



## SUNDAY 1030-12.30

### IMAGES OF AFRICA?

Black women's own stories: strength, struggle against slavery and oppression, celebration of cultures and histories ... challenge the images of Live Aid and the Sunday supplements. Presenting positive images is a part of fighting the racism and imperialism facing Afro-Caribbean and African women.

Can Black and white women together change the patronising and demeaning stereotypes, or have white women also a vested interest in keeping things the way they are?

Speakers  
*from Akina Mama waAfrika*

### ACROSS-PARTY POLITICAL AGENDA FOR WOMEN

How has feminism affected the policies and practices of political parties across the traditional left-right divide? Is there room for a common feminist manifesto-even a party - or is feminism itself too diverse to allow this? Women who are active in existing political parties will look together at the problems and possibilities of a common political agenda uniting us across and beyond party lines.

Chair Sarah Benton (*Deputy Editor, New Statesman*)

Speakers include  
Emma Nicholson  
(*Conservative Party*)  
Sue Slipman (*SDP/Liberal Alliance*)  
Tricia Davis  
(*Communist Party*)

### FROM GIRLFRIENDS TO BOYFRIENDS?

As young women we are encouraged to attract a man, only to be blamed if we then go 'too far'. Becoming a 'normal' adult woman means concentrating on boyfriends, and girls' friendships are seen as time spent gossiping, giggling and being silly. In reality, most young women's lives don't match the magazines; or the 'alternative' of Victoria Gillick-part of a caring, loving and protective family. So who should decide things like at what age girls can use contraception, and why don't the same standards apply for boys? How do young women make their own rules about sexuality? In this session we'll talk about how we can create a culture which allows us as women to make real choices about our sexuality, whether we are lesbians, heterosexual or celibate.

Speakers  
Anoushka McKechnie  
(*Young Communist League, anti-Cillick Campaign*)  
Charlotte Ashton (*The Rubber Jennies*)  
Jacqui Halson (*Researcher on young women and sexuality*)  
Mary Williams (*Avon sexual abuse centre*)

Chair  
Norma Daykin (*student*)

### A FEMINIST ECONOMICS?

Economics is another of those peculiarly male-dominated areas of decision-making: unsurprisingly, given the importance of its outcomes.

Jobs, training, childcare, hours of work: these all concern economic strategy, and also affect women's lives intimately. Demanding greater priority for our needs means facing up to how far our demands are really attainable, and within what timescale? Would new economic priorities also benefit men, or should we expect conflict and resistance, even from 'progressive' quarters where men still control the policies?

Speakers  
Jean Gardiner (*Adult Education tutor*)  
Anne Phillips (*Lecturer in Politics, City of London Polytechnic*)

### THE CUTTING EDGE: MINING WOMEN THEN AND NOW

Women from the coalfields and others who supported the miners' strike have together produced a book, "The Cutting Edge: Women and the Miners' Strike", in which they write about how the strike affected their lives and their thinking. Some of these women will talk about the strike, whether the dramatic involvement of women in it has had any lasting effects on their lives, and what is happening now in the women's organisation.

Many of the women involved have not met each other before, and will only recently have read what the other contributors have written. This will be an opportunity for them to comment on the experiences of their fellow authors.



Chaired by  
Vicky Seddon (*editor of "The Cutting Edge"*)



## GUILTY PLEASURES

When you're enjoying yourself do you ever have a nagging feeling that what you're doing may not be ideologically sound? Do you think that maybe penetration is not the last bastion of male power, or that dungarees are uniform? Do you sometimes wonder who or what took the enjoyment out of liberation? Talking about guilty pleasures at this session will be

Susie Orbach (*psychotherapist*) - on *Original Sins*  
Michelle Roberts (*author*) - on *Social Straightjackets*  
Rose Shapiro (*author*) - on *the Feminist Imperative*

The session, chaired by Celia Weston, will break into smaller discussion groups, depending on numbers attending, after the introductions.

## WOMEN & HEALTH: AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Oral history is a way of searching out women's own personal histories, using our memories, folk-memory and other women's recollections of their past. It is fascinating to take part in: you may see yourself very differently by the end! It can also be a very clear example of the personal being political, drawing on your past to inform your understanding of the present. We have used oral history as a powerful propaganda tool in campaigns against the privatisation of health. Join us in painting in the canvas of our common experiences.

