

# FREE PRESS

## Brittan waives the rules

One of Leon Brittan's last acts at the Home Office was to open the door to deregulation of broadcasting with his announcement about community radio franchises (FP 30). Now local groups around the country are preparing their bids for a frequency in competition with commercial companies.

The National Cttee continues to examine the issues raised by Brittan's action.

The August meeting heard presentations from a number of interested parties.

Peter Lewis of Relay magazine said Channel 4 could offer a useful model, but warned against the danger of "media fat cats" hogging airtime won by community interests.

Angie Murphy of Thamesmead urged the Campaign to be more positive in its encouragement of community involvement in broadcasting.

Stan Reid and Ricky Macarthy of the Afro-Caribbean Radion Project renewed the demand for local radio stations run by and for the black community. The Local Radio Workshop urged community groups, unions and local authorities to concentrate their efforts on training schemes using properly paid unionised staff, so that local people can produce their own programmes rather than risk losing control to commercial interests.

Despite the apparent attractions of the cheapness of radio transmission, LRW considers that the real issue remains the question of accountability and the need to ensure that broadcasting remains under democratic control at local, regional and national levels.

Copies of their submission to the Nat Cttee are available from LRW and the Campaign Office. Price £1.

### BACK COPIES OF FREE PRESS

A limited number of back copies are available, priced 15p. Order yours through the office, quoting the issue number. All 20p for p.&p.

## CAMPAIGN DIARY

### Gays against MEN

Manchester Gay Centre has taken out a complaint under the NUJ Rules over the use of the headline "Gay plague fear sparks action" in a Manchester Evening News story about public health related to AIDS on 14 June.

The MGC have already won the support of MEN editor Michael Unger who acknowledges that since the term "gay plague" does not appear in the story the headline is inaccurate — "I do not condone inaccurate headlines" he says.

Meanwhile the NUJ Chapel at MEN is backing the sub who wrote the headline. In their complaint MGC points out that by May 1985 only 169 people in the UK had AIDS — this "does not constitute a plague in popular parlance" — and stress that AIDS sufferers are not exclusively from the gay community.

### DON'T FORGET...

to fill in your Readership Survey form on page 7. And while you're at it, why not order yourself some early Christmas presents from our extensive booklist on page 8.

### Off to college or back to school?

The Campaign is trying to extend its influence in the education sector. Already our videos and books are used on some media courses and by a few teachers.

But there is massive scope for development.

We hope to get our literature and videos into every college and school, and on to as many courses as possible.

Can you help? Either by raising it in your school/college, or sending us lists of institutions or tutors/teachers to contact?

Information to Davy Jones at the Campaign

### Do they watch telly?

The Campaign is intending to publish guidelines on the portrayal of people with disabilities and the coverage of disability issues; as well as looking at how the media caters for the needs of people with disabilities.

Any cuttings that deal with disability, or any contacts or other useful information, would be very welcome. Send to Julianne Dickey at the Campaign Office.

### Get your motions moving

While the 1984-5 AGM is still not too distant a memory, and with the Christmas season coming up to deflect you from the next one, now is the time to start thinking about motions for our AGM.

The National Cttee has already indicated its intention to revise the Campaign's Aims to lay greater stress on combatting racism, and members are encouraged to study the revised Rules of the Campaign which were published in FP 28.

The many issues which have been taken up by the Campaign this year should ensure a lively series of debates at the 1985-6 AGM next Spring. Future funding will again be a major topic.

### Fun meetings in Manchester

North West CPBF have two public meetings coming up.

Thurs 17 Oct: Splitting Image — how do they get away with it?

Spitting Images producer John Lloyd will illustrate his talk with video clips.

Thurs 28 Nov: Fainthearted Feminists — can feminism really be funny?

Guest speaker Jill Tweedie on feminism, comedy and tv.

Both take place at 7.30 in Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square. Admission: £1

### Gay monitoring project

The Campaign is planning a two-week monitoring project later this year on the coverage of homosexuality by the printed media, to complement the Gays in Broadcasting monitoring project (FP30).

We will be relying on volunteers nationally to monitor for us, as well as to collate the results. Any offers, contact Julianne Dickey on 01 437 2795 by mid-October.

Remember, you don't have to be gay to volunteer

FREE PRESS is edited for the National Committee by Mike Jempson

Copy for the next issue should arrive at the Campaign Office by Nov 1, preferably typed with double spacing.

# FREE PRESS 30p

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No. 31 OCTOBER 1985

## Broadcasters unite over BBC blunders

The capitulation of the BBC Governors to Tory censorship succeeded in forging unprecedented unity among all broadcasting unions, TUC delegates were told at a CPBF meeting in Blackpool.

And subsequent revelations about in-house vetting by the security services and undercover briefings for senior staff shattered once and for all any notion of the independence of the BBC.

Breakfast-time TV there to record speakers from the NUJ, ACTT, and BETA who shared the platform, and warned that unless the BBC gets its house in order further united action by the broadcasting unions can be expected.

"The atmosphere in which we are conducting our trade has become polluted by political interference under both parties when in power," said Vincent Hanna (NUJ), citing the ABC trial, the Agee/Hosenball deportations, Media management in the Falklands War, and the Real Lives ban.

Alan Sapper of ACTT said recent government intervention had ruined the BBC's world-wide reputation as the best public service broadcasting station. Deregulation of broadcasting will further harm Britain, because commercial companies will subordinate the vital expression of our own reflections on how we live to the venal pursuit of profit.

"This is not a cry from the heart about what will then happen to our union members, but about what will happen to our culture," he said.

Sandra Horne (ACTT) argued that recent events made all the more important the campaign for a truly accountable and representative system of public service broadcasting. She described the BBC Governors as a "bag of all sorts who all turn out to be liquorice" willing to supply the government with the line it wants to emerge from the media.

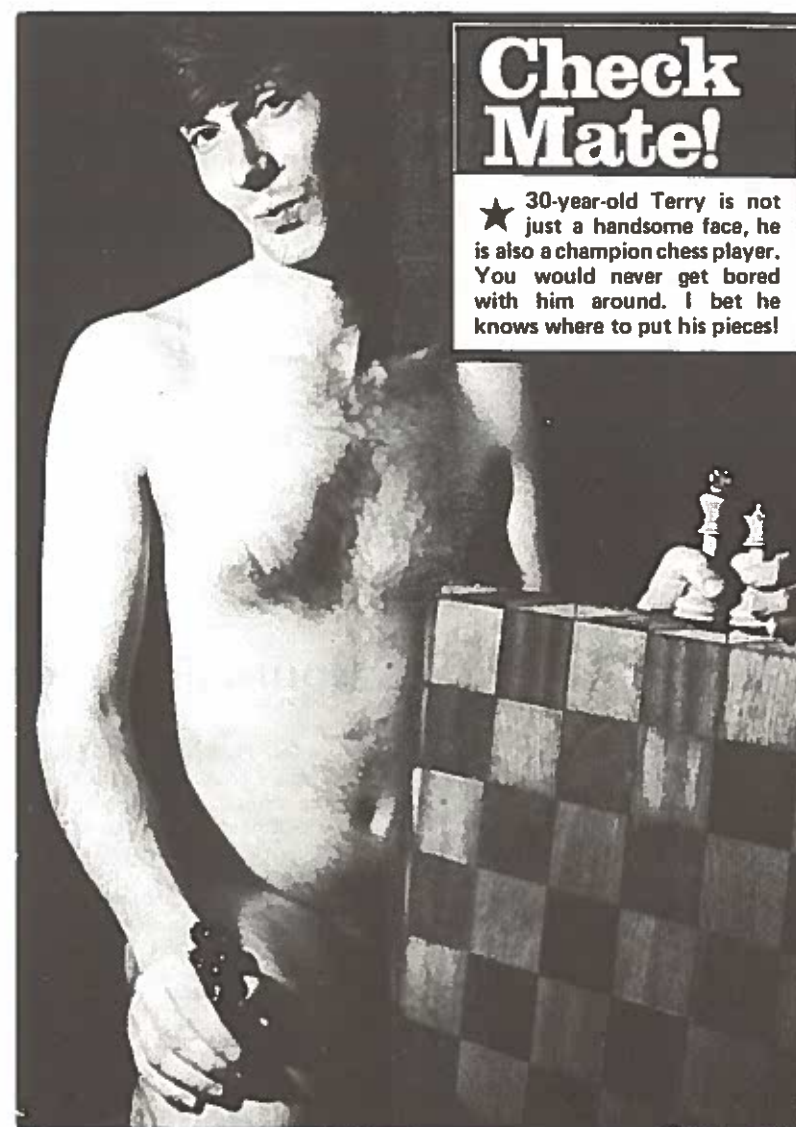
Paddy Leach (BETA) described the crisis at the BBC as a crisis for the media and democracy in Britain. BBC managers should have offered their resignation at once.

