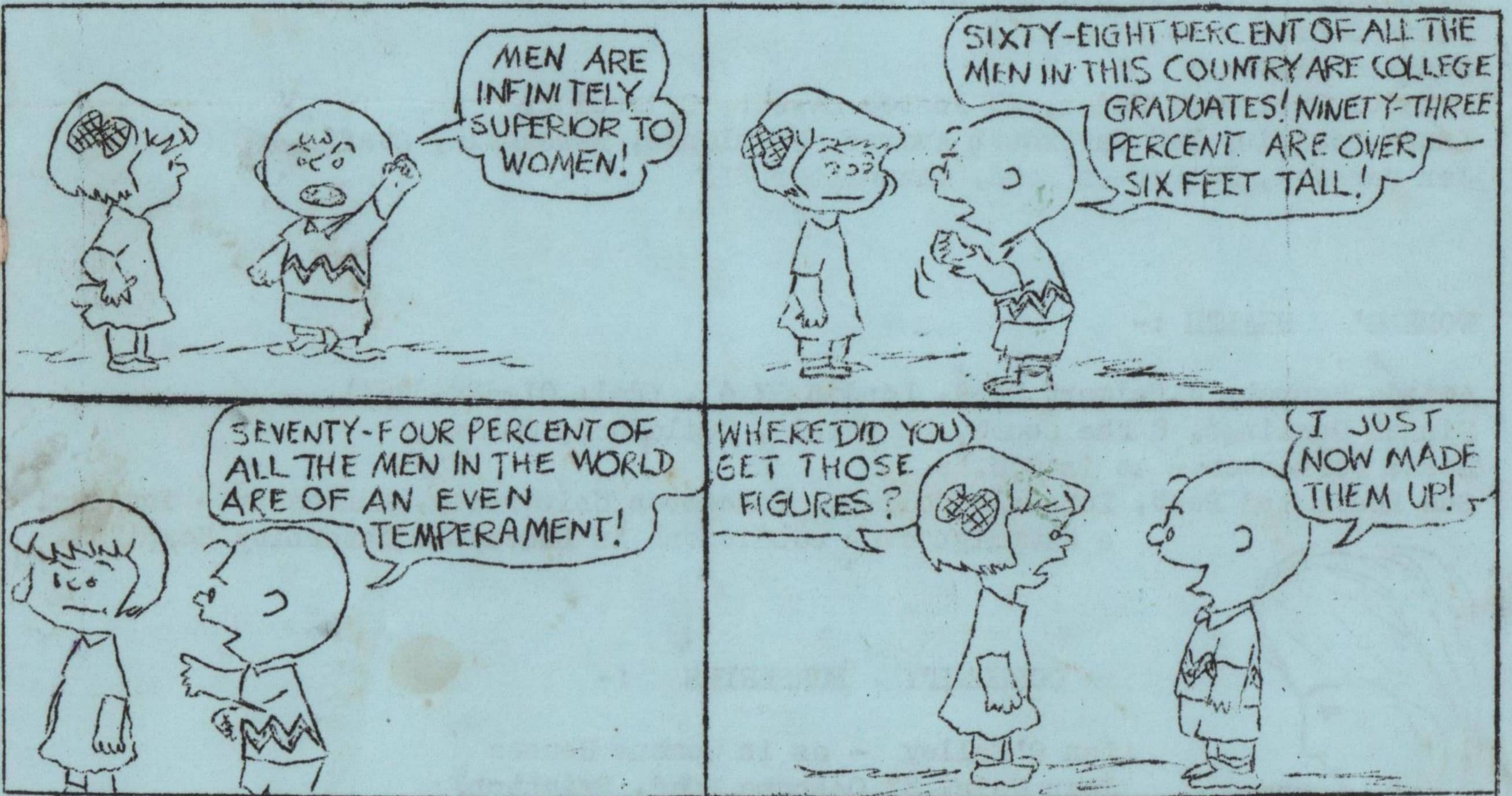


Libertarian Women's Network Newsheet.

Please thank
Lorens for the
newspaper cuttings,
love Ros.



