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LYSISTRATA

A WOMENS PEACE MAGAZINE-ISSUE no 5



REVIEW: CENTRE PAGES

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

"WE ARE A GROUP OF BLACK WOMEN SINGING... BY SINGING TOGETHER WE BECOME MORE OURSELVES. WE CREATE THE ADDITIONAL SPACE TO BE WHO WE ARE... WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT BEING BLACK PEOPLE AND WOMEN PEOPLE AND SINGING PEOPLE AND REFLECTING THAT IN OUR WORK."

SUMMER 1983
45P

CONTENTS

- U.S.A. Peace Camps - Seneca Falls & Puget Sound
- Women fight Porn - May 24th. - So What Happened
- Jewish Lesbians - What We Need - Access for Deaf/Dumb Women
- AND LOTS MORE

LETTERS

dear lysistrata,*

NVDA° CAN WIN

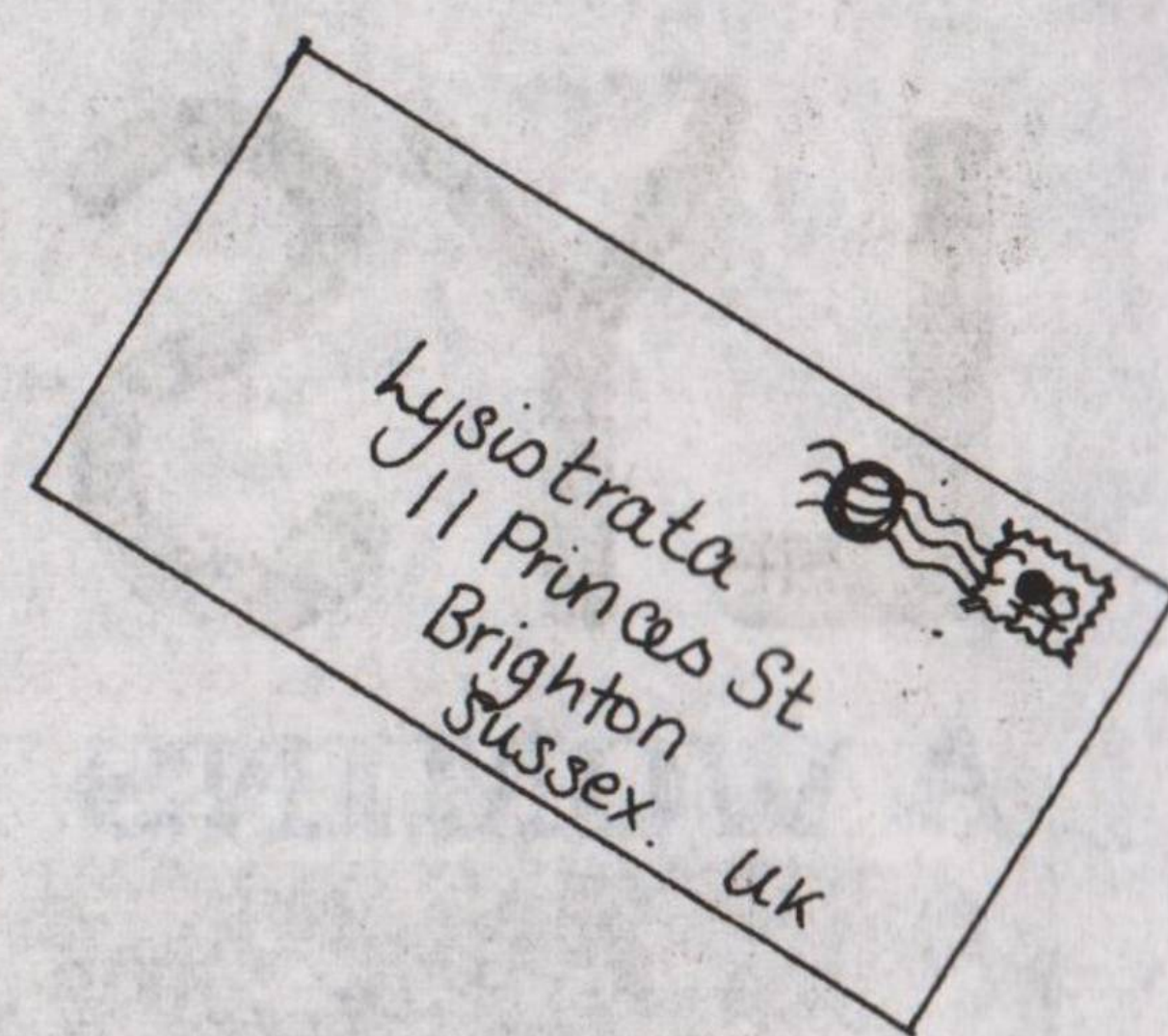
Thank you very much indeed, and bless you all for space given on behalf of disabled women.

I was agog to see the gate shut down on ads giving no 'access' details, and no pre-warning to advertisers. I had only asked for space, so its a change to see our moderate request overtaken by your going all the way to an embargo!!

About 'The Trouble with the Troubles' (issue 4 by MF). At last someone gains print in women's press who knows the subject of Natural Law; real logic and its corollaries at last!

I go further than MF: any credence to terrorism upholds that 'great male ethic' - 'the end justifies the means'. On the basis of what is going on around this warring and terrorised world, if we accept these as the means, (I expand on MF's Irish 'category') the disabled people, the pensioners, unemployed, and any other faction, could start murder and violence. It is all, anyway, a denial that non-violent direct action and real reason can ever win. On the basis of terrorism being ok (for some, depending on one's bias) any underprivileged or national istic faction could join in and cause a 'right' going free-for-all.

Anyway, history well shows that war and terrorism have won nothing other than another repressive elite. THIS



time, non-violent direct action worldwide, which is growing and succeeding, incorporates the ingredients of a harmony and unity that will tame all future oppressive elites/governments/regimes.

Where has there been any 'In Memoriam' to the thousands killed in Eire, Ulster and England, plus many thousands more rendered disabled for life? The women's press has displayed its singular insensitivity on this aspect, reporting only those killed and maimed by Loyalists, and those killed or maimed by rubber bullets.

And who in the women's liberation movement has shed any tears for the killings by the IRA when they have openly admitted 'mistaken identity'?

Vicious sectarianism and nationalism, overlaid by British imperialism will only be solved via the again uprising Irish Peace Movement.

S G-H, Plymouth

'non violent direct action

** letter has been cut for space*

LYSISTRATA has had to move again. Our new address is:-

11 Princes Street
Brighton
Sussex England.

[phone: Bm 694600]

WOT'S INSIDE-

May 24th

a Jewish Lesbian writes
US Peace Camps:-

& Puget Sound
Seneca Falls

a WUMUN in an Arms & Disarmament
Info Unit

Sweet Honey in the Rock reviews
Capenhurst wimmin on trial

Access for deaf/dumb wimmin-
What We Need

We fight back against porn
SWAPO Wimmin's Council

Interview with Judy Monk-
Aboriginal wumun

plus news from Diego Garcia, Peru,

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~ Special thanks to Helga and Maggie ~

COPYDATE for issue 6 is

July 29th. We especially want to publish writing from differently abled wimmin, wimmin of colour & Jewish wimmin. Please keep articles down to 1000 words or less cos we're always short of space. Please state if you don't want what you write to be shortened or changed in any way. Things should be written in a way that all wimmin can understand. If possible photos or drawings to go with it.

SELL THE MAG!

If you take 10 copies or more to sell you only have to pay us 35p per copy so you get 10p a copy. Please order some to sell cos Lysistrata relies a lot on personal sales to get around. Also - if you are willing to sell copies without this discount that would help cos we're very short of money. This issue only got paid for because of a kind wumun's loan. Same story as for all wimmin's things. innit?

LISTEN 'ERE!

If you can read this you're luckier than some! Lysistrata is available on tape for blind and partially sighted wimmin. Please spread it around to anyone who might be interested. It costs £2 a year on a listen and return basis. Can you send a cassette pouch too. More wimmin's mags should be available to blind wimmin. Wimmin who can see - ask if magazines + newspapers are on tape and if not - ask them why not!!

MAY 24TH SO WHAT HAPPENED?

It's now over a month after May 24th - and it's almost possible to think nothing much happened.

Certainly male historians of the future will look back and read that there were "15 arrested in Whitehall Demo", "Peace Women on Clapham Common" and learn from BBC newsreels that it was a day of women's action, with events happening all over Britain.

U.S.A.

Washington D.C.

9am Women gave info and gifts to Congress Persons.

11am Press Conference.

1.30 Parade to White House,

then asked to talk to Mr.

Reagan. When he refused the women staged a sit-in around the White House.

Hartford, Conn.

2 women wove a web around the Headquarters of the third largest U.S. defence contractor (owned by Gen. Haig no less). Police cut the web with knives and arrested the women. They made this statement: "Women have traditionally made connections and men have consistently torn and destroyed them. We hope men will learn to make connections".

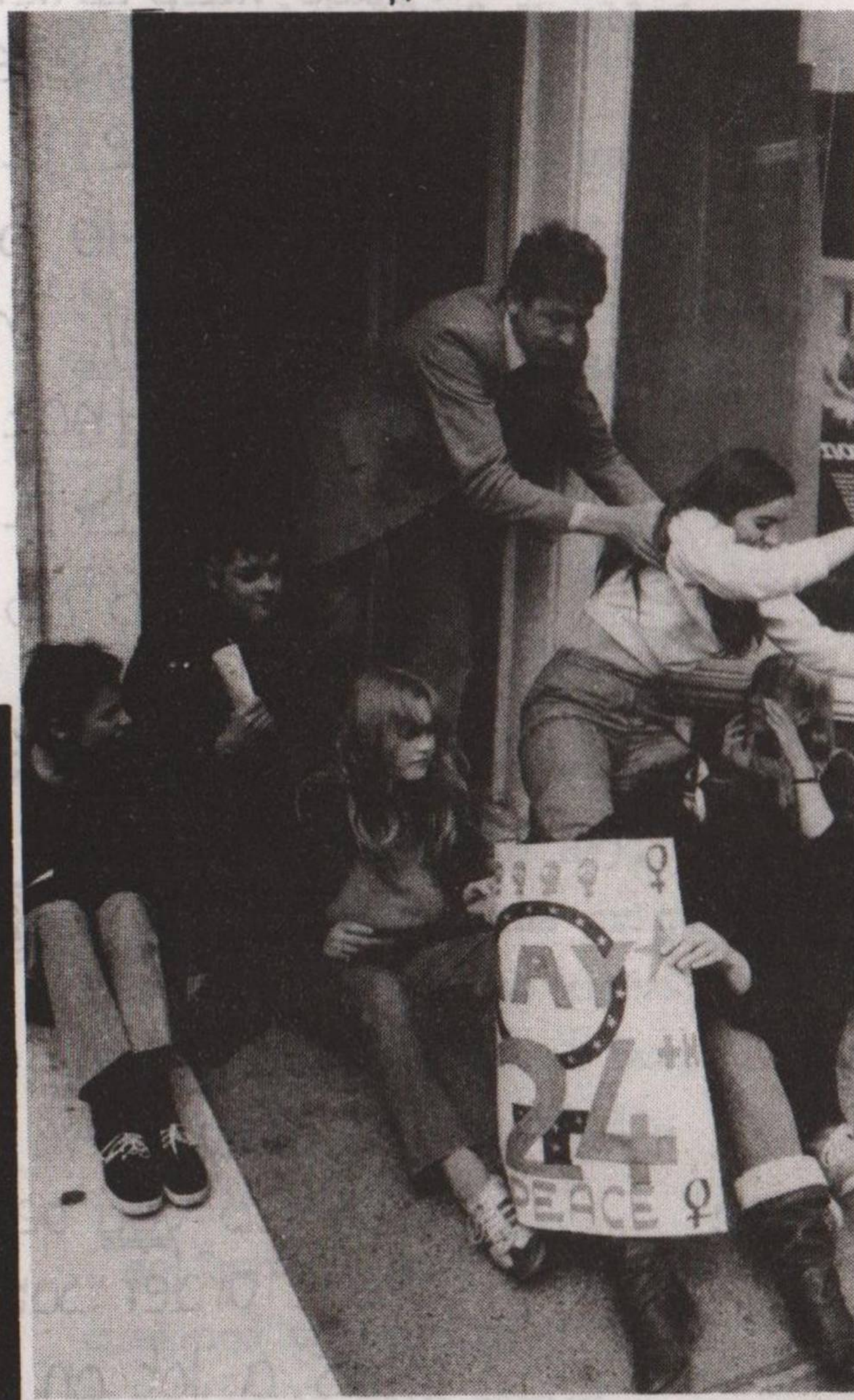
Sweden, Stockholm

Women protested outside the embassies of countries which have nuclear power/weapons.

U.S.S.R., Moscow

Women held a peace picnic in the Lenin Hills, above Moscow. We also heard that women's actions happened in E.Berlin and Prague, Czechoslovakia, but these have not all been confirmed.

Protesting outside an Army and Navy Recruitment Office in Brighton, UK.



International Actions

Zimbabwe, Harare

Women held a peace cabaret.

Switzerland, Baden

Women in all-night vigil at railway station and shop front display in town.

Italy, Comiso

Establishment of International Women's Peace Camp. Blockade at front gate while 8 women from various countries entered base through back gates with banner and wrapped some soldiers up in it. There were no arrests.

France, Paris

40 women placed peace banner on a memorial which was built with the motto 'For Defence'. Other Paris women went onto the Metro (underground trains) with placards and banners announcing the day.

