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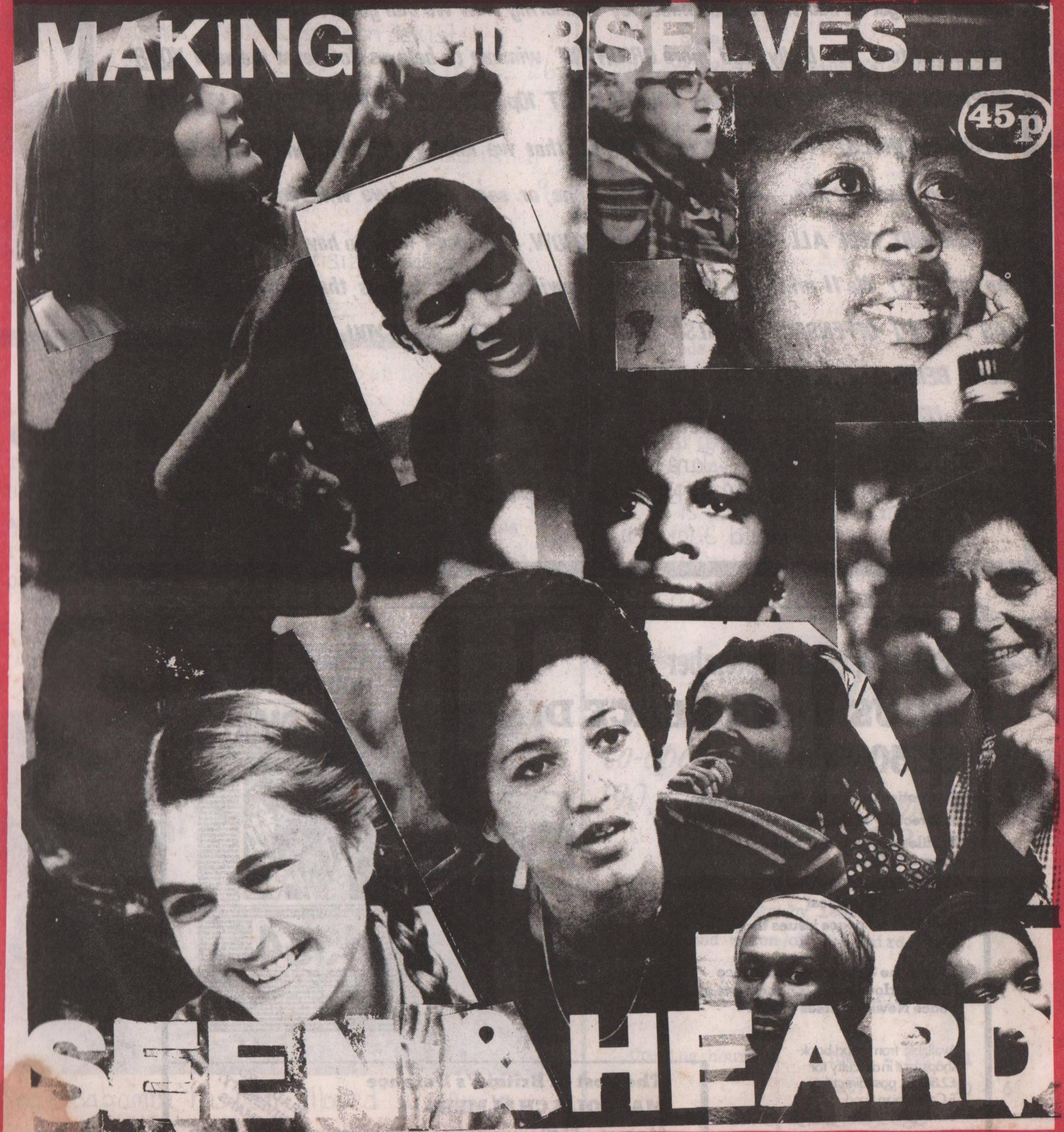
# LYSISTRATA

A Wimmin's Peace Magazine

NO.6

**MAKING OURSELVES.....**

45p



**SEEN & HEARD**



# EDITORIAL

**Morale is really low at Lysistrata at the moment. We've been having wumunpower problems!**

**This issue was produced by 2 wimmin plus some WONDERFUL WIMMIN we dragged in off the street to help us at the last minute to layout this issue! (I THOUGHT MUGS WERE SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH PHOTO'S DOWN THE NICK, 'TIL I DISCOVERED LYSISTRATA)**

**Things have got so bad we're pessimisticly wondering how we can go on. The 'collective' is now down to 2. We badly need more BRIGHTON wimmin to help us. Not least we need YOUR SUPPORT, DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GET 10p FOR EACH COPY IF YOU SELL MORE THAN 10 COPIES? ITS REALLY IMPORTANT that we know what you think about Lysistrata, what you like/dont like,...etc. So drop us a line, or send a tape (we will return it) SPREAD IT AROUND, TELL ALL THE WIMMIN YOU KNOW. (You don't have to have a degree to write an article!) We'll print any news, articles, drawings, photo's, letters, that you send, AS LONG AS IT ISN'T OFFENSIVE, WE ALSO NEED YOU TO TELL US IF YOU MIND WHAT YOU SEND BEING EDITED. O.K.?**

**WE AWAIT. . . . YOUR REPLIES . . . . KRIS 'N' SUE . . . .**

Lots of love + thanks to ~ Jane, Sara, Crig, His, Helga, Nicky, without who we never would've got this issue out. ♡ ♡

Published 12th September

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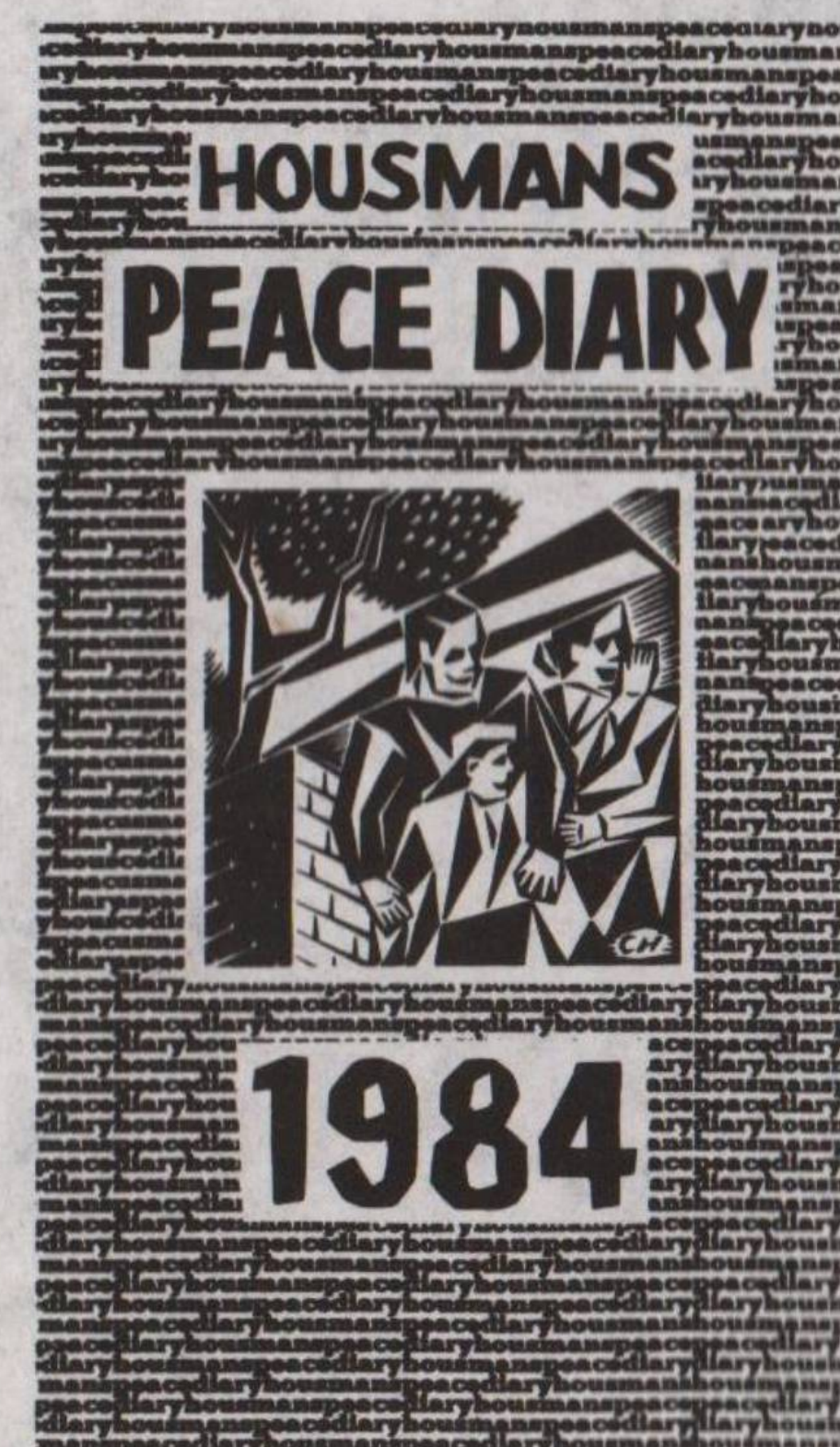
This is the 31st year of our Peace Diaries. Housmans is a member of Peace News Trustees group.

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HOUSMANS

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## COPYDATE

The Copydate for issue 7 is September 30th.

Sorry about the delay since issue 5 - we tried to have a holiday, didnt quite make it, and should be having it now this issue is out! Issue 7 should be out mid-October.

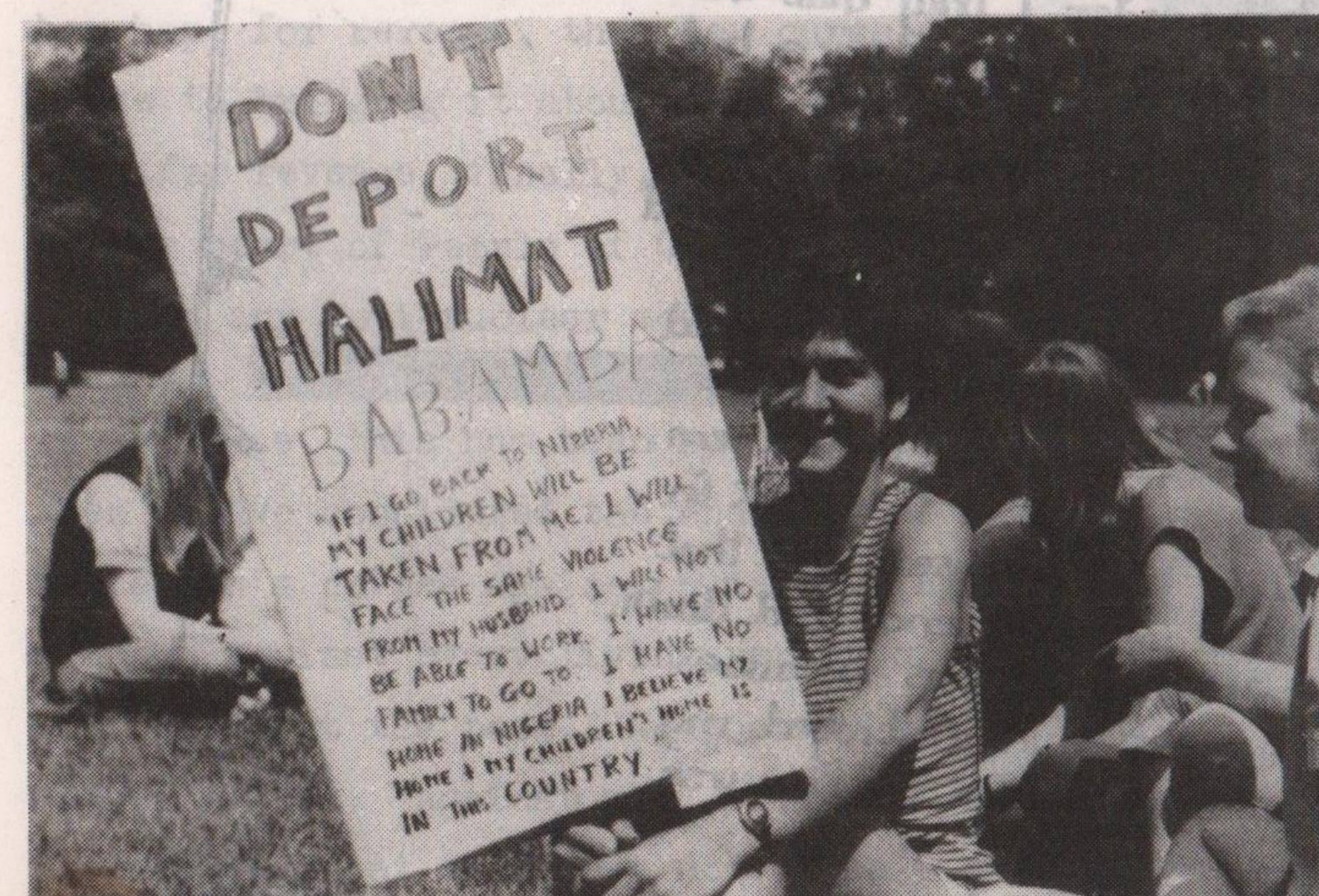


Photo: Sue

Halimat Babamba has been "allowed" to stay in Britain. Hooray!! Picture taken at a vigil to protest against her attempted deportation.

