## Overseas nurses send British student nurses to the supermarket

by Tina Wingfield

NHS TRUSTS are opting to employ foreign nurses at the expense of newly qualified Britishtrained nurses.

Newly qualified nurses have been told by college trainers that they "may as well work for a supermarket" because there are no nursing jobs available in the National Health Service.

On completing their three-year training course, at a cost to the NHS of £15,600 each, nursing graduates from Suffolk College in Ipswich and Southampton University in Hampshire were informed that local hospitals could not afford to employ them. A Royal College of Nursing representative, Keith Murray, reported that in 30 years of nursing he had never known a situation as bad as this.

Nursing graduates across the country are struggling to find employment because a growing number of NHS Trusts - in preparation for competing in the new 'payments by results' market place being introduced by the government - are resorting to

desperate measures to reduce budget deficits quickly.

Staffing costs account for 30% of overall budgets and Trusts can cut costs significantly by employing foreign nurses and reducing staff numbers. Foreign nurses are cheaper than UK trained nurses and, in the last six years, Britain has employed more than 70,000 overseas nurses, mainly from India and the Philippines. As a representative of Unison pointed out: "Trusts get experienced overseas nurses on the cheap and keep them at lower grades."

In addition to facing competition from abroad, British nurses are also contending with a total freeze on recruitment imposed by increasing numbers of NHS Trusts.

While Trusts may succeed in reducing their budget deficits, the trade off is that British nurses, highly trained at the expense of the British taxpayer, are consigned to supermarket shelf-stacking and, with nursing staff spread more thinly in hospitals, patient care is compromised.



STUDENT NURSES: Back in the 1950s student nurses were valued members of staff but now they are being pushed out by nurses from overseas.

## Immigration skews HIV/AIDS stats

SEVEN out of ten people with HIV in south Essex come from Africa and are now living in Southend.

The vast majority of those carrying the disease come from Zimbabwe and were already infected when they arrived in Britain.

Tina Penn-Gillam, an HIV adviser to Southend Council's community services scrutiny committee, has warned that immigration is making HIV statistics misleading because most immigrants get HIV through heterosexual contact.

"For our indigenous population the largest number of HIV transmissions still remain with men who have sex with men. The figures have been skewed by the immigrant population."

The Terrence Higgins Trust in Southend has acknowledged the changing make-up of HIV sufferers and has organised support groups for African men and African women to work alongside their long-established support group for gay men.

## Girls targeted for abortion in Leicester

NDIAN women in Leicester are returning to India to get abortions for unwanted female babies.

The practice is growing in the city because of an increase in the dowry demands being made by families to which any daughter marries into.

Campaigners are so concerned that they have called upon Leicester NHS Trust to end the practice of telling women the gender of their babies when they go for a scan.



SCAN: It could be a death sentence for some girl babies in Leicester.



Steve Johnson on buying British and breaking the supermarket stranglehold on our food producers

THE TRADITIONAL British family farm will soon be a thing of the past and our country will be less and less able to feed her own people without depending on imported food.

Multinational supermarket combines are using monopoly purchasing power to force farmers to take prices for their produce too low to let them earn a living. Just four giant supermarket combines now control the food market because over 90% of Britons do all or

most of their shopping in them. Farmers therefore have to sell their produce to the big chain buyers despite being ruthlessly exploited. From every pound you spend on food in their stores, only 34p goes to the farmer - a share that has dropped by 28% since the late 1980s.

Supermarket running costs have changed little and the prices shoppers pay have not dropped so this extra money is going straight into the pockets of the global multinationals such as US-based WalMart who run the big store chains.

That has left farmer after farmer to go to the wall, driven off the land that in many cases has been cultivated by their family for generations.

European Union bureaucratic regulations, ignored by farmers elsewhere, have hamstrung our farmers in many areas and even £3 billion a year in Common Agricultural Policy subsidies doesn't help in the long term because it undermines real farming by paying farmers to grow things our people don't want to eat and discourages innovation and diversification.

Over the last decade despite a near 50% increase in total food consumption, the output from British farming has fallen.

This is because our food now increasingly comes from abroad with 15% of lamb, 25% of pork and bacon, and 33% of beef being imported. It's the same with our vegetables and cereals and even at the height of the British apple season, in September, over half the apples on supermarket shelves came from abroad.

Imported food is not good for the consumer. Foreign meat is not always produced to the same high standard of hygiene and humane rearing as our cally unstable and potentially hostile Eastern European and Third World states. The British National Party believes that the power of the multinational

and depend for our food on politi-

The British National Party believes that the power of the multinational monopoly supermarkets must be broken and replaced with stores run by and for ordinary British people. Stores like Waitrose – the only food store which treats farmers with respect, paying them a proper price and having a policy of never making

any farmer dependent on them for the bulk of their produce sales. It is because there are no parasitic City shareholders to pocket excess profits that Waitrose can pay its own workforce, who own it, a decent wage without ripping off either producer or consumer.

Whilst the global supermarkets still rule the roost, farmers should join together in producers' co-operatives to build enough collective muscle to get a decent price for their goods. Just like Dairy Farmers of Britain, a co-op of 3250 farmers which is

now the country's third biggest milk producer.

The alternative in the short term is more ruined farmers driven off the land, and a question mark over the future of the British farming industry. In the long term it means a Britain unable to feed her own people and forced to rely on foreign countries which, because of global warming, will be struggling to feed their own population.

In tomorrow's world, if any country can't provide food for its own people, it will face famine and destruction. Britain's farmers are Britain's future.



that caused the 2001 foot-and-mouth

disease disaster. Imported vegetables

and fruit, especially from Third World

countries, are often treated with

pesticides and other chemicals that

Importing food is not good for the

country because it undermines our

balance of payments in the short term,

and in the long term it undermines our

independence and, possibly, survival.

The British people only survived

the great wars of the 20th Century

because we were able to just about

feed our own people from our own

land. Today we couldn't do this,

are illegal in Britain.

## Family farms need producers' co-operatives

SCOTTISH dairy farmers are being driven out of business by agri-business combines and supermarkets who use their monopoly buying power to deny them a fair price for their milk.

There are just 1,400 dairy farmers remaining in Scotland when twenty years ago there were almost 5,000, and now the remaining smaller family-run farms are being run out of business.

The major supermarkets have recently increased the price of their milk but have not passed on any of the extra profit to the milk producers. This has resulted in a protest by dairy farmers and the blockading of milk depots to



cut off the supply of milk across the country.

But this could result in supermarkets importing milk from abroad which

will not only drive more of our dairy farmers to the wall, but will make the country dependent on imports to survive.

In the short term our dairy farmers must follow the example of Dutch dairy farmers by joining together in producers' co-operatives to process their own milk and thus cut out one layer of greedy profiteering middlemen.

In the long term they must campaign for the British National Party, the only political party in Britain today which will take on the forces of multinational greed that are taking away their livelihoods, and which will end the dependence of the British people on imported food produce.