The national media treatment of actions that took place on May 24th was at best a distortion and generally inadequate and misleading. So for the benefit of all women who didn't find out about what actually happened on May 24th, International Women's Day for Disarmament, here's the news.

Australia, Adelaide

400 women wove a web around War Memorial and protested outside Parliament House. Women took action in most major Australian cities - there were 8 arrests.

New Zealand, Auckland

20,000 women took part in a torch-lit march, then several hundred women took action at a nearby naval base.

Women took action in 19 New Zealand towns.

Fire, Dublin

Women staged a symbolic die-in in Grafton St.

Britain

Bath

250 women 'died' in front of Abbey, placed gravestones, flowers and photographs there. Die-in was at the end of a long walk through town, with 4 women dressed as cooks, carrying a cruise missile and asking 'Who ordered this?' It was dropped to signal die-in. There was also a peace picnic in the afternoon, followed by 50 women lining streets out of Bath with 'I stand for peace' posters. Peterborough

Rally outside hospital to emphasise links between the NHS cuts and a growing defence budget. Peace picnic, plus die-in involving 70 women.

Leeds

Yorkshire women blockaded the entrance to Menwith Hill, a U.S. spy base. 350 women took part in a ceremony of mourning and protest at the city memorial, ending by sharing bread from all the countries they represented.

Cardiff

12.30 Rally and picnics near Cardiff Castle and at St David's Hall, centre of Queen St, City Hall, St John's Church, the Hayes. 1.30 Gathering outside Castle and 2 minutes silence.

500 women then encircled the road in front of Castle, blocked the road and held a picnic, then went on to the bomb factory.

700 women 'died' at bomb factory R.O.F. Llanishen. One woman was arrested. Women also staged a sit-in at S. Glamorgan County Council, calling for a Nuclear Free Zone declaration.

Glasgow

(including women from Motherwell, Uddington, Hamilton)

11.30 - 2pm. Main rally with women speakers (woman from Nicaragua).

2 - 7 pm Women's festival with theatre groups, songs, games, encircling the square.

7 - 10 Vigil for peace. 150 women blockaded the Army and Navy recruitment office.

These actions were planned so as to involve as many women as possible in their local areas. Most women feel that they've succeeded in creating a local focus of support for the women's peace movement.

It's still true, and needs to be stressed, that the able-bodied white middle-class peace movement still isn't accessible to many women who need material help and other forms of support in their own communities. It does seem

Birmingham

Lunchtime picket of County Hall to protest at involvement of Tarmac at Greenham. This was organized by Labour Women. Women's Peace Camps outside Hall of Memory, 20th-28th May, outside St Martin's Church and in Chamberlain Sq. Street theatre and songs in town centre, showed films and videos all day.

200 women formed a link as a women's chain between the Army & Navy recruitment office and a sex shop. Women from the Labour Party took a peace bus around the city on a factory tour.

All groups emphasised the hypocrisy of West Midlands Council, which although it is a Nuclear Free Zone continues to invest heavily in Rio Tinto Zinc, a uranium mining company.

Derby

Women protested outside the Rolls Royce factory (Rolls Royce is a major defence contractor). They successfully closed the factory for the day. There was a Rally and street theatre at a local war memorial to draw attention to the inadequacy of civil defence.

Kidderminster

Leafletting in town centre, giving out balloons. Women held a vigil, and were joined by 'a good cross-section of women,' about 50 women in all. The women found strong local support, and started a petition calling for the local area to be Nuclear Free. This was one of many towns where a women for peace group formed specifically to work on May 24th.



Loads of "bodies" were found on the pavement of a shopping precinct in Brighton. With them went graffiti all over the walls and pavement! More graffiti and damage to porn shops was discovered that morning!

that some women working on May 24th did try to change their usual way of planning and did, for example distribute information about the day in as many languages as local women needed. It was a start (maybe) but I'm still pessimistic about any important change in the women's peace movement. Our success depends on our ability to reject the racist/sexist mentality we've all been taught and being able to translate the hopelessness into anger.

MAY 24th IMPRESSIONS FROM
PLYMOUTH

At 1pm in the centre of town
14 wimmin lay down on a zebra
crossing. The reactions of
men, both in and out of cars,
were - attempts to run wimm-
over; physical violence - one
man punched wimmin in the face,
slapped and kicked them. The
crowd loved this - cheering.
Unbeleivable, isn't it? Or
is it?? 3 wimmin were arres-
ted. There were no TV ment-
ions.

Looking at the day now, I feel that we made a very strong and determined statement, showing our understanding of the male hierarchy of violence that results in the nuclear threat - but we can't get too excited about what we've done, we've got to gather strength to continue with even more urgency until they do understand.

Nine pairs of knitting needles were kept busy knitting blanket squares underneath the palm trees in Redditch Shopping Centre from 10am to 5pm. Four women were there all day, others came and went. One elderly woman apologised for not joining us, but took wool away with her to knit at home for us. We were asked to leave by the centre manager but when we continued to knit he went away and we had no more trouble. In the afternoon Michael Foot swept by with his entourage. He stopped to speak with us and I told him it was Inter-

For a full list of May 24th actions, please send a SAE (if possible) to 7 Florence Road, Brighton.



Die-in on Brighton seafront

We showed a film in the evening but got very little support (9 including project-ionist!). This was due to a bad venue and little advertising. I've learned such a lot from organising this event and will know now how to do it better. A women's peace group is to be formed in Redditch in the near future.

Audrey
(Contact Audrey Layton, 16 Crumpfields Lane, Redditch. Redditch 44654.)

24! MAY 24! 24!

TAMAR BRIDGE

We were all ages; mixed 'colours'; some disabled women; young to elderly, plus toddlers and babies to keep an eye on, twixt us and the railings.

S G-H, Plymouth

[illegible]

The Greenham Rainbow Bus has been born, (!!) and will immediately be leaving for the continent, filled with photographs and information about the amazing development of women's groups which I experienced as coordinator (thank you Carmel, Laura and Barbara) for 24 May for Devon and Cornwall and which is now incorporated into Greenham Southwest D and C, with 42 women's groups very actively still participating in regional meetings; and of an extraordinary trip to the End Convention in Berlin, where women from 28 countries rebelled against the structure, and formed their own space, grew to know each other, and learned to love each other. We ask for international support at the women's international disarmament convention in Geneva on 17 and 18 September! And for a little while afterwards, please, for a few ideas to bear fruit! The Rainbow Bus will carry four women to a portion of the Dortmund to Brussels walk, and visit De Peel and the Women's Peace Group in Amsterdam. We will give the workshops at the WILPF Congress in Goteburg, Sweden, and hopefully visit the Green Rally also in Sweden. We will travel to Comiso, and finally to Geneva. We welcome any photographs of women DOING things, and any information on women's activities in this country, so that we may tell our sisters abroad of our strength. In turn we shall return with lots of information for women in England.

(The Rainbow Buss ~~goes~~)

FAST 4 LIFE!

On August 6th at least 8 people, 4 in the USA and in France will start an open-ended fast for life 'to affirm that all humanity has a right to live freed from the pain of hunger and the dread of of holocaust.' Groups in many countries are taking part in support fasts.

mauritian workers for diego garcia

IMPERIALISTS
OFF OUR ISLAND

US - HANDS
OFF DIEGO GARCIA

THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT HAS recently decided to send 800 Mauritians to work on the US military base on the island of Diego Garcia and to sell vegetables to the American military personnel stationed on the base.

This is but the beginning of a policy of collaboration with the imperialist US government. In fact, the Mauritian prime minister has even declared that he wants the return of Diego Garcia to Mauritius so that he may be able to lease the island to the US!!! Campaign for the demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean (CDIO) does not believe that sending 800 Mauritians on Diego Garcia will solve the acute unemployment problems of Mauritius, as suggested by the Mauritian prime minister. The base is a threat to the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean and a serious danger to world peace. Mauritians and the international community must WORK towards the destruction of the base and not towards building it.

CDIO is seeking international support to protest against that decision. Send letters of protest to:-

Mr Aneerood Jugnauth
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Government House
Port Louis
Mauritius.

For further information please contact Ven at CDIO, 139 Drakefell Rd, London SE4 2DT.

peru- wimmin tortured

On 14th April Norma Quispe was arrested by armed police and taken to military barracks. She was stripped naked, immersed in a tub of cold water and severely beaten. The police claim that she was involved in an attack by the Sendero Luminoso (luminous path) guerilla group on the Chupan police station.

On the same day Sonia Guillen Quintanilla (aged 17) and Graciela Huaman Galvez (aged 18) were arrested.

Both are alledged to have been tortured. It is not known whether they have been charged with any offence or whether

they have since been released.

We can do something NOW to protest.

Amnesty International recommends that telegrams/letters can be sent:

- * expressing concern.
- * urging that they be treated humanely
- * requesting details of the present situation.

SEND THEM TO

* General Clemente Noel Moral,
Jefe del comando
Politica Militar,
de al zona de
Emergencia,
Cuartel "Los
Cabitos"
Ayacucho, PERU.

* Senor Don Jose Benavides Munoz,
Ministro de Educacion,
Lima, PERU.

* Dr. Miguel Caverio Egusquiza, Fiscal de la Nacion, Paeso de la Republica No 3505,
Piso, San Isidro,
Lima, PERU. (Info from Outbrite)

Brixton black wimmin's group led a demo to protest against the Police Bill which gives the Police unlimited powers to stop, search and arrest people and to enter their homes and search them. There were 500 demonstrators and 250 police.

PERU - BRITAIN
END TO POLICE
HARASSMENT
OF BLACK
PEOPLE

Special Care Project

Jean, Sue and Anna at 7 Whitehill, Echinswell, nr Newbury, Berks.

A Midsummer Night's Dragon

Some wimmin at Greenham Common have initiated a special care project to provide special physical and emotional care for wimmin peace workers suffering from the special stresses of this way of life. Continual police harrassment, constant media presence and the daily arrival of visitors often in coachloads asking us to explain our lives, the threat of arrest and imprisonment, living outside a military installation and keeping up direct and indirect non-violent actions, can cause breakdowns. We need a centre in a rural setting where wimmin can rest in the care of at least two others. This would NOT be holiday house, but a centre for wimmin in crisis and in need of healing. It may occasionally be necessary to have wimmin trained in coping with psychosis without major tranquilisers as well as medical doctors available at the centre. National health provisions are currently terrifyingly inadequate to meet these needs.

Donations to the project may be sent direct to Women's Peace Camp Special Care Fund, Williams and Glyn's Bank, Market Place, Newbury, Berks. (a/c 12698387) or to the camp. If you are interested in getting involved please contact

From the Special Care Project Wimmin

USSR Peace

Wimmin from various peace groups organised a meeting in the Central Library, Exeter on March 10th this year. An audience of about 40 were there to listen to Ms Minalli Niaslova of the Soviet Wimmin's Peace Committee. She spoke of the need for west wimmin to forget political and economic differences with soviet wimmin and to believe in their sincere desire for peace.

She said how the development of trident will push the soviet into a parallel programme. And the deployment of cruise and pershing 2 missiles in Europe will upset the power balance and start a fresh escalation of the arms race. She promised that the soviet would not be the side to use nuclear weapons first.

(mummm can't say I have much faith in such promises-typist). The Wimmin's Peace Committee is the official Russian peace organisation, apparantly. Enquiries to: Soviet Women's Committee, 6 Nemirovich Dansehnikoc, Moscow.

In preparation for the event, the wimmin from the camp made a huge dragons head. Wimmin from many countries, including Britain, brought patchwork peices for its 'body' which on Saturday night, was carried by hundreds of wimmin from the Green Gate where it had been assembled that afternoon.

Foe a while, the five mile dragon held up traffic as it wove its way in a long procession to the main gate. Many of the things written on the patchworks were very moving but perhaps the most visually stunning part was the rainbow stripes brought by the wimmin of Comiso. Earlier in the day, 90 wimmin went onto the base through a gap in the fence and some of them painted the runway. Although a few wimmin were detained for a couple of hours, all were eventually released.

