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Tel: Brighton (0273) 553466

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# LYSISTRATA

Summer '83

A Wimmins Peace Magazine

15192 L CCC

**GLOOM**

Hey, what's the matter?

EVERYTHING! I've just heard the local nursery's closing down which means I've nowhere to leave my kids while I go out to work, -and that's if I even have a job for much longer!

I've heard there are going to be more redundancies of the hospital where I work.

Hmmmm

Millions of pounds spent on weapons to kill people instead of money being put into worthwhile things.

And these Cruise Missiles everybody's talking about - they won't defend us from nuclear attack, they're just part of America's plan to limit a nuclear war to Europe.

THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONE MAD!! I just wish there was something I could do.....

They keep telling us they can't afford to keep hospitals and nurseries open, or to provide good schools, and pay us decent wages..... but I keep reading in the paper about all the money they're spending on nuclear weapons!

WELL, THERE IS! May 24<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day for Disarmament. Thousands of women will be taking nonviolent action against nuclear bases, construction companies who work on nuclear bases, government nuclear bunkers, and so on. It's happening all over Europe and in many other countries too!

We can make our voices heard if we all act together! Remember DEC 12<sup>th</sup>?

30,000 WOMEN SAYING NO TO CRUISE MISSILES!

YOU CAN'T KILL THE SPIRIT!

ON MAY 24<sup>th</sup> there will be hundreds of women's peace actions happening all over the country.

Sounds great! So how do I find out what's happening in my area?

No 4  
45p



# LETTERS

Dear Lysistrata,

For me, there is no difference between the civil nuclear power programme and the nuclear weapons programme.

What I want to do is go back to the beginning of the cycle, uranium mining and see what implications it has for the womens' peace movement.

Most of the Uranium is mined in the 'developed' world, e.g. Canada, USA, Australia. But it is often on land belonging to indigenous people who provide cheap labour and who have few rights.

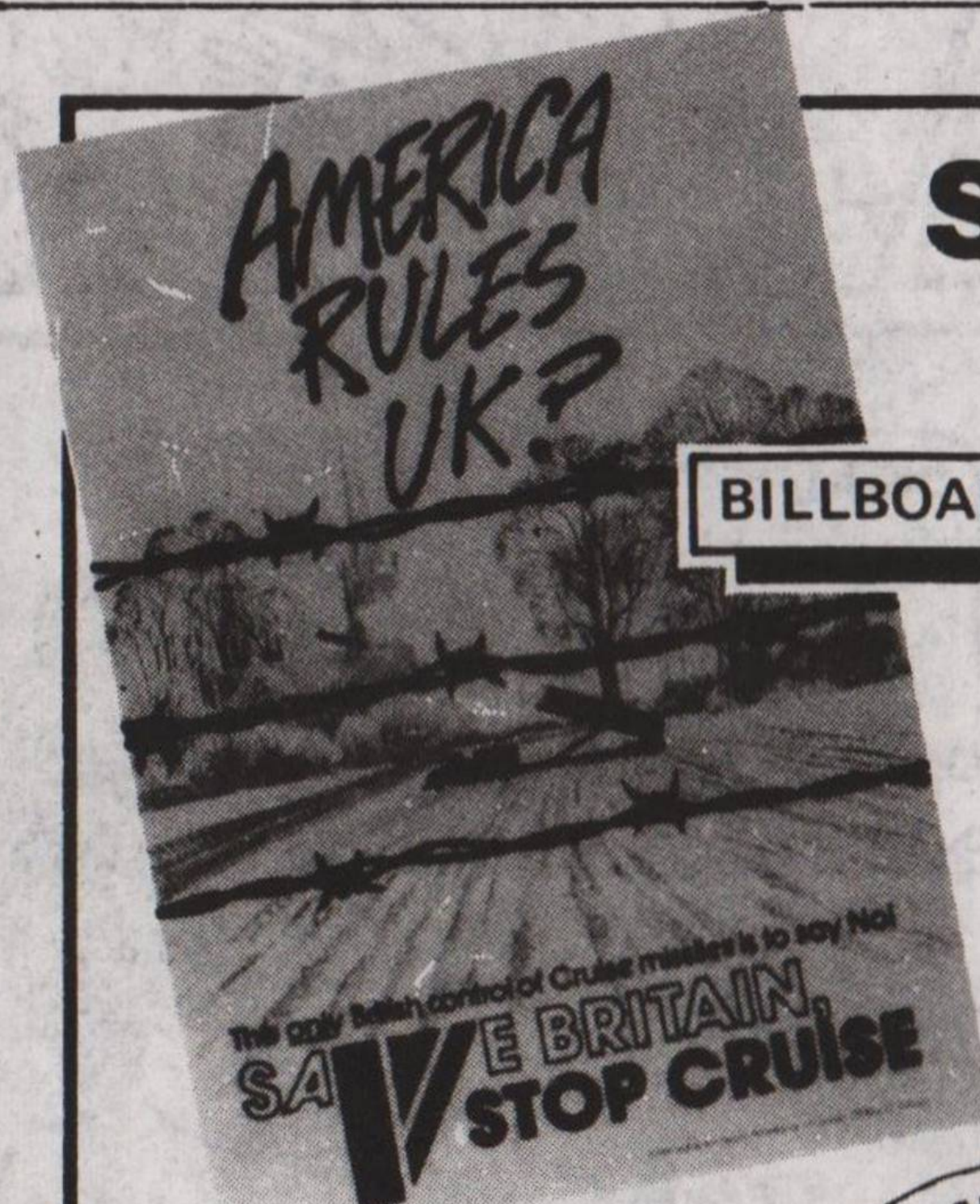
Conditions in the mines are absolutely appalling, safety regulations being minimal or non-existent. From constantly breathing the radio-active radon dust and handling uranium ore many of the miners die/are dying from cancer.

For most of these native people there is no choice but to accept work in these conditions. They are among the poorest and most illiterate people of their countries.

Many people have probably heard of Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), the British mining multinational. They are notorious for the crimes they commit

They are major share-holders in the Rossing mine in Namibia, from which the UK gets 50% of its uranium, they are thus violating UN decrees condemning the occupation of Namibia by South Africa. It is at this mine that many workers are sacked for trying to organise a trade union, where workers are there for a year (as long as it takes to contract radioactive poisoning) and never seen again, and where a special armed police force is employed to control the workers. RTZ are also responsible for desecrating sacred Aboriginal land in Queensland Australia. I feel strongly that women involved in the peace movement should be campaigning against uranium mining and corporations such as RTZ. Going beyond the nuclear connections this is a struggle against imperialism and racism. I think we must share our knowledge and work with women who are campaigning in these countries. We must realise that there are more levels to the campaign against nuclear weapons.

It would be good to know what other women feel about this, perhaps a correspondence could start via Lysistrata.  
Clare Jones.



## Save Britain...STOP Cruise

Many groups have used PAC's '£16 A WEEK ON ARMS' billboard poster. Now for the campaign against Cruise we have a new poster, to remind people that Cruise missiles are a real threat to us all. Along with the poster are a 'SAVE GB' car sticker and lots of 'STOP CRUISE' badges.



For details send a stamped and addressed envelope to: Chris Church, PEACE ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN (C10), PO Box 24 · Oxford · OX1 3JZ [or telephone OXFORD (0865) 249344].

## ... DEAR READERS ...

Several wimmin have asked us recently why we spell "wimmin" like we do. Its spelt in the magazine in a variety of ways - it depends on the wumun who's writing.

The collective feels that we want to use the above spelling because "women" means "of men" and of course both wimmin and men come from wimmin!

We will print the word however you spell it yourself if you write something.

We want to use words and spelling that fit in with being feminists - so much of the English language is sexist and racist (like black or dark imagery used to mean evil, white or light meaning good or pure).

### SPECIAL CHEAPO DEAL! SPECIAL CHEAPO DEAL!

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The usual conditions apply concerning our right to refuse any ad. which in the opinion of the collective is racist, sexist, generally offensive or which is paid for by an organisation who put profits before people.

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Sixteenth page (2"x1 1/2")	£4

Classifieds 10p word (Reductions for poverty, unwaged) Cheques/POs payable to Gemini Press.

Please keep on sending in your articles, photos, drawings etc. Because we are always short of space please keep articles down to about 1000 words or less. Also things should be written in a way that all wimmin can understand.

The articles in the magazine aren't made up of us lot doing it all! We want the magazine to be a place where wimmin can give all our different points of view.

### LYSISTRATA ON TAPE

Are you or do you know of any blind or partially sighted wimmin who might be interested in a taped version of Lysistrata? If so - contact us at 7 Florence Rd, Brighton, Sussex. (Bm 553466).

### A PLEA FOR MONEY ~ AGAIN!

We are short of money - still. If anyone owes us money for sold copies of the mag please let us have it as soon as poss. Any donations or standing orders will go towards bills, rent, equipment, printing costs, tea, chocolate.....!!

### THANKS TO...



Helena, Crig, Jan, Carmel, Laura.

for your help and things with the mag!  
XXXXX

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# ISRAEL - WIMMIN FIGHT MILITARISM

In October last year the Fifth National Feminist Conference took place in Israel. It was on the theme of Violence Against Wimin. There were very few Palestinian wimin there but the war in the Lebanon had undoubtedly affected and radicalised wimin and many felt that should have been the central theme of the conference. There was a shift from previous attitudes. In 1981 there had been a strong division between those who thought wimin should fight for equality in the army and those who said they should opt out of military service. At this conference there were no such feelings

expressed. There was a strong consensus to fight militarism in all its forms and to work with Palestinian wimin to build a trust between Jewish and Arab wimin. The two day conference ended with a Take Back the Night march through the streets of Haifa - 500 wimin chanting and singing and ending with a short ceremony in which the wimin observed a one-minute silence for all wimin everywhere whose lives have been sacrificed to violence. Mention was specifically made of the Lebanese victims of the war and of Israeli wimin murdered by their families/husbands.

From Off Our Backs

# 900 arrests! press silence

900 people were arrested recently at an anti nuclear demonstration at Vandenburg Air Base, a testing site for MX missiles in Santa Barbara, USA.

More than half of those arrested were wimin, several old people have also been arrested and are still in jail, and so are 25 children.

The American media has refused to publicise what has happened, presumably not wanting people to know the strength of the opposition to Reagan's plans for world destruction.

Also, if the public was made aware of the fact that nine hundred people have been arrested on a peaceful demo surely the outcome would be uncontainable?

From Outwrite

\* when we went to press

# IRELAND: peace action....

A PEACE CAMP HAS BEEN SET UP outside RAF Bishops court, a long-range radar military base sited on a beautiful part of the Co. Down coast, between Ardglass and Ballyhornan.

Since December '82 CND have been involved in protests at the base, symbolically blocking the main entrance one Saturday a month. In March, it was decided to set up a 'peace camp', inspired and in support of the wimin at Greenham Common, and other long and short term which are springing up all over England, Scotland and Wales. This is the first such move in Ireland, where military bases (both directly and indirectly nuclear) abound. The peace camp is one caravan with full-time occupants, plenty of room for more.

The peace camp and Saturday protestors has the support of the local people who know they can only lose by the presence of the RAF. There is also a fear in the community of a very high level of leukemia and cancer much higher than in other parts of Northern Ireland. Whether this is attributable to the radiation from the Radiation base, or due to Windscale pollution is as yet unsure. (Windscale is a nuclear re-processing plant, across the Irish Sea in Cumbria). The local council are inquiring into the Windscale leaks.

On April 10th CND staged a sit-down protest at the gates of Bishops court. A few hours before the protest 5 people invaded the base and wandered about for about twenty minutes before being 'apprehended by a sleepy sentry'. They spotted a notice saying 'Danger: Radiation above 2 metres'. They think that the line out of sight micro-wave beam, which carries messages from NATO West coast planes over to High Wycombe in England could also be responsible for the cancer-fear in the community. More actions are planned. There was a blockade of all three entrances to the base on May 14th but we've not heard how it went - please let us know! Good luck to the peace camp.