## WE'RE ON TAPE

Lysistrata is available on tape for blind and partially sighted wimmin and wimmin who can't read. Please help us to get the magazine to as many wimmin as possible by telling anyone you know who might be interested.

Please can wimmin send a tape pouch, if possible to:

Lysistrata  
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# Only JUSTICE Can Stop A

by ALICE WALKER

To the Man God:

O Great One I have been sorely tried by my enemies and have been blasphemed and lied against. My good thoughts and honest actions have been turned to bad actions and dishonest ideas. My home has been disrespected, my children have been cursed and ill-treated. My dear ones have been backbitten and their virtue questioned. O Man God, I beg that this I ask for my enemies shall come to pass: That the South wind shall scorch their bodies and make them wither and shall not be tempered to them. That the North wind shall freeze their blood and numb their muscles and that it shall not be tempered to them. That the West wind shall blow away their lives breath and will not leave their hair grow, and that their fingernails shall fall off and their minds grow dark their sight will fail and their seed dry up so that they shall not multiply.

I ask that their fathers and mothers from their furthest generation will not intercede for them before the great throne, and the wombs of their women shall not bear fruit except for strangers, and that they shall become extinct. I pray that the children who may come shall be weak of mind and paralyzed of limb and that they themselves shall curse them for ever turning the breath of life into their bodies. I pray that disease and death shall be forever with them and that their worldly goods shall not prosper, and that their crops shall not multiply and that their cows, their sheep and their hogs and all their living beasts shall die of starvation and thirst.

I pray that their house shall be unroofed and that the rain, the thunder and lightning shall find the innermost recesses of their home and that the foundation shall crumble and the floods tear it asunder. I pray that the sun shall not shed its rays on them in benevolence, but instead shall beat down on them and burn them and destroy them. I pray that the moon shall not give them peace, but instead shall deride them and decry them and cause their minds to shrivel. I pray that their friends shall betray them and cause them loss of power, of gold and silver, and that their enemies shall smile them until they beg for mercy which shall not be given them. I pray that their tongues shall forget how to speak in sweet words, and that it shall be paralysed and that all about them shall be desolation, pestilence and death. O Man God, I ask you for all these things because they have dragged me in the dust and destroyed my good name; broken my heart and caused me to curse the day I was born.

So be it

This is a curse-prayer that Zora Neale Hurston novelist and anthropologist, collected in the 1920s. And by then it was already old. I have often marvelled at it. At the precision of its anger, the absoluteness of its bitterness. Its utter hatred of the enemies it condemns. It is a curse-prayer by a person who would readily, almost happily, commit suicide, if it meant her enemies would also die. Horribly.

I am sure it was a woman who first prayed this curse. And I see her - Black, Yellow, Brown or Red, 'aboriginal' as the Ancients are called in South Africa and Australia and other lands invaded, expropriated and occupied by whites. And I think, with astonishment, that the curse-prayer of this coloured woman - starved, enslaved, humiliated and carelessly trampled to death - over centuries, is coming to pass. Indeed, like ancient peoples of colour the world over, who have tried to tell the white man of the destruction that would inevitably follow from the uranium mining plunder of their sacred lands, this woman - along with millions and billions of obliterated sisters, brothers and children - seems to have put such enormous energy into her hope for revenge, that her curse seems close to bringing it about. And it is this hope for revenge, finally, I think, that is at the heart of People of Colour's resistance to any anti-nuclear movement.

In any case, this has been my own problem. When I have considered the enormity of the white man's crimes against humanity, against women. Against every living person of colour. Against the poor. Against my mother and my father. Against me.....When I consider that at this very moment he wishes to take away what little freedom I have died to achieve, through denial of my right to vote... Has already taken away educat-

ion, housing, medicine and food.... That William Shockley is saying at this moment that he will run for the Senate of my country to push his theory that Blacks are genetically inferior, and should be sterilised.....When I consider that he is, they are, a real and present threat to my life and the life of my daughter, my people, I think - in perfect harmony with my sister of long ago: Let the earth marinate in poisons. Let the bombs cover the ground like rain, For nothing short of total destruction will ever teach them anything.

And it would be good, perhaps, to put an end to the species in any case, rather than let white men dominate than let white men continue to subjugate it, and continue their lust to dominate, exploit and despoil not just our planet, but the rest of the universe, which is their clear and oft-stated intention, leaving their arrogance and litter not just on the moon, but on everything else they can reach.

If we have any true love for the stars, planets, the rest of Creation, we must do everything we can to keep white men away from them. They who have appointed themselves our representatives to the rest of the universe. They who have never met any new creature without exploiting, abusing or destroying it. They who say we poor and coloured and female and elderly blight neighborhoods, while they blight worlds.

What they have done to the Old, they will do to the New. Under the white man every star would become a South Africa, every planet a Vietnam.



CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Fatally irradiating ourselves may in fact be the only way to save others from what Earth has already become. And this is a consideration that I believe requires serious thought from every one of us. However, just as the sun shines on the godly and the ungodly alike, so does nuclear radiation. And with this knowledge it becomes increasingly difficult to embrace the thought of extinction purely for the assumed satisfaction of - from the grave - achieving revenge. Or even of accepting our demise as a planet as a simple and just preventative medicine administered to the Universe. Life is better than death, I believe, if only because it is less boring, and because it has fresh peaches in it. In any case, Earth is my home - though for centuries white people have tried to convince me I have no right to exist, except in the dirtiest, darkest corners of the globe.

So let me tell you: I intend to protect my home. Praying - not a curse - only the hope that my courage will not fail my love. But if by some miracle, and all our struggle, the earth is spared, only justice to every living thing (and everything is alive) will save humankind.

And we are not saved yet.

Only justice can stop a curse.

This was taken from 'Reweaving the Web of Life'; edited by Pam M<sup>c</sup> Alister, published by New Society Publishers. It is available from Hausemans Bookshop, Sisterwrite and most good bookshops, price about £6.

Photos were taken from a new book out by the Runnymede Trust, called 'Different Worlds, Racism and Discrimination in Britain'. Photo on page 5 is by The Voice, page 6 Peter Anderson.



## STOP THE PRESS....STOP THE THE PRESS....STOP THE PRES

Fleet Street are notorious for changing the facts to suit themselves, when it comes to reporting wimmin's issues. We're all sick of the "page 3 pin-ups"; the way they glorify rapes and sexual assaults, and make

'front page news' of sex attackers 'confessions' and of 'sordid affairs' etc..... There is going to be an all day wimmin's demonstration in Fleet Street outside the Sun Offices on Tuesday 5th of September, starting at 7.00 a.m. which we hope will be supported by 1,000's of wimmin from all over the country.

6 Together we can stop MALE VIOLENCE!

# PHOTO GALLERY



photo: courtesy MARGIE MURRAY/FORMAT

above:

*shake a leg!*  
May 24th - Encircling Stoke  
Newington Town Hall.

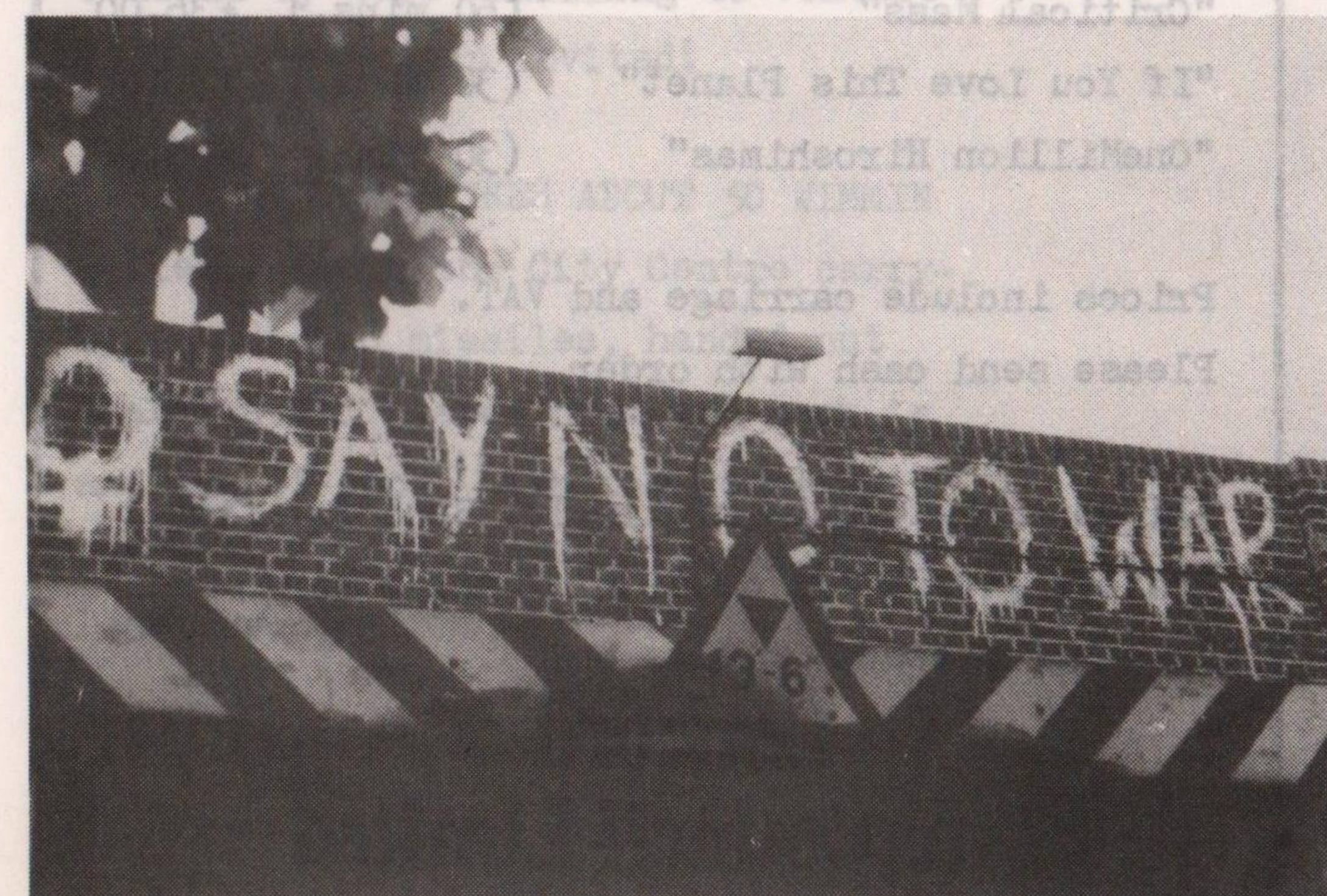


photo: courtesy Jenny Matthews/FORMAT

above:

*ring a ring a...*

..... Ministry of Defence! Wimmin surround  
the MOD on May 24th.



left:

*wimmin's  
painting!*

photo: Sue



# WOT'S GOIN' ON AT GREENHAM, THEN?

## Destruction

On Thursday 25th August, the police destroyed the camp at the Green Gate at Greenham.

There was only one woman at the camp at the time, and she was given a few minutes to collect personal belongings before they began.


The police took certain items including all the food, and some personal property was later found to be missing. Most of the structures were destroyed and all the rest of the stuff was piled into a heap in the centre of the clearing. The plastic used for the 'benders' was taken, but the camp has since been rebuilt.

## Intimidation

Women entering the base near the silos at night, recently found some signs, presumably to be erected soon, saying that the MOD cannot be held responsible for loss of life of persons going beyond that point!

## Celebration

The Greenham Womins Peace Camp will be celebrating her second birthday with a party on Sept. 4th at the Main Gate.



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Or send s.a.e. for our leaflet. Cheques/p.o.'s to: RAGGED ROBIN LTD (Dept. L), TREGARON RD., LAMPETER.

## Oppression

A 3 week old baby was taken from his mother at Greenham recently by the police. A court order had been issued to take the baby into care, and the police snatched the baby from his mother and took him to Reading Hospital. At first, the parents were refused access, but the mother was then allowed to stay there with the baby and the father was allowed to visit, although they were locked in the room and guarded by the police the whole time.

The parents had a primus stove in the room and used it to make tea when some women from Greenham came to visit them. The police started to mess about with the stove and eventually set the room on fire!!

They had to bring in a fire extinguisher. The baby was still in the room during all this and the parents were not allowed to take him out! A student Nurse who eventually forced her way out of the room with the baby was later severely reprimanded.

## VIDEOS FOR PEACE

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

"For Lifes 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
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# NEWS

LEEDS 'EVENING POST' HEADLINE ON 25 May 1983.

'Lesbian Flowers at memorial "no offence".'

Women blockaded the 'spy base' at Menwith Hill, near Harrogate, an American communications centre. Flowers laid at the Leeds war memorial had the words:

'For the women raped and murdered by men in war' and

'For all lesbians killed in men's wars.'

The Evening Post said, 'The women who laid their flowers there were mourning the hundreds and thousands of soldiers who died in past wars.'

Not all the women were mourning soldiers - didn't they make this clear or are journalists just thick????

IN KENDAL, CUMBRIA THE WOMEN'S PEACE group built a nuclear shelter in the High Street on May 24th (International Women's Day for Disarmament). It was built to government specifications and it was meant to be a graphic illustration of the stupidity of the whole idea of a workable/satisfactory civil defence programme.

