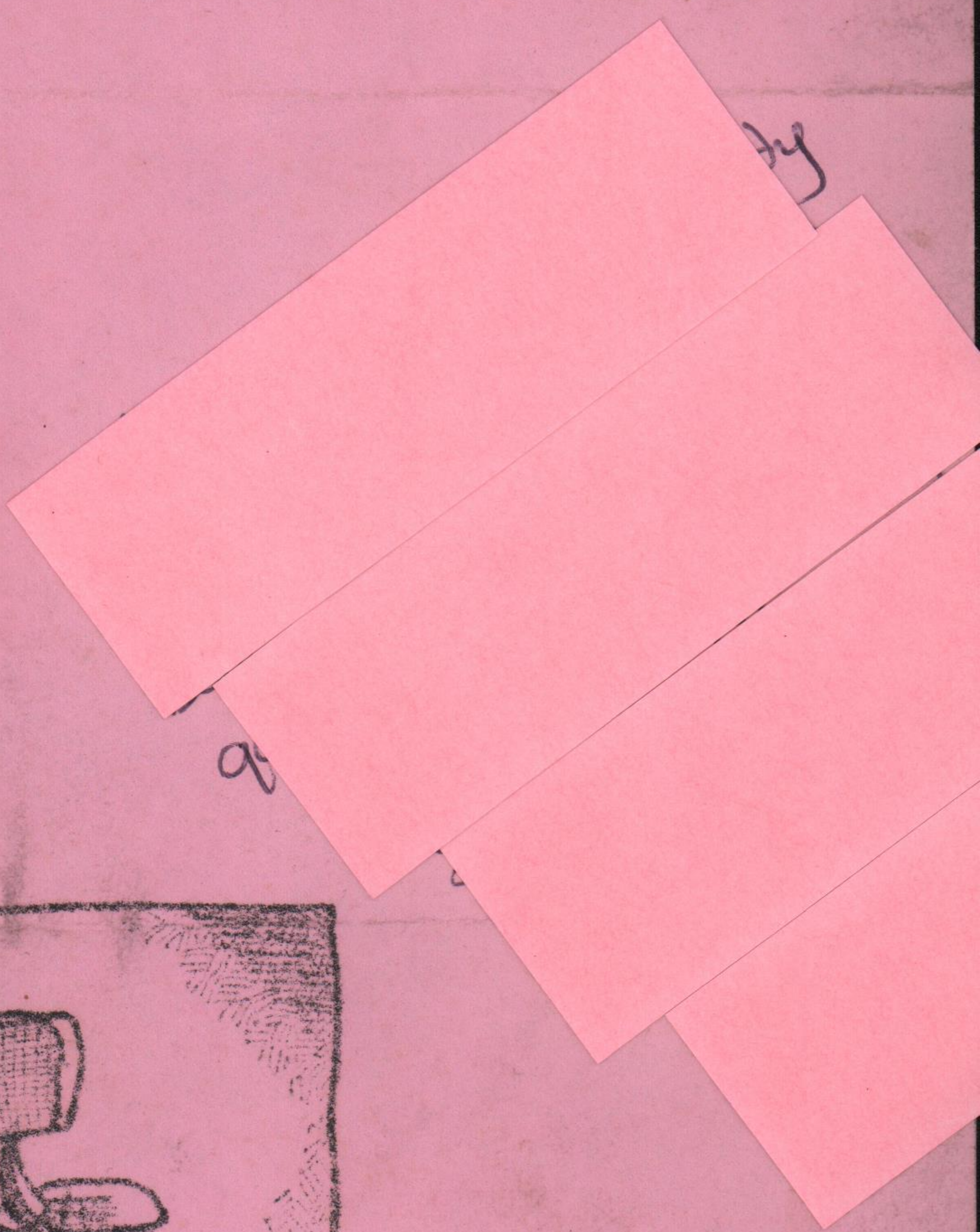


LIBERTARIAN WOMENS' NETWORK NEWSHEET



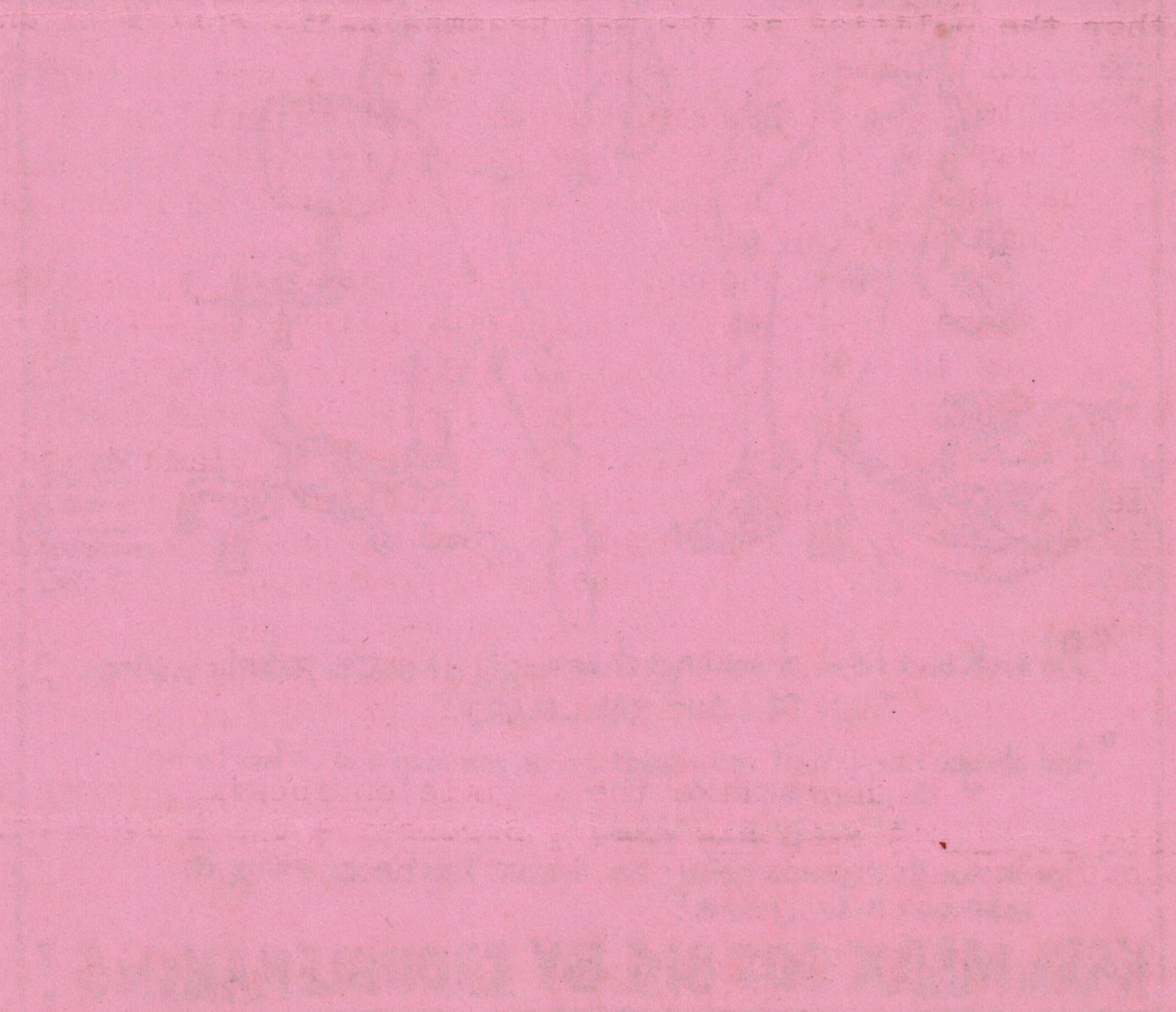
"I'm sick and tired of smiling charmingly at bosses' pathetic visitors..."
"THEN TRY OUT KARL MARX!"
"And do you know half meowags go on makeup and clothes to be
an office super-gin?"
"TRY KARL MARX!"
"You mean that geezer who said the workers have nothing to
lose but their chains?"

KARL MARX GOT BIG BY TROUBLEMAKING!

3p.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO





Letters

Dear sisters,

thanks for sending me the very interesting copies of the Libertarian Women's Newsheet. The Woman's Lib. group in Plymouth has fallen apart but it may start up again in the winter. However a Claimants Union has just started in Plymouth and I am helping with that.

yours,

Janet Northey.

Dear sisters,

I liked your article on Radical Feminism or Libertarian Socialism, although I found it rather unclear in style. I think you have made a very important point in saying that groups will organise around their specific problems, but this doesn't preclude fighting collectively.