Information from Outta Control, 7 Winetavern St, Smithfield, Belfast 1.



*Dr Brighton*  
Patchwork Picnics

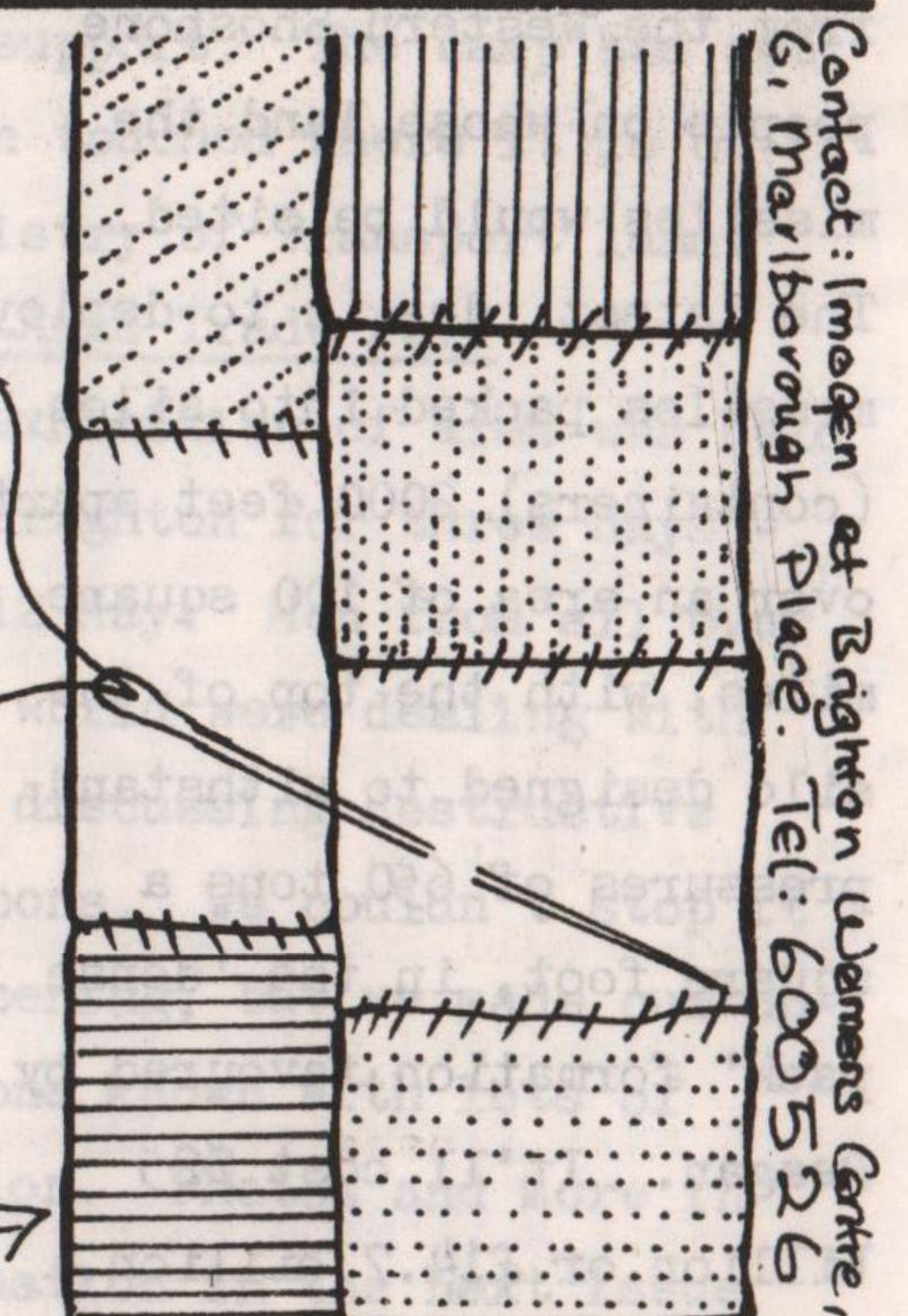
In preparation for June 25th, we are going to have picnics on every sunny day to make the patchwork. Hopefully this will attract uninvolved wimin to come & talk to us, and put some energy into the patchwork. So that, on the day, lots of individual wimmins' energy will be represented at Greenham.

# but no peace for gays....

FIVE YOUTHS WERE RELEASED ON suspended sentences after they admitted kicking a man to death because they thought he was gay. The case, which was heard in March, happened in Dublin. The judge, Sean Gannon, accepted the 'excuse' that the gang were in the park to clear it of homosexuals. One of the men released was later given thirty months for joy-riding and having 'house breaking instruments'. Property valued more than life?? If this is allowed to happen to gay men, how much worse is the dangers faced by lesbians?

Information from Outta Control

The All Ireland Lesbian and Gay Men's Conference is being organised for the beginning of June in Belfast. Contact the steering group: PO Box 44 Belfast 1 1SH.



Contact: Imogen of Brighton Womens Centre, 6, Marlborough Place, Tel: 600526

# EL SALVADOR .. wimin's batallion



IN EL SALVADOR WIMMIN TAKE A large part in fighting against the horrendous exploitation the people are faced with. Because of the intervention of the USA and the country's 'puppet government' there is extreme poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition. The 'Silvia batallion' is a wimin only batallion which was formed in December 1981.

It is the first wimin only military group to come out of the very insides of a revolution. They have defended Cerro Malacara which is a very strategic point on top of a hill. They were attacked by the Batallion Atlacatl (men trained and armed by the USA). The men thought that victory would be easy:

'they are only wimin and we are not queers, lets go'. The wimin's squad gave them a hard shock. The battle lasted for seven days then the Atlacatl had to run away because they were defeated.

Information from Mujer ILET Mexico, via Outwrite.



# IRAN-wimmin murdered

On Thursday 3rd March a french committee defending human rights and democracy in Iran held a press conference for an Iranian woman, Ms Irandokt, in a Paris hotel. She spoke of the appalling conditions of the child prisoners of war in Bagdad. At one point she said Mullars in Iran were providing each little boy with a key to heaven ( a real key) and told 'if you are not martyred Imam Homini won't forgive you.

On Monday 7th March Roiter commented on the transportation of a bullet proof limousine from Iran to New Deli for the use of the Iranian

president during his meetings there with none alliance leaders.

Also during March thousands of Iranian women marched through the streets of Tehran to prove their solidarity and demand freedom. Many were shot down or taken by the revolutionary guard.

Prisoners faced torture, rape and humiliation. Several hundred women were executed, seven were pregnant. The means of execution is particularly horrible. A rope is tied around the neck and thrown over a bar - a metal winch is used to raise the prisoner above the ground. Death can take some time and bodies remain hanging for 24 hours. Men

were encouraged by 'God's Party' (Homini's name for his loyal supporters) to throw acid and slash with knives at the faces of the unveiled women.

## THESE WOMEN CARRIED ON MARCHING FOR THREE DAYS.

Iranian women ask you to remember your sisters. They desperately need your support.

PS Talking later to a reporter Homini said he was tired of being questioned about these silly women and could they talk about the really important things.

This was written anonymously. We would like to get in contact with the wumun who wrote it.

## No land rights for Western Shoshones

The Pentagon is considering expanding its plan to deploy MX missiles in the Nevada desert. There's been a great deal of opposition to the previous plans, particularly from the Western Shoshone people on whose land the missiles would be sited. The latest idea is to deploy missiles packed into silos (containers) 2000 feet apart over an area of 100 square miles, with the top of the silo designed to withstand pressures of 650 tons a square foot, in the 'dense pack' formation favoured by Reagan. It'll cost \$25 billion or £14.7 billion.

There are plans for more 'protective measures' as the Soviet missile technology gets more advanced into the 1990s - interceptive missiles, extensive deceptive practices, like building empty silos and more missiles in the sides of the mountains.

The Western Shoshone people oppose the MX because they own most of the land designated for MX deployment. Its being done illegally. Their traditions say that they are to protect the lands the creator gave the people to survive on.

## Small triumph for Aborigines!

The Aborigines of Yarrabah - one of the best known

of Queensland's Aboriginal reserves - have thrown out the white manager and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has accepted it.

This represents a small triumph for black Australians fighting for control of their own reserves - and comes shortly after a former Aboriginal Council chairperson was sentenced to 6 months in prison for spitting at the manager.

Information from Native People's News.

## boycott BP

Last year, about 400 anti-nuclear activists, including many Aborigines, occupied the Honeymoon uranium project site in South Australia.

# GREENHAM - INVADIED AGAIN!

May 1st at Greenham Common a massive party was held outside the Orange Gate. We had picnics on the grass and there were puppet shows, games, a big inflatable cushion, and a theatre group that did little acts.

At about 2.30pm we all began to get in cars and coaches and then the drivers drove round the base until they came to the gap in the perimeter fencing (which was loosened the night before) and we got out of

the cars etc and two wimmin ran to the gap pulled up the fence rolled back the wire and 80 or so wimmin ran in and linked arms. We ran on to the runway and had a party. Quarter of an hour later the police came and dragged and pushed us on to USAF buses. They then drove us round to the Blue Gate and let us all off with no arrests (for those who could be arrested). Soon as we got off and started walking back another coach load of wimmin and children who had got on to the base after us were dragged off the bus. They wanted to go to the Orange Gate, but the police wouldn't take them there. So all the wimmin(120 or more) walked in the road. Cars from the party eventually came to pick us all up.

Louise

## Greenham Eviction

As we go to press, the Greenham wimmin have been evicted from Ministry of Defence land around the air base. Extreme violence has been used against them by the police. Wimmin have been subjected to hair-pulling and other brutalities. The press have made it look as if it is the wimmin who are the cause of the violence (during 'the eviction' visitors cars were being impounded and wimmin were trying to stop this). Wimmin in other parts of the UK have been contacted and are doing sympathetic actions in support. The camp has not been touched where it is on Ministry of Transport land.

## The Arms Trade Fair

An exhibition of arms was held in Brighton for three days - 10-12 May. Men from all over the world were dealing with and discussing destructive weapons. We couldn't stop it happening, but we made our opinions known with lots of action. Photos and more information in the next issue of Lysistrata.

## policeman's a wanker - it's official!

A womun who was arrested outside Holloway Prison for calling a policeman a wanker, had her case dismissed. (She was arrested when the wimmin who were serving 14 days for the New Years Day action were being released.) During her trial the policeman had to define the word- need I say more! As he rather sheepishly admitted that it was true, that in fact he was by definition a wanker the case was laughed out of court!!!! WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO STOP BEING SO PETTY?

## APOLOGIES!

In issue 3, we reported that the demo at Faslane was Scotlands first wimmin-only, we meant it was Scotlands first wimmin only peace demo..... sorry!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## WIMMIN DEFILE US FLAG



Two wimmin were arrested for 'breach of the peace' at USAF Greenham, for taking down the American flag. Apparently the americans had to burn it!!-because it had been defiled? The wimmin were sentenced to 14 days in holloway. Sick isn't it, that they can get so upset about a flag, but when it comes to peoples lives they don't seem to care.

There's now a BOYCOTT BP campaign, whose main intention is to stop the Roxby Downs uranium mine, in which Britain's BP (British Petroleum) holds 49% interest.



# Easter blockade at Greenham - End of the human chain!

There were only two things at Greenham at Easter. One was vulgar, boring and an unbelievably expensive expression of the hollow corpse that is called the imagination of men. In the forefront of this scene there were also the wimmin. Although by contrast vibrant, alive and brightly coloured, they were, more often than not, also cold, inwardly exhausted, wet round the knee-caps etc. and afflicted with all those other annoying little bodily symptoms that generally accompany an action.

On December 12th. last year we formed a positive shape - the shape of completion, of birth, of our own genitalia, of unity, of something aesthetically satisfying.

