to that horrible sudden burning itch you get after making love. You usually get it if you haven't been leading a very active sex life, and then you start making love more

regularly. If you go to the doctor you'll be given drugs which may not be doing your system much good.

The self help answer came to me out of the blue as I lay in burning agony at 4am. 'Honey!' I thought. Bicarbonate of Soda... I remembered. So I had a bath with bicarb and then put quite a lot of honey on my vagina. Within half an hour the burning had gone and I was no longer running to the toilet every ten minutes.

Lily MacAllister.

## Women only?

T. Shepperd's letter in September's Womens Voice continues to arouse strong feelings.

Dear Womens Voice, How I agree with T Shepperd. I had taken Spare Rib until recently, but although I am an ardent feminist, I felt they were getting off the track a little in their attitude towards men.

They seem to presuppose that all men are anti-feminist and discriminate against women. I know many men who sympathise with the feminist cause, and equally, many women who are anti-feminist.

All the members of a community, be it a family, town or country, are people, are individuals, who, regardless of sex, are entitled to the same privileges, rights and respect. When one section of the com-

munity (in this case admittedly it is mainly men as they are in the position of power) discriminates against another, be it because of their sex, colour, religion, social standing or whatever, it is up to the rest of us, men and women alike, to fight for their rights.

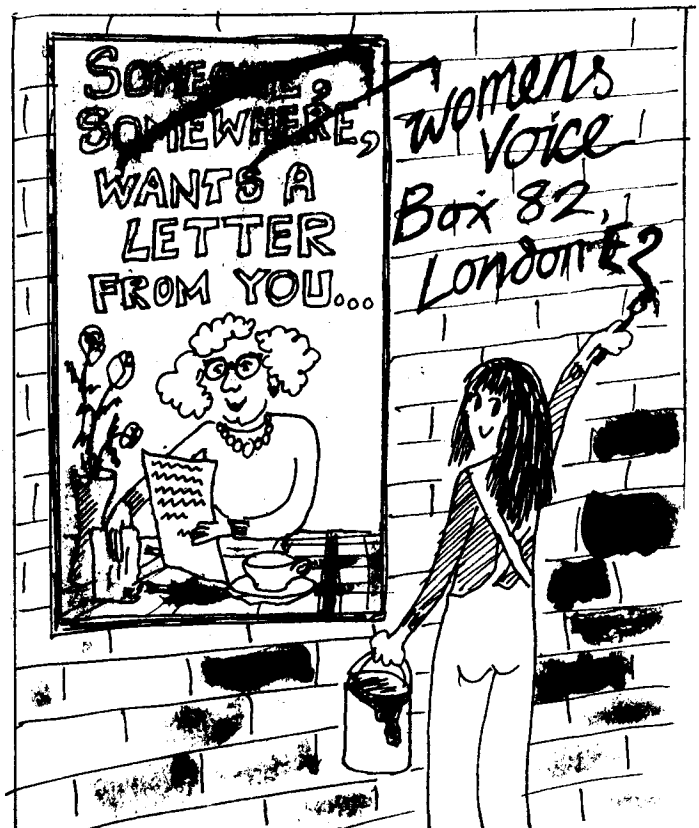
In Solidarity  
S L Burton  
Preston

Dear Womens Voice, I have always seen the need for women to meet together alone for mutual support and increased awareness, and I get a lot from being in a womens group and from taking part in action run solely by women. I think it's important that women are seen as capable of organising and carrying through important and effective campaigns.

But I think one of the aims of any 'consciousness raising' should be not to separate ourselves into a single-sex group with a bitter and dismissive attitude towards men (surely as sexist as that which we are trying to overcome in them), but to move together with men (or at least those men who are able!) into a new society where sexism does not exist.

Men are as 'conditioned' and often as unhappy as we are. Hopefully we should be striving to change ourselves, both separately and together, into real people.

Linda Baker



# Dealt Jane

## THE GREAT BARRIER BOOM

In the last couple of years there has been a revival of interest in the barrier methods of contraception. These work by coming between the sperm and the egg. For women this is the cap or diaphragm, for men the sheath or condom.

Until the introduction of the Pill in the late 1950s, and the new IUDs (loops and coils) in the mid 1960s, barrier methods were the only reliable contraceptive available. For nearly 50 years the cap was the most effective method of birth con-

trol. It was invented in the late 19th century by a Dutch feminist, and early pioneers of birth control clinics like Marie Stopes and Margaret Sanger promoted its use.