Passers-by were unwilling to venture inside, even when invited!

AND IN MILTON KEYNES ABOUT 50 WOMEN walked through the City Centre carrying cardboard missiles, handed out leaflets and played hide and seek in and out of shops with the security people. In the evening they lobbied local councillors.

Redditch Women for Peace recently held their third meeting.

Meetings will be held in future on the first Wednesday afternoon and the third Wednesday evening of each month.

Enthusiastic plans have been made to organise a public showing of The War Game and it is hoped that arrangements can be made to arrange a debate between the local MP (a hang 'em and nuke 'em exponent) and a good speaker for nuclear disarmament.

The coffee morning or evening to raise funds has evolved into a Bring and Buy Open Day, 10.30 am to 9pm with refreshments.

Members are making a collection of relevant newspaper cuttings etc for reference purposes and intend to order any newly published 'peace' books from the local library to make sure they are held in stock.

Contact Audrey on Redditch 44654 for details of the Open Day - including the date(!) and access details for differently abled women.

The government's plans to dump over 4,000 tons of radioactive waste in the North Atlantic last summer have suffered a set back - the dock workers decision at Sharpness to refuse to load the ship which was due to set sail in mid-July.

The waste that is to be dumped is the most radioactive that is allowed to be disposed of in the environment.

To date over 1 tonne of plutonium has been dumped from Windscale on the Cumbria coast into the Irish Sea, making it the most radioactive sea in the world. One millionth of a gram of plutonium is enough to produce cancer if breathed into the lungs.

Info from Outa Control, 7 Winetavern St, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

FROM  
BRITAIN... — WASTE NEWS —



Halimat Babamba has been given indefinite leave to stay in Britain, after a long hard struggle, with her two children. If Halimat had had to return to Nigeria, she would have faced violence from her husband and the loss of her children.

BUT THERESA NAMUDDU who came to Britain to escape her violent husband, and has two children, one born here, has been refused a permit to stay in Britain. If she returns to Uganda, she will have to return to her husband, who will also have her sons. Write to David Waddington at the Home Office demanding that Theresa be all allowed to stay here.

Recently, women at Greenham painted symbols on a new high-tech, high security plane. The paint destroyed the radar sensitive coating on the plane. Charges against the women were dropped to avoid publicity. Hope this is accurate, no one has told us anything else about it! How about some info from Greenham ??

Aha! See Page 8

The national headquarters RAF Strike Command, NATO headquarters airforces communications, command, control centre for operational control of ALL air defence and attack forces in war, including airborne nuclear weapons is being built at Hollybush Farm, Walters Ash, Naphill, High Wycombe Bucks. Its land owned by the National Trust. It will cost more than £300 million.

It is being built so that in the event of a nuclear attack the military will be able to keep the war going when everywhere else is devastated. Civilians will be forcibly restrained from using it. The building of this bunker will be seen as a provocation - evidence of preparing to start a war.

Contact Daw's Hill Peace Camp, c/o 25 London Rd, High Wycombe.

# ...ABOUT BRITAIN...

Kalimantan (formerly Borneo) is a vast and still comparatively wild region containing one of the last areas of primary forest in the world. With a scattered indigenous population labour is scarce. But tens of thousands of workers are recruited from densely populated areas such as Java and Bali by labour sub-contractors awarded permits by the Indonesian Dept. of Manpower. These provide large companies with a labour force 'screened' to weed out 'trouble makers' Transmigration schemes - like those introduced to West Papua - have brought thousands of families from Java to cultivate patches torn out of the jungle and swamps. When the new crops fail, these transmigrants help provide a reserve labour force of unskilled marginal labour. In the meantime the indigenous peoples have had their land ripped off and - at the very least - their lives and culture disrupted.

British Petroleum and Rio Tinto-Zinc have a joint 750 000 hectares concession to explore for coal in E. Kalimantan. But the main construction in the area is in the hands of Bechtel. This is the company which built RT-Z's Bougainville copper mine in the '60s in the face of fierce opposition from the islanders. It's also the company which has built more malfunctioning nuclear plants than any other on this planet. But its Bechtels British subsidiary which is active in Kalimantan. £125 million of British taxpayers' money goes into this subsidiary. The Bechtel workers live in appalling conditions, for along time were refused permission to form a union, were fed virtually inedible food, and when they went on strike were confronted by an Army which beat up a number of the protestors.

ELEVEN HOUSING GROUPS FROM WEST Belfast have joined forces. At the end of May 200 people, mainly women, marched from the Falls Road to the Housing Centre behind the City Hall. They had planned to hand in a letter outlining their demands, and stage a street protest.

But the Royal Ulster Constabulary, worried about terrorism, sprang into action. The cordoned off both ends of the march, and prevented any photographers or TV crews from getting through. One of the protestors described what happened next:

'You should have seen the hatred in their faces. As soon as the protest started, they formed up in a line with Sterlings held by the barrels and butts, then came at us, pushing the guns against our throats. Then someone pushed back and they went crazy, lashing out like animals.

One pulled a revolver on us, and another was roaring for a plastic bullet gun. They kicked us and punched us and threw us on the ground. Four of them had one woman up against the wall, and the other three kicking her....'

It is clear that the 'hatred in their faces' was sectarian hatred. When people come out of anti-unionist areas to protest about prisons or houses, the RUC don't discriminate over issues. Information from Outa Control

BP will be blockaded by Aborigines and other non-violent protestors at the end of August 1983. Demonstrators - a thousand or more are expected - will mount the blockade against the Roxby Downs copper/uranium/gold mine in South Australia. If it opens, this will be the world's largest mine and will have devastating consequences not only for white Australians but the Aboriginal people on whose land the project is situated.

...about...



THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN INQUESTS INTO the deaths of ten people, mostly very young, by plastic bullets during the hunger strike campaign.

11 year old Stephen McGonaghy from Derry was killed by a plastic bullet fired at a range of 17 feet. The jury concluded that the British soldiers who killed him were not in serious danger at the time and that Stephen was not involved in rioting at the time. In their defence the British Army claimed a mistake was made and the soldier who killed Stephen said he was aiming for the ring-leader but the gun was faulty.

In spite of demands to ban plastic bullets the coroner asked the Crown Solicitor to ensure that in future all guns are made accurate!

Last year large sections of limestone caves along the area to be flooded in the Gordon-below-Franklin dam project were 'discovered'. Local Aboriginal people are determined to prevent the destruction of their ancestral lands and heritage. There is an alternative camp set up to protest at Strahan. A group also travelled up the river by foot and boat to "make an Aboriginal presence felt in the area" by occupying several of the caves. We consider it to be our land, and white mans trespass laws do not apply to us".

Source.. Earthspan.

The Kokatha people have so far met rebuffs from the companies at Roxby Downs (Western Mining Corporation of Australia holds 51% and BP 49%). BP in London has refused to even discuss Aboriginal land rights with campaigners. Those wishing to support the non-violent blockade of Roxby Downs should contact Roxby Action Group, c/o CANE, 291 Morphett St, Adelaide 5000, Australia. For support action in Britain, please contact Partizans, 218 Liverpool Rd. London N1 1LE tel 01/609/ 1852.

AUSTRALIA



There's a shop in Brighton which sells fascist T-shirts. Its called Nasty's and its in Gardner St. Women have repeatedly complained to the shop, who took no notice. So recently a window was broken. The shop aid it would stop selling them, but it didn't, so one night the other window was broken. "We will not tolerate the sale of the Holocaust. The shop will have its windows broken over and over again until it stops selling the glorification of the death of 600 0000 Jews!"

THE BRISBANE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS SOLIDARITY GROUP was set up prior to the Commonwealth Games to support Black protests. Its mainly comprised of anglo-australian feminists. They support activity around land rights struggles, distribute information about land claim cases. They also promote discussion among anglo-australian feminists about the racism within them. Women's Land Rights Solidarity Group, c/o Women's House, 54 Browning St, West End, Brisbane 4101, Australia.

A woman has been wrongly imprisoned in Taiwan. Yu Su-chen was charged with attempting to overthrow the government by violent means and has been sentenced to 15 YEARS. There has never been any evidence of her guilt, and the Taiwan authorities have not replied to pressure.

Please help This sister by writing letter to the government there demanding a retrial, or at least more information.

For more info: SAE to C.Pickering, 3 Monk End Terrace, Croft-on-Tees, Darlington DL2 2SQ.

FOUR WIMMIN CHAINED THEMSELVES TO THE railings outside the home of Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, at the beginning of August. They were protesting against the decision to deport Afia Begum and her two year old daughter, to Bengal. The police cut through the chains and then 'let' them continue their protest on the other side of the road. But the wimmin returned to the railings and were arrested. They were bound over to keep the peace (!!) for a year.

IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT THERE IS AN amendment to the Constitution of the Republic of Ireland by adding an anti-abortion section. Abortion is already illegal in all circumstances in the Republic of Ireland. It is against the law even if there is a danger to the life of the mother or if she has been raped.

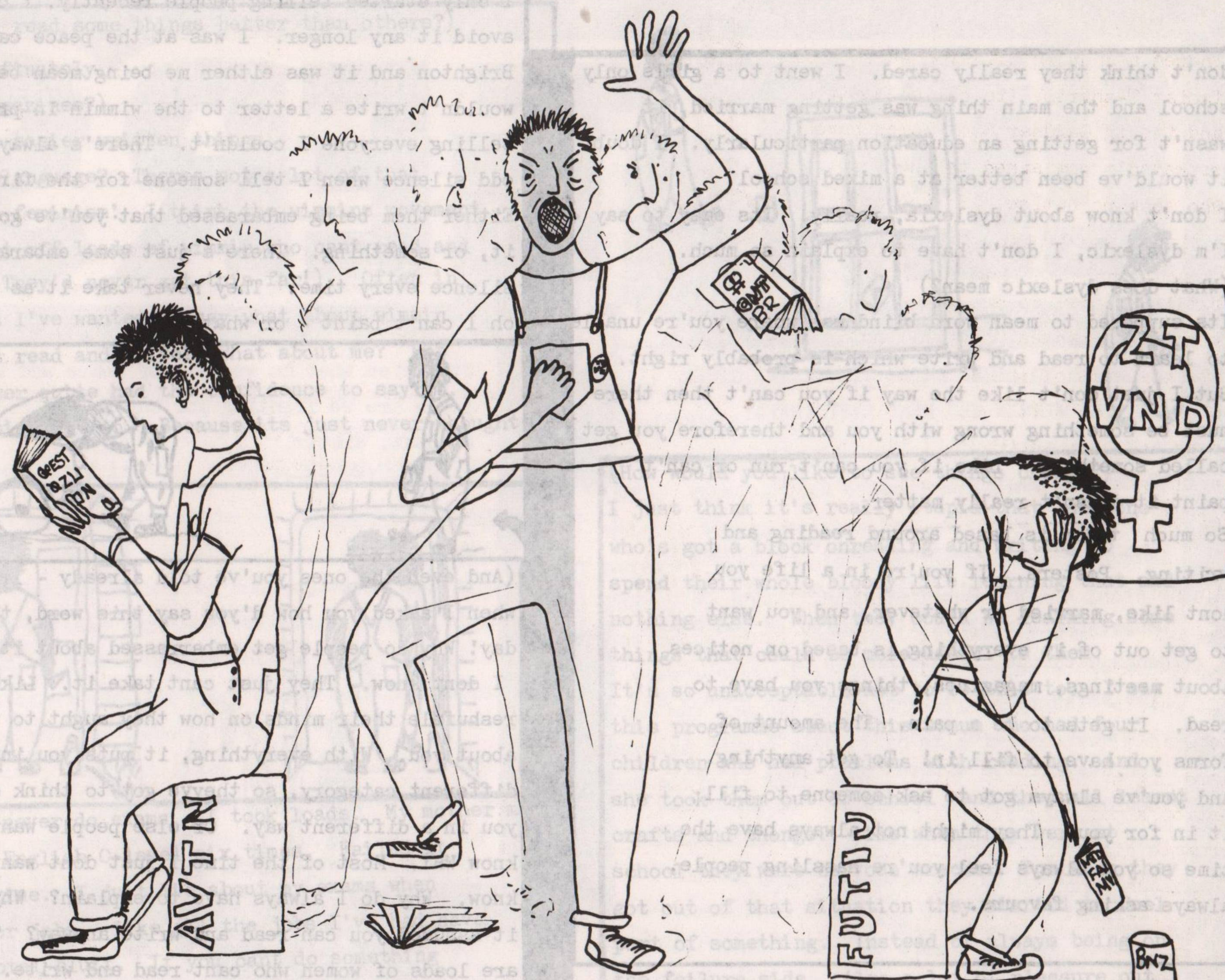
However the amendment is opposed by many 'respectable' people including doctors, members of the organisation for unmarried mothers, Cherish, and members of the Irish Farmers Association others. Many of these, however, are anti abortion, so even if the amendment doesn't go through Irish wimmin are still forced to go to England to have abortions. The official figures is that ten Irish wimmin a day go to England for abortions, and the real figure is much higher.

The date for the referendum is September 7 1983.

A woman has disappeared in Guatemala. She is ANA LUCRETIA ORELLANA STORMONT and was abducted by men after leaving a meeting on mental health. She is professor of psychology at the University of San Carlos, where staff and students have frequently been the victims of human rights violations carried out by their paramilitary and security forces.

It is essential that Amnesty International receives support in the case of Ana, who also has a heart complaint.

