

When a washing machine ran amok

THE FIRST TIME Mrs Moya Amoo used her expensive new washing machine it went wrong. The rubber drive-belt inside was shredded into little pieces.

The second time, water gushed out, flooded the kitchen and dining room and caused £177-worth of damage.

This happened eleven months ago. Today, not only is Mrs Amoo waiting for compensation, but she is also in danger of having her electricity cut off by Manweb as a result of her unlucky purchase.

The ironic fact is that Mrs Amoo should never have been given this particular washing machine. For when an engineer came round and opened up the machine he found scrawled inside the words "For Export Only."

Mrs Amoo, who lives at 18a Englefield Green, Toxteth, saw her solicitor to claim compensation. After all, her kitchen lino and carpets had been ruined as well as her storage-cum-seating unit containing clothes.

Her solicitors, however, are

finding it very difficult to get any sense out of the manufacturers.

The machine was bought from the Manweb shop in St John's Precinct. But the real villains of the piece are the AEI/GEC firm British Domestic Appliances, in Peterborough.

They recently sent Mrs Amoo's solicitors a letter asking for receipts of all items damaged. The solicitors had sent them the receipts several months before.

So after nearly a year Mrs Amoo is still waiting for compensation.

On top of this, she is having another battle with Manweb. When she returned the washing machine they gave back her £25 deposit and two quarterly payments which she had made.

But now Manweb are claiming they have paid Mrs Amoo twice – and are threatening to cut off her electricity unless she returns £25.

Mrs Amoo is mother of two members of the Liverpool pop group The Chants.

But at the moment she's got nothing to sing about.

Not-so-Special K

KELLOGG'S Special K has long been advertised as the slimmer's breakfast. On ounce of Special K contains only 120 calories, we're told. So you might be surprised to learn that an ounce of boring old cornflakes also contains 120 calories.

Then aren't they both equally fattening (or slimming, depending on the way you look at it)?

The difference, according to Kelloggs, is between calories of

protein and calories of carbohydrate. Special K is 21% protein while cornflakes contain only 8% protein.

"Higher protein foods assist in satiating the appetite, whereas those that are higher in carbohydrates do not do so readily," say Kelloggs.

Or perhaps it's just the higher price of Special K that makes people eat less.



B & B lose out

HERE'S some good news for anyone who has rented a car from B & B Car Hire and been caught with an outrageous bill at the end of their travels... it isn't the most prosperous of companies.

Their latest published accounts show a loss of £9,399 for the financial year 1971. And at the end of the same year they had just £5.14 cash in the bank and £120 cash in hand.

B & B have been exposed twice in the Free Press for the clever contracts would-be hirers have to sign before they drive away a car.

The small print of the contract says customers have to pay the first £50 in repairs if anything happens to the car, whether it is their responsibility or not... and also pay for any loss the company

makes while the car is out of operation.

One Bootle lecturer, for instance found himself with a £123 bill.

Anyone tempted by the hire charges should read the contract which says "I am fully responsible for the first £50 of any damage caused, no matter whether it be my fault or not."

"I further agree to be responsible for the full loss of hire whilst the van undergoes repairs caused by accidental damage or theft. I have the necessary funds available to pay on demand without any dispute."

So it's reassuring to know that the directors, Mr Samuel Bishop of 30 Queens Drive, Liverpool 18 and Mr Harold Bishop, of 2 Catonfield Road, Liverpool 18 don't seem to be flourishing.

New! Ice cream with antifreeze

WHAT has ice cream got in common with antifreeze? Nothing, you might think. In the old days ice cream was simply a mixture of milk, eggs and sugar. But not necessarily so today. Chemicals can do the same job a lot cheaper.

Instead of eggs, there's an emulsifier called diethyl glucol. It's also used in antifreeze and paint remover.

Then there's flavouring. Piperonal is widely used as a substitute for vanilla. It's also used for killing lice.

Aldehyde C17 gives a lovely cherry flavour. It's also used in aniline dyes, plastics and rubber. Ethyl acetate cleans leather and textiles – and gives ice cream a delicious pineapple flavour.

For a banana taste there's amyl acetate, an oil paint solvent. And for strawberries there's benzyl acetate, a nitrate solvent.

And unfortunately, the cheaper the ice cream, the more likely you are to be eating these chemicals.

