

A lot of people didn't like BLOT—at all. Here we've printed some of what people have said—teachers, papers and school kids, about the last issue.

National Union of School Students
302 Pentonville Road London N1

NUSS

Blot
yesterday the row over schoolkids' paper full of four-letter words. The National Union of Teachers complained to Education Secretary Shirley Williams about the paper, called Blot. And the National Union of Teachers refused to publish it. The NUT said it was a "near pornographic" magazine published by the National Union of School Students.

Blot
Our executive are very disturbed by the contents of this magazine. The NUT spokesperson commented that the NUT does not recognise the NUSS as a body, but we felt that Ms Williams in particular should be aware of the sort of things being distributed to children.

One head teacher, it is believed, has already referred Blot to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Dear Sir,
I am writing on behalf of a large number of pupils and teachers at this school to express dismay at the fact that your organisation has sponsored the NUSS magazine Blot. In our opinion, this is a thoroughly pernicious document, preaching values which run totally counter to all that we are trying to achieve here. The pupils consider it patronising and pathetic and the abysmal English of the publication. You certainly are not doing Education a service by your support.

If you've got any comments about the paper, good or bad then write to us and send them in. And if you've got any articles or you want to get involved in producing the mag, then give us a ring.

Dear Mindless Morons,

I am a sixth form student and I think that your magazine is totally useless and pathetic. What do you think you're playing at anyway? Do you want to turn this country into a load of stupid, ignorant people like you? I think that pornography should be banned but what you're doing is far worse. You are encouraging young children to swear, smoke and have sex.

I am disgusted to think that anyone would even consider writing such rubbish, let alone having it printed. Young kids actually listen to this just because it's in print. Surely there's enough violence in the country without people like you asking for more.

I don't know whether or not your porn was being sold to kids of 12, 13 or 14 but if it was you should be locked up. If you must write this trash why not learn to spell first?

When you do grow up maybe you'll look back and remember the rubbish and corruption you've been writing. Anyway I've wasted enough of my time and energy on you.

Yours disgustingly,
Angela Glanvill.

PS. I hope that you'll print this.

TEACHERS LAST 4-LETTER

Pupils present a forthright view of school life

By Our Education Correspondent

Under 16, school strikes, truancy and masturbation are covered in a new magazine published by the National Union of School Students with the help of the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Ten thousand copies of the 16-page magazine, Blot, have been sent to the union's branches in schools throughout Britain. It will be on sale at a new issue each term.

John Munford, aged 16, the president of the NUSS, said yesterday: "We had originally thought of making it much more respectable. But we wanted to deal with the issues school students are concerned about. The union wants to be free to express our views."

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS has contacted several leading politicians, including Education Minister Shirley Williams, expressing concern about a 'near pornographic' magazine published by the National Union of School Students.

Blot, which appeared in September with the help of a £1,600 grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation, includes articles written by NUSS members on contraception, abortion, caning and truancy.

Mr. Munford, of Harlow, Essex, said: "The paper used the language students use because they wrote the articles."

Mr. Peter Brinsford, of the United Kingdom Teachers' Union, said: "The magazine is a bad-naughty thing to do; it's as childish as blowing your nose. However, it isn't the slightest bit abnormal if you don't."

Another article, on sexual discrimination in schools, reminds pupils that maps of the world are the most accurate of any other maps. It says: "The world is not a bad-naughty thing to do; it's as childish as blowing your nose. However, it isn't the slightest bit abnormal if you don't."

Mr. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The magazine is a bad-naughty thing to do; it's as childish as blowing your nose. However, it isn't the slightest bit abnormal if you don't."

Sex shock in school magazine

A SHOCK magazine containing controversial sex articles will go on sale today at hundreds of schools.

The 5p magazine, called Blot, discusses such things as masturbation, contraception and political education. Young girls are warned to take precautions against having sex—unless they deliberately want to face an irate father.

The magazine is being produced by the National Union of School Students.

Pupils' union president John Munford, 16, said: "We aren't prepared to tone it down."

NUSS
PAPER
NO. 2

INSIDE
BULLYING
LABORATION
gays
and lots of swearwords

National School Union of Students

NUSS.....DATA.....NUSS.....DATA.....

STARTED.....MAY 1972.....
AIM.....HELP SCHOOL STUDENTS TO
CHANGE THEIR SCHOOLS.....
RUN BY.....SCHOOL STUDENTS PLUS
TWO FULLTIMERS WHO'VE JUST LEFT
SCHOOL.....
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP.....10,000.....

Fill in this form if you
want to join NUSS and
post it to the address
below, with 30p to join
and for postage costs. You'll
be sent a membership
card and put in touch
with other NUSS'ers if
they're near you. Or
join through people at
your school who sold
you this BLOT.

Name
Address
Skool
date of birth

---X--- post to: ---X---

302 Pentonville Rd
LONDON N1

BLOT should tell you what NUSS is about - changing schools and making them better places for everyone to go to. BLOT is written by school kids for them so it's written in the language we use. If you like it or hate it, send in what you think to NUSS and we'll print it - we're not scared of letting people express what they feel. In the last issue, we said:"..... Go into any playground and listen- what you'll hear is what it's in this paper. This paper is about school, about being taught, about being young. We hope you'll like it -we're sorry if you don't. The school students who've written this paper have written about their own experiences - their own fears and hopes. The aim of the mag is to tell it how it is and change it..." That's still true now, no matter what they say.

Any school student can join NUSS. BUT what if you're not at school (or you're a teacher at one) and you want to help NUSS? Join as an associate member, it costs £1.50 and for that you get newsletters once in a while and copies of BLOT when it comes out each term. Associate membership lasts till the end of the school year so the sooner you join, the better value you'll get for your money. So send £1.50 - more if you can afford it - we're desperately short of cash - with your name and address to NUSS, 302 Pentonville Road LONDON N1. Our phone number's (01) 278 3291 - ask for NUSS.

everyone in BLOT is
NUSS policy - OK?

6 FORM SPOT

J.P. BUTTERWORTH'S NICE
SPOT FOR 6TH FORMERS

In response to complaints concerning the content of BLOT, from you cultured young adults at the higher end of our education system, I have been asked to contribute a little article that you will all be able to relate to.