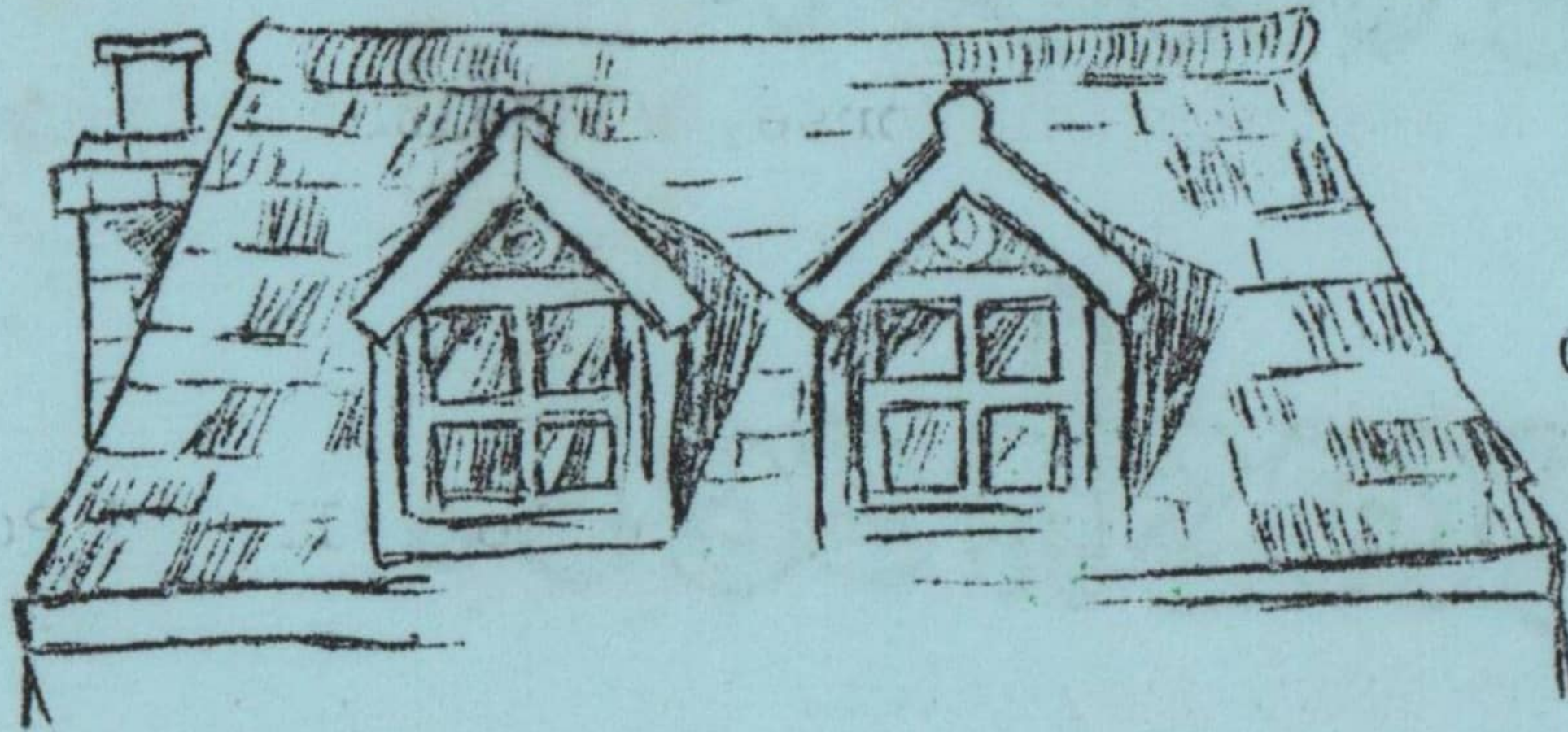
ADDRESSES

Additions and corrections are marked with a *.

CLAIMANTS UNIONS & UNSUPPORTED MOTHERS :-

Pauline and Kate, 25 Powie Square, (basement), London W.II. (C.U.)
Hazel Twort, 23 Brookstone Court, Peckham Rye, London S.E.15
Jo, Sally and Jenny, 8 St Mark's Rise, London E 8 (Un M & Squatting.)
Fiona Watson, 20 Fairfax Road, Colchester, Essex. (C.U.)
Hellan Dowden, 19 Farndon Road, Oxford. (C.U.)
Jadis Norman, 12 Belgrave Terrace, Camden Road, Bath. (C.U.)
Sue Cooper, 196 Floyer Road, Small Heath, Birmingham 10. (C.U.)
Pauline Gift, 66 Ivor Road, Sparbrook, Birmingham. (CU & Un M)
Tessa Forrester, 102 Newcastle Street, Silverdale, Nr Newcastle- u -Lyne, N.Staffs.
D. Warner, 308a Worrall Road, 7 Bannon Street, Sheffield 6. (UnM - not committed to Libertarian ideas)

WOMEN'S HOUSES &



CO-OPERATIVE HOLIDAYS :-

Suzette Sorrell, 39 Balderton Flats, Brown Hart Gardens, London W.I.* (OI-492-1804)
Hazel Twort - as in C.U.'s
Jan O'Malley, 100 Lancaster Road, London W.II. (also Tenants Associations)
Chiswick Womens Aid, 2 Belmont Terrace, London W.4.
N. London Claimants Unions, 577 Holloway Road, London N 16.
Jadis Norman - as in C.U.'s
Pauline Gift - " " "
Bristol Claimants Union, 39 Foster Street, Bristol 5.
Laura Goodwin, 143 Dartmouth Avenue, Westlands, Newcastle, Staffs.
Jan Marsden, 15 Totnes Road, Manchester 21.

WOMENS' HEALTH :-

Amanda Bennet, 3 Belmont Road, London SW 4. (Tel: OI-622-8961)
Dianah Rawlings, 8 The Court, Buryfield, Guildford, Surrey.
Tessa Forrester - as in C.U.'s
Sue Heath and Beat, Lonsdale College, Lancaster University, Lancaster - involved in a campaign over conditions in Lancaster Maternity Hospital.



COMMUNITY NURSERIES :-

Jan O'Malley - as in Womens Houses
Jean Weir, 27 Osborne Road, Brighton.

ABORTION & CONTRACEPTION :-

Amanda Bennett - as in Womens Health - runs a pregnancy advisory service. *(OI-622-8961) *
Margot Pearson, 77 Gibbon Road, Kingston, Surrey. Also alternative technology.
Pauline Gift - as in CU's.



STRUGGLE AGAINST WOMEN
AS SEX OBJECTS :-

Suzzette Sorrell, --as in Womens Houses.
Gillian Norris, 7 Guildford Park Road, Guildford,
Surrey.
Ros Nathan, 68 Chingford Road, Walthamstow,
London E.17
Marion McCartney, 21d Pearson Ave., Hull, Yorks.

LESBIANS who want to work in the Womens Movement :-

Tessa Forrester - as in C.U's.
Gillian Love-Taylor, 6 Worthington House, Myddelton Passage, London EC1R 1XQ.

FOOD CO-OPS :-

Cambden Movement for Peoples Power, Hole in the Wall, 47 Rochester Road,
London N W 1
Jean Weir, - as in Community Nurseries.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS :-

Di Humfries, 1 Wilne Street, Leicester.

WOMEN'S NEWSPAPER :-

Suzzette Sorrell - as in Womens Houses
Jane Solomon, Norwich House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton.
Jean Weir - as in Community Nurseries.
Tessa Forrester - as in C U's
Jan Marsden - as in Womens Houses
Ros Nathan - as in Women as S.O's
Marion McCartney - as in " " " "



WOMEN IN MENTAL HOSPITALS & PRISONS :-
(outpatients and women coming out of prisons)

Charlotte Burke, 4 St. Marks Mansions, Balderton St.,
London W.I. (mental hospitals)
Suzzette Sorrell, - as in Womens Houses (prisoners)
Pauline and Kate - as in CU's (prisoners)

N. London C.U. - as for Co-op holidays (prisoners)
Gillian Norris - as for women as sex objects (mental hospitals)
Jean Weir - as in Community Nurseries.(prisoners)
Marion McCartney - as in Women as sex objects.