After the introduction of the Pill the cap fell out of favour with both users and doctors. Many wrote off the cap as messy, unreliable and unsporting. The cap has to be used with sperm-killing cream or jelly; it must be correctly placed in the vagina and remain there for 6 to 8 hours after sex. The

spermicidal cream used with the cap loses effectiveness after a while, so if the cap has been put in several hours before sex, it is necessary to 'top up' with extra cream later.

For women who have only experienced contraceptives like the Pill and the IUD which involve no preparation before sex, the cap may seem a horrifying intrusion into love-making. What are its advantages and disadvantages?

The cap has no health risks, cannot interfere with a woman's normal body functions and contains no drugs. (A very few women are irritated by the rubber or spermicide.) The success rate of the cap is usually put at between 90 and 95%. Recent studies show success rates of up to 98% among young

women.

Possibly the most important factor in successful use of the cap is good initial fitting and clinic staff who teach women to use their caps well and look after them.

There is new research on improved barrier methods. A foam cap with 'built in' spermicide is being tested, and new smaller cervical caps are being developed.

Is it time for a rethink about contraception? What we really need are methods that suit women's bodies, lifestyles and personalities. The cap and barrier methods will undoubtedly have an important part to play in any re-evaluation of birth control.

JANE FOSTER.

# Yours Worried

Maggie Jones is a disabled table tennis player. She plays for Britain, and she is a member of Amnesty International. At the European Paraplegic Table Tennis Championships, held last month in Stoke Manderville, she distributed a leaflet about health care in South Africa, where there is one doctor per 400 whites and one per 40,000 blacks, where there are often two people to a bed in the black hospitals while beds remain empty in the white hospitals.

She was called before a panel of officials and given ten minutes to leave the premises.

She was banned from taking part in those games, banned from playing again in the British team and told that a request would be made to ban her in her home country, Scotland, in effect to stop her playing her sport.

She spoke to Womens Voice about what happened and why she did it.

'It was the first time I'd done anything like that. I chose to do it then because the South Africans weren't there and I didn't want it to be a personal attack on the individual South African sports team members.

It was the Austrian team manager, Manfred Schweizer, who really opposed it. He told me it was a disgusting and terrible thing that I was doing and he followed me around putting them in the bin as fast as

## KEEP APARTHEID OUT OF SPORT

I was distributing them.

That was on the Friday night. On Saturday morning I was summoned to the office of Ludwig Guttman who is Chairman of the British Paraplegic Sports Society, President of the International Stoke Manderville Games Federation, President of the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled and Chairman, until a month ago, of the British Sports Association for the Disabled. A very powerful figure.

There were six other officials there too, but whether they were there in an official capacity or not I don't know.

Ludwig Guttman said 'There

is no apartheid in South African sport, I know, I have been on an official visit.'

But I listen to people too, to people who live in South Africa; not just to what we are told officially.

The upshot of it was that I was given ten minutes to leave and told not to speak to anyone.

I was just amazed. How could an organisation that says it is against apartheid take such an hysterical action.

You know, Ludwig Guttman stands up every year and tells us how pleased he is to see the South Africans there. Yet I am not allowed to give out leaflets about apartheid or health in South Africa.

I don't regret doing it and part of the reason is that it has really shown me what kind of management we have in the sport. It is run totally autocratically by an 80 year old retired doctor who cannot bear the thought of being questioned or challenged. It throws up the whole question of who controls the sport and the rights we have.

But the main reason I did it is because I am committed to methods of peaceful demonstration where I think there is an injustice and I feel very strongly about the system of apartheid in South Africa.

How can you keep politics out of sport? At an international level you are political. You have national anthems, national flags, you compete as countries. You hear comments all the time like 'Commie bastard' or 'Lets beat the Yanks'. It can be very exhilarating, but it is nationalistic. You represent your country when you play and if that country has apartheid, you represent that as well.'

Mary Ann Stuart

# SPORT



I'll have to charge more for these Anadins..... They can afford more than 1½p for a headache!!!



**'We pay for headaches, he makes a profit on the Anadins'**

**by Carole Barrett**

# TALES WE TELL OUR SISTERS

I am a machinist. I have worked in the clothing trade for 22 years. I was taught how to make dresses, neatly but above all quickly. I also learned not to ask for any concessions, to accept bad conditions, hard, boring jobs, no sick pay, and so on.