STRANGE PRESENTS

DAFT idea from Norbury, the central heating firm in Bold Street. Their recent advert in the Liverpool Echo announced that anyone who ordered central heating from them within two weeks would get a free gift... an electric fire.

Thought that was just the sort of thing central heating enabled you to do without.

LETTER TO THE FREE PRESS RACE AND OUR SCHOOLS

I READ with interest your article 'Race and our Schools' and I disapprove of what you have written.

I am a married woman with six children, two receiving grammar school education and – I'm proud to say – both in 'A' classes. My eldest son, who is eleven years old has brilliant chances of entering one of the top grammar schools.

My other three children are in St Hugh's infants and junior school, doing very well.

Surely I can't be the only mother with six black (or, as you stress so much in your paper, black English-born) children.

I suppose the children you say

are in these E.S.N. schools are the ones with WHITE mothers and BLACK fathers. Well, not every black English child has a WHITE mother – and as we know, SOME of them don't care about their child.

As for black teenagers getting the lowest paid jobs, well – more fool them. We all know that if you're black you've got to be more persistent in what you want otherwise you don't get it.

Mrs A.H. NICHOLLS
Avondale Road
Liverpool 15.

● Readers' comments on this, or any other topic are welcome.

Lost: One embassy

MERSEYSIDE'S new 'embassy' at 5-7 Chancery Lane, London, has been made to sound an impressive place. So we went to have a look...

Numbers 5 to 7 Chancery Lane are actually offices of a well known Liverpool firm, the Royal Insurance Company. So where's the much publicised 'embassy'?

We almost missed the small plaque by the doorway which reads "Merseyside Development Office – 4th floor."

Another tenant in the building is the National Industrial Relations Court. They're on the first floor.

Strange bedfellows!

GETTING OUT OF THE ARMY...

"I'M NOT AGAINST being a soldier. I would be willing to fight to defend this country against an invader... But what is happening in Ireland is all wrong. Some of my friends have been killed there. I keep asking myself – what did they die for?"

THESE words were spoken by a former British soldier. And there are others like him who are leaving the army – or want to – because of British policy in Ireland.

Below we explain the various ways of leaving the armed forces – and some of the difficulties.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

A serviceman can apply for a discharge on conscientious grounds if, since enlisting, he has developed a moral or religious objection to taking part in any war. Objections on purely political grounds to specific conflicts (e.g. that in N.Ireland) are not usually treated sympathetically.

Advice on this method of leaving is available from the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors Continuing Committee, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. They can give advice on procedure and offer support in what can be a difficult and lengthy process.

OTHER GROUNDS

A serviceman who has served three years (in some cases four) may be able to buy himself out. The Ministry of Defence decides whether or not to grant permission.

The price is between £20 and £150 for boy soldiers and between £150 and £250 for adults. Soldiers under 18 can leave within six months of enlisting for a payment of £20, or without paying anything if they enlisted when under 17½.

COMPASSIONATE DISCHARGE The principle behind this is that of being needed at home – the family being unable to manage on their own.

ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE

Sweden has made arrangements to welcome British soldiers who go AWOL. At least twelve have already received political asylum there.

Legal advice in Sweden is available from (a) Hans Goran Franck, Kungsgatan 24 Stockholm, tel 20050 or 200600; (b) Bengt Soderstrom, same address as Franck, tel 102502 at office or 332013 at home; (c) Svenska Flyttingradet, Drottningsgatan 16, Stockholm, tel 210732 (Tues, 8-6).

To be considered for asylum in Sweden a soldier must have been – or about to be – posted to N.Ireland. He should take his ID card and enter via Stockholm.

