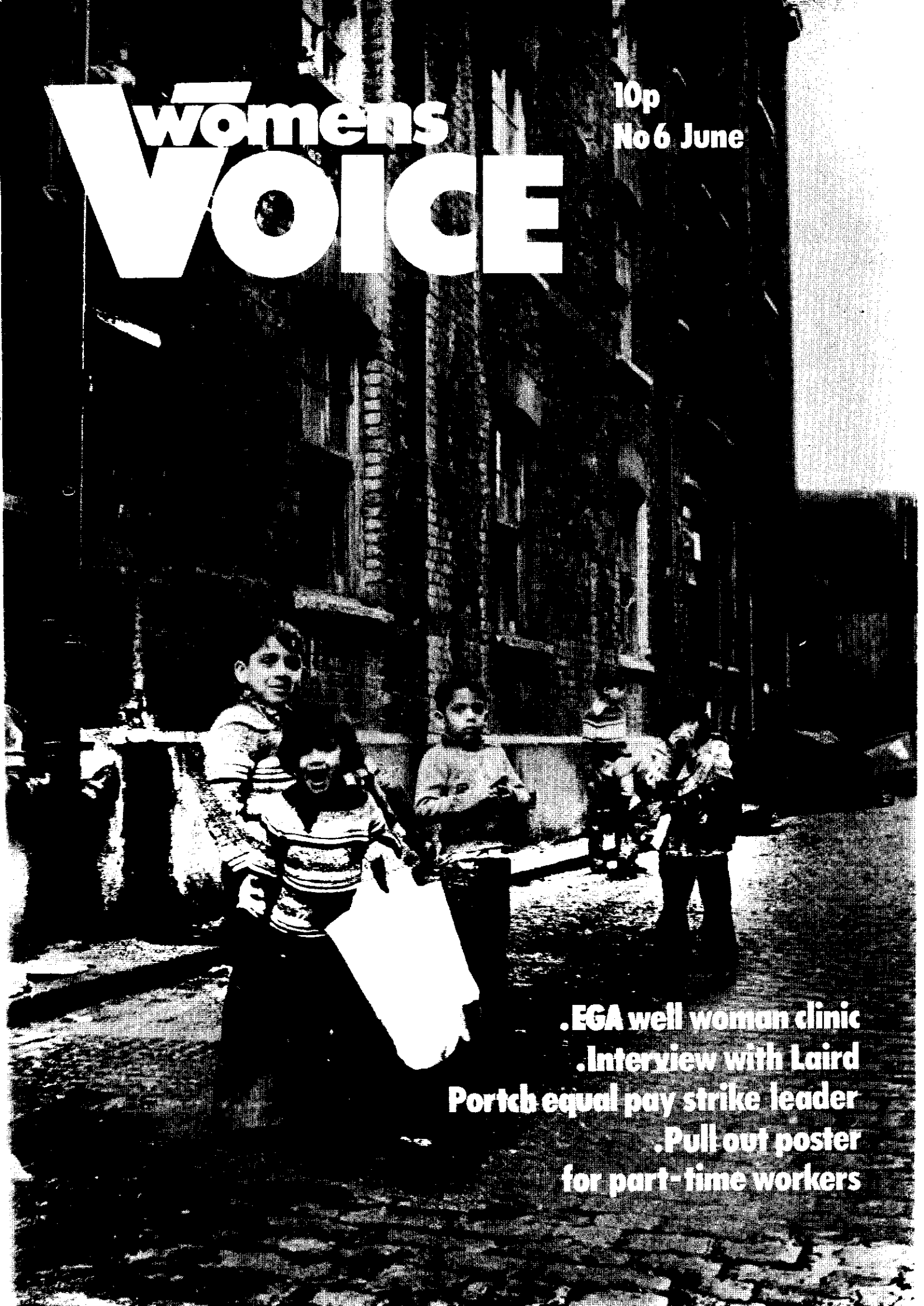


# Womens VOICE

10p  
No 6 June



**. EGA well woman clinic**  
**. Interview with Laird**  
**Portch equal pay strike leader**  
**. Pull out poster**  
**for part-time workers**

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## **HOMELESS COUPLE SUICIDE PACT: WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THIS TRAGEDY?**

Nick and Linda were married in November.  
On January 10th they booked into a hotel near London airport, and they stayed  
in their room for the next three days.  
Eventually hotel workers broke into the room.  
They found Nick dead, and Linda dying.  
Both had taken a massive overdose of drugs.

Why? What had driven this young couple, their lives ahead of them, to the despair  
of suicide?

Homelessness drove Nick to his death. All they wanted was to stay together, but  
they couldn't afford a home of their own, and the council wouldn't house them. At  
Christmas, when they could no longer pay the heating bills on their flat, they  
decided that suicide was the only way they could be together.

Linda survived. She is now alone. But good old British 'justice' stepped in. Not to  
find the real culprits, the property sharks reaping their millions and the politicians  
cutting the housing budgets. Not to enquire as to whom with a million empty  
houses, this tragedy could happen. No. British justice dragged Linda through the  
courts as a criminal, charged with aiding and abetting Nick's suicide. She was found  
guilty.

Are you shocked by this? We were when we found out. Does this story make you  
feel like going for the judge's throat, or picketing his court if that's the closest you  
can get? Does it make you want to smash every window in the *Ministry of Housing*?  
If it does, you're the sort of person that joins us in the *Socialist Workers' Party*.

All you stand to gain by going out alone and smashing a window or two is few seconds  
satisfaction and possibly a hefty fine. Despite your individual effort the Lindas and Nicks will  
still exist. If you stand alone in the middle of the road, you'll get run over. If you've hundreds  
standing with you, they'll have to divert the traffic. Together we can change things.

The more there are of us, the more successful we'll be. From the little things like  
getting a lollipop lady on a crossing, right through to turning this world inside out  
so that young people like Linda and Nick will have homes and hopes, we need the  
strength of numbers and organisation. It can't be done alone.

Join us. We need your energy, your ideas, your strength.

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# WOMENS VOICE

## Womens Magazine of the Socialist Workers Party

**Women's World:** When we say 'a woman's right to choose', we mean the right both to have and not to have children. **Page 3**

**Summer holidays:** Have you got £460 to go off to the Seychelles this year? **Page 5**

**Stuff the Jubilee:** Do you remember promising in the Brownies 'To do your duty to God and the Queen'? **Page 6**

**News:** Grunwicks and Desoutters out for union recognition, the fight for equal pay, abortion news and lots more. **Pages 7-11**

**Part time workers have rights too:** Pull out poster detailing the rights of part time workers. **Page 12-13**

**Reviews:** Women and orgasms. Womens Voice looks at the Hite report on the 'problems of women'. **Page 14**

**Unions:** Organising in the shop workers union USDAW. **Page 15**

**The Womens Voice interview:** Womens Voice talks to the women on strike at Laird Portch. 'Since Adam was a boy, men have been paid more than women and if I have to pay equal pay I'll employ nothing but males'. Nasmith, General Manager of Laird Portch. **Pages 16-17**

**Your Rights:** Everything you need to know about Sickness Benefit and how to claim. **Page 18**

**Her Story:** After a two month journey Mabel's washing machine finally touches down on the shores of ancient Britain. **Page 18**

**Health:** The EGA was the first hospital to occupy to prevent its closure. EGA is staffed entirely by women doctors and are planning to set up a well woman clinic. **Page 19**

**Womens Voice Debate:** Conflicting views on prostitution. **Pages 20-21**

**Your Voice:** We've over spilt on the letters page again this month. Keep sending them in **Pages 21-22**

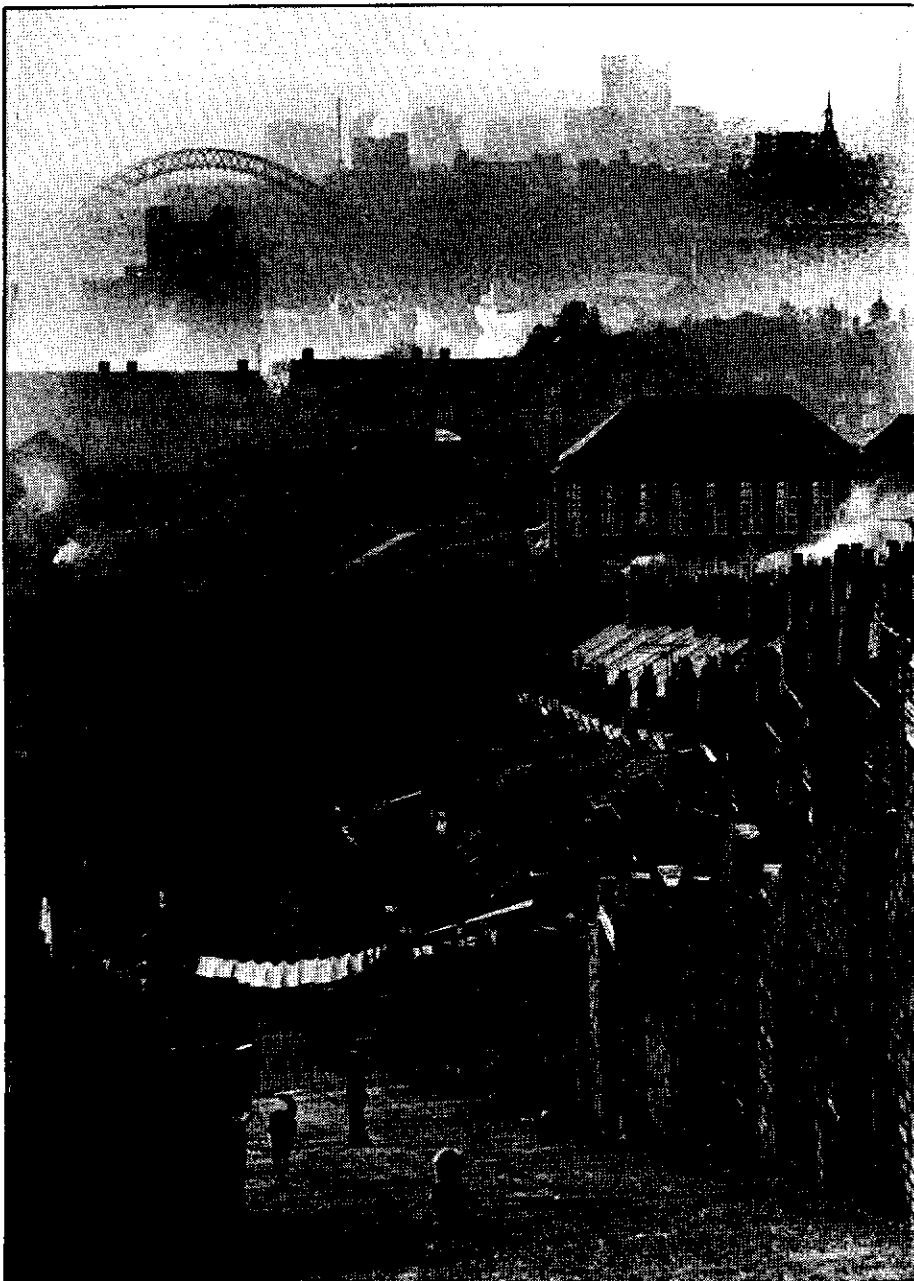
The original of the Stuff the Jubilee poster in the last issue of Womens Voice was designed and produced at Skegness by Anna Charlton, aged 12, from Leeds.

In the interview with Tendai Walker in the May issue of Womens Voice we mistakenly referred to the African National Conference as the African National Congress. We're sorry for the confusion. The Congress organises in South Africa, the Conference in Zimbabwe.

**\* next deadline : 16th June \***

Phone us with ideas, or to let us know what you are sending in on 01 739 1878  
Write to: Womens Voice, 6, Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

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Picture: John Sturrock (Report)





"The enchanting Seychelles, one of the most beautiful island groups in the world, rise out of the Indian Ocean a thousand miles from the African coast. Their steep granite peaks, clothed with lush tropical vegetation, overlook silver white palm fringed beaches and clear lagoons."