Amnesty International are at 10, Southampton St, London WC2.



'T.....I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....I CANT.....I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....  
I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....I CANT.....I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....I CA  
...I CANT.....I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....I CAN'T.....

This article came out of a conversation that two wimmin taped. Its about the problems caused by other people for those who can't read and write. Throughout it all Jane was annoyed that most, if not all, the wimmin who will have access to this article will be able to read and write. But she thought its the only way that things will be made easier for wimmin who can't if wimmin who have this ability start taking notice and making changes.

Most of my life has been a big cover up for not being able to read and write. I lived with my husband, Sam, for 5 years and he never knew. Lots of people didn't know. My parents knew that I couldn't read and write but they never talked about it. They thought I was lazy at school and just wrote me off as being thick. Like with my IQ test I was above average in maths, but that was it. Its a lot of the reason why I was

expelled twice. Cos I just couldn't handle going to the lessons - I just used to avoid them. I could just read, nowhere near as much as anyone else but I could get through a page. But, you know, you had to stand up and read in class, so I used to skive the lessons. Once I nicked some money out of my mum's purse when I was about eight. It was a fiver. I didn't know what to buy, I flushed most of it down the loo. With some of it I bought a box of chocolates, because I didn't know what else to buy with the money. I took it home and said I'd won it in a spelling contest. It was one thing I'd always wanted to do. Win something like that. (Did she believe you?)

Yeah. I don't know why. It was really weird because nobody spoke to me about it at school. I don't think they knew. If I wrote an essay it would be a page of spelling mistakes. I



don't think they really cared. I went to a girls only school and the main thing was getting married, it wasn't for getting an education particularly. I doubt it would've been better at a mixed school.

I don't know about dyslexia, really. Its easy to say I'm dyslexic, I don't have to explain so much.

(What does dyslexic mean?)

Its supposed to mean word blindness where you're unable to learn to read and write which is probably right.

But I just don't like the way if you can't then there must be something wrong with you and therefore you get called something. Like if you can't run or can't paint it doesn't really matter.

So much today is based around reading and writing. Posters. If you're in a life you dont like, married or whatever, and you want to get out of it everything is based on notices about meetings, magazines, things you have to read. It gets to be a pain. The amount of forms you have to fill in! To get anything. And you've always got to ask someone to fill it in for you. They might not always have the time so you always feel you're hassling people, always asking favours.



When Sam would give me a book to read I'd average out how long it had taken him. And I'd turn lots of pages and read what I could so I knew roughly what it was about. There must be thousands of wimmin who can't read or write worse than me.



I only started telling people recently. I couldn't avoid it any longer. I was at the peace camp in Brighton and it was either me being mean because I wouldn't write a letter to the wimmin in prison or telling everyone I couldn't. There's always the odd silence when I tell someone for the first time. Either them being embarassed that you've got to say it, or something. There's just some embarassed silence every time. They never take it as normal - oh I can't paint - or whatever.



(And even the ones you've told already - like me - when I asked you how d'you say this word, the other day! Why do people get embarassed about it?)

I dont know. They just cant take it. Like they reshuffle their minds on how they aught to think about you. With everything, it puts you into a different category, so theyve got to think of you in a different way. Or else people want to know WHY. Most of the time I just dont want to know. Why do I always have to explain? Why is it assumed you can read and write anyway? There are loads of women who cant read and write. I dont think it matters WHY I cant. I just accepted that I cant and thats it and its about time that people who can do as well. If I couldn't paint the question wouldn't come up. Why cant wimmin who can read and write think it out for themselves, how to make it easier? Alot of it means depending on other wimmin and I dont want to lose my independence. I've fought for ages for my independence. Like I wanted to go to a meeting and I think it was you who read out the date and it was wrong so I turned up on the wrong day. If you were going you'd probably look again at the notice to check but Ive got to depend on someone else.



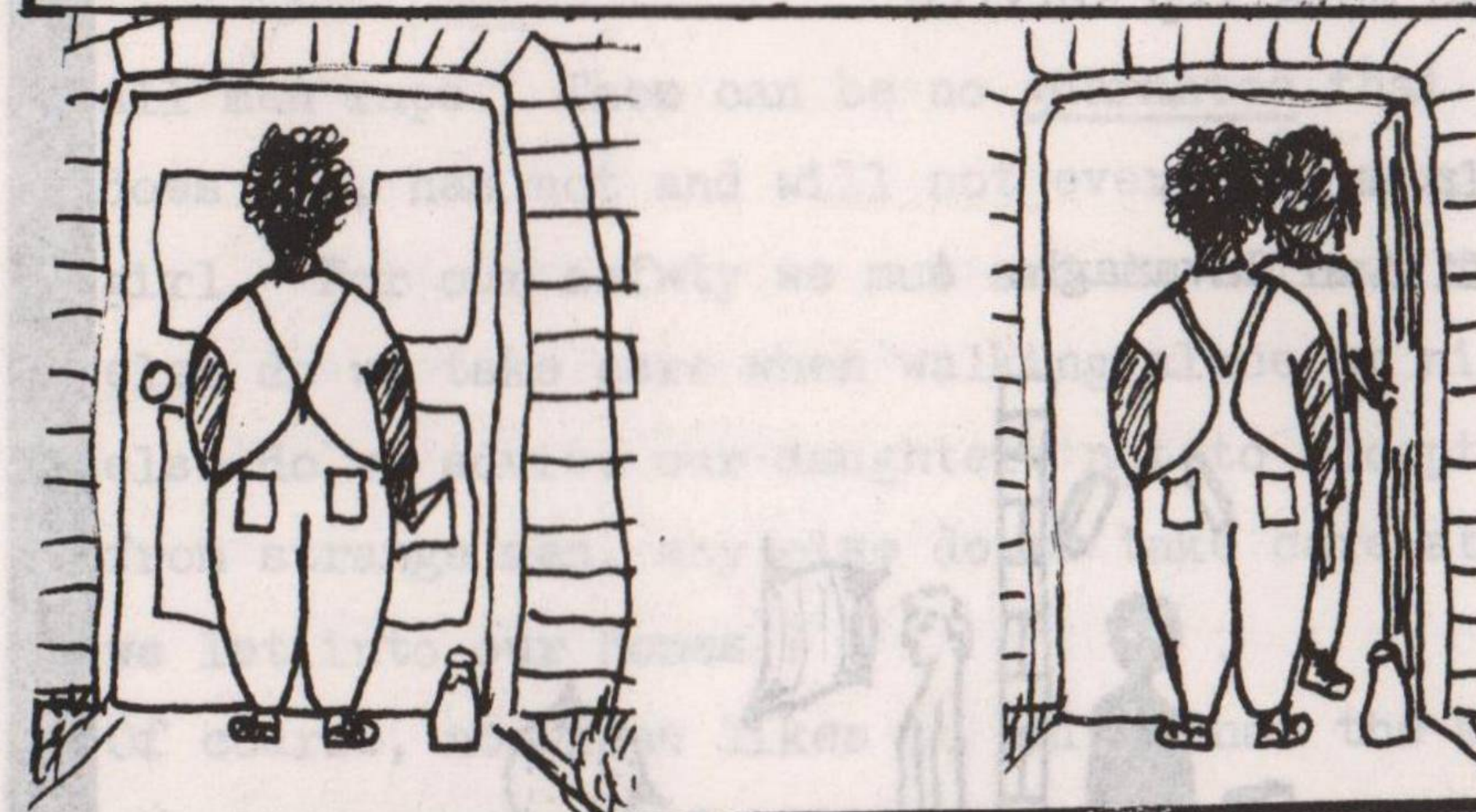
(Can you read some things better than others?)

Yeah, definately.

(like magazines?)

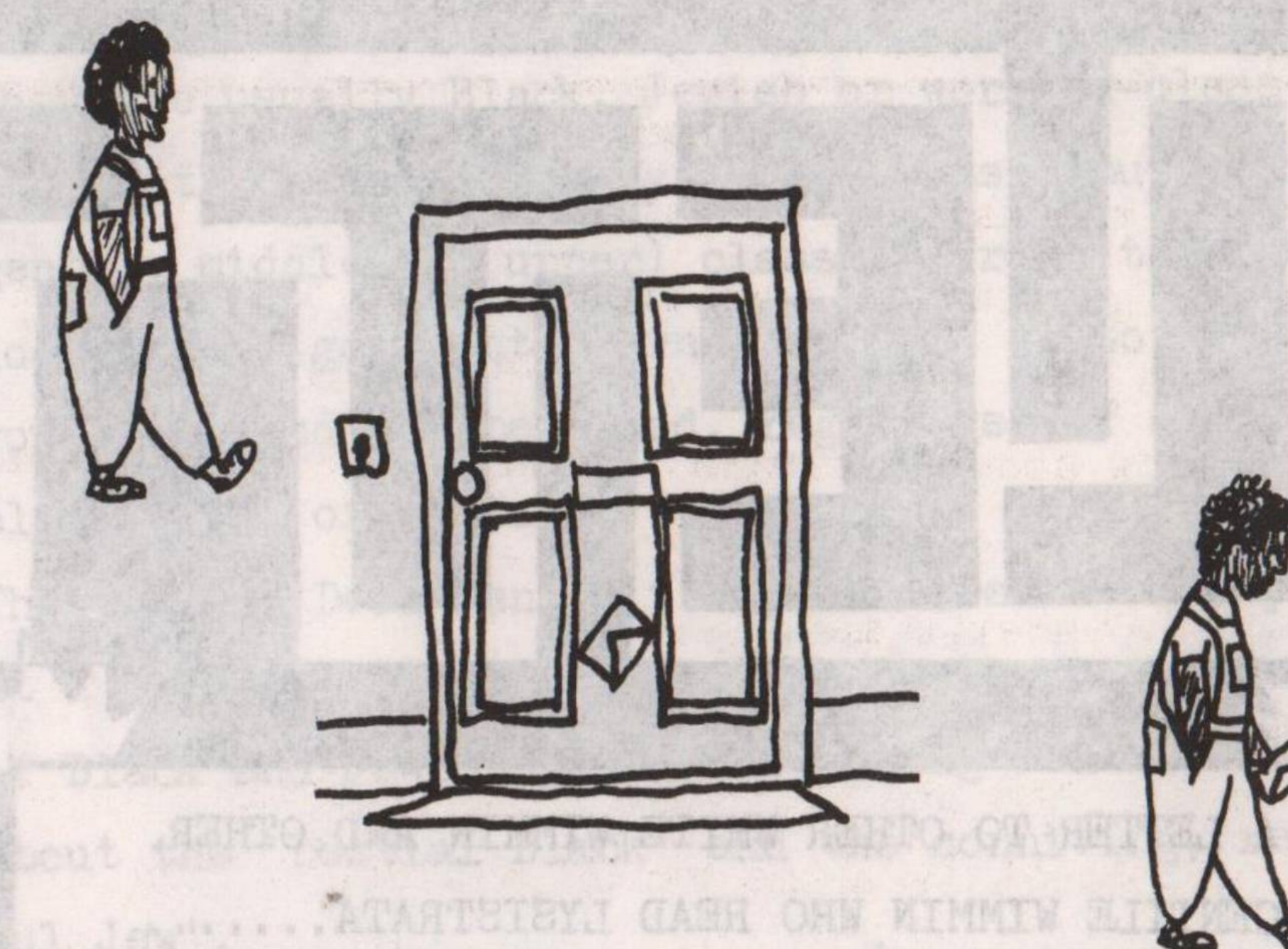
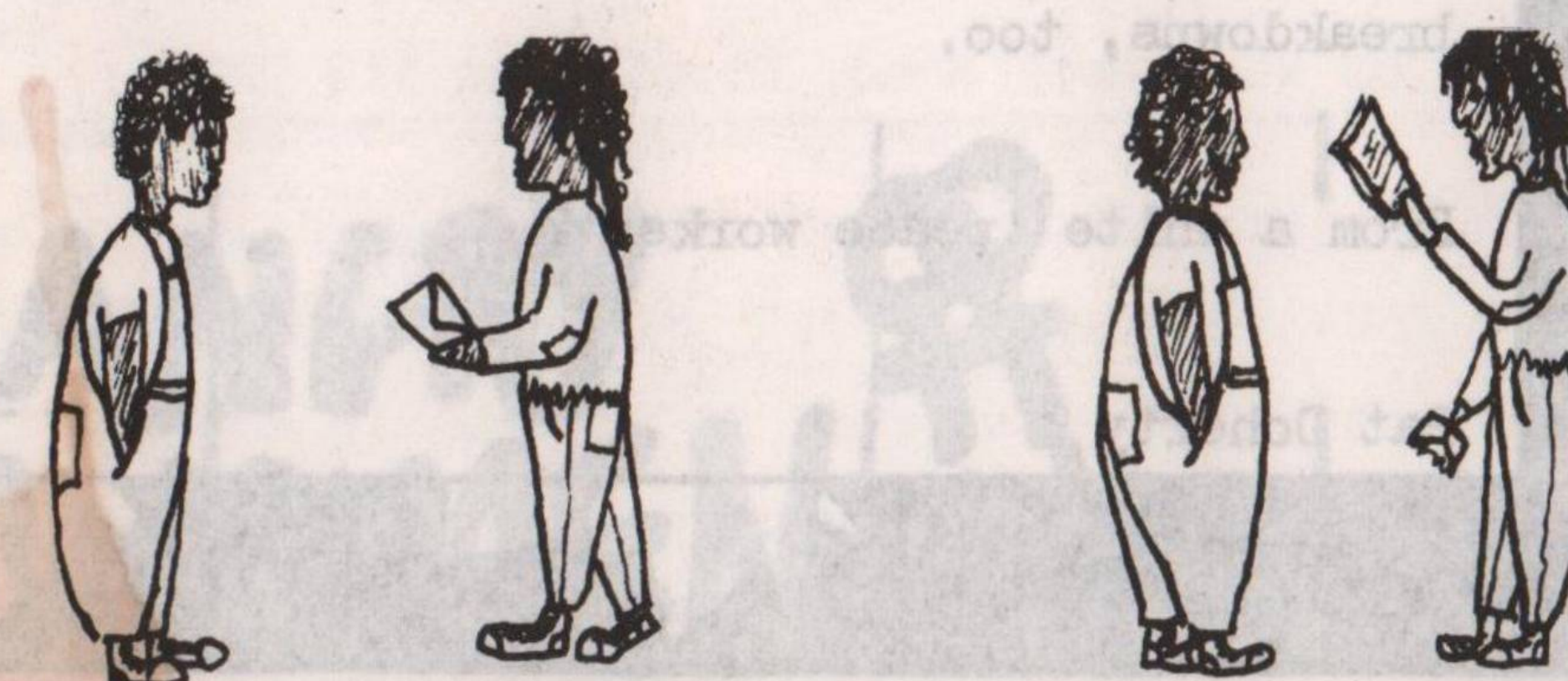
No, just easier written things.