This is where a lot of 'politically aware' people come unstuck - they can't work with people who are not with them on every point. I think this attitude is what arrests the development of many politically involved women, because we often come into politics on the coat-tails of an involved man, and accept his ideas because of our commitment to him. Eventually either the politics or the man becomes badly fitted to our own minds (like an inferior denture if you see what I mean) and we find ourselves in an uncomfortable situation where we can't get on with one or the other; in my case it was the man, and having parted from him I found I had to work out my political ideas from scratch - which is why I am now a libertarian feminist rather than anything else.

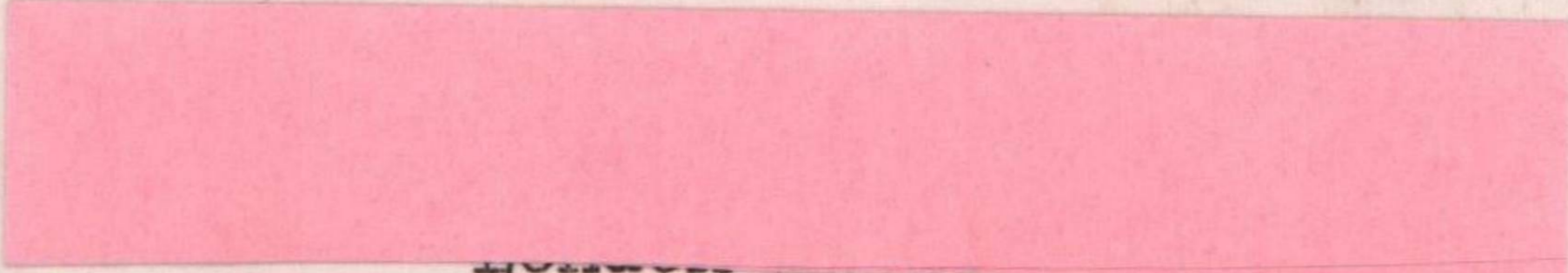
I just thought of that phrase - I think it's the right one for where I stand. Libertarian feminists believe that there is no question of who is more important in society because we are all interdependent: men, women, kids, workers, non-workers: although some people choose to do work which has no intrinsic value they are not to blame in the present state of society, because they also have the role of parents or something which makes their earning power important to their dependants. However society will have to be changed and people educated out of doing pointless tasks for the sake of money. Libertarian feminists believe in undermining the fabric of society rather than tackling it head on. OK, that sounds pretty moderate but I only just thought it out - would anybody else like to comment on it?

I don't like the article on fucking. For a start the man who wrote it didn't give his name. Secondly I don't like the word fuck which sounds very aggressive; I believe it comes from a word meaning ploughing, and any man who comes at me as if I was a piece of earth is going to get a nasty shock. I've just discovered that a woman who is fucked in her sleep is legally considered to have been raped....I wish I'd known that before! Any woman's got a right to choose when she wants to be fucked, hasn't she? After all, if the woman wants to have intercourse (neutral phrase) and the man doesn't, she hasn't much hope, has she? This man who wrote the article is very screwed up. He sees sex as a mechanical process between two bodies. He describes women as 'bedmates', he suggests that when a woman can't turn her husband on, she should have recourse to the milkman, on the

principle that all pricks are the same ? The mind boggles. I suppose he doesn't think that a woman usually marries a man because she prefers him to other men (out of bed as well as in) and that there is more to sexual satisfaction than getting an orgasm from a stranger ? He says women's lib deduce "that the prick has become redundant". So he thinks of the prick (in general) and presumably the vagina (in general). Well, let these general organs get together and indulge in fucking (in general) while I for one will continue only to make love with those men I like as well as being turned on by.

loven,

Caroline (Charlton)