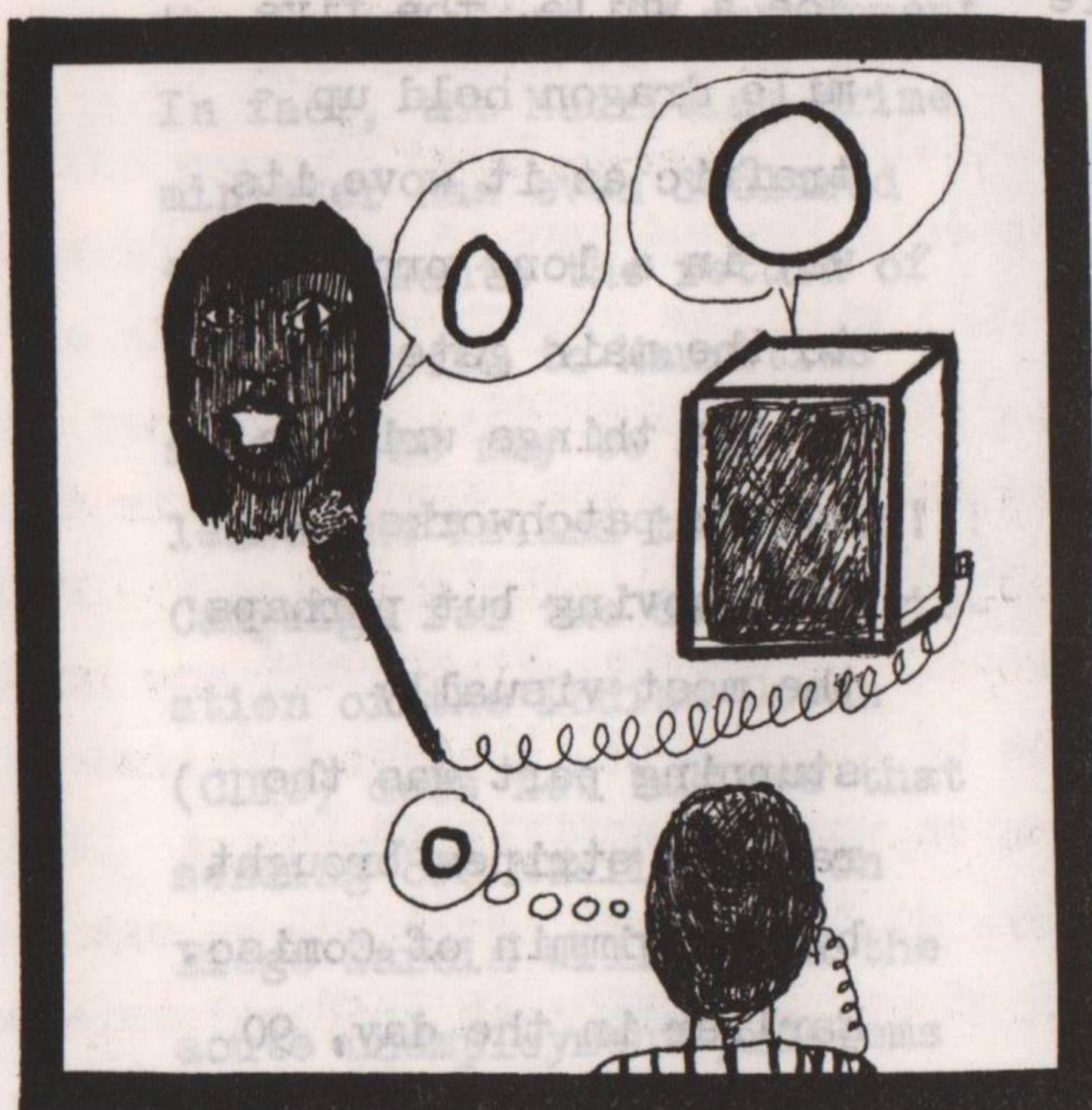
It is hoped that as many wimmin as possible will stay on at Greenham for the next couple of weeks maintaining the festival atmosphere in the run - up to the July blockades.

Heather

DEAF/DUMB NEED ACCESS NOW!

IN ISSUE No.4 WE ASKED FOR MORE INFO. ON ACCESS DETAILS FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED WIMMIN.
HERE IS ONE WOMUN'S RESPONSE....

Of the 10 million deaf and hard of hearing in the UK, those who use sign language are a minority, but a sizeable one. As well as a SIGNER* many of them need a SIGNER/LIP-SPEAKER*. This is because the majority of deaf and hard of hearing people need to be able to lip-read. Most clubs for the hard of hearing use an AMPLIFIER & MIKE, even if they also have a LOOP SYSTEM*. This is because not all hearing aids have a coil/T-switch to use with the system.



Lip-Speakers are usually also Signers. But you have to be trained to Lip-Speak properly. It involves correct and careful shaping and separation of words. (English-speaking people tend to run their words together).

For the majority with some useful hearing left and for those who do have T-switch aids, lip-reading is still essential, and so there is usually a Signer/Lip-Speaker. A Signer can also be used to interpret what the dumb wish to 'say', as can a VOLUNTEER SCRIBBLER*.

Dumbness is not exclusive to the deaf. It can stem from surgery, illness, brain injury etc. If the speech of a 'spastic' or deaf person is tricky for the hearing to comprehend, the Signer/Lip-Speaker can be used to interpret a conversation between the deaf person and a fully hearing person by signing two ways and then speaking it to the fully hearing person.

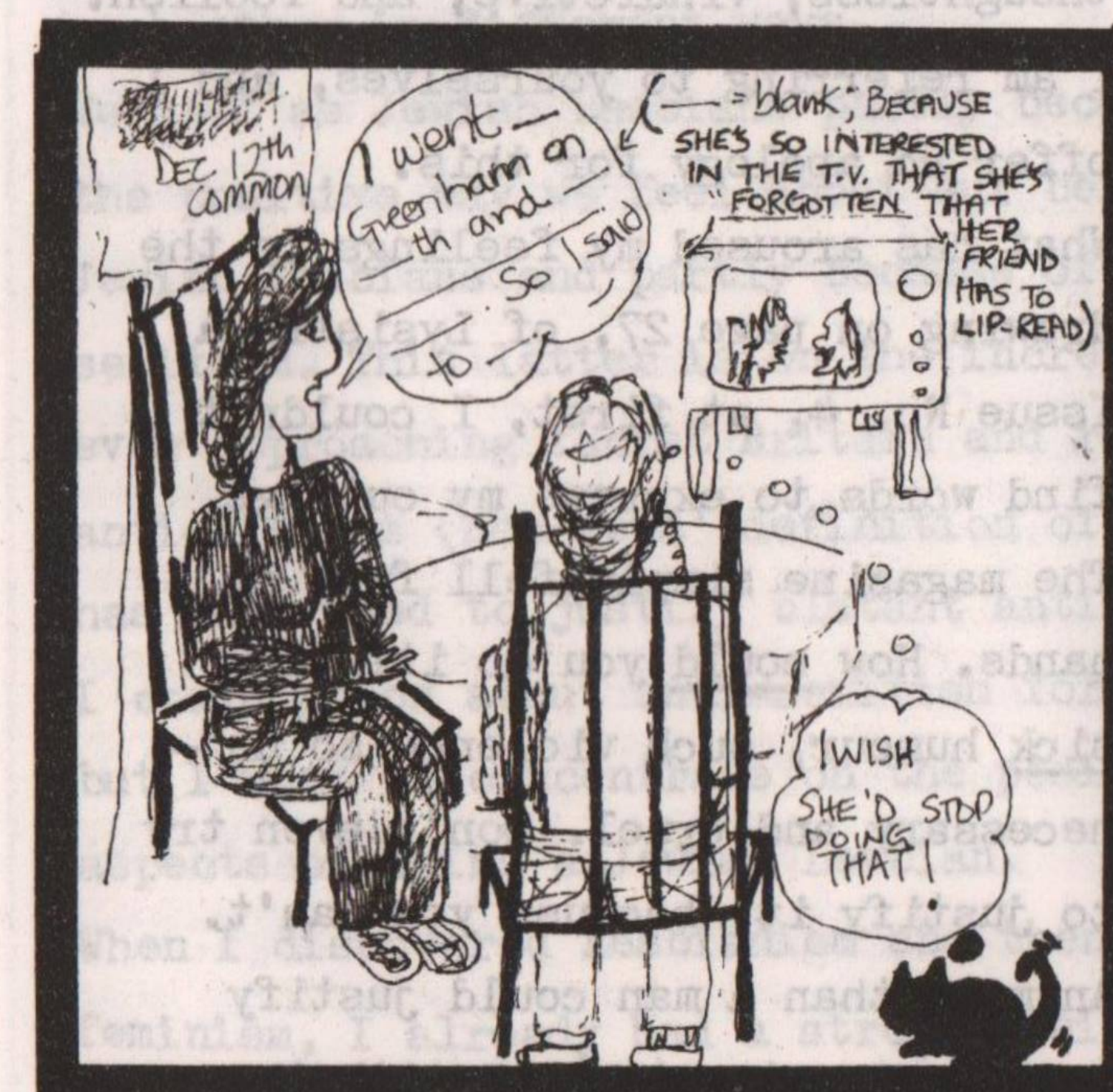
I do not know sign language, so to be able to lip-read is still vital to me. In this country, unlike the USA, those 'in charge' of the deaf still hold to the Ovalist 'school' which teaches speech and lip-reading.

We are struggling for Total Communication, which for us is a Signer/Lip-Speaker. I'll tell you a joke: Out of courtesy, I went with a friend to her Pentecostal Xmas Day service. We were also guests of the Pastor and his family for Boxing Day. At the service he was using a high-grade mike and amplifier! The Pastor was very proud of this attempt to include the deaf. Afterwards, he asked how I'd got on.

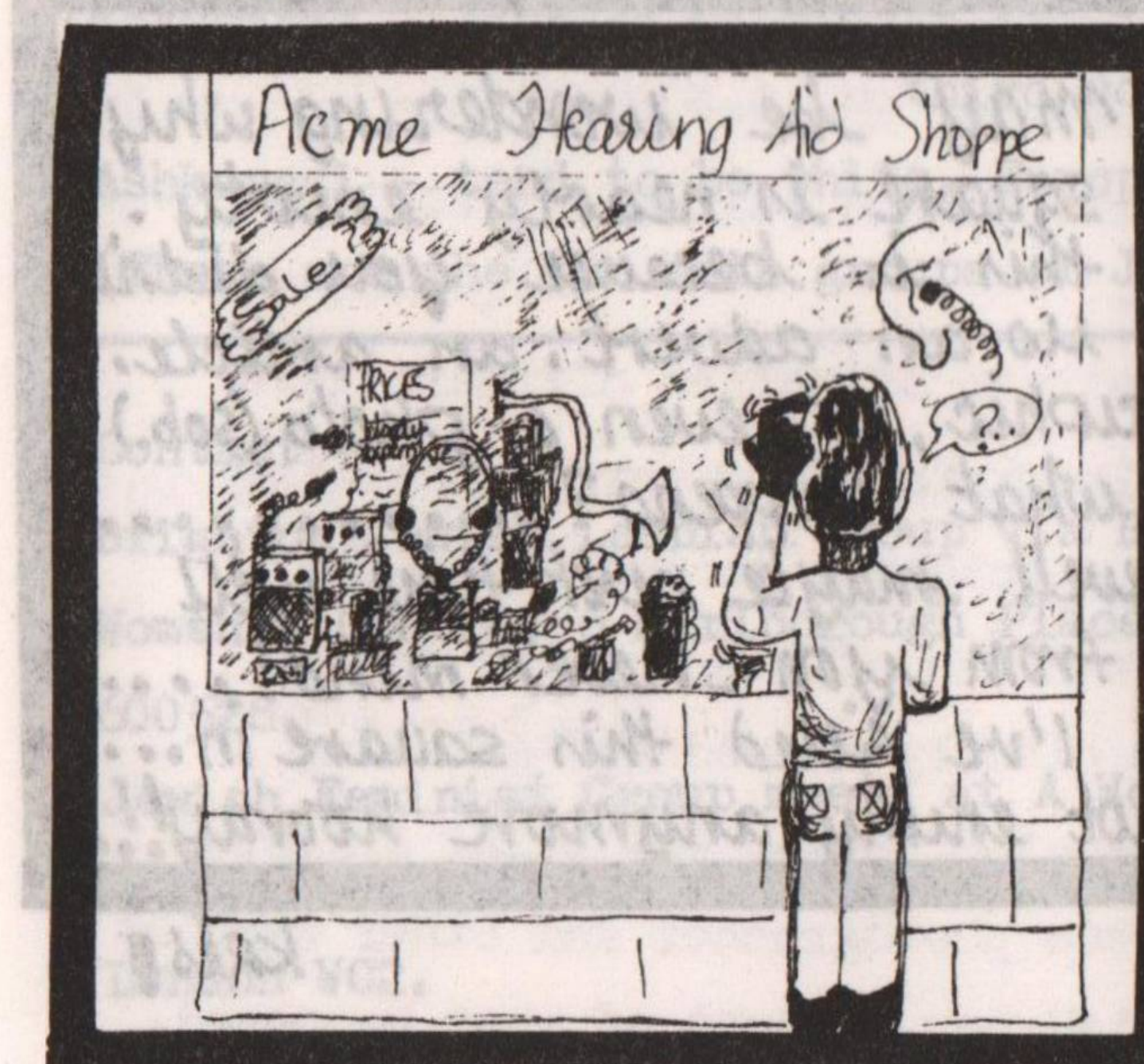
I replied, smiling: 'Marvellous quality of sound, excellent equipment. But if you don't mind my saying, I hear only vowels, so I have to lip-read. As you preach you sway, so the microphone blanked out parts of sentences.' (His face dropped). 'But I got the whole meaning often, because the 'subject' tends to come at the beginning in English.' (Thus before the mike blocked out his face during him swaying).

At which we both dissolved into laughter as he realised his mistake. From then on, I was told, he made sure that the mike was well below his chin! But not to worry.

