WHITE WOMEN AND RACISM

The Bradford Women's Centre has had a bad reputation within the Black community for making black women unwelcome. As part of a social work course, a black woman was doing her placement at the centre. She set up a Black Women's group. This group looked at ways of involving more black women - and decided that the centre needed a black worker. SO

The centre employed an Afro-Caribbean woman, and decided that they needed an Asian woman. A job description was drawn up saying an "Asian language was essential". This job description then went to the selection group of white women who sat on it. The black woman's placement ended, and the Black Women's group ended too. THEN

The job description changed to "Asian language preferable". Fifty % of the applicants were black - but the job went to a white woman (with a degree too), who was known for her work with a woman on another project. So...

Black women sent letters to the centre, demanding both apologies and positive constructive action. These demands were repeated at collective meetings. The response was last minute and inadequate. The white women explained why decisions were made - it was just excuses and no more. Also, Suzanne felt a lot of hostility from white women in the centre.

Black applicants went to Black Women's groups to complain, and white women complained about the 'old girls network'. This led to an interview in "Irregular Periods" (the Bradford Women's Centre newsletter) in which racist comments were made such as: "Asian women tend to be anti-lesbian".

Black applicants felt that they wanted someone familiar with the centre, and that they "wanted someone familiar with it". I.e. ignoring WHY black women were NOT familiar with it, and "we haven't lost, we've won".

White women failed to take the centre back. The other group supports their initiative in dealing with racism - but are not taking their lead. It is up to white women to sort out the white women's own sot for black women. - and not leave it to black women.

AND SO...

In response to white women refusing to take black women seriously, and their patronising attitudes, and as it was failing to be a centre for ALL women, BLACK WOMEN OCCUPIED THE CENTRE.

The centre is now closed till the A.G.M. (Annual General Meeting)....

CULTURE SHOCK

AN AFTERWORD ON THE COUNCIL

Bradford Council:
- did not offer help with the Emergency General Meeting.
- kept interrupting the meeting with formalities and legalities.
- the council froze funds when black women occupied the centre - i.e. racism of wanting black women to be 'legal and correct in procedure when they didn't bother when white women were not.
- at the E.G.M. the secretary and director both publicly resigned - but are still telling workers what to do.
- and RUMOUR HAS IT THE COUNCIL ARE STILL WORKING WITH WOMEN WHO RESIGNED - the council refuses to recognise the Black Women's collective.
In November 1982, Maureen O'Neill, on her way to a remand hearing from Armagh gaol, was told to take all her clothes off in front of a group of prison warders. She refused - there had never been strip-searching in Armagh before - and her clothes were forcibly pulled off by the warders. She was then punished by withdrawal of privileges.

Four years on, the policy of strip-searching women prisoners in the north of Ireland continues. It is used as a weapon to degrade and humiliate women, any pretensions of it being necessary for security reasons are a load of nonsense.

One of the most disturbing recent individual experiences reported was that of a woman who miscarried her baby as a direct result of the stress produced by the traumatic effects of this policy. The woman was arrested by the RUC for non-payment of a motoring fine. With the knowledge that she was 13 weeks pregnant, the RUC took her to Huggaberry prison. She was then strip-searched. The following day, her fine was paid by a relative. Within this short period, she was searched twice and strip-searched on her release. A day later she miscarried.

Other women have continued to be strip-searched whilst: having an epileptic fit; menstruating; and one was blindfolded whilst her clothes were taken off and the search carried out.

17th 1986, when Amanda Collins was arrested outside the Embassy, she was physically assaulted on her way back, and a policeman lowered himself onto her body. When she struggled, he sat on her and bounced up and down on the small of her back. She was sexually harassed and groped in the van, and called a "dirty lesbian", "a dirty slag" and "a nigger lover". Once inside Cannon Row police station she was physically assaulted and groped by male police officers.

These incidents indicate to us how the state and its protectors deal with any woman who does not conform to the passive role that is forced upon us. Any woman who is seen to be political in the remotest sense is seen as threatening and abnormal. She must be controlled and disempowered. The police force prisons, media, etc. see the best way to degrade, demoralise and "break us" via our bodies. Hence the role of strip searches, introduced in the North of Ireland in 1982, and the sexual harassment of female arrestees all over the world.