LEGAL :-

Dianah Rawlings - as in Womens Health

CHILDRENS BOOKS

Lee Sanders, 71 St Amos Lane, Leeds 4

BANGLADESH WOMEN

Stephanie Gilbert -is planning a
benefit - G/o Suzzette Sorrell

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL

Pat Howe -148 Bushy Mill Lane, Watford-
also 'Fair Rents ' legislation.

UNSPECIFIED INVOLVEMENT :-

- Jemy Laney , 8 Nightingale Lane, S.Clapham, London S W I2
- Caroline Charlton , I Elm Rd, London S W I4
- Tamar Karet , 57a Burrard Rd, London N W 6
- Margaret Dudley, 26 Wodeland Ave, Guildford, Surrey
- Denise Kibble, I Frays Court, Victoria Rd, Uxbridge, Middx
- Christine Seneviratne, 6 Anleasea Rd, Wivenhoe, Nr Colchester, Essex
- Sarah Lutman, 8 Grove Terrace, Canterbury, Kent
- Janet Northey, I6 Adelaide St, Stonehouse, Plymouth
- Margaret Jones, II Norfolk Square, Brighton
- Marilyn Porter, 2I Cauynge Rd, Bristol BS8 3I2
- Ellen Malos, Garden Flat Basement, I Apsley Rd, Bristol 8
- E.M. Lee, The Firs, Teylais Rd, Aberystwith
- Lynda Green, Maldwyn, Caradoc Rd, Aberystwith
- Paulette McCulloch, 59 Guelph St, Liverpool 7
- * Cathy Maguire , 2I Ivanhoe Rd, Liverpool I7. *
- Joe Emseley, 3 Emily St, York
- Sally Bavage, Flat 3 , 35 Richmond Rd, Leeds 6
- J. Donagie, 26 Methuen Ave, Fulwood, Preston
- Ruth Gillman, I2 Erlington Ave, Old Trafford, Manchester 2I
- Judy Wheeler, IO Crescent Rd, Plaistow, London E I3
- Alison Garthwaite, 28 Richmond Rd, Oxford
- Liz Willis, St.Dunstan's Nursery, Friars Place Lane, London W 3
- * Hazel McGee, Hillcrest Farm, Hicks Mill, Bissoe, Nr Truro, Cornwall.
(Tel:Devoran 863043.)

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OTHER USEFUL ADDRESSES :-

- AGITPROP : 248 Bethnal Green Rd, London E 2 (OI-739 I704)
- RADICAL FEMINISTS : Jonquil, Doreen, Glenda, 56 Claremont Rd, London N 6.
(OI-348 33I6) - temporary address.
- CONTRACEPTION : 44 Elliot Rd, London W 4 (OI-9959 356)
- WOMENS INDUSTRIAL UNION : Pat Sturdy, 3I Hogarth Ave, Rosehill, Burnley.
(Tel: Burnley 3I783)
- ADDRESS LIST OF WHOLE WOMENS LIB : IO Evington Valley, Leicester.
50p for 4 copies . C/o Leicester W.Lib.Gp.
- SHREW : W.Lib Workshop, The Basement, 22 Great Windmill St., London W.I.
(OI-437 6I18)
- SPARE RIB : Marsha Rowe, 9 Newburgh St, London W.I. (OI-437 2070)

* * * * *

If you get the newsheet sent to you, but your address doesn't appear in the address list , could you let us know under what activity/interest topic you want to be included. (The more addresses are included, the less centralised the newsheet will be - people can get in touch with others on specific topics, without going through the newsheet ... faster, more efficient more useful .)

plug

plug

plug

" WOMEN,THE UNIONS & WORK " - the paper which is to be discussed at the next National Women's Lib conference - from Esther Runay,
46 Scarsdale Villas, London W 8.

It costs 5p each copy , plus postage of 5p for up to 5 copies; 10p for 6 to 10 copies; 12p for 11 to 15 copies; 20p for 16 to 20 ; and 25p for 21 to 30.

"INSIDE STORY" monthly, 25p .. this month's issue has an article on the Women's Industrial Union - it's pretty good - from 3 Belmont Rd,London SW 4 (£1.50 for 6 issues)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEWSLETTER - reviews of childrens books - from Lee Sanders, 71 St Anns Lane, Leeds 4, Yorks . Lee would be grateful for news of any non, or anti-sex role children's books,

"THE RIGHT TO WORK ? OR THE FIGHT TO LIVE !" - a paper which looks at the potential & long term meaning of the Claimants' movement. Proposes equal incomes for all ... from Frances McKenzie, 102 Newcastle St, Silverdale, Staffs ST5 6PL. ... at 10p a copy ,incl postage, up to 10 copies. 9p a copy over 10 copies.

GAI NEWS -Broadsheet of the National Campaign for a Guaranteed Adequate Income - from 18 Ashbrook Rd, N 19 or 01-272 0029 .

"IF YOU WANT PEACE PREPARE FOR WAR" - stoke newington 8 defence committee, new pamphlet, dealing with some of the criticisms that have been made of the Angry Brigade. It is well argued , and less up in the air than previous statements - takes on a critical analysis of the brigade themselves, and also explains some reasons for support. Has some good points to make, though I'm not in agreement with their conclusion of support - worth reading - from Box 359, 240 Camden High St, London NW1 - 5p. (Ros)

.....

Meetings and Actions



ecology leaflets were distributed on Sat 3rd, in London, by a Womens Lib group dressed as trees, with faces painted green - it was good fun, and well recieved by the women shoppers.