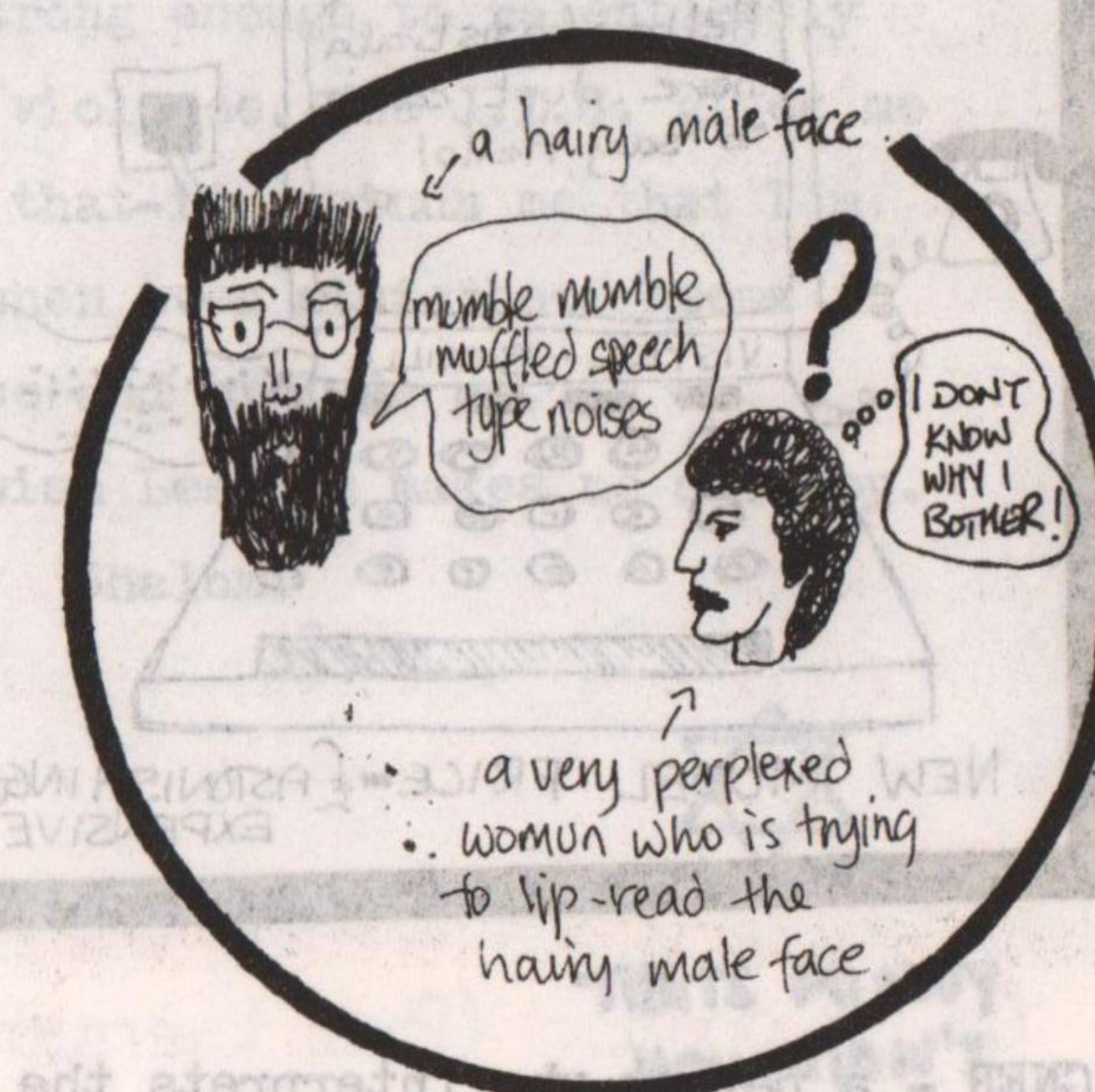
The life and needs of a deaf woman are dashed technical. Probably more complex than that of any other disabled person. One can shut one's eyes or be in the dark and get some idea of blindness. But to be able to understand what it's like for the deaf is quite hard for the fully hearing to grasp instantly. (For example, hearing people do not necessarily 'talk with their eyes' when 'talking' to deaf people). But we are well-briefed on polite techniques in gaining the co-operation we need.



The audio-technical side is equally complex. There are over 200 different aids on the commercial market. One could scan 1000 hearing test graphs to find two identical results. And then upon meeting the two deaf people, not find their actual hearing and speech to be totally identical - it's a quagmire! The general public tends to get the idea that we all know or use sign language, and we don't. This isn't such a bad idea, as it's bringing in more volunteers to learn sign language/lip-speaking! - and we need 'em.



American sign language is one-handed. British sign language is two-handed and for some people (in the UK!) it's impossible to use - if they've only got one hand or arm, if they're paralysed, or have got arthritic hands. So if someone can only use one arm they have to 'cope' with lip-reading alone. Very few people become advanced lip-readers. It's the most tricky language there is, quite apart from trying to read hairy male faces!



The general public does try, mind you - and bless 'em. When the press first publicised cochlear implants, the RNID (Royal National Institute for the Deaf) was inundated with would-be donors of cochleas (on death, as per organ donors). The RNID had to do a huge mail-out to thank them and explain what a cochlea implant actually is - not an implant of the real cochlea.

But the latest for the deaf and blind is at the trial stage. At the moment deaf and blind volunteers are trying out the first Vistel-Braille Telephones. There are already key-board word read-out phones (costing £500!!). BUT the new type of read-out is in Braille, so it will open up life for the deaf-blind people. The blind would also be able to widen to phoning deaf and deaf-blind Vistel users.

There are volunteers who will act on Vistel as LINK UP. (These are hearing people who listen to the ordinary phone-type user and then 'keyboard' to the deaf Vistel user. A tetraplegic young man is our local Link Up volunteer in the South West.) I read about it last week on the Teletext pages for the deaf, so it's exciting as a social expander.



*SIGNER - a person who interprets the spoken word into SIGN LANGUAGE.

*SIGNER/LIP-SPEAKER - a person who interprets the spoken word into sign language as well as speaking the words so that the audience can lipread what is being said as well.

*LOOP SYSTEM - enables a hearing-aid to be plugged into the amplifying system - with the aid of a coil/Tswitch so that they can hear what is being said.

*VOLUNTEER-SCRIBBLER - someone who writes down what is being said so that the person who is lip-reading/reading sign language has notes to read in case of what is being said is complicated.

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT IS AVAILABLE WHEN YOU SEND IN DATES OR EVENTS FOR THE DIARY PAGE.

S.G.H.

Note to Greta: If we've mis-interpreted any of this please write and tell us. The Collective.

A Letter....

Lysistrata Collective,

Somehow, I am not all that surprised. What I do feel is anger, disgust, and a deep sense of betrayal that a group of people who claim to be peace-loving and nonviolent can be so utterly thoughtless, vindictive, and foolish.

I am referring to yourselves, and I offer no apology for this.

What has aroused my feelings is the drawing on page 27, of Lysistrata issue No. 4, at first, I couldn't find words to express my outrage. The magazine simply fell from my hands. How could you do it? Such sick humour, such violence so unnecessary and cruel. Don't even try to justify it, because you can't. Any more than a man could justify rape, and act saturated with the same feelings as the statement "Dead men don't rape". It pains me to write those vile words. On the facing page, you remind readers, "men read Lysistrata....." Not any more, unless they're masochists.

Judy Ann Wyndham.

P.S. I admit it's cowardly to not give my address but I fear re-taliation, even from my sisters. See the mistrust you have planted. Learn from it.

You may be wondering why this square is nearly empty. Well this is because you didn't send us an advert, an article, a graphic, or even a photo (sob.) - See what happens?..... Ah well maybe next time we'll hear from you - never mind!.... (Wow I've filled this square in... its not empty anymore hooray!!)

Kels

A JEWISH LESBIAN WRITES

Brighton Jewish Lesbian Group (JLG) is a group of about 8 women. We are from a mixture of backgrounds, some Ashkenazi, some Sephardic, some newly-discovered Jews, some who've been firmly identified all their lives. Our ages range from early 20's to 60. This variety is one of strengths of the group, as we all bring different experiences to the group and can support each other in different ways. We meet as Jewish Lesbians partly because of the positive way we feel about our being Jewish Lesbians and partly because of anti-semitism. This latter is on the increase in ever approaching fascist Britain and recently anti-Zionism (non-Jews' definition of course) has been used to justify blatant anti-semitism. I could go on about anti-semitism forever, but I want to concentrate on the positive aspects of being a Jewish Lesbian. When I discovered Lesbianism and then feminism, I already had a strong Jewish identity, but I had internalized a lot of anti-semitism both from society generally and from the men in life in particular. (Both my father and husband were goyim^x) Feminism gave me back the space - the right to be who I really am and so recently I found my Jewishness becoming more prominent. Since meeting with other Jewish Lesbians I have relearned to be glad and proud of being Jewish. I am proud to be able to claim a heritage of incredibly strong women-

^xGoyim - derogatory word for gentile, non-Jew

*Sephardic - tend to be darker and include third world Jews
*Ashkenazi - tend to be white, European
(These are the two main groups of Jews.)

Contact -

Brighton Jewish Lesbian Group via Brighton Women's Centre, 6 Marlborough Place, Brighton. 600526.
Jewish Feminist Group meets at A Woman's Place Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2.

women who hid their families through pogroms and migrations, women who lost all their loved ones in the holocaust, women who were revolutionaries, like Emma Goldman and Rosa Luxemburg, all the Ruths Rachels, Rebekahs, Sarahs, Emmas, Naomis, Deborahs,.....

For me, being Jewish is part of what makes me strong enough to relentlessly fight male violence. The J.L.G. gives me support in that-it reminds me that I'm not alone when even sisterhood seems to invisiblise and exclude us.

Being a Jewish Lesbian makes me stropopy.

Shalom.

Sara



Books to read

Nice Jewish Girls - ed. by Evelyn Torton-Beck (published by Persephone Press at about £5)
Jewish Grandmothers (can't remember who its by but Sisterwrite, 109 Upper St, London N1 01-226-9782 can tell you and should have it.)
also - recent editions of 'Common Lies, Lesbian Lies' - US quarterly available from Sisterwrite.

CAPENHURST - BNF MURDER CONSPIRACY



On the pond! (Photo: Liverpool Daily Post)

but wimmin are on trial!

On the morning of February 21st women occupied a duck pond on the CEGB site at BNFL Capenhurst, Cheshire. They then blocked the 2 gates leading to the BNFL uranium enrichment plant. The women at the main gate were left, but the 5 women lying in the road, and one supporter were arrested at the side (NW) gate, and subsequently charged with obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty.

On March 16th at the first hearing (to which NO friends or relatives were allowed into the court room) 3 Women pleaded not guilty and were adjourned. 3 women pleaded guilty and gave pleas of mitigation stating their good reasons for taking part in the action and were sentenced to a 2 year conditional discharge and £15 costs apiece (2 of the women have not yet paid)

On April the 21st the other 3 Women came to trial. This was held in an "open" court with friends and support present.

If British Nuclear Fuels at Capenhurst were conspiring to murder an individual, it would be our right, indeed our duty to stop them. But they are not just conspiring a single murder, they are preparing for mass murder on a scale never seen before. The people responsible for this conspiracy are not being prosecuted but being protected and supported by our government and legal system. The government is doing this in our name but without our consent, it has never been democratically discussed in parliament. Next time we're in court, we hope it will be as witnesses for the prosecution of British Nuclear Fuels, not standing in the dock on an insignificant petty charge.

(From a speech made in mitigation in court.)

Though there were 2 completely different defences, the police had asked that all 3 women be tried together in the same court. (Lawyers had asked for separate trials earlier and had been refused) We felt it was a deliberate ploy to confuse and play down the whole case as much as possible.

Chris's defence was that she had been wrongfully arrested. She had taken the role of support, singing and dancing and generally keeping everyone's spirits up, but getting out of the way whenever vehicles arrived and police removed the other women.

In court a stream of police officers gave 'evidence' incriminating her, except for one man who completely contradicted the others, he was the officer on the photographs that clearly showed her standing back while another woman was being arrested. Then the press photographer and other support women verified her account of what happened.

None of which seemed to be acknowledged by the magistrates, who ultimately gave her the same sentence as the other 2 women. Cathryn and Judith's defence was that the charge was irrelevant as it was the police's duty to prevent the Greater crimes, going on inside Capenhurst from being committed. They/their legal representative referred to 3 laws that are being broken within the plant:

The U.N. decree, security council resolutions 276, 283 and 301 and a 1971 ruling by the International court of Justice in support of those.

The Geneva convention (1949) which was signed ratified and incorporated into British Law in 1957 and The Genocide Act (1948) which was also incorporated into British Law, in 1969.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the 3 women also brought up complicated legal points, questioning the validity of the charge considering the circumstances, and the law as it stands. All 3 women were then found guilty and sentenced to a one year conditional discharge and £20 costs each.

Once again the courts have shown the protection that they give for the few men who have amassed vast profit and power from their involvement in our future destruction within the laws of this country there is NO way in which any individual or group of individuals can bring these people to justice.

The media also played its part, showing its usual reluctance to report on the important aspects of the case, effectively censoring the facts regarding practices within Capenhurst and the police force (only 2 of the many local papers, and none of the nationals even mentioned any of the defence) all the women involved feel the need to draw attention to the fact that large numbers of people are ALREADY dying and populations are suffering, directly because of G.B's nuclear policy.

For more information contact:

Lil Semoff
Flat 3
Princes Court
6 Croxteth Rd
Liverpool L83 4J (L'pool: 727-7486)

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).

SisterWrite
a
co-operative women's bookshop
190, Upper Street, London N1.
tel: 226 9782

for a selection of feminist literature including books by lesbian women, black women and women of the third world.

Mail order service available

Opening hours ; Tues. - Fri. 11 - 7
Sat. - 10 - 6

PANACEA is a
journal of feminist psychics and
alternative healing.
Available from:
£1.05 inc p+p 1 Ravenstone Rd £3.20
for 1 issue London N8. for 3 issues



Patricia Johnson with daughters Rhonda and Makeda

'GOOD NEWS'

The songs are with little or no musical accompaniment. The wimmin sing of children, death, religion and love. But mainly their songs are fingers pointing at my continuing racism, including ignorance of Black history:

'If you had lived with Harriet Tubman
would you wade in the water?.....

.....do you hear them calling?

Are you living today?

Are you fighting today?

Do you know our names?

Do you know our names?

Do you hear our cries?'

And from their anger and frustration that white people (me) still have not changed their (my) attitudes.

'The babies you starve

Every day of the week

Nothing but an echo of the past

....my screams of freedom will flood

the air

of your children centuries unborn

Nothing but an echo of the past.'

A beautifully sung and produced album, but if you are white don't expect easy listening - that's not what most of it is for.