*The session will be conducted by members of NUPE's Northern Ireland Women's Committee*

Remaining true to one's feminist principles in a man's world is almost impossible, so we nearly all accept compromises in daily life which we'd rather not ideally make.

How much more difficult if we're also responsible, as parents, for guiding, teaching and helping to raise children.

The material and physical problems of coping as a single mother are matched by the daily dilemmas of how to present the world to the child and the child to the world.

Speakers include

Sheila Rowbotham (*feminist writer*)

Chair

Moirá O'Toole

## TO BE, NOT TO BE AND HOW TO BE

SEE PAGE 21

## WOMEN AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (I)

### SUNDAY 2.00-4.00

Women are demanding to be seen and listened to everywhere. More women are now working their way up the hierarchies of political parties, trade unions and other organisations in public life. But why?

Can we really join in these essentially male battlegrounds, or is the price simply too high in compromises made by the women who do get embroiled in institutional politics?

What do women working in mainstream organisations have to offer to the rest of us who have maybe deliberately avoided - or been excluded from - 'men's politics'? And the biggest question of all must be how to connect with those women who have no contact, or interest, in such 'political' forums. If we are to 'live' feminism we must answer that question in our personal practice and our organisations. A round-table discussion of women in the mainstream will ponder it all.

The Round-table: Diane Abbott (*Black feminist. Labour Party Parliamentary candidate*)

Clare Short (*Labour MP*) Inez McCormack (*Feminist and Trade Union Organiser*)

Tricia Davis (*Executive Committee, Communist Party*)

Chair Bea Campbell (*Journalist*)

It is important to recognise how racism and sexism are manifested in art theory and art institutions. The Arts Council says that approx 10% of its funds are allocated to Black people ... In reality do we see this occurring? Western ethnocentricity believes in inequality: in the visual arts through their separation into cultural, historical and geographical niches .. The ideas of the ethnic and exotic divide so-called 'mainstream' or Western art from so-called 'marginal' or Black art. What is the position of Black artists in this struggle for funds, facilities and just recognition?

Speakers include

Jackie Akuba Layne (*Artist*)

Chair

Sandra Dunkley

## MOVING INTO THE MAINSTREAM

## CAKE, NOT CRUMBS





## CURRENT ISSUES IN SOCIALIST-FEMINISM

This session will be based around some of the main issues taken up in the *new Feminist Review* (No 23, Summer 1986, out in June).

It is a special issue entitled *Socialist-Feminism: Out of the Blue*, dealing with a wide range of issues: class politics, racism, lesbian sexuality, the miners' strike, Armagh jail, the Labour Party, and Greenham among others.

*Participants include - among various contributors to the Special issue who will be at the session - Jean McCrindle (treasurer of Women Against Pit Closures) and women from the mining communities Anne Phillips (author)*

Lynne Segal, chairing the session



## IRISH WOMEN IN BRITAIN

Grainne Mhaol is a collective of three women researching a book on Irish women's emigration to Britain. In this session they will talk about the history of Irish women's emigration and share some of the findings of their research, including stories told by some of the women they have spoken to. They will also be showing slides of Irish community life in Britain including pictures of travel and arrival.

*Members of the Grainne Mhaol Collective introducing the session are Mary Lennon, Marie McAdam, Joanna O'Brien.*

## FEMINISM ON THE RATES

The growth of women's committees and equal opportunity units in town halls all over the country has enabled the development and implementation of local strategies for women. For the first time there has been the power and the resources to do something. But have they really empowered any more than a small section of already fairly privileged women? How have they related in particular to the needs of Black women, lesbians and working-class women?

With relatively limited budgets how are decisions made about priorities for funding and how can we have democratic control over that decision-making process? This session will give a chance for reflection on the experience of municipal feminism from around the country; its strengths and weaknesses.

Speakers

Monica Johnson (*Camden Council Women's Unit*)  
Sue Lieberman (*Edinburgh District Council Women's Unit*) in a personal capacity  
Jane Hutt (*South Glamorgan Council, Organiser Welsh Women's Aid*)  
Pragna Patel (*Southall Black Women's Centre*)




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For further details, write to: The Admissions Tutor, Women's Studies, Postgraduate School of Applied Social Studies, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP.




