

OUTTA CONTROL

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

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NORBROKE UNION!

The dispute at the Norbrook Laboratories Ltd. has finally ended after 25 weeks. The local whizz-kid, Haughey, has won.

The dispute was centred around the work-force becoming unionised way back in August 81 when a few of the employees had been in contact with the ITGWU branch in Newry and had arranged for their first meeting. Five minutes before the end of that working day, Haughey paid off 7 of the workers who were involved in organising the meeting. The meeting went ahead with nearly everyone joining the Union. Martin King, local branch secretary of the ITGWU, attempted to have the seven people reinstated - NO chance, according to Haughey. So nearly everyone came out and a picket was placed at the gates, which has been going on 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, ever since.

At this time, Haughey's wife, who is a solicitor, applied for a court injunction against Martin King to stop picketing. This was granted, and two weeks ago he was sued for "unjustly calling a strike". An unprecedented verdict of guilty was obtained. King, as an individual, was ordered to pay a fine of £7,500 to Haughey for loss of business, plus costs which amount to over £20,000, making a grand total of nearly £30,000.

The effect of this court decision seems to go even further than the present labour relations Bill being pushed through by Tebitt, employment secretary. It effectively means that to strike is punishable / to refuse your labour is not on. A decisive blow against unions and what they stand for. The ruling is much more than a victory for local boy Haughey, but a victory for capitalism in its widest sense. The reactions of the unions, so far, is shock...they have six weeks to appeal or they can leave it and pray that no employer will ever sue which ever way, they haven't decided yet, but the implications are immense.

Haughey was determined to win from the start and as the strike persisted he kept on the students who were working part-time over the holidays. Twenty-seven of the other strikers were then dismissed in September. He started to employ scabs & consistently harassed the pickets on the gate (as mentioned in Issue 22 of OUTTA CONTROL). Slowly, the rest of the workers returned to join those who hadn't come out, some drifted off to new jobs, & within a couple of months, the 7 were on their own, and stayed that way, until last week, when they gave up the picket.

This Is Your Life

Edward Haughey's rise to 'fame' started way back in 1969, when he formed Bioch-

emical Laboratories Ltd., with 4 other people. Since then, it has progressed from a house in Newry, through the Greenbank Industrial Estate, to a modern factory-complex on the Camlough Road. His ownership of the shares had increased consistently over the past 13 years. At present, he is one of the three shareholders. M. Pugh from Trinity College, Dublin, holds a mere 100 shares, a vet from Rathfriland owns 620 and the bold Edward the other 39,280 shares.

As the name changed to Norbrook Laboratories in 1971, his friendship with L.E. D.U. became closer as time went on - he opened the first LEDU-backed factory in the North and received a pat on the back in 1974 in the form of LEDUs "award to industry". In 1978 he made the jackpot with a cash grant of £130,000 which went quite a way to pay for his coffee/creamed colour ROLLS ROYCE.

An even funnier development over the past six years, and as the friendship with LEDU became more intimate, is that the bold Edward changed his citizenship (along with one of the other directors) from that of Irish to British.

Against this background and his attempts to keep his workers in a relationship that goes back to the last century, must make Haughey one of the most authoritarian and exploitative employers in the North.

DRUG SQUAD "RED-NECKED BASTARDS"

Cops bust you, judges sentence you simple. And it's made even more simple when it comes to drug offences. 'Evil and despicable' says the judge, sending people to prison for smoking grass a nod of delight from the red-necked drug squad with another year's overtime guaranteed. They get away with it, aided and abetted by a medical establishment whose literature does NOTHING either to inform us or to expose the horror stories pushed by those with a vested interest.

Take the latest offering from the 'Lancet'.... the respectable voice of British medicine. An ill-informed and naive article on magic mushrooms was recently given much media attention - but of course none of this 'analysis' seemed to discover the glaring inaccuracies and fallacies the 'Lancet' was pushing. Based on 49 1st-time users of magic mushrooms, who ended up in Glasgow hospitals, they discovered that 'over 95% had experienced euphoria' (shock, horror !!!!) and 80% had their stomachs pumped out to make them think

twice before taking mushrooms again. (Stomach pumping is purely punitive...it serves NO medical function.) Not surprisingly, no-one suffered ill effects from the mushrooms the next day, merely the frightening experience at the hands of the quacks

The 'Lancet' backed up their scientific analysis with such scientific gems as the case of two people somewhere in Mexico dying prematurely sometime this century through mushroom poisoning or that there is a quantifiable lethal dose. They failed to mention that it works out at 2 sackfuls of mushrooms which would take a fortnight to eat and a very determined effort to get through!

The 'Lancet' reached 3 conclusions - Criminalise possession of magic mushrooms send them to prison; ban all books on the subject; and apply fungicidal sprays to areas where they grow. (They grow amongst the grass of the Law Courts!!!)