Just what the doctor ordered? Well, if you've got £460 to spare, take yourself off to the Seychelles for a fortnight. Or if you'd rather see Bermuda this year, it's only £710 each—and for the children there's a twenty per cent reduction.

A twenty per cent reduction is what's happened to ordinary families wanting to go on holiday this year. According to the travel agents. And they should know, the number of families going on holiday this year is down by a fifth. It can't be the weather.

Hundreds of thousands of families can't afford to go on holiday this year. They've had their wages held down by the Social Contract, while prices have been allowed to go through the ceiling. It's impossible to save up to go on holiday—the minute you've put a little bit aside, there's a bill come in and it's gone again.

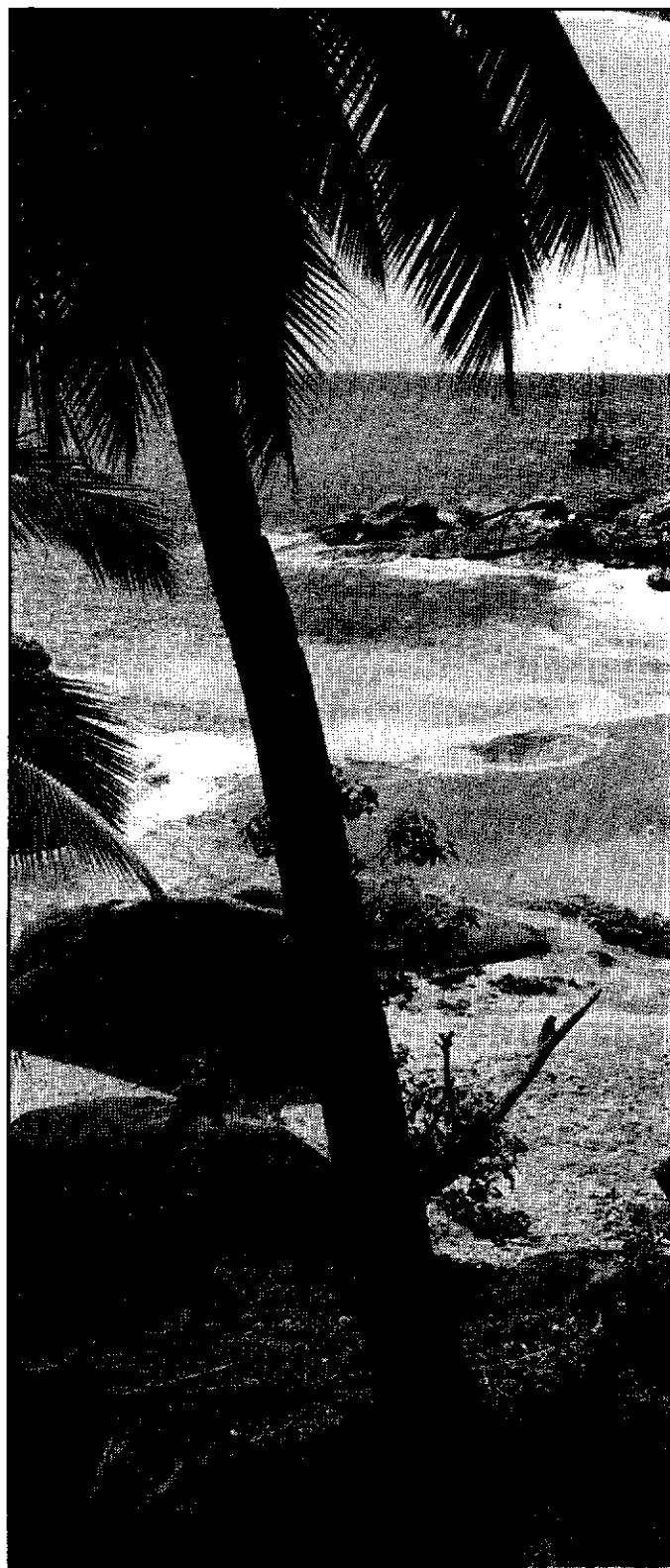
There's only one thing we can do, and that's go for higher wages that will make up for the way prices have shot up. That's why Womens Voice says No to the Social Contract, and supports all workers fighting for higher wages.

Maybe we'll get to the Seychelles next year.

## fat fatter fattest profits

For those of us who *do* get a holiday abroad this summer, a visit to the duty-free shop is probably a must. A bottle of whisky and 200 duty-free cigarettes are what most people come back with, as well as their sun-tan.

This year there's a new item on some duty-free shelves. Not a new perfume, or a new brand of vodka. It's **Duty-Free Butter!** No it's not a joke, it's the ridiculous way prices are fixed.



## Summer holidays —for some

The world price of butter is 28p a lb. But because the wealthy farmers in the Common Market are so powerful, they demand, and get, nearly £2 a lb for the butter sold in the Common Market countries.

Of course, people can't afford it. So you get a butter mountain growing up. A thousand

millions tons of golden butter, rotting in the freezers. When the freezers overflow, you can make a quick turn by selling butter to Eastern Europe or Russia at the low world market prices, and get a subsidy from the Common Market for your trouble.

Now here's where the skill comes in. What you do next is

buy *back* some of the butter you've just sold to Eastern Europe at a slightly higher price than they paid for it. (They're not opposed to a quick profit either!). Then you hire a boat, and sell the butter duty-free to German shoppers, as the boat sails outside Common Market waters. You sell it at a slightly *lower* price than the Common Market price, so there's no shortage of buyers. (In fact coachloads come from all over Germany.) But it's a slightly *higher* price than you paid for it—so you make a fat profit too. Get it?

It's crazy, isn't it. As crazy as people dying of hunger while food mountains rot. There is enough to go round. But it must be given to those who need it, not sold for the fattest profits.

## kick them when they're down

For poor families, on low wages, the cost of living is going up even *faster* than for everyone else. The Low Pay Unit has worked out that their cost of living has risen almost five per cent more than for better-off households since the beginning of the Social Contract.

The reason is that the price of necessities like food and electricity, on which poor families spend a larger proportion of their money, have been going up even faster than everything else.

And they have the cheek to tell us the Social Contract helps the low paid!

## so much for the promises

We've had our wages kept down for two whole years now. Our union leaders have made sure that our pay claims haven't broken the miserable limits agreed between them, the government and the bosses. They promised us prices would go down.

What's happened?

In the last year prices went up 17½ per cent. That means that something that cost £1 a year ago, costs £1.17½p today. **We can't go on like this.... we must have higher wages.**

# Lie down and think of England!

Were you ever a Brownie, promising:  
'to do my best to do my duty to God and  
the Queen, to help other people every  
day, especially those at home.'?

These structures, the church, the monarchy  
and the family, are considered so essential to the  
maintenance of the system that 'our' royal  
family supports its claim to credibility with a  
family stretching back to Egberth in the years  
802-839 AD. But that is only 900 years—what  
happened before then?

The US has no royal family—so there are  
substitutes. Every morning millions of  
American school-children salute the 'stars and  
stripes'. There are stiff penalties for abusing  
these curiously designed bits of cloth. It's  
actually a criminal offence to have a 'stars and  
stripes' handkerchief or patch on your jeans.

All these institutions are weapons by which  
the state controls us. They are interlinked—the  
Queen is 'Head of the Church of England'; the  
church supervises our relationships by controlling  
the family; 'patriotism' is the way in  
which we are made to think we have a close  
personal relationship with the country as  
father. The Queen, through the Home Office,  
employs policemen and prison warders. And  
the Queen's family all have exalted positions in  
the armed forces.

In a time of crisis the ideological pressures  
related to these structures are particularly  
strong. Four years ago a union jack was a sure  
sign of the presence of a fascist. Now, even  
before jubilee year, they are unavoidable. You  
don't need union jacks sewn into socks and  
knickers. But every time you turn round  
someone or something is trying to force you into  
an allegiance or identification with 'being  
British'. And we are sold the idea of sacrificing  
our wages, our jobs and our right to decent  
houses to 'give a year (or two) for Britain'.

Now we are expected to 'buy British' or to  
'follow the flag'—to pay inflationary prices and  
to agree to deprive non-British workers of jobs.

Women are expected to 'lie back'—to accept  
the oppressive nature of the family, the  
destruction of sexual relationships by shift-  
work patterns, being pushed around in and out  
of jobs. All for 'Britain', never for ourselves.

And ultimately we are expected to die 'for  
king and country', to kill and be killed by  
workers from other countries in wars from  
which only the ruling class benefit. And if we  
don't lie down, the Queen's army will turn its  
weapons on us.

That's the real job the Queen does—forcing  
us to identify with hierarchical, oppressive and  
repressive structures, against our interests. She,  
aided by the rest of the state structures, divides  
workers, rationalising racism and sexism. They  
tempt us with those secluded parklands and  
houses you see in the country—and prevent us  
from ever entering their gates, except as money-  
spinning day trippers. It's the divisions which  
they manufacture which prevent us from  
moving towards each other in solidarity as  
workers.

'But the Church, the Queen and the  
aristocracy are tottering structures. In capitalist  
society these drones are still important as  
symbols, to create the false one-way values of  
'duty', 'loyalty', 'self-sacrifice' and 'patriotism'  
which chain down the energies of the working-  
class. However the idle rich parasites cannot  
stand too much in the way of ruthless competi-  
tion for profits. More and more, as Karl Marx  
said:

'Instead of exploitation veiled by  
religious and political illusions, the  
bourgeoisie has substituted naked,  
shameless, direct, brutal exploitation.'

In this process—which involved building  
factories and gathering workers together in  
large numbers, the ruling class has employed its  
own gravediggers. We are those gravediggers.  
We can now organise to overthrow them. We  
can destroy the modern state, which will  
otherwise destroy us. The first step is to destroy  
the false ideology of 'the church, the queen and  
the family'.

In the words of Karl Marx we

'... disdain to conceal our views and  
aims. We openly declare that our ends  
can be attained only by the forcible  
overthrow of all existing social con-  
ditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a  
communistic revolution. The  
proletarians have nothing to lose but  
their chains. They have a world to win.'

Judith Hamilton

Picture: Keystone



# THE FIGHT TO SAVE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY

The laundry at the Seacroft hospital in Leeds is threatened with imminent closure because of 'rationalisation' by the Leeds Area Health Authority. The jobs of 27 laundry women are at risk.

Workers in the laundry say that a mistake by management is being used as an excuse to justify attempts to close the laundry. Management has been suggesting that work has been deliberately slowed down, when in fact a failure to install a thirty foot length of pipe in the wash house section has meant that the machines cannot be run efficiently. The machines have to heat their own water, rather than having it pumped in.

Management have tried various tactics to disillusion the laundry women, who are normally an active, militant group. They told them that the matter had already been settled and it was too late to do anything about the closure. They also employed the tactic of 'divide and rule' by informing 16 of the women on 'permanent contracts' that they would be given preference over the 11 women on 'temporary contracts'. However, if they put up any form of active militant protest, the other women would get priority in the limited number of jobs available.

One of the women who had worked there over twelve years asked how much redundancy

money she would get. Under £6000!

But the women will not accept redundancies, and want to keep their present jobs. Many live outside Leeds, and would find it difficult to travel to new jobs in other areas. Management have said it will be impossible to find them jobs in other hospital laundries. As Seacroft hospital is an infectious diseases hospital, other hospital workers in NUPE have already expressed concern about the transportation of infected linen to a centralised laundry in the middle of Leeds.

Many of the women feel that the full time NUPE official has let them down and, as a result, a motion of no-confidence in him was passed at the last members' meeting.

This is all part of the 'strategic plan' for local hospital services over the next ten years. As well as cutting the number of hospital beds by 1,255, they plan to transfer, redesignate or close 12 Leeds hospitals. The main casualties will be children, women and old people. The Leeds Area Health Authority claims that Leeds has more hospital beds than the national average, but we say this has got nothing to do with how many beds are needed. Leeds should be creating a precedent other areas can strive for.