**GREETINGS FROM WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES**

We are alive and kicking too.

Contact: Kim Young, Women's Office, NUM, St James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield S1 2EX.  
Tel: (0742) 700388.

**SUMMER TITLES FROM SHEBA**



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## NEW PROBLEMS, NEW THEORY

Black women, Greenham women, 'miners' wives': women taking political initiatives while the Left barely holds its ground. What can these movements teach the Left and each other about political strategies and organisation?

Feminism and socialism have taken on new meaning in the 1980's, but have we got a theory to fit? By focussing on the experiences of Black women, and the Women Against Pit Closures movement, this session hopes to explore a new architecture of radical democratic politics.

Speakers

Vicky Seddon  
Kumkum Bhavnani  
Chantel Mouffe

Chair

Mandy Robinson

## WHAT MAKES US TICK?

To borrow from a famous saying: a feminist needs a political party like a fish needs a bicycle! The Communist Party claims to have a programme and policies committed to a thoroughly feminist perspective. This session will aim to put the party, its programme and practice 'on trial', and will explore the attitudes, motivations, beliefs and views of feminists in the Communist Party.

Ann Pettifor, *Trade Union Liaison Officer for the Labour Party's Women's Action Committee*, will put the questions.

A group of women with very varied backgrounds and experiences, in the Communist Party, will reply.



## WOMEN AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (II)

Are cities and buildings, parks and transport systems designed with women in mind? What would buildings which really met women's needs be like? How can women take more part in shaping our surroundings? Come and join a day-long workshop, where we plan to work collectively on a 'live' project: re-modelling an existing office space both to make a better working environment and to be more attractive to people dropping in. Learn the rudiments of making and reading plans. All women are welcome, with or without previous design or architectural background.

*This workshop is organised by the MATRIX FEMINIST DESIGN CO-OPERATIVE, who will run it.*

NB i) There are two sessions involved 10.30-1 pm and 2-4pm Sunday. Each will deal with aspects of the same problem, and are linked, so women are encouraged to come to both.

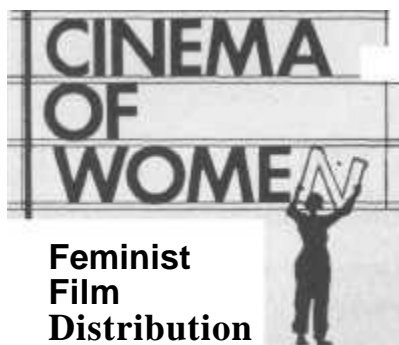
ii) Because of space there may be a limit to numbers on this session. If you would like to come, please try and let Women Alive know in advance (01-251 4406).

## PART-TIME GIRLS, FULL-TIME BOYS

Part-time work is often the only way that women can combine domestic demands with waged work. But being part-time still means low levels of unionisation, low pay, poor training opportunities, low skills, few promotion prospects and susceptibility to redundancy. How to respond? Should we be aiming for measures to lift our domestic burdens and allow us to work full-time? Or a strategy to give more status, security and pay to part-time positions? Could a future of employment based on both sexes working part-time also help bring about more equal relationships between men and women at home and work?

Speakers include

Mel Chevannes (*Labour Councillor, Wolverhampton*)



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Access Code information: please ring 01-251 4406 (Women Alive) day. 01-318 6266 evening.

Overspill: In the event of overspill it may be necessary to use accommodation in the Main Building where access will have to be assisted.

Creche: the creche is in the Main Building (assisted access only).

Registration: Registration for women with disabilities will be in the ground floor foyer of the Tower Block, entrance by the carpark.

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Please help us by indicating on the Women Alive registration form if you are thinking of using the creche. Even if you haven't definitely decided yet, we'd rather know now that you might want a place/places.

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Vegan food can be provided at lunchtimes, but we do need to know in advance, so please ring Women Alive on 01 -251 4406 and give details of your requirements.

Saturday evening meal is being supplied at the evening entertainment, Women Alive and Kicking. This will be at the Camden Centre, where a choice of hot meals, including vegetarian/vegan will be on sale for between £2.00 and £3.00.

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