(Simple language? Theres not a lot of that about in feminism! I think the wimmins movement would put off loads of wimmin who cant read and write. They'd never get this far!). Often in meetings I've wanted to say what about wimmin who cant read and write? What about me? But I've never quite had the confidence to say it. I'ts easier not to. Because its just never thought of.



I could never do exams. I took loads. My mother made me sit English O-level six times. Failed it every time. I just lie about my exams when I go for jobs. Like all the jobs I've had have been total bluff. If you cant do something you use whatever else you've got more. Like when there were jobs I didn't have that much of a problem getting one. I just bluffed my way through. And they never really knew afterwards cos I avoided the things I couldn't do. I never got a job where I had to write a letter! (Theres this stereotype, is'nt there that dyslexic people tend to be working class?) Well, I'm not working class. I think that when you tell people you cant read and write they think you must be thick.

It must be so much harder for working class people who cant read or write because they are more likely to be written off as stupid than I am because I'm middle class. And I know that Its easier for me to say that I cant because I'm white and I'm more acceptable and other white people aren't going to make racist assumptions about me.



(How would you like to see things change?)

I just think it's really stupid that someone who's got a block onreading and writing to spend their whole bloody life learning that and nothing else. When they could be learning some things that could be more useful to them. It's so unacceptable not to be able to. I saw this programme about this womun who had four children who had problems with reading. And she took them out of school and they all learnt crafts and thongs. Like when they were at school they were nervous wrecks. But when they got out of that situation they started to feel part of something. Instead of always being on the failure side. Also a lot of pleasure out of reading books and in no way do I want to take that away. But I dont want them to take a part of me away everytime I say I cant. I'd like to know whats in those books too.

(Why dont you get people to read to you?)

Oh, I dont know, its wierd. I'd always feel I'd be asking them a favour. I've only been read to once.

(what other things might make it easier?)

I think more pictures on posters so that the meaning of the poster comes over. Its the whole thing about the English language. Its like a code. If you cant decipher the code you cant understand anything.

I sometimes wonder if a language like Chinese might be easier, cos its mainly pictures. Most people say, if you cant read or write, that you should learn. And who wants to go back to school, with all that again. All your confidence goes.

I just want to put it across that wimmin should think about it more, what its like not to be able to read or write. It should not always be up to me to point things out and ask for things.



# LETTERS

A LETTER TO OTHER WHITE WIMMIN AND OTHER GENTILE WIMMIN WHO READ LYSISTRATA.....

Dear Sisters

The 'wimmin's peace movement' is doomed to fail! Its so painfully obvious, why don't more wimmin realise it? Maybe we can still change things. Maybe not.

The white wimmin's peace movement hasn't got a chance until we realise that we will achieve NOTHING without our Black sisters beside us. And the 'movement' en masse has got to acknowledge this in everything we do.

White wimmin in our arrogance continue to 'forget' that we are able to non-violently protest because wimmin of colour have been at the receiving end of white men's hatred. And gentile wimmin do not acknowledge that we are safe because Jewish wimmin go in fear.

We have been allowed to live, us white gentile wimmin, because our sisters of colour and our Jewish sisters were and are being murdered. And those in the 'peace movement' have got to recognise this in everything we write and say.

No more 'but I saw a Black woman at Greenham, things are changing.'

No more 'but there aren't any Jewish wimmin in our peace group.' (Sure about that?)

No more 'but there's nothing I can do, I don't expect Black wimmin to join us.'

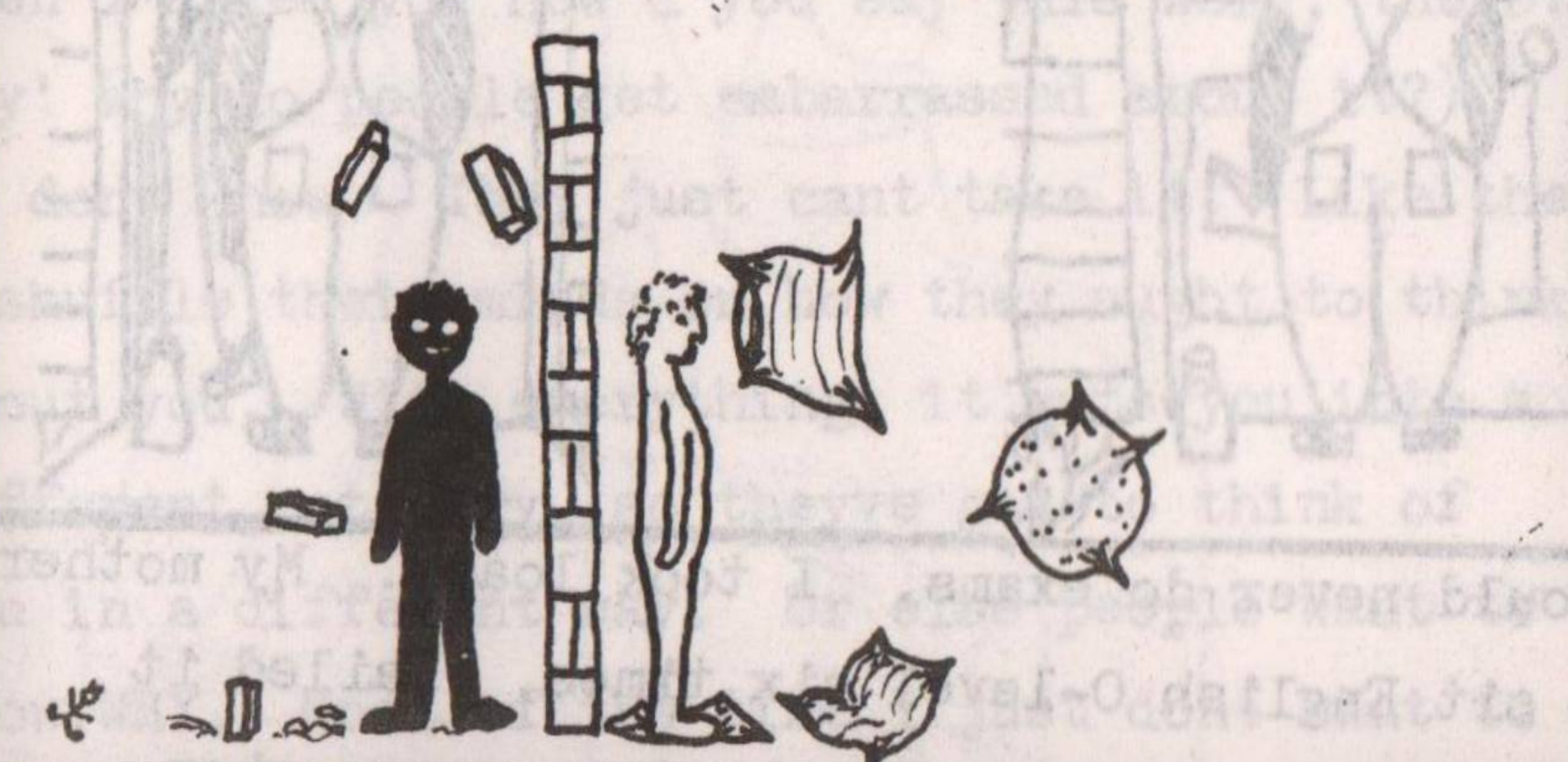
No more excuses.

Its up to us white wimmin and gentile wimmin to join Black wimmin and Jewish wimmin in their struggles. Our struggles. Against racism, against imperialism, against poverty, against uranium mining.....

Otherwise what do we mean by peace and who's peace are we fighting for anyway? It'll be us next, sister.

No more lip service.

In urgency,  
Lillian Cavanagh.



Dear Lysistrata

I read about the 'Special Care Project' in issue 5, for 'wimmin peace workers suffering from the special stresses of this way of life.' And I couldn't help thinking about how come no one's come up with a thing like this for Black wimmin who suffer from the stresses of living in this Black-hating world?

'Wimmin peace workers', who I suppose are mainly white, can stop and let themselves recover for a bit if they need too. I think the 'Special Care Project Wimmin' should donate the money they have raised for a Black wimmin's centre or refuge in the country (maybe). Being Black can cause breakdowns, too.

From a white 'peace worker'?

Pat Doherty

Dear Sisters at Lysistrata,

I'm responding to the letter by 'Judy Ann Wyndham' in Lysistrata no.5.

I am one of those women who go around the streets writing 'Dead men don't rape'. I do it because I fight in every way I can against male violence, because I love women, because I believe in women and our power and I believe that we are stronger than male violence, than pornography or cruise missiles...

So I'd like to explain to the sister what I mean by 'Dead men don't rape'. I ask her and women like her to read all my letter, painful though it may be.

All men rape. There can be no guarantee that any man does not, has not and will not ever rape a woman or girl. For our safety we must and do believe this. Why else do we take care when walking alone at night, why else do we advise our daughters not to accept lifts from strange men, why else do we take care about who we let into our homes?

Of course, no woman likes to think that the man or man she loves are rapists, but all rapists are some woman's husband/lover/brother/son/father. This loyalty to one's own men is another way in which men keep us apart from each other and so dissipate our strength. Women don't need to wait for a man's permission to read graffiti and I think it has a useful role in consciousness-raising.

Even if a man doesn't actually rape a woman or girl, he benefits from the power that he holds as a man in a male created, male dominated society. This society is built and kept alive by women subservience. Rape and the threat of it ensures that subservience: look at all the women who don't challenge male violence, be it pornography or nuclear weapons, simply because they don't feel that they have the power to change anything.

There are myths about rape. One of them is that rape is always committed by a stranger in a dark alley attacking a pretty white girl using force if not weapons. In fact, most rapes are done to women who the man knows, in either her home or his. And who knows the extent of rape within the family. (Rape in marriage, incest, etc, etc.)

One of the ever-growing myths about rape is that rapists

are restricted to certain sectors of society, that they are usually Black, Jewish or working-class, or a all of these. Well it may be a surprise, but white gentile middle (and upper) class men rape too. (Just look at who goes into Porn. shops!). Also, all women are and can be raped, regardless of age, class, race or culture.

The phrase 'Dead men don't rape' stresses this point - at a time when racism is on the increase and hatred of Black and Jewish people is being fed with lies about the 'bestial Black' and the 'conniving, revengeful Jew'.

I am surprised that the sister can liken rape to graffiti. Rape can (and often does) involve knives, sticks, broken bottles, men defecating and/or urinating on women, more than one attacker, physical injury or death. Rape can leave a woman physically and mentally in tatters. It utterly removes a woman's control over her own body. I don't think that any one can compare a bit of graffiti or burning down a porn. shop with the torture of women and girls in this way.

Anyway, 'Judy' can rest easy. No WOMAN is going to 'retaliate' against HER. Its men that she should be wary of, not Angry Women. We are committed to destroying destruction in the form of male violence, all male violence, for all women.

I'm sad that 'Judy' doesn't like my methods, but I'm not going to stop using them. The Women's movement (be it 'peace' or 'liberation') is big enough for all our different ways of working. I hope to be holding hands with 'Judy' at the next big Greenham event.

Like 'Judy', I too will not put my address, because I fear retaliation - from men, in and out of uniform - not because I fear my Sisters.

In sisterhood and fight.

Anne Grieve

ANGRY  
WOMEN

MORE  
LETTERS!



# REVIEW

## holly near & ronnie gilbert

### "LIFELINE"

Holly Near & Ronnie Gilbert sing a collection of songs that range from a medley of 'love songs'; to songs that tell of the Black Civil Rights Movement in America; songs that are about the struggles of peoples in Chile, Latin America, and Spain. I found the lyrics of most of these very moving, whether they were sung in english or in the peoples own language. All of the songs have a political message, and have been sung by people to tell of their struggles.