"What we got instead was whimpering defiance — with the management on the barricades clutching a white flag, and capitulating utterly at the first sign of Thatcher's steel," he said.

More on the BBC pp 4 & 5.

## Check Mate!

★ 30-year-old Terry is not just a handsome face, he is also a champion chess player. You would never get bored with him around. I bet he knows where to put his pieces!



Photomontage Cath Tate

Many people see media bias in terms of the big stories: the Falklands War, the coal dispute, etc.

But what about the drip, drip effect of media sexism?

A daily diet of negative images which takes away women's freedom and feeds self-doubt.

This month's SUPPLEMENT has been produced by the Campaign's London Women's Group and looks at many different aspects of media sexism.

And gives details of the CPBF's first-ever Women's Conference in December

## PIN THIS ON SOMEONE ELSE:

The BBC's 'vet' used an Xmas tree as his secret code.

Something at the BBC needs axing

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# JOB FOR THE BOYS

CPBF National Organiser Mike Power comments on the lack of vision at the Edinburgh TV Festival

Nobody ever said that Professor Peacock is anybody's poodle. So why did Jeremy Isaacs and co. spend so much of the Edinburgh TV Festival trying to assure us that he is not?

Peacock is the former Principal of Buckingham Independent University, a member of the Institute of Economic Affairs and a firm monetarist who favours privatisation. That is why Margaret Thatcher appointed him to Chair the Commission on the funding of the BBC.

He is indeed independent. If his views coincide with the Government's it will be because they happen to agree with each other. Fleet Street editors act for their proprietors in the same manner — they do not need telling!

This dangerous delusion emerged during the full day of discussion on the future of public service broadcasting.

We heard three separate panels of powerful, white, middle class, middle aged mediemen and politicians practicing their set pieces on self-defence, complacent self-satisfaction and daring alternatives.

During one interval I asked one broadcaster if he always attended the TV festival. "Only when I'm changing jobs," he assured me.

While the debates were not a patch on the very stimulating festival magazine, there were some interesting exchanges on the televising of terrorism, following a screening of the banned 'Real Lives' documentary.

After the film a letter demanding that it be shown was duly forwarded to the BBC, but a slight chill came over the delegates next day when someone congratulated those who took strike action.

So 'Real Life' for the TVfest continued as a polite chat. Meanwhile the right people in the right place saying the right thing to the right person — got a new job.

## Journalist freed

Ugandan prisoner of conscience Anthony Ssekweyama, whose plight was featured in FP 29, has been freed following the recent coup.

The Amnesty column returns in this issue (see p.4), and members are urged to write on behalf of prisoners of conscience to the addresses given in the column.

If you've never done this before, Amnesty provides helpful guidelines which can be obtained from Sue Adams, Press Officer, British Amnesty, 5 Roberts Place, off Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0EJ.

## Is Ad-VAT the answer?

VAT has been collected on newspaper and magazine advertisements since Nigel Lawson's Spring budget. It was widely forecast that many titles would close as a result.

However first reports show these fears to have been unfounded and that £50 million will be raised annually. This proves that the arguments made by the CPBF among others for an Advertisement Revenue Levy to finance the launch of new publications were spot on.

The Government will use the income to fund the dole queue rather than finance a more diverse media and create jobs in the process. Now we have the evidence to back up our demands.

## NUJ boost to libel Defence Fund

The National Union of Journalists recently announced a £2,000 donation to the John Jennings Defence Fund.

John, an NUJ member working for the print union SOGAT 82, is being sued for libel by the Freedom Association over an article that appeared in FREE PRESS when he was CPBF Secretary.

Donations to his Defence Fund are still urgently needed, and can be sent c/o CPBF, 9 Poland St., London W1V 3DG.

## Press attack police video

In May the GLC Police Committee Support Unit launched a video, *Policing London*, a dramatised-documentary aimed at raising discussion in the community about how London is policed and what sort of policing Londoners want.

A press conference held in early May attracted only the London Standard (GLC film on London's "racist police") and Scotland Yard. There was a mild interest in a number of local papers.

A month later the Police Federation criticised the film, expressing concern that it could be shown 'in youth clubs and ILEA schools in tense areas simply to confirm the view of the police as enemies' (Times 10.6.85).

The following day, Home Secretary Leon Brittan condemned the film as 'the fruit of cowardice' (Standard 11.6.85). Police Federation Parliamentary adviser Eldon Griffiths MP said that the film 'would do credit to Goebbels' (Times 12.6.85).

The annual Parliamentary debate on

policing in London on 28 June seemed dominated by debate on the film. A few days earlier, an attempt to get the video withdrawn failed at a GLC meeting. A further attempt to ban the film was raised in the House of Lords on 17 July.

The Times decided to raise the subject again, in a leader of 29 July, 'Undermining the police'. Whilst admitting that the police force was not faultless, it went on to describe the image the video presents as 'callous and unscrupulous' and expressed concern about its effects on 'the immature and the unknowledgeable in whom prejudices can easily be manufactured by skilful propaganda'. It also attacked the GLC's campaign for democratic accountability of the Met.

These elitist views were taken up in a more populist way by a Sun editorial of 3 Aug, 'Poison on the rates', labelling the film 'a malicious exercise in propaganda that would have done credit to the late Dr Goebbels'.

Despite these attacks and distortions many Londoners have now seen the video. All the police dialogue in the film is taken from police sources — and incidents depicted are based on actual or typical experiences of police response to burglary, racial attacks, violence against women etc. Copies of the video are still available for hire: contact Jo Mayne on 633 6672.

## WHOSE LAW?

a 27-Minute VHS video produced by South Wales Miners Video Project.

150 men in jail, 700 men sacked — the political victims of the State's response to the coal dispute.

A campaigning video which raises important issue for everyone. Hire: £12.65 (inc p&p) FREE to Support Groups. Order yours from: SWVMP, c/o The Video Workshop, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff CF16 1QE. Tel: 0222 42755.

## "NO COMMENT"

### 1. DTs

Tory MP Edward Leigh has uncovered a dastardly plot, it would seem.

Writing in the Daily Telegraph this summer he reported on "one of the many interlinking networks of publicly funded extremist groups".

"Comedia Press Group (grant referees Seifert, Sedley), a Left-wing publishing house, has received GLC funding. Its director, Mr Charles Landry, doubled as treasurer of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (CPBF), a far-Left trade union pressure group, when CPBF applied for GLC cash.

"The Campaign still depends on London's ratepayers for its £26,000 a year lifeblood. The chairperson, Loretta Loach, is a member of the Spare Rib Collective — yes, Spare Rib has received GLC money too.

"Another committee member of CPBF, Mike Jempson, is employed by the Greater London Enterprise Board, funded, of course, by the GLC."

Mr Leigh concludes: "The vast coterie of Left-wing entrepreneurs with their hands in the ratepayer's pockets in no laughing matter."

### 2. Flight of fancy

The Peoples Armada, a flotilla of boats carrying residents of London's Docklands from the Thames Barrier to Westminster in protest about the activities of the government appointed London Dockland Development Corporation, was offered a flying escort by Capital Radio.

The plane was to trail a banner which the protestors said should read "Democracy for Docklands". This slogan was rejected by Capital, allegedly for being "too political". Capital apparently preferred "Docklands for the People" (!)

On the appointed day, Sept 7th, the plane failed to show up.

### 3. Bombs away

Brig Stonham has other duties at the BBC — making plans for war-time broadcasting.

When staff unions last year enquired about who would run the service, on what conditions and where, they received the following reply from the BBC.

"(a) Unfortunately the location of any 'bombproof transmission centres' is covered by Government classification rules and I regret that I am not at liberty to release such information.

"(b) There are no 'designated' staff. In the event of any emergency, selected staff would be asked if they wish to volunteer for duty to maintain a broadcasting service.

"(c) The circumstances at the time will determine whether any special conditions of service are required and the method by which they are determined will depend upon these circumstances."

The IBA said they had no bomb-proof facilities — end of story.

Apologies if this FREE PRESS arrives late (production difficulties, TUC, holidays etc) but the copy deadline for FP32 is still Nov 1 — so please write soon.

