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LEEDS

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RESISTER

women only

issue no.2

24 NOV '86

COVER RE-SISTER

CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ, 4-2-1868 - 15-7-1927

Irish Republican, feminist and soldier.

Born an english aristocrat, in her late thirties she turned her back on her family and status and joined the struggle for Irish independance and women's freedom.

1904 joined Inghinidhe na hEireann (the Daughters of Erin).

1908 supported the Women's Trade Council in Manchester in fighting against a licencing bill which discriminated against working women.

1909 back in Ireland, founded the Fianna na hEireann, a secret cadet corps to train young boys and girls in handling guns and first aid. An important organisation which made the Easter Rising possible.

1916 April 24, Easter Monday Rising. Second-in-Command in the section that took over St. Stevens Green in Dublin. 120 women and men held out against english troops for six days. After the Citizen Army H.Q. at the GPO fell they surrendered.

Court martialled. Along with the other 'leaders' she was sentenced to death. Later this was commuted to life in prison, due to her sex.

1917 Released with other prisoners on a general amnesty.

1918 Women over 30 get the vote. Whilst back in prison she won her seat in Parliament, the first woman to be elected to Whitehall.

1919 Upon release she, together with the other Irish MPs ignored Whitehall and formed the Irish National Parliament (Dial), became Secretary for Labour, the first woman cabinet minister in Western Europe.

1922 Dial split between Free Staters and Republicans. Civil War. Markievicz fought again as a sniper after the attack on the IRA H.Q.

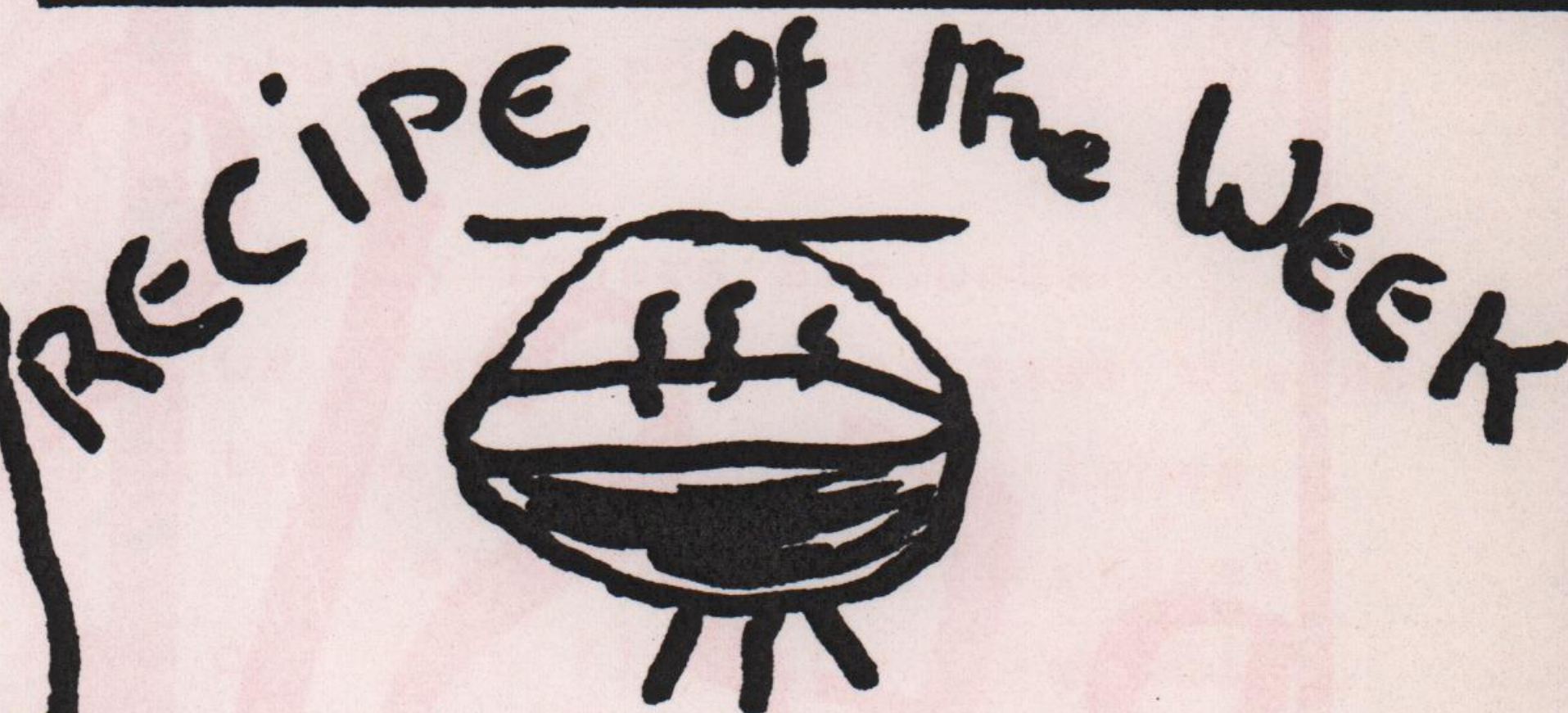
1923 in jail again. Released at Xmas.