I was taught by women who had worked under these conditions for years. They passed on their experience and their oppression. They talked about the old days, they seemed content. I was 15 and did as I was told.

Throughout my working life, I have been underpaid—but the most stunning aspect of this is my own compliance. We women in the clothing trade support and believe in the enormous myth perpetrated by the bosses; how many times have you been told: 'But I am good to you girls, we have your best interests at heart.' 'Help me get this order out girls, I know you won't let me down.' (!)

And if you ask for a raise, 'But you're like one of the family (therefore how can you ask for a raise!) and I am suffering too, you know.'

They always, always understand your problems. Understand you—yes; help you—no! They weep; we invariably believe them.

I remember, while working for a family firm in Whitechapel, I went up to the senior member of the family and asked for a raise. He was an elderly man, impeccably turned out. (He's very smart for his age, a comment often heard on the lips of the workers, never connecting his Saville Row suits with our labour).

Standing in a large showroom with at least 800 dresses hanging neatly on the rails for despatch I nervously asked for more money. He pleaded with me to think again, trade was bad—worst season he could remember—then it was the 'I started out with nothing' story; 'nothing but a cardboard suitcase and an overcoat, a nobody, worked for 24 hours a day, you, you've got it easy!'

Finally, although by then I was beaten, won over, sorry for him, he assured me

that if things picked up he would see what he could do. I accepted all that and I know that it was not an isolated incident, it still happens now.

My present job is hard, boring and low paid. We are a non-union firm and at present I cannot see that changing.

Invariably, women in the clothing trade are not united, another thing we can thank the bosses for:

'Union! What for? We are all friends here; you want to see me, you just come in (but don't expect me to give any of my profits over to you!).'

We get two wage increases a year; this is known, laughingly, as 'getting the whisper. The boss catches each worker individually and in low, conspiratorial tones tells you your wages have risen by 2,4,6, or 15 pence an hour. He has us all in the 'divide and rule' trap, no one worker knows what the other is earning. What we do know is that our wages vary tremendously, two women doing the same job do not earn the same hourly rate.

We sometimes feel unwell at work—bad lighting, freezing in winter, sweating in summer—there is a first aid box on the wall; plasters, TCP are free, but, the plasters are all cut to measure 1¼ by ¼ inches, the Anadins cost 1½p for two! Yes, we pay for headaches—and he makes a profit on the Anadins.

We complain among ourselves, we do nothing. Personally I can offer no excuses for staying at the job, only reasons: I have two children at school and the boss is understanding about school holidays, sickness. In short, I and too many women like me, have no choice.

The facts as I see them are that women in the clothing trade must unite against the ludicrous conditions they work under. Forget the 'big happy family' line. Remember that you and I may turn out between 20 or 30 dresses per day to sell at £29 to £39 each, retail; my take home pay after a full week is £42. Think about it...when will you be able to buy a dress for £39?

# WHAT IS GOING ON?

## WV groups

● **ABERDEEN** Womens Voice for more information telephone Liz 51059

● **ACTON AND HARLESDEN** ring Carrie 993 0356

● **BIRMINGHAM** Womens Voice meets regularly at the Holloway pub. Holloway Road, City Centre. For details and babysitters phone Jenny 440 5794.

● **BLACKBURN** Womens Voice meets every Tuesday 8pm-10pm Jubilee Hotel (opposite King George's Hall) 673894 for details.

● **BLACK COUNTRY** Sundays fortnightly, 2.30, 27 Glen Court, Compton Road. For information 23233. Children welcome.

● **BRISTOL** Womens Voice meets fortnightly at the Inkworks, 22 Hepburn Road (off Basingstoke Road), St. Pauls, Bristol 2. Ring Bristol 46875

● **BURY** Womens Voice. Ring Lynn 061 764 6659 for details

● **CANTERBURY** Womens Voice meets every other Tuesday at Jolly Sailor Northgate. Phone Barbara (Lyminge 862742).

● **COVENTRY** Womens Voice meets every other Wednesday, 8.00pm, at the Hertford Tavern, off Queens Road (near the Butts). Coventry 618956

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

● **EALING** Womens Voice meets regularly. Phone Jenny 991 0443.