It's such utter tripe, masquerading as scientific knowledge that adds to the myths about drugs and allows old fools in black gowns, younger fools in striped suits or bleached hair to make a good living at putting us down. The Drug Squad are red-necked bastards.



McBride-with award-winning plant

THE Alliance for Safety and Health, a recently-formed national group, is having its first major Conference in Cork. No date has been set, other than 'sometime in March'. By the time you read this, it is hoped that JUST BOOKS will have further details.

NASTY NOXIOUS & TOXIC!

The Conference is to help co-ordinate activity against the many forms and uses of toxic chemicals in this country.

Already suggested workshops for the Conference include:

- * Toxic Dumping
- * Toxic products
- * New technologies
- * 3 Level Education and its role
- * Fishing and Toxic chemicals
- * Agricultural pesticides
- * Low-level radiation and heavy metals

Your suggestions for workshop topics & your contributions of those little bits of unknown info are welcome, please send to Box No 1240, Hamilton Street, Dublin 8.

We hope to be present at Cork also, so if you can't make it and have anything to contribute, we will pass it on at the Conference.

Multinationals and chemical companies are setting up and expanding in this country so fast that no body/group has yet been able to find out what is going on at all the various plants. We know few of the threats to workers and public safety from toxic chemicals, these chemicals occur in just about every industry there is, no matter how small-scale the industry.

The governments, both North and South, have bodies such as environmental Health and Safety standards bodies, which we set up to make sure that no mis-use of chemicals occurs. But, as in Bantry, Co. Cork, where GULF OIL bribed such bodies not to expose the true facts, what is needed is direct action by ourselves to expose, halt and be rid of all toxic chemicals and their users.

In the South, the IDA attracted many foreign companies to set up, with Tax-Free schemes, and extra large grants. Many of these companies are rejects from Europe and America, where strict control laws and public pressure forced these companies to get out. So, they packed up, got out and found 'virgin lands', such as Ireland, and the underdeveloped countries south of the Equator. As a result, OUR land, too, is becoming polluted, and many of our workers may never live to regret work with toxic chemicals.

In the North, too, the British government would do anything to show that they are creating jobs. De Lorean, which was so massive and incurred such capital costs, was to fool us into believing that they care about us, yet we all know what kind of criminal De Lorean is. Such a fuss is made every time a new job is created here yet we will all only ever be able to work



when there is no government to say whether we are working or not. They too, like the Southern government, have given us toxic industry, De Pont, Monsanto, Hoechst, Norbrook, Michelin, GoodYear, Courtaulds, BOC, Kilco Chemicals, ABC Hygex, JA Beck, Radication Ltd and Richardson Fertilisers Ltd., are but a few of those who use toxic chemicals of some sort, and yet very little ever reaches the public's ears about what really goes on at these plants.

Norbrook (which features in this and other Issues of OUTTA CONTROL) is the first of many to be exposed. But, there are many companies where worker and public safety is at risk: no real social conscience exists within these companies.

At COURTAULDS Rayon plant in Carrickfergus, workers were exposed to carbon disulphide, this can cause birth defects in workers' children. Courtaulds in England admitted there was an increase in the rate of heart disease amongst workers using disulphide.

In 1975 at the SHIPYARD, 40 asbestos workers remained alive out of 252 workers working with asbestos. 170 were expected to live by 1975.

At DU PONT, which today employs 1400 workers, many have reported an increase in miscarriages amongst wives of those working with chloroprene. Also, it is reported that a reduction in sperm numbers in men working with chloroprene also occurred. Chloroprene also causes cancer.

Workers at DE LOREAN get an extra £5 per week to work with fibre-glass. Is this justice? Has there ever been justice?

Public safety is another area where little research has been carried out. It is a very difficult area to work in as costly research can rarely be carried out. We don't have the necessary funds. We rely on what YOU can tell us. Only then can we research further, exposing those who exploit and endanger us. For exposure is a necessary ingredient in fighting multinationals and the state they will soon control once they have bought off the religious and political figures in our country.

We are experiencing what Europe went through in the last 30 years. Let's learn from history before it is impossible to decide our own fate.

STATE MURDERS!

IN the last week of January, 2 incidents revealed that the document published by "Silent Too Long" will need to be continually extended. The British state will kill, with immunity in the Courts, anyone it considers a nuisance.

Derry

GARY ENGLISH, 19, and JIM BROWN, 17, were mown down by a Brit landrover last Easter Sunday in Derry. They were part of a crowd into which the jeep drove at 50mph (a conservative estimate). The two killers, Buzzard and Smith from the 2nd Royal Anglians, were acquitted last week.

Five witnesses, including a BBC reporter Paul Clements, testified that the jeep brake-lights never came on, and that there was no rioting at the time of the landrover 'charge', but that the crowd were running away from the jeep.

Jim Brown was found 160 feet from the point of impact and Gary English was reversed over by a second jeep. He had 12 ribs broken.