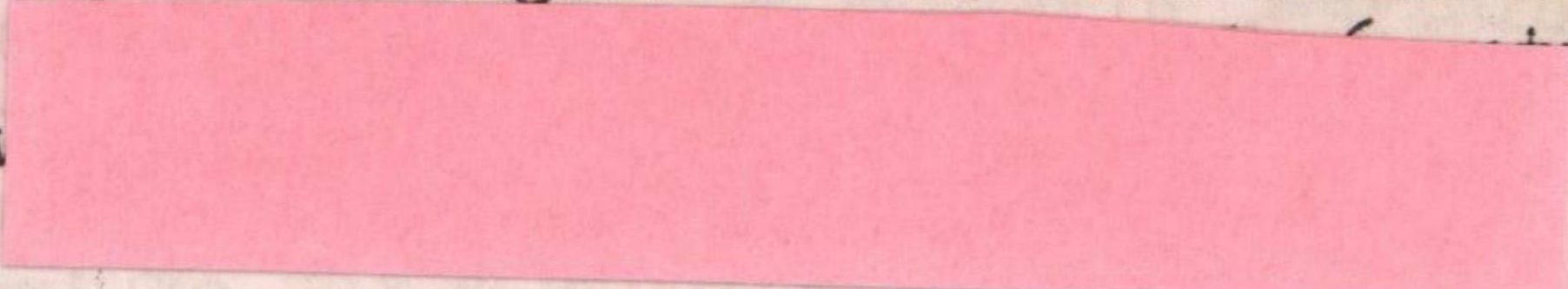
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ADDRESSES

As not everyone has paid yet, we have again omitted the address list, to save money on stencils and paper. These are new or changed addresses since the last newsheet.



York, is moving. Don't send anything to her new address.
ad. is moving to Leeds. Send stuff for her
[redacted] till
[redacted]



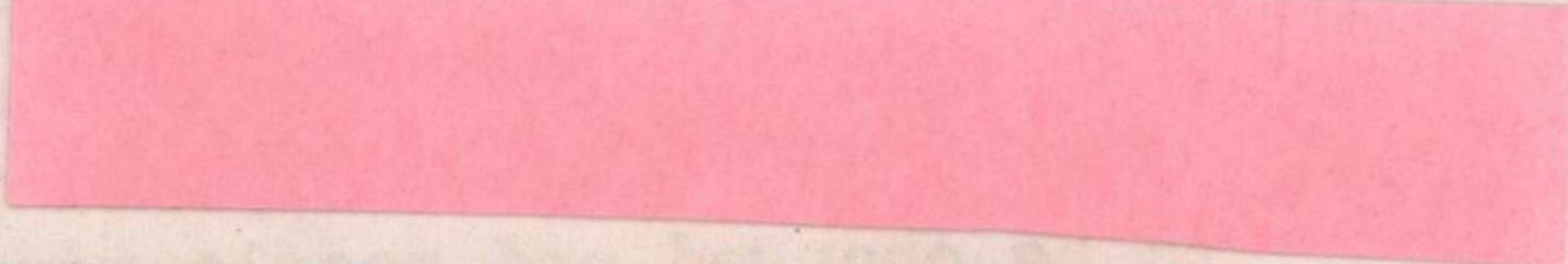
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plugs

PLUGS

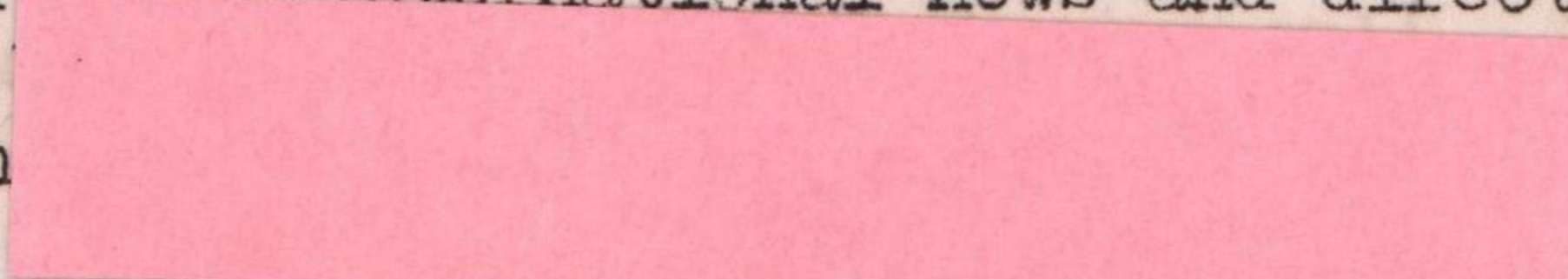
plugs

INSIDE STORY : this month on Islington squatters, the building workers strike, political trials. In depth, detailed informative articles, beautifully produced. 25p, monthly. They are offering at the moment, with a subscription for 6 issues (£1.50) a free copy of Women and Abortion (pamphlet by the WACC) and a free dummy issue of The Alternative, which includes Nyerere's suppression of Tanzanian co-op farms, tribute to Chuck Berry (poster-size photo, and interview with Bunnt Sterling).
Send cheque or postal order to: [redacted]