We have contacted other trade unionists within the health service, and they have promised their support.

Please send messages of support to: Margaret Ketteridge, Seacroft Hospital Laundry, Leeds.



Pic: John Sturrock (Report)

## NUPE MARCH AGAINST CUTS

Thousands of trade unionists marched through London in opposition to the government cuts in public expenditure on the NUPE day of action.

In many areas so called 'luxury' facilities like nurseries are the first service to be axed.

## 'OCCUPY'

Only one worker at Greenwich Reinforcements voted against coming out on strike on Wed 11th May, against the threatened closures of 5 local hospitals. They, along with 3 other factories, joined the 2000 strong demonstration which was organised by NUPE workers in the area. School dinner ladies, hospital workers, school bus drivers were all out that morning, supported by the Right to Work Campaign. £40 worth of 'Save our Hospital' badges were sold.

Back at Greenwich Reinforcements the next day, they were told that 6 of the men were sacked and 7 suspended. One of the sacked men was Paul Lutener, the works rep. An emergency meeting was called and the workers voted for immediate occupation until management reinstates the sacked men. Among the workforce of 90 men, there are 6 women clerical workers. Only 1 of them voted against the occupation—the

# NEWS

manager's secretary! One of the girls in the occupation is Jackie Hawkins. She's nearly 18 and this is her first job since leaving school.

She talked to Women's Voice about her experiences.

Why did you decide to join the occupation?

'Because of the victimisation. We were all on the demonstration but only 6 were sacked.'

What does your family think about it?

'My mum doesn't understand it at all. My dad doesn't like it. I have to leave at 9pm! He says it's no good fighting against the cuts and closures of hospitals as it won't get anywhere. But if they do close them

it will be us that suffer, no jobs, and it will be dangerous especially with the amount of accidents in the factories.'

Are you in the union?

'Yes. I joined the ISTC as soon as I started working here. It was a natural thing to do. I would not work anywhere that wasn't unionised. But the full time official has done nothing. Sod all. They couldn't care about us one bit. I used to think that they were supposed to work for us. They won't even make the strike official, so we aren't getting any money.'

Have you needed the union since you worked here?

'When I first came to work there

were 2 of us in the office. I was on the switchboard and the other girl was on the telex and she also did the post. When she left I had to do her job as well. Dave Dixon, the staff rep, argued with management about it, but as we haven't been given job descriptions for 2 years now there's nothing he could do. He's been fighting for 6 months to get me 'adult' wages because for doing 2 jobs I only get £26 a week. The other girl got £33. But every time Dave sees management they just make complete refusals.'

Greenwich Reinforcements is one of British Steel's most modern plants. It cost over £5 million just 3 years ago and the jobs were adver-

tised as 'stable' jobs but because of the cuts it is being threatened with closure. In an area of high unemployment, the workers can't afford it to shut.

We asked Jackie Hawkins, 'What will you do if British Steel definitely decided to close Greenwich Reinforcements?' Without hesitation she replied:

'Occupy. We've done it this time, and I won't be scared to do it again.'

Please send donations and messages of support to Greenwich Reinforcements Occupation committee, River Way, Peggy Eagle.



## 'FIGHT THE CUTS'

'We're here to stop the cuts,' said one of the pickets outside Hackney Downs School. 'They started with the hospitals, and lots of those are closing. Now it's our turn.'

It was May 11th, day of the 24-hour 'Save Our Services' strike called by NUPE, the public employees union. For the first time ever the 'kitchen ladies' and technicians walked out of schools right across London.

Many of them picketed to ensure that schools closed for the day. 'They make staff cuts,' said another of the women, 'but still expect the same amount of work to be done.'

At Hackney Downs School, the caretakers are members of the Greater London Council Staff Association, which encouraged its members to strikebreak. Many refused and resigned from the Association. But these particular men were against the strike.

'Just wait till they need our support,' said the women, after a bit of bantering and provocation from

them.

The picket was strong enough to cover two gates and prevent a third being opened. The women sent a 'flying picket' down to another school, where the head had blacklegged on the striking school-keeper and had opened the gate. All the women teachers in the NUT refused to cross the picket line formed by Hackney Downs strikers, and the Head was left to cope with all the school's children, with only the help of two men teachers who went in!

May 11th was a great day for trade unionists in London schools. Never before had there been such solidarity between the different workers. And in many places the women led the way against the opposition of more reluctant men.

As one of the Hackney Downs kitchen staff said, 'We've always been forgotten in our corner of the school. . . I hope we won't be forgotten any more.'

They certainly won't!

Chanie Rosenberg

## WORKING CONDITIONS SHOULD BE BETTER FOR ALL

Following the introduction of the Equal Pay Act, Chrysler immediately put women on to jobs on the assembly tracks at their Linwood factory. Previously, women had been confined to sub-assembly or machining areas. Until recently, however, the numbers on the tracks have been small - in the final assembly building for example only ten out of 700 operators were women.

When the company announced their intention to recruit 1500 workers last August, the unions told management that the proportion of women should at least be maintained at the current level of 8 per cent. In April this year, 62 women operatives from 21 to 50 years old were brought on to the tracks in the Car Assembly Block.

Predictably, reactions ranged from outright hostility, suspicion about Chrysler's motives, sexist comments and jokes, to principled support for women's right to work. Whether by accident or design, some foremen started trying to create predominantly women's jobs which again created a backlash from some sections of the workforce.

The stewards position was that if any operator, irrespective of sex, was incapable of doing their job, then we should support their right to a different job. Similarly, we wouldn't allow anyone to jump seniority agreements, or get preferential treatment from management.

Now the novelty has passed, and the women have settled into permanent jobs. One sister has been elected deputy shop steward in her section. In another section, after it had taken several minutes to get anyone to stand for the steward's job, some of the women said that they would stand if only they'd been in the factory longer, since the men in the section were so bad. The men stood looking at the floor, too embarrassed to say anything.

Other problems are looming. By

long-standing agreement, women are entitled to 35 minutes per day individual relief, i.e. on top of tea and meal breaks, compared to the men's 25 minutes. Chrysler are trying to get the women's extra ten minutes removed.

Some mens reaction was to agree with the company, but the stewards took the attitude that any levelling of conditions should be upward, and that we should be seeking parity with the women. This has been explained to the workforce and is now accepted.

Working on a car assembly track is one of the most boring, mind-bending jobs conceivable. It pressurises, crushes and even destroys some workers. The women will be subject to these pressures on top of the other problems experienced by women in this society. Only when control has been wrested from the bosses, and the foundations of a new socialist society laid, will it be possible to talk meaningfully of the liberation of the human race.

**Peter Bain**

TGWU Senior Steward, Car Assembly Block, Chrysler Linwood.

While the Trico women were on strike for equal pay the bosses of Trico discovered an even cheaper source of labour—South Africa! That's what multi-nationals are all about—clobbering workers world wide. Needless to say if the Trico workers in England find themselves in dispute again their position will be much weaker. Victory to the black workers struggle against apartheid.

A husband was sued last week for a million dollars. . . for not doing his share of the housework! He had signed an agreement to do most of the housework while his wife looked after their two children. No comment!





Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

Desoutters is a tool making factory in Colindale, North Est London, where the workers are on strike for the basic right to belong to a union.

Repeated attempts have been made by the workers to gain recognition for their union, the AUEW, but with little success.

But on Friday, 13 May, 150 machine tool operators walked out over the issue of flexibility, and at a mass meeting on the following Monday, they decided to go on strike for their trade union negotiating rights. They are determined to win. They are strong, united and militant.

About 40 per cent of the workforce are women. They are mostly young and single, and most are either Irish or Asian.

Several women on the picket line spoke to *Womens Voice*, including Esther Kirby, Evelyn Holohan, Geraldine O'Malley, Ivy Blake, Mrs. Searle, Teresa Rowan, Jean Woolridge, Mrs Oza and Coral Rokoszewski.

They were generally agreed that conditions in the factory are very bad. They think that the management is two-faced, and they are sick of the works committee they have

now, and they want a union.

Esther: 'I've always been in a union. If you have an accident they'll fight your case. We want union recognition and we're determined to fight for it.'

'The work is hard here, standing up all day. The sick pay situation is awful. You don't get paid if your take a day off sick - only if you're off for a week, and then you have to produce a certificate. We don't get paid if you go to the hospital for a check-up if you're pregnant, like you do at other factories around here.'

Evelyn: 'There are too few machines here—they won't pay you if you're waiting. We want a strong union to protect our rights and to get us a living wage. With this social contract, our wages aren't keeping up with prices.'

*Womens Voice* and *Socialist Worker* supporters should do everything they can to support this strike. We must initiate and support moves to black Desoutter air tools. Sheila Mitchell.

Messages of support and donations to: D. Norville, 24 Cotman Gdns, Edgware, Middx.

## DESOUTTERS & GRUNWICKS BOTH OUT TO WIN UNION RECOGNITION

The 10 month old strike at Grunwicks film-processing factory for the basic right to belong to a union is still going on.

After platitudes from the entire official trade union movement, and visits from Barbara Castle and Shirley Williams, and other cabinet ministers, the Grunwicks workers are still standing outside the gates of the North London factory.

'They're full of hot air. Barbara Castle said that if the strike's still on in another couple of weeks, she'll come to the picket line again. That won't help us win. We're determined to win. We want to get back to work—but we want decent conditions and pay' one of pickets told *Womens Voice*.

The strike committee has decided to intensify tactics—and is calling for continuous mass picketing from Monday 13 June onwards.

And Monday 13 June is a vital day. A mass presence is needed on the picket line from 7.15 am onwards, to stop the scabs going to work for once and for all.

If you're in a trade union, raise a motion to send an official delegation to the mass picket. Most union branches have been circulated with information about the strike.

If you live in or around London and your branch doesn't meet before than, or you are not in a union, get together with some friends and go down together—it's important to go whenever you can. Cars and minibuses are coming from all parts of London, the Midlands and the South.

*Womens Voice* groups in and around London organise to go to the picket. Hold a street meeting to tell people about this strike, and to raise money for the strikers.

Messages of support and donations to: Grunwicks Strike Committee, Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 High Rd, Willesden, London NW10.

The Grunwicks factories are in Cobbold Rd, and Chapter Rd, Willesden, London NW10.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Led by the women's rock band, Jam Today, the message on the NAC demonstration was loud and clear—'Beat the Benyon Bill! No return to backstreet abortion!'

## FOR ABORTION RIGHTS



Pic: Mark Risher (IFL)

## HOTEL DISPUTE

Last month, 28 chambermaids at the Charing Cross Hotel in London went on strike over broken agreements.

An official 14 day enquiry was set up to look into the dispute. All the officials were 'executive' level staff of British Transport Hotels (BTH) or the NUR (the railway union, which the chambermaids are in)—and all are men.

Although the enquiry ended on May 6th, the maids are still waiting any answer to their demands. In the meantime, the hotel has already broken national written agreements twice. The chambermaids pointed this out to their divisional representative, but he gave them no support.

As we go to press, the chambermaids are once more in dispute—over the sacking of 16 year old Maureen, for talking back at the manager.

She had been taken on from a childrens home a couple of months ago, and has now been sent back there.

The chambermaids would very much like to contact and get together with other hotel and catering workers, whether already unionised or not. If you work in a restaurant or hotel, write to: Jean Jepson, c/o the Housekeeper's Office, Charing Cross Hotel, The Strand, London, WC1.

## WV SALES DOUBLE

*Womens Voice* magazine is looking good and healthy. Circulation and paid sale are going up with every issue. And that's not a sales pun, but true.

Print order has risen by 4000 i.e. almost doubled since the last issue

of the old newspaper back in November 1976. Paid sale is a staggering 80 per cent.

Everyone is beginning to realise what potential a good, fighting womensmagazine can have.