Yet, Judge Hutton told the jury that because witnesses didn't see the brake-lights or the stoning, didn't mean that they didn't happen. Even better, he informed them that the pathologist's report on the injuries was 'irrelevant' (despite the defence claim that they were travelling at 35mph and braking.)

The trial and release in Crumlin Road Court led to outbursts of anger and frustration. Gary's father, Michael English, later said "You're just a spectator. There's nothing you can do if they tell lies, you just have to sit and listen."

He hoped the NCCLs more thorough investigations, under Lord Gifford, will soon be published.

ARMAGH

TONY HARKER, 21, was shot dead by the UDR in Armagh. He and a friend were 'acting suspiciously' outside a supermarket at 1am. The UDR 'thought' they saw a gun and opened fire. The first 2 shots missed, but the fatal 3rd one hit Tony in the back. No gun was found.

Tony Harker was well-known both by the local people and the 'security forces' as a thorn in the latter's side. In one issue of Republican News, his diary of harassment was published. Between Jan 18th and March 18th 1980 he was stopped on 70 occasions by patrols. Frequently held and abused, he was imprisoned for assault on the RUC and for wearing a tricolour badge in 'breach of the peace'.

His Diary was once used by a pirate radio in London. A reporter was in Belfast doing interviews when someone (who used the writings in political theatre) offered to read them. In later correspondence the reporter described the powerful impact such a catalogue of harassment had on listeners.

No-one in the UDR will ever be prosecuted and more young people will be murdered by the 'security forces' as long as Britain maintains this state.

THEATRE: The agitprop of the bourgeoisie?

MANY good pieces of theatre have within them the time-old struggle for freedom of the individual and community against exploitation, tyranny and authority. We live in a capitalist system which aims to keep things that way and stifle opposition to it. But there are many contradictions within it. Under our "democratic" society we have the apparent right to say what we like about it.

So we can write radical plays attacking the system, but it's another thing getting them put on at the straight theatres, which are largely funded by the state and put in the hands of the parasites in power

In Ireland, at present, we have few writers, poets, artists, etc., who permanently align themselves in the class struggle. Talented & dedicated people in the 'culture' field have been successfully censored or frightened off by the state (they hold the purse strings of their jobs). Creative working people are co-opted into state institutions where art, theatre are de-politicised and alienate people from their working-class backgrounds.

Watching Big Brother

Culturally, most of us rely on the capitalist state's reactionary T.V., radio, newspapers, cinemas, theatres, etc. Resources, paid for by us, are safely locked up and controlled by the state and its agencies and institutions, to be used only for the smooth running and reinforcing of the role of the state. Which makes it almost impossible for ordinary people to express themselves, except on their terms.

Censored

The world-acclaimed playwrights John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy always had a struggle to get their plays performed at all. Their masterpiece, *The Non-Stop Connolly Show* has only been performed three times in Ireland. On several occasions they were prevented from attending their own plays because they objected to the way directors diffused the political message of their plays. They had to picket outside the performances held in the Royal Court and 7.84 performance of *Dandeleur's Folly* at Queen's. They subsequently refuse now to write for the English theatre and formed their own community theatre in Galway to perform their plays.

Act Now

Radical theatre in Belfast through groups

like the People's Theatre in Ballymurphy and the Turf Lodge Fellowship have had their performances largely confined to the "nationalist" areas. (It is very difficult to perform in areas which are easily accessible to all.)

Martin Lynch, sparked off by Arden and D'Arcy, has, inside the Turf Lodge Fellowship Theatre, been writing and acting for several years. With the re-opening of the Group Theatre in the city centre, available for use to amateur groups, he was able to take several of his plays out of the ghetto situation and show them to a wider enthusiastic audience. His plays in an entertaining way dealt with working-class life, and his Republican Clubs/socialism/Stickie/interpretations of events. In the summer of 1980, having noticed his popularity, the Board of Directors at the Lyric Theatre appointed him resident playwright; then the Arts Council provided a bursary for a year of about £5000.

Cloth Caps Not Welcome

Working-class people rarely go to the Lyric theatre's irrelevant plays, and resented the thousands of pounds of their money used to subsidise the middle-classes who go to it. It was an astute move by the Lyric to employ him, and with reactionary directors like Sam McCready and producer Leon Rubin to trim away Lynch's "Political excesses".

Martin Lynch played the game to get his plays staged, hopefully without paying too high a price. Although there was a bit of confrontation in his latest play, with the excuse by the director that "It didn't work dramatically."

The play 'The Interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty' is based on Martin Lynch's personal experience, which is a very rare ingredient, and which gives him the edge over middle-class liberal playwrights (such as Stewart Parker) who largely leech off other people's experiences and whose fame is based not on a particular insight into the situation here, but because of the topicality of plays involving the troubles.