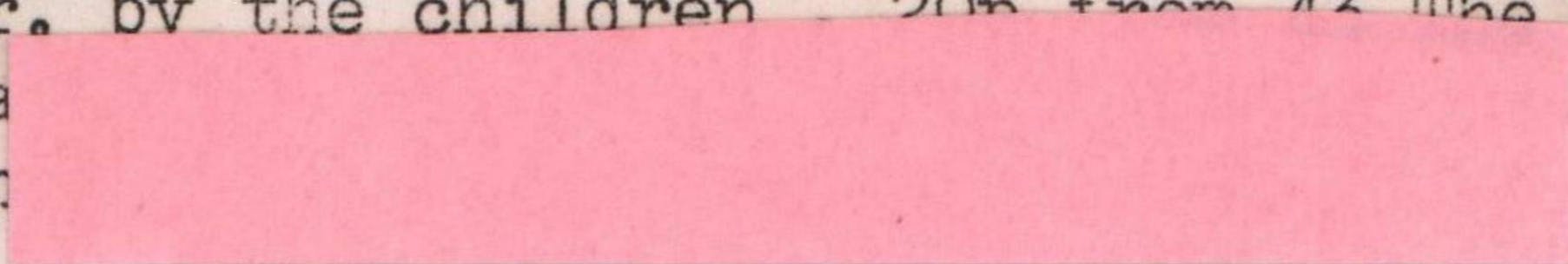


WOMEN'S LIBERATION LITERATURE COLLECTIVE: CHILDREN'S BOOKS - with apologies to [redacted] sent a back copy last time [redacted] getting for 4p, from Lee [redacted] Yorkshire.

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORGANISATION OF REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISTS - out now. Contains No. 5 the ORA aims and principles, articles on womens lib, the media, practical notes on how to help start a tenants association, discussion articles, international news and direct action, and cartoons. 32 [redacted] postage.
From : 68 Ch [redacted] 17.



GO RING YOUR OWN BLOODY BELL - a first hand account of a dispute in a provincial Comprehensive school, involving a strike over the dismissal of a drama teacher, by the children. 20p from 43 The Burgage, Market Drayton, Sa [redacted] 8.
Well worth the mon [redacted]





some comments on some of Carolines points.

"Libertarian feminists believe there is no question of who is more important in society because we are all interdependent" I think Caroline is utterly wrong here. In this society some people are more important than others ; those people live by the maxim that their profits are more important than the lives of others, who have no capital. This surely is our reason for hating this society and wishing to end it. Unless we understand how this society works , in its own terms, then how can we set about ending it ?

Caroline muddles what she believes possible after a revolution, with a statement of present reality, in reaction probably to some Leninist and Trotskyist groups who tend to orient solely to people directly involved in production, in an attempt to attack the power of the owners directly. (Knowing that this society derives from the system whereby a small number of people own the means of livelihood of the others, and thus claim the right to a majority of the wealth produced.)

We work and worry and fight to try to achieve a society in which "there is no question of who is more important, because we are all interdependent", within a society in which blatantly, certain people are more important than others - eg: healthy young workers are more important than people who outlive their usefulness by growing old ; but most important of all , are the people with money. They are the most important because they have the power to make the important decisions, which they do in their own interests.

What Caroline is attacking is the concept that because people are important to the workings of the present society, only they should be considered important to revolutionaries. Here I can agree with great (personal) feeling. BUT , understanding the importance of love and personal happiness and feelings in all people must not blind us, and prevent us from trying to analyse situations, and ways of helping make a revolution, in a very clear, hard, apparently unemotional way. While we cannot dismiss people who are not directly involved in the "means of production", this should not blind us from knowing that this is the basis of the present society, and using this knowledge to attack this system. While we must integrate our belief of what is possible after the revolution into our relationships now, so that they do not get left out of any revolution we make, we must know that our enemy is a deadly enemy, to whom we cannot extend our revolutionary feelings - instead we must extend our hate. We must hate the system, and also its perpetrators - not just the 'pigs', but much more importantly, the owners -the bosses- the capitalists.