Meanwhile, on Oct 6th 1986, Simone Dewhurst was arrested on the non-stop picket outside the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square. She was taken to Cannon Row police station where she was forcibly stripped, told that a police officer would like to "fuck her", told that she was a "dirty lesbian", and left standing naked in the view of a group of laughing male police officers. On Sept

Stop Strip Searches, a public meeting, will be held on Thurs. 21st May, at Leeds Trades Club, 7.30.

On Sat 13th June, there's a national demo against strip searching in Durham. It will pass Durham Prison, where Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer are still being strip searched. The march (like the meeting) is mixed, but has been organised by women and is to be women-led.

Coach (costing £4/£2) will leave the university: Parkinson steps at 10.30, the Trades Club at 10.40, and the Corn Exchange at 10.45.

There are a number of campaigns against strip-searches, for more information write to: Sheffield Women and Ireland Group, P O Box 104, Sheffield 1.

Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson both received life sentences. Postcards and letters of support would make a great deal to them: Ella O'Dwyer PO Box D25133, Martina Anderson PO Box D25134, Durham Prison, Eld Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

Stop Strip Searches, a public meeting, will be held on Thurs. 21st May, at Leeds Trades Club, 7.30.

There's a speaker from the Sheffield Women & Ireland group, Ann Nelligan, and a video - "If you didn't laugh you'd cry...".

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1. **Buy wool...any sort or colour...be daring...and a set of 4 sock needles** (size depends on wool)

   Cast on 20 stitches, knit a few rows, to check how big it will be...so now work out how many stitches you want for the whole sock...

2. Suppose you decide on 60 stitches.

   Cast on 20 on the first needle, then keeping the wool tight, 20 on the next 2, which leaves one free--use it to start off knitting and keep going round and round. Socks are spirals—said it was cosmic.

   Do several inches of ribbing—knit one pearl one, or knit 2, pearl 2.

   After the ribbing is done, keep going until you have done several inches of plain (stocking) stitch until you want to start the heel (no need to do pearl cos you are always on outside/front of sock.)

   Make it as long or short as you want, and stripes are easy to knit.

3. **THE HEEL**

   Divide stitches into two and keep one lot held on a pin or pins. Then knit the other half...about 24 rows—the longer this bit is, the bigger the foot will be.

4. **SHAPING THE HEEL**

   Knit to middle e.g. to no. 16 if there are 32. Now go along 4 more to 20. Now go back 8—leaving the remaining 12 on the pin. Then turn around and go back, leaving 12 on the other pin too.

   So now you have a middle section one row higher than the rest.

   If not why not?

   Now start picking up the rest—2 each row—knit the last one of the higher bit with the first one of the lower bit (decrease in other words) and pick up the 2nd stitch of the lower bit.

   Keep going till you have picked them all up (there might be an odd one left on each side—never mind) IT IS EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS!!!

5. **THE VERY HARD BIT OF THE HEEL**

   Go round and decrease every 6 * stitches, then knit 6 rows without decreasing. Decrease every 3, knit 5 rows and so on

   If all goes well you—end up with 3 rows left, none at all a crochet hook is useful for the last few.

6. **5, YOU NOW HAVE TO JOIN THE TOP BIT (HELD OVER ON PINS) WITH THE BOTTOM BIT OF THE HEEL. THIS IS DONE BY PICKING UP STITCHES OUT OF THE TWO EDGES THAT FORM THE TWO SIDES OF THE HEEL, SO THAT THE CIRCLE IS REJOINED AND YOU CAN CARRY ON GOING ROUND.**

   The number you pick up depends on how many rows you did e.g. 24 rows so pick up 12, one every 2nd row.

7. **THE TOE**

   Go round and decrease every 6 * stitches, then knit 6 rows without decreasing. Decrease every 3, knit 5 rows and so on...

   If all goes well you end up with none at all a crochet hook is useful for the last few.

   * If the no. of stitches you started with can't be divided by 6 you will have a few left over. It doesn't matter—as you start decreasing more often, they can be included.

8. **NOW GO AWAY AND DO THE OTHER ONE**
This month we learned that women with mental handicaps have even less control over their bodies than the rest of us. The Law Lords set a precedent and gave permission to Sunderland Borough Council for the sterilisation of "Jeanette", a mentally-handicapped girl of 17, without her having to give any sort of consent.

People with mental handicaps have no chance to make decisions which affect their lives., and this Law Lords decision is a backward step in the slow process to give these people choices. And who's to tell whether it will be applied to others, less severely handicapped women, or those suffering mental illness?