● **ECCLES AND SALFORD** Womens Voice. For information ring Jennie 707 2557 or Ann 737 3800

● **EDINBURGH** Womens Voice meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings. Phone Penny 557 0731 for details.

● **GLASGOW** Womens Voice. For information ring Clare 959 8041 or Dorte 423 1185.

● **HACKNEY** Womens Voice phone Pauline 985 3086 or Chris 806 8535 for information and babysitters.

● **HALIFAX** Womens Voice details from WV and SW sellers every Saturday 12.30-2.30, Co-op arcade on the Precinct.

● **HARLOW** Womens Voice meets fortnightly on Wednesday at 8pm. Ring Pat, Harlow 28022.

● **HIGHBURY** Womens Voice. Details ring Elana 359 0842 (days).

● **HORNSEY** Womens Voice meets fortnightly. Ring Jane 348 6712 or Maggie 341 1182 for information and babysitters.

● **ISLINGTON** Womens Voice meets regularly. Phone Sandy at 802 6145 for details.

● **KENTISH TOWN** Womens Voice meets weekly. Ring Gail 485 0954 or Vera/Di 267 5059 for information and details.

● **LAMPETER** Womens Voice meets Tuesday evenings. Details from WV sellers or write c/o SDUC Lampeter. Dyfed, Wales.

● **LIVERPOOL** Womens Voice meets on alternate Tuesdays at 8pm in the County Hotel. For further information phone Alison at 727 4057 or 709 1844.

● **MANCHESTER** University Womens Voice meets each week at 5pm in the students union.

● **MEDWAY** Womens Voice meets regularly. Telephone Helen, Medway 270 684 or Marge 251 362 for details.

● **NEWCASTLE** Womens Voice meets regularly phone 29129 for details.

## SWP meetings

**WEST LONDON SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY** educational meetings.

Women and the Unions, Speaker Margaret Renn, Wednesday 14 November, 8pm, Southall Town Hall, Uxbridge Road, Southall. Bus 207 B/Rail—Southall.

The Family, Speaker Joan Smith, Wednesday 28 November, 8pm, Richmond Community Centre. Tube to Richmond. 65 Bus, Sheen Road.

Women and Socialism, Speaker Lindsey German, Monday 17 November, 8pm, Ealing Town Hall.

All Welcome. For babysitters ring Owen 485 2872 daytime.

● **NEWHAM** Womens Voice. Ring Pam 534 1417

● **NOTTINGHAM** Womens Voice group meets 2nd and 4th wednesdays every month at 8pm, 118 Mansfield Road. For further information or babysitters, ring Jane 49502

● **READING** Womens Voice meets fortnightly. For details phone Shirley on 585554

● **SHEFFIELD** Womens Voice meets fortnightly at the Prince of Wales, Division Street. For details ring Sue 613739

● **SOUTHWARK** Womens Voice meets every other Tuesday evening. Contact Jenny 697 7996 for more information.

● **SOUTH LONDON** Womens Voice meets fortnightly on Tuesdays. Tate Library, Brixton. Oval. All welcome.

● **SOUTH WEST LONDON** Womens Voice. All welcome. Information and babysitters contact Marion 947 0560.

● **SOUTH WIRRAL**- Would anyone interested in forming a Womens Voice group please contact Janet, 051 339 6070.

● **STOCKPORT** Womens Voice. For details phone 061 431 7564.

● **STOKE ON TRENT** Womens Voice meets at Knotty Action, Mollart Street, Hanley. Fortnightly. Ring Sandra 814094

## Small ads

**Rock Against Sexism.** 9 November, 8pm-midnight, AUEW Hall, Oxford Road, Reading. With Mistakes and El-Seven. Proceeds to the Abortion Campaign.

**MANCHESTER** United Troops Out Movement meeting with speaker from the Belfast Relatives Action Committee—Women and Ireland. Tuesday 6 November, 7.30, Resource Centre, Bloom Street.

**BUILDING WORKER.** Paper of the Rank and File in the Construction Industry, Editorial Board c/o Horton House, South Lambeth Estate, Meadow Road, London SW8.

If you are a woman working in the Building and Construction industry either with a trade or as a labourer, please contact us. We would publish an unedited article or interview by you in our next edition of Building Worker.