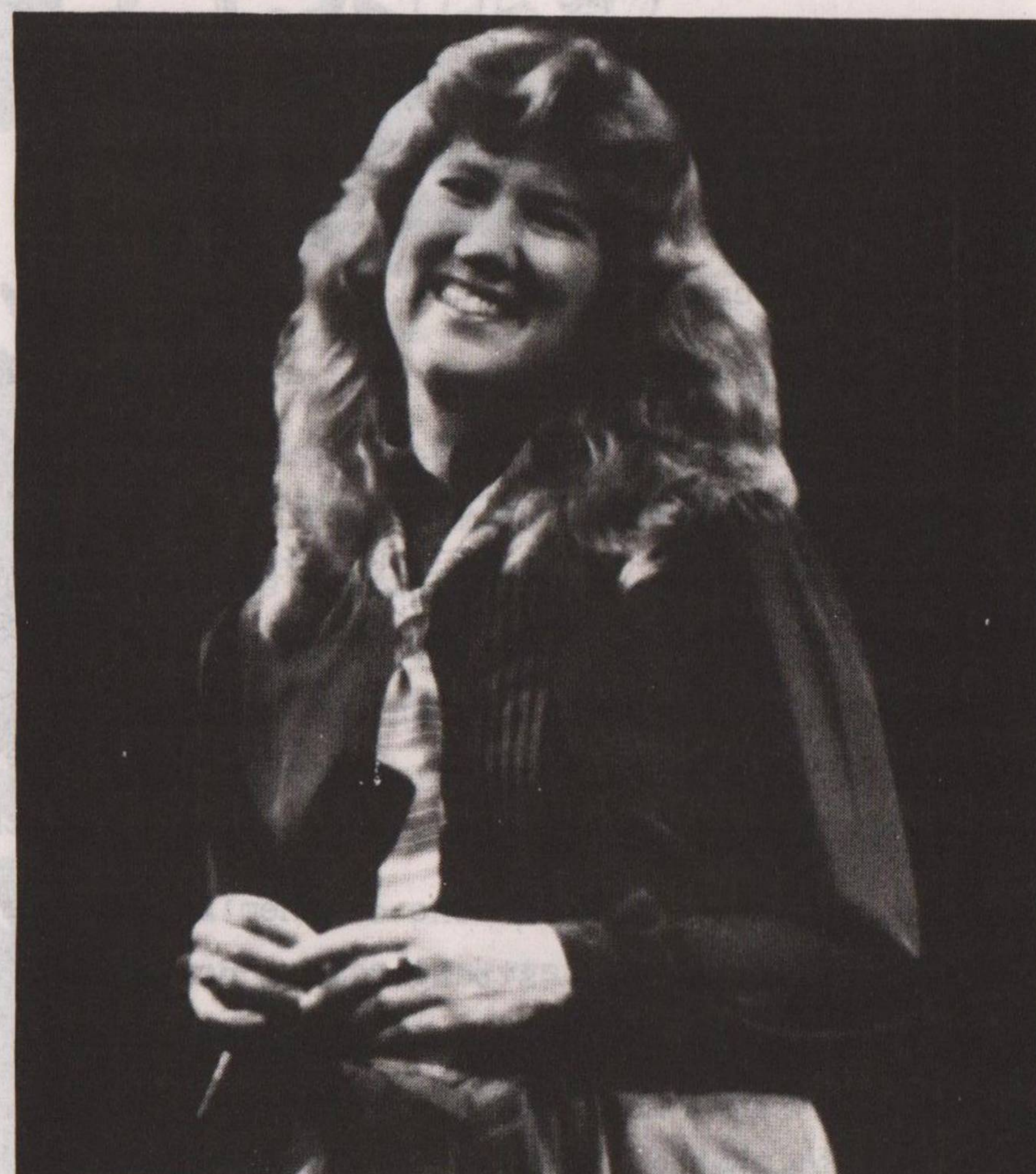
My favourite song was No More Genocide in which Holly sings of the lies and racism of the American government (and on broader terms inevitably that of the British government). They sing of the way that governments bend the truth to suit their own ends. They perpetrate myths, they bend history books to suit themselves:

'Why are our history books so full of lies  
When no word is spoken of why the Indian dies,  
Or that Chicanas love the Californian land,  
Do our books say it was all discovered by one white man?  
Thats just a lie, one of the many and we've had plenty  
I don't want no more of the same  
No more genocide in my name.'

This was the only song that I felt really summed up her position as a white wumun in this world. Mainly because all throughout the album she is singing songs about the struggles of peoples who aren't as 'privileged' as she is. I feel maybe it is because she is white that the songs sound strange coming from her. Its not that I don't like the way she sings them - her presentation is fantastic. Its just that nowhere

when I was listening to the album did I feel that she is doing anything but just singing, and from her privileged position she is allowed to, but nowhere on this album was there any commentary to say so. Maybe I would have liked it more if it was shown that she does realise that she is not living the oppression that the people she sings about, and is privileged to be able to sing songs that people have DIED singing.

Kris



Holly Near

This album is available from Women's Revolutions per Minute, 62 Woodstock Road, Birmingham B13 9BN.

# HOLLY NEAR performs for CHILE

HOLLY NEAR PERFORMS FOR CHILE - press release

Sun 4 Sept.....Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket  
London.

Wed 7 Sept.....Town Hall, Leeds

Thur 8 Sept.....Guild Hall, Cambridge.

This tour has been arranged with the Chilean folk group 'Inti Illiman'. It has been arranged by the Chile Solidarity Campaign. She will be accompanied by Adrienne Torf who plays piano.

For further tour details contact Bill McLellan -  
01 272 4298

*Lifeline*  
Holly Near  
Ronnie Gilbert  
of the WEAVERS TOGETHER  
Available from RADICAL BOOK and RECORD SHOPS.  
ALBUM £5.50. CASSETTE £5.00. MAIL ORDER - S.A.E.  
TO: W.R.P.M. 62, Woodstock Road, Birmingham B13 9BN  
**WATCH OUT FOR HOLLY'S SEPT. CONCERT TOUR**



Ronnie Gilbert who sings with Holly Near on the "lifeline" album

## some wimmin can get off....

Sarah and I were arrested outside the Arms Trade Fair\* for obstruction. I was thrown into a van violently and Sarah tried to stop them hurting me and got arrested too.

We were taken to the police station. On the way to the police station we were threatened with rape and told several times that they hated Queers. We went to court on the 8th of August. We pleaded not guilty and defended ourselves. We tried to show the reason that we were

arrested was because they hated us not because of what we did. Then we proved that there wasn't an obstruction. The court case took all day. I got off and Sarah got a Conditional Discharge for a year.

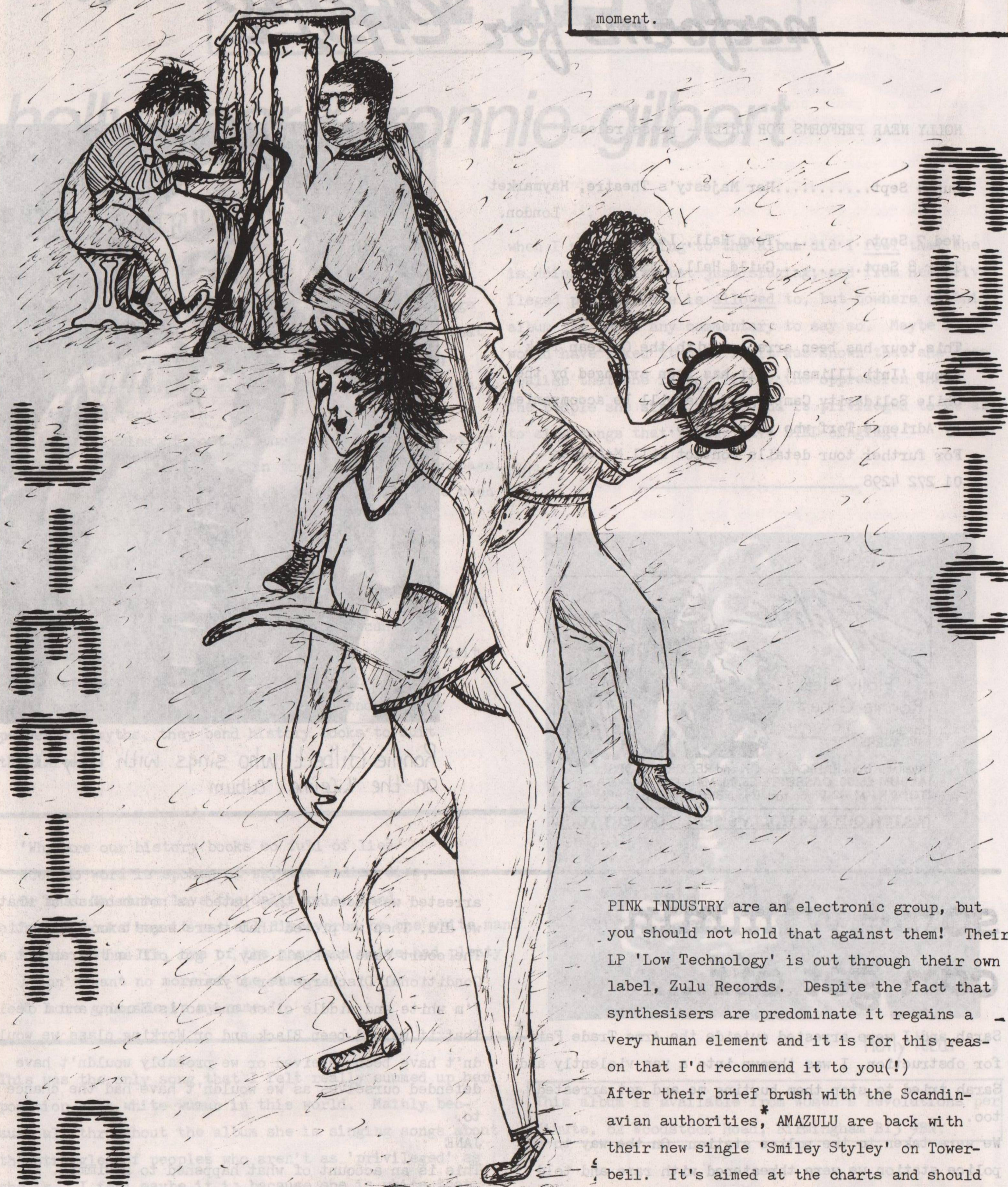
I'm white and middle class and so is Sarah, and I feel that if we had been Black and or Working class we wouldn't have been beleived or we probably wouldn't have defended ourselves as we wouldn't have had the chance to.

JANE

This is an account of what happened to 2 wimmin. It shows that the police are just as bad if not worse than most men.....but we knew that anyway didn't we.(typist)



Women are playing more and more of an important part in 'popular' music today. In Sam's article below, she describes some of the women-dominated bands around at the moment.



PINK INDUSTRY are an electronic group, but you should not hold that against them! Their LP 'Low Technology' is out through their own label, Zulu Records. Despite the fact that synthesisers are predominate it regains a very human element and it is for this reason that I'd recommend it to you(!) After their brief brush with the Scandinavian authorities,\* AMAZULU are back with their new single 'Smiley Styley' on Towerbell. It's aimed at the charts and should get there eventually - the value of which is debateable. However, on the B side of the 12" is the excellent 'Brixton' (concerned with the riots).

\* Amazulu members got into a fight and spent the night in the nick, in handcuffs.

STRAWBERRY SWITCHBLADE are an aptly named Glaswegian band. They are commercial enough to chart but individual enough to maintain their own style, sufficiently so that they (hopefully) will not follow their fellow musicians into the helpless quagmire, into what so many seem to have degenerated. Their debut single is through 'Rough Trade' and is called 'Trees and Flowers'. Its very emotional.

THE GYMSLIPS are a London based band producing a rather loud noise! Their lyrics are largely in fun and sung over a guitar thrash. I like them and their LP 'Rocking with Renees'. They're a very down to earth group.

Another Glasgow band worthy of note are SOPHISTICATED BOOM-BOOM. They blend a late sixties feel with new wave and take you on an amazing trip through the emotions. They have yet to release a record.

Much in the same vein, in attitude, if not musically, are the CRABS. They've got some interesting percussion in the background and, instead of using a predictable acoustic guitar solo, they use voices as an instrument. It works well.

MALARIA are a German band currently residing in Berlin. I know very little about them except to say they are exhilarating. Their vocalist has a wonderful attracting style which grabs your attention. I was deeply impressed by the single 'Your turn to run.' THE MARINE GIRLS combine simple vocals, guitars and bass to come up with a surprisingly refreshing sound. Tracey Thorne has also been having some success with her solo career, especially the LP 'A Distant Shore'.

Now, I must admit I've never heard CURSE OF EVE. However someone gave me a handout from one of their gigs and the lyrics were very impressive. There is a feature on rape and the lyrics are concerned with pornography, war, drugs and conditioning of our sexuality. I've been promised a tape and I look forward to hearing it.

Sam



# STOP 'THE CITY'!

STOP 'THE CITY' - Press Statement 15/8/83

As you read this, wars are raging throughout the world, in the Middle East, Southern Africa and elsewhere. As if these were not bad enough, it seems that further wars - if not global war - are looming on the political horizon. Witness the drift of Central America towards the status of a new Vietnam; and the stationing of a new generation of nuclear weapons in Europe in the next few months, adding a critical twist to the nuclear arms spiral.

Meanwhile, the major banks of the USA and Western Europe are imposing vicious cuts on the working and peasant peoples living standards in the Third World (notably Brazil and Mexico at the present) in order to pay for their own mistakes of the last decade.