'A Problem of Our Times'

Lately, society has become threatened by a small but influential group of irresponsible individuals who show not the slightest shred of common decency or respect for the law. These people are costing the taxpayer millions of pounds as well as causing great danger to life and limb.

I refer, of course, to vampires. It is a little known fact that over 2% of the population are practising adult vampires. They are rarely seen in public, as they spend their days lurking in coffins located in the grounds of left-wing organisations.

However, they are making our streets dangerous to walk at night, sinking their fangs into the necks of innocent British citizens - people like you and me. It is no use reasoning with vampires, as they have completely different cultural backgrounds and refuse to fit in with the British way of life. They can't even speak the language properly, as one can tell by reading the vampire magazine, Bloodstain, which is written in an appallingly tasteless style.

Now I am no prude, and one accepts that, in moderation, vampirism can be a perfectly healthy way of diverting impulses which can result in unnatural sexual desires. But there comes a point when the people of this nation have got to say: enough is enough. Bloodsucking has gone too far, and the Government should legislate against it.

In the meantime, it is the duty of every loyal Briton to take up his crucifix and wooden stake, and arm himself against this growing threat to our normal way of life.

oOo

never mind the b

What about the R.E.?

Question: What's the only subject that schools have to teach, by law?

Answer: Religious Education! Yes, you too can be a vicar when you leave school. But for those of us who don't want to join the 'God Squad' RE's useless.

Where's the 'brotherly love' or forgiveness in being caned, wearing uniform or being made to sing silly hymns? If Jesus came to school and turned the school milk into wine, he'd be suspended.

Supporters of forced RE say that it encourages "moral" behaviour, makes us polite, generous, kind, willing worshippers. It doesn't seem to have worked very well on the last generation or any other.

Where can religion help when you're doing homework or getting a detention. Or is it just another O level or CSE?

RE should be there for everyone who wants to take it and should also teach about other religions like Rasta and Buddha.

But if schools want to make us more 'Christian' - they ought to 'practise what they preach' and start treating us better. Maybe if we had more say in the way that we're taught and heads stopped trying to be like Tingods, RE might make more sense.

by Don Rubenstein.

NUSS NEWS...

4

Hi ~~Harry~~ ~~Grove~~ (we've had to censor it for legal reasons) is a really terrible school. The head used to be a person called ~~Rhodes~~ ~~Boyd~~ - he's now an extreme right wing MP calling for flogging to be brought back, an end to the little of the welfare state we've got left, etc. Anyway, the head now is a bloke called ~~Nuss~~ ~~Boyd~~.

~~Nuss~~ ~~Boyd~~ believes in ultra strict discipline, school uniform and using the cane at every available opportunity. Other schools in the area haven't got such terrible discipline but are very bad for O level/CSE results so parents approve of ~~Hi~~ ~~Harry~~ ~~Grove~~ because they think that the discipline works. The kids - only boys actually - the school's not even mixed, feel differently about things. NUSS has leafletted ~~Hi~~ ~~Harry~~ ~~Grove~~ for years saying that the rules on corporal punishment were being broken all the time and that the boys could stop the rule breaking if they got in touch with NUSS, but they were always too frightened of what'd happen to them ~~if they~~ do anything. But that's changed now. And so ~~Nuss~~ ~~Boyd~~ is getting very worried. The boys are campaigning to get rid of ties - they went in for one day not wearing them. ~~Nuss~~ ~~Boyd~~ is having all sorts of meetings with parents and policemen to try to stop BLOT being sold. But he's not going to stop us or the kids at the school getting their rights:

The school kids united will never be defeated!

Hi ~~Harry~~ ~~Grove~~ School
Hi ~~Harry~~ ~~New~~ Park
London N.5.

Headmaster: ~~L. Nuss~~ ~~Boyd~~, B.A.
Telephone: ~~2~~ ~~4~~ ~~7~~ ~~1~~ ~~1~~ ~~1~~

9th January, 1979.

Dear Parents,

As many of you already know, there has been a recent outbreak of activity on the part of the National Union of School Students in relation to this school. This has included the distribution outside the school by people unconnected with us of leaflets and a publication called "Blot", which many parents and pupils have found extremely offensive and objectionable.

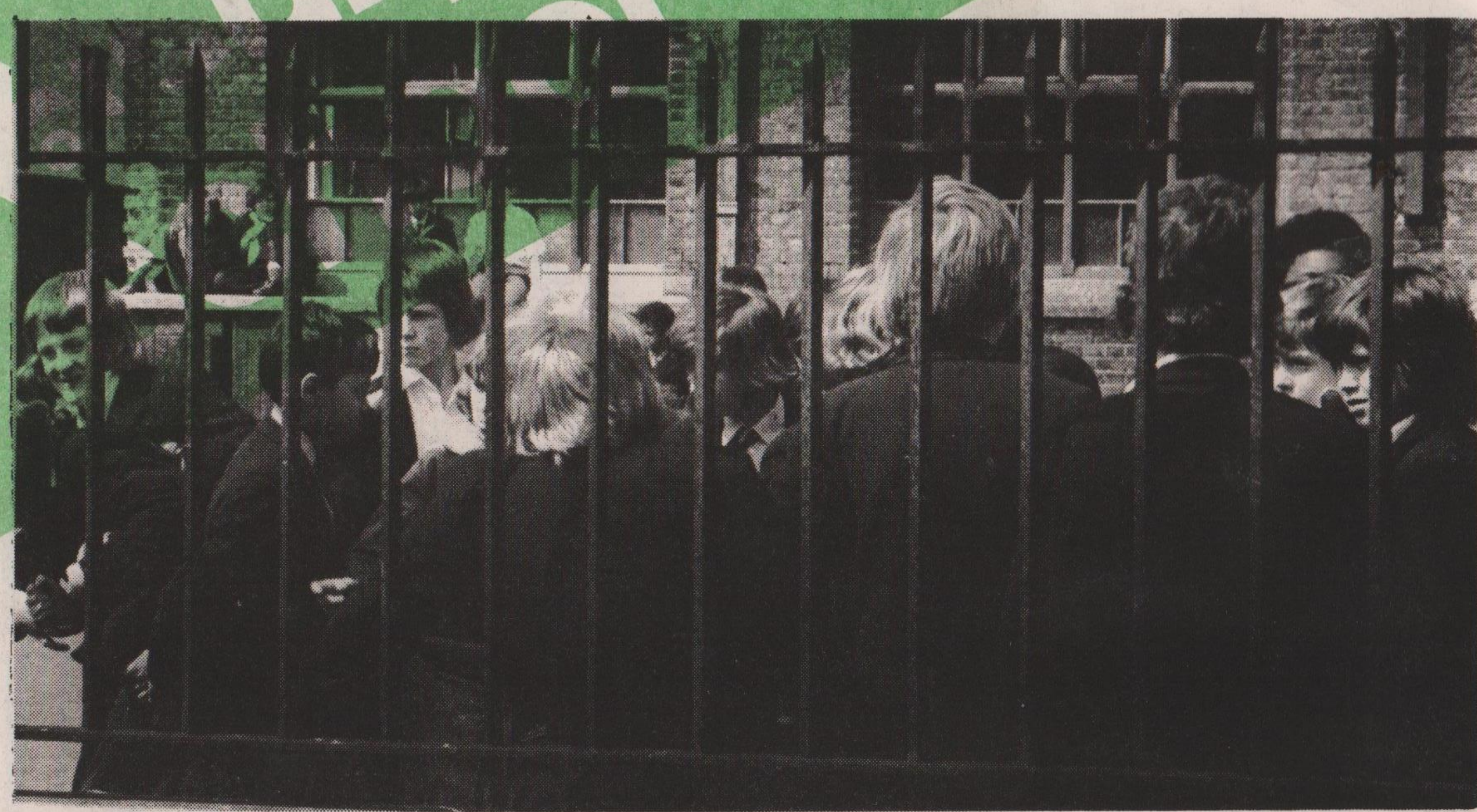
A number of parents have asked if we may discuss this, and I am therefore inviting you to a meeting in the ~~school~~ at 7 p.m. on Thursday, ~~10~~ ~~11~~ January.