On the recent NAC demo in London we sold 800 copies of *Womens Voice*. They went like hot cakes, our sellers couldn't sell them fast enough.

This is all good, but still perhaps we could do with a few practical hints.

Every copy of the magazine should have a localised leaflet in only giving notices of *Womens Voice* Group meetings, activities and someone to get in touch with.

Obviously if there is a local dispute affecting women use it. Sell it on your local estate rounds, high streets, organise noisy street meetings. Motorcades round demos, meetings, flying balloons, posters. Sell it at late night shopping centres, in your workplaces, factories, schools, offices. Make sure everybody takes a copy. Men can sell it too; everyone has a girlfriend, sister, wife, friend, neighbour.

If you have a subscription, or you buy *Womens Voice* regularly, maybe you know someone else who'd like to see it. Why don't you get an extra copy for them?

We've made a good start—let's build on it.

If you've got any circulation distribution problems, ring or write to *Womens Voice*, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 01-739 1878.

Above all, please pay up. We need the money to produce the magazine—and to bring out more posters, badges and leaflets.

In our struggle for an equal society, the strength of working women needs to be organised more and more. We can use *Womens Voice* as an organiser, so use it.

Do you have any copies of issue no 1 under your bed? If you do can we have them back—we don't have any, not even a copy for our files! Send them to *Womens Voice*, 6 Cottons Gardens, E2 8DN

## JOBLESS?

Biggest smiles of the month were recorded on May 4 on the faces of Anny Paczuska and her husband John Deason. A judge at the Old Bailey threw out of court the trumped up charges brought against John after the police attacked the Right to Work March at Hendon last year.

Now the Right to Work Campaign is planning another march to the TUC in September, to call for more action and less empty words in the fight for jobs.

Unemployed *Womens Voice* readers who want to join the March contact the campaign office, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. More details in next month's *Womens Voice*.

## CHISWICK WOMEN



Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

Erin Pizey has lost the latest round of her battle to keep Chiswick Women's Aid open to all battered women. Hounslow Council won an appeal to the Law Lords, saying that the hostel in Chiswick High Road is overcrowded.

Of course it is over-crowded. Which only goes to show that the Chiswick Women's Aid is providing a marvelous, much needed refuge. This and other voluntary hostels around the country have brought

out into the open the fantastic level of violence that goes on behind the closed doors of many families.

Women have hitch-hiked from all parts of the country, with them, because there is no one else to turn to. Hounslow Council should be applauding the efforts of the hostel, and providing it with the funds to carry on and buy new premises, instead of hounding the women through the courts and threatening to turn them out into the streets. But the women are not planning to budge.

## NEWS

## IT LOOKS OK BUT...

The Handhan Vale estate in North Manchester looks attractive and modern, nestling against a hill on the slopes of which is Queens Park.

The estate is small and consists of short roads of terraced houses with gardens.

On a summer evening birds sing, the river Irk which runs alongside burbles, and you might be on the outskirts of a country village not near the heart of Manchester.

But it is far from pleasant to live in, and recently has become like hell.

Earlier this year the tenant at number 24 Calthorpe Walk, had his front door blown off when a woman outside lit a cigarette. The Gas Board came along and looked for a cause for weeks. Meanwhile number 24 was evacuated. Agnes and Gerritt Pronk live at number 26. They told us that the house has been vandalised several times and not repaired. Recently the waterpipes burst, and both houses were flooded. Agnes' carpets were ruined.

The Corporation has ignored her claim for compensation. She has phoned local TV, the newspapers, the Council and the Water Board, and no-one has done anything. The neighbours are all sick of it, and

their local councillor doesn't know anything. No cause for the explosion has been found.

Mary McEwan, who lives at 7 Filton Walk, said: 'I lived near here before the estate was built five years ago, and the Corporation always said they wouldn't build here because the land was subject to subsidence. The site is on top of a disused mine shaft. Somehow the corporation and Wimpeys, who built the estate, conveniently forgot this.

Other problems on the estate include walls so thin you can hear next door using the toilet or talking. You can't hang a picture because the nail goes through into next door's room. We pay £10.13 for the privilege of living here.

But as though all this were not enough, a hundred and fifty yards away is Don International, a company using deadly asbestos to produce brak linings. There are constant foul smelling fumes and the factory buildings are very badly neglected.

Tests on the estate a few years ago showed that the safety level for asbestos fibre in the air was only just being met. And that was after it had been raining.

And we all know how useless the official 'safety' level is, when just one invisible fibre could give you asbestosis.

Dor Langthorne used to live on the estate. She moved back to

privately rented property. She said: 'I would have gone round the bend if I had stayed there. What with no privacy and the constant danger of asbestosis to me and my family.'

**Sandy Rose  
Manchester**

## DIFFERENT ANATOMY

I'm sick of the hypocrisy! So what happened to equality! Only last week I was told 'It's better that you do an extra year at college because it'll be the men who get the jobs'. Great. Thanks, I thought. Even if a few hundred jobs were made available, the fact that I have slightly different anatomy to my brothers means that I am automatically excluded even from the CHANCE of employment.

It's not simply a question of no jobs. It's also psychological. How does it feel to know that we are going back to step one, back into the home. Our kids are being forced to ignorance. Why can't the government see they're cutting off their noses to spite their faces. Less teachers equals less comprehensive; further education, equals less qualified persons, equals less progress.

You try teaching 26 infant children in a South Yorkshire educational priority area. It's a hell of a strain on the teacher EVEN in this small class (the average in Doncaster is a 40 to 1 teacher-pupil ratio). It's not just a question of 'Sit down kids, do your sums'. Many of these children are overdemanding because they don't get the attention at home. Why? Because thanks to present economic pressures many parents work every hour god sends and are too tired to give the kids attention. AND WHAT ABOUT THE CUTBACKS IN NURSERY EDUCATION? Either we'll pack up having kids altogether or starve

at home with them.

I'd like to see Ms Shirley Williams on one of HER worse days, knees bent, trying to meet the needs of 26 screaming kids. Teachers are individuals and kids have feelings. Both will suffer if the ratio of teachers decline.

So will standards. Nowonder that more and more children are leaving schools illiterate and with no knowledge in maths. Shirley deplores it. So do we. So where's the logic?

### SO WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Doncaster College of Education is going to shut and so are plenty of others if our superiors get their way. We have organised an ACTION COMMITTEE of 12 members (we started off with 5) to see this aim of organising a one-day national strike through. But work is slow without public sympathy AND active support. So far we have had 3 trade union resolutions from large influential industries confirming their support. So if you are in S. Yorks (or anywhere else) please contact us. Not just colleges, but hospitals, services, factories, collieries, the lot! So, take your stand as women. Get out petitions for a national one-day strike TO STOP ALL CUTBACKS—NOT JUST EDUCATION.

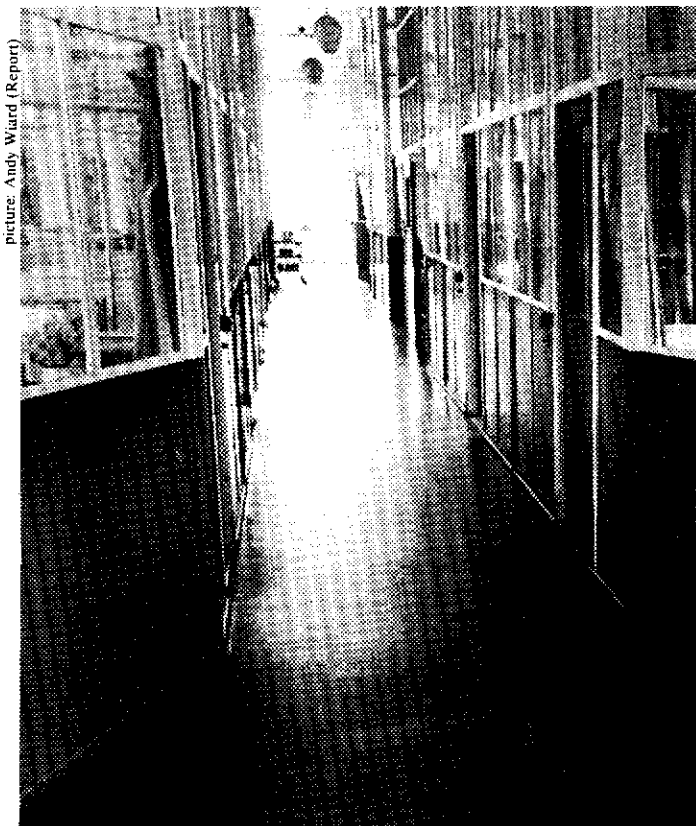
If you want to support our cause, write to the Action Committee, Union Offices, Doncaster College of Education.

**Caroline Loughran  
Student Teacher, Doncaster**

Do you suffer from smelly fridge? If so, you can be helped. After armpits, vaginas and the air in your kitchen... new Fridge Fresh!

The director of the company making this useful new product complained 'Our problem lay in persuading the retail trade to accept a new product in a non-existent category.'

## SHEER LUNACY



Picture: Andy Ward (Report)

The picture above shows the isolation wards at the Western Hospital, Hammersmith.

The Western is facing closure. Exactly the same units would have to be fitted elsewhere—if there are any hospitals left to put them that is.

'The Equal Pay Act is now taking shape, and it is a shape the EOC approves of. That rich statement comes from the latest press release of the Equal Opportunities Commission. What happened to equal pay at Yardleys, Electrolux, and all the other places where women still don't get equal pay with men?

Brighton SWP and NAC picketed the advice surgery of Andrew Bowden, Tory MP for Brighton Kempton and well known anti-abortionist.

This was to draw attention to the attack on working class women which the Benyon anti-abortion bill represents. We all think the picket was an effective way of doing it.

In recent weeks we have been petitioning in shopping centres, and have held public meetings at the university and in the town.

Several people were surprised to find us collecting signatures in the market after the newspapers had announced that the Benyon Bill will probably fall at the end of the parliamentary session.

It's important to tell people that the Bill still stands a slim chance of getting discussed. Even if it doesn't, there will probably be another private members bill next session—and the present law on abortion doesn't go far enough as it doesn't guarantee free abortion on demand.

After the defeat of the James White Bill, the abortion campaign lost a lot of impetus, and it has taken the Benyon Bill to sting us back into action. We must not allow this to happen again—the fight goes on for a woman's right to choose.

Brighton NAC can be contacted c/o Sally, 57a Preston Street, Brighton or Sue, 26b West Hill Rd, Brighton, Phone 21060.

# PART-TIME WORKERS YOU'VE GOT RIGHTS



From February 1st this year part time workers doing 16 hours or more per week (or 8 hours if you've been with the same employer for 5 years) are entitled to these statutory minimum rights:

- Minimum period of notice (after 4 weeks in the same job)

- Redundancy payment (after 2 years)
- Protection against unfair dismissal (after 6 months)
- Maternity leave with pay for 18 weeks and reinstatement up to 26 weeks after the birth (after 2 years at the beginning of the 11th week before the baby is due)
- In case of redundancy - time off to look for work or to arrange training (after 2 years)
- Guaranteed payment if laid off or put on short time working or suspended on medical grounds (after 4 weeks)



Poster designed by  
Jenny Hughes

Don't let your employer cut your hours below the 16-hour minimum!  
Write and let us know if this or any other problem occurs

# Womens VOICE

8 Cottons Gardens,  
London, E2 8DN

# Women and orgasm

Shere Hite, an American woman historian, has just published the results of a survey\* about women's sexual lives.

She asked 100,000 women between the ages of 14 and 78 a whole series of questions.

Her aim was to counter the views put forward in the majority of books about women's 'sexual problems', mostly written by men. She had noticed that books on men's sexuality were few and far between, as if it were only women's sexuality that was seen as a 'problem' whereas the forms taken by men is 'normal'.

What did she find out? Firstly that most women do not reach

orgasms during intercourse. 22 per cent seldom have one, 29 per cent never do. These figures strike at myth number one: that a woman who has no orgasm during intercourse is 'frigid' or in any other way unusual.

