No. 4 FEBRUARY 1984

What's ON

Round-up

women's news

10p

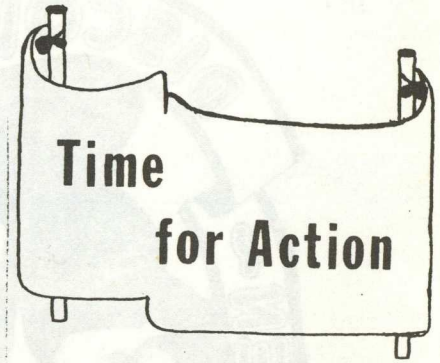


WOMEN

A national women's conference will take place in Dublin around the end of March. The conference is being planned by a collective of women who have come together in recent months. It will have as its theme "Fighting the backlash and defending the gains", and already a large number of possible workshops have been suggested around areas of Women's Health, Motherhood, Education, Employment / Unemployment, Women in Prisons, Travelling Women, Women and the National Question, etc.

The conference is to be a two day week-end one, preceded by a public meeting on the Friday night. Here it is hoped to have internationalwomen speakers talking about the struggle for national liberation and women's rights in their countries.

The conference itself will divide up into different workshops where women will have a chance to work out their views through discussions together. The venue has not yet been decided but it will probably be a city-centre school. Whatever venue is chosen will be accessible to disabled women, and will have creche facilities. We are looking for women who would be willing to act as signers in the meeting, so that other women who are deaf or hard of hearing can attend. Admission to the conference will be low, on a waged/low-waged - unwaged basis. Schoolgirls will get in free.



The next conference meeting will be on Thursday, 2 February at 8 pm in the Women's Centre.

A national planning meeting will be held on Saturday, 11 February from 2 pm to 5 pm also in the Women's Centre. ALL WOMEN WELCOME

THE SQUEEZE IS ON !

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The Bill gives the Gardai Special Powers Act-type powers with no real safeguards for the people in Gardai custody, and sets up the conditions for a police state. This Bill will do nothing about the deficient socio-economic conditions that produce much crime.

Although everyone, except the powerful, will be affected by this Bill, women are especially affected in the following ways: 1) 85% of women convicted of crimes are sentenced through District Courts and the Criminal Justice Bill gives these courts power to increase penalties for offenses and to double the length of imprisonment up to a maximum of 2 years. 2) No provision in the Bill calls



for the presence of a female Guard when searching or interrogating a female prisoner - women could very possibly be searched by a MALE Guard. 3) The Bill does NOT increase penalties or change procedures for rape and battering cases - one of the areas in most desperate need of a change in the law. Could it be that the authors of this bill do not consider these crimes to be "criminal"?

Everyone must voice their opposition to this Bill, for it will affect us ALL! Join the Campaign Against The Criminal Justice Bill who meet every Thursday night at 7:30 (phone 725905) in the ATGWU Hall, Marlboro street.

NOTICEBOARD

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Women's Day Ad Hoc Group meets Thursday, 9 February 1984, 8pm Women's Centre to organise events for Thursday 8 March. Representatives from groups/interested women are welcome.

As we only have a month in which to organise, please make every effort to be there.

PORNOGRAPHY IN PERSPECTIVE
by CASE

A seminar to highlight how the portrayal of women as sexual commodities in the mass media is anti-women, anti-men and anti-sex

SATURDAY,11 FEBRUARY 1984,
SHELBOURNE HOTEL, DUBLIN 2
2 - 6 pm

Speakers: ANDREA DWORKIN AND MARY WHITEHOUSE Opened by NUALA FENNELL,T.D. Admission 2.00.Free creche.

CASE, P.O.Box 1207,Dublin 4.

IRISH WOMEN'S CENTRE LIMITED
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 1984,
7.30 pm,
WOMEN'S CENTRE

U.C.D.WOMEN'S STUDIES FORUM
TUESDAY SEMINARS, 1-2pm
RM G317,ARTS BLOCK,BELFIELD

7 FEBRUARY-Jennifer Todd (Ethics & Politics) Women and Marxism. 14 FEBRUARY-Eunice McCarthy (Psychology) Women and their work experience. 21 FEBRUARY-Margaret McCurtain (History) Women and History. 28 FEBRUARY-U.C.D.Women's Group.

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE

Meeting to discuss the setting-up of a Women's Studies Association in Ireland.

Saturday, 18 February, 1984
2.15 - 5.15 pm
Irish Foundation for Human Development
Garden Hill, 1 James' St.Dublin 8

Ad Hoc Working Party Proposals up for discussion.