The Interrogation

The scenes depicting Ambrose's interrogations were powerful. The Special Branch began 'softly' but with the constant threat of violence. They later try to break him by humiliation and eventually give him a thorough beating. In the long periods between each 'interview' they hoped he would crack. Despite moments of panic and anger, he manages to keep his head steady.

Parallel to these sessions, are the antics of Willy Lagan, and a 'Coronation St.' interpretation of Springfield Rd. Barracks.

Willy is the fall guy. He has a speech impediment - constantly repeats himself, and leaves out every other word in a sentence. Lynch has taken a working-class char-

acter and has invited the middle class to laugh at him. Certainly, Willy makes jokes and shrugs off predicaments with a song (he's allowed his guitar in a cell!), but the Lyric audience laugh at him for being 'simple'. If he says so much as "Ah, fuck!" they split their sides. It is him Lynch uses to portray a vicious attack on those who died last year on hunger-strike. Willy, who no-one can take seriously, threatens to go on hunger-strike "to the death". "I'll have a big funeral, thousands there, tricolour over my coffin, be a martyr." This brings the SDLP, Alliance, Unionist voters, who pack the Lyric, to their knees with laughter.

As for 'A day in the life of the RUC', we are offered the most banal plot and lines outside of the Group Theatre. The woman constable is called a 'whore' by her workmate, for jilting him in favour of a Brit, and says she's loose 'cause she's middle class and he's just working class. She slaps him and says 'never say that again'. Biting analysis of sexual relationships! In fact, the sexism in our society is constantly reproduced, without any attempts at commenting on it. I suppose Lynch 'tells it like it is'.

Any creative work ultimately reflects the politics of the person creating it.

There is no such thing as an apolitical piece. Everything is political and ultimately Martin Lynch's politics are reflected in the play. His old Sergeant Knox, the woman constable and the man constable are treated sympathetically. After all, "They" are only human beings doing a job' as best as they can given the situation.' He sees society will need a police force on the lines of Dixon in Dock Green. Well, Dixon was only a TV character. The old Sergeant the woman constable, the man constable, the Brit lieutenant and the two special Branch men are all in the same boat. They know what's going on, whether they choose to ignore it or not, and are cogs in the state's repressive machinery and are operated and controlled with the state's approval and knowledge. The RUC man or soldier may individually be mister nice guy, but when ordered to pull the trigger or put the boot in by the boss will do so, or just ignore it whilst someone else does it. The old excuse of 'just doing a job' is not on. Every individual is responsible for their own actions.

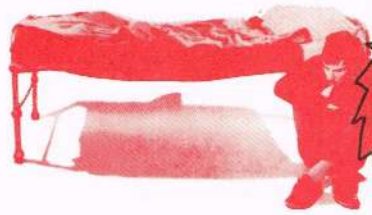
The police's role is to protect the capitalist state, its wealth, power, property and privilege, that are gained through the exploitation of us. The police acting on behalf of the public interest is bull-shit, especially here in the North where they have been stripped of this pretence and shown to be sectarian and anti working-class.

THE NEW INTERNMENT

REMAND prisoners in Crumlin Road prison (Belfast) can spend 12 years awaiting trial. Just Books are attempting to send in a regular supply of books to these 'internees'. Donations of money or 'ideologically sound paperbacks' (new or second-hand) would be much appreciated.

JOHNNY McQUADES contribution to the Kincora debate in Parliament "There have been allegations made about some of my constituents and I want to sort this out and find these allegations."

For another example of the bourgeois ability to take the sting out of a political critique of its police force... there's 'The Accidental Death of an Anarchist'. It will be on at the Lyric & plays from now on - concerns the police murder of an anarchist - laughs all the way!



gaining ground

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The right to vote or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls nor in the courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

WE HAVE BEEN..... SILENT TOO LONG

A couple of weeks ago, a booklet entitled "Silent too Long" was published by the "Association of the families of innocent victims of Loyalist, UDR, RUC and British Army violence" which is also called "Silent too Long". The booklet documents a small sample of the more than 600 sectarian assassinations of Catholics and the murder of 119 innocent people by the Security Forces from 1969 to the present day. We asked Suzanne (whose husband and friend were murdered when loyalist gunmen broke into her house, severely wounding Suzanne herself) to tell us more about the group and the booklet.

How did the group come into existence?

The idea for the group came about in May during the Hunger Strike. Westminster politicians were ranting on about the Hunger Strikers and people like them murdering 2,000 people, implying that all the violence has been one sided. Many relatives of Catholic victims were upset by this idea of 2,000 victims as it was bad enough having their relatives murdered by loyalist paramilitaries and security forces without their deaths being used as a statistic in the propaganda campaign against the hunger strikers. Seamus McAloran, a Social Worker in the New Lodge was approached on several occasions by relatives of victims so he put an advertisement in the newspaper calling for a meeting of all interested relatives. This was in May. At first the response was slow but word got around as families contacted other ones whom they knew were in the same position. The group started first in Belfast and tried to get one relative from each area of Belfast so that he or she could contact other families they knew in the area.