Living in an institution where you have no say in what you wear or eat, let alone whether you can have a sexual relationship or children, has left 

¥,000's of mentally handicapped people without the ability to decide anything for themselves. At last the need for community care, rather than institutions, is being recognised, but it's not uncommon for mentally handicapped women to be given the pill without them realising it, or to have their babies taken from them, because they aren't seen to be fit mothers.

Issues relating to people with mental handicaps must not be dismissed as being in no way applicable to able-minded people. It's this sort of attitude that allows Burke's Peerage to pronounce members of the royal family dead, because they are mentally handicapped and therefore an embarrassment.
1986 marked the 50th anniversary of the people's revolution in Spain. As we all know, when historical events are recorded, the role that women played is often neglected or ignored. It is for this reason that I now attempt to write an article on the role of women in the Spanish revolution.

In the early 1920's in Spain, there was a movement for women's rights, but it had a reformist and careerist orientation, based on the women in the professions. For anarchist women, reformism was out, and their focus was on social revolution.

In the 1930's, Europe was experiencing one of its worst slumps. In Spain by 1936, unemployment was over 30% in many of the towns and cities. There had been little industrial development and 70% of the people still lived on the land, thus starvation was normal between the harvests. The Spanish republic was born in 1931. The workers and peasants, having gone through years of dictatorship, believed that maybe there would be modernisation and their living standards would begin to improve. It was not to be so. The republican/social democratic coalition which came to power in 1931 did little to improve living conditions for the workers. Unemployment remained high and the working class organisations especially the CNT-AIT (an anarcho-syndicalist trade union, formed in 1911), suffered repression, with many of the members being imprisoned. In 1911 the coalition fell, and a right-wing coalition came to power. This coalition of the wealthy and powerful now had state power, and were determined to use it to smash working class and peasant resistance.

The CNT-AIT organised as best it could against the govt. A rising took place in Catalonia in December, shortly after the change in government. It was crushed in 10 days. Other revolts took place but were invariably crushed. In February 1936 there was another election, which was won by the Popular Front, a coalition of republicans, social democrats and Stalinists of the Communist party. The voters voted for change, and between the election in February and the fascist revolt in July, there were 113 general strikes, 228 partial general strikes, 145 bomb explosions, 268 deaths, 1287 wounded, 215 assaults and 160 churches burned.

The government became desperate and decided that parliament—any democracy was to be abandoned and the workers organisation smashed. Meanwhile, a fascist coup was being organised for July 17th. The initial step was taken when Franco seized Morocco and issued a "radical manifesto"—his aim to turn Spain into a fascist dictatorship. The cabinet resigned on July 18th and Barrios, a right-wing republican, was made Prime Minister. The activities of July 18th and the threat of return to a fascist dictatorship, resulted in a massive, spontaneous response from the people of Spain. Events overtook the political parties and leaders, and women played a full part—they formed the backbone of resistance, present everywhere, on committees, in the militias, on the front-line and women fought alongside men as a matter of course.

The fascists made headway in some parts of the country, but in 100's of areas, collectives were established. This marked a massive change in the people's way of living, as land was divided equally, regular meetings held and public works built by the people, e.g. schools. However, attitudes to others, including the status and role of women, were still in need of adjustment.

Throughout the country the initiative was being taken by workers and peasants, thus stopping the fascists in their tracks over three quarters of Spain, and with all its limitations, the Spanish revolution in its 1st phase brought new possibilities for women, and an element of personal liberation for some. One group which attempted to get a libertarian perspective on the situation was "Mujeres Libres" (Free Women). By the end of Sept. 1936, it had 7 labour sections—transport, public services, nursing, clothing, mobile brigades for non-specialists, and brigades able to replace men in the war. The federation grew, organising for women to make the maximum contribution to whatever practical work had to be done. Its members saw themselves as having an important educational function too, working to emancipate women from traditional passivity, ignorance and exploitation that enslaved them.
In November 1936, the fascists tried to claim Madrid. Again, the people made their stand and again women played a massive part. A women’s battalion fought before Segovia Bridge. Inside the city, women organized mass demonstrations, devised propaganda and slogans, including the famous "No Paseran" (they shall not pass), and built barricades. Committees were set up, based on districts, houses and blocks, for the provision of food, ammunition and communication. Women contributed actively to the defence, including anti-aircraft observation and surveillance of fifth column suspects.