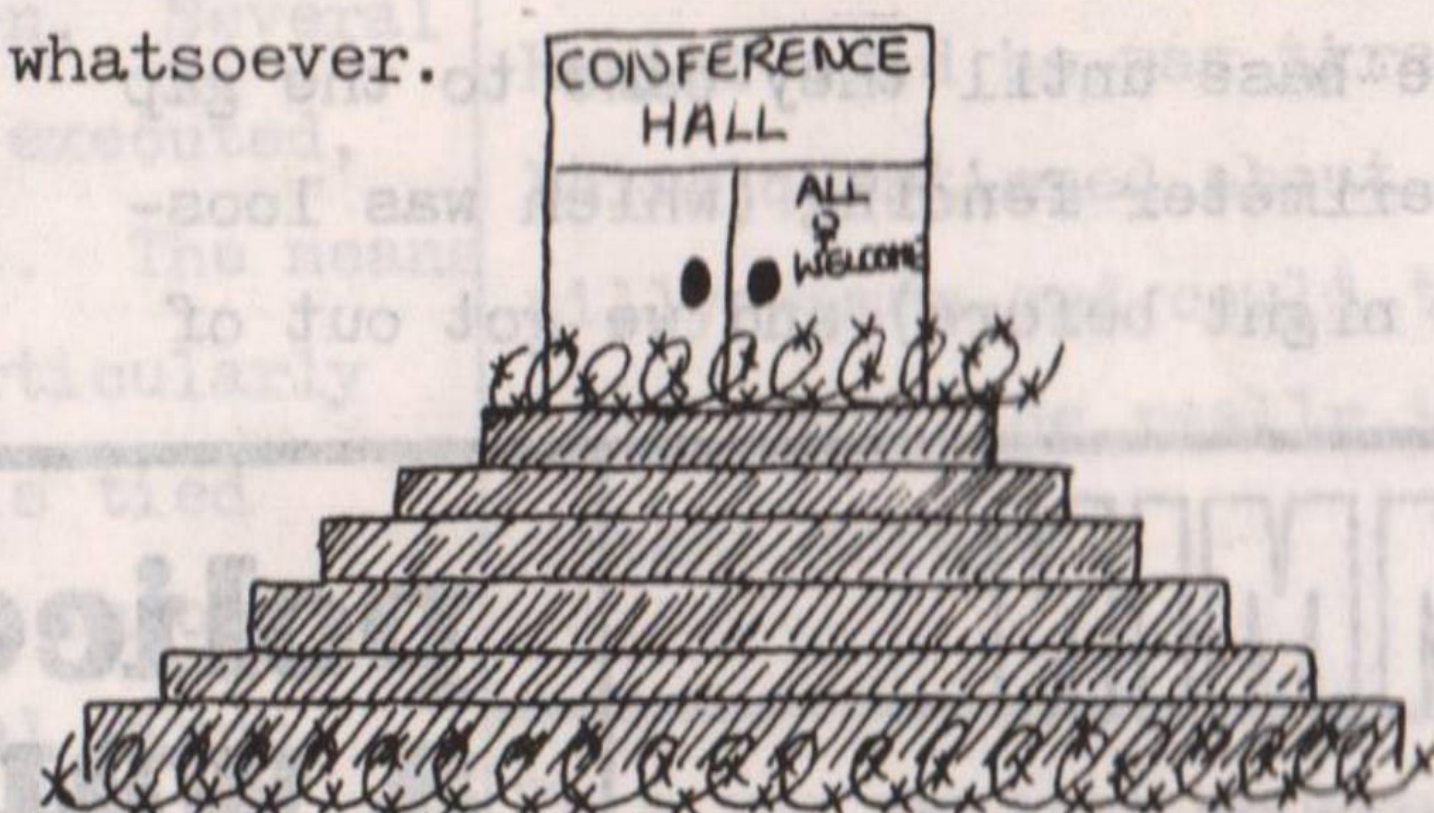
Within C.N.D., a fair number of men with laughably simplistic Freudian subconsciouses had managed to impose their will upon the collective consciousness of C.N.D. and invented the Easter plan of a human chain in the shape of a long thin straggly thing that went on and on and then came to an end in a pointless sort of way. Remind you of anything? Yes, but apart from that(!), it could also describe the history of the world under the continued rule of men. All in all a very negative image to be part of for those of us up there on the bleak northern fence of Greenham where the wind whistled mercilessly up our gorse bushes as we sat in turns for 48 hours determinedly preventing several huge rolls of MoD barbed wire from getting up and walking out of the red gate. The blue gate was its usual cosmopolitan self. There were also men at the main gate and at the orange gate, the information gate, there were even male stewards directing cars and such like. Although a few wimmin did manage to get into the base, hundreds more were frustrated in their attempts. This was due to C.N.D.'s lack of positive encouragement. At the green gate a middle-aged wumun from Barnsley, who had a C.N.D. sticker on her coat, was heard to say that she would positively never go on another C.N.D. organised event again and looked forward to the next exclusively Greenham wimmin organised event with more than usual fervour. I think she spoke for all of us.

L.B.

# ACCESS! NOT WORDS!

I am an invisible walking three handicaps - one is arthritis.

What access means, if it is to give equality to disabled women, can only be learned from disabled women who want to make the type of contributions they know they can make, and NOT be told/suggested what a group thinks suitable for the disabled one while they carry on as before in their own able way - making no adjustment whatsoever.



For example, I once attended a lecture with four hearing colleagues. I got on fine till the lecturer started pacing well down the packed hall. I repeatedly failed to catch his jacket and say he had a lip-reader present! Afterwards I asked my colleague for the other half of an important statement where the lecturer's mouth had been blanked out by a projector. It took them five minutes to manage to recall the statement. We all ended up hilarious (I'd had to kick them from showing hilarity as soon as he paced the aisle, as they had sat in the front for my sake) for the subject of his lecture was: 'Communication'!!!

There is a great need for a women's peace magazine that makes a cohesion of all the problems, solutions etc. And above all, some link-up opportunities (already done in Lysistrata on the Contacts Pages) but for Goddess's sake, please give addresses, not just the phone numbers - lip-readers cannot lip-read a phone; some may be dumb or have speech that is not easily comprehensible. And you don't have to be deaf to have phone phobia. contd.

A good book from which to learn the requirements of disabled women (though it is briefest on the deaf, and zero on public access for the deaf, but excellent for all other disabilities) is: 'The Source Book for the Disabled'. (ED. Glorya Hayle. Imprint Books 1979) It was pre International Year for Disabled People, hence it does not deal properly with access to social and public life for the deaf. It would update when reprinted.

OR: consult any local club etc for any specific disability and they will be only too glad to advise and inform you. Please remember that where access info is not stated for any event, the assumption of disabled women will be that there is none. Only the most hardy of the lengthily 'shut outs' will go and find out the hard way. Remember also, to go and to meet total failure is a humiliating experience. It can be physically/mentally painful.

My own view is that there is such a problem of access because we are not seen in order to realise what is needed. A catch 22 situation if we find access impossible. Though one can meet non-co-operation, impatience, relegation to what they (able) think suitable. Leaving their methods as they are, is an unwittingly arrogant treatment of us. Practical action is what we need, sympathy is useless.

## all ages, all races

We are all ages, all races, and probably constitute well over 25% of the total population. In the UK, of those aged over 50, 75% are disabled. And don't assume the very deaf won't go to discos. Some dance to the vibrations through the floor. But watch those decibels for it is estimated we shall be joined by another 2 million within 5 years deafened by volume level! So, be warned!

S G-H, Plymouth

# BLOCKADES!

## Upper Heyford

May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup>

One of the gates will be women only. The four day blockade has been divided into 6 shifts, and 6 different areas\*, so that people can come at different times, during the 4 days. If you can't come when others from your area are coming, please come when you can. If you want to stay for more than one day then that's fine too!!

Tues. 31st May ; 6 a.m. - midnight Southern & Sth East	Thurs. 2nd. June ; midnight - noon Yorkshire, Northern & Scotland.
Weds. 1st. June ; midnight - noon Nth. West, N Ireland & Eire	Thurs. 2nd. June ; noon - midnight Cymru, South West & Western.
Weds. 1st. June ; noon - midnight Midlands (South, East & West)	Frid. 3rd June ; midnight - 6 p.m. London & East Anglia.

\* AMALGAMATIONS OF CND REGIONS

## Greenham Common

July 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

Our aim for the action is to seriously disrupt all work being done at the base in preparation for the siting of cruise missiles. Their arrival is rumoured to be more imminent than December this year. Wimmin from different regions are organising each day.

Mon 4th July:  
Scotland/International

Tues 5th July:  
Cymru, Eire, Northern Ireland, SW England

Wed 6th July:  
London

Thurs 7th July:  
SE England

Fri 8th July:  
N England and Midlands



**RUTHS WORDS**

These words are **DESPERATELY IMPORTANT**. It is **ESSENTIAL** that everyone knows what's going on, and that links are made between the activities of Greenham Women and the struggles of oppressed people all over the World.

**STATE OF TERROR**

My part in the trial was to give evidence to prove that we are all living in a state of terror, which contravenes Article 51 of The Geneva Convention 1977. This stated that: "The civilian population shall not be the subject of attack. Acts or threats of violence, the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population, are prohibited."

**NUCLEAR = DEATH**

Standing in a Patriarchal court, speaking words which are alien to me, I proved that the mental stress people suffer as a direct result of the nuclear threat is sufficient to constitute genocide. Genocide as defined by the Genocide Act of 1969, part (b), "can be the act of causing bodily or mental harm to members of a group. My prepared evidence was to state how women, in particular, are affected by nuclear technology. For those of us who have the choice, when considering conception, how many women wonder whether it is fair to bring a child into such an unstable, unjust world. What kind of inheritance is a planet whose air, sea and earth are all polluted by nuclear wastedumping and other man-made developments to the extent that ecologically speaking, it actually does harm to all of us?"

**GENETIC MUTATION**

Since the atom was first split and particularly for people living, or working, near a testing place, or a power station, or a dumping place, or people who already have inherited genes susceptible to asthma or diabetes or mental disability, the possibility of genetic mutation is a reality. We cannot confidently continue the human

race even in the affluent west if the level of low-level radiation we have now continues.

I'm glad I was able to show my desperate feelings to the court, about my fear of conceiving a child and my sense of outrage that some of us are already likely carriers of 'weak' babies. Is this fear something we can inflict on any people and why do we inflict it on ourselves? The Hibakucha, the survivors of the bombs which fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are never congratulated when they find out they're pregnant, but wait quietly to see if the baby is born deformed or not.

I quote from the Guardian, Jan 5 1983: 'Almost to a person, the 300,000 Hibakucha still alive maintain it is morally wrong to own or threaten to use nuclear weapons. They claim that they have a right this view because they are the only people in the world who fully understand the effects of nuclear warfare. And, of course, they're right.'

**CHILDREN SUFFER**

How can it not be genocide to disregard these people's plea and to ignore the fears of those who want to have pills to give to their children in the event of a nuclear war or an accident so that they do not have to suffer a horrible death or be witness to the destruction.

As for children, how cruel are we that we condemn them to a future already marked to the extent that at a very early age they are affected by the malaise of passive acceptance of a shortened, half-fulfilled life. How many children are like a friend's daughter who, when she heard of an opinion poll's results that most people expect a nuclear war within the next 10 years, she said,

**"That means I'll only be 19 when I die."**  
Or another girl, now aged 13, who can't wait

to be 18 because she wants to cycle around Britain on her own before she dies. How many people are affected by despair when a child says why should I bother to take my exams/clean my teeth, when the world might end tomorrow? Perhaps the most pathetic optimism imaginable is when a nuclear-age child who when asked what she wants to be when she grows up, says,

'I want to be alive.'