What was the aim of the group?

The aim of the group was to collect the details of the innocent Catholic victims. A questionnaire was drawn up to be filled in by the relative of the victim, when he or she was murdered, who by, whether anyone was charged with the

murder, what the verdict was, what the sentence was and if compensation was paid.

How did the group go about collecting the information?

In order to get all the details we knew we would need to go round the six counties. The next place we contacted was Derry. We heard that the Widows Mite organisation: the widows of the UDR and RUC men had refused to accept relatives of the Bloody Sunday victims on the grounds that they couldn't be sure they were innocent. Fourteen unarmed civilians were shot dead by British paratroopers. The coroner's verdict was "sheer, unadulterated murder".

As there was obviously an interest, the group went to Derry where a committee was formed and the questionnaire left. Strabane was contacted and from there County Tyrone and then South Antrim.

What kind of response has the group had?

The group has met with Bishop Daly and Cardinal O Fiaich who supported us 100%. We requested a meeting with James Prior (Sec of State) because we were concerned with the emergence of Paisley's Third Force especially in view of the fact there had been three murders of innocent Catholics within a couple of weeks. A while later Prior's secretary replied saying that he was too busy to see us.

What kind of people are involved in the group and why did you choose the name 'Silent too Long'?

The group is only open to the relatives of innocent victims. We want to stay clear of all political groups because although the British Government has no answer to our case, they will try to lessen the impact of our work by labelling us as republicans. We are not sectarian but we feel it is the deaths of innocent Catholics which need publicising as they have been swept under the carpet. The group is aiming to give support to families by putting them in contact with each other so they are not isolated. Often after the murder, the

bereaved family has been raided by the security forces, and members of the family arrested and taken away for questioning. The murder is never thoroughly investigated. The name was decided upon at the first meeting in August when about 80 people turned up. We discussed what we should call ourselves when a woman stood up and said that what it boiled down to was that we had been silent too long and that publicity should have been given years ago. Everyone agreed that this should be the name of the group.

The booklet 'Silent too Long' was published a couple of weeks ago, why was it produced and who is it aimed at?

When the group was formed we wrote to people all over the world to put forwards the relatives case. So many people wrote back requesting further information that we decided to publish the booklet to send to them. We had originally intended to publish a book documenting all the cases but this would have taken too long so we published this booklet containing a sample of cases. We intend to keep bringing out these booklets at intervals until all the deaths are documented.

The booklet is not an answer to Paisley's book, Ulster: the facts.

In fact it was at the printers three months before but for various reasons was delayed. Demand for the booklet has been so great here that the first issue of 3,000 went in the first week. A reprint of 2,000 is now underway.

I believe that since the booklet was published that members of the group have been harassed by the security forces? Is this the case?

Yes. The morning after the Press Conference was held to launch the book, the group's PR officer Bernard Blake who is 59 was arrested from his house by the British Army at about 7.45 am. He was taken to Girdwood Barracks and questioned solely about the group and the booklet. This was an illegal arrest. Bernard has seen his solicitor and is now taking legal action for false arrest. The homes of the chairperson and press officer are under surveillance by British soldiers and at the last meeting soldiers were outside photographing relatives going into the meeting.

Continued on Page 3

News from the front

Another rape case has been the cause of a storm of protest recently. A Glasgow woman was raped by three youths and slashed with a razor blade resulting in 168 stitches. Although the woman has tried to commit suicide twice and has threatened suicide on several occasions as a result of her ordeal, she was prepared to go through the trauma of a court case. However, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, decided not to prosecute the case following advice from psychiatrists who said the woman was mentally unfit to stand in the witness box and give evidence. The woman herself was not consulted and the first time she heard of the decision to drop the charges was when she read about it in the newspapers.

A fourth youth who was originally charged with the rape and attempted murder was later named as a crown witness and would have given evidence for the prosecution. In spite of this, Nicholas Fairbairn QC, Solicitor General for Scotland (late), smugly defended the decision to drop the case saying "The overriding factor which decided the matter was the simple, inescapable fact that the prosecution did not have sufficient competent evidence to stand any chance". He was later forced to resign after a public outcry over the handling of the case. The woman has now courageously decided to take the unusual step of applying for a Bill of Letter in order to prosecute her attackers privately.

In view of the controversy over the treatment of rape victims in court, the BBC could hardly have chosen a more volatile point in time to screen "A complaint of rape", if they had done it deliberately. The programme was one of a police series and showed the actual questioning of a rape victim in the police station. The aggressive, unsympathetic interview tactics used by the detectives in the programme are only too typical as rape victims will testify. The woman was not even allowed to tell the full story of what happened to her. She was constantly interrupted and confused by the detective's hectoring questioning, the purpose of which was not to establish the facts of the incident, but to convince her to drop the complaint. The woman was confused and at one stage broke down and cried. It appeared that because she had made various complaints before, because she had had a nervous breakdown in the past and because it had been her boyfriend who had persuaded her to make a complaint, the detectives felt justified in inferring that she was a prostitute, unreliable and unworthy of sympathetic treatment. Only when one of the detectives informed her that he did not believe that she had been raped did the woman finally give up struggling against police prejudice and agree to drop her complaint.