Much of this rapidly deteriorating situation can be traced back to the financial institutions based in the industrially advanced countries, which provide a billion pounds or more a day to finance military

expenditure, and in whose interests most wars are fought. 'The City' area of London is one of the major centres of these institutions.

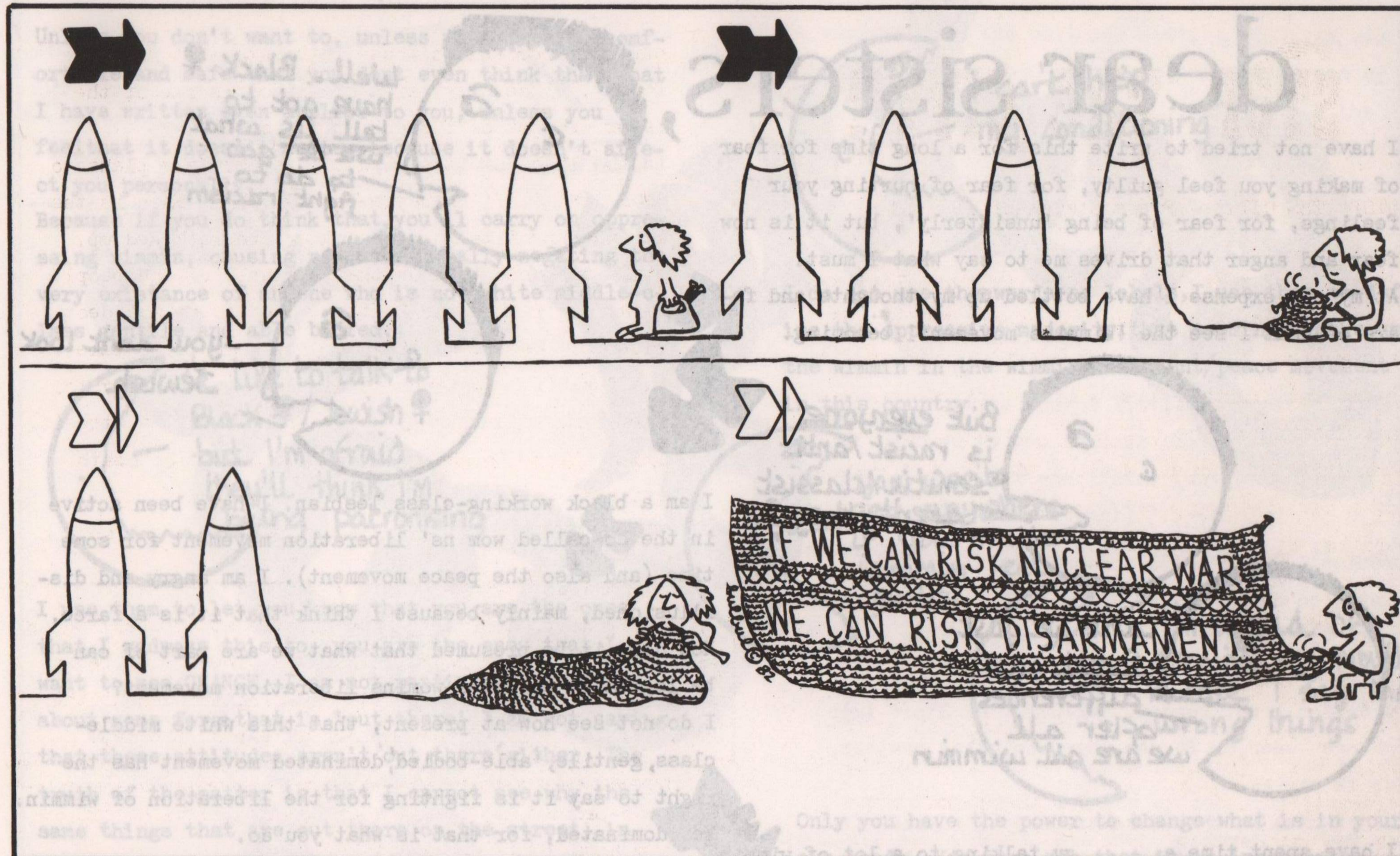
In the light of this situation, there are plans to STOP 'THE CITY' on September 29 1983. This is the day when profits for the summer are reckoned up. It is a chance to show that the will of the people is stronger than the institutions of war and destruction. We are calling on City workers to take the day off. Together we can reclaim the City for ourselves. There will be a carnival on the streets, and a chance to show our opposition to the death machine.

STOP 'THE CITY' is intended to be a peaceful action.

On the 29 Sept, arrival points will be at FINSBURY SQUARE and the STEPS OF ST PAULS CATHEDRAL. These will begin at 6am and continue for people arriving throughout the day. 01 247 3015 is the contact number on the day.

Co-ordinating meetings are every Monday at 6pm at 6 Endsleigh St, London WC1.

For more details, including access details contact STOP 'THE CITY', c/o London Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh St, London WC1. Phone: Dave 01 809 1346 or Manchester 061 9289134.



## Escaped from Diary Page....

11 SEPT

Anti Nuclear Campaign Festival (4th One) will be held in Weston Park - near Sheffield University. The theme of the festival is opposition to the proposed Atomic Water Reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk. Speakers include Jo Maynard M.P. Games, stalls, food and drink (non-alcoholic) are planned. Music from: Bass Tone Trap, Belladonna & Karamojo. Organisers hope people will bring their own entertainment - morris dancers, steel bands, clog dancers etc. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS & SHOULD BE TOILET FACILITIES. Festival is free and any profit from stalls, collections etc will go to the Sizewell Enquiry Opposition.

Advert

## RAPE CRISIS

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).



# dear sisters,

I have not tried to write this for a long time for fear of making you feel guilty, for fear of hurting your feelings, for fear of being 'unsisterly', but it is now fear and anger that drives me to say what I must. At my own expense I have bottled up my thoughts and fears of what I see the 'Wimmins movement' becoming.

But everyone is racist/anti-semitic/classist aren't they?

Can't we just forget our differences after all we are all wimmin

I have spent time again I hear the same things being said? The things being used as excuses, will you not realise we do not only want space in this movement, we want CHANGE. We don't just want you nodding your heads and paying lip-service to what we need. DO NOT READ THIS AND THINK IT DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU.

I can't help being white, gentile & middle class

yes I know all of that but why do you get so angry

Why do you not see that you can only gain from overcoming you oppressive attitudes.

Deep inside me I sometimes hear a tiny voice that says maybe you will change maybe you don't realise how much damage you're doing. But then you do or say something to shatter my illusions of your capacity for change.

Why oh why do the wimmin you are oppressing have to scream and shout and get angry before you sit up and take notice?

I am a black working-class lesbian. I have been active in the so-called wom ns' liberation movement for some time (and also the peace movement). I am angry and disillusioned, mainly because I think that it is a farce. How dare it be presumed that what we are part of can be logically called a womins liberation movement? I do not see how at present, that this white middle-class, gentile, 'able-bodied', dominated movement has the right to say it is fighting for the liberation of wimmin. Yes dominated, for that is what you do.

I can't help my racism/anti-semitism/classism

You white gentile wimmin, why do you not take notice of your racism, your anti semitism, your classism, your inaccessibility, I am sick of hearing your excuses, what are you afraid of? why does your guilt paralyse you? why does the mere mention of making the wimmins movement accessible to all wimmin cause you to recoil? why do you seem to turn your eyes to the floor as if you wish that it would swallow you?

don't say any more you're making me feel guilty

Well. Black ♀ have got to tell us what we've got to do to fight racism

-you don't look Jewish

Unless you don't want to, unless you feel so comfortable and safe that you don't even think that what I have written even applies to you, unless you feel that it doesn't matter, because it doesn't affect you personally.

Because if you do think that, you'll carry on oppressing wimmin, causing pain and totally negating the very existence of anyone who is not white middle-class gentile and able bodied.

I'd like to talk to Black ♀ / Jewish ♀ but I'm afraid they'll think I'm being patronising

I use them to let you know that you are the ones that I address this to, you are the ones that I want to see CHANGE. I am not ranting and raving about some force that is 'out there'. I am not saying that these attitudes aren't 'out there' either. The truth of the matter is that I cannot see why the same things that are out there on the street, in this stinking white mans world, should also be in the one and only alternative that I, and most other wimmin have. Why do I have to face racism on the streets, and then also have to face it where I should feel safe?

yes but all wimmin are oppressed

I'm so confused its all too much to think about.

I haven't got the time to find somewhere thats accessible. (does it really matter)

you're being divisive.

How can we fling our arms wide to all the wimmin who are out there, if all we are asking them to come into is another oppressive environment? -that is something that I hear so often. Yet it is blatantly obvious that what is needed is change. The wimmins movement is an alternative, so lets start to make it the right alternative. It is no good to try and challenge what is out there without challenging it first within our own environment.

and other oppressive etc... sounds etc... etc.....

I can't help my conditioning

I do not use these words as labels, I use them to define the oppressive majority, that seemingly make up the wimmin in the wimmins movement/peace movement in this country.

you won't get anywhere if you make wimmin feel guilty

I'm afraid of opening my mouth in case I say the wrong things

Only you have the power to change what is in your own heads. You must see that it is important. It is not only what is out there that must change in order for us to achieve the liberation of all wimmin. Let us first liberate ourselves from our conditioning. It is not impossible, I hope.

How can you fight against racism, classism, anti-semitism, ageism, physical ability prejudices, when the attitudes are going unquestioned, unchallenged, and are being endorsed and used in meetings in wimmins centers, IN YOUR OWN HEADS, in the language that you use?

I Beg You for all our sakes, please reject all this male shit now before its too late.

In Sisterhood

IMANI.



# Brockwell Books

Brockwell Books are a non-commercial venture, aiming to avoid sexual and racial stereotyping. The books are produced as cheaply as possible and are available from; June Smith, Brockwell Books, 64 Seldon Road, London, SE270 PG. At 25p + 12½p postage each, or £4 per year including postage, for 12 copies.

The stories in the books are freely adapted from traditional tales from many different cultures.

On being asked to review these books we decided to read a couple of stories from them to a group of girls at a local playscheme\*. We thought it would be useful to read the stories and talk to the kids before working through our attitude as feminists towards their content.

We read them two stories and encouraged them to say what they thought of the tales; this was more difficult than it sounds as they were more interested in the novelty of the 'Top of The Pops' style microphone that we were using, than the stories themselves!!

The first story we read them was called Gold Flower and the Bear, a Chinese Folktale, similar to Little Red Riding Hood which the kids were all familiar with. (BORING! BORING! screamed one girl when we asked her what she thought of Little Red Riding Hood) The positive difference of Gold Flower was that the girl saved herself and her brother from the bear dressed up as Grandmother, rather than being saved by the (male) woodcutter. She was depicted as being strong and sensible and brave. The girls picked up on this during the discussion afterwards, and definitely preferred this version. They were all positive that in a similar situation they would be as brave!



Gold Flower managed all the work until her mother came home.



Gold Flower's home  
by Judith



Bear or Grandmother?



A Fairy Hill

We thought that the cultural setting of China was not obvious throughout the tale, made apparent by the girls' drawings afterwards, in which all the Gold Flowers had long flowing blonde hair - Goldilocks fashion, with pretty western-style dresses. And little brother wore trousers!!

The second story we read was called 'Why The Sea Is Salt'. The girls showed little interest in this one. We believe it was because they were restless at being made to sit and listen (while the boys were running around playing!)

On reflection, we could have taken up some of the ideas in the introductory notes, for example; of dramatisation of the story, in order to evoke and maintain the girls' interest.

Brockwell Books don't have many pictures in them. It is suggested that adults themselves should find pictures to go with the stories, but we think it is difficult to find appropriate pictures, especially if you don't already have a large (and expensive) stock of glossy books and magazines. It is also very time consuming, and this suggestion doesn't seem to consider the lifestyles of, for example, busy single and working parents.

The writers believe that not having many pictures in the books themselves, gives free reign to children's active visual imagination. But from the girls' response to the stories we read them, we think that more pictures are needed to encourage children to wake up their own images of different lifestyles, since their imaginations are already strongly influenced by traditional (racist and sexist) children's stories.

LIZ & SALLY.

\*The girls at the playscheme are aged between 5 and 12 years of age. The books are recommended for kids between the ages of 7 and 10 years.



# REVIEWS

## WOMANSIZE by kim chernin

She starts her book with an account of her own compulsive eating 'that tempestuous gobbler with her wild eyes'.

She describes how she carried supplies of food around with her in a bag, how she stole a hot dog from a vendor because she couldn't wait in the queue, how she wore a poncho because she felt hidden in it.

The book is written after 20 years of experience of this. She believes that 'a woman obsessed with losing weight is also caught up in a terrible struggle against her sensual nature. She is trying to change and transform her body, she is attempting to govern, control, limit and sometimes even destroy her appetite. She realised that for her the whole thing was bound up with 'a bitter contempt for the feminine nature of my own body. The sense of fullness and swelling, of curves and softness, the awareness of plentitude and abundance, which filled me with disgust and alarm, were actually the qualities of a woman's body.'

She dismisses the lies that say 'fat is unhealthy'. It has been invented by western white men including doctors and is absolute crap. In Samoa, for instance, fat women are not looked at with disgust but with admiration and they do not have problems of heart disease or blood pressure related to their fatness. This hasn't changed when they have migrated to America. She thinks that fat related diseases may come from the pressure to be slim and the shame we have to cope with.