I feel it is most important that parents and staff should be of one mind in our attitude towards such organisations and activities. Any serious divisions of opinion could be extremely harmful to good relations within the school, and could have disruptive and damaging consequences not only for the pleasant and happy relationship which presently exists between pupils, staff and parents, but also for the quality of educational and other activity within the school.

In view of the importance of this meeting, I hope that as many as possible of you will attend. I attach considerable importance to your views in these matters, and would ideally like to see each boy in the school represented by at least one parent or guardian - though where both are able to attend, we shall be very happy to see them.

If it is quite impossible for you to attend the meeting, a brief expression of your views on the attached reply slip would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
~~L. Nuss~~ ~~Boyd~~.
Headmaster.



DON'T GIVE IN - WE CAN CHANGE THINGS!

Pics: Chris Davies (Report)

East Barnet School Tuesday. 30 girls break rules and come to school in trousers. 6 boys wear skirts and placards saying 'Whatever happened to the Sex discrimination Act.' Message to rest of school - girls should wear trousers tomorrow. Message to teachers - Stuff your rules! Tomorrow comes: 70 girls in trousers - Danny wears a skirt to show support - he's been organising a lot of the protest. He's 'temporarily excluded' from school for doing this. Teacher shouts out hopefully, 'Are you with the union or the school.' We shout back, 'We're with OUR union!' - and a lot of us aren't even members. We go on strike for rest of the day. Next we meet at the library before school. 50 of us picket the school. Police come but they can't get us - no law breaking. Protest is against Danny's suspension. Rush up to school doors shouting: **IF THE KIDS ARE UNITED THEY'LL NEVER BE DEFEATED!** Police come - tell us to move on, we're breaking 'the peace.' Delegates go to see the head, he won't give in. We decide to march to Barnet College for meeting. Went to bus stop - police won't let half of us on the empty bus - don't want us to be 'disorderly' - but doesn't same thing happen each day. We walk to next bus stop - police only let 5 people on - they want to split us up. They say 'Some of you are stupid, don't know what you're doing, what the protest is about.' We run off.

Got to Barnet College eventually - spend day sussing out what to do and making banner, posters, leaflets. No one goes back to school. Next day the press come. Good report and photo. Printed leaflet saying why we want to get rid of trousers also explaining that it's not a protest against uniform, just skirts. March to Twon Hall. Ask to see head of governors.

As secretary of the school's branch of the National Union of School Students, Danny issued a statement outlining the pupils' discontent.

SUSPENDED for wearing a skirt - that was the fate of East Barnet School sixth-former Danny Ashton who led a bizarre protest against school uniforms this week.

Danny, aged 17, and a dozen other boys at the school turned up for lessons wearing skirts on Tuesday in protest against a school rule which forbids girls to wear black or grey trousers in school.

More than 30 girls at the school joined the demonstration by wearing trousers.

Head teacher Mr. Richard Hurdman said on Tuesday that the demonstration was "a storm in a teacup." "They have made their point but it is not for the school to change the rules. Parents and other adults outside the school generally agree with school uniform," he told our reporter.

The students say the Sex Discrimination Act was passed in order to end discrimination on the grounds of sex, and schools should take a lead in preparing children for a life without discrimination.

They claim that parts of the school are too cold for girls to wear skirts.

The pupils contend that school standards do not depend on whether girls wear smart trousers but rather on the teaching standards. They add that they are not totally opposed to school uniform but that it should be modified to suit present-day conditions.

Yesterday (Thursday) Mr. Hurdman met a deputation of girls to discuss the situation.

Following the meeting, about 60 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-year pupils left the school, and after staging a demonstration outside were moved on by police.

They met later at Barnet College to discuss the situation.

We see him, have a chat, then find out he's not a governor anymore! Give in petition with 450 signatures anyway. So decide to picket school on Monday, have meeting with parents Monday night. We've shown them that they can't divide and rule us because we're united in NUSS

SCHOOL BOY BAN SKIRT



Suspended pupil Danny Ashton, second from the left, and Julie Hastings, holding the placard, were the organisers of demonstration against school uniform at East Barnet School. With them are four fellow pupils.