### Apartheid anger

I have just telephoned the BBC about the World at One programme permitting Botha, of South Africa, to speak for some five minutes, giving forth his noxious doctrines and twisted version of events. To give credence to these views, and standing to Botha is parallel to allowing Hitler access to the media in his day. Reflecting on these parallels I said that a lesson might be learned from it.

It was most instructive! The young woman in Public Relations to whom I spoke first replied brightly with an 'O.K.', to which I objected. She then suggested that as I felt strongly (!) perhaps I should write in. I have quite a collection of dusty answers received in response to protest letters to the BBC, hence my decision to telephone them.

On reflection, I telephoned again, to the actual programme office this time, and mentioned my membership of the CPBF Nat Ctee. As usual, there was no hint of acknowledgement that they might just occasionally make an error of judgement. Indeed, it is the listener on whose judgement doubt is thrown, by the remark that "she obviously felt strongly" so is not capable of objectivity.

I was asked whether I did not think it of interest to put over 'the South African viewpoint'. I pointed out that they were talking about the viewpoint of the white minority in power and that black people, the majority of the people in S. Africa, do not even have a vote.

Is there an effective Right of Reply to BBC Radio? I believe not.

### Betty Rubinstein

Burley Rd  
Bransgrove  
Hants

### Beware the buddies

We should beware the stream of anti-Russian novels, films and TV thrillers filled with sinister Soviet spies and KGB torturers.

"Firefox", with Clint Eastwood and made with US Army, Navy and Airforce collaboration, networked for 2½ hours by ITV at peak viewing time on Saturday, August 25, was a typical example.

These films are war propaganda at its worst, aimed at creating such hostility towards the USSR as to induce toleration of a nuclear war against that country (which would inevitably lead to the destruction of our own).

"No-one takes them seriously", it may be said. Unfortunately, millions do.

At a time when thinking men and women are striving for East-West peace, the producers are working in the opposite direction.

### Frank Allaun

Manchester 21

### CPSA correction

On Sunday 18 Aug Gordon Leak of the Sunday Express alleged that no members of my union, the CPSA were "involved" at GCHQ, and that the £1000 bribe was to "compensate" for loss of the right to join a trade union.

When I spoke to him the following Friday he admitted that he had "misunderstood" the sense of the "non-involvement" intended by a "very senior" trade union official who had supplied the story on a "non-attributable basis".

In fact he clearly accepted the government's definition of who was concerned in the threat to sack "those who had accepted the money and then rejoined the union". Mr Leak said he wrote what he was told and said he would take steps to have a correction printed on 25 Aug.

When I asked if he would print without further ado a claim from me that the Queen was to have another baby, he said I was going over the top.

No correction appeared on Aug 25. In fact the object of his kite-flying piece was to persuade CPSA members to accept the government's concept of "involvement" and ignore the idea of involvement

through trades union membership and solidarity.

Incidentally, the £100 was paid to compensate for loss of appeal to an industrial tribunal, not for loss of trade union rights — a point Mr Leak did not seem to fully understand.

### Dave Shepherd

Vician Lodge  
Vician Avenue  
Hendon

### Dockland Debate

With reference to the article "London Programme in the dock", (FP30) I cannot comment on the (LWT) planning application, but I did watch the programme in question, and the clear message which came across was that the developments in Docklands would benefit people and companies moving in, but do nothing for those already living there.

As I live nowhere near Docklands, I could not have gained that impression had the programme not given it. I can only assume that its critics resent a programme which puts both sides of the story instead of just theirs.

### Miss P A Gibson

Court Royal  
Carlton Drive  
Putney

NCCL

Protest while you can



Sarah Spencer, Gen Sec NCCL

Journalists are to be congratulated on the principled stand which they took over the censorship of the BBC's 'Real Lives' programme. Their prompt action not only succeeded in reversing the decision but helped to confirm in the public consciousness that such censorship is wrong in principle and should not be accepted lying down.

But have you considered the extent to which our ability to protest is going to be affected by the Government's new public order proposals: or the restrictions which would face those wanting to make such a protest in, say, a year from now?

The new offences and the stiff penalties which accompany them will make anyone hesitate before organising or joining any protest activity:

\* It will be unlawful to organise a march without giving the police seven days notice or 'as soon as reasonably practicable'. Penalty: £400.

\* The police will be able to impose any restrictions on a march if they think it could lead to serious disruption of the community (yes, including traffic, shoppers), coercion of individuals or serious public disorder (the only criteria for such restrictions now). If someone ignores the restrictions the organisers could be fined £100 (or three months in prison); those who simply disobey: £400.

\* The police will be able to impose severe restrictions on any picket or static open air rally, on the same grounds as above: that is, location (half a mile from the factory gate?), duration (to end before the factory is due to open?) and numbers (only five?). Penalty for breach of conditions: £1000 for the organisers, £400 for the rest.

\* The cost of policing a march or picket could be charged to the organisers if the conditions imposed are broken.

\* The scope of S5 of the 1936 Public Order Act, a catch-all offence with which pickets and protestors are often charged, is to be extended.

\* The creation of a new offence, to criminalise those who use threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour which causes someone substantial alarm, harassment or distress — intended, the Government says, for those who 'bang on doors', 'peer in at windows' or 'knock over dustbins' or for 'rowdy behaviour in the streets'. Penalty: £100.

The right to protest peacefully is fundamental to the health of a democratic society. If that right can be curtailed at the discretion of the police — who will in practice be able to decide which protests are effective — it is a hollow one. For a right to protest only where, when and in the numbers the police dictate is no right at all.

★ ★

NCCL has published two briefings: *Trade Unionists' how the Public Order proposals affect you* and *Free To Walk Together? A Guide to the Government's Public Order Proposals* (for campaigners), both priced £1.50 plus 25p p+p. Available from NCCL, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA.

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the contents of issue one may be subject to alteration

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## You can't believe your eyes ...

More people think that TV news and current affairs are sometimes deliberately misleading than that they are generally honest.

Another wild Campaign assertion? No, the result of the BBC's own recently published research.

The annual review of the BBC's Broadcasting Research Findings is better known for revealing that the highest viewing audience for 1983 was the 18.45 million who watched Coronation Street on Feb 23, or that snooker is the third most popular TV sport amongst women after skating and tennis.

But the 1984 Review also contains interesting sections on the 1983 General Election, and "The perception of bias in Television News".

Casualty slipped into the latter section is the remarkable finding that 46% felt that TV news and current affairs programmes were sometimes deliberately misleading compared with only 38% thinking they were generally honest.

The significance of this is immediately deflated by references to how comparatively few people claim to have been influenced by TV (35%). But however you look at it, 46% is a very high figure.

During the 1983 election some 20% of viewers felt that television, especially BBC 1, were biased towards one or more parties. Overwhelmingly the party specified was the Conservative Party. A third of all Labour supporters felt that BBC 1 was biased towards the Conservatives, and 23% felt the same about ITV. This revelation is explained away in the Review as 'post-election sour grapes', and with such fatuous comments as 'perceptions of bias, like beauty, may lie in the eye of the beholder'.

Apparently 31% of new voters in 1983, and one quarter of those who voted differently

from 1979, felt that TV had helped them decide how to vote. With twenty million people watching TV for an average of just under 3 hours every evening between 6 and 10pm, the significance of the power and perceived political bias of television is substantial.

It is a point the CPBF has been making for some time.

Pundits have long claimed that while the press is seen to be biased and misleading, television news and current affairs retain much greater public credibility — a view seriously dented by the BBC's findings. The research was carried out just after the 1983 General Election, and the Falklands War. We should look forward with interest to the review covering the period of the 1984/1985 coal dispute.

By Davy Jones

1984 Annual Review of the BBC Broadcasting Research Findings, No 10. BBC Data Publications, £8.

## Essential handbook

*The Strikers Moneyguide* should have been written a long time ago. It is a must for trades union officers and officials, and for CAB's and community advice centres.

Few areas of financial difficulty are left untouched, and even if the law is changed (again) the first edition of this guide should stand you in good stead in most money matters.

*The Strikers Moneyguide* CAITS £3.50. CPBF discount price £2.95.

## Media liars

Dave Douglass describes how the media both set the agenda, and allowed politicians to refine it for them, during the coal dispute.

He argues his case with passion and illustrates it forcefully. But it still comes as a shock to realise that the media can get away with what might be termed genuine mistakes simply by refusing to admit to their errors.