WOMEN'S PLACE
QUAY CO-OP
24 SULLIVAN'S QUAY
CORK

MONDAY 8 pm- Series of talks on Women's Health issues to run until mid February TUESDAY 8 pm- Alternate Tuesdays, Greenham Common Support Group. More details Quay Co-Op 967660 THURSDAY 8 pm- Lesbian Group - all women welcome. FRIDAY 8 pm- Women's Place Group - co-ordinating group for the Women's Place. All women welcome. 1st Tuesday of the month. Women's Social - vanue has changed. Contact Quay Co-op 967660 for details.

WOMEN SPEAK
Sunday, 5th February
7.30 p.m.
1984 has been designated
Year of the Women
by the
African National Congress.
Women from the
Association of Angolan Women
will speak about their lives
Women's Centre
53 Dame Street,side entrance

CONTRACEPTION ACTION

Details of the proposed newcontraceptive legislation have been leaked to the press recently. Amongst the proposals are that:
*Non-medical contraceptives, i.e.condoms and spermicides, will be made available through health centres, family planning clinics and chemists, to those over 16 (presumably married). They will be free to those who hold a medical card.
*Doctors in the new health centres may be allowed to insert I.U.D.s because of a change in the law about importing contraceptives and the fact that IUDs will no longer be referred to as "abortifacients".

*It appears that the contraceptive pill will not be sold in the clinics, but will continue to be available on doctors' prescriptions from a chemist

The Bill is supposed to encourage a broad "women's health service" rather than a specific family planning service but at the same time that the Government are discussing this Bill, they have already taken away the medical card from students and 16 to 25 year olds who are living at home.

Fianna Fail have refused to say whether they will support the Bill or not. Labour, with the possible exception of Dr. John O'Connell, are expected to vote in favour.

It is probable that the already narrow legislation will be watered down still further before the Bill comes to a vote in the Dail. Despite this, the Women's Right to Choose Campaign supports the limited measures proposed, but we will continue to fight for a full programme of reproductive rights.

W.R.T.C.C. (Northside)



PRESSURE ON.... WEXFORD

A Wexford Women's group has been conducting a local campaign seeking the establishment of a comprehensive family planning service in recent months. This group is now urging other women's groups to join in a nationwide campaign, in light of the fact that new contraceptive legislation will shortly be going through the Dail.

The profile of the Wexford campaign to date is:

Feb. 83 - The group passed a policy on women's health, and decided as a priority to campaign for a comprehensive family planning service.

May 83 - A survey was conducted of the town's eight chemists - The group found that only two chemists would fill prescriptions for non-medical contraceptives. Seven of the eight supplied the Pill. The group held a public meeting to see who was interested in getting involved in a family planning campaign.

June 83 - It was decided to campaign through the Health Board first rather than try to set up a private clinic. An approach was made to the Chief Medical Officer of the SE Health Board asking him to meet a deputation to discuss the issue. He agreed to a meeting in the autumn.

Oct 83 - The group collected 3,000 signatures on a petition to be presented to the CMO. Two members of the family planning sub-committee met him in November. He promised to raise the issue at the SE Health Board and local health committee meeting.

Dec 83 - The Wexford delegates requested the Council for the Status of Women's press officer to issue a press statement supporting the Minister for Health's moves to change family planning legislation.

Jan 84 - The group has embarked on a publicity campaign by contacting local and national papers, the SE Health Board, the Minister for Health, TD's, radio personnel, and women's groups. The aim is both to put pressure on the politicians and to encourage women's groups to mount family planning campaigns in their own areas.

The Wexford Women's Group can be contacted care of Fran O'Grady, Chairwoman, "Brookville", Newline Road, Wexford.

AMNESTY APPEAL



Two days after a Government amnesty was announced permitting political opponents in exile to return home freely, America Yolanda Urizar openly crossed the border back into Guatemala in order to continue her work as a labour lawyer.

Within hours, she had been abducted and driven off in an army jeep. The vehicle was later seen parked in the regional headquarters of the mobile military police in Santa Ana Berlin.

That was on March 25, last year. Since then Yolanda's whereabouts have remained unknown to her family. The National Police have denied that she is in detention. She has "disappeared". Her daughter, Yolanda de la Luz believes that her mother was abducted by "security agents of the Guatemalan Gvernment". She has said, in a letter to the United Nation Human Rights Commission, that her mother had returned because of the amnesty "after having been forced to leave the country as a result of constant death threats" during a previous regime.