.....

NORTHERN REGIONS CONFERENCE REPORT - held in Leeds on Saturday May 27th.

The afternoon session was given over to discussion of Selma Jame's pamphlet, "Women, the Unions and Work -or what is not to be done". The meeting expressed its appreciation of the fact that she wrote the pamphlet in haste, and that it is not therefore a final statement of a thoroughly worked-out view : it is the first attempt to give an analysis of the position of women in this country, and as such is an important and necessary step. However the meeting felt generally that they could not accept her analysis as laid down in the pamphlet, since it is rather muddled; and

decided that we should attempt our own formulation, while not rejecting her thesis.

We began by discussing the general body of the pamphlet, and agreed with SJ's criticism of the unions at the present time : ie, that the union bureaucracy has been brought within the capitalist system, and that Women's Lib, by allowing itself to be co-opted into the unions, could lose its revolutionary impetus if it does not guard against this danger.

There was a division of opinion on the emphasis that one should give to working within the unions or with women outside the unions - the majority of women are not members of unions, even women workers. Should we, therefore, concentrate on the point of production (from which women, for the most part, are excluded), or should we rather work with women in other areas of their lives (rent strikes etc) ?

There was a feeling that the demands do not follow from SJ's analysis, and are often contradictory. The general feeling of the meeting was that they are not real demands, nor satisfactory expressions of our aims. Some sisters said that we do not really want to "demand" anything from anyone, since -a) the things we are fighting for are our right anyway, not concessions, and b) to demand from someone means that someone is in power and can control people's lives. Others said that we should demand things that we cannot get under capitalism, since this is a revolutionary action.

1) The demand for the right to work less.

There was a lot of discussion on this demand; it was felt to be vague: for example, there is the question of meaningful work and non-meaningful work. Some sisters said we should demand the right to work because the capitalist system at present cannot give work to everyone, and this would therefore be a revolutionary demand; others said that the right not to work was also a revolutionary demand.

There was a difference of opinion between the Marxists and the Libertarians as to whether we should concentrate a) on women at work -ie in factories etc b) in a more general way, through rent strikes etc, which would help to raise community consciousness.

The discussion then turned onto the question of Third World production: our system at present relies on over-production, which would not be possible when the Third World begins to use its own resources fully, thereby cutting off our supplies of raw materials etc. We could not decide on any specific working week (hrs) to demand, since we do not know how long our environmental resources will last.

2) Wages for housework, and a guaranteed income to everyone.

The discussion on this point was mainly about housework: does "wages for housework" not reinforce the idea that it is women who should do it? On the other hand, wages for housework would perhaps lead to greater independence, and thus more revolutionary consciousness among women. The opinion was expressed that money should instead be paid for child-rearing: the problem here being that the money is for the child, not for the adult, and this would be a difficult thing to ensure.

The first part of the demand gives a guaranteed income to men and women regardless of what they do, which makes wages for housework as a separate entity unnecessary: this in turn makes the rest of the demand unnecessary.

There was a feeling that we do not want to raise the status of housework to that of a full-time job: it should not be done by individual people for individual families, but should be done socially in a more communal life.

A discrepancy was felt here: everyone seemed to agree, but some were talking from the short-term, other from the long-term view.

3) The right to have or not to have children: end to sterilisation.

The question immediately arose: should people have the right to have as many children as they want? (In view of the over-population etc problems). The question was asked: Who would enforce this limit? The answers given to

these questions were as follows :

a) education would give the community a greater awareness of such problems, and a higher degree of individual consciousness of responsibility.

b) better lives for women (job opportunities; equal, and sufficient, pay; independence, etc) would mean that women would probably want less children anyway.

In view of the above considerations, no one would have to enforce such a limit anyway.

Steralisation -the meeting decided that SJ probably means enforced steralisation, such as many women have been threatened with on asking for abortions, but agreed that sterilisation should be available : most sisters agreed that this problem also encompasses those who want sterilisation before they had any children at all.

The point was raised that more money should be provided for research into better (long-term) contraception.

4) Equal pay for all

It was felt that this demand came into (2). In the context of the second demand, this demand is unnecessary if the word "equal" is added to the second demand.

5) An end to price rises

Examples were given as to how women could oppose rising prices:- Polish food strikes and riots ; Japanese women forming "consumer blocks" on goods; Glasgow rent strike.

Most sisters felt that it was more important to go to the root of the problem, ie. capitalism.

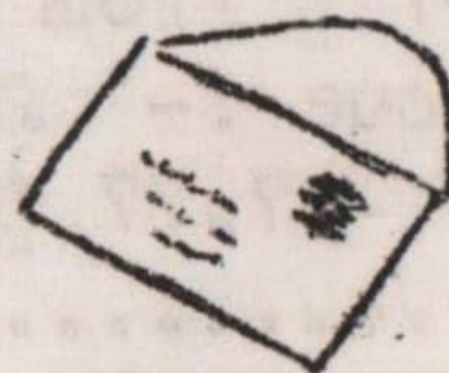
There was a general feeling that this demand was not really an intrinsic part of the immediate Women's Lib struggle.

6) Community controlled nurseries :

Several points arose out of this discussion: the various suggestions made were: a) start the nurseries up ourselves, and then demand money and equipment from councils etc etc., thus raising community consciousness. b) make demands on the state to provide nurseries and pay staff, but we control them thereafter - but no positive suggestions as to how we gain this control. c) screw every - thing we can out of the capitalist state: some sisters said that the danger in this could be that the authorities quite like it if community groups start things off, since this is cheaper from their (authorities) point of view. d) make demands, show people what the state and bureaucratic councils really are, by personal involvement of community.

Again a discrepancy was felt in that some were talking from short-term, others from long-term views.

Letters



Garden Flat,
1 Apsley Rd,
Bristol BS8 2SH

Dear Sisters,

perhaps the most interesting thing we've done recently is the Contraception Newsletter for young people. It has a comic strip cover, and information about how to get contraception in Bristol - especially if you aren't married. 2,000 leaflets have been distributed outside dance halls, and we are collecting money to get another 5,000 printed.