**YOUNGER GENERATIONS**

How many old people are like the woman of 70 I spoke to who said she'd always felt sorry for younger generations whose lives probably wouldn't reach maturity, and now she wonders whether even she will see a natural death, surely something we all hope for - doesn't this make sense any more?

People are suffering acute mental stress in the affluent western countries knowing that they should be able to relax in their democratic freedom, but they can't because the threat of annihilation hangs over them and gives millions of us holocaust nightmares. If pushed to say what they think about the nuclear threat, they say its too big for them to do anything about.

**NIGHTMARES**

The enormity of nuclear war IS irrational, incomprehensible, so it is not surprising people don't talk about it. If they do talk, it is usually buried within their own small family nests. This reluctance to break the silence turns us in on ourselves and makes us more nervous, wary and mean. Creativity and fun are becoming more and more luxuries. Women are subjected to increasing fear of rape and physical violence on the street because values of competition, aggression and power - over others continue to be given credence over values of sensitivity, caring and co-operation. Many people join the Archbishop of York in his fatalistic view that 'if the bomb drops, it is right that we should be destroyed - the world is now so evil that we deserve to be purged like during the flood.

Such an attitude is paralleled in terms of mental illness by the opposite 'optimistic' view that if we allow ourselves to contem-

plate a nuclear war it would mean that nothing else in our lives has any meaning so we'd better deny its possibility.

**MONEY IS POWER**

How many people, even without the threat of a nuclear holocaust, are suffering in trying to plan their lives and make sense of the noise, the pollution, starvation, the cutting back of social services, the discrimination, inequality and injustice all over the world. So much of this could so easily be changed if billions of dollars were not being squandered in the Arms Race. Where is the sense in a world in which the money spent on nuclear arms in 6 hours could supply all developing countries with an uncontaminated water supply and another 6 hours worth could wipe out malaria? What kind of 'defence' is a civil defence which protects property and power not people, providing deep bunkers for a minority and kitchen tables for the rest of us, and a policy of blocking off all the major cities in the event of a nuclear threat so that there is no prospect of evacuation from danger for the majority.

**GOVT. CENSORSHIP**

People are wise to feel insecure and uneasy. The government adds to a feeling of stress, confusion and helplessness by denying us access to facts so that we can come to grips with reality. An accident to a power station in Russia had wiped out from the map a whole chunk of townships and villages, but how many of us know this? Why was Karen Silkwood kill on her way to delivering information to a journalist about a nuclear accident? The War Game was not allowed on English TV because of the distress it would cause. This distress, in terms of mental health, is a good sign of life, because out of sadness comes anger, and through anger comes action, action to 'take responsibility for one's life'. Is this what the governments are trying to avoid and thus condemning us to ill-health? Sick and nervous people will not resist.



SILENCE

As a woman-child I was taught to fear conflict, to be a peacemaker, to be nice and never say no, to back down when confronted. But now I have learned the truth and have found a voice to say what I feel about what I want and what is wrong. I have shared my fear and unblocked my silence. Now I know I must act. My knowledge of the wrong is too great for me to leave the responsibility for my life and that of the planet in the hands of those men who call themselves our leaders. To those who have brought us the threat of Cruise without our consultation. Those who refuse to denounce the possibility of a first strike use of nuclear weapons. When most of the world's defence budgets have been spent on these weapons how long can we trust them not to use them? Those who do not feel any more what is really worth preserving and developing in the world, blinded by the alienation and loneliness of their power. They cannot have the same meaning for the quality of life nor security nor defence, as I have.

"I Refuse To Be Expendible"

At our trial on Feb 16th, I asked the magistrates why it was that 1000s of millions of dollars could be spent in the early forties on the Manhattan Engineers District project, to help Einstein and others develop an atomic bomb because it was thought Germany was developing a bomb, while no such money is considered worth spending on peace and life enhancing projects, and now we were to be imprisoned for trying to make evident our fears about such an inhumane situation. Now I've stopped bothering to ask. I no longer trust the powers of any of the 'rulers' of this planet who've not spoken out to stop the appalling wastage of resources on the nuclear system from which a few gain while the rest of us are expendible. I refuse to be expendible. To other people who wonder what they can do when confronting their own state of terror inflicted on them by the nuclear madness I say take actions - it builds confidence and strength in the place of anxiety, fear and

mental illness. Taking responsibility for our lives is good for us. I went over the fence to dance and sing on the Cruise missile site on Jan 1st because in the end I have no choice.

Ruth

FOR NEWS FROM WOMEN EVERYWHERE read Outwrite women's newspaper Reporting on womens struggles against racism, male violence, lesbian oppression, imperialism... and for WOMEN'S LIBERATION. For subscription and distribution details, write to: Outwrite, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2. Tel: 01-729 4575.

JOIN US IN SOHO!

On May 28th loads of wimmin from all over the country will be descending on Soho - that part of London which is men's. Where men go looking for sex, where wimmin's bodies are on display, are used to fullfill men's sick desires. Where wimmin and girls who live, work or travel through there are always in danger from men. All wimmin who want peace join in! We all live in a dangerous environment - because there's men around. But for some wimmin the danger is greater - black wimmin, wimmin not physically able to defend themselves, or who have to rely on men to get around, wimmin who who can't afford their own transport, wimmin and girls in Soho have to deal with pornography every day. We will descend on Soho in solidarity with all these wimmin. If we want peace we can't forget that for many wimmin there's never any peace. This is part of two weeks of action when wimmin will cause chaos in the porn industry.

For more details contact: 01-701-8314 or 01-274 8970

WIMMIN, RECLAIM

OUR WORLD

Sitting in bright sunlight, outside a cottage, in the High Lands, reading Lysistrata, made me cry.

Reading Joans article about the Nuclear Links, all the suffering that has gone on and goes on while we, sisters, keep struggling against it - to overcome the cruelty, and create a different world. Women working to stop the worst manifestations of male viciousness - pornography and rape. Facing this ugliness head on, and saying no - we'll not put up with this anymore.

We love ourselves, and each other and we'll protect what's beautiful and good and overcome your woman-hating, life destroying craziness. And nuclear weapons. The final step in this menacing chain. The power to destroy over and over. Spectacular massive destruction. Each fragile plant. Thousands of years of evolution. Smashed to pieces in 20 minutes.

The rape of our planet. Beautiful small blue planet. Each exquisite flower and tree, birds, animals, human beings. Each wonderful organism so miraculously connected to another one and to itself, all vulnerable. But women have seen the light. The light of what needs to be done. We have to create an entirely new culture. We have to put an end to the arms race, all militaristic attitudes, nation states all struggling for power at each others expense.

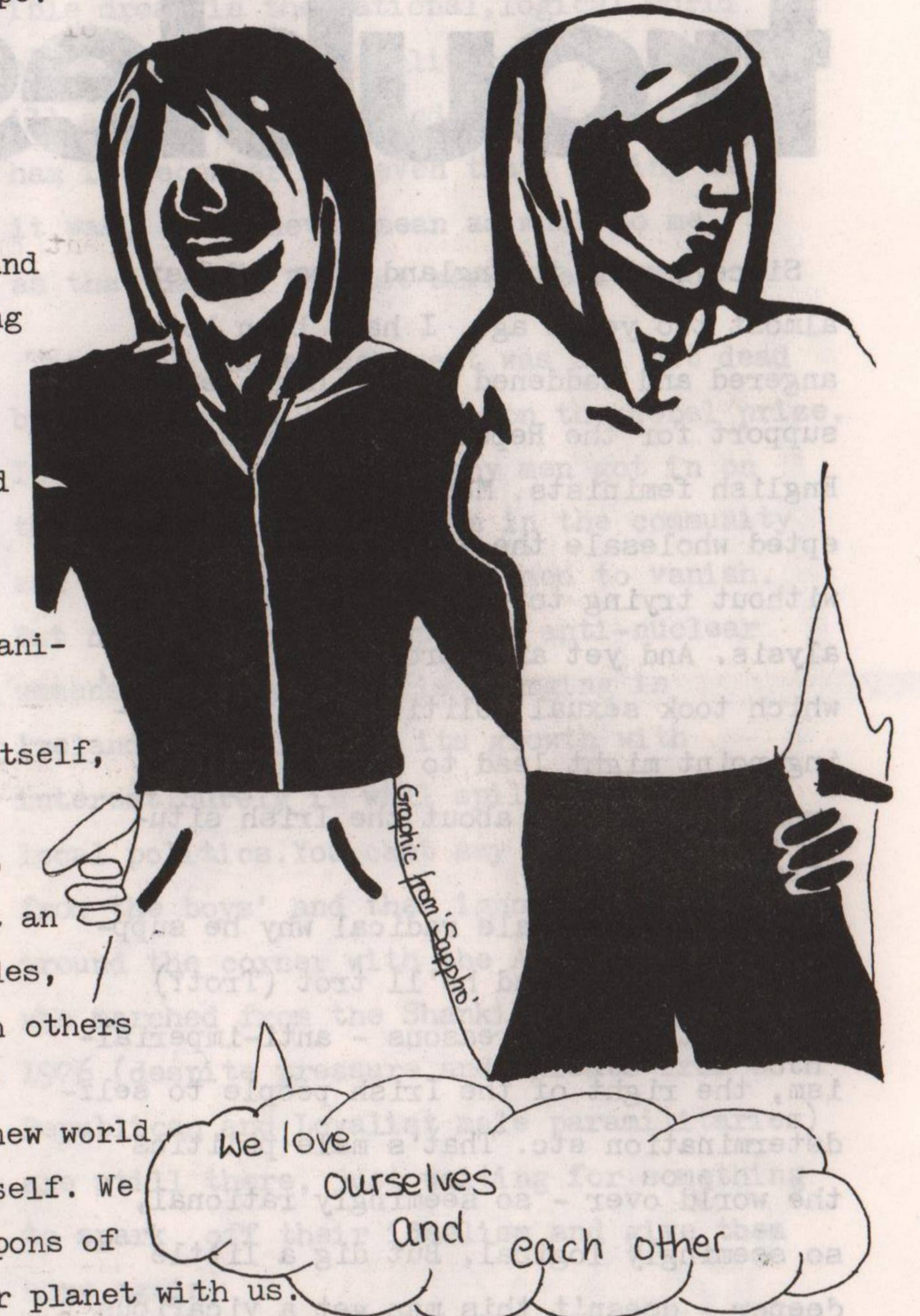
We have a vast task ahead of us. To create a new world order. But if we don't this one will destroy itself. We have to stop the boys making new and better weapons of destruction or they'll kill us all, and take our planet with us. If we all keep quiet and let them get on with it, can you imagine how many weapons there will be by 1990. How much more likely an accident will be. They are relying on somebody to stop them. How can it have come to this? What went so terribly wrong that we have to live with this reality?

Talking to groups of young people last week, we went round the group and 10 out of 12 of us thought it was too late, the world would be destroyed. Living with that fear at the age of 14. In the second group people were more more hopeful. One young woman asked me which bus she could take to Greenham. It is not too late. As long as we all feel there's still hope, that is hope.

As long as we can act on that belief and act quickly, and clearly and powerfully and reach across boundaries, it's not too late. We have it in our power to make the world safe and beautiful. We have as our examples the way some people have lived. Co-operatively, caring for each other, and in harmony with the earth.

WE WILL RECLAIM OUR PLANET, AND LIVE TO 90, WITH DELIGHT.

SOSS.x





This is a controversial article on the seemingly insoluble problems of Northern Ireland. The views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the magazine collective, who, along with the writer, hope to receive feedback expressing as many different shades of opinion as possible on this issue.

# the trouble with the troubles....



Since coming to England from Belfast almost two years ago, I have been both angered and saddened by the high level of support for the Republican movement among English feminists. Most seem to have accepted wholesale the views of male leftists without trying to work out a feminist analysis. And yet an approach to Ireland which took sexual politics as its starting point might lead to radically different conclusions about the Irish situation.