In recent years Amnesty International have recorded scores of cases of people who have been abducted and "disappeared". Others have been killed outright, their mutilated bodies found some time after they had been abducted. The Rios Montt government, in Guatemala, came to power after a coup in March 1982, and promised to promote a return to respect for human rights in Guatemala.

The Rios Montt Government was deposed late last year.

Appalling human injustices still continue under the Government of General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores.

Please send courteous letters appealing for American Yolanda Urizar's release to General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Jefe de Estado y Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala. For more information ring Valerie Carroll at 374663.

HOMEWORKERS THE SECOND SHIFT

When one thinks of home-working and almost all homeworkers are married women with children, the first thing that comes to mind is the isolation and lack of contact with other women in the same position. To compensate for the isolation I listen to radio programmes while I work. Gay Byrne, John Bowman and Hillary Orpen keep me in touch with current topics as I sew. I feel I would miss out on this in a sewing factory as noisy pop music would be the order of the day.



As the children are of school-going age I would prefer work at home. Sometimes my two children have odd days off school and there is the problem of maybe one of them taking ill at school and being sent home and I would like to be there when they arrive.

Even if I did go out to work, it would have to be part-time and if you take into account bus-fares, tax and insurance it wouldn't leave me with much.

I organise my day so that I get as much sewing done in the hours when the children are at school as possible. Then, when they come home and have something to eat, I try and fit in a couple of more hours at the machine. I never do more than five hours a day. Some women I believe do a lot more work but I feel that this would create a lot of pressures in the home and it is not worth that.

Anyway, working at nights and weekends would not pay any extra as time and a half and double time mean nothing to homeworkers, due to the fact of not being members of a trade union.

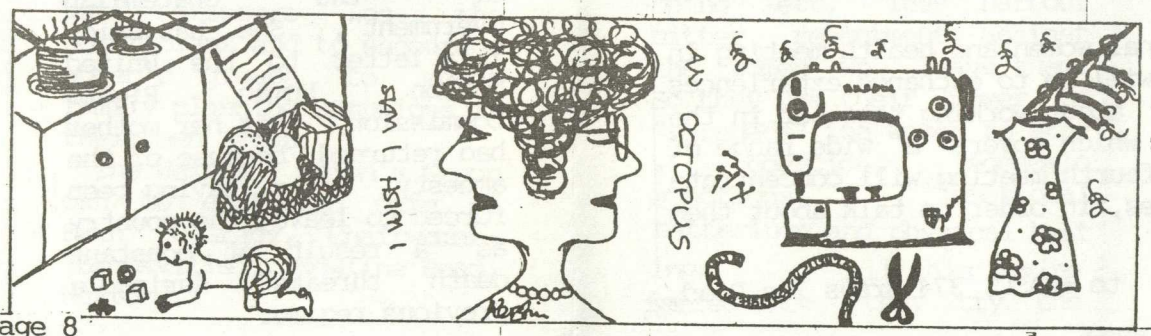
One could say that it is handy having the work delivered to the home by the sewing firm, but there are cases I believe where some women have to make their own collection and delivery arrangements without any extra cash. As such, women homeworkers are wide open for much abuse of this nature, as no one really knows what rate the other women are paid.



The employer has the advantage of saying no to any increase asked for and will probably, without any explanation, stop leaving any work. There is no holiday pay, no national wage agreements and no social welfare. On top of that we pay our own heating, lighting and machine maintenance, etc. Because we are paying no tax and don't have any insutance cards there is this secrecy about the whole thing which suits the employers but inhibits the women from organising themselves with a trade union.

I would be interested to hear any suggestions about organising homeworkers, as I often feel that this practice helps to depress wages in the sewing factories and everyone loses out in the end.

Elizabeth



REGULAR

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED GROUPS MEET IN THE WOMEN'S CENTRE, 53 DAME STREET, SIDE ENTRANCE, DUBLIN 2.