Secondly, that nearly 80 per cent of the women who replied to the questionnaire achieve orgasm 'easily and regularly' by masturbation.

It is clearly nonsense to go on pretending that it is harder for a woman to have an orgasm than a man—it explodes one of the most popular sexual myths. In fact the 'problems' are caused not by a woman's lower sexual drive, but by the assumption that a man is an indispensable

partner who 'gives pleasure' to the woman, whilst he 'takes it for himself'. The truth is rather that when any person has control over their sexual experience, they derive pleasure from it equally.

Biologists long ago discredited the idea (invented by Freud) that an orgasm attained by stimulation of the clitoris was in

might lead to mutually satisfying forms of love-making, in which penetration is only one possible form of intercourse.

It seems as though we are stuck with a situation where most women, even if they have experimented with masturbation, are prevented by guilt and convention from realising their own potential for sexual



some way 'less mature' and 'less satisfactory' than an orgasm experienced during penetration of the vagina. We now know that the so called 'vaginal orgasm' is not only no better than an orgasm produced by direct stimulation of the clitoris but quite unusual. Yet the weight of social convention is so great that we have great difficulty in acting according to the evidence and changing our sexual lives for the better. How many women who are dependent upon men for their food, the roof over their heads, and their socially 'respectable' position, are going to turn round and admit that they are not satisfied by the way that their husbands make love? That in fact she can give herself sexual pleasure more effectively.

Perhaps it would be even harder to achieve a situation where men and women could be so open and trusting about their sexuality that frank discussion

pleasure. They feel that they must have an orgasm during intercourse or not at all. If they 'fail' then they feel 'abnormal' and 'frigid'.

What of the 'sexual revolution' of the swinging sixties then? Doesn't Ms Hite feel that any steps forward have been taken in the recent increase in permissiveness?

On the contrary. Just because women make love more frequently and change partners more often it does not mean necessarily that they are leading more satisfactory sexual lives. The majority of ordinary women have not benefitted at all from the 'sexual revolution' and may indeed have lost out. Women need to be able to lead their sexual lives according to what is satisfying for them not what is satisfying to men. We need to break out of the 'masculine model' of normality.

Mel Bartley

\*'The Hite Report: a nationwide study of female sexuality' (MacMillan)

## Catching them young

When in the library the other day, my three year old daughter was given a book called 'Let's Play Mums and Dads' by a very helpful librarian. It is a picture book, each picture accompanied by a sentence, aimed at under-fives.

It starts with a boy and girl asking if they can dress up. Then, 'Let's play weddings. . . This can be our house.' (Here

there is a picture of a large, detached Victorian dolls house.) They have their wedding with pages and bridesmaids, and the lass spends the rest of the time in turban and apron, cleaning, making meals, and so on.

Probably the most nauseating nine pages are the ones that stutter this sentence out—the climax is a bit of a let-down! 'Maybe if I was good and

kind. . . to my dolly. . . and remembered to feed her. . . and keep her warm. . . then one day. . . she might grow into. . . a soft and warm. . . real-life baby!'

I'm not anti-baby, I've had three of my own. But I do object to such garbage being sold, and profit being made out of it. It's this sort of stuff filling our schools and libraries that makes real liberation such a struggle. Sheila Telfer, Pontefract.

Have you seen a television programme recently that you really liked—or really disliked? Have you seen a film, or read a book that made you feel strongly about it? If so, we'd like to hear about it. Send your thoughts (as short as you like, but not too long, please) to: Reviews, Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

# UNION VOICE

## USDAW

Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.

Membership:  
Male—153,653  
Female—223,649  
Fulltime Officials:  
Male—129  
Female—4

National Executive:  
Male—16  
Female—1  
TUC delegates:  
Male—21  
Female—5

I've worked at British Home Stores for 3 years, during which time I joined USDAW.

Since I was the only worker in the store belonging to the union—and according to the other girls 'always going on' about certain matters at work, it soon became obvious that none of them were really interested in joining—nor could they see the need for a union.

The bulk of fulltime staff at work are girls in the 16-21 age group. Married women, like myself, make up the workforce as part-timers.

The younger ones are mainly interested in fashion and boyfriends and the married ones, with finishing work to get home to look after the kids and cook tea for the old man—and also, considering themselves lucky to have a job at all, with the high level of unemployment in Hull.

The general feeling was that BHS was a good firm to work for, with the perks that went with the job—free meals, staff discount, Saturdays off, good working conditions—what more did they want?

It was not until an issue affected some of them personally that they realised the advantages of being a union member.

It all started when the girls on the food section were given specially designed hats to wear. They were ridiculous to look at, and the girls felt silly wearing them. That was when they came to me for advice.

This was something I'd been waiting for—as I'd told them, it was no good having just one union member in the shop—we had to get the majority of women involved, then we could take some positive action if it was needed.

Even though this may seem a trivial issue, it wasn't one I could pass up. I spent a full dinner hour with some of the women from the food section, telling them as best I could of the advantages of belonging to a union.

About ten of them agreed to join. The next day I went along to the branch office for some membership forms. We agreed to keep it from the management until we had recruited a few more women.

Over the next few days, the word got round, and more and more girls were

on about USDAW already having an agreement with BHS, and he didn't see the need for all this—which had to be expected. We discussed the issue of the hats and he agreed that the girls could stop wearing them until we had a report back from head office. That was over a year ago, and the hats haven't been worn since.

We called our first union meeting with our representative a fortnight later on work premises. About 20 stayed behind to attend. They were a bit reluctant to ask questions at first, so it

notice board. Also, the manager put him in an office instead of the restaurant where the women would have known where he was. As I was on the last dinner shift, I didn't know about this till it was too late.

Now, the union official sits in over dinner hour to answer any queries, once a month. It isn't the best of arrangements, but up to now, it's the only one we have been able to use. Staff meals are staggered and with the extensive use of part-timers, it's virtually impossible to get all the staff together at once.

All this was just over a year ago and now we have a good number of women in the union. We have had a few disagreements with the management, and the women have benefited from being in the union. Plus there is now more solidarity and awareness of our rights than before.

USDAW is not the best union, and it is still hard work to get them to stay behind for meetings and to get them to the branch meetings, but at least they are now aware that it's up to them to make the union work for them, in spite of harassment from management on quite a few occasions and my being refused a change of working hours in an attempt to encourage me to leave.

It has been very rewarding to see it grow from one member to 75 in just over a year, and we are still growing.

L Gordon  
USDAW Shop Steward

Rank and file members of USDAW have got together and are producing a bulletin. Please send contributions and orders to **Shopfloor Worker**, 265a Seven Sisters Road N4.



pic: Hackney Flashers

joining. Then the manager heard about it and I was called to his office.

He said that my name had been mentioned in connection with rumours that I was trying to start a union in the shop. I told him I wasn't trying, we were already established with a steady growing membership.

He wasn't exactly chuffed about this, and started going

was up to me to ask—I needed to know a lot more about unions myself.

We agreed to have monthly meetings and also for our union officer to come and sit in the staff restaurant over dinner hours so the part-time women had a chance to talk with him.

The first of these was a complete flop. The meeting wasn't advertised on the staff

# Striking for equal pay

**Laird Portch is a strike for Equal Pay by four hundred women in the clothing industry— Jaegers, part of Coats Paton. Theirs is an industry based on skilled women grafting for less than the unskilled men— an industry based on low wages and rotten union organisation. The strike is being supported by 120 women from Jaeger factories in Kilmarnock.**

**The clothing trade is a classic example of how the oppression of women in this society leads to low pay, of how bosses exploit skilled women and their role in society to their own ends.**

**Ellen Nicklin, National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers convenor at Laird Portch, told Sheila McGregor about the strike**

It all started when we read in the newspapers about the Equal Pay Act for women, at the end of 1975. We asked management what their intentions were with regard to the Act. They told us it would be settled as part of national negotiations in the Jaeger group. They also said they would abide by any agreement made by the Clothing Manufacturers' Association which they belong to. But all that came out of the National negotiations was the minimum rate, so they argued they didn't owe us anything. The only thing is they pay the unskilled men £11.10p more than the minimum rate—£10 more than the pay us skilled women.

When we pushed further for equal pay they told us that they would do a job evaluation scheme. For 15 months we argued about job evaluation and in June 1976 said NO. Our fulltime official was trying to get a new workers' handbook written. He kept raising the question of job evaluation in those negotiations until it became quite clear the employers had no intention of doing anything about it. At that point, the Government's Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) was involved.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Ellen Nicklin (right) speaking to picketers



and in April 1977 they reported: 'The Employers cannot afford to carry out job evaluation because they cannot afford to pay out in isolation from other employers in the trade. It will have to be done at national level. Back to square one. A week later we came out on strike.

Like many strikers the women have problems with their union. Unlike in some other cases, the official involved supports the women. The problem with the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers goes much, much deeper. The structure of the union makes rank and file struggle by the members almost impossible. The strike at Laird Portch is unofficial, not because the union is against equal pay. Far from it. Rule 2 Paragraph b states quite clearly one of the aims is:

'... to secure the economic equality of its women members, by seeking to establish the same rates for women as for men for equal work.'

NO. The strike is unofficial because the only way a strike can be official in the NUTGW is by having a secret ballot for strike action with a

**"Since Adam was a boy, men have been paid more than women and if I have to pay equal pay I'll employ nothing but males".**

**—Naismith, General Manager of Laird Portch.**

two thirds majority. The strike decision has then to be agreed to by the Executive board of the union, a lay body which meets quarterly. Then you can have an official strike! Rank and file members rule OK!

Ellen had this to say about the union: "We are really annoyed with the union for not helping us because we're not just fighting for ourselves but for all women in the industry. The union has done nothing for ourselves but for all women in the industry. The union has done nothing except at district level. If we win it will revolutionise the clothing trade. The thing is that 90 per-cent of the clothing trade is skilled and female. The employers are really sweating because at the moment unskilled men get paid more than skilled workers, men and women. The whole wage structure would topple if we won. We reckon the Clothing Manufacturers Association is backing Jaegers and telling them not to give way."

More about the union: "We asked Mr. McGuigen, General Secretary of the union why there were no branch meetings. He told us there weren't any because no one turned up. But we never hear about them, so of course we don't go. And anyway there is only one branch for the whole of West Scotland so how could we all get there, even if there was a meeting?. Particularly as we nearly all have children and live in such scattered areas."

One of the interesting features of Laird Portch is the nursery provided by the firm. It costs £5.60p for 40 hours for one child and £11 for 40 hours for two children. This money is taken out of the women's wages every week and you still have to pay the full whack even if you only work three days in the week. And the company say they subsidise the nursery by 51 per cent! There are twelve nursery staff who are not yet in a union. This is something the strikers

intend to change when they get back. Not only that, Ellen told Womens Voice:

"The trainee nurses are not allowed to go to day release to get their qualifications. But the boys in the cutting room are allowed day release for their City and Guilds. That's something we'll have to change."

The Laird Portch strike is important, not only for women in the trade but for all of us. Their victory is our victory. It strengthens us in the battle for women's liberation. And because it affects all of us, we have a responsibility to make sure the Laird Portch women win. They need support. Money because they're not getting strike pay. Messages of support so they know they're not alone. The employers will use every weapon in their armoury to defeat the women and save their profits.

So we have to shout from the roof tops about the strike, take make sure that women in every factory, school, hospital and on every housing estate know about it and are collecting money. Get down to those *Jaeger* shops, or *Country Casual* any shop in the Coats Paton group will do-and embarrass management with pickets and leaflets about the strike. Organise meetings about the strike in your area. Contact us at Womens Voice for speakers, collection sheets, stickers and pass on any good ideas you have. We have a job to do: to win this strike.



*Womens Voice picket of Country Casuals (Glasgow), a retail outlet of Coats Paton, Laird Portch*

## **SOME FACTS ABOUT COATS PATON**

Coats Paton operate in 18 countries including Chile, Argentina, the Philippines, Thailand and South Africa.

