

Outwrite

women's newspaper

Dee
20p.

issue no. 3
June '82

Militant Beauty

*Fragility, flossy womanhood
flowers on her birthdays
luxurious apartments and
flashy cars
have never been her aspiration*

*Distorted women's lib
refusing to mother kids
and provide family comfort
harassing a tired enslaved dad
have never been her deeds.*

*Attending to the needs
however meagre they might
be
slaving for their well-being
pretending abuses don't
mean a thing
her only aspiration
keeping candle light burning*

*Hardened by oppressive
regime
she refuses to weep
even at death of innocents
who continue age-old fight
for justice
her only aspiration . . .
liberty.*

*Standing defiantly
in face of brutality
resulting from corrupt
illegal minority*

*Flourishing to natural beauty
through progressive ideology
she overcame imposed
passivity
and became essence of
militancy*

*Her beauty is not her
criticism
but justice for all humanity,
person to person.*

Gloria Mtungwa

« »

From: MALIBONGWE, ANC
Women. Poetry is also their
weapon, published by the
African National Congress,
PO Box 38, 28 Penlon
Street, London N1 9PR.
Tel: 01-837 2012

'Suddenly there are women
poets from South Africa'
writes Sono Molefe in the
foreword to an exciting
collection of political poems,
Malibongwe, published
recently by the African
National Congress (ANC).

Subtitled 'ANC Women:
Poetry Is Also Their Weapon'
this collection makes a clear
and resounding political
statement about the reality
of the struggle for Black
South Africans - and about
the courage and commitment
of women within that
struggle.



Nurses never strike? Our Day of Action on May 19th showed that old chestnut wrong. In hospitals all over the country nurses and ancillary workers joined together in a day of disruption. The turnout was 90% complete in the North, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There were mass rallies of health workers in Newcastle, Manchester and Belfast. In London, 50,000 of us came out, from over 100 hospitals.

An intolerable drop in our living standards made such action possible. In real terms, our wages have declined by 18% since 1974. The 6% award last year was not enough to keep our wages at the '79/'80 levels. We are asking 12%: the Government is only willing to give us between 4 and 6.4%.

Senior management and senior nursing officers have tried to sabotage our efforts to get even this. They have tried to divide and alienate us, and made threats to the

ancillary workers in our hospital that resulted in their calling their strike off. One nursing officer took it on herself to come in on her day off and check which nurses were on strike so that their pay could be docked.

All this disruption took place without any danger at all to patients. At our hospital, some even came and joined us on the picket lines. The mood on the gates was one of elation. An effective picket was supported by lightning strikes by ancillary workers: next time, we thought, we'll really show them! We have learnt that many nurses are now prepared to put their pay packets where their mouths are.

Just as significant, it is possible for health workers to take united action in the fight for a living wage. No-one is in a privileged position except the privileged - our day of action has shown which is which!

Amanda Lusted



T. Thompson

Hospital patients in London joined health service workers on picket lines on one of the most successful protests ever held in the NHS on May 19th. Two thousand miners also struck in their support in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, where four pits were closed. Police were called while NUPE nurses were talking to the miners. None of this action will be legal if Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill is passed.

Kitchen Table Talk

Wherever possible, women have always been writing, but few have managed to get their work published. In recent years, feminist publishers have been established in the West, and have made women's writings, both 'old' and current, available, and thereby encouraged others to take up their pens.

Absence of financial backing and lack of resources has made it impossible for similar ventures to be established in 'Third World' countries, but of course women are writing here too, and have much to say that must be listened to.

However, feminist publishers have been mostly, if not entirely, composed of White women, and have again, mostly if not entirely published writings by White women.

As Black women in the UK, USA and elsewhere have challenged this practice, a few changes have been made, BUT feminist publishing, and consequently feminist writing, remains in the hands of White women.

So, it was exciting for us to come across women from Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, at the recent International Book Fair in London. Myrna, Mariana and Mercedes were here from the USA making the first Third World Women's publishing house known.

We spent an exciting afternoon with them, many interesting words were exchanged, and some delicious gossip too.

"Kitchen Table Press was formally named in September '81 at a meeting in Barbara Smith's and Cherrie Moraga's apartment of a group of us who had been corresponding since early '80 on the idea of a Press."

At first, the group had kicked around the idea of producing a monthly magazine or quarterly journal,

but decided against this, as it just would not have given women the kind of exposure that they wanted (to see) in the bookshops.

So, they decided to publish books.

Four Afro-American women and one Chicana* started the project, but felt that the collective should be about 12-strong, com-

Tongha & Shaila prising 'Women of all Colors' in the US. They were also clear that they would all be editors, distributors and publicists; and that for at least the first five years they

cont'd on page 5

* Chicana: Mexican-American woman



A protest march in support of Najat Chafee, a 22 year old Moroccan woman who is threatened with deportation, was held in North West London on Saturday 15 May. A large number of Black women and their children picketed outside the court when Najat's immigration appeal was heard on 7 May. The decision has been reversed.