MONDAY: Women's Right to Choose Campaign (Southside) 8 pm, Dublin Resource Centre, Crow Street, Dublin 2.
TUESDAY: Women's Centre Information & Referral Service, 11.30 am - 1.30 pm and 6 - 8 pm Women's Centre Self Help Health Group, 7 pm.
WEDNESDAY: Women's Right to Choose Group, 8 pm Women for Disarmament (the women's group of CND) meets Wednesdays in the Bachelor's Inn at 8 pm. L.I.L.DiscussionGroup, 8 pm Women's Centre Information & Referral Service, 6-8 pm. Women's Right to Choose Campaign (Northside) 8.30 pm Lounge Bar of the Bottom of the Hill Club. To confirm Anne 423405.
THURSDAY: Women's Centre Information & Referral Service, 2-4 pm. Lesbian Line, 8 - 10 pm. Information and befriend service, Ph 710608 Dublin Gay Collective meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 16 Westland Row, top floor, 8 pm. Wimmin's informal music session,9pm, J JSmyths Bar Aungier Street, Dublin 8. Women's Disco weekly at the Hirschfeld Centre, 11pm - 1.30 am. Northside Women's Action Group meets every second Thursday at 8 pm in Colaiste Dhulaigh, Barryscourt Road, in Room 204. New members welcome. For info Ph Val Carrol at 374663. The Ballymun Women's Group meets at 3 pm at 1a Balcurris Road.
FRIDAY: A quiet night
SATURDAY: Wimmin's Social 8-11 pm, J J Smyths, Aungier Street, Dublin 8. Doors close at 10.30 pm. Admission 1.00.
SUNDAY: WOMEN SPEAK, every second Sunday at 7.30 pm.

"International Tribunal and Meeting on Reproductive Rights"
22-28 July 1984 in Amsterdam

Like the third international women and health meeting in Geneva in 1981, this meeting will be to exchange experiences and information and to talk about working together in the future. Unlike that meeting, which covers a wide range of women's health issues, this fourth meeting will concentrate on reproductive rights issues, in order to talk about them in more depth.

For more information write to ICASC, 374 Grays Inn Road, London EC1 ENS.

"DADS ARMY"

Look out for the latest male mystery, the newly acquired paternal love and devotion being thrown around by two new all-male groups - DADS and the Social Law Reform Panel. They won't be hard to see - they are being interviewed everywhere. I wonder why? You'll have noticed no doubt, that men never went mad looking for access to "illegitimate" children. But now that perfectly legal heirs are being whisked out of marriages by ungrateful brazen women, the men are beginning to get interested in "their" children. The fact that in a lot of these men's cases there is property, tax concessions, and job status also involved, has nothing to do with it.

All the men in these organizations have been left. Men are not used to being left. They harbour bitter resentment against the women who leave them. So they use their power to "persuade" the women to stay - coercion, economic sanctions, emotional batterings and physical beatings. All this having failed them, they try the children bit. Men who hardly saw "their" children for more than a one half hour daily, suddenly realize that the kids will be bereft and disturbed.

One member's children are in their late teens and he's looking for Deserted Husband's Allowance to support them, as he claims he needs to stay at home to mind them. Few people know the age of "his" little darlings.



Another claimed on our national TV that he was supporting "his children" - he is -£18 per week for two children. The more shady members all have property at risk.

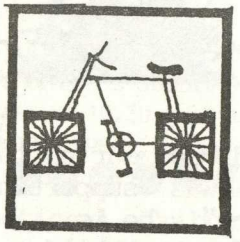
They pathetically claim that they don't want to take away any women's rights. They certainly do want to take away one - the right to leave them. They say they only want to "even things out". (Laugh now.)

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Considering that a high percentage of these men consider themselves to be lefty (surprise, surprise) I presume they do not see the analogy of whites organizing to even things out as soon as blacks look as if they might have a few crumbs thrown their way.

Listen boys - one of the messages we got through to each other was that we could leave you. Considering the way you have now turned out, it is surprising we stuck with you for so long. And by the way - no one owns children, but if anyone has the right of decision - it is the mother. Evelyn Conlon



SQUARE BICYCLE LOCK-UP
TEMPLE LANE
NEAR WOMEN'S CENTRE
RATES
50p WHOLE DAY
25p HALF DAY
£2.00 A WEEK
REDUCTIONS FOR UNWAGED
OPEN 8.30 am - 8.00 pm
6 DAYS A WEEK
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

L.I.L.
Lesbian Line: Tel. 710608
Thursdays 8-10 pm
Women's Disco
at
Hirschfeld Centre,
10 Fownes Street, Dublin 2
every Thurs. 11 pm-1:30am
All Women Welcome
New Members Are Welcome
LIBERATION FOR IRISH LESBIANS



Sister,

I am interested in sharing music and song with other wimmin on a regular basis. If you sing or play an instrument, and feel you would enjoy an informal session of music-making by wimmin for wimmin, we can meet in JJ Smyth's Lounge (upstairs) in Aungier St. (at top of George's St.) on Thursdays at 9 pm.

BRING YOUR VOICES AND INSTRUMENTS.