A new form introduced by the DHSS could make it more difficult for women to obtain abortions in Britain. Four doctors have been reported to the DPP for not filling in the new form which requires the doctor to state the full MEDICAL reasons for performing an abortion. As many abortions are performed on social grounds (as permitted under the 67 Act) it seems the DHSS are attempting to pressure doctors into ignoring social conditions when deciding whether a woman should be allowed an abortion. Police are investigating two of the doctors reported to the DPP in what is expected to result in a test case.

The Campaign for Media Free Speech in Ireland submitted an application for a programme on the BBC's Open Door programmes and were REFUSED! So much for an open door.



In the next issue of Gaining Ground we are planning to have an interview with some of the women who are involved in the Rape Crisis Centre, which will be opening in March. We print here some of the views and ideas that women have on the Rape Crisis Centre and the question of rape in general.

"Yes. I've heard of the Rape Crisis Centre although I don't know where it is going to be. I think the phone number will be available. I think it is a necessary service but don't understand why it should be secret. I don't know where the money is coming from to finance it. The RCC should help and support the rape victims and campaign to publicise that rape is essentially about violence and not about sexual attraction or frustration."

"If at all possible it should be operating 24 hours a day. There should be an answering telephone service with a substitute number to ring. I'm very much for the centre, it is most needed (I could have done with it two years ago). For me all that I would need at the centre is a cup of tea and a listener. Plus advice on whether or not to take legal action."

"I'm not happy with prison, courts, etc., but what alternative is there? I don't know if whether changing a prison sentence in any way would act as a deterrent. It could campaign for better protection for women—better to act as an educating body—how to avoid attack and what to do if attacked"

"From what I have heard (and read in Gaining Ground last month) the treatment of women by the law in general is absolutely appalling, but then everyone who comes under the eye of the police are subject to similar treatment—this is not to say though that we should accept it. Personally, in my own experience with the police concerning the issue of sexual attack, I was treated fairly well, the police appeared to be on my side totally, all but one exception, a female cop asked me was I wearing a bra?"

"Definitely a 24 hour a day service. A telephone answering service would very much hinge on the information being immediate. Its important to have personal contact. I think they should raise sentences. Its ridiculous having a fine....give

the woman a couple of quid and she will forget all about it sort of thing. Also, it shouldn't be an offence to carry a perfume spray for instance: to use it for protection. It's not a dangerous weapon"

"The curriculum of sex education in schools for both males and females should be expanded to include the danger of rape and sexual assault and its consequences on the individual—education may be the only answer, the 'law' does little to help anyone....attacked or attacker. The Rape Crisis Centre is a fantastic idea, no doubt it will help many women, and maybe perhaps it could do something for those who feel a tendency to attack women"

"I think it is a good idea that the people running it keep their anonymity. Its like the centre for battered wives which Erin Pizzey opened up in London. It encourages a feeling of trust. But what about a case where a woman is raped by her husband. Can you stop him getting involved if he wanted to?"

"I don't think it should necessarily be kept secret—how are people going to know where it is? It would need to be widely advertised. I think it is important that the victim's name be kept quiet, I agree with confidentiality but not secrecy. I don't think men should be forbidden from going into the Rape Crisis Centre"

"I think the Rape Crisis Centre should function like a rehabilitation centre—many women get phobias about going outside after they've been raped. A friend of mine who was attacked cannot go outside of her house now and I think somewhere like the Rape Crisis Centre would help women like her to overcome their fears afterwards. It should be a place for recovery with no obligation on you to leave after a short time—even if it means staying there for a few days"

"I think the Rape Crisis Centre should be politically active, especially now when there is such an interest in the Rape laws and a possibility of doing something about them"

"It's a place of meeting other women who have gone through the same ordeal. Also its an advice centre on legal proceedings because you're never told how to go about that and its often very difficult"



REVIEW - it's ignore Irish women time again

Camerawork, the radical photography magazine have just published their latest issue - on Ireland (No.23). This is the second time they have devoted a whole issue to Ireland, and to all intents and purposes it adds nothing to the first one at all.