**Socialist seeking alternative life-style to nuclear family in SE London. Persons with existing mortgage or cash (£5000 each) needed as mortgage unlikely for suitable large property. Kids desirable but not essential. Phone 01-660 0989 for details.**

● **TOTTENHAM** Womens Voice meets regularly. Phone Mary for information and babysitters, 802 9563.

● **TOWER HAMLETS** Womens Voice meets on alternate Mondays. Babysitters available. Phone Jane 515 7403.

● **WALTHAM FOREST** Womens Voice meets fortnightly on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 8pm. For details ring Pauline 521 4768 or Pam 558 1509.

● **WALSALL** Womens Voice meets regularly. Phone Ena at Walsall 644205 for details. Children welcome.

● **WATFORD** Womens Voice is being formed. Anyone interested in coming to meetings please contact Davina or Ros. Watford 28500 ext 659



**NEW WOMEN'S VOICE BADGE.** 20p each plus 8p postage. Ten for £1.60 post free.

**The National Abortion Campaign** needs a new office worker to co-ordinate the campaign's work, run the office and organise activities, demos, etc. Administrative experience useful, commitment to women's liberation essential. Energy as well as we're fighting the Corrie Bill at present. Hours 10.5 with some evening and weekend meetings. Salary about £60 per week. Will consider two women willing to job share. Please apply in writing giving previous work and political experience to NAC (Office Worker), 374 Gray's Inn Road, WC1. Closing date for the application is November 19th 1979.

**Glasgow Women's Festival.** Saturday 24 November, Glasgow School of Art, Haldane Building. Plays, exhibitions and films. Organised by women's groups in Glasgow. Everyone welcome to contribute and participate. Further details from Glasgow 221 1177 or 424 1048.

**'Women, the Workplace and Cancer'.** Public meeting Women and Work hazards group. (BSSRS) Speaker Jean Robinson of Cancer Prevention Society, Monday 12 November, 7pm. 9 Poland Street London W1.

# SOURCREAM

Now, for the first time in one book: cartoons and comic strips by your 4 favourite women cartoonists — Lesley Ruda, Christine Roche, Jo Nesbitt and Liz Mackie. Love, sex, romance, the family, history, social structure, nymphs, alternative culture, Christmas, the alphabet . . . you name it, they laugh at it in a fully ideologically tested feminist and socialist way! A wonderful Christmas present for your feminist friends and people you'd like to annoy. In the best bookshops, only £1.75. Buy now: we couldn't afford to print many.



WANTED TO BE A MECHANIC. APPRENTICESHIPS FOR WOMEN

SPECIAL OFFER TO WOMEN'S VOICE READERS: £1.50 PLUS 25p POSTAGE. SEND TO WOMEN'S VOICE, BOX 82, LONDON E2.

## Bookmarx Club

CHRISTMAS QUARTER 1979

The Bookmarx Club is now an established method for socialists to get the best of new socialist books at a big discount—and delivered to your door. **HOW IT WORKS.** You send us £4.50 for which you will receive the books on List A below plus those on one other list of your choice. Extra lists can be obtained for £2.50 each. Don't delay, send in the form now with your subscription, you will save pounds on the retail value of the books (shown in brackets on the list).

**LIST A**  
**TROTSKY'S MARXISM**  
 by Duncan Hallas (£2.50)  
 To celebrate the centenary of Trotsky's birth a new handbook and guide to his unique contribution presented largely in his own words.  
**THE SPACE MERCHANTS**  
 by Pohl & Kornbluth (85p)  
 In this hilarious parody of the world of advertising the Consie's (conservationists) fight it out with the cynical Admen.

**LIST B**  
**PALESTINIANS: FROM PEASANTS TO REVOLUTIONARIES**  
 by Rosemay Sayigh (2.95)  
 The vivid recollections of Palestinians in the camps of Lebanon, together with careful research tells the real story of palestine under the British, the expulsion by the Zionists and the resistance.

**PALESTINE LIVES!**  
 by Phil Marfleet (40p)  
 Why we must support the Palestinians in their struggle

**LIST C**  
**THE WORLD ON OUR BACKS**  
 by Malcolm Pitt (2.95)  
 An unforgettable account of the Kent miners and the 1972 miners strike — by a miner.

**LIST D**  
**IN THE CASTLE OF MY SKIN**  
 by George Lamming (1.50)  
 A famous novel of Caribbean adolescence by a writer from Barbados.  
**THE HOUSE OF HUNGER**  
 by Dambudzo Marechera (1.25)  
 Stories which vividly evoke the township squalor of settler exploited Zimbabwe.  
**AN ONLY CHILD**  
 Frank O'Connor (80p)  
 Autobiographical story of the childhood and youth of an Irish revolutionary.

