

Londoner disputing birth control

Associated Press

LONDON — When she's not doing the laundry, baking bread or buying groceries for her husband and 10 children, Victoria Gillick taunts the British medical establishment.

She and her supporters have been campaigning for more than a decade to stop doctors from prescribing birth control pills for girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

The British Medical Association, the Department of Health and Social Security, family-planning clinics, the big drug companies, the education system and the feminist movement are all on Mrs. Gillick's list of enemies.

And for now, the 38-year-old Roman Catholic housewife has them all pinned down with an Appeals Court ruling in her favor. The case reached the House of Lords' Law Lords, Britain's Supreme Court, in June, but the court put off judgment until the fall legal term.

In the meantime, doctors are banned from giving contraceptive or abortion advice or treatment to girls under 16, the legal age of consent in Britain, without their parents' permission.

Mrs. Gillick, whose five daughters are all under 16, says it comes down to one question: "Who is responsible for children, parents or the state?"

In Britain, where contraceptives are free under the National Health Service and sex education has long been taught in the schools, the rate of pregnancies among teen-age girls is about half that of the United States.

Dr. Pramilla Senanayake, medical director of the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation, which has affiliates in 120 countries, says it would be "disastrous" if the appeals decision is allowed to stand.

"The Gillick case provides a barrier between a young person and health personnel to whom they might turn for advice, including advice on how to prevent pregnancy," she says.

"If young people know the medical profession has to get prior consent before prescribing contraception, then they won't turn to the doctor. They will carry on with sexual activity and risk pregnancy."

During a birth control debate at the University of Manchester in March, about 10 left-wing feminists shouted abuses and pelted Mrs. Gillick with contraceptives. Some of the women were dressed as rabbits to mock the size of her family.

Tentative agreement made

Chicago teacher strike

Associated Press

Chicago teachers tentatively agreed Wednesday to end a strike that had disrupted the first day of school for 431,000 students, while walkouts in Seattle and other cities kept another 151,000 students out of class in six states.

The teachers in Chicago, the nation's third-largest school system, agreed on a two-year contract on the second day of the strike after intervention by Gov. James R. Thompson.

The pact still must be approved by the 28,000-member Chicago Teachers Union, which called a strike for the third consecutive year. The union's House of Delegates was meeting Wednesday night to decide whether to accept the pact.

Jacqueline Vaughn, president of the teachers union, said she would recommend that it approve the contract, and that teachers return to work pending approval within 10 days by the full union membership.

The walkout had parents scrambling to find alternative recreational and educational programs for their youngsters or seeking last-minute enrollments

at parochial or other private schools.

"I really have lost faith... no one has the heart for this anymore," said Mary Almer, a former PTA president.

Some community centers offered free instruction to students, and Chicago's City Colleges' television station planned educational broadcasts ranging from "Sesame Street" to videotaped high school math and composition classes.

The strike began after negotiators reached a stalemate over a one-year salary increase, with the board offering a 3.5 percent raise and the union asking a 9 percent increase.

The union lowered its demand to 8 percent. And late Tuesday, Reilly, who shuttled between the two sides during the talks, said they had agreed to a "framework for an agreement." Money remained the sticking point, he said.

The average teacher's salary in Chicago is \$30,000, said Board President George Munoz.

No new talks were scheduled in Seattle, where the city's 44,000 public school students were to have gone back to class Wednesday.

day. The 3,700 teachers, aides and substitutes struck Tuesday over state-imposed salary limits, class size and other issues.

Elsewhere, walkouts began Wednesday in Pawtucket and Newport in Rhode Island, keeping 12,100 students out of school and in Toronto, Ohio. Strikes continued in four Michigan districts, affecting 51,400 students and 3,100 teachers; in six Penn-

sylvania districts, idling 19,800 students; and in one other Illinois system, affecting 9,900 pupils.