Poppy

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

REVIEW OF TWO LPs



SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

I love the sound, power, intensity, and sweetness of Black women singing. Sweet Honey allows me to be the — who I am

BLACK/WOMAN/SINGER

That is my political position

my economic dilemma

my cultural

racial

sexual

spiritual

Identity

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

WE ARE A GROUP OF BLACK WOMEN SINGING. BY SINGING TOGETHER WE BECOME MORE OURSELVES. WE CREATE THE ADDITIONAL SPACE TO BE WHO WE ARE. WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT BEING BLACK PEOPLE AND WOMEN PEOPLE AND SINGING PEOPLE AND REFLECTING THAT IN OUR WORK.



BLACK MUSIC

I wake up in the morning and

it eases my last night's mare
subtracts the bare.

And
I feel full, afloat with
Black music

as my wave
saves

Me from the empty, the lost, the without that
Black music

that gratifies, satisfies
and subtilizes

My senses.

B' LIEVE I'LL RUN ON SEE WHAT THE END'S GONNA BE

This album is a must for anyone feeling disillusioned with the wimmin's movement and/or the world. It makes you feel the importance and strength of Black wimmin who have worked in the past and who are working now.

'It is your path I walk

It is your song I sing

It is your air I breathe

It's the record you set that makes me go
on

It's your strength that helps me stand

You're not really going to leave me.'

I find the track about nuclear weapons (the title track) confusing. They begin with the floods and Noah. God sent the floods and will send fire next time. I always associate this with the attitude - 'god is going to destroy the world, so we can't stop it happening.' But then they talk about the horrors of a nuclear war and finish with

'Make it a crime against humanity

This stock pile of weapons and playing
with nuclear energy.'

The last track is about wimmin loving wimmin and is beautiful

'Every wumun who ever loved a wumun

You oughta stand up and call her name

Mama - sister - daughter - lover.'



Yasmeen Williams

This album is about hard work, struggle, death, but it's also about unity and the power of wimmin together and how good it is to be a wumun

'Don't get me wrong

I can't complain

thru' all the stormy icy rain

I emerge still

A wumun.'

Gill Rhodes

SWEET HONEY cannot be categorized.

We are singers of songs.

You speak on it, we'll sing about it.

We overlap every definition you give to us

We get strengths from knowing music flows
through so many veins.

BLACK WOMAN don't tie them shoes
up no more.

Walk on your own two feet.

BLACK PEOPLE don't wait for nothin'.
Take what God gave us and use it.

BLACK NATIONALISM
gave me back my ground
layered with the dust, bones, licod of
my people before me
lives and labors of struggle and joy of life
AND I STAND ON SOLID ROCK

MUSIC IS COMMUNICATIVE SOUND
AT ITS MOST POWERFUL LEVEL



Evelyn Harris

GOOD NEWS and B'LIEVE I'LL RUN.....SEE WHAT THE END'S GONNA BE are available from WRPM, 62 Woodstock Road, Birmingham. B139BN as is the third of their records which will be reviewed in a future issue. The records should also be available from radical book and record shops.

PEACE CAMPS

PUGET SOUND U.S.A.

Puget Sound is the first wimmin's peace camp in the US (I'm pretty sure). It's located near the Boeing Cruise Missile Plant at Kent, Washington (it's in the Northwest) and began on June 18th.

Their press release said:

Pacific Northwest women will begin an ongoing peace camp at 10am Saturday, June 18th near the Boeing Cruise Missile Plant at Kent, Washington. This non-violent presence aims to stop production of the Cruise missile and to encourage peaceful industrial development in the Puget Sound region.

The Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp was inspired by the much-publicized Women's Peace Camp at the Greenham Common Royal Air Base in England. This camp was established in Sept. 1981 in protest of the NATO plan to deploy the Cruise missile in Europe. A sister US Women's Peace Camp will open July 4th at the Seneca Army Depot, a cruise missile transshipment point in New York State.

For women around the world, time is of the essence. 1983 is the year that the nuclear fuse shortens drastically. More than an opposition action, the Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp also aims to provide an example of a community of people living in cooperation with each other and the earth.



"the nuclear fuse shortens drastically..."

"Why women?"

We are often asked why we are organising as women. While there are probably as many answers to this question as there are women working for the peace camp, some reasons do get mentioned over and over. We've listed some of them here:

1. It is clear to us that the world has reached a crisis point: nuclear weapons and the arms race are an immediate threat to all of our survival. We feel that this dangerous situation has been brought about by the imbalance in power between men and women and that the current world crisis is a result of the suppression of women's power and leadership over the centuries. It seems to us that the time has come for women to take leadership in interrupting a course that we know to be wrong and destructive.

2. We see the issue of militarism as inseparable from the issues of violence against women and oppression of all kinds. We think these issues are part of a whole system that needs changing. We see women acting together as a powerful force to make the needed changes.

3. We have been inspired by the example of women all over the world taking responsibility to end the nuclear threat. For example, the women at Greenham Common, through their courage and determination, have shown us an alternative to standing by while the world races toward destruction. Their actions have told us that we, too, can act powerfully for our survival.

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4. The traditional peace movement, like most other political movements, has been dominated by men. It makes sense to us to put our energies into stopping the arms race rather than into struggling with men in the peace movement over the issue of sexism.

"Children at the Peace Camp"

Our children's presence at the peace camp is in keeping with our affirmation of life and is consistent with the views expressed in our unity statement.

All women and children are welcome at the peace camp and special arrangements will be made for young men over the age of 12.

For the first two weeks, June 18th - July 4th, there will be no prearranged collective childcare. We encourage women to make other arrangements for their children during this time since we are uncertain as to how the authorities and the community will respond to our presence.

The women are intending to stay for at least three months, and then re-evaluate the decision, depending on how much support they get, etc.

Address: Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp
P.O. Box 22756
Seattle, Washington
USA 98122

FOR NEWS FROM WOMEN EVERYWHERE

read

Outwrite

women's newspaper

Reporting on women's 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.

SENECA FALLS

WOMEN UNITE FOR PEACE

Seneca, New York

1590—Women of the Iroquois Nation demand an end to war among the tribes.

1800s—Seneca County is a major stop on the underground railroad, with Harriet Tubman's house just 20 miles away from the Army Depot.

1848—The first Women's Rights Convention is held at Seneca Falls, giving shape and voice to the 19th century feminist movement.

1983—Once again women are gathering at Seneca Falls; this time to challenge the nuclear threat at its doorstep. The Seneca Army Depot, situated on a Native American homeland nurtured and protected by the Cayugas, is now the storage site for neutron bombs and the storage and departure point for Pershing II missiles to be deployed in Europe in 1983.

"The existence of nuclear weapons is killing us. Their production contaminates our environment, destroys our natural resources, and depletes our human energy and creativity. We say no to the arms race, no to death. *We say yes to a world where people, animals, plants, and the earth itself are respected and valued.*"

Vision Statement, Women's Peace Camp,
Seneca Army Depot, N.Y.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 563-7110

LETTER ABOUT IT

The women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice will be another proud statement made by women to protest the escalating arms race and particularly the deployment of the Cruise and Pershing II missiles. The encampment will open on July 4, 1983 and officially end on labor day. The encampment will have a constant nucleus of women gathered to share and raise consciousness about many issues of

Continued over →

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special concern to women. The goals of the encampment are to

1. create a broad based awareness about and opposition to the U.S. plans to deploy new missiles to Europe and
2. to forge new links in the women's movement of those working for peace and those working for social justice and
3. to create part of the vision of what the world could be like if militarism was not a predominate force in our lives.

peace movement racism

In working with these goals in mind, the Third World Women's Caucus (TWWC) was formed. Our goal is to gather concerned women who are willing to exchange ideas and information on peace and justice issues that are of particular interest to women of color, and to see that these ideas and concerns are shared and developed throughout the encampment. The first TWWC meeting was held on Saturday March 26, 1983. At that meeting, it was agreed that third world women concerns should be interwoven throughout the encampment. One major concern was racism in overall society and in the peace movement itself. Other concerns were,



the nuclear build-up in third world countries and particularly the exploitation of third world women, the history of women of color in the struggle for peace and freedom, and the impact of military spending on women of color, the Martin Luther King Jr. March on Washington, August 27, 1983 calling for Jobs, Peace and Freedom. At the March 26 meeting, it was also decided that the TWWC would have in-house workshops to offer the women attending a deeper insight into these and other

THE FIRST "WOMEN'S" PEACE CAMP TO ACKNOWLEDGE US?



MMM... I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT!


concerns. We also agreed to build a strong coalition of women who believe in the goals of the encampment and would be willing to help build those goals.

The encampment itself will have a 'loose' structure, meaning different subjects will be addressed, by way of workshops, seminars, discussion groups, performing artists, etc. The TWWC plans to work closely with the encampment coordinators to offer suggestions on how our concerns can be incorporated into the encampment calendar of events. The success of the encampment depends on the ideas and energy of those who support it. Please feel free to suggest topics that you feel should be raised, names of others who might be interested, names of performing artists, names of films we can show, other campaigns the encampment can support, pamphlets and books the encampment can distribute etc. We encourage your participation. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lorenda Fambro.

Ragged Robin
women's cooperative



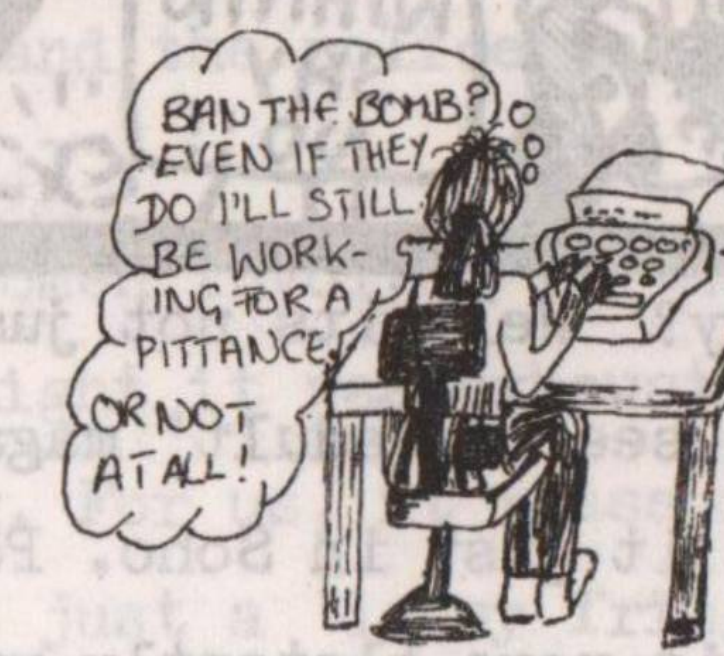
Drawstring dungarees
with optional women's
peace symbol on pocket.
Fabric - bright green,
fade-out cotton, fades
with every wash.

Sizes:
S - 36" bust & hip.
M - 37"-39" " & "
L - 40"-42" " & "
XL - 42"-44" " & "

Price: inc. P&P & VAT
£14.50. inc P&P & VAT
£15.50 with peace symbol.
(profits on peace symbol
to women's peace movement)
Or send s.a.e. for our
leaflet. Cheques/p.o.'s to: RAGGED ROBIN LTD
(Dept. L), TREGARON RD., LAMPETER.

from a woman in an ARMS & DISARMAMENT INFO UNIT

I am a woman who works in the Arms and Disarmament Information Unit at Sussex University. Part of my job is to answer enquiries from the public about anything to do with defence, and another part is to push out info actively by writing fact sheets and pamphlets. Obviously, there is a huge difference between taking part in direct action with other women at a cruise missile base, and sitting at a desk writing about cruise missiles. But I think that both forms of action are important if defence policy is ever going to change, and I am writing this because I sometimes feel there is a gulf between women who do one sort of action rather than the other. Concentrating on defence issues can seem like worrying about the tip of an ice berg: there is male violence towards women as well as the violence of the military: there is racism within our society as well as the patriotic syndrome of finding enemies outside: there is economic exploitation in all big industries, not just in the defence industries. Many women acting for peace are protesting about all these issues, and linking them all to feminist ideas about society. The problem is that we are saddled with a state, a government, a military establishment and all its trappings. And feminism is just too subversive to get put into practice by parliament in one fell swoop! So even to change defence policy alone, we need to concentrate proposals for limited changes. The values and practices of the women's peace movement represent our ideals, and any real changes will inevitably be compromises. If we're not going to leave all the power of decision about details to men, we have to be able to accept compromises ourselves, and even to work for it. This may involve compromises in life-styles as well as in principles. For example, I work in a university a privileged institution if ever there was one. I am served by women who type, clean rooms, make tea, answer the phone. I am afraid of not being taken seriously by

