

# Woman sacked for not playing dirty tricks

THE MANAGERESS of an off-licence has been sacked for refusing to use dirty tricks to test her staff's honesty.

Mrs Gladys Weaver was in charge of the Ashe and Nephew shop in Scargreen Avenue, Fazakerley.

In her 17 months as manageress she had refused to carry out a particularly disgusting "stock security check" which the firm insist on.

Like other manageresses, Mrs Weaver was instructed to plant money around the shop and to put a larger "float" in the till than she told her assistant.

If any of the money disappeared or an assistant said the till was correct on cashing up, she was immediately sacked. (No doubt Ashe and Nephew didn't realise they were simply putting temptation in people's way.)

"You're told when you first go there, it's drummed into you — trust no-one, everyone's a thief," said Mrs Weaver.

Her crime was refusing to treat women who were friends as thieves. Ashe and Nephew have given a number of petty reasons for sacking Mrs Weaver. But they have not questioned her honesty.

The trouble started when the Area

Manager marched into the shop and sacked all the part-time assistants.

He also demanded the resignation of Mrs Weaver. When she refused to resign, Mrs Weaver was sacked as well.

The off-licence did not need to close after the sackings. The Area Manager had new staff waiting in his car to take over immediately — something the firm have done before.

But on Monday, October 6, pickets appeared outside the Scargreen Avenue shop. The staff were soon joined by friends and neighbours.

A total blockade began, which was only abandoned after serious harassment by the police.

Customers and delivery wagons were turned away. Women went in only to take their money out of the Christmas club; a petition was started, even children went elsewhere for their sweets.

And pensioners were taken by car to buy cigarettes at the Western Approaches pub on Lower House Lane.

When the shop closed for half-day on the Wednesday, takings were all of 10 pence.

The success of the blockade must have worried somebody. On the



Pickets outside the off-licence

Monday night two guardians of justice arrived and arrested Mrs Weaver and her son, Tony, for obstruction.

By Thursday it took five panda cars to "keep the peace". The harassment got so bad the women had to call off the picket.

All that's left for Mrs Weaver is to

take her case to an industrial tribunal. She will also plead Not Guilty to the charge of obstructing the Queen's highway.

Presumably, Ashe and Nephew are well satisfied. And, presumably, their nasty "stock security checks" continue.



WHEN Michael Wescott, a defendant in the BWNIC conspiracy trial was asked: How do you plead? he replied:

"I plead for peace in a world of war, love in a world of hate, free speech for all, and an end to politically motivated trials in this country."

Judge Neil McKinnon butted in: "I shall have to have a medical report on you if you are not careful."



A LORRY DRIVER friend of ours in a rush to get back to Liverpool was stopped on the M6 by the police. Policeman: "Having problems then?" Driver: "Er, what d'you mean?" Policeman: "Having trouble getting the wheels off the ground for take-off?"



THE CHILEAN junta are trying to find out who wrote a poem published in a newspaper.

On the face of it, it seems to praise the junta, but if you read the first letter of each line vertically, it denounces them as "assassins" and "tyrants."



ADDRESSING the Yatton Fatstock Show annual dinner in the Assembly Rooms, Weston-super-Mare, Mr Neil King, a well-known veterinary surgeon said he was no expert on farm stock.

"I feel more qualified to speak to our county ladies' organisation on The Care of Your Pussy," he said.



COURTROOM SCENE: Magistrate: "And who is the person making these allegations?"

—"Er, I am de alligator, yer honour."

The place? Liverpool magistrates court, where else.



THE CALIFORNIAN Supreme Court have been asked to remove Judge Leland Geiler from the bench because he is in the habit of using a battery-operated dildo as a gavel.

## Men behind the Liver empire



THE OWNERS of the private laundrettes in Liverpool must have been delighted by the Liberals' decisions to close two more public wash-houses.

For several years, the Speke and Netherfield Road laundries were deliberately neglected and run down by the council.

But even so they still offered (before they were shut) a far better and far cheaper service.

Now people in these areas have no option. They have to use private laundrettes.