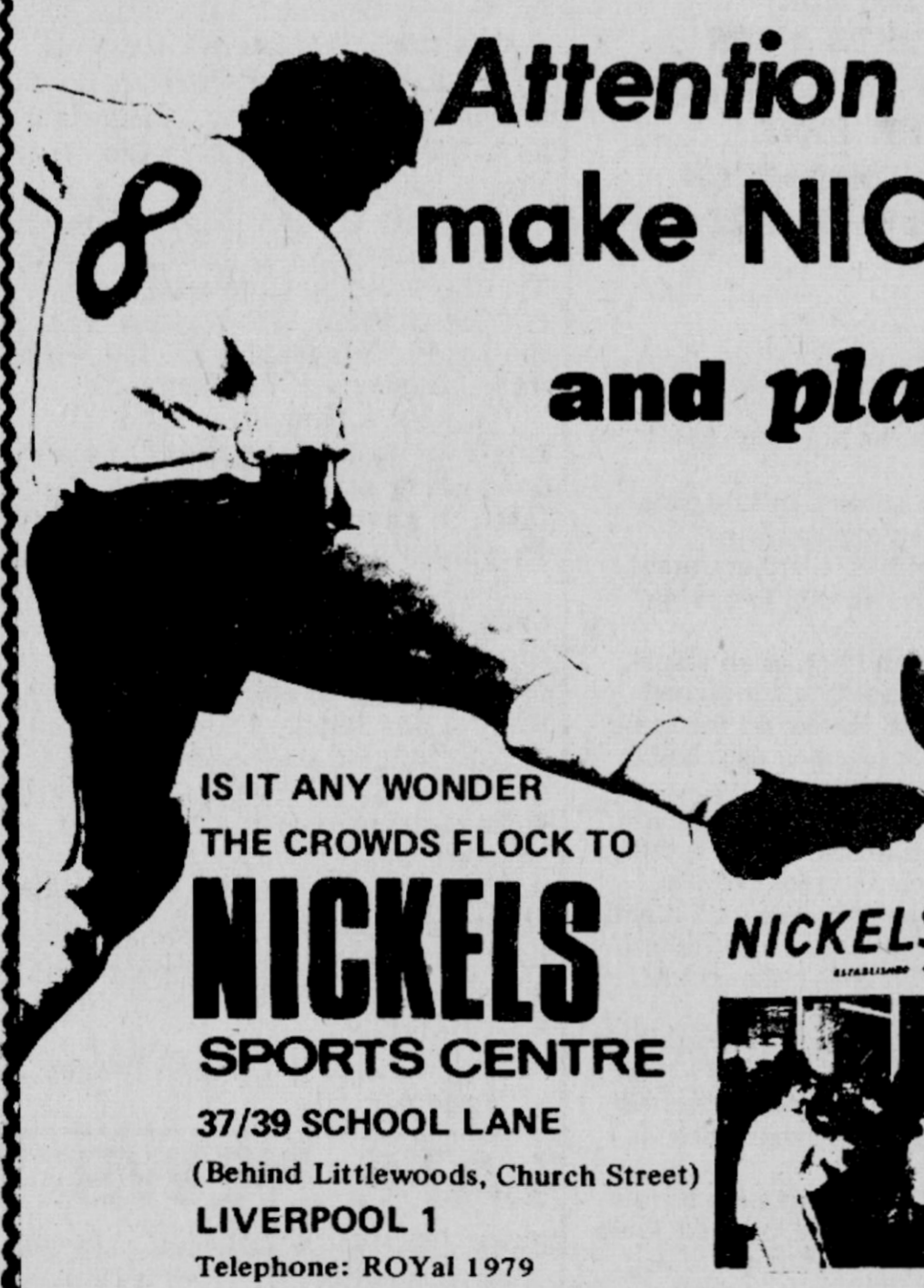
After ten days (to establish residence) he should go to the police accompanied by a friend and register for political asylum.

After registering, which takes a couple of hours, he can then go to the Swedish Social Bureau who will (a) get him a place to stay; (b) give him money to live on; and (c) help him to enrol in Swedish classes.

● More information, and fact-sheets about leaving the army available from the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign.

Advice about all legal ways of leaving the forces from 'At Ease', tel: 01-837 5501 or from the National Council for Civil Liberties, 186 Kings Cross Road, London WC1. Tel: 01-278 4575.

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POLICE GET TIED UP

REMEMBER the confrontation between police and pickets at Saltley Coke depot near Birmingham during the miners' strike?

The success of the pickets was considered a great triumph at the time. But now the police seem to be celebrating it as well. Police veterans of Saltley

have had a special tie designed to commemorate the occasion.

Another force over in the north-east are also getting new ties.

This time it's because they're worried about their lads getting grabbed by the throat.

So their having clip-on ties which pull away as soon as someone gets hold of them.