Will they ever learn that the admission of error is the best way to ensure that fewer mistakes are made in future? Don't they realise how damaging a throwaway line can be? Or is there really a conspiracy of arrogance which insists that theirs is the only way to see the world?

As a miner from Doncaster who kept tabs on media coverage of twelve tumultuous months, Dave Douglass brings a refreshing candour to the debate kicked off by our own "Media Hits the Pits".

*Tell us lies about the miners* by David Douglass. DAM IWA 60p.

## Scots' media guide

A simple, concise guide to getting more out of the media has been produced by Edinburgh's Tenant and Worker Information Network.

"Making more of the media" also contains useful addresses and cautionary words about how to get your message across.

It's a pity such guides don't trace the spider's web of ownership links that provide the hidden controls over what we read, see and hear. That would add a vital dimension to the growing number of media guides, and allow each regional guide to be used in conjunction with others.

*Making More of the Media* TWIN 50p



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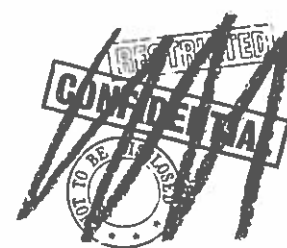
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## Secrets' success

The Campaign for Freedom of Information, together with its sister organisation, the Community Rights Project, has achieved its first major piece of anti-secrecy legislation.

The Local Government Access to Information Bill was introduced under the Private Member's procedure by Robin Squire MP on behalf of the Campaign. The Bill, which will come into force on April 1, 1986 allows a member of the public to:

- Attend any Sub-Committee, Committee, or Council meetings;
- Inspect prior to, and at the meeting, the agenda and reports of the Sub-Committee, Committee, or Council meetings;
- Inspect the Minutes of Sub-Committee, Committee, and Council meetings;
- Inspect all background papers relating to agenda items, subject to some safeguards.

It also gives Councillors greater access to Council information and requires a list to be published of Councillors' names and the public's general rights to information.

Des Wilson, CFOI Chairman, comments "Its importance extends far beyond the specific piece of legislation. The fact that Ministers supported it means that they implicitly accept the principle of freedom of information."

"It is now up to them to reflect that principle in other areas, and in particular to Whitehall itself."

Having achieved its first objective, the Campaign is to launch a major campaign this autumn, on access to personal files.

CFOI membership costs £7.50 p.a. More details and copies of the CFOI newspaper "Secrets" (50p) are available from: 2 Northdown St., London N1 9BG.

Centre for  
Alternative  
Industrial and  
Technological  
Systems

**THE STRIKERS  
MONEYGUIDE**

First Edition 1985

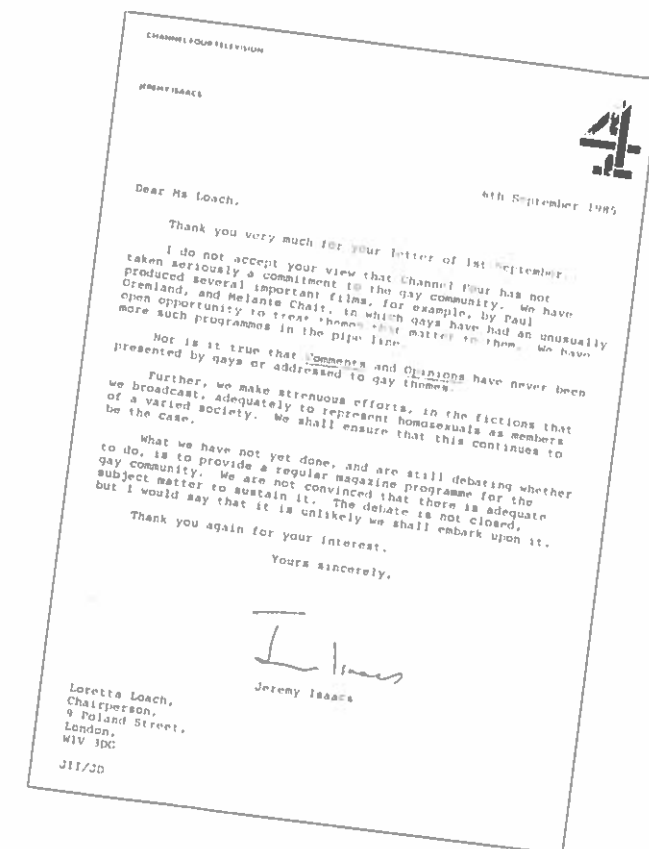
## Channel 4 lacks gay ideas — official

Following Mark Lilly's critical look at gay coverage on Channel 4 (FP23) the Campaign took up the issue with Chief Executive Jeremy Isaacs.

CPBF Chairperson Loretta Loach wrote suggesting a regular programme by and for the gay community (and offered three topics); she took issue with the total heterosexuality of the inhabitants of "Brookside"; pointed out that gays only get news coverage when a lurid or sensational angle can be found; and queried the non-appearance of gay spokespeople in such programmes as "Comment" and "Options".

Her appeal for a more open approach to broadcasting and a return to Channel 4's original commitment to minority groups received a dusty reply (see panel).

Perhaps Campaign members should make a point of keeping the debate open by taking up the issue with the "alternative" channel, and its rival TV stations



## Women's Review arrives

This month sees the launch of Britain's first cultural and literary magazine written by and for women.

The Women's Review edited by Helen Carr, Nicci Gerard and Debbie Phillips promises poetry, reviews, short stories, interviews and features covering all aspects of culture from the popular to the academic.

The first issue has an interview with black American writer Alice Walker, poetry from Guyana's Grace Nicholl, Gillian Allnut of City Limits, and the first English translations of the work of Polish poet Anna Swir who died last year.

The second issue will contain a short story by another American writer Cathy Acker, Melissa Benn on the UN Decade of Women, poetry from Adrienne Rich, and Lisa Jardine reviewing Shakespeare's attitude to gender.

Designed by Judy Cramond, Women's Review has a cover price of £1 and is available on subscription.

Before their promotion campaign WR had already attracted over 300 subscribers and have won the backing of private investors

and a leading magazine publisher.

The editors claim no "rigid ideological platform" but have a "broadly feminist and left wing" perspective. Sexist, racist or homophobic copy are out, and they are committed to covering the work of black and lesbian women.

## TRACES

### An Announcement to Free Press readers

Traces is a general interest radical bimonthly. It is aimed at younger, less committed people who find the existing left press too heavy. A third is news/politics, a third independent music, and a third cinema, travel, fashion, etc.

Currently we are in a pilot phase, getting to know the market and building up contacts. Having established a niche in the radical/punk area, we are about to expand our distribution from radical bookshops to music outlets. Then we will go into newsagents, and gradually extend our coverage to a broad range of minority interests.

We avoid preoccupation with theory and underline our independence by carrying occasional articles from all points of the political spectrum. We aim to develop long-term relationships with writers. Meetings are kept to a minimum to reduce the demand on people giving their time for nothing at this stage.

TRACES appeals to CPBF supporters for help:

1. Writing. We need simply-worded pieces of general interest. Particularly welcome are humour, 'street fashion', and researched news/background pieces.
2. Layout. A warm welcome to people who can come round and help during our layout phase.
3. Plugs. We need to be in touch with people in the media who can get us publicity for a future launch into newsagents.
4. Illustrators and cartoonists.
5. Advertising. Our print run is small now, but will be bigger, and our rates are only £25 per page. Could your organisation/advertising agency use us?

TRACES is on sale at most radical bookshops. You can contact us directly at 87 Kirkstall Road, London SW2 4HE Tel: 01-671 7920. Send three 17p stamps for the latest copy.

Price: £3.50.  
Special discount  
for CPBF  
members £2.95  
(from the office).

FP31

# British Brand of Censorship

The twisted logic of Thatcher and Brittan that by denying people information they can control their minds backfired with a vengeance this summer. The banned Real Lives film will now reach an audience way beyond original estimates.

United and largely spontaneous action by members of all the broadcasting unions throughout the country silenced British broadcasting for a day. And the strains of light music provided a dramatic taste of life under a dictatorship.

The government, and the BBC Board of Governors, were dealt a stern lesson about interfering with press and broadcasting freedom.

Provisional Sinn Fein won the propaganda battle, without saying a word, and the broadcasting unions found a unity even they found remarkable.

The Campaign played a crucial role in developing the issues raised by the occasion, and was even quoted in first item on the eight o'clock BBC Radio News bulletin. Needless to say, CPBF were dropped from the 9 o'clock version.