Ellen.

(Bristol group have also produced the "Women and Abortion" pamphlet, which contains the evidence presented to the Lane Commission. Price 10p + 5p postage, from Helen Seed, 37 Elliston Rd, Bristol BS6 6QQ.)

If anyone wants to advertise group meetings etc we could negotiate cheap classified rates (or free if desperate) . The first issue will be on sale June 21st ,

love,
Marsha Rowe

=====

PROBLEM PAGE

Carol is 22, she has a child of 4, another child she had was adopted, she lives with her mother who has 4 children of her own, one of whom is a Mongol, and they all live on Social Security. She has just had an abortion - she tried to go to Birmingham, but they were full, so she was sent to London. She paid £65 for the abortion, plus £10 for the fare to London, and about £8 in expenses going to and from Birmingham. She has borrowed her mother's total savings, but still owes Birmingham £35 - which she has to pay off in two weeks.

Please sent contributions to help to Carol,
C/o Lee Sanders, 71 St Anns Lane, Leeds 4, Yorks .

=====

WOMEN'S CENTRE IN CANTERBURY ? we are thinking of starting a women's centre in Canterbury, if we can find suitable premises , and we would be very interested to hear from any sisters who have been involved in similar projects - especially un-bullshitty descriptions of the problems involved. Any ideas, advice etc would be most welcome !

Our group is mainly students and working woken, so we don't have people who would be able to run the place once it got going. But we have made contact with an unsupported mother on S.S. who really gave us the idea and is interested in helping.

Sarah Lutman,
8 Grove Terrace, Canterbury, Kent.

=====

production no. 4

Income since No 3 :- £2.67 $\frac{1}{2}$ from Anne, Paulette, Liz, Lee, Sarah, Penny and Eileen.
Cost of producing this issue :- £4.51 $\frac{1}{2}$. Debit from past issues :- £5.93 $\frac{1}{2}$.
So we now have a debit of £7.77 $\frac{1}{2}$.

.....
: ARE YOU ONE OF THE FORTY PEOPLE WHO RECIEVE THIS :
: REGULARLY AND HAVE NOT SENT ANYTHING YET ? :
:.....

no. 5.....

this issue was produced single-handed by Ros . I fear it may become just an ego-trip on my part, if I continue to produce it on my own. It is not a healthy thing for it to become to be thought of as something that appears out of the blue, the production of an internal newsheet like this should surely be thought of as in control of its participants, and responsibility for it should be all of ours. If you think this valuable, why not say your group will produce an issue (or more) ?

Production of No 5 the weekend of the 8th July . Ros .



THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT



why worry ?

Why worry about the Festival of Light ? Is it a real threat to life as we hope it will be ?

Traditionally, fascism has only gained real popular support when Capitalism was in a financial & governing crisis (Germany, Italy etc). It would appear that Capitalism is interbationally in financial insecurity, (the dollar crisis, devaluations etc), and that more to the point, Britain possibly faces a long term period of 'lack of confidence by investors'. (*) But at the moment the right wing have confidence in government - the F.of L. is playing the "pressurise parliament" game - its supporters do not feel the parliamentary impotence that leads to the real danger of fascist power. So at the moment, the F of L, although it seems to be gathering a broad mass movement to itself, is not really an immediate threat.

It is possible, however, that if the financial crisis continues, and if a Labour government gets in, so that the right could not identify with the government in power, and with the social upsets and changes caused by going into the Common Market (more real poverty from higher cost of living)... let alone the insecurity felt from the growing militancy of workers ... then there could be a more dangerous threat from the Festival of Light.

its politics

The main speakers for the Festival (Muggeridge, Whitehouse, etc,) are openly political. The issues they have chosen to campaign on are cleverly non-political (overtly) eg 'abortion', 'public decency', etc. These issues are real worries to a large cross-section of people. The Festival of Light is thus a danger, for once having mobilised a movement in support of such issues, then those people will tend to be sympathetic to the organisation, to believe that the organisers are fighting the right things, and to accept and be mobilised on more political issues in the future. (eg. against 'greedy' trade unions ??)

"Revolutionaries understand the power of decadence to undermine and destroy the dignity and strength of man. ... With a combination of drugs and sex, aimed particularly at the young, they (the Yippies) intend to create political revolution."

Mary Whitehouse, from the leaflet 'Why a petition for decency'

"Nihilism and 'the Underground' offer no alternativeⁿ to the established order. The majority of the population seek a stable, not an irresponsible society. Drugs, anarchy and filth are no substitute for national pride, faith and hard work, which alone can promote a healthy society, and a prosperous community. There is a constant lobby



* You only have to walk into a bank, and read the Chairman's report to the shareholders, he says it in so many words : talks about the miners strike, and the threat of the railway strike to the economy, in long-term terms. You don't actually have to own shares to get one (!) - the report is usually on display when current.

to undermine Britain's allies, and succour Communist enemies. There is increasing evidence that the BBC and ITV are powerful instruments of this campaign."

letter in Spearhead-journal of the National Front - No 40.

.."Whatever the motivation behind the present flooding of Western society by porn, the fact remains that sex, which is God given, and which is the fount of man's greatest creativity, is becoming in-turned, and therefore destructive. Addiction to porn involves people in themselves. It can so occupy them as to change their attitudes to life. As their obsession grows, so they become less and less concerned with the great political and social questions of their day and consequentially more and more ripe for dictatorship."

Mary Whitehouse (ibid)

.."The fight for purity is basic not only to the character of the individual, but to the survival of nationhood and beyond that to civilisation as we know it."

M. Whitehouse again.

"...We would be foolish indeed not to realise that decadence within Western Culture plays straight into the hands of those who work towards the destruction of Parliamentary democracy"...