She also writes about anorexia, (starving yourself, sometimes till death). She sees it as a more extreme way of slimming but with the same motive 'the will to conquer and subdue the body.'

The book starts off in a fairly easy to read style but gets more philosophical and complicated as it goes on so that I didn't read half of it. I felt pissed off with that. When will women start writing 'text books' in a non academic, ordinary talking thinking way?



I also didn't like the racist language she used, constantly using white for something good and black for bad and scary. And another thing - I'm not interested in ANY theories, ANY opinions, ANY stories by ANY men whatsoever. And I don't think Renoir was wonderful cos he painted fat women!

However it is the most thorough book I have attempted to read on the subject and for a while I actually began to accept my fatness as an acceptable valid part of me. (It didn't last long though!)

Poppy



Published by Women's Press: 124 Shoreditch  
28 High St. London E1. £4.50 (arg!)

# FOLLY

[published by Crossing Press  
Trumansburg New York 14886.]

The blurb on the back of 'Folly' appealed to me. It said '.....an insightful, readable and loving look at Black and white working class women.' Set in a Carolina mill town, its about some wimmin who organise a strike at their local factory. Wrapped around this is two wimmin falling in love with each other, and how the children react to this. Its also about a young lesbian away from her lover who has the good fortune to discover other lesbians in what she thought was a one-dyke town. And interwoven into this is how the white wimmin begin to face up to the realities of racism and their part in the oppression of their sisters. The book was very readable, I thought. Some bits in it where Folly and Martha are falling in love were lovely and very soppy! But I was disappointed that although the blurb said it was about Black and white wimmin you never really got to know the Black wimmin - only what they said, not what they were thinking. It was all through the eyes and ears of the white wimmin. Maybe because Maureen Brady is white it was the only way she could do it. It is worth reading though.

Sue B  
PS I'm a white wumun.

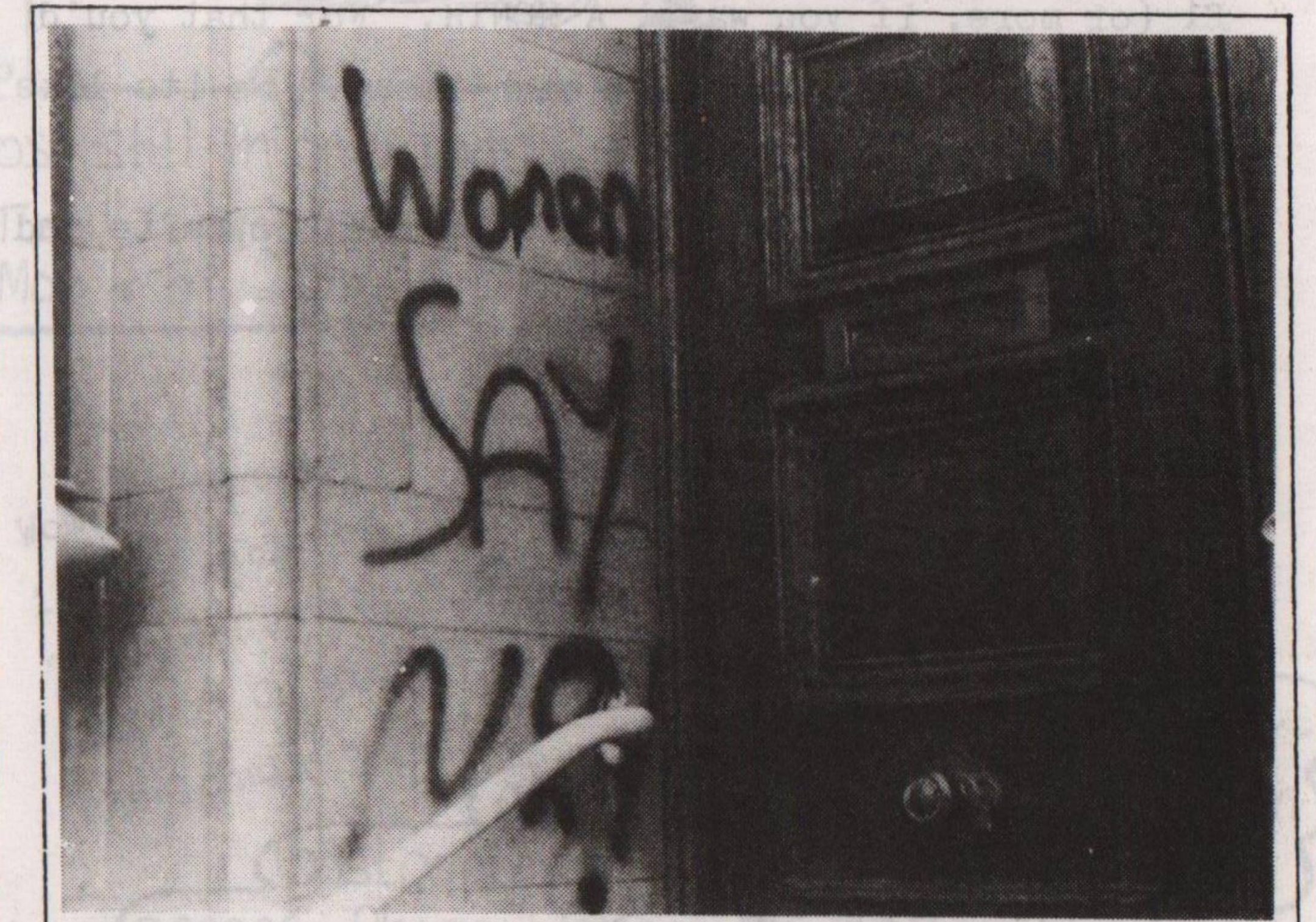


## A Novel by MAUREEN BRADY

Two books come out recently are: RACE AND CLASS: TOWARDS AN ANTI-RACIST FEMINISM (available from the Institute of Race Relations, 247-9 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NG. Price £2) and DIFFERENT WORLDS: RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN BRITAIN (available from The Runnymede Trust, 37a Grays Inn Road, London WC1 8PP) Lots of good photos. (£1) We want to review these two books in issue 7, so if you've read them let us know what you think of them.

### ALSO

YOU'D PREFER ME NOT TO MENTION IT.....THE LIVES OF FOUR JEWISH DAUGHTERS OF REFUGEES (available from JHG, Box 20, Sisterwrite Bookshop, 190 Upper Street, London N1. Price £2.00) This book will be reviewed in the next issue of Lysistrata.



"WOMEN SAY NO!" GRAFFITI ON REGISTRY OFFICE!



# POEM

The pain I feel for what 'I' am,  
(I thought was 'WE'), but no, its ME,  
Has made me see that  
'I' AM  
Full of shame and sorrow for  
My sisters.

The pain I feel for what I am  
Is so ALONE  
How can I say,  
When with my voice  
I push away  
My sisters?

The pain I feel for what I am  
Is so unseen,  
Is so unknown  
I cannot share it,  
She does not care, nor  
Want it.

The pain I feel for what I am  
Is out of sight  
It does not count  
There is no light  
She cannot hear it.

The pain I feel for what I am  
(I thought was WE) but no, is ME,  
Has made me see, that, I AM  
Full of shame, and sorrow  
For my sisters.

Unsigned

← cut here →

## gotta say it again..... WE'RE BROKE!

If you're able (and willing!) to support Lysistrata financially you could take out a STANDING ORDER for £1 (or more, if you want) A MONTH. For that you'd get a free copy of the mag each issue. So its like a sub - but different!

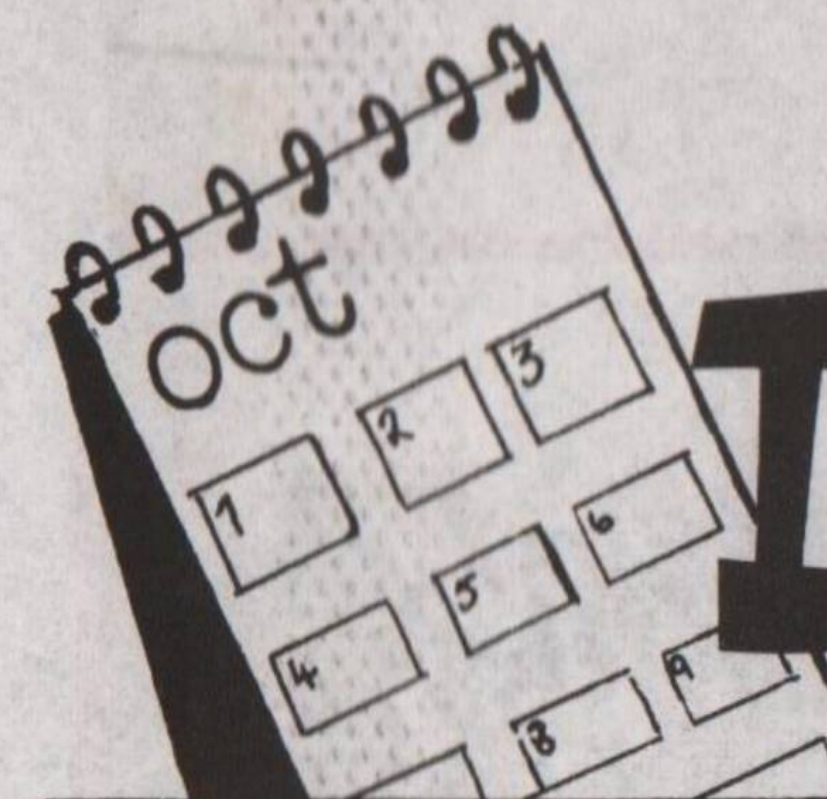
All you have to do is fill in the form opposite and send it to us:

Lysistrata  
11 Princes Street  
Brighton  
Sussex. England.



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# 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 its 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.
  - \* parking facilities /ramps.

Remember too that information on tape is important to wimmin who can't read as well as to blind wimmin.

Please also state if events are wimmin Only or mixed.

Wimmin's discos. Mon & Wed. 7-11pm.  
at the Bell 259 Pentonville Rd.  
London N1. Ramp level access to dance area. Loose and fixed seating. Level access to loos but not wheelchair accessible.  
Tel: london lesbian line to check discos still in operation - 01 837 8602

Bookwriting workshops for writing, illustrating and self-producing children's books, about and for children in a lesbian community. Thurs eves 7.30-10.30, 10 weeks beginning 15th Sept. They want a venue with full wheel chair access in the Hackney area. Participation from women with disabilities would be valued. Phone Caroline Halliday on 01 732 4962. Cose £1. Organised by Dalston Children's Centre.

## SEPT 25

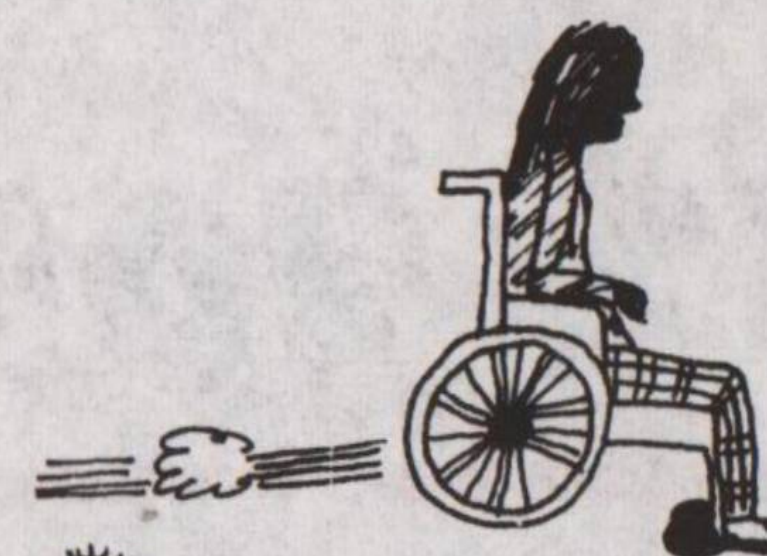
Festival for Racial Harmony at Waltham Forest Theatre Complex, Lloyd Park, Forest Rd, London E17. Stalls outside on tarred area. Loo - 1 step up, door opens inward, will just take 23" chair. Parking Winns Terr & Carr Rd. 1.30 - 6pm. Bengali and Afro-Caribbean entertainers.

## OCT 8

Conference on the Invisibility of Women in the Media, focussing on neglect and misrepresentation of Black, lesbian, working class, young and older women and women with disabilities. (What about Jewish women? - typist). If you'd like to be involved in planning write to Women's Media Action Group, C/O AWP, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2 (01 221 1310 eves and ask for Julianne Dickey.)

## LATE SEPT/EARLY OCT

Poetry reading from Caroline Halliday's 'Some Truth, Some Change' (pub. Onlywomen Press) at a wheelchair accessible venue probably in Islington. Open reading and you can bring along your own poetry/prose. Signers present. Phone Caroline on 01 732 4926 for details.



Tues- Thurs 7pm-10pm.  
Mon & Fri 2pm-10pm.

Women's Therapy Centre's Autumn Workshop Programme is available on tape and in print. SAE to Women's Therapy Centre, 6 Manor Gardens, London N7 (01 263 6200). On ground floor there's good access with wheelchair toilet.

Brighton Wimmin's Liberation Conference has now been postponed to November. There will be access. Phone Women's Centre for details: Brighton 600526. 6 Marlboro' Place