Pawtucket's 600 teachers voted early Wednesday not to work without a contract in the 8,200-pupil system. They are seeking raises totaling 27 percent over three years and rejected a School Committee offer of a one-year contract with a 5 percent raise.

In Newport, the strike by 330 teachers left 3,900 students without instructors.

Little progress was reported in efforts to end strikes in four Michigan school districts affecting 51,400 students and 3,100 teachers.

Professional businessmen become weekend cowboys

Associated Press

BELLEFONTE, Pa. — They are a nomadic band of weekend cowboys in pickup trucks. They suffer broken bones and bruised egos in quest of prize money that hardly covers expenses.

Today's rodeo rider keeps alive a Wild West tradition, but he may earn his living in a Pennsylvania coal mine or a New York office.

On weekdays, Dennis Sciabica toils in politics as an aide to a state senator. In his free time, he's a professional cowboy, wrestling steers and riding snorting bulls.

"Both are high risk businesses," Sciabica says. "I've had people tell me that I sling the bull during the week and ride it on weekends."

In nine years of rodeo competition, he's had his nose broken five

times and his back broken once. He's lost most of his teeth, smashed a cheekbone and dislocated his shoulder. He travels 40,000 miles a year and is happy to make pocket money. "I'm 30, my body's 82," he says.

"But it beats the devil out of growing up."

Most weekend cowboys have regular jobs. On a busy weekend they may compete in as many as four rodeos, but only a few make a living at it.

Entry fees range from \$25 to \$60 per event. A good payoff for a first-place finish is \$600 to \$700. Cowboys who bite the dust go home sore and broke.

"If you watch your nickels, your profit margin could be \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year," Sciabica says. "But I don't think anybody gets rich riding rodeo. There's not enough money to justify the abuse."

Qualifying for a payoff in bull riding means sticking to a 2-ton, ram-paging hulk for eight seconds.

"It's like an entire lifetime compressed in a few seconds," says Sciabica, who hosts his own three-day rodeo every year in central Pennsylvania.

Sciabica is also vice president of the American Rodeo Association, one of three nationally sanctioned

rodeo groups. The ARA has 1,000 members competing in rodeos staged mainly in the East, with many a tenderfoot among them.

"It doesn't matter where you come from anymore," says Sam Swearingen, 25, of Milroy, Pa., the ARA's leading money-winner in saddle bronc riding last year. "It's amazing how many cowboys come from the East."

East or west, cowboys are a rare breed, according to steer wrestler Jimmy Douglas, 42, a transplanted Texan who now lives in Dayton, Pa., and operates a surface coal mine.

"The same spirit that drove people the whole way across this country takes the cowboy and his beat-up old trailer to the rodeo every week," Douglas says. "The Wild West might be gone, but the Wild West inside the man isn't gone. I think all these people are living 150 years after their time."

"I'd rather rodeo every week for \$100 than mine coal five days for \$1,000. Being a cowboy is being something everybody else isn't."

Sikh extremists linked to killing

Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — Three suspected Sikh extremists firing machine guns burst into a city council office Wednesday and killed a prominent politician who was a close friend of the prime minister.

Slain councilman Arjun Dass, 46, was a Hindu and a member of the Congress Party of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Gandhi called an emergency meeting to review security in New Delhi.

In Punjab state, which has been beset for Sikh violence for more than a year, two terrorists riding a motor scooter opened fire in an industrial area of Jalandhar city.

Police in the northern state said two people were injured, but gave no further details.

A series of coordinated attacks Tuesday by Sikh extremists in Punjab villages took the lives of four Hindus and injured 12 others. Hin-

A series of attacks Tuesday by Sikh extremists in Punjab villages took the lives of four Hindus and injured 12 others. Authorities believed the violence was intended to sabotage Punjab's Sept. 25 elections.

Indus are a religious majority in all of India except the Punjab.

Authorities believed the spate of violence was intended to sabotage Punjab's Sept. 25 elections, which are being boycotted by Sikh militants.