In 1975 the payout in dividends to shareholders increased by 206 per cent and the directors' payout was raised from £22,500 in 1975 to £25,000 in 1976.

In 1976 turnover increased from £487 million to 615 million, and pre-tax profits soared from £37 million to £76.4 million—a new peak. Board estimates suggest that the level of profit achieved in the second half of 1976 should be sustained throughout 1977.

On average in 1975, each employee earned £1,981. The clear profit per employee was £2,083.

For every 1.8778p invested, there is a final payment of 2.9166p per share which is the maximum allowed for payout to shareholders.

And in 1975 Coats Paton made a political donation to British United Industries of £5,000.

**WHO SAYS THEY CAN'T AFFORD EQUAL PAY?**

# YOUR RIGHTS

## SICKNESS BENEFIT

### HOW TO CLAIM — HOW MUCH DO YOU GET?

The first thing you need to claim sickness benefit is a medical certificate, which you should get as soon as possible from your doctor. If you are likely to be ill for less than two weeks, the certificate can be 'closed', giving a date of return to work. An 'open' certificate can last for up to six months. You will be assumed to be back at work when the certificate expires, unless you renew it.

Fill in your parts of the certificate, including the section relating to accidents at work and prescribed industrial diseases, if relevant.

Send the certificate to the local DHSS office.

### WHEN TO CLAIM

As soon as possible. You will be safe if you claim, or renew a claim, within six days from the start of the illness. If you cannot do this, claim anyway. You will be paid for six certified days before the date of the

a) Flat-rate benefit — single person	per week	£12.90
Flat-rate benefit — married man		£12.90
married woman		£9.20
b) Wife or other adult dependent		£8.00
c) Increased child allowances — first		£4.05
others		£2.55
d) Earnings related supplement after the first 12 days, for people on PAYE tax. This only lasts for six months.		

claim, and may be paid for the whole period if you can show a good reason for your lateness. You are allowed 21 days if it is your first ever claim.

Claim for supplementary benefit at the same time, if you think your national insurance benefit is not going to be enough to meet your requirements.

enough NI contributions. If you do not qualify for invalidity benefit, you will receive sickness benefit for another year.

You do not normally get sickness benefit for the first three days of illness, from the first date on the certificate.

The effect of sickness on your income varies enormously with your job. It is subject to all the normal contribution conditions (see WV no 3 for maternity allowance). But in some jobs, particularly white-collar jobs, there are sick pay schemes. Normally, after a certain qualification period, National In- for a certain number of days or

weeks. Then you may go down to half pay for some weeks.

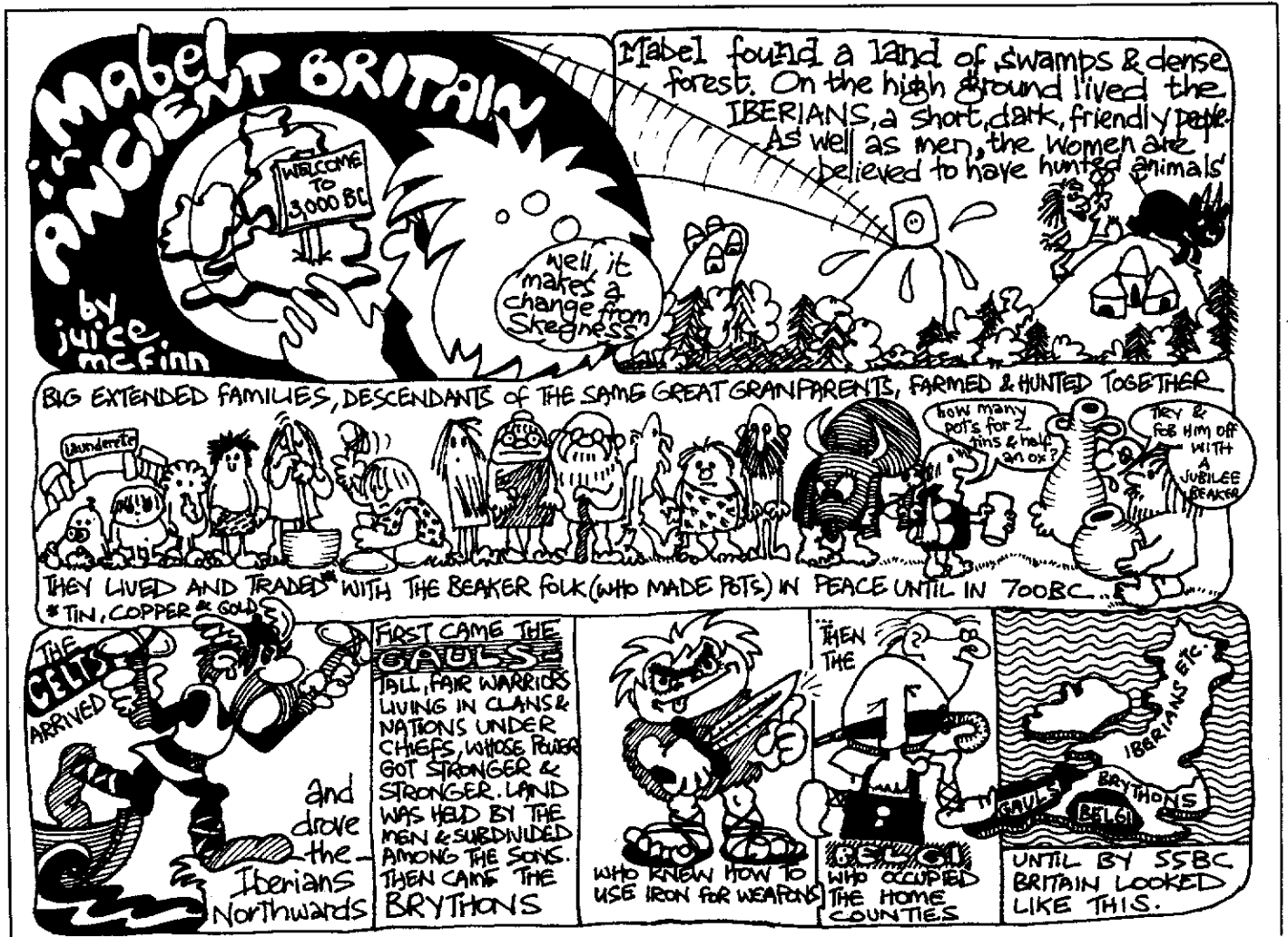
However women in manual jobs, women who have not had a long continuous period of employment, and women in part-time jobs are not usually covered by such schemes, and suffer a severe loss of income if they are ill. It's just another of the crazy results of capitalism that if you've got a highly-paid, high status job, you're still paid more, even when you're not doing it.

### PROBLEMS

You can be disqualified from sickness benefit for various reasons, and the DHSS can insist that another doctor examine you to determine whether you are incapable of work. If these sorts of problems arise, try to get your doctor to refer you to a specialist, see your local Citizen's Advice Bureau, your local Claimants' Union or your local Law Centre for advice. You may qualify for a specialist's report under the Legal Advice Scheme.

### HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Sickness benefit lasts for six months—168 days excluding Sundays—and may then be replaced by invalidity benefit, if you have



**The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in Euston Road, London is the first the first hospital in Britain to have been occupied by it's workers.**

**It is also one of the only two women's hospitals in the country staffed entirely by women doctors.**

**The struggle to keep the EGA open has been not just against the cuts which are causing drastic loss of jobs (mostly for women) and facilities in the NHS:**

**It has also been to improve the kind of health care that women receive.**

## **EGA: WELL WOMAN CLINIC**

The EGA is still open because the workers there were prepared to take action to stop the authorities from moving patients out of the hospital. And because other workers, the local community and women's groups have taken action in support and have maintained a 24 hour picket there for the last 6 months. We have taken some control over our hospital—we have stopped it from being closed. But this is only a small step in confronting the power that the medical profession, the drug companies, the state and the bosses have over our health. We have to demand control over the services that our hospitals provide and work for a health service determined by our needs, and which allows us control over our bodies.

The NHS discriminates against women both as workers and as patients. Women are at least 70 per cent of the health service workforce, yet only 22 per cent of all registered doctors are women, and only 9 per cent of consultants. This means that most women do not have the choice to see a woman doctor if they want to, and also that they have less power in determining what services are provided.

Women make more visits to the doctors than men. This is not surprising since, whether we are healthy or not, we inevitably use the health service for contraception, abortion or childbirth, and we then have to face the power that the male dominated medical profession and the state have over our fertility, and when, where and how we have our children. A woman is also 50 per cent more likely to receive psychiatric care than a man, and twice as likely to be given psychotropic



pic: Angela Phillips (IFL)

(mood altering) drugs. The treatment she gets typically does nothing to alter her situation, but merely fosters her dependence and oppresses her further.

A large number of health problems are specific to women, and tend to be classified as 'minor'. For example, cystitis and vaginal infections, or menapausal or menstrual disorders. As the women's health movement has demonstrated, these are best coped with by giving information and support—but they are often treated unsympathetically or written off as 'neurosis'. The preventive medicine and research that is required has been ignored by the medical profession in which those with interests in specialised, high technology medicine have greatest prestige and influence. Breast cancer is

the single most common cause of death in women aged between 35 and 50, yet screening to detect cancer in its early stages has yet to be introduced throughout the NHS.

The EGA provides a valuable service, but it could do much more. The Women's Committee of the EGA Campaign is a group of women who work at the hospital or have been involved in the campaign. We would like to see the EGA upgraded and expanded on its present site to meet the needs of local women, for example in terms of provisions for the high percentage of elderly women living alone; for children's health; and for primary care and preventive medicine that tends to be ignored by the large teaching hospitals near-by. And we would like

to see the EGA acting as a focus for changes in women's health care throughout the NHS.

We have been raising these issues both inside and outside the hospital, and a meeting has been suggested to discuss them. It would involve workers from the hospital, people from the area and those with experience of women's health care, and could eventually draw up concrete proposals for the EGA in the immediate and long term future. The Action Committee in the hospital, which represents all sections of staff, has agreed to call such a meeting, the strength of which will depend on the extent to which the local community is involved. The doctors have already proposed to open a well-woman and a menapausal clinic in the summer. How far these clinics will go towards providing the kind of informative and supportive care we would like to see will partly depend on the effect of this meeting. The women's group of the EGA Campaign meet every Sunday night, and we would welcome comments, suggestions and help. We also have questionnaires asking women about their experiences with the health service and how they think it could be improved. The Campaign has made a tape-slide show about the EGA which can be shown at meetings (Please phone Lin Hawkins 794 0500 x3040 if you would like to use it) For further information please contact: The Women's committee. Save the EGA Campaign, c/o 30 Camden Road, London NW1 or phone Linda (278 8387) or Pam Jones (NUPE Steward) 387 2501

*EGA Womens Group*

Prostitution is hardly ever discussed by socialists. If it is it is usually condemned, with expressions of pity for the women and a suggestion that things will be different after the revolution.

On the other hand many people have very strong feelings about it. If you live or work near a 'red-light' district you can hardly be unaware of its existence. If you don't you are confronted every day with many of the pressures and repressions which produce the need for prostitution.

Here are experts from three contributions on the topic which *Women's Voice* has received.

The writers disagree with each other and many of you will have quite different ideas. Let us know what you think.

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## Prostitution Debate

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In looking at prostitution we have to look at prostitutes themselves, their lives and their attitudes to the job, as well as the existence of the need to buy sex.

Since the very beginning of private property, and male domination it has been considered vital that women should be chaste, so that men can be sure that children are theirs, not some other man's. To have any effect this idea has to spread over all society, whether property was involved or not. And a convenient idea used to enforce this was that 'good' women—ie those you marry or your mother—don't like sex.

Women are supposed to be interested in houses and children, not sex. Women are meant to be (essentially) monogamous. Women are not supposed to be adventurous. In sex they are meant to 'lie back and think of England'. Whereas men 'need' a lot of sex and sexually stimulating extras, need more than one woman to satisfy them, are adventurous and daring in sex.