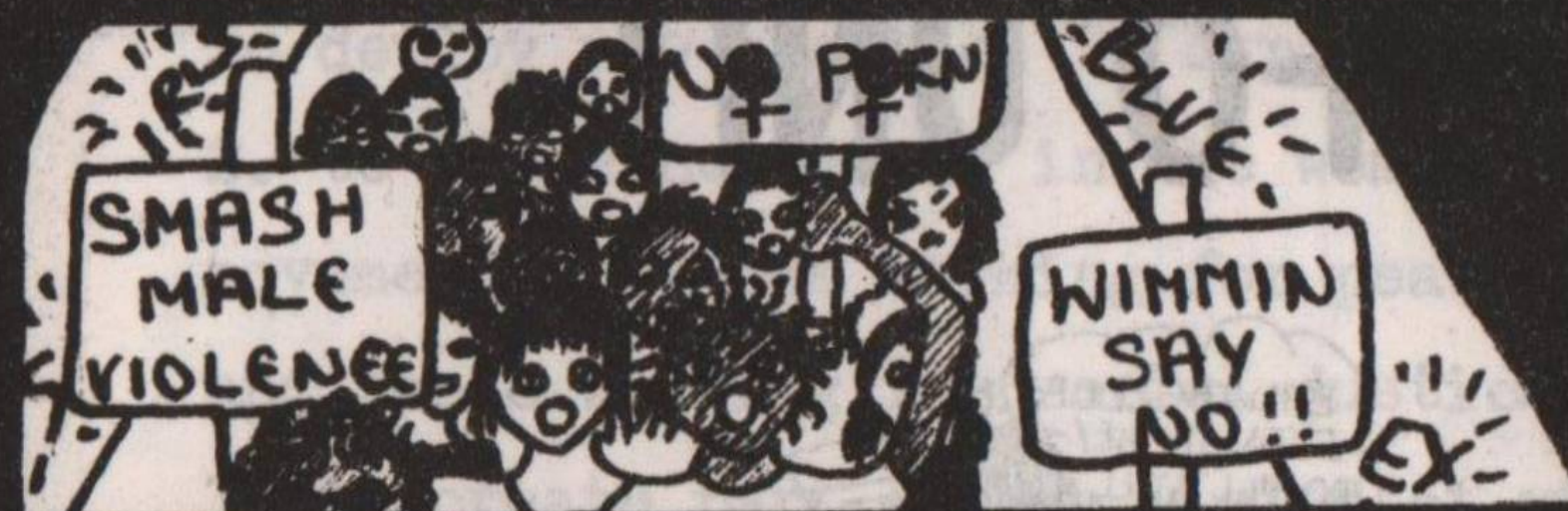


straight men if I embrace my female friends at work. And of course, things do not run on the same principles as at Greenham. But on the positive side, I am in a position to make information available to people who would not otherwise have it. I can supply details about Britain's arms industries to people who are working in the unions to convert from military to socially useful production. I can supply CND groups with info about the military activities in their area. Sometimes I wonder how effective this type of action is too, but at least it's a start on dealing with the practical details. So far Lysistrata has focused on news and articles about direct actions by women, on all sorts of issues connected to peace and non-violence. Perhaps it can also be some-where for women who are involved in other ways, though on the same issues to describe what they are doing, how they need help, what help they can give, and so on. Although it may mean fewer compromises, non-violent direct action is not the only way, or the 'best' way, to try putting peace into practice.

Sheena Phillips.



WE FIGHT BACK



What is pornography? Well its not just something that you see in 'adult' magazines and videos. Nor is it just in Soho. Porn is all around us. It is more blatantly present in 'blue' videos and films but it is there in 'Horror' videos (why is it always the women who are killed?), television productions, adverts, and in everyday newspapers.

A definition of porn is hard to reach but we've tried to come up with one. We say that porn is anything which takes control away from women, be it by showing women as aobject for male abuse, telling lies about women or otherwise contributing to sexual violence against women and girls. Feminists are angry about porn for all the above reasons. We also realize that the more acceptable porn becomes, through 'High St' porn shops and videos-for-hire, the more acceptable and part of our daily lives becomes violence against women and girls. We say that porn actually encourages and condones violence against women and that it makes sexual violence appear exciting. Porn doesn't just encourage sexual violence it reflects and reinforces mens attitudes to women. It also reflects and reinforces other attitudes of oppression such as racism, through the use of black and Jewish women in racist scenarios.

Pornography and sexual violence is an immediate threat to our lives. It is based on the same power structure that makes nuclear weapons, and like the nuclear industry, it makes men a fortune. In a similar way to how women are recognising that the nuclear threat is a feminist issue - women's conciousness around pornography has grown in recent years.

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Last autumn there was a womens conference on porn as violence against women. At this it was decided to have a concerted and co-ordinated week of action against pornography. So a group of women from all over the country met regularly in different towns to plan the week, (it soon became a fortnight) We decided to have it from 14th -28th May. We liked the idea of including May 24th actions and making the link between porn as male violence and the nuclear threat as male violence. We had 4 nationally co-ordinated days and areas were left to sort out their own local actions.

The first say we held ceremonies of womens power and strength together (Brighton had a lovely beach fire and other towns had cabarets and other events) Some towns held vigils to remember all women who have been/are being made to suffer brutality at the hands of men. The first Monday we jammed the switchboards of major video porn distributors (including one which distributes/d 'Snuff' movies where women are actually raped and killed during the making of the film.) The second Saturday we picketed our local branches of WH Smiths as prime examples of newsagents who make millions out of seeling womens bodies. During the 2 weeks, we held pickets of porn and video shops, gave out leaflets to women, held 'Reclaim the Afternoon' marches to make the point that male violence happens all day, not just at night!



AGAINST PORN

In Brighton we had a great response from women. Many women expressed how much they agreed with us and others gave personal histories of their own suffering of male brutality. Many women wanted to know more, both during and since the fortnight, about how they could fight back against male violence with other women.

On the last Saturday- we had a mass 'visit' to Soho. About 1000 women walked around Soho in an atmosphere of Sisterhood and support. Personally I knew that if at any point the whole thing became too much for me, my sisters were there for me. We sang a lot of songs shouted at the rapists in that area and remained peaceful and in control-much to the confusion of the attending police!

The Soho visit was partly to show our support of the women who live in soho and the women who work in Soho. PIVAW women had talked to many of the prostitutes in Soho and they were overwhelming in their support.

POLICE are investigating a wave of damage at Brighton sex and video shops.

Three shops had their windows smashed overnight and six more had paint slogans daubed over them. One target was the Adam and Eve Sex Boutique 13 Queen's Road, Brighton. The window was smashed and the letters WA - Women's Action - painted on the building. The K & K video shop in Southover Street, Brighton was another target for the attackers. **EVENING ARGUS MAY 24 1983**

ANGRY WOMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ACTS OF REVENGE FOR OUR SISTERS RAPED, KILLED AND MAIMED BY MEN, AND FOR ALL WOMEN.....WE WILL SMASH MALE VIOLENCE..... WOMEN WILL WIN.

The event had to be meticulously well organised ot avoid male violence from Soho men and the police and it came off really well.

For the women involved in the organising of the fortnight it was exhausting and very rewarding. For us, it reassured us that we aren't just a 'loony fringe' that 'ordinary women'(!) agree with us.

Soho brought home to many of us that we are right, that pornography is an immediate danger to the lives of all women.

We will continue the fight against all forms of male violence.

Sara M (from but not necessarily on behalf of PIVAW planning group)

ON 27th MAY 1983, ANGRY WOMEN paintbombed Hollywood Videos on Cambridge Heath, Hackney.

By doing this action we were strongly protesting about hardcore pornographic videos that we know are stocked in this shop.

They include 'Nightmares in a damaged brain', 'I spit on your grave', 'Driller killér', 'Canibal holocaust', 'Death trap' and 'Last house on the left'.

These videos contain explicit scenes of women being raped, mutilated and murdered.

They can be hired by anyone, even adolescents.

We believe that pornography is directly responsible for the increasing number of rapes and for the generally accepted idea that rape victims are willing victims. This is reflected in the police treatment of women who have suffered this ordeal, and the judicial treatment of rapists - namely getting away with it.

The acceptance of the porn industry and the image it promotes of women actually enjoying the violent sex that is forced upon them, helps to create and maintain a climate of actual physical abuse of women.

Daughters of Amazon press release

23

IS NOTHING SACRED?

I interviewed an Aboriginal woman called Judy Monk

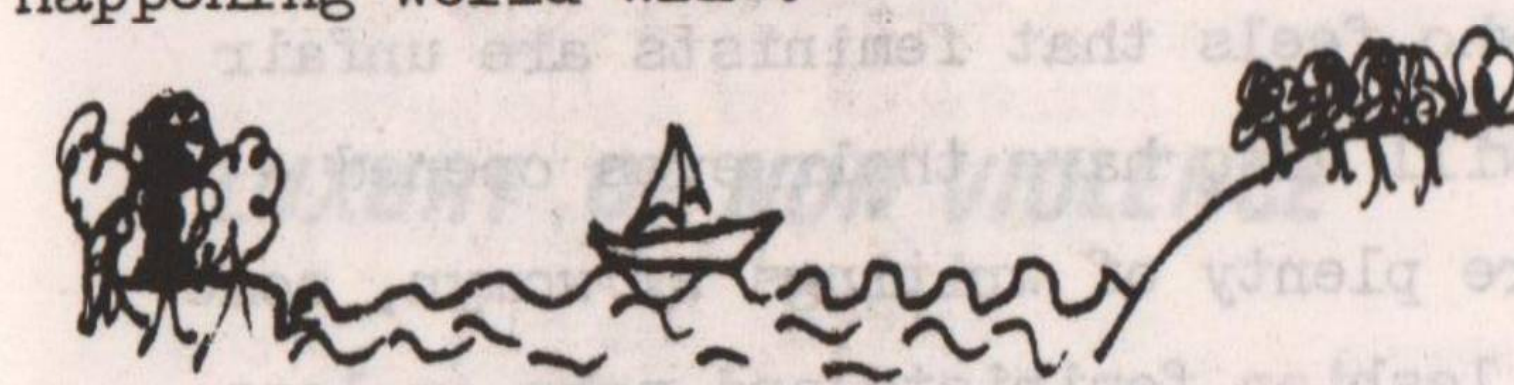
for Outwrite magazine last month the interview will be in September issue of Outwrite if anyone wants to read it. Its probably better that you do, mainly because the article in Lysistrata is in my words not hers.

Anyway let me get on and tell you a little bit about the subject of the interview. Judy Monk is at present working as part of an organisation for the Aboriginal Mining Information Center, in fact she is the Director of that organisation. She is involved in the campaign of Land Rights for the Aboriginal people, and what has that to do with this magazine I hear you ask? Well, in the past couple of issues of Lysistrata we've mentioned a company called.....yes, you've guessed it..... RIO TINTO ZINC, well they are at it in Australia as well as other companies. Moving indigenous people off from their rightful land, killing them with the filth that is being dug out of the ground in the form of Uranium, and generally not caring whether or not they get in anyones way. And its not only RTZ, there are companies who mine for gold and other precious things such as diamonds (though I personally fail to see how anything that endangers peoples lives and causes them to live in an oppressive situation can be called precious....so think about that the next time you admire a peice of jewellery or diamond engagement ring that someone is sticking under your nose to be admired!!!!) But I must get on, The things that Judy told me in the interview were sad and made me feel bloody angry to say the least. The land that used to be farmed and hunted on by the



Aboriginal people was taken away from them when white people discovered Australia. They have been forced to live on reserves run by the white men who took away their rights. They have very little left to them, in the way of their own culture, this is because the mining companies under the watchful eyes of the Governments have moved in and taken lands where the Aboriginal people have for years been performing rites upon their own sacred places. Both women and men are affected by this because according to their culture there are sacred places for wimmin where the men have no right to interfere in the things that go on there and also mens sacred places where the women are not allowed to go. Aboriginal people have been fighting for their land for years their struggle is linked to that of people in South Africa, North American Indians, Diego Garcia.....How is it that people have ignored the struggles of these people for years? When the same thing has been happening to black people worldwide, the racist attitudes that are inherent in every white person in this country must be overcome, because the nuclear issue does not only affect us living here in Britain, because we're due to have 96 Cruise Missiles sited here in December. It is a fact that the oppression of indigenous people is happening on a large scale. Indigenous people are forced in Australia to give up their homelands so that the nuclear weapons programme can go ahead.

They have been forced to live in areas where they are exposed to high levels of radiation while they mine the filth out of the ground because they have no other choice. They are not qualified to work in higher paid employment because in the white mans terms they are not qualified. Why? - because for years they have been denied any education or skill training. And who asked them if they wanted the white capitalist way of life to come and take over their peaceful way of life anyway? Yes they get filthy and dangerous jobs while they are extracting the ore. And then what happens? - they get the bloody bombs dropped on them to test the weapons. So, if they dont get killed mining it, and dying of radioactive poisoning, they die of radioactive fall-out its a vicious circle. And also one that is happening world wide.

