

# YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

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## WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

A demand that has come up a number of times in the Women's Movements of different countries, is that of wages for housework. The argument is that the world should recognise how essential domestic labour is, and the women should get paid for their labour as factory and shop workers are. The debate is presently very strong among black women in America.

The opposing feminist argument is that being paid for housework merely reinforces the idea that housework is 'women's work' and serves to keep women in the home. Both housework and 'productive' work in factories should be equally shared between women and men.

## CHILD-CARE SLIDE TAPE SHOW

About 30 groupings of women in Durban have already watched "Where are Working Women's Children". People have talked a lot about, and some have started doing something in their area. Getting together has been nice.



## VERSES FROM THE SONG 'MAINTENANCE ENGINEER'

*So the truth began to dawn then how I keep him fit and trim  
So the boss can make a nice fat profit out of me and him,  
And as a solid union man he got in quite a rage  
To think that we're both working hard and getting one man's wage,  
I said 'And what about the part-time packing job I do?  
That's three men that I work for, love, my boss, your boss, and you!'*

*He looked a little sheepish and he said 'As from today,  
The lads and me will see what we can do on equal pay,  
Would you like a housewives' union? Do you think you should be paid  
As a cook and as a cleaner, as a nurse and as a maid?'  
I said 'Don't jump the gun, love, if you did your share at home,  
Perhaps I'd have some time to fight some battles of my own!'*

## BRIDE BURNING IN INDIA

For the first time in 39 years two people have been sentenced to hang for 'bride burning' in India. Bride burning is a cruel action by in-laws who pour oil and set alight new brides who have supposedly not brought enough dowry with them.



## TURFLOOP WOMEN STUDENTS FIGHT BACK

Women at Turfloop University organised themselves to fight back against continual rapes and harrasment by men, especially male students. In one case, after an attempted rape, the rapist was beaten up by the women and handed over to the police. A demonstration was organised to march to the men's hostel to confront the issue to which men retaliated by stone-throwing. After difficulties a student meeting resolved to try and bury the differences between men and women students, and especially get rid of rapists.

# YESTERDAY, TODAY

## SARMCOL WORKERS' CO-OPERATIVE



1000 workers from Sarmcol in Howick were dismissed in May 1985 whilst on strike for union recognition. The case is still to come to court. These workers have gone on to set up a T-shirt printing co-op. They printed the ONE FEDERATION - ONE COUNTRY COSATU Rally T-Shirts.

**THE WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
INVITES YOU TO

**AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PICNIC.**

**9 MARCH 1986**

A day for women to celebrate and enjoy together.

Dear Sisters, International Women's Day is a day which women all over the world observe as a day of solidarity between all women who want a better world.

THE WOMEN'S CENTRE is inviting all women to join together for a day of fun and participation, to celebrate

**International Women's Day**

We are holding a picnic for all women on **SUNDAY 9 MARCH** at **ALBERT PARK** from **10.30 am - 4 p.m.**

Life-in-the-flesh will be there to care for and entertain your children. Please let us know if they are coming, how many, and how old.

The picnic costs R2 each, which gets you a lunch and drink, and a special picnic badge and peak. Children are free.

Group payment is easier - so contact us early and we will deliver your badges & peaks.

Would your organisation like to have a stall?

...to display your work, sell things, or encourage women to come and talk to you about your women's group or union.

If so, we'll provide a table and chairs, and an umbrella if you don't have one. You bring a table-cloth, your display, and your group's banner if you have one.

Let us know if you are happy for you, and advertise it over the local speaker.

All enquiries phone 3011624

**ROUGH AGENDA**

- 10.30-11.30 a.m.: arriving, collecting badges & peaks. Looking at stalls.
- 11.30-12.30 a.m.: Welcome Plays, dances, songs, poetry from women all round Durban.
- 12.30-1.00 p.m.: games for all.
- 1.00-2.00 p.m.: Lunch in a bunch - whole loaf bunny to a group.
- 2.00-2.30 p.m.: Organisations telling us what exists for women in Dbn.
- 2.30-3.00 pm: more games.
- 3.00-3.30 p.m.: Tea and cakes on sale at the stalls.
- 3.30-4.00 p.m.: Dancing & Farewells.

★ Phone ★ Jane or Dudu ★  
at 3011624 for more ★  
★ details See you there! ★

# ♀ TOMORROW, CONTINUED....

**WHERE ARE WORKING WOMEN'S CHILDREN?**

A new slide-show about child-care that is available from THE WOMEN'S CENTRE

PHONE US AT 3011624 AND ARRANGE FOR US TO COME AND SHOW IT TO YOU - OR BORROW IT



## TRADE UNION UNITY

Some workers at the COSATU Rally in November. COSATU is the new union body made up of 39 unions. It has 450 000 members. It is hoped that greater unity will bring greater strength.



## TOXIC SOAP WASHED WHITER

Beauty soaps with dangerous amounts of mercury in them were sold to black women in London to lighten their skins. The soap is illegal in Britain, but allowed for export to Nigeria and other African countries. A doctor explained that mercury in any cosmetics is very dangerous because it can cause birth deformities, liver failure and brain damage.

## HAVE YOU GOT SOME NEWS TO SHARE?

Do you have news to tell us? A women's something to share or celebrate?

A disagreement or encouragement about something you've read in SPEAK?

Write to us about it!

Write to:

SPEAK Collective  
16 Ecumenical Centre  
20 St Andrew's Street  
Durban  
4001  
or phone 3011624



## BLUEBELLS SOCCER CLUB

Bluebells Soccer Club has started an important campaign against sexism in sport. They have written to all the various sporting bodies and clubs complaining about the whole issue of beauty queens - women who are paraded around the football fields on motor car bonnets as though they are pretty toys for men. The letters Bluebells have received in response have ranged from strong support, to threats of suing.

## WE WISH 1986 IS GOING TO BE A GOOD YEAR

With the State of Emergency in its 30th week, the value of the rand dropping, children being forced to school at gun-point, detentions and deaths at the hands of the SAP and SADF, bombs, inflation rate so high, and anger and bitterness between all people rising rapidly - can 1986 possibly be a good year?! Perhaps we can rather hope for a year in which our efforts towards the future have a positive effect. ●