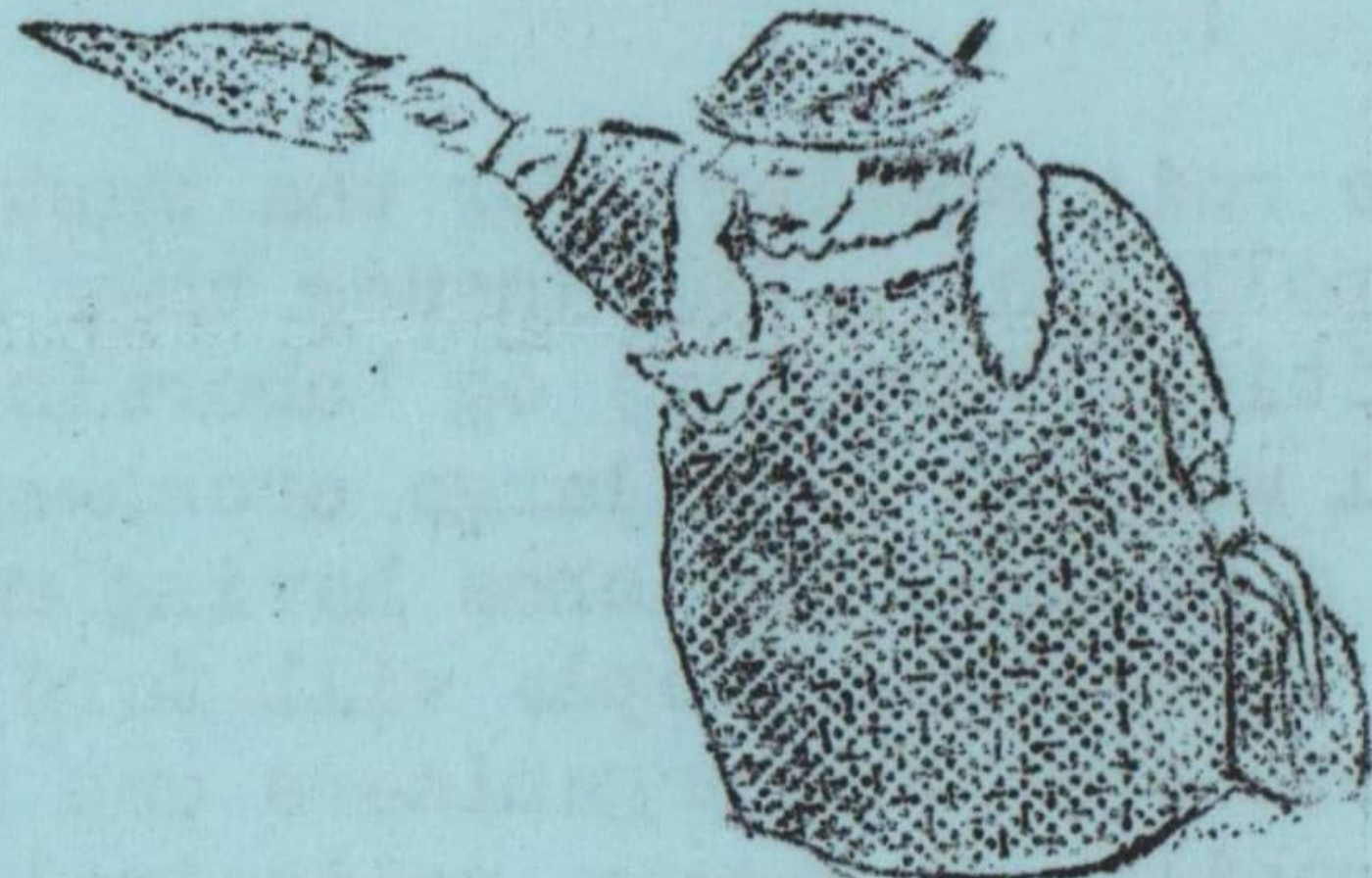
Mary Whitehouse, from the same leaflet.

"Sir: You deal with the foreign influence in British commerce but you make no mention of one of its most important symptoms - the pornography trade, especially the pornography under the guise of 'sex-education'. This cult grew up in Central Europe in the Twenties and Thirties, then was brought over here by immigrants whom we took in as refugees. More fool us!"

letter in Spearhead No. 27.

"Perhaps the most noticeable symptom of our national degeneracy is the 'permissive society'. The upsurge of drug addiction, legalisation of abortion and homosexuality, pornography and the commercialisation of sex are some of the symptoms."

from an article, centre page, Spearhead No. 27.



its support

The quotes following are from two women who were at the Anti-Abortion Rally in Liverpool; they give some impression of the size, and kind of support that the Festival of Light now has.

"..It was very, very discouraging - 40,000 demonstrators and only 80 or so of us. Like the 'Guardian' said, we were fragmented and fairly ineffective. We leafleted and tried to get through to the many, many young girls on the march, but in general they were well protected by parents, priests, nuns etc. The campaign they had mounted for weeks beforehand was very hysterical and emotional, it was really disgusting to give stuff like that out to children."

"..The Liverpool demo was great fun - but 40,000 people, or more even - looked a nightmare - took 3 hours for them to march thr' town, and we were only 200! Still, a very good experience - loads of solidarity and all that. Police were on our side(???), but speeches were so sickmaking it was unbelievable. Some were very depressed by seeing such a cross section of people on the march, but I enjoyed it (what can you do against 40,000 anyway?) as we made plenty of (noisy) impact on their silent march, if not their closed minds".

now — 'public decency'

Out shopping one morning, I noticed a number of people collecting signatures. I stopped and listened to gather what it was about. The young girl was asking people to sign "for public decency" : no more explanation : people were signing left, right and centre. I asked her what it was about and was shown the petition statement, which was not being shown to people signing. The thing read ,

- 1) that the present obscenity law be reformed in order to make it an effective instrument for the maintenance of public decency
- 2) that the obscenity law be ammended to cover broadcasting, at present exempt from such control
- 3) that special legislation be introduced to safeguard children from exposure to teaching material portraying behaviour which, when performed in public, would constitute an offence against public public decency. "

I was also given the leaflet from which the quotes from Mary Whitehouse were taken. On taking the thing up with the girl, I was horrified that she admitted she did not agree with all that the F of L want to do, she said she was a Roman Catholic, but didn't agree with the Pope's ruling on contraception. She did not seem concerned that the organisers might use the hundreds of signatures she was collecting, to validify the F of L as a whole - National Front wings and all.