BULLYING IS

Bullying people is a shitty thing to do. If you weren't too big and tough how would you feel about being beaten up and pushed around all the time. Okay so you were bullied when you were younger so you say 'It's my turn to do the bullying now.' But you're just making the tradition of bullying go on and on, with more and more kids having a rotten time when they're small - you're doing sweet fuck all to change things. Fair enough so some of the kids who get bullied may be right little wimps, teacher's pets, whatever.

But you never change anyone by beating them up. That's why we're against the cane - the way to get through to people (make them 'act properly') is for them to be happy in what they're doing, able to talk about what's wrong, work things out for themselves - not by bashing them in.

But bullying isn't just nasty on the kids who get bullied - it's also a stupid fucking thing to do. Listen, we're saying, in BLOT, in NUSS - we want schools that are fun for people to go to, where teachers don't bully us into learning rubbish, where they don't get bullied by the head and can say what they think, where parents can express what they feel without being made to feel stupid, where the head doesn't bully by the council...what we're saying is what schools where we can sit down and talk about things without fear of being beaten up, sacked or whatever.

The school system's wrong, it relies on bullying to make you learn. But you're not - we're not - going to change anything unless we get on and start with ourselves. So don't bully smaller kids. If you're bullied get together with friends to stop it - unity is strength. Get rid of bullying and start changing schools instead.

FUCKING DUBIOUS!

I then find myself being behind with my homework - it builds up in no time at all. Every evening I am expected to come home from school, do homework - Hoover, peel potatoes, cleaning my room up. It's not that I don't want to do it but it's hard when you've got homework to do as well.

Why is homework given? It's supposed to benefit us when we take exams. But do the teachers understand that their subject isn't the only one we're given to do homework on?

I've got seven subjects to learn, just like the other kids. It's a lot when you've got to do projects, essays, questions, comprehensions, summaries...it's no bloody joke!

I have never known teachers to give me so much homework in my life before.

Homework puts me under pressure. I've got to cope with getting things completed in a certain time as well as coping with the problems I have at home.

I try to make some excuses for not doing it. Sometimes I feel like bursting out, explaining to teachers that I can't, don't want to, haven't the time, to do their homework.

The other day I was issued a homework sheet telling me, 'Pupils are expected to do at least 3 hours homework each night'. It's just not on when you've got a job - it's impossible. I've got a job because I need the money to get me the things that I need - money to go out occasionally or buy things without having to sponge off my parents.

Homework

A Short While Before Exams

I now have a clamp on my head
The more tightly it squeezes
It increasingly pleases
To push out the knowledge
I've ever been fed.

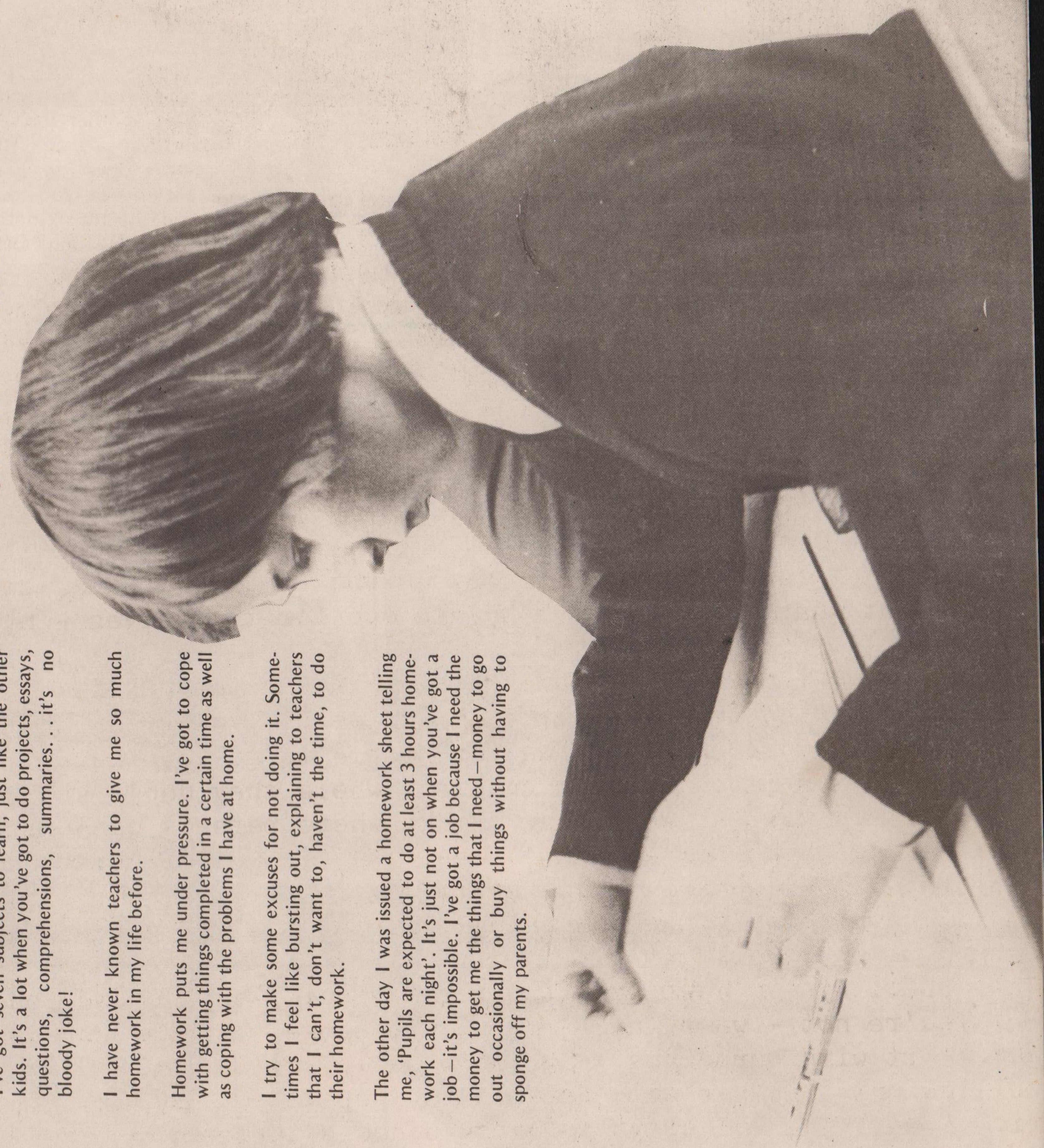
My skull is beginning to crack
All praise to the teaching
And to the preaching
That removed spontaneity
And replaced it with tact.