Broadcasting freedom, and the CPBF, have been strengthened by the fiasco, and the need for a genuinely accountable and democratically controlled public broadcasting service could not have been better demonstrated.

BBC staff picket their studios in protest at the Real Lives ban. The Campaign was asked to address rallies and chapel meetings. Our office was inundated with calls and congratulations on its role.



## TUC applauds strike and condemns adverts

"Let no-one mistake the government's intentions. They wish to privatise the freedom of expression. They certainly wish, as the Real Lives debate and the M15 vetting controversy so clearly demonstrates, to do all in their power to tune out discordant notes of criticism."

The words of Tony Christopher (Gen. Sec., Inland Revenue Staffs Federation) speaking for the TUC General Council in the broadcasting debate at Blackpool.

He was speaking to a lengthy motion that condemned government plans for deregulation of broadcasting and the substitution of advertising revenue for the licence fee system. It also deplored the Real Lives ban and gave full support to journalists and technicians for their industrial action.

Alan Sapper (ACTT Gen Sec) said that introducing adverts would not only "diminish" the BBC, but would adversely affect prospects and jobs at independent broadcasting stations.

Harry Conroy (NUJ Gen Sec) attacked the "politically biased and morally timid" BBC governors for caving in to the government. "Our members have shown they are prepared to fight. They may have to do so again," he said.

● The NUJ and the NCCL are to back journalist Isabel Hilton's legal action against the BBC for unjust blacklisting by the security services.

### WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

Ken Loach's acclaimed documentary on the miners, the police and the media.

Now available on VHS video cassette.  
Hire: £10 Sale: £40 (both plus p&p and VAT)  
For details of this and other titles on both the miners strike and the media contact:

CONCORDE FILMS COUNCIL  
201 Felixstow Road  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9B  
Tel: 0473 715754.



● FROM "CORMAC STRIKES BACK" Resistance Cartoons from the North of Ireland" I.O.I. 1982

# Women combat Mail racism

There was an angry and immediate response to the Daily Mail's Aug 5 front-page story headlined "Scandal of the Brides for Sale", from a broad range of groups and individuals horrified by the Mail's racism.

Reports Nancy Jaeger & Sue Shutter

The story alleged that Asian parents are selling their daughters to strangers seeking UK citizenship, and an editorial put the blame on immigration regulations recently condemned by the European Court of Human Rights for their sex discrimination.

When initial approaches to the Mail for a Right of Reply went unheeded, pickets were placed on both London and Manchester offices of the paper. While the demand for a Right of Reply is pursued with media unions, legal action for criminal libel is being considered, and the Attorney General has been asked to institute criminal proceedings under the Public Order Act 1936 for incitement to racial hatred.

In the North West over 20 organisations have now formed a Working Group Against Daily Mail Racism and has embarked on a public awareness campaign to expose the Mail's history of racist reporting and to encourage public discussion about immigration issues. Multi-lingual leaflets have been produced, and the protest picket is to be sustained.

The North West CPBF has given extensive support to the Working

Group which has taken on the Mail.

Such sensational treatment has a sinister significance at a time of high unemployment and the recent horrific increase in racist attacks, and serves to further undermine the Asian community by deliberate misrepresentation of their life-styles, customs and familial relationships.

The London-based Immigration Widows Campaign is especially critical of the Mail for failing to highlight the real tragedy of arranged marriages which have been thwarted by the application of unjust immigration laws and the refusal of society to recognise the rights of women as individuals.

There is criticism too of errors in the Mail's account of the immigration laws and recent changes in them. IWC also reports that only 23 women indicated to the Home Secretary last year that they were unwilling to take part in the marriages arranged for them by their families.



Women picket the Mail's Manchester offices.

The Working Group Against Daily Mail Racism, can be contacted c/o WFA, Media & Cultural Centre, 9 Lucy Street, Manchester M15 061-8489783 and the Immigration Widows Campaign c/o 131/2 Upper Street, London N1 01-354 0133)

## Media Watching at the TUC

By Tom O'Malley  
Local Radio Workshop

'TUC at break point on engineers' (Guardian 4 Sept)

'The engineers and the TUC: it's a split' (News at Ten 3 Sept)

If you're a teacher, a health worker, a railway guard or unemployed, you could be forgiven for thinking that this year's TUC Congress was not concerned with you. Media coverage of Congress concentrated on internal divisions and splits.

In this the News at Ten and the Guardian were at one in their assessment of what really mattered that week.

Divisions over the NUM motion pledging TUC support for victimised miners; divisions over the Tory cash for Union ballots. And of course it was presented in terms of personalities. Scargill versus Kinnoch, Todd versus Laird, and the 'hapless' ringmaster, Norman Willis.

Differences of opinion and policy did exist, major issues were at stake. But on many important

matters: GCHQ, energy, health, equality and South Africa, Congress was united. But that unanimity was down-graded or ignored by the media.

Some vital issues never surfaced. The Silent Night workers, on strike since June in defence of their jobs, received unanimous support from Congress. Jimmy Knapp, in a key speech to Congress, linked the struggles of the NUM, NUR and the Silent Night workers. Congress' decision to oppose advertising on the BBC and to push for a democratic authority to replace the board of governors, passed almost unheard.

Why did the media emphasise splits and divisions? Was there any underlying motive or was it just 'news'. How did the media construct its image of a Labour movement torn apart by internal dissension?

LOCAL RADIO WORKSHOP monitored media coverage of the TUC Congress for its new monthly publication NEWSREAL. It answers these questions and more, and aims to provide regular analysis of media output for trades unionists and community activists.

# Newsreal

NEWSREAL is a new monthly publication. It is essential reading for all trade unionists and those concerned with the future and standards of press and broadcasting. Trade unions, pressure groups, community organisations, media workers and many others have witnessed the distortion of facts through political interference in the media.

NEWSREAL will examine such distortion through monitoring media coverage of international, national and local issues. It will examine the style, content, sensationalism and selectivity of coverage.

Single copy: 25p Six issues: £1.30. Twelve issues: £2.50 Bulk rates (Ten copies or more): 20p each

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Check your bookshelves to see what you're missing — and order NOW while stocks last. New titles and classics of their kind, stimulating ideas and controversial topics. Make sure you are informed about the media — send off your order TODAY.

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Julie Christie & Julie Walters argue that the media favour the white, male, middle class establishment and that those who do not fit into this mould have to struggle to be heard.

#### MAKING NEWS

Detailed look at media coverage of the 1982 health dispute. Sponsored by NALGO & COHSE, made by Triple Vision for the Campaign.

**IT AIN'T HALF RACIST, MUM**  
Campaign Against Racism in the Media scrutiny of racism of the TV — from current affairs to comedy sitcoms.

All videos are approximately 30 minutes long. £15 to hire and £35 to buy VHS copies. £45 to buy Umatic (all inclusive of VAT).

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**UNION BASHERS** By Eddie Brockwell  
**Gotcha** Sun front page 15p each, 10p for more than twenty.  
**SET OF 7. £1**

### WOMEN

**IMAGES OF INEQUALITY**  
The Portrayal of Women in the Media & Advertising. Stereotyping in the mass media, a TUC Report.

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Women as printers, distributors and publishers. £2.25  
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**MICROCHIPS WITH EVERYTHING** Assesses the "information revolution" £3.50

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# CAMPAIGN SHOWS REAL LIVES ...



The campaign was quick to organise the first open public showings of the banned film, in London and Manchester.

At County Hall, opposite the Houses of Parliament, the film was shown to an audience of several hundred on Aug 7, the day BBC and independent broadcasting staff went on strike.

"It's hard to get journalists to do anything for which they are not being paid," Vincent Hanna (of BBC's Newsnight and the NUJ National Executive) told the meeting.

Yet 63 BBC chapels came out on strike along with many in independent broadcasting. International attention had been focussed on the government's behaviour, with the New York Times calling Mrs Thatcher "Big Sister".

"Freedom of speech is the enemy of terrorism," he said, adding that the government had adopted the moral language of the terrorist. "As a result the BBC has been irreparably damaged."

His BBC colleague, CPBF Nat Cttee member Giles Oakley, and Birmingham MEP Christine Crawley turned the meeting's attention to the significance of yet another ban on coverage of Irish affairs.

Time after time, they said, anything which threatened the bi-partisan orthodoxy on the issue of the struggle for a united Ireland, risked censorship, administered within the BBC on the nod from the State.

"Leon Brittan should have had the guts to ban the film himself," said Ms Crawley. "The NUJ's unique action was the vanguard of what must become a mass movement for the right to express ourselves as we choose."