I dashed back home, and dashed off a too hastily written leaflet (over the page). I spent the afternoon with the F of L people, giving out 500 leaflets by the end. Reactions were varied - some (few) refused to take my leaflet because they disagreed with the F of L , and thought I was with them ! Some apparently read my leaflet, and then signed - very depressing . A horrifying number of people said things like, "Oh, I signed this morning, I don't know what it was about though, I'll have a leaflet" - taking my leaflet thinking it was some explanation of what they had signed.

The thing that disturbed me most, amongst all the happy-making and depressing conversations and comments, was the talk I had with the mid-fifties man who seemed to be the organiser of the (6th former ?) young people. He said things about how much he agreed with Womens Lib, and even Gay Lib, how he works with drug addicts, and young people - but how he wants to stop the commercial exploitation of sex and violence, which is corrupting young people. This made me realise how much the F of L organisers could use really well-meaning , middle-class, concerned liberals.

The trouble was, that it appeared from my leaflet, that I felt this way too ! Both the man and myself were being 'liberal' about it - pornography doesn't create sick people - sick people create a market for pornography - the point is not to try and stop pornography (the symptom) but to change the cause of the attitude to sex, and other human beings which leads to pornography the capitalist society we live in.

I went home in depression, and then decided to think about it all more carefully - starting by trying to decided what I wanted to get out of it . My main priority had been to prevent people signing, with a second of putting over some alternative ideas, and positive suggestions. I think I should have tried to discredit them, noting the fact that members of the National Front have stewarded their arllies - and perhaps juxtapositioning quotes as I have here. I think also I should have been much more on the attack -rather than on the defensive. I should have refused to accept their defenitions, and their terms, cut through their abstracts to the real problems they were using

- talked about large families living in poverty, and the knowledge of contraception being kept from them -against abstracts like "the sanctity of the family",

- women being condemned to go through the emotional stress of having an unwanted child, and having to give it away, maybe to live in a home - rather than educate about sex and contraception, and make abortion legal, they talk about "preventing changes in the concept of marriage ... and womanhood".
- legislation to stop pornography, created the biggest numbers of prostitutes in Victorian days, and to stop drinking in America, the prohibition laws created more misery and alcoholism than existed prior to its introduction,
- that the commercialisation of sex and violence is natural to this system since it works by capitalists making profits from whatever they can - the priority of whatever is done is solely the amount of profit it will make - this is the basis of the morality of capitalism. The attitude this creates to other people and about sex, which can lead to a market for pornography is a result of this, and will only be changed when the society is no longer based on capitalism.
- that the greatest immorality is of people being forced to live in poverty, to save the profits of the companies in Britain, so that their chairmen can receive over £30,000 a year. (*)

conclusion

The lesson I have learnt is that rather than reacting on the defensive, and dashing off the first thing, women's lib could use the Festival of Light campaigns to open ground up for us to work in - if the group feels that it would be important and useful, and if it is not involved in more constructive long-term work (which may not create such an immediate showing, but cuts through the abstracts to those real problems that the Festival of Light is rallying around, by taking away the reasons for its support - eg the nursery campaign, giving contraception and abortion advice etc.)

Could other sisters with experience of the F of L, or who violently disagree with what I've written, please write .

Ros Nathan

 Enclosed is also a leaflet done by Hull W.Lib., for the Anti-Abortion rally in Hull. They have 500 left, and will send them to anyone who will pay the postage - from Kate C/o Marion McCartney, 21d Pearson Ave, Hull.

 "TIME OUT", issue 120, has a factual article "Abortion: Answering the Anti-Lobby" - well worth sending for if you are writing a leaflet - 10p from 374 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BB.

Footnote

* eg "Sir John Clark ... will have received £98,601 from his 1,972,031 shares in Plessey, on top of the £45,000 he was paid as a director - together making an income of £2,761 a week from the company." (in 1971)

"In addition of course all directors benefit from innumerable perks such as 'expense account' meals, apartments in town, business trips, school fees for their children, chauffeur-driven limousines, non-contributory 'top-hat' pension schemes, etc etc "

These quotes are from 'Labour Research', Vol 61, June 1972. 15p from 78, Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8HF (01-928 3649) - monthly, annual sub £2.10.

What IS 'public decency'?