As for Caroline's comment about "undermining, rather than tackling head on", I think this also stems from her muddling a humane future with a hard present. They are simply not going to let you gently undermine anything important to them and their profits. The Redbridge Council ,an ordinary, respectable, governing body of men, hired Barry Quartermain against homeless squatters - they were quite prepared to indirectly beat up pregnant women, smash a child's hand with an iron bar, not to mention beating up the men - in fact to do anything necessary to defend property. (Money). The quote following comes from Marx's Civil War in France .(I do not apologise for using this, as I have come to know that most of what he wrote is a useful tool for understanding capitalism, even if his analysis is not enough for us .)

"The civilisation and justice of bourgeois order comes out in its lurid light whenever the slaves and drudges of that order rise against their masters. ... The bourgeoisie of the whole world, which looks complacently upon the wholesale massacre after the battle, is convulsed by horror at the desecration of brick and mortar."

Ros (Nathan)



REPORT ON LEEDS BIRTH CONTROL CAMPAIGN

The campaign in Leeds to obtain free contraceptive advice and supplies for all women in Leeds is now beginning to make progress. At the second meeting, it was decided to affiliate to the national Birth Control Campaign organisation, as they could supply us with funds, leaflets, headed paper, films, speakers, etc. Hence we now form Leeds Birth Control Campaign.*

The third meeting was held on the evening after a meeting of the Health Committee of the local council. The public are allowed to sit in on these meetings, so a deputation met the committee before the meeting to put the LBCC case. We were then able to sit in while the Medical Officer of Health gave his report on present provision of contraception in Leeds, and future plans. The report gave us lots of useful information, such as the opening of two further clinics and wider provision of free advice after November, and concluded that the estimates for the next financial year be increased by 400% to include the cost of free advice and supplies for all women in Leeds.

The next hurdles are the Policy Committee and the Finance Committee, but we will try both public (demos, 'events', petitions, leaflet campaigns, etc.) and private (inundation of committee and other relevant council members with appropriate literature, personal contact, etc.) ways of winning.

We obviously have a long way to go, and a lot of hard work to do, but hope we can add to the number of local authorities providing free contraceptive advice and supplies. We feel that this is a major step forward, giving women one more step on the ladder to control of their own bodies (on to the abortion campaign next?). If we are successful, it will be quite a victory, for the whole gynaecological profession in Leeds is as reactionary and unsympathetic as you can get.

*If anyone else is thinking of trying to start a 'free contraception' campaign, and feel they would also need the helpful facilities of BCC, the address is: Birth Control Campaign, 233 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9AE

now about these! (you probably recognise them if you read the Sunday Times):

'No woman today should have to polish her husband's shoes - she should just wipe them clean with a damp cloth' (Advertisement)

'Sometimes I fill in the time doing a bit of housework but, well, it's not really a man's work, is it? I mean, it's so boring.' (Unemployed man)

'One can really have very little sympathy for women who complain that they have been raped, when they might so easily have been murdered as well' (Male journalist)

'I think women do the job better because they are naturally more grovelling' (British Rail stewardess)

'Holt had to cope with hysterical civilians - not all of them women' (Journalist)

'Driver, female for light town deliveries, or active male pensioner, would suit' (Advertisement)

'Dr. Laird, I have to tell you that your new assistant is a woman.' 'A woman? But it's preposterous - this is highly skilled work,' (TV film)

THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF FAMILY PLANNING

(Summary of article by W.A. Laing in B.M.J., February 1972)

'What is the point of investment by local authorities in family planning services? It has sometimes been argued that contraceptive advice is a personal matter which ought not to be the responsibility of the local authority. But this view can be very short-sighted, since the consequences of unwanted births can be far-reaching for the public authorities too.

The aim of family planning is to enable people to plan and restrict the number of children they have. If families do not take advantage of the available services or if the services are not readily available to them, the result can be not only great human suffering, but also a breakdown in family or personal life, often leading to public authorities being called on to help.

This study examines the extra demands for health and welfare services which are likely to be made by the 'unwanted' child and its family, over and above those made by the average child. Cost-benefit analysis has been applied to the problem, so that statistical evidence can show how far the cost of providing extra services for 'unwanted' children is balanced by the benefit which could be derived by the community and individuals if these children had not been conceived.