In prostitution men are the clients. There are very few male prostitutes for women—though women are as frustrated and repressed as men. Most women can't afford it, as well as feeling that we shouldn't want sex much anyway.

There are many reasons for men going to prostitutes. They

# 'Prisons are built with stones of law, brothels with bricks of religion'

William Blake

may be working or travelling away from home; they may be handicapped and feel that can only buy sex. Perhaps a man feels inhibited in actions or language with his usual partner. He may want to degrade or humiliate his partner, or want her to degrade or humiliate him. He may find buying sex easier than building up a relationship, or may believe that 'decent' women are unable to have brief, friendly, non-monogamous relationships.

Many men buy sex because a repressive society has distorted their sexual urges so that they feel ashamed to enjoy their kinks—unless they are paying, and in that way can detach themselves from it. They may just be bored with their regular partner and want a way to relieve their sexual frustration.

Many prostitutes are single mothers who find this the easiest (if not the only) way of earning a good wage while looking after their children. Where else can women earn £10-15 a day?

There are many reasons besides the economic ones. Some prostitutes feel this is a way to be an independent individual and avoid a humdrum existence. Others may be from unhappy backgrounds, or want reassurance of being needed and attractive. Some may be revenging themselves on men.

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**'Prostitutes should fight for recognition as a group of workers thrown up by the miseries of capitalism like prison warders, social workers and psychiatrists.'**

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There are many reactions to doing the job. Many prostitutes find their situation more tolerable if they objectify themselves. If you make yourself into a 'thing', it doesn't matter what happens.

Socialists believe that in a society where sexual relations are not distorted by economic and religious repressions, the need for prostitution will disappear. But under capitalism these distortions and repressions will remain and there will always be a need for prostitutes.

There are some areas where prostitution seems to be a social service—for men and women separated by demands of work, for the old and physically

handicapped. Many of our attitudes towards the old and handicapped stem from capitalism's distaste for the 'useless'. These attitudes will surely change with society.

We should fight for the legalisation of prostitution so that the harassment inflicted on prostitutes by the police will end, and to lessen the effects of 'pimping' and 'protection' rackets.

Many liberals advocate the licensing of brothels, but this could be dangerous. It would make it very difficult for women to leave the game—especially if the brothels were state-run and the women forced to register. It would remove most rights and freedoms from the women. In the state-run brothels of Nevada the women are only allowed out at certain times.

Equally dangerous is the idea of a 'red-light district'. Women and children would be ghettoised in slum and twilight areas. Most red-light areas are already in this situation because of the pressures of wealthy rate-payers.

A more reasonable possibility would be pubs or restaurants—known perhaps as houses of assignation—where prostitutes and clients could meet. This would help protect women from attack and murder by clients since they could make sure that friends knew who was with them. It would also help stop the unwelcome advances women have to put up with in the streets.

Most important is that prostitutes should organise themselves to fight for legalisation, recognition as a group of workers thrown up by the miseries of capitalism like prison warders, social workers and psychiatrists. They may do unpleasant work, but like factory workers, must fight for an improvement in their conditions.

It will not be easy for them to organise—though one attempt, PUSSI (Prostitutes Union for Social and Sexual Integration) has been started. Socialist women should back their sisters in the struggle to improve their conditions in all work so that women are not faced with the choice of the streets or poverty on the S.

If the average £80 a week wage were the basic minimum for women workers, would so many women become prostitutes? If free and friendly sexual relationships were possible, would so many men need prostitutes?

Bobby Noyes

# YOUR VOICE

We had a lot of letters in response to the ad on the back page of last month's issue of *Womens Voice*. By far the most disgusting ad sent in was the one on this month's back page. These are some of the responses to it. . .

Prostitution is a product of capitalism. There would be no need for prostitutes within socialism. Trying to analyse this idea is difficult but to me prostitution and the arguments for it are part of capitalism. Destroy capitalism and you destroy the need. If there is one.

I'm not saying that there are not customers. Of course there are. Who are they? Certainly not the average working man trying to manage with two children on £50 a week. It is the so-called upper middle class, the accountants, bank managers, and lawyers: those who can pay a good price for anything they want. Prostitutes, however, are workers as we are.

But I feel that capitalism, which educates us into male-

**'The Victorian myth is that men need to satisfy their sexual urges, whilst women do not have any.'**

dominant, female-subservient roles, also leads us to accept prostitution as a necessary part of society. Hence there are campaigns to legalise prostitution.

The idea is based on the Victorian myth that men need to satisfy their sexual urges, whilst women, particularly wives, do not have any.

Hopefully, within a socialist society, when we are educated to live up to the principle of equality, the role of the prostitute will be defunct. Not that our sisters will be out of work. Many industries now in operation (eg armaments) will be defunct within a socialist society, and the resources used in them will be put to alternative uses—perhaps washing machines instead of guns. Similarly prostitutes would find alternative employment.

**Eunice Sharples**

A prostitute is not much different than most people in capitalist societies who have to sell their labour to ensure their daily survival.

The real difference is how the prostitute is seen by the rest of society. She is the victim of male double-standards, and is a symbol of all female oppression. It is not illegal to be a prostitute, but it is illegal to solicit. Prostitutes suffer being exploited by pimps as well as by their clients. It is the woman who is humiliated by the police and the courts and it is she who is sent to jail. The male client

gets away with it. He never gets labelled prostitute, or gets a bad reputation.

Men are accepted as polygamous (having many women), while women are supposed to be naturally monogamous, desiring only one man, so as not to bruise the male ego. It's girls who are called promiscuous, not boys. Women who sell their bodies (and ours) to be photographed and to be used by men in cruel and illusory ways are prostitutes as well, and degrade all women. They are just more hypocritical because they don't have to face to face with the men they are enticing.

Prostitutes are used in capitalist society to blind all women to the fact that they are also being exploited and prostituted. The 'good' women (non-prostitutes) can falsely flatter themselves that they aren't like those 'bad' women, whom they despise. This might make some women feel mentally better, but in real terms every woman is on the same ship as the prostitute.

Her body is sold and flaunted on every corner. She is raped viciously at every newsagent and advertising poste. She is encouraged to buy clothes, cosmetics, platform shoes, and wiggle when she walks, so she can attract men.

The working woman is used as cheap labour and denied proper wages and position. Many prostitutes are financially a lot better off than women who slave all day in a factory, office or home, and then have to beg a husband for shopping money or a little pocket-money. Women who walk alone at night are often suspected of being 'on the game' anyway.

**'She is humiliated by the police and courts, she is sent to jail while the male client gets away with it.'**

Women I have talked to are forever saying: "They can degrade themselves, it had nothing to do with me. "This society plays one person off against the next. Prostitution has everything to do with us—men as well as women. We are all degraded and all involved. We must work towards a total change in society, where true equality exists in every way and where human beings, especially women, are no longer used as property to be bought and sold on the commodity market.

Dear *Womens Voice*,  
Here is a pretty infuriating advertisement for your back page—flying in the face of everything women have been trying to change, not only in this century, but ever since men and women started to question the treatment of women as property in society.

The fact that such an ad can stare out at you from the pages of the colour supplement of the *Sunday Times* in 1977 is a comment on the extent to which such antiquated and offensive attitudes still have currency, and on the continuing need to fight them.

**Josephine Gardiner, London.**

Dear *WV*,  
How about this bloodboiling advert—courtesy of the *Sunday Times*. Nice to know how many people have got our wellbeing at heart, isn't it!!

**Faith Mitchell**

Dear *WV*,  
I saw this piece of ruling class propaganda in the *Sunday Times* magazine. I hope you can use it in *Womens Voice* because it's what the struggle is all about.

**John Eggenton, Jarrow SWP**

Dear *WV*,  
It's not only ads like the one in *Womens Voice* No 5 that makes my blood boil, but also the fact that nearly every stationery shop sells magazines portraying women as 'lumps of flesh'.

Nudity in itself is not evil, but those magazines are definitely published for masturbatory purposes and therefore mock women and the sex act. If we are to be equal with men we should demand that our image be that of athletes, sportswomen and dancers etc, although some might argue that it would increase the incidence of rape. But then schools should have the art of self-defence on their syllabus.

**Maureen Walsh, Edinburgh**

Dear *WV*,  
Here's yet another advert using women to sell a product or, in this case, a savings scheme. But this one is doubly insulting as it also takes up the current cry of chauvinists for women to get back into the home.

No sooner than this girl finished being one man's

daughter than she's another man's wife.

Just who is this gem of advertising aimed at? How many of us can afford to send out kids to private school as the girl's uniform suggests, or pay money into a building society to take on a mortgage at twenty?

Few, I imagine. But don't worry. The Cheltenham and Gloucester's punch line tells us 'we're interested in you, not just your money.' Correction, they're interested in maintaining a society that keeps women in the home and workers in their place.

And where did I find this insulting trash? In that paper of the people, the *Sunday Times*. How can anyone dispute that capitalism and women's suppression go hand in hand?

**Debbie Bennett, Manchester.**

**There is certainly no shortage of adverts which degrade and offend women so please keep sending them in to us.**

**You will be pleased to know that we had great difficulty in finding a bill board with the 'Juicy, fruity, fresh and cheap' advert on it that hadn't been blotted out with graffiti. Turn over the page and you'll see what we mean!**



# YOUR VOICE

## U.S. union shop

Dear WV,

I am a member of the *International Socialist Organisation* in the United States and I would like to take out a personal subscription to *Womens Voice*.

I work in an area of light industry where many of the mills employ mostly women, and relatively few are exclusively male. We also have a good proportion of union shops here, and although racism and sexism have us very badly divided, the unions are scrappy on grievances and someone's always going out. Of course, the good ole' boys in the union sell us out at contract time, but at least the daily grievances give much opportunity to discuss issues.

Since I was 16 I always worked in scab joints. They unfortunately outnumber the union shops when it comes to

women's opportunities, and the paranoia of those places leads to a falsely reactionary, really apathetic labour force.

For the first time I am working in a union shop and it is exhilarating. Several friends and I went out and had a good drink this week after a union steward had to reprimand a reactionary co-worker for trying to get us fired because we're "troublemakers". The foreman even apologised for having listened to her, because it's against the contract for a union member to say anything to a boss about another member.

The other thing I'd like to mention to *Womens Voice* is that the first time I heard of an organised fight on behalf of beaten wives was in a TV spot about the British women doing this. Since then, this has been

taken up as a primary topic in the general feminist media (socialist and others alike), alongside abortion. I think we must thank our British sisters for that.

The impending defeat of our equal rights amendment to our federal constitution is also having a "socialising" or revolutionising effect on many women that I know and I hope this change will last. We will have those rights before we're through!

So hang in there.

Denise Matteau, Massachusetts, USA.

## Women's Aid

Dear WV,

We were pleased to read of your concern about the problems of battered women and particularly those of Chiswick Women's Aid (WV No 4).

There are now over 74 refuges throughout England

and Wales, all of which are constantly overcrowded and all of which constantly teeter on the brink of closure because of lack of finance. Urban Aid, upon which a lot of refuges rely, will soon be running out. Job creation workers are only allowed to stay for a year.

But battered women don't only need refuges. They need more housing, more legal rights, and more money.

But there is no point in individual groups fighting their own small battles. We must demand action for battered women on a national level.

Battered women are an extreme example of the oppression suffered by all women in this society. This is why women from the womens liberation movement throughout the country are struggling on this front.

In sisterhood,  
National Womens Aid Federation.

## No trousers, no equality!

Dear WV,

Last December my friend and I wrote a leaflet about our school. It criticised our headmaster.

In our school, the girls are not allowed to do woodwork. Also we're not allowed to wear trousers, only in very cold weather. We made a special remark about our headmaster coming into our classroom and asking for ten strong boys to help him shift a few light things down about ten steps—which a five year old could do.