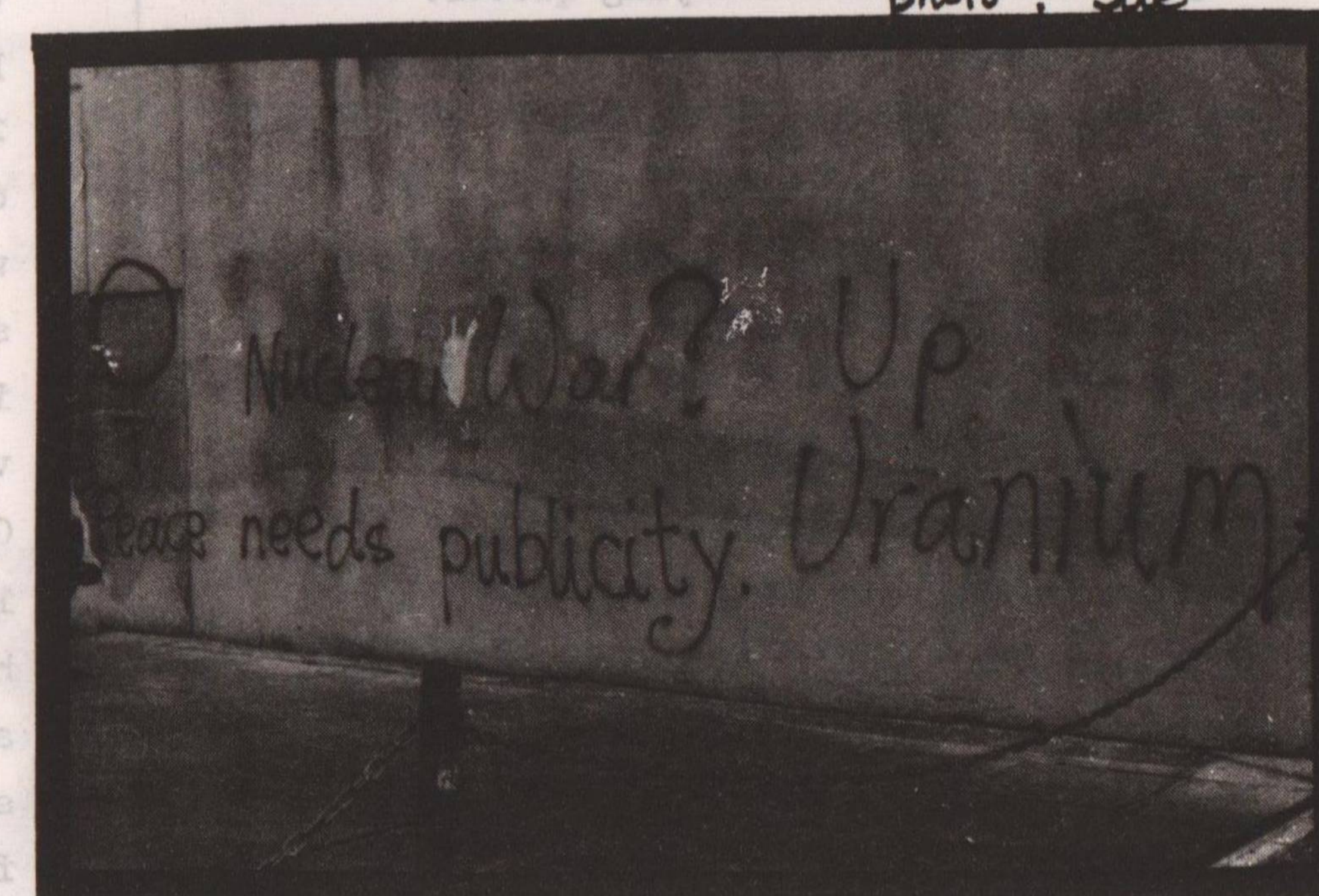


Judy told me of a woman's sacred site in Australia in Alice Springs where the Northern Territory Govt want to put in a recreation dam where people can go and have fun sailing yachts (white people of course) There the wimmin are protesting against this because its a womuns Sacred site and it is against their beliefs for the land to be covered in water in this way. Quite apart from the fact that its obvious that the government havent got any respect for the Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal people have been fighting and protesting against the white capitalists and mining companies for years. Their lives are being destroyed by the racism of the Australian Govt. They are also trying to form networks with other indigenous peoples to try to share information about mining companies in America for example. The Aboriginal people have a bigger struggle on their hands than we do here. Here what we are being threatened with is jail in our fight to stop the siting of cruise missiles. There they have been murdered for centuries.

Isn't it about time that the predominately white and middle-class wimmins' peace movement in this country start to try and publicise through actions the struggles of indigenous people in other countries? Or is it that you only care only about what is happening in this country? If it is, than I wonder what I as a black woman am doing in the wimmins 'peace' movement. This isn't the last that you will hear about this this subject in this magazine.....Kris.

Please send letters of support / donations to;
Aboriginal Mining Information Centre,
c/o P.O. Box 237,
Healesville 3777,
Victoria,
Australia.

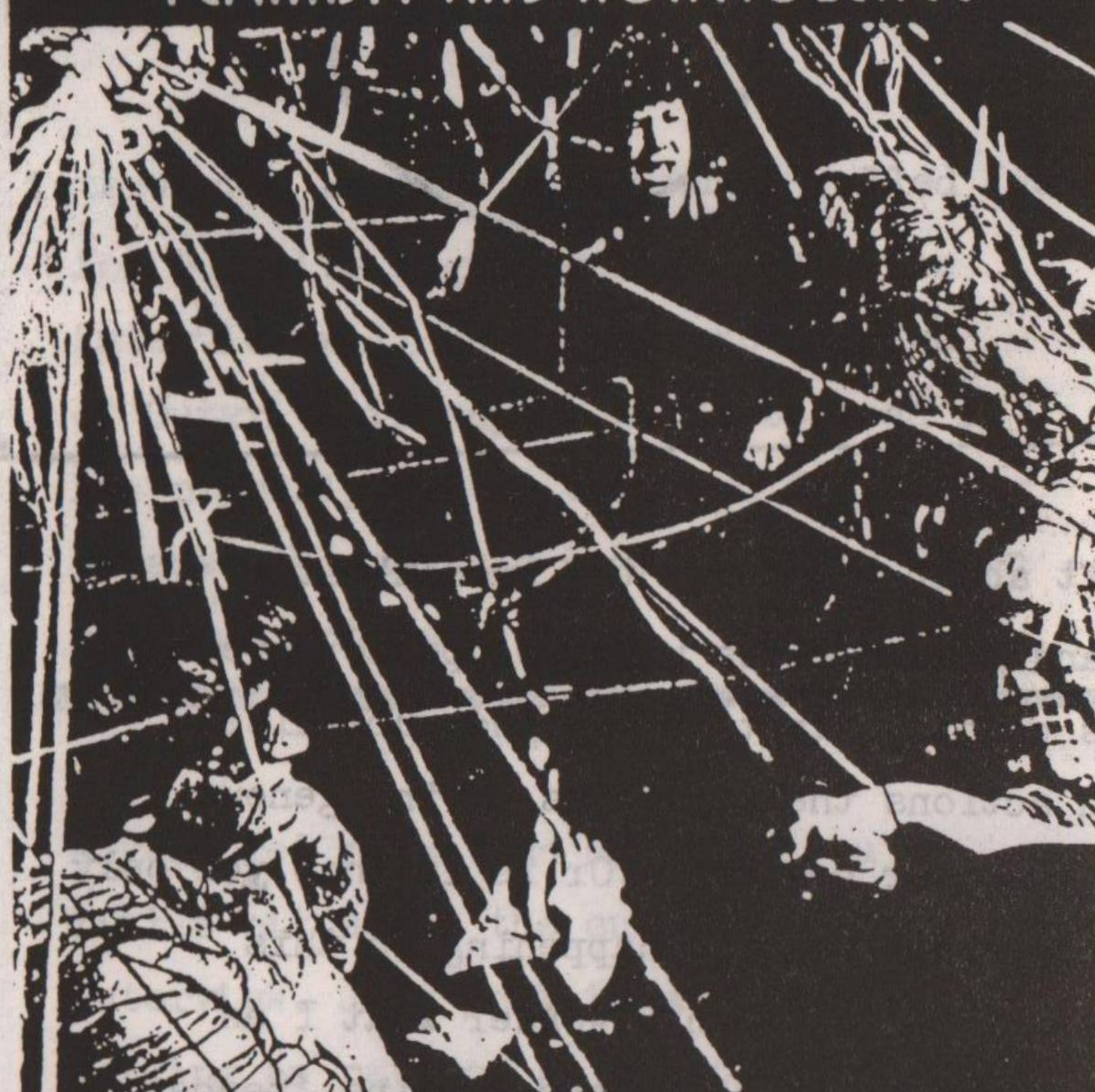
photo : Sue



This photograph is of a newspaper office in Brighton who are notorious for mis-representing the peace movement.

REWEAVING THE WEB OF LIFE

FEMINISM AND NONVIOLENCE



Edited by Pam McAllister • New Society Publishers

Womyn who still think the nuclear threat is not a feminist issue, that is, who don't yet fully realize how all war, and especially nuclear war, is the ultimate extension of the violence committed everywhere by men against womyn, should read some of these essays, such as Donna Warnock's 'Patriarchy is a Killer' or Barbara Zanotti's 'A State of War'. Although short, they contain irresistible arguments and some terrifying quotes: "When you want to create a ... group of male killers, you kill 'the woman' in them"; "'This is my rifle,' the troops chant, 'This is my gun' they slap their crotches; 'One is for killing, the other's for fun'".

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE

Unfortunately the essays are mostly written in academic language. This means that most womyn won't read them, of course; it is a contradiction that so many feminist writers should cater only for a 'literary' audience, instead of using everyday language that the majority of womyn would be able to read. There are exceptions, though, such as the conversations with Barbara Deming arranged by

REVIEW

Mab Segrest from tapes, and the poems always communicate the power of womyn's thought without any obscurity:

"but what good are dishes stacked in the cupboard, peaches and avocados in the basket, envelopes stamped in the desk mailbox?

At night I lie in bed imagining what I will do if attacked - "
(Ellen Bass 'Our Stunning Harvest')

UNFAIR TO MEN?

Anyone who feels that feminists are unfair to men will also have their eyes opened - there are plenty of writings by womyn, some of them lesbian feminists and more or less separatist, who want men (in a changed state) to share the liberated world. Although there is a promise in the intro of works by womyn who feel this is a hopeless ideal, I didn't come across any. So much for a balance of viewpoints.

There are so many writings by different womyn that I can't cover more than a fraction, but the essays on Gandhi particularly interested me. After the treacley and sketchy treatment of his life and philosophy in the oscar-laden BRITISH film, it came as a surprise to read some of the things Gandhi actually said or wrote. "It is better to resist oppression by violent means than to submit, but it is best of all to resist by non-violent means." Lynne Shivers in 'An Open Letter to Gandhi' examines his thinking on womyn's rights, finding wholehearted opposition to brutal customs such as child-marriages, enforced widowhood, safi (a wife's suicide at her husband's funeral), the dowry system and purdah. But on the issues of birth control and rape his advice was self-contradictory and oppressive. "A woman would most certainly take her own life rather than

surrender (to rape)". "If a woman is fearless," he says, "however beastly the man he will bow in shame before the flame of her dazzling purity." O yes?

Throughout the book there is a good deal of discussion about what a radical non-violent approach means, but the question of the appropriateness of a nonviolent policy in different situations is never thoroughly dealt with. It is supposed to be clear to everyone that since feminism opposes the patriarchy, and the patriarchy is violent, that feminism must renounce violence in all its forms. "For us, nonviolence is a necessary extension of feminism" (Donna Warnock). "The most radical changes are possible only through non-violence." (Jane Meyerding).

LUXURY OF NON VIOLENCE

But in many countries feminists would find a non-violent approach to oppression difficult to sustain, since they would soon be dead. This book systematically ignores the nature and extent of the problems facing oppressed womyn who don't live in the USA, many of whom can't afford the luxury of nonviolence. What about armed struggle in South Africa, El Salvador, Iran? What do you do against an oppressor committed to genocide? Some womyn talk about the "need" to use force in self-defence, but they're very careful not to call it violence - "force" at the most, and only "to gain a clearer understanding of non-violence." (Pat James). Judy Costello says "self-defence is self-love" and sidesteps the issue. Nowhere is this theme extended into a discussion of armed struggle for survival. After a while I started to feel that people should get off their high horses and stop talking about nonviolence as if it was a magic spell or a state of grace, eg "I refuse to endorse violence by resorting to it" (Pam McAllister, who edits the book).

It is a strategy which is good only in a situation where you have a chance, through publicity, of influencing the opinions of a large number of people. If you're going to be wiped out before you can be heard or even heard about, then you'd better fight.

Penny. (This book is available from Housemaids 5 Caledonian Rd, London)