A similar point was made by BBC producer Gerry Northan, when "Real Lives: the Edge of the Union" was shown to over 300 people in Manchester the following week.

As producer of "The Armalite and the Ballot Box", shown last year, he was well placed to describe some of the difficulties encountered by television workers when dealing with Irish affairs.

Only if broadcasters were allowed to cover events in the Six Counties without fear of censorship would people in Britain understand what was happening there.

The BBC would have resisted the Home Secretary's pressure, he said, adding "If Martin McGuinness is banned today, who is next? Seagill? Benn? Skinner? Heath?"

Janet Whyatt from the NUJ's Broadcasting Industrial Council, gave a detailed account of the background and organization of the industrial action once the ban had been announced.

## £2,000 ADVERT APPEAL

Media unions and others have endorsed this draft Campaign statement on the BBC:

"Eho believes now Government denies that it doesn't interfere with the BBC?"

"Freedom from such interference is essential for public service broadcasting in a pluralist society."

"BBC governors, with one honourable exception, caved in to the Home Secretary and banned 'Real Lives: At the Edge of the Union'."

"Government appointment of the BBC's governing body must cease. A new structure must be created that is more accessible and accountable to the public."

"M5 vetting of BBC personnel and the requirement to sign the Official Secrets Act amount to State licensing of broadcasting workers. Both practices must cease forthwith."

"The acquiescence of senior BBC management to those practices has further weakened the Corporation's credibility at home and abroad. We believe a more participatory management structure is essential."

We need £2,000 by Oct 20 to buy space in a national newspaper. Rush us a cheque if you want your name to appear.

Unless you indicate otherwise, cheques will be returned if the advert doesn't go ahead.

REPORTS — Jack Ellis, Kath Grant & Mike Jempson

PICTURES — Ramesh Sharma



● Christine Crawley MEP "It's always Ireland"

## ... BBC REPLIES

After the banned film was shown to an appreciative audience of several hundred in Haringey on Aug 19, the Council received the following letter from the BBC's Solicitor E.A.C. Bostock.

"It has come to the BBC's attention that a public showing of the BBC's film in the 'Real Lives' series entitled 'At the Edge Of The Union' took place in the Civil Centre, Wood Green on 19th August last. The copyright in this film is vested in the BBC, and as the public showing was unauthorised it constituted an infringement of the BBC's copyright."

"I am instructed to inform you that the BBC reserves its right to take such action as it may deem necessary in respect of this or any other unauthorised showing of the film."

Presumably the BBC is trying to protect the taxpayers' interests by suing ratepayers who took time off from the telly to watch a film they had already paid for.

Will someone now sue the Radio Times under the Trades Description Act?

## PLASTIC BULLETS

### — the deadly truth —

A 45 minute video commissioned by the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets and produced by Independent Irish Television, which tells the stories of families whose relatives have been killed by the use of plastic bullets.

It exposes the hypocrisy of the British Government's "law and order" policy, and the ignorance of British policy in Ireland.

VHS format £30.  
Available from: UCAPB  
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FP31



● Vincent Hanna: "Freedom is freedom however you slice it"



DENIS MACSHANE on the paper that sank a cover-up.

# Le Monde in a spin

France's best known newspaper, *Le Monde*, has narrowly survived a winter of such discontent that its very future came into question. The disappearance of *Le Monde*, arguably the finest paper in the world, would have been a tragedy, not just for the French press, but for anyone who thinks that newspapers should not be the playthings of politically obsessive proprietors.

Two crucial elements saved *Le Monde*. Firstly, the majority of the shares are owned by those who work for the paper — 40% by the journalists, 10% by other unions and 10% by the editor.

Secondly, attempts to turn it into a radical leftist paper were rebuffed and *Le Monde's* dull presentation, but lengthy, accurate reporting and politically wide-ranging analyses, especially its foreign coverage, have been reaffirmed as central to the paper's, continuing existence.

*Le Monde* was founded in 1944 in newly liberated France. The provisional government headed by de Gaulle suppressed all newspapers that had supported Hitler in the 1930's — think what a similar move in Britain would have done to Fleet Street!

Crises in the late 1940's and early 1950's over *Le Monde's* criticism of the French government's policies led to the creation of a unique share-holding structure which gave the journalists the veto over who could be appointed editor.

It is not full democracy — printers and other staff have a limited say and, once appointed, the editor edits.

But the system has given *Le Monde* a sense of internal independence and a willingness to write and challenge accepted ideas in a way that has never been replicated in Britain.

By 1980, *Le Monde's* circulation was 550,000. Its criticism of France's conservative govern-

ments gave way to a confused, partly supportive approach to Mitterrand's socialist administration.

But, as always, the statements of the opposition were given space and *Le Monde's* page 2 was daily given over to three articles on an important current theme, written by outsiders.

Rather, as if the *Guardian* had a daily Agenda page instead of a weekly offering from over-exposed politicians and cronies of the *Guardian* Features Department.

*Le Monde* helped create the space for *Liberation* and *Le Matin* which are radical, intermittently left-wing newspapers. Between them they offer a more pluralistic, politically varied national press than Fleet Street. However their total circulation is under two million.

The real mass-sellers are the provincial dailies which produce up to 80 highly localised editions, bringing the parish pump details of our weekly press into French towns and villages, every morning.

A slight drop in *Le Monde's* circulation and advertising revenue over the past three years produced a major financial crisis which came to a head early in 1985.

With control in their hands, the journalists and printers were able to reject the traditional solution of seeking a friendly press magnate who would exchange a cash injection for control of the paper.

Instead they have opted for a 10 per cent wage cut, the closure of one print works and the election of a new editor.

Whether it works remains to be seen. The announcement by the Mitterrand government that it wants to unleash a chain of 80 private television stations in France will further divert advertising.

The right-wing press boss, Robert Hersant, is moving hard into television.

Ironically, what could save *Le Monde* would be the return of right-wing government in France, in which case *Le Monde* could again become the platform for alternative policies and opposition.

On the other hand it could lurch to another crisis and the only way of saving jobs would be to accept take-over by a proprietor.

*Le Monde's* unique, precious form of journalists' control has made it a great newspaper. It may not be enough to preserve its independence if the money is not coming in.

## ICELAND

# Coming in from the cold?

Iceland's parliament has voted to remove the 55-year monopoly enjoyed by the State Broadcasting Service (SBS), from Jan 1 next year.

A government-appointed committee will supervise private sector licence bids, in a move which is seen, in part, as a response to the impact of satellite broadcasting.

Writing in the English-language monthly *News from Iceland*, tv journalist Einar Sigurdsson says that SBS has "run its services very much on the lines of public service, and cultural enlightenment, political consensus and legally-enforced neutrality." But a Leader in the same journal claims that there have been allegations of left-wing bias at SBS.

### Ratings war

Sigurdsson forges a ratings war as new stations compete for audiences and advertising revenue. He predicts the arrival of several private radio stations, but fewer television companies given the costs and Iceland's estimated 200,000 viewers and listeners.

The conservative national daily *Morgunblaðið* is thought to be front-runner for a tv licence, in association with a major publishing house and Reykjavik's local authority.

Another partner in the venture may be Iceland's Co-op movement Samband, but it may decide instead to link up with the trades union movement in a separate bid.

The licensing authority will arbitrate should people feel they are unfairly treated by a private broadcaster, and its decision will be binding on both parties.

Meanwhile women journalists in Iceland are to set up their own version of the NUJ's Equality Council. They are to campaign for an end to sexism in the media, improved maternity leave and the provision of childcare facilities.

And there are suggestions that *Nútíminn*, (Modern Times) the daily paper of the Progressive Party, may be in trouble.

Economy measures, including staff cuts and the loss of the Monday edition, followed a print workers' strike a year ago.

More recently the Editor and several staff members resigned in response to dissatisfaction over management policies.

# FREE PRESS

## READERSHIP SURVEY

It is two years since our last Readership Survey, the Campaign has grown, and there have been a lot of changes in FREE PRESS, including the introduction of a Supplement and advertising, so its time to take a fresh look at what you think of YOUR journal.

Its a bit of a bind, but please give up a few minutes to fill in this form and send it to the CPBF Office, 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG.

And while you're at it, why not take the opportunity to order those Campaign publications you've always meant to buy, on the form overleaf.

Your co-operation will greatly assist the Campaign, and your replies will be treated confidentially. Thanking you in advance.