As the revolution progressed, attitudes towards the militia women changed. In the early days, many women had gone to the front as soon as they could, and no-one saw anything comic in a woman holding a gun, but militia men later had to be kept out of the way when women were drilling, because they tended to laugh at them and put them off.

Other drastic changes occurred, including the informal leadership decision of the CNT- AIT to enter the government, thus participating in the legalising, take-over and eventual suppression of the revolutionary gains, and paved the way for the Communist Party.

Some reforms were achieved which would be beneficial to women. Abortion was legalised, under controlled conditions; there was the setting up of refuges open to all women, including prostitutes. The government also took some steps in regulating marriage customs, and in April 1937, "marriage by usage" was instituted, whereby cohabitation by 10 months, or less if pregnancy occurred, was considered as marriage. This decision was later reversed due to the ensuing prevalence of bigamy.

Women became the reserve army, coming to the fore only to make up lacks in manpower; and they were forced to queue for hours for food. Conflicts arose within the anti-fascist camp, with the communist party tightening its hold on the republican forces, aided by Russian military and political intervention. Consequently the revolution failed as militias were militarised and collectives suppressed. However, it was no republican victory either, as the fascists gained control.

This meant the abolition of divorce, abortion and birth control, the banning of bare legs, and the educating of young girls to the traditional, submissive roles based on the family and home. Women have continued to resist such measures. When the republic was defeated, many joined the stream of refugees opting for exile, and of those who were forced to return to Spain, many committed suicide. Many others were executed under Franco's orders.

In times of intensified social change, especially war and revolution, women are generally seen to be fulfilling new roles, acquiring a new view of themselves, and forcing changes in society's view of them. This can be taken as an index of the extent to which women are restricted and suppressed in normal times, and the consequent waste of potential.

Even after such revolutions, the demonstration of what women can achieve is effectively forgotten. This history of women has to be rescued, not only from obscurity, but from contrasting stands of attention it receives from time to time: the patronising line about women doing a good job being 100% behind the men; and the counter tendency, which occasionally comes over in women's liberation writings, to regard everything done by women as good and beautiful — we must remember that women played a part in the fascist side too.

What is striking is that "there is no reason to believe that the condition of Spanish women would have been fundamentally changed if the anarchists had won the war" (Temma Kaplan). So we see that libertarians were aware of how capitalist society exploited women but "they did not develop a programme to prevent similar exploitation in a revolutionary society". The liberation of women had not been thought of in theoretical or practical terms.

The same can be said of today. We have an anarchist movement, which as yet has not analyzed the exploitation of women, not only on economic grounds, but on patriarchal grounds too. It seems that anarchists place all of their emphasis on attacking capitalism and the state, believing that once they are gone, sexism, racism, ageism, etc. will disappear. This is not so! As can be seen by the experience of the Spanish civil war, social revolution must be given the same priority as economic revolution, if we are really to achieve anything.

Sources: Liz Willis — "Women in the Spanish Revolution".
Eddie Conlon — "The Spanish Civil War — Anarchism in Action".

Molly Toff.
By good weekend, unfortunately only 3 Leeds in the van we hired (maybe we should've had a cominication network between women in all the groups) Saturday women were arriving from all across the country, altogether about 150.

Together to discuss what we wanted to do next, the general idea. Suggested were: syndicalism, prisons, mixed group, women's self-defence, circus, voice, lesbians and anarchism, sex and health, etc. I was a bit disheartened as it had been advertised as a festival and the old workshops seemed to be coming in again. Workshops over the weekend so I'll write about those.

3- SQUATTING

Basically women who had squatted, giving advice on how to squat. I'd have liked to have talked more about the practical side of squatting, how to overcome these as women, and also to have talked about women's squats, as there aren't many. But it was good to meet other women who were squatting.

4- CIRCUS

This was really good - learnt different rolls, balances, juggling and unicycling!

We talked about getting an anarcha-feminist network together and a newsletter, so we could keep in touch with each other and with what was going on (but I haven't heard anything as yet!)

On Saturday evening was a cabaret with loads of women there. A few women did turns - singing etc., then women started getting up from the audience, singing, reciting poems that they'd written - brilliant! Then a disco finished off an ace evening.

One bad point that upset some women was over the lesbians and anarchism workshop. After it was over, a woman complained that some straight and bisexual women had gone as they were interested and it hadn't been made clear that it was lesbians only. Some women wanted another workshop so this was arranged. I don't know exactly what happened as I didn't go but this second workshop produced some good talk and I hope it was useful.