My brain is pounding above
Because it's the season
For logic and reason
There's no place in my head for love.

As the blood cakes on my head
There's no reason for logic
So both are now shed
The educational clamp falls away from
my head
Is there only escape when I'm dead?

Anne Awful.

pic: Derek Speirs (IFL)



PUBERTY

How BULLWORKER changed my body
AND MY LIFE!!

Between the ages of 10 and 17—when you're at secondary school—your body changes so that you become sexually developed. You may grow in spurts or at a reasonably steady rate, and you may get very skinny or fat. Boys' voices break and get deeper, and this happens to girls too, although not so noticeably. Hair begins to develop under your arms and crotch, girls' breasts get bigger, boys start needing to shave. Lots of people get greasy skin or spots.

But the important thing to remember is that it's different for everybody—everyone develops at different rates. And there's nothing to worry about if you're 16 and don't need to shave or haven't yet had a period.

Boys also start having what are called wet dreams during puberty—when you're able to produce spunk (sperm) it's likely that you'll come at night during your sleep. But there's nothing to worry about if you don't— it can be quite useful, because you don't get messy sheets!

Girls start having periods during puberty—the age can vary a hell of a lot, anything from 9 to 17; and it can last anything from 2-8 days. Most women have cycles of 28 days or so, though it can easily be a week or two more or less, but especially early on they can be very irregular.

You may have your first, and then not have another for several months or even a year. They generally settle down to a more regular pattern as you get older, but bad health, emotional upsets, worrying about being pregnant (even if you aren't) or just a change of routine (like going on holiday) can send them haywire, even if you're normally fairly regular.

Lots of girls have pains during a period, or in the days just before it. You may also find you're unusually tense or bad-tempered. The pains can be worse if your period's irregular, and they often get better as you get older. If you're feeling really bad you can take pills or painkillers to help.

Another problem with periods is that lots of people are embarrassed about them, and if you're feeling bloody awful because of one it doesn't help to feel you can't really explain why.

Also you usually become more sexually aware during puberty—whether towards your own or the opposite sex. Because people's bodies develop at different rates, there are bound to be problems, people feeling they're worse or better than others just because they're different shapes at different times. And it's all about something which isn't about what sort of person you are—what you're like to other people—but just what your body's like.

He Still Loves Her!

PUBERTY (B)

'How many lads you slept with then, eh?

'Started having periods yet? You know Mary has.'

'You know Paul? I think he's a poof.'

'I had it on the top of a bus last night. She said she's never seen anything so big in her life before.'

'My mum's going mad at me about staying at my boyfriend's house.'

Puberty can really get you down. Besides all the changes that are happening to you, spots, wanting more freedom, pressure at school, you've got all the shit which comes from your friends and probably you too.

It's stupid the way people pretend to have slept with people because they don't want to say that they're virgins. So there are all the lies and the doubts about something which says nothing about what you're like as a person and what you're like to other people.

And why's there so much hassle about how developed you are? OK so Mary might be able to get pregnant and have bigger tits than everyone else in the class but is that so important? And okay so Jimmy's got hairs under his pants and a bigger prick than you have—Big Deal. It's about as important as how far he can spit or piss up the toilet wall.

month going to be as difficult?

HOW DO YOU LOOK IN A SWIMMING SUIT? Build a Power Packed Body in just ten minutes per day.

My Baby Brother

The hassle from parents can be one of the worst things: Mothers claim to be responsible for their daughters. Fair enough you might think but when do you start being responsible for yourself—it can't just all suddenly come when you're 18 and are therefore, 'an adult'. When do you start being able to decide who you sleep with and who you don't, what time you're out till, whether or not to stay at a friend's house.

And girls always seem to get the worst of it. As the first of the sexual myths floats through we learn that the more girls (but NOT men) a bloke sleeps with the more respect he gets but that girls who do the same thing are called cheap, sluts or tarts.

OK, so we're not pretending that we're 23 but why can't people treat us as we are? Not 10 or 20 but caught in between. Most of us want to stay at home and to get on with parents but not as prisoners.

So how about it parents? What about a bit of compromise? WE think too.

PUBERTY

being gay at school

writ by
Danny

'You're not going to turn out like that are you?'
'Like What?'
'You know... well... like that.'

OK, so I'm gay. Which means that I might fancy that bloke walking down the street, although I'm a male. And no, I haven't got a limp wrist and I don't dress up as a woman. I'm quite happy to be a bloke but that doesn't mean that I want to go around beating people up or trying to get enormous muscles or want to sleep in the back of a fast car with different women every night.

Being gay to a lot of people is either dirty or trendy. People consider gays to be abnormal but we're just like anyone else, we don't have green spots or walk in a funny way (unless of course we're disabled or have got war wounds). Or people say that you're only being gay to be trendy. What crap! I didn't go through all the hassle of coming out, telling my friends, wearing gay badges, just to be trendy. I just thought that people ought to know. (Perhaps they'd then be less anti gay). And anyway, most people didn't believe me perhaps because they only believe what they want to. They just ignored my fluorescent, Gays Against Nazis badge.

Attitudes towards gays at school are really old fashioned:

Our physics teacher referred to the opposition between north and north magnetic poles as being like boys to boys and north south attraction being like male and female.

At a school disco I asked my French teacher why she presumed everyone was straight- she just ignored me and said she liked the attraction being like male and female.

Sex education is very limited and talks about foetuses more than feelings. It leaves out homosexuality all together or refers to it being either a disease or a 'temporary phase'.

I'm not totally gay I suppose because I go out with girls as well as blokes, but I think it's wrong to say that it's 'temporary'. Probably it's just anti gay pressure from society which makes people just reject a part of them which is sexually attracted towards their own sex. And it's all so mad—after all—are there any rational arguments against expressing your sexuality—whether you're gay or not?