Who exactly benefits from the Liberals' action?

The firm with most to gain is Associated Liver Laundrettes, of 104 Prescott Road. They dominate Liverpool.

They have at least 76 private laundrettes in the city.

In some areas residents have no choice but to go to an expensive Liver Laundrette. One of these areas is Speke, now the public laundry has been closed.

The directors and profiteers behind Liver Laundrettes are: Allan Ray of (appropriately) 'The Haves', Vale Road, Ainsdale; Robert P Harling, 'Woodville', Vale Road, Woolton; Keith Brownson, 209 Queens Drive; Donald Thornton, 13 Moss Lane, Bootle; John Trapp, 9 Eskdale Ave, Aughton; and W H Calvert and his wife, an accountant from Aberdeenshire.

Mr Harling couldn't contain his delight when the Speke public laundry disappeared.

He wrote to the Echo suggesting the council could always give vouchers to poor families who couldn't afford (his) private laundrettes.

In other words, the man who believes in free enterprise thought private owners should be subsidised by the council.

Running Liver is a profitable business. For instance in 1972 they made £57,983 profit.

By 1974 this had dropped to £18,069, but only on paper. It was really far more. In the same year they loaned almost £100,000 to other companies.

And how did they make the profits to make such huge investments? Simple — by paying poverty wages.

In 1974 their total wage bill was £134,200 for 324 employees. This works out at the princely sum of about £8 a week.

No wonder private laundrettes make money. And this is the sort of set-up the Liberals have rushed to support.

Perhaps nothing gives a better picture of the way private owners exploit their employees than an advert stuck up in one laundrette.

The job at W & H Woodhead Laundrette at 65 Lisburn Lane, Tuebrook is for a part-time assistant.

The pay is just £5.50 for 20 hours (having three people working three shifts means the owner isn't in the unfortunate position of paying overtime).

This works out at 27½ lousy pence an hour. And they say they've abolished slavery!

### GIVING KIRKBY A BETTER NAME...

## NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS...

WON'T IT BE NICE to read some good news about Knowsley council for a change?

All this corruption stuff and that unfortunate business over Kirkby ski-slope has been getting everybody down.

Worse still, the circulation of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo — a completely innocent bystander in all this — has been going down in Knowsley.

But all that's going to change now, thank goodness. The council and the Post and Echo have got it all fixed up.

This particular bit of good news is contained in an "Interdepartmental Memorandum" sent to all council departments. It says that a series of meetings between top council officials and the "editorial management" of the Post and Echo have resulted in a "new scheme".

The Post and Echo, it says, have sent more reporters to Knowsley, to get more news... (so they can make more money).

"The reason for the experiment," says the memorandum, "is to promote a circulation drive during the next twelve months in the area."

But there'll be no need for all those reporters to go digging around for stories: "The newspaper have requested our assistance by notify-

ing the team of possible items — particularly those with a human interest, and it is felt that the opportunity should not be missed."

Presumably this means that anyone who asks the council for help with an "interesting" problem will end up with a pack of news-hounds on the doorstep.

But what's in this for Knowsley council? What could the Post and Echo possibly do for them? The answer is in the memorandum:

"...an assurance has been given that the proposals will enable far more coverage to be given to the positive side of activities in the borough."

In other words, happy days are here again.

Of course, some people might say this smacks of news management; and that a local paper is supposed to keep an eye on local government, not go along with it.

Some might even say it's an insult to the intelligence of newspaper readers. But not the Post and Echo. They think their readers have no intelligence, anyway.

At a meeting with his staff recently, Echo editor George Cregeen reminded them they were writing for dim-wits — so stories should be kept simple.

### He's a jolly good fellow...

THE MAYOR of Knowsley's generosity in the bar after the last council meeting surprised even the most happy-go-lucky councillors.

Councillor Seth Powell, from Huyton, insisted on paying for three rounds for about 20 councillors out of "his" Mayoral expenses (that is, out of the rates).

Only when the final drinks were passed round did word spread that Good Old Seth would soon be asking councillors for an increase to meet the rising cost of being a Mayor.

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