**LIST E**  
**TESTAMENT OF YOUTH**  
 by Vera Brittain (1.75)  
 Portrait of a young girl's life before and during the first world war.  
**THE MONOCLED MUTINEER**  
 by Allison and Fairley (1.95)  
 In 1917 British troops erupted in mutiny—a fact the official histories have successfully buried. This is the story of the leader of the mutiny.

Special offers to Bookmarx Members  
**MY SONG IS MY OWN — 100 WOMEN'S SONGS**  
 (normally £3.95) for £2.95 inc post  
**THE RUSSIAN ENIGMA** by Antou Ciliga  
 (normally £5.95) for £4.75 inc. post

I wish to join/rejoin Bookmarx and enclose £4.50 (+£2.50 for each extra list)

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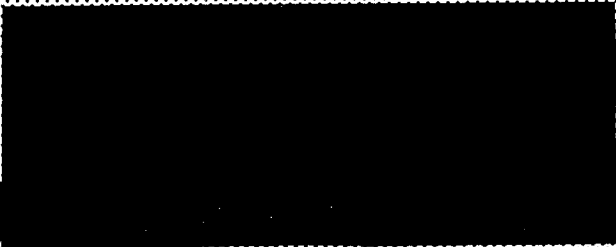
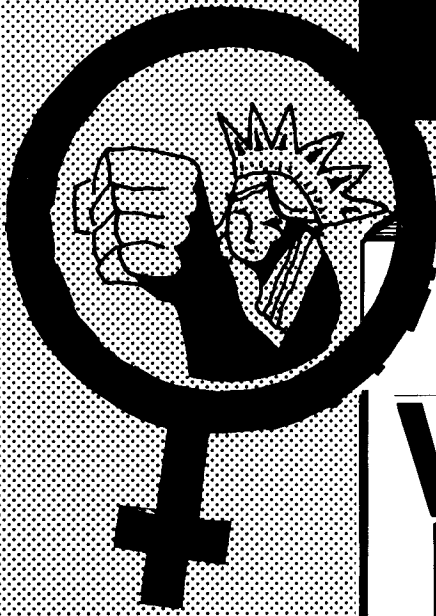
Send to BOOKMARX CLUB, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London. N4

## Your nearest Womens Voice Group meets

Join Womens Voice...  
 join the fight

WOMENS VOICE fights for womens rights. We want equal pay with the highest paid; mater nity leave without restriction; the right to a job; nursery places for all children so that mothers can chose to work; and an end to discrimination in education, training, jobs and benefits; the right to abortion on demand. To fight for these changes is only a beginning. Womens Liberation means we have to free ourselves from the grip of the rich and powerful whose oppressive rules and ideas are fostered on us from our earliest years. This means we have to fight for socialism too, to free us from a society divided between those who have and those who have not. To fight we have to be organised: Womens Voice is a sister organisation of the Socialist Workers Party. Fight with Womens Voice for Womens Liberation and Socialism.

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



BIRTH CONTROL  
IN AMERICA

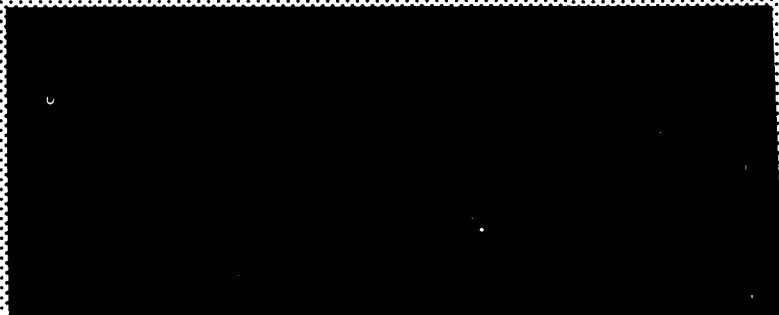
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# WOMAN'S BODY, WOMAN'S RIGHT

LINDA  
GORDON



Women's Body, Women's Right is a history of the birth control movement in America. It will be of interest to every woman involved in today's campaigns to ensure our hard won rights are not lost.



Name

Address