Ask an English male radical why he supports the I.R.A. and he'll trot (Trot?) out all the usual reasons - anti-imperialism, the right of the Irish people to self-determination etc. That's male politics the world over - so seemingly rational, so seemingly logical. But dig a little deeper - doesn't this man get a vicarious sexual thrill from identifying with the macho Irish guerilla fondling his Armalite while waiting to ambush a platoon of soldiers on a lonely country road? Doesn't he look up to these 'real men' of the I.R.A., with their black berets, dark glasses and beards - these Che Guevara clones, these brave 'freedom fighters' who get their rocks off planting nail bombs in hotels? And can you blame him for his fantasy? All that early conditioning - war comics, John Wayne movies - which he thought he'd got rid of could be legitimately resurrected in support of

the likes of Che Guevara in Bolivia and the I.R.A. in south Armagh. At last he could support violence and be on the right side politically.

## prisoners

But why should women - feminists - support this male view? Yet they do. Many support political status for Republican prisoners. Why? What's the root of the demand for political status? Political status means that Republican (and Loyalist) prisoners, convicted of bombings and shootings, can march around Long Kesh in paramilitary uniforms drilling in formation, and thinking of themselves as prisoners of war. I think that convicted murderers should have criminal status, so that they have to see themselves for what they are - killers rather than heroes.

Much has been written in publications like Spare Rib about the women Republican prisoners in Armagh Gaol. Why should these women, who have completely absorbed a male nationalistic ideology - just as surely as Margaret Thatcher has - be given rights that other women prisoners don't have? Why should they have political status when it is not given to prostitutes, women who have killed men who raped them and to women who have stolen in order to feed and clothe the children that their men have abandoned? Aren't they, the victims of sexual politics, the true political prisoners? Yes, pris-

on conditions should be better for all, but why should paramilitary prisoners get privileges denied to others?

## peace

Contrary to what many English women believe, the women's peace movement which sprang up in Ireland in the mid-Seventies, was not an exclusively middle-class affair. It was a grass-roots, predominantly working-class phenomenon. It emerged overnight and answered a need among working-class women, who flocked to its rallies in thousands because it was, and still is, working-class women who are the real victims of the violence in Ireland. They live in the most dangerous areas and are often afraid to leave their neighbourhoods. While their men go off to work in the city centre they are stuck in their homes, swallowing tranquilizers. They live in constant fear that their husbands could be shot walking home through the wrong areas and that their teenage daughters and sons could be blown up at a disco. They are frightened, too, that their children will be recruited into the I.R.A. or U.D.A. at an early age.

When the Irish women's peace movement began they discovered that they no longer had to suffer in isolation. They formed groups and found that together they could defy the male-identified values of their communities. They intervened in riots, pulling their stone-throwing children away and taking them home.

## women united

The most moving thing I ever saw was a peace rally in Belfast in 1976. As thousands of women filled the park, carrying simple cardboard placards giving the names of their areas, I happened to be standing near a group of Protestant women from the Shankill when a group of Catholic women carrying a Falls Road banner appeared. There was a moment's silence, then a few Shankill women began to clap the women of the Falls. More and more joined in - they started to cheer and wave and sudd-

player = known activist.  
co-op mix = home made explosives.  
pig = saracen armoured car.  
to kick with the other foot = to be the opposite religion.  
Toups = euphemism for war of liberation or campaign of violence.  
tout = informer.  
own goal = killing someone on your own side.  
Take the headstagers = go crazy.  
To give someone the nyrps = to depress someone.

only the noise was overwhelming. Women on both sides broke ranks and embraced. It was like a dream come true - an impossible dream in the rational, logical world of hard-headed male politics - the Shankill and the Falls united. I was at Greenham in December but even that, moving as it was, could never mean as much to me as that day in Belfast seven years ago.

The Irish Peace Movement was all but dead by the time the 'leaders' won the Nobel prize. It made mistakes - too many men got in on the act, it lost its roots in the community and the initial momentum seemed to vanish. But now a Greenham inspired, anti-nuclear women's peace movement is emerging in Ireland. I shall watch its growth with interest. Surely it will spill over into local politics. You can't say 'Take the toys from the boys' and then ignore the man around the corner with the Armalite. The women who marched from the Shankill and Falls in 1976 (despite pressure and threats from both Republican and Loyalist male paramilitaries) are still there, just waiting for something to spark off their idealism and give them hope again.

But for things to really change in Northern Ireland its going to require the support of other women all over the world. Ask yourself why you find an Irish nationalist with a beard more acceptable than, for example, an English nationalist with a skinhead haircut. Ask yourself why you are revolted by a man waving a Union Jack but not by one brandishing an Irish flag. As women we must not allow ourselves to be divided by nationalistic ideologies and arbitrary patriarchal boundaries.

M.F.



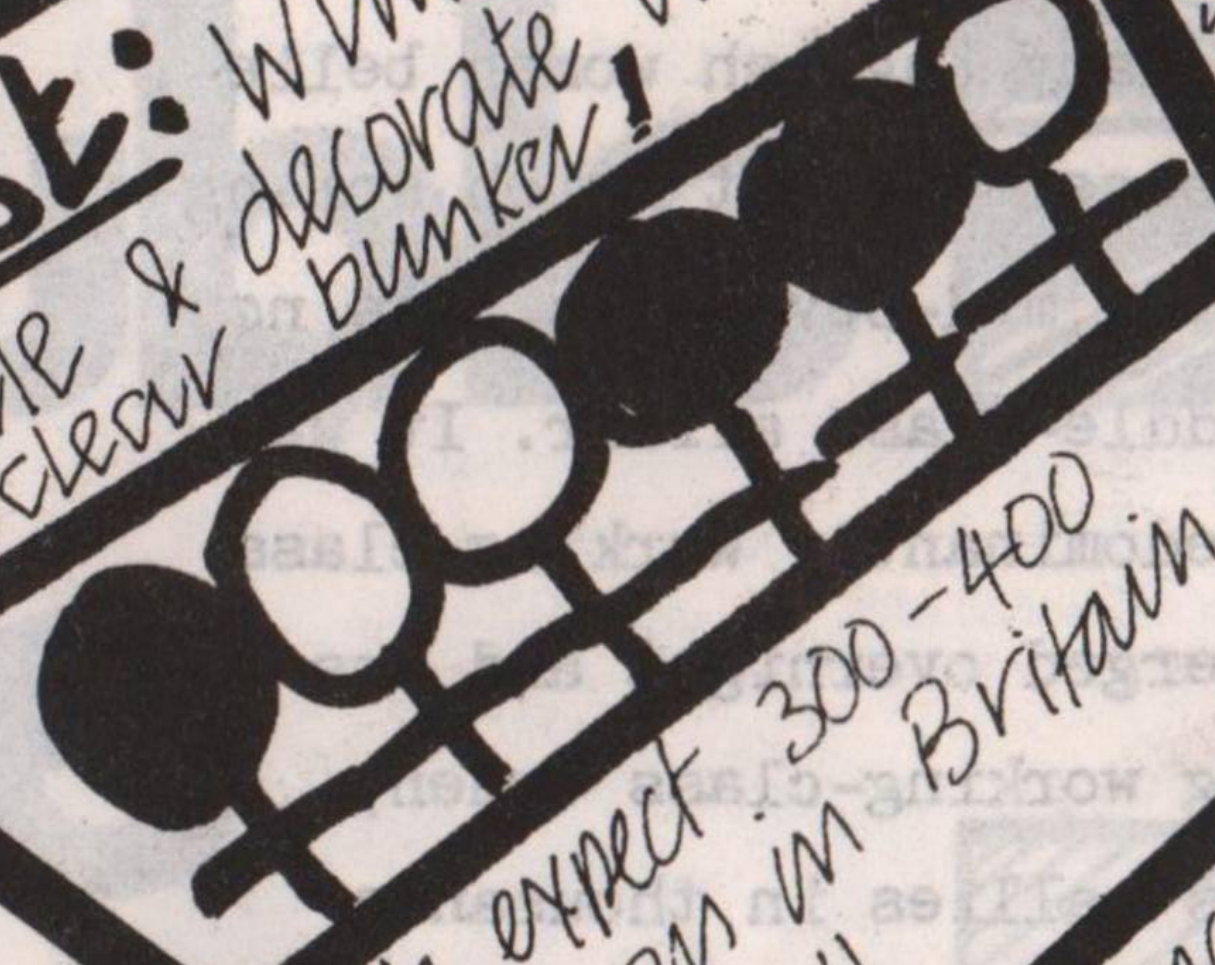
**Aalborg: Denmark:** Wimmim will take action at an armaments factory and do a die in in the town center!

**Glasgow:** huge rally with wimmim speaking the arms race & the third world wimmim, the cuts & unemployment, also music theater.

**Leeds:** Ceremony of mourning at Hyde Park & wearing a web around a model of a cruise missile. Ceremony of bread sharing with West Indian, Asian, Polish, and Jewish wimmim. Direct Action at a local military installation.

**Wimmim are Strong!**

**Belfast:** Wimmim will decorate a bunker, a nuclear missile & nuclear



We expect 300-400 actions in Britain alone!!

Lots of lunchtime meetings at factories.

**Southampton:** Wimmim will take children to the county council offices to ask what provisions will be made for them in the event of a nuclear war.... and a picket of the local Tarmac office and a demo on a nuclear bunker!

**Write soon & about things we'll do about it!!**

**London:** 24th will be with you!!!

**London:** 24th will be with you!!!

**London:** 24th will be with you!!!

**London:** 24th will be with you!!!

**London:** 24th will be with you!!!

**MAY 24 WIMMIN OVER WORLD! it's just**

**LONDON**

**Wimmim**

at least 44 bridges will be blockaded by wimmim!

There will be at least 53 actions in Devon & Cornwall!

Wimmim inside Parliament will demonstrate outside a 5th London hospital which is faced with closure!

May 24th has been officially recognized by New Zealand Parliament!

I'd hate to be responsible for the police force - at a time like this

**FRANCE:** Wimmim will be highlighting the connections between nuclear violence & militarism / nuclear threat in their own special way!

What are you doing on the day? - get any photos??

**MAY 24 TAKE THE !!**

**Kidderminster:** silent vigil in town.

**Cardiff:** picnic at Castle then an excursion to a near by bomb factory - to cause trouble!

**Leicester:** Wimmim will have a lunch time march & rally + action, and #5 peace camp, children's party in a bunker, actions at companies with nuclear contracts, D.I.Y. fallout shelters in town center, action at railway station against transport of nuclear waste, and all main roads into Leicester will be decorated (when! + that's all we can organise before the day!)

**Australia:** actions at Warrnambool, Peace Picnic + Die-in in Brighton.

**GOOD LUCK !!**

**Oxford:** films/exhibitions, workshops at Town Hall, Hospital, surprise Direct Action, march from County Hall, speeches at a wimmim office, while carrying a coffin!; then

**Washington D.C.:** Home!

We'd love to hear from you!! Will print lots of actions in N.5.96!

A London Doctor will shut her practice & H.I. demonstrate in an area of high unemployment - schools - one on the way!

**Washington D.C.:** Home!



# DYNAMIC DERBY

Derbyshire Women For Peace started in January, as a result of the December events at Greenham which attracted 2 busloads of women from the Derby area.

From the start our group has been very creative, and the first thing we did was to make a magnificent banner from embroidered 10" squares sewn on a backcloth. (This idea was inspired by the Leeds banner).

Our first local action was a one-hour silent vigil in Derby Market Place on Feb.12th as a gesture of support for the 44 women due to be tried at Newbury for their New Years Day demonstration at Greenham.

The vigil was conducted against a mock Air Base fence made from Tennis court wire and decorated with our symbols of peace. We handed out leaflets, and our group of 25 or so women was eventually joined by 300-400 women passers-by who stopped to express their support.



## Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat

On Friday April 15th, women from Birmingham W.O.N.T. attempted to take up Margaret Thatcher's inspired suggestion to encircle the Berlin Wall.