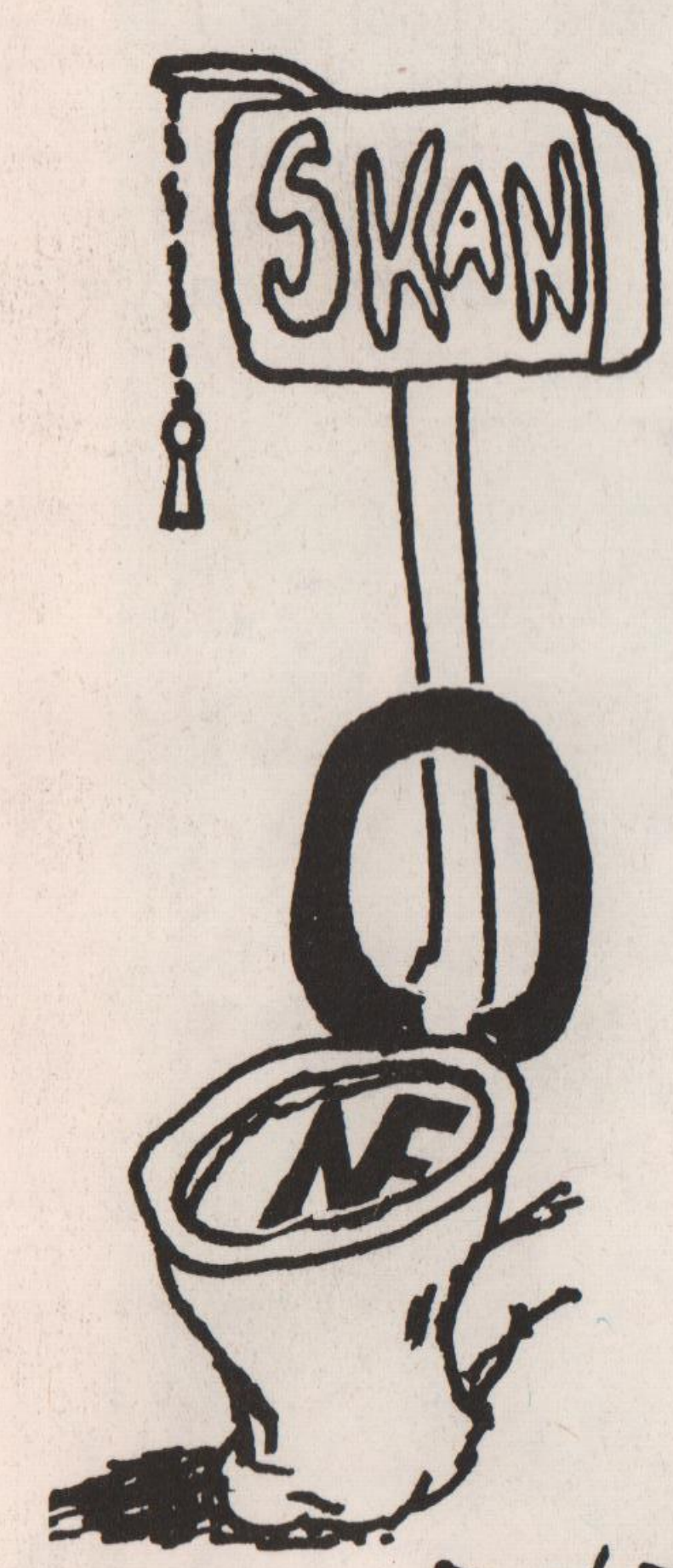
Things like:
'Jeremy Thorpe got a letter bomb the other day. It went poof when he opened it.'
might be funny to you but they perpetuate anti gay attitudes and can hurt a lot of people.

Attitudes towards
gay people will change
and fewer people will
have to suppress their
real feelings, if the
subject is talked
about. That's why
BLOT printed this
article.

♂ ♀ To
GLAD BE GAY

SKAN

SKAN stands for Skool Kids Against the Nazis and it's the school student section of the Anti Nazi League - they're the people who organised the 2 fantastic carnivals last year with Tom Robinson, Steel Pulse, X Ray Spex etc in London and the Northern Carnival Against the Nazis in Manchester and are the only organisation that actually is doing anything about racism in schools. If there's nazi graffiti in your school or black kids are being discriminated against or you're just fed up with people ranting on about 'Wogs' or 'Immigration' - then join SKAN. They've got stickers, leaflets can help you organise to get rid of racism in your school. JOIN THEM!



Ro/B

Flush out racism - join SKAN

In a recent pamphlet on the ANL the NF said the ANL was controled, paid for and set up by Jews. The NF believe that the Jewish race is anti nationalist and there fore they don't WANT them in their society. Webster said, 'the Jew is a poisonous maggot in society that must be destroyed. Tyndall on the Jewish question said anti-semitism exists because there is a 'Jewish plan for world conquest.' The NF don't even believe 6,000,000 Jews were murdered. They say it was all a trick to gain sympathy for the Jewish race-What Rubbish! I suppose 6,000,000 people vanished into thin air.

The NF believe that there is a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. This is not surprising because Hitler said exactly the same thing and tried to prevent it by herding jews into concentration camps. This must never happen again. NO MORE HOLOCAUSTS.

Join SKAN - stop the nazi NF. Post this form to SKAN, PO BOX 151 LONDON WC2.

I want to join/know more about SKAN -
Name.....
Address.....

And I cut this form out of BLOT number two.

The National Front depends on racist lies.

1.
LIE
The National Front say there are huge numbers of black people entering Britain.
FACT
More people leave Britain than enter. Also, of the people that do enter, by far the majority are white.

2.
LIE
They say blacks cause mugging and violence.
FACT
Crime in Glasgow, with few black people, is nine times higher than in London.

3.
LIE
They say blacks cause slums and a shortage of housing.
FACT
The worst slums in Britain are in Glasgow, and there are hardly any blacks in Glasgow.

4.
LIE
They say blacks cause unemployment.
FACT
In the 1930s there were three million people out of work, and very few black people in the country.

5.
LIE
They say blacks sponge off social security.
FACT
All official figures show that blacks take less in social security than white people.

■ The NF are using racist lies to con people. They are in favour of throwing blacks, young and old, out of the country. How would you like to see your mates at school treated like cattle and shipped out of the country?

School Dinners

SCHOOL DINNERS

Mick Hodgkin

The pips go and I hurry to the canteen. Walking past the second and third years I join the end of the fourth and fifth year queue. After the queue has got into its natural order (toughest at the front) the teachers step in and start letting people through—six from the boys' queue, then six from the girls'.