Officials responded by ordering a dusk-to-dawn curfew on a section of Punjab's border with Pakistan. An official announcement said the curfew would remain in force until Sept. 30.

The curfew was imposed to "prevent entrance or exit of disruptive elections in the wake of the coming

elections," according to an official statement.

Dass, a member of the Delhi Metropolitan Council, was named by civil liberties groups as one of 16

Congress Party leaders who allegedly instigated anti-Sikh riots following the assassination last Oct. 31 of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

At least 2,700 people died in the four-day riots, including almost 2,000 Sikhs in New Delhi alone.

Another Congress Party politician linked to the riots, national law-

maker Lalit Maken, was assassinated at his home July 31. No arrests have been made.

Police said they did not know whether Dass was slain because of his alleged role in the riots or as part of attempts to undermine the elections for a new 117-member Punjab legislature and 13 seats in the national Parliament.

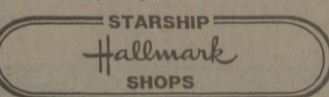
Police on Wednesday night released photographs of four men, three bearded and turbaned and one clean-shaven.

A television announcer said the four, who were not named, were believed involved in a number of crimes, but he did not say they were suspects in Dass's murder.

The clean-shaven man was Lal Singh, a Sikh terrorist wanted by the FBI for allegedly plotting to kill Rajiv Gandhi during the Indian leader's visit to the United States in June.

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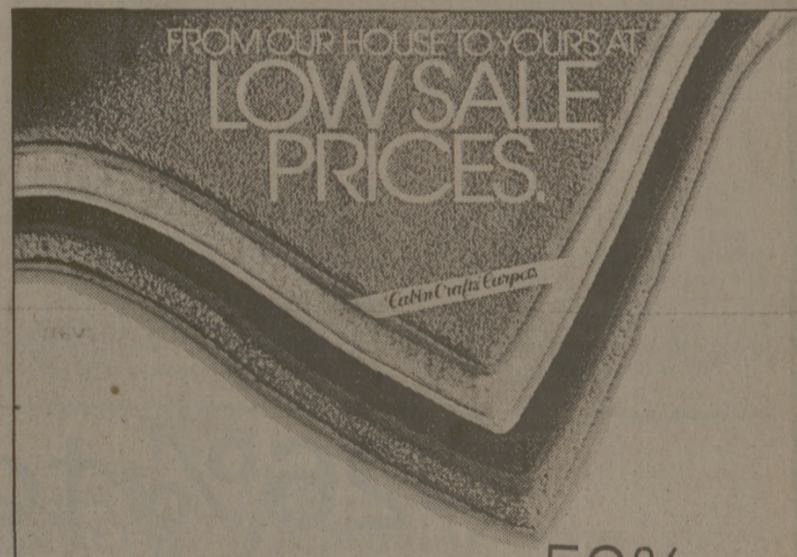
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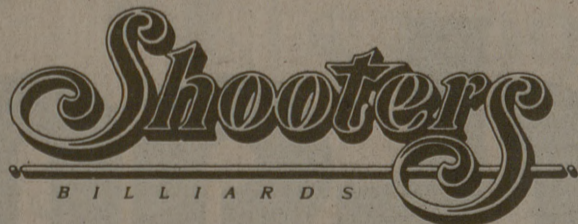
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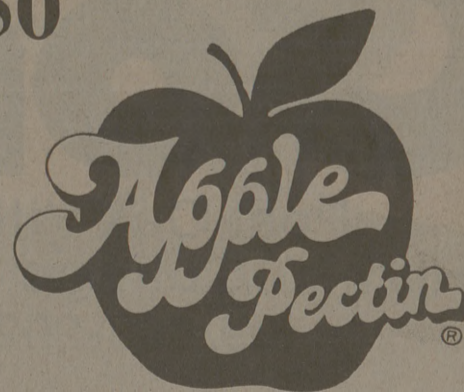
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