Apart from that (and the fact that again just about all the women there were white - something to think about), it was a good weekend, with a mix of things to do and lots of women. Looking forward to a women's camp in Sheffield in the summer. Look out for details......
Potato chips at Nato's

By Mark

Our congratulations to the resisters (still) at Greenham for blocking the exhaust pipe of the CRUISE CONVOY control vehicle with a potato. This simple, inexpensive and totally effective method of disabling any vehicle brought the convoy to a halt two miles outside of the base on the 6th of May. The Independent (They're Not. We Are.) carried the story on the front page two days later, and took the opportunity to take the piss out of the MOD (why not?) whilst at the same time trying to play down the fact that effective sabotage is within the reach of pockets, of activists everywhere. Let's see more of the same to stop scab lorries at picket lines, and preventing the kidnap of activists at demos!

IMAGINATIVE DIRECT ACTION—YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE.

Nuclear capability

Into Greenham and sprayed paint on the convoy before it left the base.

But a spokesman said he had no knowledge of the offending spud. "It was mechanical failure. It was nothing to do with the protesters," he added.

The launch control vehicles carry computers, satellite communications equipment and the consoles needed to fire the nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. The trailer is operated by two officers, both of whom must "press the button" to launch the cruise missiles.

Last November, a 100-strong group of protesters disabled a convoy by cutting the brake lines of missile vehicles.

Convoy are protected by over 40 from the RAF regiment and US Air security police.

Security experts have expressed about protection of the Wednesday's protest may suggest convoy would be vulnerable to a armed with no more than a pound Edwards.

However, in war anybody who the missile launchers could be the "deadly force". But, as the comm Greenham put it after last November incident, would be a "different ball

VOTE DON'T VOTE DON'T VOTE DON'T VOTE DON'T

June 11 is the big day — when the boys with the power (Mrs T) pretend that we all get our say in how we are ruled by them.

Parliamentary democracy — the system designed to maintain the status quo — the system in which EVERYONE who does not have power is a MINORITY. So.... come June, out we go to say "yes, please carry on having power over us.

BUT... what about the Labour Party?? They have a wonderful record — Lesbian rights? Black sections? Will they do any of what they promise? — except to increase the community

BUT.... what about the suffragettes?? Do we owe it to them to vote?? — I think the best way to follow on in their tradition is to go out and fight like they did for what we want. Take responsibility ourselves and ACT....
SAVE LEEDS MARKET!

What do you enjoy about Leeds city centre? The only part I have a lot of feeling for is the market. A hustle and bustle of all kinds of people buying and selling all kinds of things. An open atmosphere, crowded with colours and shapes and faces.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FREDA'S FRUIT &amp; VEG</th>
<th>MOIRA'S MATERIAL MART</th>
<th>TREV'S TELLY'S</th>
<th>AARON'S HARDWARE</th>
<th>CORA'S CAFE</th>
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Multinational companies reduce city centre to a series of money-making symbols. There's a Woolworth in every town. There's a Coca-cola sign in Harrods.

A market is something else. It's a place of small and local business. It has a particular character to it - made up of the hundreds of characters of the traders and shoppers.

Leeds market is an easy-going place. People with some time to spare, unemployed, down and out, people who went to sit in a place sunny with other people and have a chat and a cheap cup of tea, come to Leeds market. It's the cheapest place to buy fruit and veg. And a lot of other things besides.

People come from all over to Leeds market. One woman from Bingley told me that it's the highlight of their Christmas shopping trip to Leeds.

The market is an essential part of city life in Leeds - and a tourist attraction for people living outside the city.

So what do Leeds Labour council think of this hub of Leeds life? Well - they've arranged for a Dutch company to bulldoze the lot (apart from the very front bit, which is a listed building). Get rid of a few old roads with a few store or little shops and put in the bus station, and erect a mammoth four-storey complex in its place.

This plan, called the Kirkgate Centre, will be a massive multi-storey carpark, with cinemas and a bus terminus, maybe a few market stalls on the second or third floor, and space to be let to department stores. It's supposed to bring Leeds into the twenty-first century. Like the St John's Centre brought us into the twentieth century - the century when new buildings stand empty for years.

What will happen to the market traders during and after the construction of the Kirkgate Centre? One market trader explained that the council have been very vague about it all, but as far as he can gather those who manage to stay in business will have to move three times.