We went to Birmingham Airport to hitch a ride (our broomsticks having failed us) but having no luck on this occasion spent the sunny afternoon smiling at photographers from the local rag, singing songs and handing out balloons and daffodils to passers-by. (For some reason the police seemed to think it below their dignity to accept either).

Our next action - on March 26th, to advertise events at Greenham over Easter - was on the Snakes and Ladders theme.

2 lines of women, wearing tabards that spelled out NO CRUISE 'snaked' their way through Derby, singing 'old and strong' & stopping on the zebra crossings (which represented ladders.) This attracted much interest and people were actually asking for leaflets - we handed out 1500. We ended by forming a circle round our banner and singing "I have dreamed on this mountain".

Both events were well reported in the local press and have attracted fresh members to the group. 16 of us formed an Affinity Group, trained in N.V.D.A. and attended the Easter events at Greenham.

One woman has composed a rousing and inspiring song for the Group and we shall be singing this and other peace songs in the Market Place during Derby Peace Week, May 7-14th.

We also hope to have an exhibition of photographs taken at Greenham, in the Derby Library, and at present we are planning a local action for May 24th, and also for April 29th when we hope to surprise Mrs. Thatcher during her visit to Derby on that day!!!

LESLEY THALMANN

Contact for Derby women for Peace:  
c/o 86 Abbey Street, Derby.

We took our opportunity to launch our Berlin Wall Appeal Fund, and although we didn't raise much money (50p to be precise) we hope to tap other sources more successfully - we've applied to West Midlands County Council and to the P.M. herself - so that later this year we'll be able to join hands with thousands of other women encircling the Berlin Wall....

The projected date for bridging the Berlin Wall is the August Bank Holiday. Any other women interested please get in touch.....  
Birmingham W.O.N.T.,  
c/o The Peace Centre,  
18 Moor Street,  
Birmingham 4,  
tel:(021)449 7729

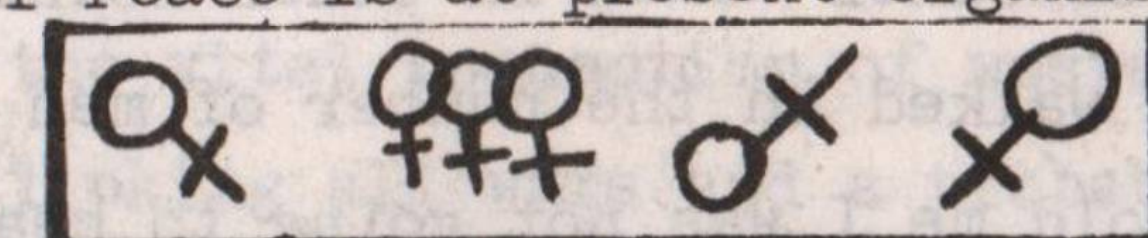


## GLASGOW WIMMIN FOR PEACE

Jane McBride for Women for Peace (Glasgow)

Glasgow Women for Peace was formed in January '83 by a group of women who had made the journey south to Greenham Common on 12/13 December. We all felt very encouraged by our experiences at Greenham and back in Glasgow, decided that there was a base here on which to build an autonomous women's peace group. One of the main focuses of this group would be to stress the particular nuclear threat on our own doorstep - the nuclear submarine bases on the Holy Loch and Faslane, soon to be the 'home' of Trident. We also intended to link into the women's peace movement nationally and internationally. The group took off immediately and numerically, has gone from strength to strength despite the fact that the only suitable times for our meetings have been Saturday evenings. Our first activity was to organise, in conjunction with the Faslane peace camp, Scotland's first women only day of action for peace, at Faslane for International Women's Day in March. Approximately 2000 women from all over Scotland and

parts of England came to Faslane and we were very encouraged by this success. At the Easter Scottish CND demonstrations in Glasgow, Women for Peace had a large womens' contingent on the march. We have also set up a series of 'political' meetings to enable us all to increase our knowledge of the central issues of the disarmament question as well as to work out the aims and objectives of our own group. Hopefully these sessions will encourage all of us to feel we can represent the group to organisations which have requested a speaker. So far Glasgow Women for Peace has been successful in establishing links with other peace groups in Scotland, including Scottish CND and the Faslane peace camp. We also welcome the links we are developing with the labour and trade union movement, since for us, the connection between the economy and the arms race is probably the key issue for women organising for peace in Scotland. Glasgow Women for Peace is at present organising for May 24th.



As well as working for May 24th, Glasgow Women for Peace is in the process of compiling an information pack of particular relevance to women organising in Scotland - since, for a variety of reasons, we have found ourselves slotted into the role of 'Scottish contacts' and are receiving requests for information from both groups and individuals. Finally, Glasgow Women for Peace meets every Saturday at the Glasgow Women's Centre (address above) at 5pm. We can be contacted at the same address but by phone only on Saturdays from 1pm - 6.30pm. (041-221-1177).





Flis Cotham went to the conference on 'War in the third world and the third world war' held in Brighton during February of this year. She came away with some useful impressions, quite a few unanswered questions - and a headache!

Turned up at conference rather dubious and yet keen to find out more about the lives of other women in other countries. When I walked in the number of men should have told me I was not going to hear much about women but unused to mixed events I forgot that obvious fact.

The first speaker, a man, was from El Salvador. He spoke about the importance of oppressed people's struggles but his talk was full of militaristic and other male jargon and rather than understanding what he was saying I just felt alienated. When he spoke in the way men do, of killing, without of course, using words like death and kill, I felt sad and started thinking yet again about the questions of armed versus non-violent resistance. At the end of his speech he

referred to his Brothers all over the world; brothers, brothers, brothers and the women of Greenham. That was the only time he mentioned women.

The second speaker was a woman, Jenny Pearce, and I found it incredibly noticeable that although she spoke in an academic way I could understand what she was saying, it was even interesting! It really made me think, she linked up how all over the world but particularly in South America the imperialism of the United States was responsible for oppressive governments, and millions of deaths. She explained how it can be put down to the fact that every third US dollar comes from foreign investment. She also showed how Israel was linked into this imperialism.

# WAR IN THE THIRD WORLD AND THE THIRD WORLD WAR

The speakers from Palestine were careful not to allow any obvious anti-semitism as they talked about Zionism. They referred to Israel as the US Foreign Legion, and Israel as terrorising Arab states, Zionism as racism. It always makes me feel emotionally muddled, anti-Zionism, I find it hard often to see what is anti-semitic, hazily feeling I must be guilty of it anyway. A Jewish woman friend said anything anti-Zionist is anti-semitic and then I felt confused because the Palestinians are being oppressed by Israel. However in the context of the conference the history of how Israel, the state, came into existence was ignored and I did feel that in this context, that must be anti-semitic. And of course, there was no relating racism to capitalist systems and to patriarchy.

There were male speakers from the Lebanon and South Africa also. I went out for a break and to look at the photographic exhibition that the organisers had taken trouble to put on. It struck me as so ironic looking at so many of these pictures of women, wonderful struggling strong looking women, that no one had mentioned any of them yet.

The women only workshop (a sigh of relief) was attended by very nearly all the women at the conference and some who hadn't been. There were women from Women for Palestine, Palestine Solidarity, Iran, Women Internationally, El Salvador Solidarity, Anti Apartheid, Women for Peace, CND, Sussex Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament and from the Labour Party.

After agreeing that women had been totally dismissed and left feeling alienated by the previous part of the conference we moved on to the main topic of discussion, violence and non-violence. There was some talk of how unhappy some women were with the assumption that resistance to oppression has to be violent; women from the freedom fighting organisations were saying that violence has to be looked at in terms of culture and history. That in the west we seldom get to hear of any struggle before it becomes violent because of biased media coverage. That the first consideration of women in

the Third World is not to challenge all men but to fight with those who are also oppressed to overthrow their common oppressor, and that oppressor is mostly western imperialism. They felt that women in the west must make an effort to understand Third World women's problems and perspective, and to publicise the real facts behind the liberation struggles, letting more people know that these are not just isolated wars but are part of our own political struggle, that we should all join together and fight imperialism.

It seemed that there was a lot more talking we had to do about non violent action. Women from the western peace groups felt that a very great danger with armed struggle is that the power can change hands from one lot of men to another without benefiting women in any way.

I was left at the end of the conference not only with a headache, but also with a lot of questions answered and more to ask. I suppose the question of violence v non-violence figures most prominently amongst these but I would like also to see opened up amongst the women's peace movement a greater awareness of male violence in general, and in particular to do with this conference, western imperialism, racism and the arrogance of the predominantly white, liberal, middle class peace movement.

I felt that the vital connection of western imperialism linking all wars and a probable nuclear one was a great step in my understanding of world politics. It made me feel that no longer are all these isolated wars around the world divorced from my understanding, from my life and from my power to do anything about them. I feel it is important for women for peace in the west to make these links and use them to further a closer connection and understanding with our sisters fighting for their liberation all over the world, we have a lot of consciousness raising to do and we must work hard at it.

Flis Cotham.



# DONNE PER LA PACE

## This is the story of what happened to some wimmin from Greenham who went to Sicily in March.

Women began arriving in Comiso from all over Europe, on the weekend leading up to 8th March (International Women's Day) to meet, discuss and grow with each other, and primarily to show our solidarity with Italian women in the struggle against cruise missiles being sited in Comiso.

### 8th

Two days later, in the morning of the 8th March, a hundred or so more women staged a 'sit-in' in front of the main gates at 'Magglicco' airport (the site being prepared for 112 American cruise missiles) by sitting in a large circle and linking arms. A web of coloured wool was woven as women threw to each other balls of wool across the circle. We sat in the road for several hours and then stood up lifting the web whilst singing, covering the police presence with the web and our vibrance. That afternoon we gathered in the town square, where we joined 600 women and more from all corners of Sicily, to march through the narrow alleys and main streets of Comiso, for peace.

### 9th

At about 6.30am on the 9th, women blockaded the main roads leading to the missile base before the work traffic had arrived. We stayed there for three hours before the police, along with military from inside the base began dragging us away from the main gate. As we repeatedly went back to blockade, the police violence escalated - a woman offering no resistance except the dead weight of her body had her arm broken. During the action the police ripped films out of women's cameras, frenzied at the evidence showing their brutality. We stopped blockading because of the harm and injury being inflicted in such a vicious and calculated way upon women taking non violent direct action.

### 10th

Late into the night of the 10th a group of us painted peace symbols on the surrounding wall of the base, and later still, we experienced horrendous treatment and threatening behaviour from armed military

men whilst walking around the base along the road provided. Shots were fired from inside the base over our heads and the sound of guns recharging were performed within hearing distance to intimidate us.

### 11th

Friday 11th March...most of the women who had come for International Women's Day were only able to stay for a short time, so by now we were a small number. For this reason, those of us who remained decided to blockade only the road leading to the main gate.

At the beginning of the blockade (6.00am) workers arrived and we talked with them about the necessity of our action. They listened, talked in response, and many of them turned around in their trucks to leave.

The blockade lasted for about an hour during which time we experienced yet more police violence. Another woman had her arm broken and several women suffered handfuls of hair torn from their scalps. One woman was slapped in the face by a policeman.

The cruise missile base in Sicily is a particularly important site, not only because of the horrendously destructive nature of the missiles, their first-strike, war-provoking design and the imminence of their deployment, but also because of the striking range of these missiles, sited in Sicily, the 'Stage of the Nuclear Theatre of War' would be widened to cover the Middle East, a region already in an explosive warring state. This could lead to a proliferation of nuclear counter weapons, as a defensive effort, by the Middle Eastern countries, making the dangers of a nuclear war, greater still. Some of these countries - Israel, Palestine - already have a nuclear 'capability', all they require is a 'good' excuse to use it.



Eventually, the police arrested 12 of us. We were taken to Ragusa jail - where there was no proper medical treatment for the woman with the broken arm.