Every so often the queues stop—someone's shoelace is out of line is probably the reason.

Inside I have three things to choose between: the one in the middle where you pay a fixed price of 25p for how ever much they want to give you, and one at each side where you pay separately for each thing you want—sausages are 5p each. I usually spend about 30p a day this way.

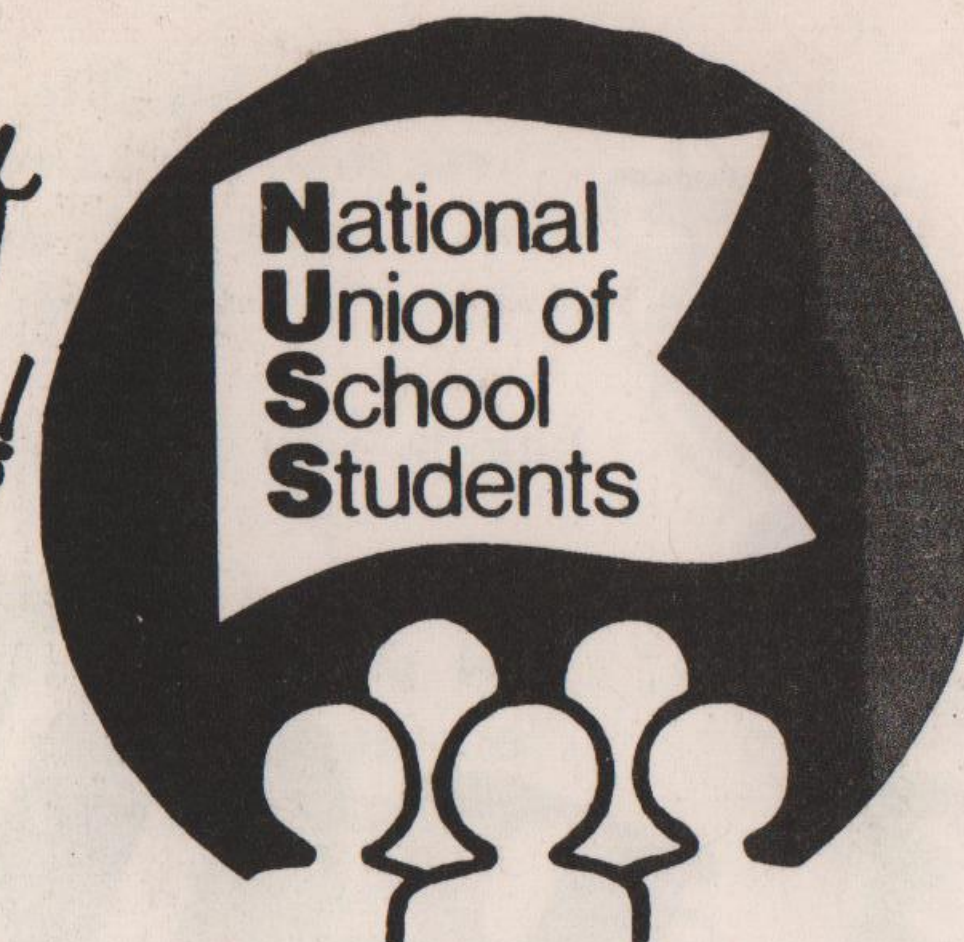
Well, school dinners may not be much cop, but what about the alternatives? Packed lunches are OK if you like that sort of thing but I spew up at the sight of sandwiches. And I live 40 minutes from the school so I can't really go home. Which leaves the chip shop or the dairy—and they're more expensive than our subsidised canteen. And for me that settles it—it has to be school dinner.

photo:
Angela Phillips (IFL)

They've got you on file

Buy one of these and sweat in it!

the slogan looks like this →
the like not like that!



WHAT'S IN IT—SCHOOL FILES ON YOU

What? You mean you don't know what's in them? Don't worry, nobody does except those who wrote them.

Confused? Well—every school has files about every pupil who goes there and they are completely secret—not even your mum can see them. It's disgusting isn't it. Mistakes can be made or teachers can put down things they don't really mean in a moment of anger (perhaps justified). And things never get corrected because you and your parents never get a chance to see them.

I don't like that idea if you don't, then do what people in Europe and America have done—kick up a fuss and get the right for you and your parents to see the files. Files are wrong—teachers need to have info on you, but it's mad that they're secret.

And remember to keep a good hold on your diary—or it might turn up in your file.

Sue Easton.



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The lettering's green, yellow or white

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Name

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Send it soon!

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TALK ABOUT LOADS OF *!X#! ADVERTS!

But they're great badges!

This bit's blotchy yellow, green purple and pink.

ABORTION

ABORTION

KATHY: Amanda, if you got pregnant now, would you have an abortion?

AMANDA: Yes, I would, but I'd use contraceptives, or I should. If you're old enough and responsible enough to have sex, you should be old enough and responsible enough to use contraceptives.

LINDSAY: But no contraceptive is 100% safe anyway.

ELAINE: And not everyone's had enough information about contraception, anyway. Specially young people, fifteen or so.

KATHY: If you used contraceptives but got pregnant would abortion be OK?

AMANDA: I can't see why people shouldn't have abortions.

KATHY: So you don't think it's wrong? Is it killing a human life?

KATRINA: I think it's killing. You're letting a human life be taken away.

KATE: You can't say that. It's only a potential human life, when it's that small.

KATHY: You could call every egg that goes down and comes out without being fertilised a potential human life. You don't waste time crying every month because Oh God, there goes something that could have been a baby!

MARCIA: But that's not your fault, is it? You've got no control over that, but you choose to have an abortion.

AMANDA: I think it's justified, because I think if you have an unwanted baby, that's worse than having an abortion.

KATRINA: There's always adoption.

AMANDA: No, I couldn't give birth to a child then have it adopted. I think the ties are too strong, after nine months.

KATHY: I don't think you can say the ties are too strong, because lots of people do give up their babies after nine months.

Abortion is a subject which can arouse a lot of feelings - both for and against. Many of the arguments however, are based on myths rather than facts. Kathy took her cassette recorder to school and taped the discussion below among her friends. Then we wrote down what's below from listening to the tape.