Yours in Sisterhood,
Isabel Ni Chuireain

Treating Thrush

Thrush is a common infection women are prone to. It is a fungus - a one celled organism. The fungi are found in a healthy vagina in small numbers, but if something happens to upset the normal balance of the vagina, they can greatly increase, causing an infection.

CAUSES: 1) Antibiotics destroy the useful bacteria which would normally kill the fungus which causes thrush. 2) Taking the contraceptive pill can affect the hormonal level of the vagina. This results in more sugar being present in the vagina which the thrush fungus thrives on. Pregnant women are also susceptable to thrush for the same reasons. 3) Being run down or under stress can also affect the acid balance in the vagina.

SYMPTOMS: 1) A white discharge that can look like cottage cheese. The discharge may be light or heavy and thick. 2) Unpleasant itching and soreness of the vagina which scratching only worsens. 3) A bad stinging sensation when you urinate.

TREATMENT: Medical treatment involves inserting an anti-fungal pessary (e.g. Nystatin) into the vagina or to apply a similar cream locally. You will get these from your doctor, or if you have no medical card you will receive treatment free if you visit one of the Special Clinics.

SELF-HELP PREVENTION: 1) Avoid sugar in your diet and only take antibiotics when absolutely necessary. 2) Avoid wearing trousers which are tight in the crotch, nylon panties, or tights which create warm moist conditions in which fungi thrive. Wear only cotton panties. 3) Do not use talcum powder or strongly perfumed soaps which can upset the balance in your vagina. 4) A low resistance to infection may be caused by not eating enough unprocessed food and by over-tiredness.

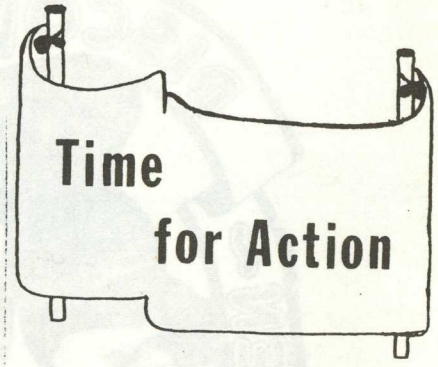
Deficiencies in vitamin A or B foods can cause or aggravate infections. Vitamin A foods include dairy products, egg yolks, apricots, and dark green vegetables. Vitamin B foods

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BRIGHTEN UP A FRIEND'S DAY!
SEND A POSTCARD
Available from: Women's Community Publishing Co-op, 48 Fleet St., Dublin 2.
48 varieties at 25p each.

LUCKY

RAFFLE RESULTS

Week 1	1st	033/3 Joni & Aileen
	2nd	023/2 Mary Gormley
	3rd	086/1 Paula Jennings & Paddy McCarton
Week 2	1st	048/3 Brenda Doherty
	2nd	028/2 Ruth Fitzgerald
	3rd	026/2 Comhlamh
Week 3	1st	062/2 Dominic Hussey
	2nd	096/2 Mary Turley
	3rd	016/1 Billie Lanigan
Week 4	1st	029/2 Barbara Hussey
	2nd	035/1 Nora & Jay Clement
	3rd	006/3 Mark,Mary,Paty Tao,Mairin,Grapevine
Week 5	1st	022/3 Terry O'Connor & Toby
	2nd	067/1 Gail & Phil
	3rd	080/2 Muriel Delaney
Week 6	1st	008/3 Monica O'Connor
	2nd	094/1 Jim Maher,
	3rd	072/1 Fintan Vallely
Week 7	1st	023/2 Mary Gormley
	2nd	016/1 Billie Lanigan
	3rd	014/3 Cathal & Therese
Week 8	1st	058/2 Alan Wheeler
	2nd	029/1 Tony McMahon
	3rd	003/1 Leonard Silke & Co.
Week. 9	1st	055/3 Leam Fitzpatrick
	2nd	046/1 Ita Gannon
	3rd	011/1 Jimmy McDonell
Week 10	1st	004/1 Rosine Auborting
	2nd	039/2 Women's Right To Choose Group
	3rd	049/3 Annie Dillon
	4th	032/2 Richard Nesbitt

womens studies

We want to set up non-academic Women's Studies courses in Ireland, i.e. courses outside the educational system.

We are thinking along the lines of an alternative "Women's College" which could provide a context in which we can step back from our lives and take a long hard look at what it is like to be a woman in a male world. We can get together away from home, families, jobs and explore and learn from each other.

Your ideas, opinions and concrete help are all needed if Women's Studies are to become a reality. Contact Rita at 691897, 10 am-5 pm, Monday to Friday.