After five days in prison we were no clearer as to our possible situation,

### 16th

On the sixth day, Wednesday 16th March we were hustled into Ragusa police station where we managed to decipher that eleven of us who are of 'foreign' nationality, were to be deported from the country that night. We refused to sign the expulsion order. We were purposely led into confusion. Advantage was taken by the

police because most of us do not speak or understand Italian. We were escorted out of the country by heavily armed military men, with dogs; the 'carabinneri' dressed in plain clothes appearing to be passengers, some with little suitcases by their sides, and finally in the list, supposed translators with revolvers at their belts.

It is very difficult in a brief statement to attempt to describe the importance of this week of action. The preparation of the base for the purpose of housing 112 cruise missiles is escalating ahead at a frenzied pace and this is why women need to grow in numbers and strength, to act as quickly as possible to stop the construction of genocide in its making.

International exposure of the disguised intentions of the Italian State, the US government and other 'concerned' parties and the fascist laws and procedures being used to repress opposition, is desperately needed. We ask women to support and act with Sicilian women in our struggle NOW.

We are asking for money to help buy a piece of land in Comiso, for an international women's peace camp to be set up, and to help pay for lawyers fighting to revoke the deportation order. The name of the account is: DONNE PER LA PACE, cheques should be sent to: 22 Mile End Place, London E1. 017910681. Sherytu, Bee, Skeeter, Sarah Mary, Peggy, Veronica, Maraiika, Teri, Marsha, Susanna, Kali.



# COMISO- RAPE OF OUR PLANET RAPE OF OUR SISTERS



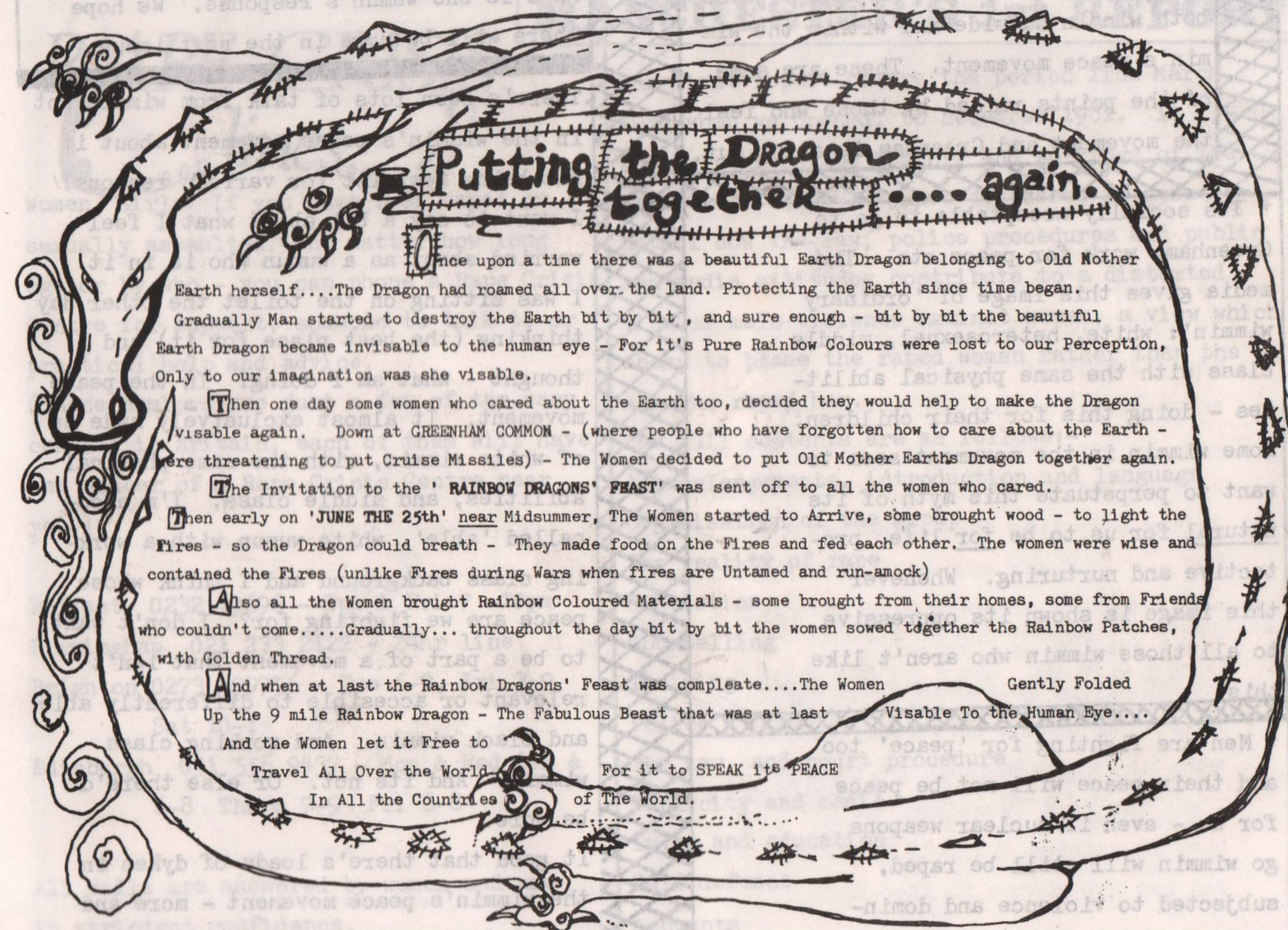
In the main square of the small Sicilian town of Comiso, near the prospective site of 112 American cruise missiles, sits the statue of Diana the Virgin Goddess, protectress of animals and plants and water springs. She is virgin, meaning unpossessed and undominated by men, her own woman, strong-willed. The piazza Fonte Diana is where the men of the town meet each evening, to gossip, make deals, and discuss how they are running the world. She sits and listens to them, biding her time, calling quietly to us. We answered her call.

On Sunday March 6th an unprecedented number of women gathered in the piazza named for Diana and hitherto the preserve of the men, (it is lined with bars and banks, concrete symbols of materialism and male control). The women organised in the middle of the piazza, formed a circle, which grew outwards, expanding more and more, pushing the men out of the space. This was a supportive demonstration for a 17 year old girl who had been raped at gun point by three men, a couple of months ago, and who had had the courage to defy social convention and had denounced

her attackers. Since then she had been imprisoned at home by her parents.

The demonstration then moved to another men's space, a park which is full of rough boulders carved with the names of revolutionary and resistance heroes, who met with violent deaths. Women placed their own grave-stones with the names of women who'd been victims of sexual violence - their lives raped. The Italian Government is currently making ineffectual efforts at revising the law on 'Violenza Sexuale'. A proposed new act had been debated and modified so much that it has reverted to its original position, which regards rape as mainly an offence against public morality. A woman who is raped still has to bear the burden of guilt and shame for her own violation. The culprits are favoured by the male judicial system. Rarely denounced and even more rarely apprehended, rapists seem to escape from police custody with apparent ease, and if sentenced spend only brief periods in prison for having ruined a woman's life.

Aggie



Once upon a time there was a beautiful Earth Dragon belonging to Old Mother Earth herself... The Dragon had roamed all over the land. Protecting the Earth since time began. Gradually Man started to destroy the Earth bit by bit, and sure enough - bit by bit the beautiful Earth Dragon became invisible to the human eye - For it's Pure Rainbow Colours were lost to our Perception, Only to our imagination was she visible.

Then one day some women who cared about the Earth too, decided they would help to make the Dragon visible again. Down at GREENHAM COMMON - (where people who have forgotten how to care about the Earth - were threatening to put Cruise Missiles) - The Women decided to put Old Mother Earth's Dragon together again.

The Invitation to the 'RAINBOW DRAGONS' FEAST' was sent off to all the women who cared.

Then early on 'JUNE THE 25th' near Midsummer, The Women started to Arrive, some brought wood - to light the Fires - so the Dragon could breathe - They made food on the Fires and fed each other. The women were wise and contained the Fires (unlike Fires during Wars when fires are Untamed and run-amock)

Also all the Women brought Rainbow Coloured Materials - some brought from their homes, some from Friends who couldn't come.... Gradually... throughout the day bit by bit the women sowed together the Rainbow Patches, with Golden Thread.

And when at last the Rainbow Dragons' Feast was complete... The Women Gently Folded Up the 9 mile Rainbow Dragon - The Fabulous Beast that was at last Visible To the Human Eye....

And the Women let it Free to Travel All Over the World For it to SPEAK its PEACE

In All the Countries of The World.

If you don't live in Britain and cannot come or prefer to spell it out at home - choose a place where you are and join us in the Dragon Feast for the future - if you do live in Britain + cannot come please get together with other women and have a fire dragon feast for the future + your local area (you may have a long - for other ancient meeting place near you)

## POEM FOR GREENHAM

All the Planets  
contained within 90 degrees  
which forms a square  
but we formed a circle  
Who called us there  
The White Horse on the hill  
Epona the goddess  
Celtic forebears who worshipped her  
and whose graves we walked on  
Elder, Oak and Rowan tree  
all living things  
who must die  
but not all at once  
not all at once  
Molly Lissett

This is a horoscope for the Dragon Feast at Greenham Common on the 25th June 83

The Sun and Mars are in the first house which means that you can project yourself with a great deal of force, not that you will be aggressive, there will be no need for this. It's the time to look into matters and see what is needed for further progress, everyone will feel the need to do their own thing which is just as well, knowing the plans we have for this particular day, this is not the day for self sacrifice. A little bit of selfishness won't do anybody any harm today, this is not the day to beat others over the head either verbally or physically, not that you are going to let anyone take from you that which you know to be yours. Energy will be very high and you should be able to do a tremendous amount of work, this should be a period of independent activity when you can work out a lot of problems and accomplish a great deal.  
Molly Lissett



There is a controversy brewing amongst both wimmin outside and within the wimmin's peace movement. These are some of the points raised by those who feel the movement and Greenham is a cop out.

\* Its socially acceptable to go to Greenham, work for peace etc. The media gives this image of 'ordinary wimmin': white, heterosexual, middle class with the same physical abilities - doing this for their children. Some wimmin in the movement seem to want to perpetuate this myth of its natural for us to be for life, protective and nurturing. Whenever this image is shown its oppressive to all those wimmin who aren't like this.

\* Men are fighting for 'peace' too and their peace will not be peace for us - even if nuclear weapons go wimmin will still be raped, subjected to violence and domination by men.

\* Just because wimmin come together does not mean its feminist (like the wimmin's institute!)

\* Nuclear weapons/power/militarism are a symptom of male domination, not the cause of it - its the cause we should be fighting against.

\* Energy is being taken out of the wimmin's liberation movement because of the wimmin's peace movement.

\* Wimmin at Greenham have got carried away with the high of all wimmin being together and got lost in all the symbolism of webs and snakes.

\* The media portrays the Greenham wimmin as happy, laughing, singing etc - there's no show of wimmin's ANGER. Not much is done to dispel these stereotypes.

We'd like to hear from other wimmin about what they think of all this. Don't forget, though, that men read Lysis-trata.....

Here is one wumun's response. We hope there will be more in the next issue.

There's been lots of talk from wimmin not in the wimmin's peace movement about it not being feminist for various reasons. I want to say a bit about what I feel worried about as a wumun who is in it. I was sitting on the toilet the other day thinking (the best place for it) and I thought - what am I doing? In the peace movement. It almost exclusively made up of white wimmin, with the same physical abilities, and middle class. I'm a so-called 'able', white wumun with a working class background and I think whose peace are we fighting for? I don't want to be a part of a movement that isn't relevant or accesible to differently able and black wimmin. And working class wimmin. And its not. Or else there'd be more.

It good that there's loads of dykes in the wimmin's peace movement - more and more heterosexual wimmin becoming lesbians all the time. But thats rarely how it comes over in the media. And it seems lots of wimmin want to deny what there is of a lesbian image.