Mike Jempson  
Editor, FREE PRESS

4. (Please tick what you own)

Home computer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Word processor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electr(on)ic typewriter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manual typewriter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stereo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video cassette recorder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tape cassette recorder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camera	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your own "dark room"	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motor bike	<input type="checkbox"/>
Push bike	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin-tub	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automatic washer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dish washer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tumble dryer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blender/food processor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colour TV	<input type="checkbox"/>
B&W TV	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fridge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fridge-freezer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Answer machine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beeper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cordless phone	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. a. Which daily paper/s do you buy?

.....

b. Which Sunday paper/s do you buy?

.....

c. Which weekly papers/magazines do you buy regularly?

.....

d. Which magazines do you subscribe to?

.....

e. Please give an order of preference to your leisure pursuits

Cinema	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classical Music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock/Pop Music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jazz/Folk Music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eating out	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Pub/club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dancing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

f. On average how often do you (indicate per week/month/year)

Buy records/tapes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buy books	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hire videos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go abroad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eat out	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 1. FREE PRESS contents analysis

a.	Do you read them?			How do you rate them?		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Useful	Interesting	Irrelevant
News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behind the News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watching TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right of Reply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campaign Dairy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amnesty Column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CPOI Column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NCCL Column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"No Comment" Supplements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2. a. Your age

Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/>
16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
21-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
31-35	<input type="checkbox"/>
36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
41-45	<input type="checkbox"/>
46-55	<input type="checkbox"/>
56-60	<input type="checkbox"/>
61-65	<input type="checkbox"/>
66-70	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over 70	<input type="checkbox"/>

### b. Your home

Owner occupier ☐

Council tenant ☐

Private tenant ☐

Housing assoc tenant ☐

Other (please specify) ☐

### c. Do you

Live alone ☐

With a partner ☐

Communally ☐

### d. How many children do you have aged under 18?

None / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / more

### 3. a. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

TV	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 16 o'clock	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 19 o'clock	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 1 local news	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 2 Newsnight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breakfast Time	<input type="checkbox"/>
ITV News at 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
ITV News at 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weekend World	<input type="checkbox"/>
TV am	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC World at One	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC Today Prog.	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC World Tonight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsbeat	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC World Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### b. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

TV	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
ITV	<input type="checkbox"/>
Channel 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
World Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Radio (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### b. Do you like the new FP Format? Yes ☐ No ☐

### c. What other "guest" columns would you like to see?

### d.

### e. What subjects would you like future Supplements to cover?

### f. What issues do you think the Campaign should concentrate on?

### g. Do you think FP should be: Bigger (more pages) ☐ Smaller ☐ Monthly ☐ Bi-monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐

### h. How many people read your copy? 1/2/3/4/5/6/more.

### i. How many new members have you recruited this year.

### j. Annual earnings

### k. How many adults children are dependent on your income?

### l. Which political party do you belong to?

### m. If you belong to a trade union, please say which one.

### n. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### o. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### p. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### q. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### r. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### s. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### t. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### u. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### v. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### w. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### x. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### y. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### z. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### aa. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### ab. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ac. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### ad. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### ae. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### af. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### ag. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### ah. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ai. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### aj. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### ak. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### al. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### am. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### an. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ao. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### ap. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### aq. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ar. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### as. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### at. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### au. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### av. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### aw. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ax. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### ay. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### az. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ba. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bb. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bc. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bd. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### be. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bf. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bg. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bh. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bi. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bj. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bk. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bl. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bm. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bn. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bo. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bp. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bq. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### br. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bs. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bt. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bu. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bv. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### bv. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bw. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### bx. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### by. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### bz. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ca. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### cb. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### cc. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### cd. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### ce. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### cd. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ce. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### cf. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### cd. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ce. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### cf. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### cd. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ce. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

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### cd. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ce. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)

### cf. Please put these news programmes in YOUR order of preference

### cd. What are your favorite programmes? (Please specify station)

### ce. On average, how many hours per day do you watch (listen to)



## Coming soon ...

The CPBF London Womens's Group which produced this Supplement has regular open meetings.

Three current activities include

- "In Whose Image:" — conference on media sexism on 15th December. See below
- The Code of Conduct on Sexism booklet, with explanatory text, will be published to coincide with the conference. Meetings are being arranged with media unions to discuss its implementation.
- Video on media sexism — possible production next year either independently or through BBC's Open Space.

For more details contact Lesley Wood at the Campaign Office, 01 437 0189

The North West CPBF based in Manchester also has a Women's Group.

In Nov Jill Tweedie is guest speaker at a NW CPBF meeting about whether feminists can be funny.

For details contact Nancy Jaeger on 061-832-6991

FREE PRESS is keen to hear your response to our new Supplement series. The next is on Media Racism, followed by the Media and the Peace Movement. Ideas for other Supplement topics are welcomed.



## Seen from a typical fashion magazine —

A typical scene from a fashion page — women having fun together, being affectionate. Of course it's not for real. But for those who didn't know women do do this all the time. Not that you'd notice, from the media. Women's friendships, like most things women do without men, are invisible. Competition between women for men's favour — now, that's newsworthy. Unless they're LESBIANS. The media has a specially nasty brew of scorn and outrage reserved for them. Of course fashion models couldn't be lesbians. Could they?

## .. AT LAST! The conference women in the CPBF have been waiting for: IN WHOSE IMAGE? Media Sexism Past and ... Future

The UN Decade for Women held high hopes for change in the media.

A range of women speakers, media workers, trades unionists and campaigners will lead discussion and debate on what has changed in the past decade, and how we can push more effectively for change in the future.

Book the date in your diary now!

Sunday 15th December 1985, at County Hall, London SE1. (Wheelchair accessible). Speakers include Beverly Anderson, Diane Abbott, Anna Coote & Margaret Gallagher

Fill in the application form included with this Free Press. Women only.

## HAVE YOU READ ALL THE SCANDAL ABOUT THE GLC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE?

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FREE TO ALL WHO LIVE OR WORK IN LONDON.



## WE ARE NOT OPPRESSED



GEORGINA ASHWORTH, co-editor of *The Invisible Decade: UK Women and the UN Decade (Gower 1985)*, tells of the Thatcher Government's response to UN initiatives to challenge media sexism.

In 1975, recognising the importance of the media in the formation of attitudes and control of social change, the United Nations included some strong and radical recommendations in the World Plan of Action for the ensuing Decade of Women (1976-85).

These included nationwide programmes to inform the male public that women have rights — not least to define what is newsworthy to them and to determine their own images.

Intra- and inter-medium Decade task forces, on which women predominated, should have been established, and these would certainly have revealed needs, structures and attitudes at present happily ignored.

To mark the Decade's completion this year, the UN issued a questionnaire to monitor what countries had done to implement the plan overall. The Media Section consisted of five pages of detailed questions asking at what levels of decision-making women are to be found in broadcasting, television, mass circulation newspapers, and new technological communications systems — and what encouragement is being given to small feminist presses.

Her Majesty's Government replied in four sentences, thus hiding its adamant determination to ignore the Decade, and all

state obligations to female citizens, with a coating of sanctimony which is of considerable interest, given the now-recognised interference in the BBC:

"In the United Kingdom, radio and television broadcasting is undertaken by two public service authorities. They are subject to broad requirements — to maintain due impartiality and to observe acceptable standards of taste and decency. Otherwise they are independent of Government and are themselves responsible for editorial and administrative decisions.

"Similarly, the Government does not control, nor in a free society would it wish to control, the activities of independent publishers of books and periodicals.

"It is neither possible nor appropriate for the United Kingdom Government to answer the questions in this section."

Britain's media are now reckoned to be among the worst on questions womanly. There are more news items, features, and letters on women's issues daily in the Times of India than the Times of London, while the word "feminist" is used freely in the Caribbean, and not as a term of abuse.

The BBC and ITN were the only major television news teams not present at the final World Conference of the Decade for Women held in Nairobi — though they did go the the Helsinki Agreement Decade celebrations because Russia-bashing is news, solutions to women-bashing are not.

Before the World Conference, the Norwegian Government hosted a three-day seminar for the Scandinavian press on the objectives of the Decade — and have sponsored a Europe-wide comparative study of the presentation of the Conference events.

This simple commitment helped change the agenda of political priorities which, officially or unofficially, is set by the government of the day and followed blindly by the lobby journalists and television crews.

If women are not on that agenda in Britain, despite all the external stimuli, it is because the Government wants to keep us off.



