

Boyfriend is black— so girl is sacked

AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD girl was sacked by a Liverpool firm for going out with a black student.

The firm, C.W. Coates' Army and Navy Stores in Ranelagh Street, have agreed that she was unfairly dismissed. But they have offered her only £50 compensation, although she has been out of work for ten weeks.

Kathy Fitzsimmons, of Delacy Road, Runcorn, says the owner of the store, Mrs Coates, asked her whether a black student, who used to work part-time at the store, was still her boyfriend.

When Kathy said 'Yes,' she says she was told to leave.

COMPENSATION OFFERED

Kathy at first complained to the Department of Employment and Productivity, and she later accepted the offer of £50 under pressure from a conciliation officer.

However she is now hoping to challenge the offer at an industrial relations court in Liverpool later this month.

Her extraordinary story of discrimination is fully supported by another girl employee, Lorraine Philips, who overheard the entire conversation. Lorraine has signed a statement for the Liverpool Community Relations Council, who took up the case, saying that Kathy's account is true in every detail.

The Community Relations Council are known to be annoyed that the Department of Employment officer encouraged Kathy to accept the meagre compensation without giving her time to consult a community relations officer.

Mrs Coates, the elderly owner of the Army and Navy Stores (she is over 70 years old) is noted for making arbitrary decisions.

Liverpool Trades Council heard of



UNFAIR DISMISSAL — Kathy Fitzsimmons outside the Army and Navy Stores where she once worked.

a 63-year-old man who was sacked from the store after working there for 20 years.

Even Kathy, who was a cashier, had worked there for over three years and had never, she says, been threatened with dismissal before.

When her father went along to see Mrs Coates to find her excuse for sacking Kathy, he was told to make an appointment by phone. But when he rang up, Mrs Coates refused to see him.

Kathy told the Free Press her story. She says that the firm's driver (Mr Rantou) asked her to make a cup of tea for the manager, Mr Newman (who is a relation of Mrs Coates).

"When I had made the tea, I was told the Mrs Coates wanted to see me. So I went upstairs to her office. When I went in, I saw Lorraine writing cheques in the room which is right next to Mrs Coates' office. Only a thin partition separates the two offices — really it is one large room divided into two — and the door between them was open.

(Lorraine says in her statement she had been told to leave the door open.)

"She asked me who told me to take a cup of tea to Mr Newman. I said Mr Rantou had.

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Hell! that's no angel

WITHIN HOURS of the arrest of Southport Liberal councillor Maurice Tudor, caught smuggling £300,000 worth of cannabis, a large number of police arrived at the offices of his Preston taxi firm.

With dogs "as big as goats" according to one man, London drugs squad officers ransacked every drawer, cupboard and filing cabinet.

Standing in a corner, watching the close-cropped plainclothes men at work, stood a splendid Hells Angel in leather gear dangling with swastikas, heavy with studs.

The man in charge of the taxi business asked one of the police to "get rid of this leather-jacketed bastard".

At this the weirdo shook his long hair, sidled up to the taxi man and said:

"Don't mind me, sir. I'm a detective inspector."



Alderman Morgan — a very rare photograph

Why the alderman is always engaged

THEY CALL HIM the elusive Alderman. The man everyone wants and no-one can find.

He is Ald Joseph Morgan, the mysterious chairman of Liverpool Housing Committee — and one of the most powerful men in Liverpool.

He's also one of the shyest. He is rarely seen in public — especially since he agreed to the 'Fair Rent' rises — and all his personal aides in the Housing Department are sworn to secrecy. They're not allowed to say one word to the Press.

Recently militant tenants from Northwood, Kirkby, marched on his council home at 5 Walton Park Gardens. They went to tell him about the scandalous condition of their flats. But they soon left when they were told he was "not at home."

This didn't surprise the watching journalists. For years they have tried to contact him by telephone.

But the only answer they get is a low, gruff voice saying "Yes."

And when they say: "Hello, Alderman Morgan," the Alderman replies: "This isn't Alderman Morgan. It's his brother/brother-in-law/relative speaking."

But unkind rumours suggesting Ald Morgan died several years ago seem to have little foundation.

For there are signs that he's very much alive, and living in luxury.

Neighbours have reported the arrival of a wonderful new toilet and washbasin at his home. And they're not the type commonly installed by the corporation.

The toilet flushes at the press of a button, while the elegant washbasin is set on a pedestal.

That could explain everything. Perhaps the Alderman was on his throne when the tenants called to flush him out.

I'm Angela Chapman...

"HELLO... I'm Angela Chapman." Well, not quite. That's only the advertising slogan and Angela is only the manageress.

Angela Chapman is actually an employment agency and her real name is... The Liverpool Echo.

For the agency is an ingenious scheme devised by the Daily Post and Echo company to boost their profits (£2.6 million last year) and attack trade unions simultaneously.

And they have ensured its success by carrying hundreds of column inches of advertising for it in the Echo and Post which would normally have cost thousands of pounds.

Employment agencies have been strongly condemned by the Trades Union Congress because they gain huge profits by promoting casual labour.

Girls employed by agencies, and the Angela Chapman agency is no exception, literally sit by the phone all day waiting for work.

They have no security. They can be sacked from one company, or quietly shifted to another one, and this of course plays havoc with

trade union organisation.

Naturally the company's newspapers, which have a wide reputation for never having uncovered a business scandal, have been slow to reveal their links with the agency.

But there is no doubt about the closeness of the ties. The agency is included in the Daily Post and Echo's balance sheets this year. And its registered office is 48 Victoria Street — which is also the Echo's.

DORMANT COMPANY

The Angela Chapman company grew out of a dormant company called Waldir, which was registered in 1966 but which never traded.

One of the three directors was Sir Alick Jeans, the Daily Post and Echo's ruthless millionaire owner, who died on April Fool's Day 1972.

On September 13, 1972 Waldir was revived. All the living directors resigned and its name was changed to The Angela Chapman Employment Agency.

The new directorships make intriguing reading:

1. William St John Rail, the Post

and Echo's advertising manager.

Perhaps this explains the massive amount of advertising for the agency in the papers.

2. Christopher Francis Czilinsky, the Post and Echo's group personnel officer — and one of the agency's best customers.

3. Brian Wisset Walker, one of the Post and Echo's top accounts men. No doubt he's there to add up the profits.

The mysterious Angela Chapman, the agency's manageress, is the wife of Mr Jim Chapman, the Post and Echo's former tele-ads manager.

Jim has since become boss of the firm's give-away paper Mersey Magnet and was involved in the 'lonely hearts' adverts scandal (Free Press No. 12).

Angela was manageress of the Alfred Marks Bureau until two years ago.

The Echo company stand to make a great deal of money by setting up this agency, because there has recently been a tremendous increase in the use of temporary staff. Employers know they can only benefit by using casual, and often cheap labour.



ANGELA CHAPMAN

The Echo are also using a large number of temporary staff from the Angela Chapman agency in several departments.

Of course the Echo profit from this as they are handing money over to their own agency. The girls involved receive only a proportion of this.

Also the Echo have been worried recently by the growth of trade unionism in the advertising and

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