1927 Died in a public ward after an appendix operation aged 58.

However, her sister EVA GORE-BOOTH, feminist, lesbian, poet. Renounced her family long before Constance and went to live in Manchester with her lover; helped to form the Women's Trade Council which fought against discrimination against working women; supported Connie for years, is only ever mentioned as a footnote to her sister and there are no pictures of her.

SEND IN PHOTOS AND INFORMATION OF ANY RE-SISTERS YOU KNOW OF TO:

BOX 50,
59, COOKRIDGE ST.,
LEEDS LS2.



"STINK BOMB SURPRISE" or two things to do with potatoes.

Take one large potatoe, hallow out the insides, fill with a mixture of soil and petrol (I kid you not!), place in a screw-top jar and cover with water. Leave with the lid on for 2-3 weeks and the water has become the most vile fluid known to shops and mags. Handle with care, it stinks and is impossible to get off carpets or clothing-hint, hint. And if you have any potatoes left over..small potatoes wedged into the exhaust pipes of cars, vans ect. stop the exhaust fumes escaping which very quickly stalls the engine and costs hundreds of pounds to repair. There is no danger of the fumes going back into the vehicle or of it exploding. Useful at demos to stop state kidnappers carrying off women.

F. CRADDICK

What we think ----

EDITORIAL

Well, here is RE-SISTER 2. The response to the first issue was great, but mainly verbal - so do send in your views, news, and cartoons to the box number.

We want to keep to a fortnightly format because that is just about what we can manage time-wise and it is frequent enough to keep the 'WOT'S ON' useful, as well as keeping the views and arguments fresh and vital.

In the present climate of Britain today; the right-wing backlash; benefit cuts; mass women's unemployment; the increasing fascist street presence; the homophobic scaremongering around AIDS and the push for 'victorian morality' - it is important that a magazine

like RE-SISTER exists. We need to communicate our ideas, our strength, and our RE-Sistance. We hope that RE-SISTER will stimulate discussion and inspire women in Leeds to find ways of working together to fight our oppressions.

We have a policy of printing anything written by women for the magazine, so long as it does not attack individual women or in any way add to our oppressions.

We did not want to get into listing the various ways that we oppress each other because a) the list can be inexhaustable, and b) we have tended as a movement in the past towards silence rather than confronting our attitudes. That is far worse. But, as ever, what do YOU think????

Let us and other women in Leeds know.