Our headmaster's reaction to

this leaflet was 'you should have come to me first before putting these leaflets through the doors'. If we'd gone to him, his first words—you can guess—would be 'NO'. So there wouldn't be any point in going to him first.

The reason we wrote this leaflet was to show the Norwicheers that our school was a boys for ever school and that two girls wanted that changed.

Dominique Gibson and  
Siobhan Green, Norwich.

## The 'enemy' camp?

Dear WV,

I was a bit confused by the way your article 'Get stuck in' about the May 14 abortion march was written . . . 'One of the best ways to get publicity is to go straight into the opposition territory, wherever groups of women are, where we can start an argument. Leaflet catholic churches and schools . . . bingo queues . . . doctor's surgeries, nurseries, playgroups, family planning clinics . . .'

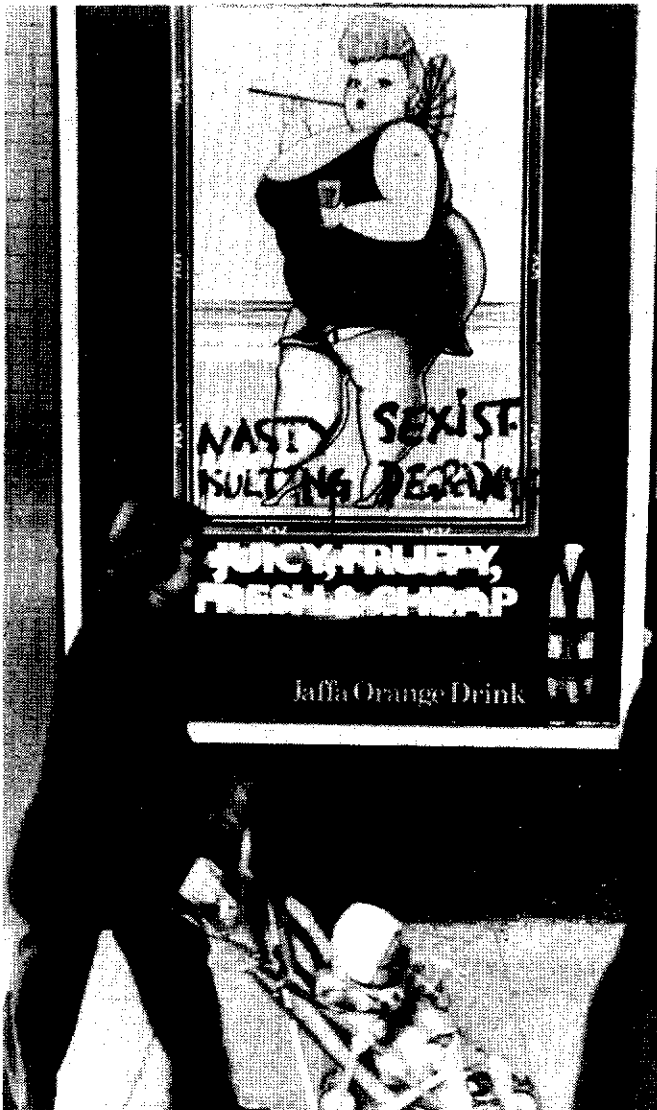
I assume that you don't mean that women in bingo queues and the following are the opposition. If my assumption is correct, and I hope it is, then I

think you should choose your words more carefully.

Yours in sisterhood all the same.

Judy Baine, West London  
Point taken WV

Please send  
your letters to  
Womens Voice  
6 Cottons  
Gardens E2 8DN



Picture: Phil McCowen

## meetings

**ABERDEEN** Womens Voice group  
Tuesday 14 June: **Equal pay and sex  
discrimination.** 7.30pm.  
163 King St (first floor)

**LEEDS WOMENS VOICE** public  
meeting, on 'Women's Health and  
the Cuts'. Speaker, Jean Lewis (GP  
from Wakefield).

Tuesday 28 June at 8pm. At Leeds  
Trades Club, Saville Mount, off  
Chapelton Road, Leeds.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON  
WOMENS VOICE GROUP** -  
meets alternate Tuesdays at 8pm.  
Charlton House, Charlton Road,  
SE7.

For further information please ring  
Peggy 858 8400.

**NORTH LONDON WOMENS  
VOICE GROUP:** Public  
Meeting—The Suffragette Move-  
ment: The lessons to be learned.  
Film: 'The Emancipation of  
Women'. With a speaker, and  
discussion afterwards.

**NORTH: Monday 13 June: 8.00pm**  
The Beehive Pub, Stoneleigh Road,  
N17 (off Tottenham High Road,  
N17). Nearest tube Seven Sisters.  
All welcome. (If you would like to  
come, and need a babysitter, please  
ring Di on 348 2041).

**SOUTH: Monday 20 June: 8.00pm.**  
The Florence Pub, Florence Road,  
N1 (off Upper Street). All welcome.  
(If you would like to come and need  
a babysitter, please phone Mandy  
on 607 8067).

# WHAT'S ON

**WOMEN IN IRAN**, meeting  
organised by the Institute of Race  
Relations on Tuesday June 14 at  
6.30pm. 247-249 Pentonville Road,  
London, N1.

## dance

**DANCE MARATHON** at the  
Jubilee Market, Covent Garden,  
London, WC2 on Friday 10 June  
from 7pm.

75p at the door. Food and drink  
available, in aid of ALRA.

**'STUFF THE JUBILEE' DANCE**,  
organised jointly by Womens Voice  
and Leeds Trades Council Women's  
Advisory Committee Tuesday 7  
June (Jubilee day), 8pm-12 mid-  
night. Late bar till 11.30p. With  
**Lifemask**, group from Newcastle.  
At Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mt.  
off Chapelton Rd, Leeds. En-  
trance, 75p or 40p for unemployed.

## wanted

**WOMENS THEATRE GROUP**  
requires 1 experienced musician  
(preferably drums) with an interest  
in acting and 1 actress with interest  
in music. Preferably drivers. Write  
immediately to: 25 Clifton Hill,  
London, NW8.

**LET US KNOW  
WHAT YOU ARE  
DOING!** Send us  
details of your meetings  
and activities to help  
publicise them.  
They must reach us by  
the 3rd Friday of the  
month.

## plays

**THAMES POLY NURSERY AC-  
TION GROUP**, sponsored by  
South East London WV present  
**Double Shift** by Counteract.  
Thames Poly Bar, Thomas Street,  
SE18. 8pm. Wednesday 8 June.  
Children welcome. further informa-  
tion ring 856 6143

**COUNTERACT** presents the **Cuts  
Show**.

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

## workshop

**WOMEN AND IRELAND** day  
conference June 26th. 10-5.30pm.  
Women of many different perspec-  
tives are writing papers & planning  
workshops, which are designed to  
be discussion places for socialist  
feminists.

Probable cost £1 (to help cover  
travel for those coming from  
Ireland).

Details of venue etc from:  
Feminism and Ireland, 50 Upper  
Tollington Park, London N4; or  
ring 01-930-5100 ext. 205 (day); 01-  
272-8446 (evening).

## for sale

**SPUC OFF!** T-shirts. Fully  
washable, in small, medium and  
large. Available from: Abortion  
Law Reform Association, 88a  
Islington High Street, London, N1.  
£2 including postage and packing.

**CIS** **Paying  
for the  
Crisis**

**LATEST** in the excellent **Crisis  
Series** from Counter Information  
Services. Packed full of facts on  
how they've been ripping us off left,  
right and centre.

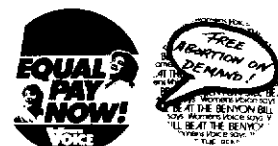
Available from CIS, 9 Poland  
Street, London W1. price 60p + 15p  
p&p.



Metal badge: 10 for £1 post free.  
Single badges 17p including  
postage.

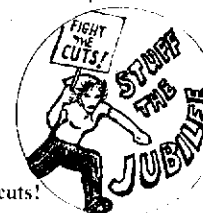
Money with orders to Womens  
Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London  
E2

Womens Voice abortion posters  
available. 50p for 20 including  
postage from Womens Voice, 6  
Cottons Gardens, London, E2.



Sticky badges. 3 dozen for 50p,  
including postage.

'Scream for a nursery' badges in  
green, white and black available  
from 153 Huntingdon Rd, Cam-  
bridge. £4 for 50 - post free



Stuff the  
Jubilee.

fight the cuts!

Badge in red, white and black. 20p  
post inclusive, 10 for £1.50. 100 for  
£13.50. Money goes to Save  
Socialist Worker Printshop. Cash  
with orders please. To Sherril  
Yanowitz, 116 Fortune Green Rd,  
London NW6.

## Womens Liberation at Marxism 77

A course on Womens Liberation and the  
Struggle for Socialism

- A new view on Engels
- The family, capitalism and womens  
oppression
- Working womens struggles in the  
1970's
- The Liberation of women

Each lecture will be followed by  
questions and discussion, and workshops  
on related topics.

Other courses on: Literature and Revolution: Marxism;  
Labour History; Revolutions of the 20th Century;  
Marxist Economics.

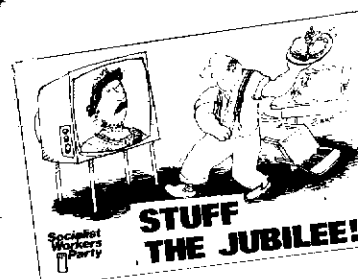
With debates, guest speakers, music, films.

July 1-8, at the Polytechnic of North London.

If you want to be there write to: Marxism 77, 6 Cottons  
Gardens, London E2, enclosing £5 for the full course.

Organised by NOISS. Everyone welcome.

\* Special offer for Womens Voice readers \*  
\* £2 registration for weekend only \*  
\* 2nd and 3rd July \*



Jubilee?  
What a load of rubbish! Arrogant,  
hypocritical rubbish in a year when  
living standards have been cut by 4  
per cent, when hospitals are being  
closed 'for lack of money', when our  
children are being taught in over-  
crowded classrooms 'for lack of  
money', when councils have stopped  
building houses 'for lack of money'  
The royal family costs as much as a  
new hospital every year... they're  
costing millions more this jubilee  
year.

Don't let them get away with it.  
Tell them to **STUFF THE JUBILEE!**

**STICKERS:** 800 (eight different designs, 100 of each) for £2.50  
**POSTERS:** 30 for £1.50, £4 for 300 20p each  
**BADGES:** 20p each, 10 for £1.50, 50 for £7.50.

☐ All printed in red and black, all different designs.  
Socialist Worker (Jubilee/NS), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

**Socialist  
Workers  
Party**

# DOES THIS AD MAKE YOU SICK?

## Once she knows the facts of life, you should plan her marriage.



Every parent knows how quickly a daughter grows up nowadays.

One moment she's playing with her dolls, next she's a 10-year-old knowing far more than you ever did at her age.

Before you know where you are, she's a beautiful 20-year-old wanting to get married.

Naturally, you want to give her the reception she deserves. But have you any idea what that can cost nowadays, let

alone in 10 years time?

We know 70 people who could help you face the bill: our branch managers.

For although our interest rates can alter, just £5 a month at current rates in a Share Account turns into over £1,000 by the time your 10-year-old reaches her 21st.

Even better, encourage your young daughter to pay a little in herself as she gets older.

So when the time comes for her to

set up her own house, she's already known to us as a prudent saver.

And as such, she'll have priority with us for a mortgage.

So the threshold she's carried over after her wedding could well be her own.

**Cheltenham  
& Gloucester**

We're interested in you, not just your money.

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, ONE, ST. JOHN'S STREET, CHELTENHAM, GLOS. GL50 3JF. TEL. 0242 3600. FULL SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH BRANCHES AND THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH WEST. A MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION. APPROVED FOR INVESTMENT BY THE STATES.

If it does then  
you should be a regular reader  
of **Womens Voice**.

And if you've got an ad which  
makes  
**Your blood boil**  
send us a copy or take a  
photograph  
of it for this page

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