The first move will be to a temporary site under marquees on Queen's Hill. Many of the present traders went into temporary marquees last week, when the back part of the market burned down. They lost a lot of work, though people being unable to find them and through the hassle of having to take the whole shop home every night and bring it back in the morning. Many of the indoor stalls are not suited to the way of life of an outdoor market stall. They have permanent fixtures which have taken a long time to set up. One man selling TVs has taken a year to get all the serials working so he can display his goods properly.
The second move will be to a site of 291 stalls (outdoors) on what
is now the carpark by the police station. Who will get there???
There are many many more than 291 stalls on the market at the
moment.

The third move will be to some stalls inside the new complex, on an
upstairs floor. Who will be able to afford rent and rates in there???

And what happens to the shops around the outside of the market?
Most of them will have to stop trading, as there will be no place for
them to go. And the Market Tavern will be knocked down. Hundreds
of people will go out of business.

Nobody is saying there isn’t room for improvement in the market. Since
the old wooden part burned down, most of the indoor stalls have been
housed in a corrugated iron shed. So Leeds City Council have been open to
proposals on how to improve the market. Not at all! The council
agreed the plans with a Dutch company and then told the traders
that this is what was going to happen.

The market traders recently took the council to court over whether
or not they’d been properly consulted over plans for the market.
The court case cost £40,000 and the market traders lost. The judge
said that he was sympathetic, but he couldn’t find anything
illegal in the way the council is carrying on.

M.A.B. were given three months to come up with the money to
build the Kirkgate Centre after the plans were approved by the council.
They failed to raise the money and were given another three months.
Then another three months. They still haven’t come up with the money.

Isn’t it time for a council re-think? Isn’t it time the council
consulted the market traders and the people of Leeds, and asked us what
we want to do with our market?

The market traders don’t want the Kirkgate Centre. Most
market users don’t want the Kirkgate Centre. The only ones who want
it are a Dutch company who can make a lot of money out of it,
and an egotistical council seeking prestige and a higher rateable
value for city centre land.

Who does Leeds city centre belong to anyway? A Dutch
company and a bunch of councillors muttering about bringing Leeds
into the twenty-first century? Or the people of Leeds???

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SUPPORT THE MARKET TRADERS! Write & complain to the council, sign the petition
in the market. Write & complain to the M.A.B. nearest office (MAB Building Design
partnership, Vernon Street, Moor Lane, Preston, PR1 3Q) — and try to come up
with some BRILLIANT IDEAS about what we can do to save our market! QUICK!!
WHAT'S ON.

NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST
STRIP SEARCHES - DURHAM
SAT 13TH JUNE. GACHES FROM LEEDS.

28 APRIL - 19 JULY

LET US NOW PRAISE FA

Women's Disco's - now every Tuesday at the phono 10.30 pm.

LEEDS ANARCHIST FAIR
Sat 11th July - Trades Club
12 noon - 11 pm.

This is a mixed event of entertainment, workshops and stalls, but there will be women-only workshops, video's, etc, including a Re-Sister workshop!!!

A gig in the evening will feature the Wedding Present and Chumbawamba.

COURT DATE FOR ANTI-PORN ACTIVIST.

Julie Thompson, arrested earlier this year whilst attempting to prevent the display and broadcast of Sado-Masochist videos and paraphernalia in MARTINA'S nightclub, is to appear at KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES CROWN COURT on JUNE 1st.

She has been charged with Criminal Damage, and intent to cause criminal damage with a dangerous weapon.

She is pleading Not Guilty. There is a legal defence against a charge of criminal damage, that is, that the damage was caused in order to prevent a crime being committed. In this case the crime is the incitement to sexual and racial hatred. (A common feature of S-M displays is the adoption of Nazi uniforms and regalia.) As part of her defence Julie states the sight of a German uniform in a cage, along with other obscenities, totally enraged her, and she destroyed the display.

Unusually, the date for her court appearance came through only last week, possibly to make it more difficult for women to organise and support Julie through her case (which could go on for several days). At present it is unclear whether there will be a picket outside the court, but we urge all women to be there on JUNE Ist (see next issue for feature against S-M).

Write to Re-Sister with your: ideas, articles, letters, comments, news of events, actions.

"Re-Sister" c/o The Leeds Women's Centre, c/o L.C.V.S., 229 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.