One area though that they do give shape to is the question of women and their relationship to nationalism and republicanism. There is an article on each topic. Neither add to any understanding of the position of women's lives in Ireland. The article 'Women and Nationalism' was written by the London based Women and Ireland group - I remember reading the collection of papers that it comes from about five years ago, and it contains as many mistakes, misinterpretations, and crude analysis as it did then. I would have thought that considering the Camerawork people actually came to Ireland to do the issue, they might have spent some time talking to women living in Ireland about their lives and their struggles. Turning to the piece 'Women and Republicanism', a more recent piece by

Marie Mulholland - again if you start out with the intention of learning something about women's oppression, and their relationship to republicanism, or to analyse the links, then this won't take you very far. Basically it is a totally uncritical piece, which either ignores, or steamrollers over problematic issues. We are left with the impression that anyone who is a 'real' feminist is in the republican movement, the rest of us are 'sitting on the fence'. All of this is asserted without qualification or any real explanation.

I suppose by this stage I should have gotten used to this treatment of Irish women by the British Left press, but I still get angry. As usual any other aspect of women's lives here is ignored, it becomes invisible, any other struggles - abortion, childcare, rape - trivialised, and made to appear unimportant in the light of more 'important political issues'. One day they just might realise that in previous anti-imperialist struggles, it was those very attitudes that led to women being no better off after the so called 'liberation'.

Overheard....Overheard.....Overheard....

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland have been complaining for sometime about the refusal of many employers to give female staff time off to go on day release courses to obtain more qualifications. They also have launched a project with Gerry the Giraffe as the mascot to root out sexism in education and employment - school children are being encouraged to identify with Gerry, and to write to him/her (its not quite clear which) about any sexism they encounter. Well Gerry was overheard the other evening telling the tale of the young woman who wasn't allowed to go on day release to obtain a higher qualification - the employer you might ask? The Equal Opportunities Commission! Watchout E.O.C. big sister is watching YOU!

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Finally, how do you see the group in the future?

The group aims to create support amongst relatives whose loved ones have been murdered by loyalist paramilitaries and the security forces and enable them to tell the world their side of the story. Also to contradict the British Government's propaganda that over 2,000 people have all been killed by the IRA. We are very concerned that the UDA which is responsible for most of the deaths of innocent catholics is still treated as a legal organisation.

SILENT TOO LONG, the association of the families of innocent victims of loyalist, UDR, RUC and British Army violence. £1.00. Available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1.

UNITY MEETING

The Unity meeting on Saturday February 6th was attended by over fifty women, the largest meeting so far.

Events for International Women's Day were discussed and it is proposed to have a feminist fayre in the Crescent Centre, Lower Crescent, BT7. This is planned for the Sunday March 7th. The Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign is organising a food stall (with home made as well as tinned food), to raise money for the campaign, and all help would be welcome and appreciated. Gaining Ground will be doing a bookstall (in association with Just Books) and have arranged for some crafts to be sold too, so if you want to participate please contact us at C/o 7 Winetavern Street. There will be other stalls and events, details nearer the time. This will be followed in the evening by a concert.

The theme throughout the weekend is violence against women and there will be the annual demonstration in Cornmarket with speakers from the various campaigns. On Monday night a Reclaim the Night march is being organised through the city centre and afterwards there will be a women only disco (venue to be confirmed). All of these events will be widely advertised, fly posted etc, over the next fortnight. If you want to help with the weekend or with part of the weekend telephone Maire on 43363.

There is to be a picket at Armagh prison on Sunday March 7th. Buses will leave Dunville Park. An exhibition - historical to the present day of women's lives will be on at the Felons Club.

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throughout, have unlimited choice - they choose to live alone, they choose to live with men or women or children, they have no difficulties at all in forming relationships. It's all as easy and as facile as the cartoon figures. No-where is there any discussion of the difficulties many women have in even finding a partner - no discussion of widowhood, orphans, separation, divorce or death. Celebration is necessary, but not as a totality, and a book devoted to sexuality should be honest enough, or caring enough, to deal with the horrors - not just wrap everything up in a pretty bow and hope that a splash of perfume will take away the sting of real world misery. As well as lacking an unblinkered approach to living, the book lacks a political base and a political analysis of the world in which most women find themselves. Most women I know do not live on (or even visit) idyllic islands, lulled by the fall and rise of surf. They live amongst cars and lorries and supermarkets and dole queues and telephones and television and screaming neighbours and some of them live in fear of their lives in countries at war, some of them have disappeared into hospitals, taken to drink, nearly died of anorexia, been raped on country roads. If you like boxes of chocolate, then buy this book and indulge yourself. I'm going to treat myself to a fresh apple.



has been inserted and definitely try to get the day off! You may have no reaction at all but on the other hand, insertion can be painful—the uterus is being stretched and irritated—particularly if you have not had children and you

Health Page

IUD....The Facts

Although the intra-uterine contraceptive device is not a new method of contraception, having been used and known about for thousands of years, it was not until this century, with the discovery of polythene, a plastic which could be easily sterilised, was non irritant and which regained its shape after stretching, that the method became available to millions of women.

Today, you are likely to be offered three types of coil, the Lippes Loop, the Saf-t-coil for women who have had one or more children or the Copper 7 (Cu-7) for women who have never been pregnant although it is offered to women with children when suitable.