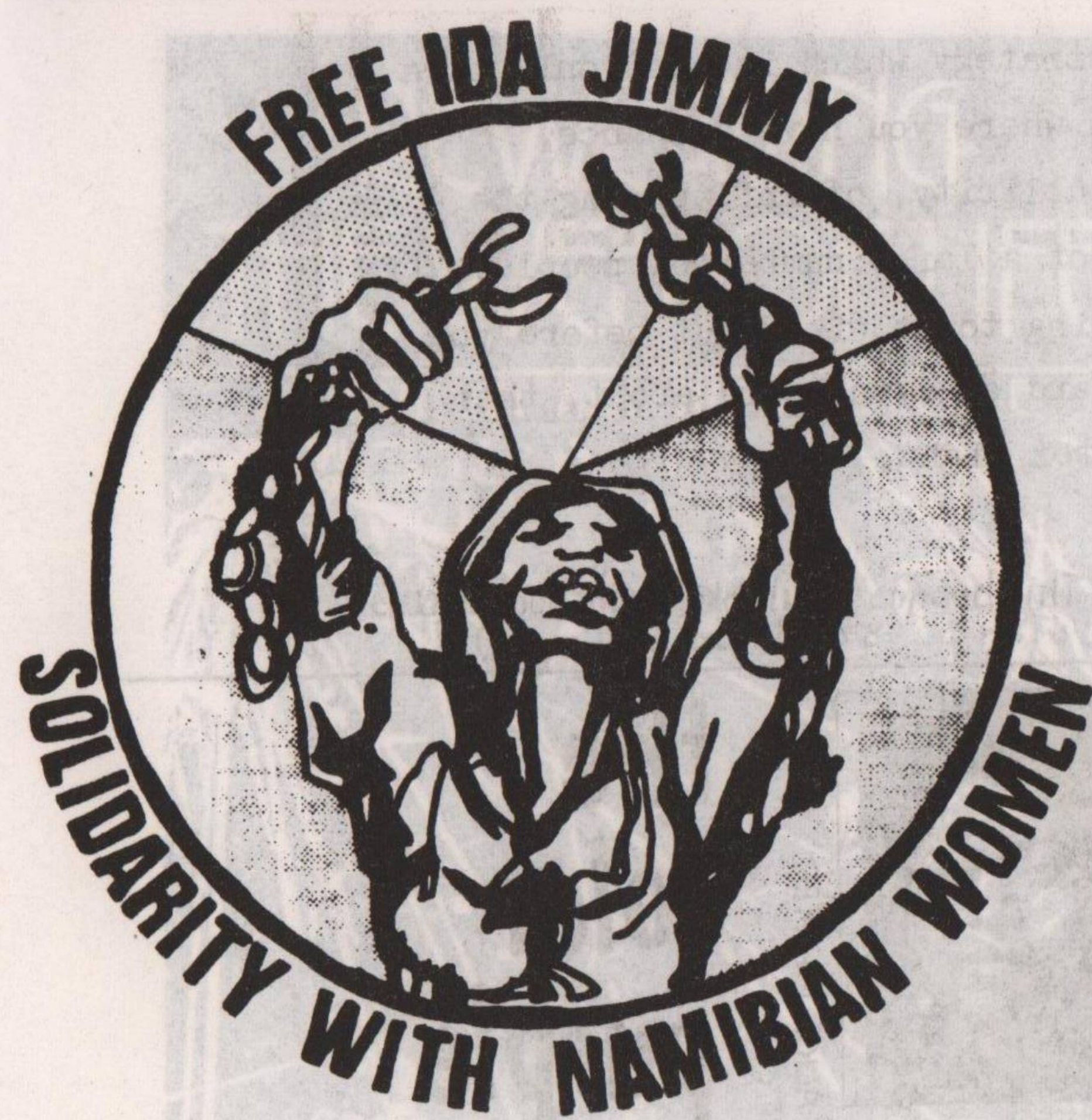
ALICE WALKER

the color purple

The Color Purple. The Women's Press. £3.95

The book is about a Black wumun called Celie. She describes in letters to "God" her life and hard times. She later on writes to her sister Nettie instead, who she loves with all her heart. Her letters tell of her loving wimmin, of her hate for her husband and her difficult life. I like the way the book is written because its easy to read and understand. (Alice Walker has won a prize for this book and its no wonder) Throughout it Celie says things in her own words. "Man corrupt everything." say Shug. "He on your box of grits, in your head, and all over the radio. He try to make you think he everywhere. Soon as you think he everywhere, you think he god. But he ain't. Whenever you trying to pray, and man plop himself on the other end of it, tell him to git lost." "I see her there in fuss. Her hair like som thin tail. She grinning with her foot up on somebody motoca. Her eyes serious tho. Sad some. I got her to give me the picture. All night long I stare at it. And now when I dream, I dream of Shug Avery." I liked the book, it made me cry sometimes but it also made me happy. And its got a nice ending - read it and you'll see.

Kris



October 9th 1980: Ida Jimmy, 7 months pregnant, was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for addressing a SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation) meeting. She was gaoled by an illegal court, set up by the apartheid regime of South Africa, which is occupying Namibia in defiance of international law. Already in 1979 Ida and her 18 month old baby were detained without trial for over five months.....Ida has six dependants.

GERTRUDE KANDANGA, Deputy Secretary of the SWAPO Women's Council, has been detained without trial since January 1980, when she was due to attend the first SWAPO Women's Congress in Angola. Ida and Gertrude are but two of the masses of Namibian wimmin who have been made to suffer in this way of their political activity - there are many such wimmin whose names we do not even know. WE MUST NOT FORGET THESE WIMMIN!!!



SOUTH AFRICA'S OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA -

For the Namibian people this means:-

The repression guarantees the highest rate of exploitation in Africa: the Namibians live in desperate poverty while multinationals like Britain's Rio Tinto Zinc and Barclays Bank reap enormous profits from the country's rich natural resources. The men have to migrate to work for white settler-controlled industry, most wimmin have to raise children as well as coping with the agricultural work alone in the 'Homelands'.

Namibian wimmin and men have organised resistance on a national level to get South Africa out of their country. As the struggle intensifies, and increasingly threatens South Africa, more and more Namibians are being harassed and detained. Detention and TORTURE at the hands of the South African police and army are a daily occurrence. In the 'Homelands' wimmin have often been tortured by the police and army.

Namibian wimmin are frequently raped by South African soldiers.

Namibian wimmin are subjected to a double oppression: as Black Namibians and as wimmin. They see their struggle as both for national liberation and for the liberation of wimmin.

In Britain we can support Namibian wimmin through the SWAPO Wimmin's Campaign.

* Publicise the cases of Ida Jimmy and Gertrude Kandanga (letters to papers, articles, pickets.....)The South African government is very sensitive to bad publicity.

Such actions are often reported in the South African and Namibian press. The awareness of international support is a tremendous morale booster for the freedom fighters and international pressure of this kind has achieved the release of political prisoners.

* Work to expose the hypocrisy of the British government's involvement in Namibia. Write to your MP, the Foreign Office, calling for the release of all political prisoners as a precondition to any settlement in Namibia.

* Contribute financially to SWAPO Wimmin's Council. Send donations or write for more information to: SWAPO Women's Solidarity Campaign, 96 Gillespie Rd, London N5 1LW (01 359 9116).

REMEMBER WIMMIN IN JAIL

Dear Hysistrater

As one of the 38 Greenham women imprisoned for 2 weeks in February this year, I came out feeling angrier than ever at seeing first-hand how the Establishment continues to put down and silence the more vulnerable of us, behind closed doors. Like the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office is a law unto itself, answerable to no-one.

Some of us who came out decided to return on May 1st, to show solidarity with our sisters and friends inside, and hand out leaflets to passers-by. (I enclose a copy).

We met again on June 1st. after contacting some women from a group called 'Women in Prison', and we decided then to drop any mention of Greenham on banners or pamphlets. It is a sombre reminder to the wardens who change shifts in the evenings, to see the names of women who have died in Holloway in recent years, written up on banners. Our presence is doubtlessly felt, not least by the rush-hour traffic passing on the busy Parkhurst Rd.

We welcome every woman who is interested in joining us from 6pm to 7pm on the 1st of every month. Perhaps groups around the country might be interested in doing the same and we could begin to weave a web around our forgotten and isolated sisters inside.

In Sisterhood, Carola.

*W.I.P. 25 Horsell Rd, London N5.



Holloway & every woman!

Although Holloway Prison is right in the middle of this very busy area, It is almost invisible - completely isolated from the everyday world outside. The women inside have virtually no recourse to the outside world. We want to help our sisters who are inside prison by publicising the appalling violations of human rights within the British penal system.

* Twelve years ago the Home Office predicted, that there would be only a handful of women in prison by 1990, but there has been a dramatic increase between 1970 and 1981 with the numbers rising 100%.

* Women are frequently given longer sentences than men for similar offences. As a result more than 2/3 of these women would not be in prison if they were men.

* 95% of all "serious offences" are crimes to do with theft involving property worth under £100. Less than 10% of female crimes are crimes of violence.

* Women in custody are said to present special emotional problems and in Holloway prison, they are given drugs to an alarming extent, - over twice as many as in any other male prison. Medical attention is solely under the jurisdiction of the Home Office.

* Wardens regularly do not answer bells for long periods during the nights and at weekends. As a result, any disorder in a cell may not be attended to until the consequences are both serious and damaging.

* Since 1974 when Patricia Cummings burned to death in her cell, to our certain knowledge four more women have died in Holloway. There is no access to Home Office reports resulting from their enquiries into these deaths. from the leaflet

STAR WALKS

Wimmin for life on earth are co-ordinating 17 groups of people walking from all over England to arrive at Greenham on the 5th August for 4 days of action in remembrance of the bombs dropping on Hiroshima 6th August, and Nagasaki - 9th.

Three marches are wimmin - only : Brighton, Cambridge and Lancaster. Some will be wimmin walking with men supporting, and others will be mixed.

For more information about the starting dates and routes, send an SAE to: Annie Tunnicliffe, 108 Southfield Road, Oxford.

VIDEOS FOR PEACE

A selection of titles available for purchase (also available for hire)

"For Life's Sake Let's Fight" (58 mins.)	£40.00
"Is It Me You Want to Kill?" (55 mins.)	£40.00
"Critical Mass" (60 mins.)	£36.00
"If You Love This Planet" (30 mins.)	£36.00
"One Million Hiroshimas" (30 mins.)	£36.00

Prices include carriage and VAT.
Please send cash with order.

All popular formats available. Send for free leaflet giving all details of all other "Video for Peace" titles to:

Concord Films Council Limited

201 FELIXSTOWE ROAD
IPSWICH · SUFFOLK · IP3 9BJ

Tel: 0473 78012 Bookings and Accounts
0473 77747 Film Dispatch

Revolutionary & Radical Feminist Newsletter

No. 12 OUT NOW

lesbian motherhood;
Politics of orgasm; Porn &
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(initials only, not the full title). Send to:-
R.R.F. Newsletter, 17 Kensington Terrace, Leeds, 6.

30

DIARY PAGE

When sending in events please include access details for differently abled wimmin. We will no longer be publicising events that don't. Otherwise it's as good as saying differently abled wimmin aren't welcome.

The sort of information wimmin need to know is:-

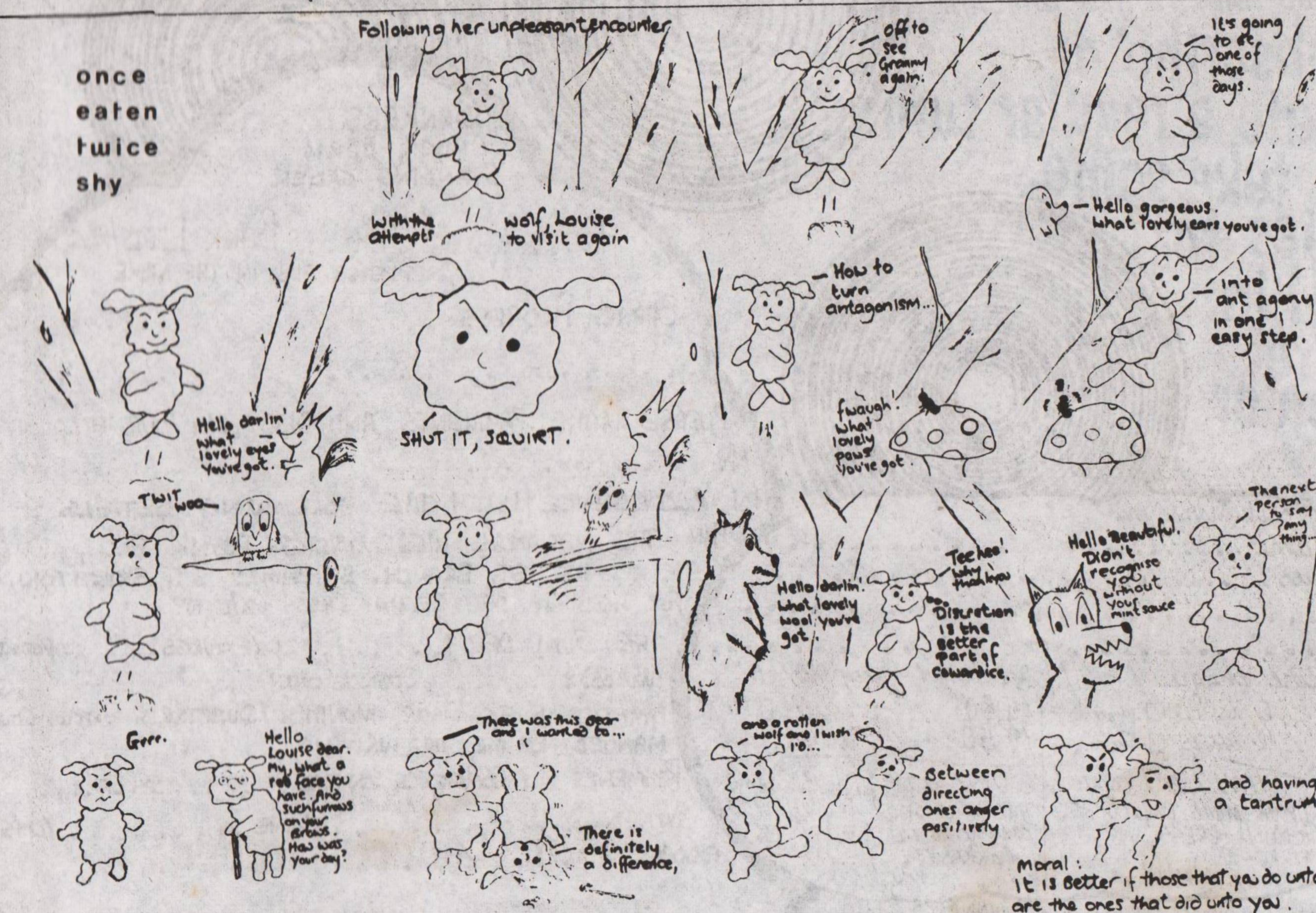
- width of doors / how many steps / do they have a handrail
- width of toilet doors + do they open in or out / is there a handrail / is the seat raised
- will there be a signer / lip speaker / mike amplifier / induction loop
- and for deaf wimmin:- will there be a signer & speaker / notes accepted / volunteer scribbler available.
- parking facilities / ramps

Please also state if events are wimmin only or mixed.

Feminist Writers Conference
9th & 10th July. The Pleasance, 60
The Pleasance, Edinburgh. Some rooms
upstairs but a helper will be available.
They're trying to get a signer. Toilet facilities for
more info phone: 031 556 0079.

Brighton
Wimmin's
Liberation
Conference. Date
& venue unsure -
Sometime in July.
There will be access.
Phone ♀ Centre: Brighton -
600526.

Blockades at
Greenham.
July 4-9.
Toilets
for diff
abled
erently



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