KATE: And supposing you couldn't look after the baby yourself anyway.

KATHY: But do you think there's anything which makes abortion acceptable?

KATE: Say you knew the child was going to be handicapped.

AMANDA: If it was going to endanger the mother's life, or if the child was likely to be deformed or something. . . I don't want a kid that's blind or deformed. OK it sounds hard, but I mean it!

AMANDA: Of course it's selfish, but I don't want to give up my life for a baby! You only get one life! Even if I knew it wasn't going to be deformed I'd have an abortion.

MARCIA: People who are deformed live, at least!

AMANDA: But what's the difference between being pregnant by some guy you're in love with and some guy you don't know, if it's still a human life, still half you?

KATRINA: If you think of the child . . . think what that child would have to grow up knowing!

ELAINE: And you don't know how the mother's going to treat that child later on.

KATRINA: Anyway, if it was my boyfriend, I should have used contraceptives, shouldn't I?

KATHY: You've got this sort of moralising approach, that if you don't use contraceptives you're guilty and you've got to be punished for it.

KATRINA: But you *should* think about it.

WHOSE CHOICE?

AMANDA: If I was going to have a child like that, I'd have an abortion. Partly for my own sake, because it must take a hell of a lot out of you having a handicapped kid. Your whole life's ruined!

KATRINA: It's not ruined, you're just tied down.

AMANDA: OK so you can get a lot out of bringing up a kid like that, you can get a lot of love from the child, but I'm sorry, it's not my idea of living.

AMANDA: If you went out now and got raped and got pregnant, would you have an abortion?

KATRINA: Yes.

KATHY: If you slept with a bloke you were in love with, and got pregnant, would you then?

KATRINA: No.

KATHY: Look, you should think about it, but it's very easy not to. You always say beforehand, of course I'd never do anything without taking precautions, but when it comes to the point it's much harder than that. LINDSAY: Who thinks that everyone should be able to get an abortion free on the national health? (Most say 'yes').

BABIES

LINDSAY: Because you can't at the moment, can you?

KATHY: Officially you can, but there are places where it's very difficult.

ELAINE: Anyway, if you stop legal abortions, you're still going to have women going to the back street people like they did before, and you're going to be endangering more lives that way.

KATRINA: You must go through a lot having the abortion, though.

AMANDA: It'd be traumatic, I think.

MICHELLE: It depends on your attitude. If you feel guilty about it then it'll mean a lot. If she agrees with it anyway, it won't be so bad.

KATHY: I think most women would be affected by it, it can't be a very pleasant experience. But you've got to balance having an abortion against having a child to look after for maybe the next twenty years.

KATE: Who doesn't agree with abortion?

AMANDA: But it's not as clean-cut as that! There's nothing wrong with thinking abortion is wrong, it's up to you what you think. It should just apply to you, what you think, not to anybody else. Do you think a man should have any say in whether or not you have an abortion? I don't mean *your* man, I mean *a* man—a doctor or an MP?

KATE: Yes, of course.—Well I don't know. Not an MP.

AMANDA: I think it should all go through women MPs.

KATE: If a man has got any say, it'd have to be the husband.

KATRINA: But it's a medical decision!

AMANDA: But say he's against it morally—his viewpoint is that abortion is wrong—it's bound to affect his decision whether you have one or not. But it's none of his bloody business!

LINDSAY: But if a doctor said to you, if you have an abortion it'll kill you, it'll make you very ill—don't you think he's got a right to say that?

KATHY: If a doctor says there's risk, OK—but he's got no right to impose his moral views on you, any more than anyone else.

MARCIA: He is the one who has to do the operation, so why can't he?

KATHY: He's not the one who has to do it. He can say, I'm not going to do any abortions, I'm not going to say to any woman that she can have one.

AMANDA: He should be objective. But he can't be, your emotions come into everything!

KATHY: I hope you notice we're assuming all doctors are male.

ELAINE: I think you'd find it harder to get an abortion from a woman doctor, particularly a married one, with kids.

KATHY: How about the man who actually fathered the child?

AMANDA: Oh, that bastard—he's probably hopped it.

KATE: Well you don't usually hear about them, do you? Not if it's a Saturday night job.

KATHY: How about if it's a steady boyfriend, should he have the right to say no, this is half my child, you can't have an abortion?

KATE & OTHERS: No—they should discuss it.

ELAINE: If he stops her having an abortion, then he should have responsibility for the child, bringing it up.

HARRY AND I HAD BEEN VERY MUCH IN LOVE FOR SOME TIME BUT ONE DAY SOMETHING HAPPENED WHICH CHANGED OUR WHOLE LIVES...



women decide

THE END - by the way, just cos people say things in PLOT, doesn't mean that it's MUST POLICY OF

AMANDA: She's still got to have it, hasn't she? He should have some say. . .

MICHELLE: When the baby's conceived he has a part, but for the nine months—

KATE: If they disagree, who should decide?

AMANDA: Well it's not him who has to give birth to the damn thing, is it?

KATE: But what if he's the husband?

AMANDA: I don't care if he's the husband! I don't care what he is!

MARCIA: So he shouldn't have any say at all?

AMANDA: I'm not saying that. . . say you're living together and you get pregnant—No, why should you have a child if you don't want it? If he wants let him go and have a child with somebody else!

MARCIA: But what if he wants your child?

AMANDA: But if I don't want my child, I don't care if he wants it! If you're having a child just because he wants it, you're just a birth machine. You're just there for the purpose of having his child. I wouldn't want to live with someone like that. I wouldn't be living with him in the first place!

STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..

ROCK AGAINST SEXISM has been started - as a sister/brother to Rock Against Racism. Supporters include Tom Robinson and Gang of Four. For stickers posters, badges etc, write to: RAS, 121 Grandison Rd LONDON SW1. RAS '11 also put you in touch with local bands who'll play gigs for you and Rock Against Sexism.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION - MARCH March to Trafalgar Square from Hyde Park, for rally. March starts at 1.30 on March 31st. Show support for contraception and abortion rights. Organised by National Abortion Campaign. More details: phone (01) 278 0153

A WOMAN'S BODY IS A WOMAN'S BUSINESS! ABORTION: OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

How do you feel about abortion? Write and tell us for BLOT no.3



Abortion—yes or No?