Who are the 'unwanted' children? It is, of course, impossible to make any absolute generalisation. Nevertheless, research has shown that large proportions of later children in families of four or more are unwanted and it seems reasonable to assume that the same is true of most illegitimate children. There is, moreover, firm statistical evidence that these children will generate very significantly greater demands than average in four sectors of the health and welfare field: (a) supplementary benefits, (b) child care services, (c) sickness benefits and (d) temporary accommodation for the homeless. In no areas can hard evidence be found that these children and their families consume less resources than average. In the other sectors of the health and welfare field there is no good data on excess usage, but this does not mean that the problem does not exist. The analysis is confined to the health and welfare services (to keep it down to a manageable size), so other social services, such as education, are not considered.

The table below shows the total costs of excess usage generated by various groups of 'unwanted' children over the 16-18 years of dependency. The figures are compared with the estimated cost of family planning per prevented birth in order to derive benefit/cost ratios.

	Cost per unwanted child prevented per per year (1971-2)	Benefits per unwanted child prevented in 1971-2	Benefit/cost ratio
	£	£	
Illegitimate child	34	4,364	128:1
4th child	34	675	20:1
5th child	34	755	22:1

It is quite clear from this table that the benefit of family planning to public funds alone is very high indeed, without taking into consideration the social and personal benefits to the individuals and families themselves. Although the figures in themselves can only be estimates, they reflect certain hard facts: that about one half of unmarried women with children depend on supplementary benefits; and that the child from a home which has never been complete or which has been broken by divorce, separation or death can be expected to use nine times as much in child care resources as the average child.

From the point of view of the local authorities, the most important extra cost generated by unwanted children is in the child care services. Among illegitimate children there are reasonably reliable figures which indicate that gross expenditure of £34 (seven years at an estimated £4.85 per annum) on family planning services in 1971-2 would save child care resources to the value of £296 over the ensuing years, which is a benefit/cost ratio of about 9:1 in this sector alone.

In these calculations, the cost of £4.85 per annum for the family planning services represents the FPA charge (which is to be increased to £5 in 1972-3). However, this figure will clearly be on the low side if a domiciliary service is envisaged. A domiciliary service may cost three times as much per year, but research findings indicate that domiciliary help may well prevent one birth every two years in every family receiving the service, so that the cost of preventing an unwanted birth would be no greater than our estimate of £34 for family planning services.

In general, although it is difficult to give precise figures, because of the nature of the available statistics, it is quite clear that the identifiable benefits of family planning services are very large when compared with the costs. This is, of course, of enormous importance to local authorities in helping them assess their expenditure on different types of services.

It seems particularly desirable that local authorities should consider the total benefits of investment in family planning. At present, the costs of family planning are generally laid on the health committee's budget, whilst other committees' budgets benefit from its provision.'

Sorry this goes on a bit, but I am too tired at the moment of typing to do any efficient editing. However, it can be seen from this that the medical profession are beginning to wake up to the possibilities of contraception (albeit on economic grounds principally), but we still have a long way to go in our efforts to obtain control of our bodies as a human right and not as just another economic statistic. Family planning is now being considered in terms of an investment, and we must continue to stress on every occasion that contraception (and abortion) are more than just a way of saving council money on their child care facilities, but a basic female right.

'They are casting terror into the minds of women, children, and even adult citizens' (Quote by Havering magistrate of gangs of hooligans)

'The best of horses, like women, need good legs' (Observer headline)

'Two people and a stewardess were killed in an explosion aboard the 10,000 ton Norwegian cargo ship 'Anatina'.' (Newspaper report)

'Dear Mr. Robinson, Thank you for your letter which we received from your wife'.' (Letter from firm)

BOOKS

WOMAN'S ESTATE : Juliet Mitchell. Pelican Original 25p.

One of the few books which deals with women's lib from a political point of view, rather than only describing sexual oppressions. She attempts to analyse where women's lib was derived, and whence it is going; how effective it has and may be; and to what extent women's lib has succeeded in forming the analysis which it claims 'male-dominated' left wing groups lack.

My one criticism is that although she certainly clarifies the arguments of the radical feminists and pinpoints the gaps in Marxist analysis as far as women's lib is concerned, she doesn't in fact attempt to begin this analysis. To this extent her book is rather 'theoretical' - analysis and discussion but not brought round again to linking with the reality of what to do in a praxis.