Photomontage Cath Tate

## Breaking Free ...

A FREE PRESS SUPPLEMENT ON Sexism in the Media



# Media War on Peace Women

Press interest in the Greenham Women's Peace Camp is at an all-time low. The popular press has fallen silent after two years of condemnation and insults.

The rise and fall of Greenham in the media is a story of gross press brutality. Its timing reflects manipulation from those dark corners where media and government meet.

For the Camp's first year there was little press interest. However in November 1982 twenty-three women went to prison and the Camp made front page headlines.

Three weeks later 35,000 women turned up to the first mass protest. The popular papers tried to denounce the protest but their carping text was belied by the glorious pictures of women arm-in-arm for miles on end.

As 1983 wore on a deeply spiteful campaign against the Camp got underway. It was rumoured that Michael Heseltine had visited Fleet Street to ask for co-operation in denying Greenham women what Thatcher now terms "the oxygen of publicity". Barely a week passed without a denunciation: "Peace Camp Baby Found Starving" (Standard), "Red Mole Shock at Greenham" (Express).

Public controversy around Cruise was growing fast with the missiles due in November. The

Peace Camp responded on 28 Oct when 2000 women removed nearly two miles of fence. That received little publicity.

Some sections of the media then sank to an all-time low. On November 7 1983, two days before Greenham Women in New York began their law-suit against Reagan, the Sun printed a full-page article "I Meet the Greenham Man-Haters".

The women were portrayed as barely human: their singing was "a weird wailing noise that rips the night air. Their eyes are closed and their bodies rock as they shriek out their lament". It was also disclosed, "Greenham is a lesbian community".

The Mail On Sunday followed this up on Nov 20 with a contradictory article "Sharp Tactics Behind those Woolly Hats: The Greenham Common action is one of the most sophisticated Agit-Prop operations ever seen before in Britain."

These twin themes of lesbian animality and manipulative political skill were rung out dozens of times in the gutter press.

During 1984 the Sun repeatedly printed short paragraphs stating that the Camp had now ended. The Camp was not ended but is flourishing. It clearly understands that much reporting reflects the attitude if not the express directions of this government. The Camp now lives well without publicity.

By Jane Hickman, a solicitor who has worked with Greenham Women



## Ageism in the Media: an Elder speaks out

Next time you visit your local newsagent take a glance at the array of magazine covers staring at you. Can you spot the deliberate mistake?

I did. Only one older person — a man — Mitterand.

The media in North America have woken up to the fact that millions of people are over retirement age and have begun to construct very different images of older people than our media peddle.

Not for them the negative stereotypes featured so strongly in the British press: senile,

old-fashioned, rigid granny; patronised victim or ridiculed mother-in-law.

They are highlighting the "with-it" healthy active elders, not as comic freaks but as a relevant part of society.

I use the term "elders" advisedly, as the Canadians do, borrowing it from the native American Indians, to imply qualities of wisdom and leadership. How unlike the recent Canned Foods Advisory Service image: "The old woman leaned forward. Her gnarled finger stabbed at the wooden top ... 'Beware, my child, of food that comes out of a tin!' ... The young housewife tried to suppress her smile. She knew there were many old wives' tales about canned food."

ZELDA CURTIS, founder of North London Older Women's Group.

## BLACK WOMEN IN BRITAIN — The Heart of the Race —

This inspiring and very readable book is the first to deal comprehensively with the situation of black women in Britain. It combines historical fact and uncompromising political analysis with personal accounts of the lives and experiences of individual women — each confirming and reinforcing the other.

One of the chapters is about culture, media and entertainment. A discussion of the stereotyping of black women in white culture and media — its causes, characteristics and effects — is interspersed with accounts, which describe black women's reclaiming of their rich and varied cultural traditions.

Thus although media treatment of black women, in all its negative aspects, is exposed, black women are not portrayed as passive victims by the book, but rather as people who are proudly proclaiming their own values and describing their now reality in their own way.

THE HEART OF THE RACE: Black Women's Lives in Britain. By Beverly Bryan, Stella Dadzie and Suzanne Scarfe. Virago, £4.50.



## M.E.N. ONLY: What the Manchester Evening News really stands for

In February this year the North West CPBF Women's Group decided to undertake a two-week monitoring project on the Manchester Evening News, a major local paper.

Six particular strands of sexist reportage were evident.

- 'Cor get a load of that' — non-stories with sexy words and titillating innuendo;
- 'That's no woman, that's my wife' — women defined in relationship to men or family;
- 'Let's patronise women's achievement';
- 'She asked for it' — offensive or prurient coverage of sexual violence;
- 'Showbiz';
- and problem page advice.

We also reconstructed a story so that it was still lively and newsy but did not mock the women described.

Our report has had quite an impact locally, with women from several different groups giving their support. Correspondence with the paper's Editor Michael Unger provided more evidence of the paper's sexist approach. "You make sweeping allegations that are

based on emotional generalisations not supported by fact —"

On race: "I don't think papers should make colour an issue — to spotlight the activities of coloured women is both unethical and unnecessary — to pin point their colour as a hurdle is both divisive and prejudicial" (sic).

On rape: "We would be breaking the law to promote the assumption that women are only attacked for sexual motives" (sic).

"I make no apology for using 'girlie' pictures — obviously they are used to brighten up the pages — it is difficult to follow the argument that they degrade and demean women."

We have made contact with some sympathetic journalists and hope to involve the NUJ's Campaign for Real People in our follow-up work, keeping the pressure on the M.E.N. to take women's objections seriously.

By Nancy Jaeger  
N-W CPBF Organiser

Copies of the report are available from NWCPBF, 136, Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN.

## BRAZIL

Cinema, Sex & the feminists

By JULIENNE DICKEY

In June the IBA banned a Channel 4 programme about Brazilian film-makers, who, at a time of strict state censorship of political material, disseminated left-wing messages through permissible soft-core pornography. The programme was banned on the grounds of sexually explicit material in clips from the films themselves.

## TAKING THE NUJ TO TASK

One woman's experience

Just over two years ago I made a complaint against a journalist under the NUJ Code of Conduct. He was found guilty and reprimanded. Then the Reprimand was withdrawn after his appeal.

My complaint was in response to a Sun article headlined "What's the sexiest bit of a woman" which was accompanied by a photograph of a woman in a bikini carved up like a lump of meat with captions such as: "Mouth — a real cuddly kissing doll ... FEET — is she such a mess?"

The text portrayed women as nagging, vain, desperate for a man. Everything women are supposed to feel about themselves was related to men. "Perhaps you feel it is your beautiful eyes that turn men on. Or that your sensational legs grab the wolf whistles."

Although the hearings were a bit of an ordeal by the end of the process I felt powerful as a working-class woman, and stronger in my political position on sexuality.

On a wider political level I'm not sure if anything has been achieved.

Journalists aren't exactly quaking in their shoes at the thought of a complaint being taken out against them. Subs and photographers can get away with anything — chapels feel they are grassing on their mates if you ask for names.

I can't see the new Ethics Council, being effective unless the penalties are harsh.

For example, after my complaint Bernard Levin wrote an article in The Times attacking the NUJ generally and me in particular: "... there may indeed be a woman so priggish, stupid, humourless and hysterical that she did experience what she claims to have felt ..." A complaint was subsequently taken out by Michael Ann Mullen, and Levin was reprimanded.

His reponse was to write two further articles in The Times attacking the NUJ, myself and Michael Ann Mullen.

send-ups of the heterosexual act, in which women were not disempowered.

This highlights the difference between a feminist position and a Mary Whitehouse one: feminists are not generally opposed to sexually-explicit material as such, but to pornography's demeaning and often sadistic portrayal of women which reinforces the power imbalance in society. We argue that society will not be free of material which is offensive and degrading to women until sexism has been eliminated — a view that is hardly compatible with Mary Whitehouse's vision of a return to Victorian "family virtues".

Until then, most feminists would argue for some form of censorship. Women have a right to live in a world free of the kind of images which offend them, and which contribute to sexual objectification and harassment. We can also argue that sexist imagery and pornography aid and abet the criminal denial of women's rightful share of the world's wealth, culture and power — and thus should be subject to appropriate legislation.

Feminists nevertheless feel uneasy about censorship — particularly under the present government, whose notions as to what is "unfit" hardly coincide with ours. The dilemma has never been satisfactorily resolved, and much more debate is needed.

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EVERYWOMAN, 34A Islington Green, London N1 8DU.



A Cath Jackson illustration from NALGO's pack on challenging discrimination against lesbians and gay men, one of the more encouraging signs that unions are beginning to take such issues seriously.