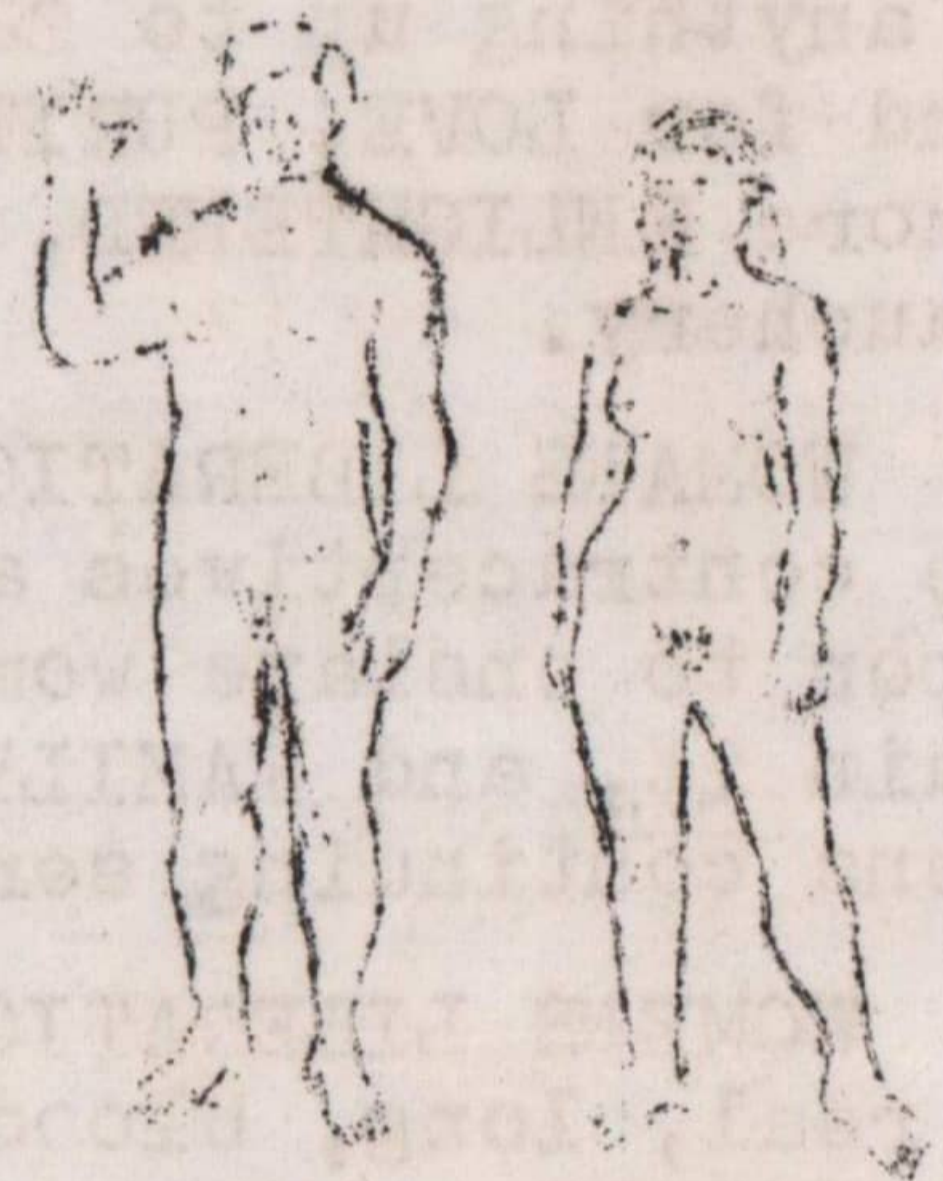
What IS obscenity ?

When you sign your name to the Festival of Light petition, you are not told exactly what it is the organisers want to stop.

Did you know that rape is legal within marriage ? This is something that the Festival of Light campaigners are not trying to stop. They campaign to prevent any changes in "the concept of marriage, of family, of childhood and womanhood". They would rather see a child born, a mother torn in half, the child taken away and possibly brought up in a home, than educate about contraception, and make abortion legal.

pornography

the perverted portrayal of sex is degrading. It cannot be stopped by passing laws, only covered up. While advertisers encourage men to see women as 'sex objects', and while women are taught to see themselves solely as 'sexy', submissive and brainless, pornography will continue.



DON'T SIGN

without thinking !

Ros Nathan,
for Womens Liberation,
68 Chingford Road,
Walthamstow.

This is the leaflet produced by Hull W.Lib. - their's is typed with a nicer-looking type face, and has a cartoon about Adam & Eve on the back.

.....
ENLIGHTENMENT

The modern abuse of the word 'permissive' seems to undermine one of the foundations of a free society, THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO SAY OR DO AS THEY LIKE WITH REGARD TO MATTERS OF PERSONAL BEHAVIOUR.

For many, however, permissiveness is only an after-hours, weekend possibility. We live in an essentially UNPERMISSIVE world. Work, in most peoples experience, is rigidly disciplined, unfulfilling and claustrophobic. Choice is the restricted experience of a few. Permission, however you may shake it, satisfies only the powerful (who don't need it) and the timid (who ask little else from life).

If you're unlucky enough to be some kind of fanatical, female maniac caught in this unpermissive syndrome, who wants to put career interests before 'the purity of family life', then permission will almost certainly be withheld. For "unto the women he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception: in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children and thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee".

Out of the 880,000 births in one year, 150,000 are unwanted or unplanned. Free contraceptives for all would allow a couple to produce a child only when they wanted one, and short of a second virgin birth, would save the unhappiness of many unwanted and illegitimate children. 130,000 women a year, dependent upon prejudice and financial exploitation, are forced to pay anything up to £200 for each abortion. THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT in its stand for LOVE, PURITY and FAMILY LIFE upholds both these restrictions. To be more ENLIGHTENED, they claim, would be to encourage permissiveness and debauchery.

WOMANS LIBERATION demands control over her own body and her own destiny, free contraceptives and free abortion on demand. LOVE has been used as a weapon to enslave women, PURITY to humiliate and degrade those who do not attain it, and FAMILY LIFE is the fundamental root and branch reason for womens continuing servitude and institutionalised inequality.

WOMENS LIBERATION is a part of the permissive movement and a stage in the real, long, bloody struggle for freedom. Every piece of liberty we now have has been won in the struggle between the people and an unholy alliance of Church and State. Even the right to be cremated had to be fought for in CI9..But it is not enough to have a say in the handling of your dead body, if you have no control of it in life.

WE CONDEMN THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT WHICH DENIES THIS CONTROL AND CONSPIRES TO REFASHION THE TOLERANCE OF REPRESSION.

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This leaflet seems to me to be good in that it puts a lot of facts across, and is hard-hitting . Perhaps it is a little long to be read easily by shoppers, women-in-the-street etc - although of course it is better spaced in the original. I felt the heavy sarcasm in paragraph 3 didn't quite come off, as it was unclear .



EVE DEAR
THERE ISN'T
A PUBLIC OPINION
TO WORRY
ABOUT!

part of the cartoon
from the back ...