No one knows for sure how the IUD works but it is thought it upsets the balance in the womb by giving you a low grade infection and stopping the implantation of the egg. It is important that you are fitted with a coil by a *trained person* and as most GPs are not trained or do not have adequate clinic experience practice in fitting the device it is best to check first as the complication rate and the chances of it being effective are greatly influenced by proper fitting. You could also go straight to your Family Planning Clinic or ask your doctor for a fitting with a hospital like the Samaritans on the Lisburn Road, for instance.

Usually the coil is fitted during a period, firstly because you are definitely not pregnant so no complications would ensue from a septic miscarriage and secondly because insertion will be easier; the entrance to the uterus being a little bigger during menstruation.

You should really be allowed to rest for at least fifteen minutes after the coil

may feel a bit faint afterwards. It is possible though not all that usual, to suffer from shock and to have a drop in blood pressure—this is why it is important to have medical back up.

It is estimated that in one out of ten women the uterus will expel the IUD and heavy bleeding and pain make it an unsatisfactory method for one in five women, approximate pregnancy rates for the Lippes Loop and Saf-t-coil are 3%. The Copper devices have a lower rate but they have not been tested enough to be more accurate. Rates for pregnancy are lower among women over 30 or who have had children. If you do become pregnant, there is between a 25% and 50% of a chance that you will have a miscarriage when the IUD is removed. If you do not it is unlikely that there will be anything wrong with the foetus.

Both antibiotics like penicillin, tetracycline and aspirin may lower the effectiveness of the coil so you should avoid taking aspirin as a pain killer and use extra birth control (condoms, foam) when on a prescription for antibiotics. There are complications and side effects associated with the coil, more so than the pill, which causes more deaths. On rare occasions, if it is inserted wrongly there is a possibility the uterus will be perforated and the coil may slip through, outside of the womb and cause dangerous inflammation. You might suffer from some backache and cramps after insertion and if it persists you should go to your doctor and have it taken out. Any irregular bleeding, irritation or a smelly discharge (indicating infection)...have it removed immediately. Infection spread spreads and may jeopardise your chances of child bearing.

It is very important to check that you can feel the strings in the vagina to see if the device is still in place. After insertion check before intercourse for the first three months, after that check after every period. If you feel plastic then it is definitely coming out and if you can't feel anything at all, it may

have slipped out or may have worked its way further up into the womb. It is important to go to the doctor if you suspect anything immediately.

The Copper devices should be removed every three years. It is usual in Northern Ireland for the plastic ones to be removed after five years, but if you are happy with it, there appears to be no reason why it should not be left in longer.

Book Review

FOR OURSELVES

our bodies and sexuality from women's point of view.

Sheba Feminist Publishers, £4.50

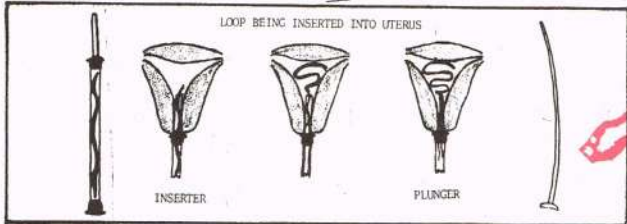
This is a pretty book. A very pretty book. It is full of pretty photographs and pretty drawings. The cover itself is made to look like a chocolate box, wrapped in a pretty ribbon. And I found the book about as satisfying as a box of chocolates - after I had ploughed through page after page of beaming women and silly drawing - I felt like I needed a good purge to restore a sense of normality.

There are 14 pages devoted to a particularly boring interview about sex in a section on "Women and Women" of 29 pages and only 8 pages devoted to the entire subject of rape. The introduction claims that the book could "easily have turned out 5 times as long". It could well have been edited down 5 times, to allow room for items of importance and relevance for most women.

For this book is not written for, or about *most women*, and it really is not good enough for the originators of it to say that it was written for themselves, when it is published on a major scale and offered to a wider public for consumption. Admitting shortcomings is no way out of the glaring lack of thought or research, and is an insult to potential readers.

The book is entirely about the sexuality of a certain privileged group of women - privileged enough to be able to take time out on an island in the company of themselves. When did the woman on the thirty-fourth floor of a block of flats in Birmingham last get that kind of opportunity? There are sections on health, self-love, orgasm, sexual fantasies, relationships with men, therapy, contraception and so forth. Some of the practical advice and information is very good and certainly useful, but there is not enough of it, over a wide enough range of subjects. There are too many pages of celebratory musings about the wonders of self-made orgasm, and, what seems to be the miracle cure of the moment for isolation - self-love!

The section on "Living Alone" was possibly the most disturbing part of this book for me, because, unlike the suggestion in the title, it does not deal with the problem of loneliness or isolation. In fact, nowhere could I find these subjects mentioned intelligently. It seems that the cavorting cartoon figures and real women referred to



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