For information and hard facts on the position of women in Britain: the Equal Pay Act, women's involvement in strikes, & non-involvement in Trade Unions, educational non-opportunities, etc, her last chapters are a good source.

The following are some quotes from her demolishing critique and analysis of radical feminism, which I felt was a relevant continuation of the article in the last Newsletter

..."...radical feminists believe that social equality can be achieved nowhere without the feminist revolution being paramount..(They believe) that women's oppression can be fought independently of other oppressions, whereas Women's Liberationists who follow a materialist analysis, as does Simone de Beauvoir, believe it is a central, and yet intrinsic part of a larger revolutionary struggle for changing the dominant mode of production from capitalism to socialism and finally communism. Radical feminists are now inclined to re-establish this distinction as they establish their theory, so that we can say 'feminism' is the belief that women's oppression is first, foremost, and separable from any particular historical context."

"...The theory is no more historical than it is dialectical. To say that sex dualism was the first oppression and that it underlies all oppression may be true, but it is a general, non-specific truth, it is simplistic materialism, no more. After all we can say there has always been a master class and a servant class but it does matter how these function...; there have always been classes, as there have always been sexes, how do these operate within any given, specific society? Without such knowledge we have not the means of overthrowing them. Nothing but this knowledge, and revolutionary action based upon it, determines the fate of technology - towards freedom or towards 1984."

"...The danger of moral and not political advances confronts us from all directions. 'Consciousness-raising' within the small group can turn round on itself and become a self-repeating, incestuous, personal-problem session: 'male-chauvinism' as a concept can simply be used to evade the relationship of men and women within our society Feminism, which postulates the primacy of sexual oppression over all other forms, has no scientific theory for this assumption: nothing really explains why it arose, why and how it continued and hence nothing comes to mind as to how it is to be overcome. If the psychological power-compulsion of men originated it, what originated that - and what can supersede it, other than the psychological power-compulsion of women? A tit-for-tat psycho-moral solution."

R.N.

MEETINGS

N.E. REGIONAL CONFERENCE

is on Sat. 30th September, in Leeds. This meeting will try to finalise the formation of a statement of aims started at the last regional conference in York, on July 24th.

WOMENS' LIBERATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE

in London on the weekend of October 20/21/22.

MEETING OF LIBERTARIAN WOMEN

Several sisters have suggested that those of us involved in this newsheet ought to meet, to discuss our ideas, before the next conference, where Selma's paper is bound to raise questions around libertarian revolution. This would not be a highly sectarian meeting, but more a means of at least getting to know the other women who have a libertarian approach, and perhaps to start a debate on our common ground.

Amanda Bennet invites everyone interested to a meeting at her place, 3 Belmont Road, London SW 4. Tel: 01-622-8961. (Nearest tube Clapham Common. Go up The Pavement in the Old Town direction, and turn right down Grafton Square leading to Belmont Road. OR go up Clapham High St., from the tube station, and turn left up Stonehouse St, then Belmont Rd is the 3rd turning on the left.)

The meeting is proposed on 23rd September (Sat), from 12pm onwards. (Please eat first!) We suppose that mainly people from the London area will come at such short notice, but might be able to arrange a floor for anyone from further away. Anyone who can't make it (or who can for that matter) can send a paper for discussion to Amanda, and we can try to let anyone who is interested know what happened, if they send a stamped addressed envelope.

production no: 8.

In all, since we started, 42 sisters have paid for the newsheet, some of them including donations beyond the cost. This means that about 50 people have paid nothing.

Cost of this newsheet	£ 4.81
Money owing from previous issues	£11.39
Total debit	£16.20
Money recieved since the last issue	£ 5.85
Present debit (owed Ros)	£10.35p

Cost of each of these newsheets (including postage) 3p approx.

no: 9

The last newsheet before the conference will be produced on Sat & Sun, 30th Sept, and 1st October, at 68 Chingford Rd, Walthamstow. Please send articles, letters etc here, come and help produce it if you can - food provided.

PLEASE SEND MONEY OWED FOR PAST ISSUES - IF YOU HAVE PAID NOTHING SO FAR, WE HAVE SENT YOU NEWSHEETS TO THE VALUE OF 20 p. If this doesn't sound much to you, it isn't, to you - but it is to me, multiplied by 50!

Ros Nathan.