OUTWRITE, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2. Telephone 01-729 4575

Nurses ~~never~~ strike

Nurses never strike? Our Day of Action on May 19th showed that old chestnut wrong. In hospitals all over the country nurses and ancillary workers joined together in a day of disruption. The turnout was 90% complete in the North, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There were mass rallies of health workers in Newcastle, Manchester and Belfast. In London, 50,000 of us came out, from over 100 hospitals.

An intolerable drop in our living standards made such action possible. In real terms, our wages have declined by 18% since 1974. The 6% award last year was not enough to keep our wages at the '79/80 levels. We are asking 12%: the Government is only willing to give us between 4 and 6 4%.

Senior management and senior nursing officers have tried to sabotage our efforts to get even this. They have tried to divide and alienate us, and made threat to the ancillary workers in our hospital that resulted in their calling their strike off. One nursing officer took it on herself to come in on her day off and check which nurses were on strike so that their pay could be docked.

All this disruption took place without say danger at all to patients. At our hospital, some even came and joined us on the picket lines. The mood on the gates was one of elation. An effective picket was supported by lightning strikes by ancillary workers: next time, we thought. We'll many show them! We have learnt that many nurses are now prepared to put their pay packets where their mouths are.

Just as significant, it is possible for health workers to take united action in the fight for a living wage. No one is in a privileged position except the privileged - our day of action has shown which it which!

Amanda Lusted

Picture caption

Hospital patients in London joined health service workers on picket lines on one of the most successful protests ever held in the NHS on May 19th.

Two thousand miners also struck in their support in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, where four pits were closed. Police were called while NUPE nurses were talking to the miners.

None of this action will be legal if Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill is passed.

Other articles on the front page were:

Militant Beauty (a poem by Gloria Mtungwa)

Fragility, flimsy, womanhood
flowers on her birthdays
luxurious apartments and flashy cars
have never been her aspiration

Distorted women's lib refusing to mother kids and provide family comfort harassing a tired enslaved dad have never been her deeds

Attending to the needs however meagre they might be
slaving for their well-being pretending abuses don't mean a thing
her only aspiration keeping candle light burning

Hardened by oppressive regime
she refuses to weep
even at death of innocents who continue age-old fight for justice
her only aspiration.... liberty.

Standing defiantly
in face of brutality
resulting, from corrupt illegal minority

Flourishing to natural beauty through progressive ideology she overcame imposed passivity
and became essence of militancy

Her beauty is not her criterion
but justice for all humanity, person to person

Gloria Mtungwa

From MALIBONGWE, ANC Women: Poetry is also their weapon, published by the African National Congress, PO Box 38, 28 Penton Street, London N1 9PR. Tel. 01 837 2012.

'Suddenly there are women poets from South Africa' writes Sono Molefe in the foreword to an exciting collection of political poems, Malibongwe, published recently by the African National Congress (ANC).

Subtitled 'ANC Women. Poetry Is Also Their, Weapon' this collection makes a clear and resounding political statement about the reality of the struggle for Black South Africans - and about the courage and commitment of women within that struggle,

Support Najat Chafee – No Deportation

A protest march in support of Najat Chafee, a 22 year old Moroccan woman who is threatened with deportation, was held in North West London on Saturday 15 May. A large number of Black women and their children picketed outside the court when Najat's immigration appeal was heard on 7 May. The decision has been reserved.

Kitchen Table Talk

Wherever possible. women have always been writing. but few have managed to get their work published. In recent years, feminist publishers have been established in the West, and have made women's writings. both 'old' and current. available. and thereby encouraged others to take up their pens.

Absence of financial backing and lack of resources has made it impossible for similar ventures to be established in 'Third World' countries. but of course women are writing here too, and have much to say that must be listened to.

However, feminist publishers have been mostly, if not entirely, composed of White women, and have again, mostly if not entirely published writings by White women.

As Black women in the UK, USA and elsewhere have challenged this practice, a few changes have been made. BUT feminist publishing, and consequently feminist writing, remains in the hands of White women.

So, it was exciting for us to come across women from Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, at the recent International Book Fair in London. Myrna, Mariana and Mereese were here from the USA making the first Third World Woman's publishing house known.

We spent an exciting afternoon with them. many interesting words were exchanged, and some delicious gossip too.

Tongha & Shaila

Kitchen Table Press was formally named, in September '81, at a meeting in Barbara Smith and Cherrie Moraga's apartment of a group of us who had been corresponding since early '80 on the idea of a Press.

At first, the group had kicked around the idea of producing a monthly magazine or quarterly journal, but decided against this, as it just would not have given women the kind of exposure that they wanted (to see) in the bookshops.

So, they decided to publish books.

Four Afro-American women and one Chicana* started the project, but felt that the collective should be about 12 strong, comprising "Women of all Colors" in the U.S. They were also clear that they would all be editors, distributors and publicists; and that for at least the first five years they

Con'd on page 5

*Chicana: Mexican-American woman

--end--

Original scans by: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/library/collection-highlights/the-womens-library>

Page scans of the article were processed using <https://www.onlineocr.net/>

Copyright remains with the author(s)