There's also too much emphasis for my liking placed on symbols - snakes, webs, spiders, goddesses. All very nice and wumun-identified but it doesn't mean much and makes the wimmin's peace movement look like some kind of clique where you have to be matriarchal to fit in. Symbols are ok but I don't want them to divert from the fact that whether or not we like snakes wimmin have the power to change things. There are good things about the wimmin's peace movement - not least seeing heterosexual wimmin get more and more wimmin-identified and dykey! I wouldn't be in it if there wasn't. But I often have great doubts about it all. I often feel compromised (its all so acceptable to men) and unless things change drastically I wonder how long I'll be in it. Wimmin can take over the world - but we're all going to do it or not at all.

Sue B

## MANCHESTER'S 1st REPORT

# RAPE CRISIS

*lines*

Women, Girls! If you have been raped or sexually assaulted - no matter how long ago or by who - you can phone a Rape Crisis Centre for support, someone to talk to or practical help and advice.

(These numbers are just a few of the many centres in Britain, each of them will have the number of a Rape Crisis Centre near you.)

Belfast 0232 49696 - Tue & Fri 7 -10pm

Birmingham 021 233 2122 - 24hr line

Brighton 0273 699756 - Tue 6-9, Fri 3-9  
Sat 10-1

Edinburgh 031 556 9437 - Mon & Wed 1-2 &  
6-8 Thurs 7-9 Fri 6-8

All calls are answered by women and are in strictest confidence.

(This ad placed by Brighton Rape Crisis).

## F.A.S.T.

FAST stands for Feminists Against Sexual Terrorism. It is a newsletter for all women involved in the struggle against male violence, whether it's rape, battering, pornography, abuse of girls in the family.....

FAST has gone through some changes recently and is now not so dominated by news from Rape Crisis Centres as it used to be.

FAST NO.9 has just come out - it's been produced by a group of women in York and has a lot of interesting articles, news etc. It costs 45p for a single issue (includes postage) and £1.75 for a subscription. (3 issues) Send cheques/po's to FAST, c/o Box 336, Manchester, M602BS.

Each issue of FAST is produced by a different group of women so if you can produce a future issue we'd love to hear from you.

FAST is for women only - please respect this.

Our first report covers the period from March 1980 when we opened, to December 1981. It not only gives the history and workings of the Rape Crisis Line but also discusses in some detail how the law, police procedures and public and media attitudes contribute to a distorted view of male violence against women, a view which seeks to blame the raped woman rather than the man who raped her.

The full contents are as follows:-

Acknowledgements, introduction and language  
Organisation of the group  
The reality of rape  
Statistics  
Counselling  
Training  
Police  
The law, and court procedure  
Publicity and media  
Talks and education  
Self defence

Accounts

What to do if you have been raped

How to help if a woman you know has been raped

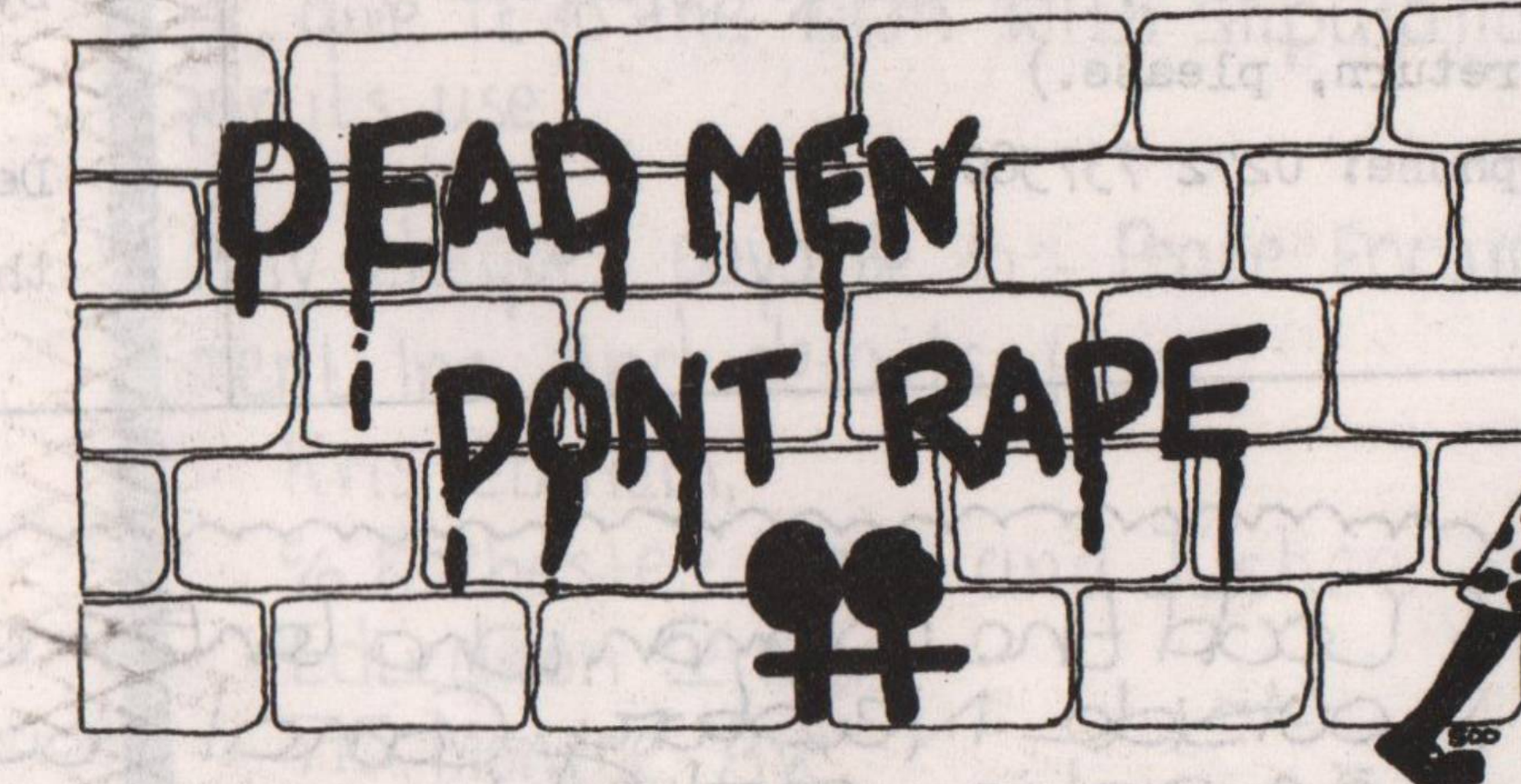
What men can do

Our submission to the GLRC

Booklist

List of Rape Crisis Lines

Copies of the report can be obtained from Manchester Rape Crisis Line, PO Box 336, Manchester M60 2BS. It costs £1.25 each, including p&p.



The Pavillion, a feminist photo-centre is opening this month (May). There will be an open submission show on feminism and photography. Its at: 2 Chestnut Ave, Leeds LS6 1BA.







## CONTACTS PAGE

MANY OF THE ADDRESSES BELOW ARE REGIONAL CONTACTS SPECIFICALLY FOR MAY 24th ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD ALL BE ABLE TO PUT ♀♀ IN CONTACT WITH OTHER LOCAL ♀♀ PEACE GROUPS. GOOD LUCK!!

### BIRMINGHAM

HEATHER RUTLEDGE,  
126 PARKHILL,  
MOSELEY,  
BIRMINGHAM 13.

### OXFORD

DEBORAH,  
42, SOUTHFIELD RD, OXFORD  
GLASGOW WOMEN FOR PEACE.

Meets every Saturday at 5pm.

at: Glasgow Womens Centre,

57 Miller St.

Glasgow G2

Tel: 041-221- 1177.

Aswell as organising actions at Faslane for example, and co-ordinating scottish activities for May 24th, Glasgow Women for Peace are at present in the process of compiling an information pack of particular relevance to women organising in Scotland. Details from the above address.

### LEICESTER

ANDREA HEATH  
15, KIMBERLEY RD,  
LEICS.

### NOTTS

PAULA WEBBER,  
4, CHADBURN RD,  
MANSFIELD  
NOTTS. NG18 2EE

### HEREFORD

LYN BRIGGS  
32 TOWER RD  
HEREFORD.

TEL: 0432  
56320.

### DEVON

SARAH MEYER,  
6, FORE ST,  
SALCOMBE,  
DEVON.

### AVON AREA

ALISON SEGAR,  
30 RIVERS ST  
BATH,  
AVON.

### LEEDS. (W. YORKS)

MARION MCNAUGHTON  
AISLING COTTAGE  
BACK CHURCH LANE  
LEEDS LS16 8DW

### DENMARK

JETTE SEIER,  
VIS BORGGAARDVEJ 18,  
DK. 9200 AALBORG SV  
DENMARK.

### MANCHESTER

ELLEN CROWE  
6, RATHEN RD  
MANCHESTER 20

### ABERDEENSHIRE

LIZ HENDERSON,  
BLELACK HOUSE,  
LOGIE COLDSTONE,  
ABAYNE,  
ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOT

### CORNWALL

PAM OTTO,  
1 CRESWELLS TERR.  
BOTALLACK,  
ST. JUST,  
PENZANCE

### MERSEYSIDE

DEBORAH AND BARBARA  
HARDY,  
43, BURSCOUGH RD,  
ORMSKIRK LANCs.

### NORFOLK

JUDY STORR  
NORNBEAM COTTAGE  
HUNWORTH RD,  
STODY, MELTON CONSTABLE,  
NORFOLK.

### CARDIFF (SOUTH WALES)

LIZ FORDER  
70, MORRIS FINER CLOSE,  
CARDIFF. TEL: 0222 566548

### SURREY

ANNE ARMSTRONG,  
7 OAKFIELD COURT,  
QUEENS ROAD,  
WEYBRIDGE, SURREY.

### NORTHERN IRELAND

MAGGIE MALONE,  
3, ARDENLEE AVE,  
BELFAST, 6,

### LONDON

GREENHAM OFFICE,  
5 LEONARD ST,  
LONDON EC2 TEL: 01-251-3133.

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

FRANCES CONNELLY,  
26 ARGYLE ST,  
CAMBRIDGE, CB1 8LR  
TEL: 0223 213758

# DIARY PAGE

We usually do a diary page BUT we aren't going to publicise any events that don't have access details for differently abled wimmin. If these details aren't included its as good as saying differently abled wimmin can't go because it will be assumed that there is NO access.

And this is all we found.....

10 June - "PRETEND YOU'LL SURVIVE" - anti-nuclear cartoon film by LEEDS ANIMATION WORKSHOP + ATOMIC CAFE at:- Trades Club Saville Mount Leeds 7. LIPSTAIRS BUT HELPERS AVAILABLE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PEOPLE. (Mixed)

The sort of information wimmin need to know is:

- \* width of doors.
  - \* how many steps if any and do they have a handrail.
  - \* width of toilet doors and do they open inwards/outwards. whether there's a handrail by the toilet. If the seats are raised.
  - \* is there going to be a signer at the meeting.
  - \* if there's an induction loop system (hearing aid link).
  - \* parking facilities, ramps.
- PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE'VE

FORGOTTEN ANYTHING

25th June - RAINBOW DRAGON'S FEAST  
Greenham Common, nr Newbury Berks.  
Toilet facilities for differently abled ♀♀  
♀♀ only

July 4th-9th Blockades  
at Greenham - see page 9  
Toilet facilities for differently abled wimmin. Wimmin only

FILL THIS SPACE WITH YOUR EVENT NEXT TIME!

DON'T FORGET: if you live in BRIGHTON the patchwork picnics! Each sunny day in one of the parks. Bring wool, thread, food material, buttons, sequins, interesting talk! Phone Brighton wimmin's centre: Bth 600526 on sunny days for time + place. ♀♀ only

please state if events are ♀♀ only/mixed