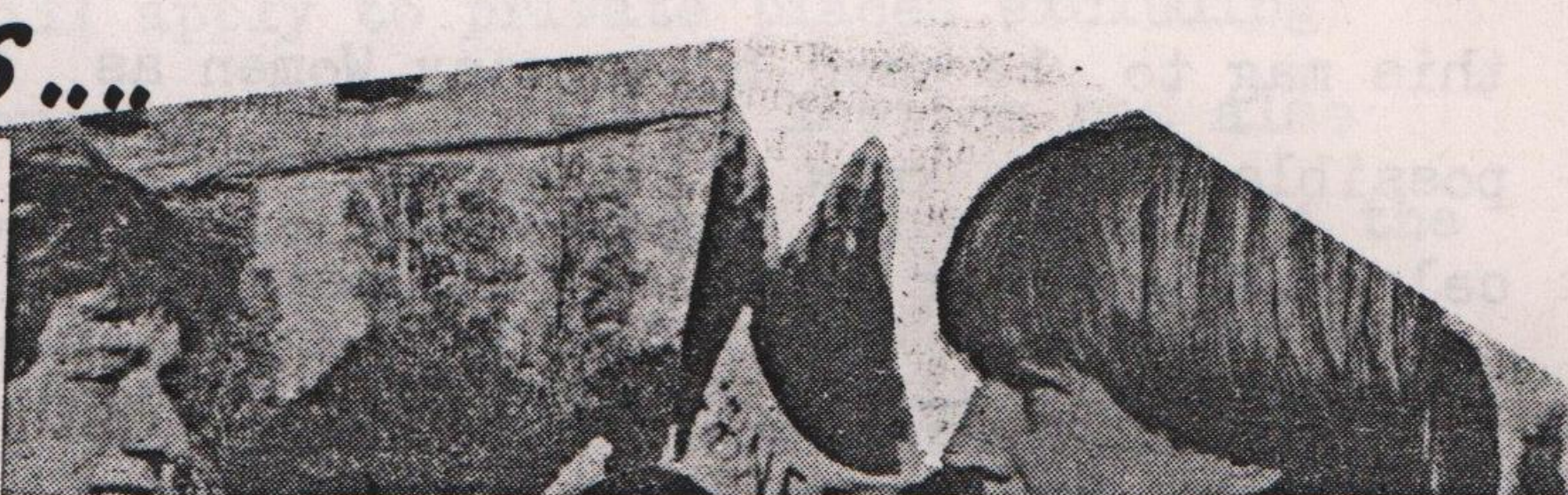
What someone else thinks....

One woman's reaction to Re-sister

I read the first issue with a mixture of delight and confusion. It's good that it's come into being. All sorts of half-buried thoughts came bubbling to the surface. Feelings of isolation that I hadn't even recognised for what they were started peeling away. Optimism returned. There are other women out there in the big bad world who think like I do, and if there are enough of us (and we are 51% of the population) things will change.

The confusion came in an instinctive reaction against the feeling of violence in many of the articles. I've believed, or thought I believed in non-violent resistance for many years. Yet there's a recurring feeling that sometimes violence is essential, and inevitable. Women would not have got the vote if the suffragettes hadn't thrown bricks through windows, but neither would they have won only by throwing bricks.

That leads to another area of confusion. I backed off from a lot of things when my second daughter was born. Suddenly the possibility



of being arrested became a real barrier. I moved more towards what has been described as the 'respectable' side of revolution - working towards setting up non-oppressive systems within the present structure which could eventually replace that structure.

It's been said that any successful revolution has to have both sides. When the State gets really heavy, it's important to have these systems set up that are enough a part of The System not to get smashed, so after the blood and guts bit, they are there to slot into. Many revolutions have ultimately failed as the old oppressive systems have slowly crept back simply because of the lack of alternative models to follow.

The theory is that those 'on the front line' and those in the restructuring camp should be, and remain, completely separate.

CONT'D

I'm not sure if I agree with this or not. I've certainly been using it as a justification for my non-activism, and it's time I was a little more honest with myself.

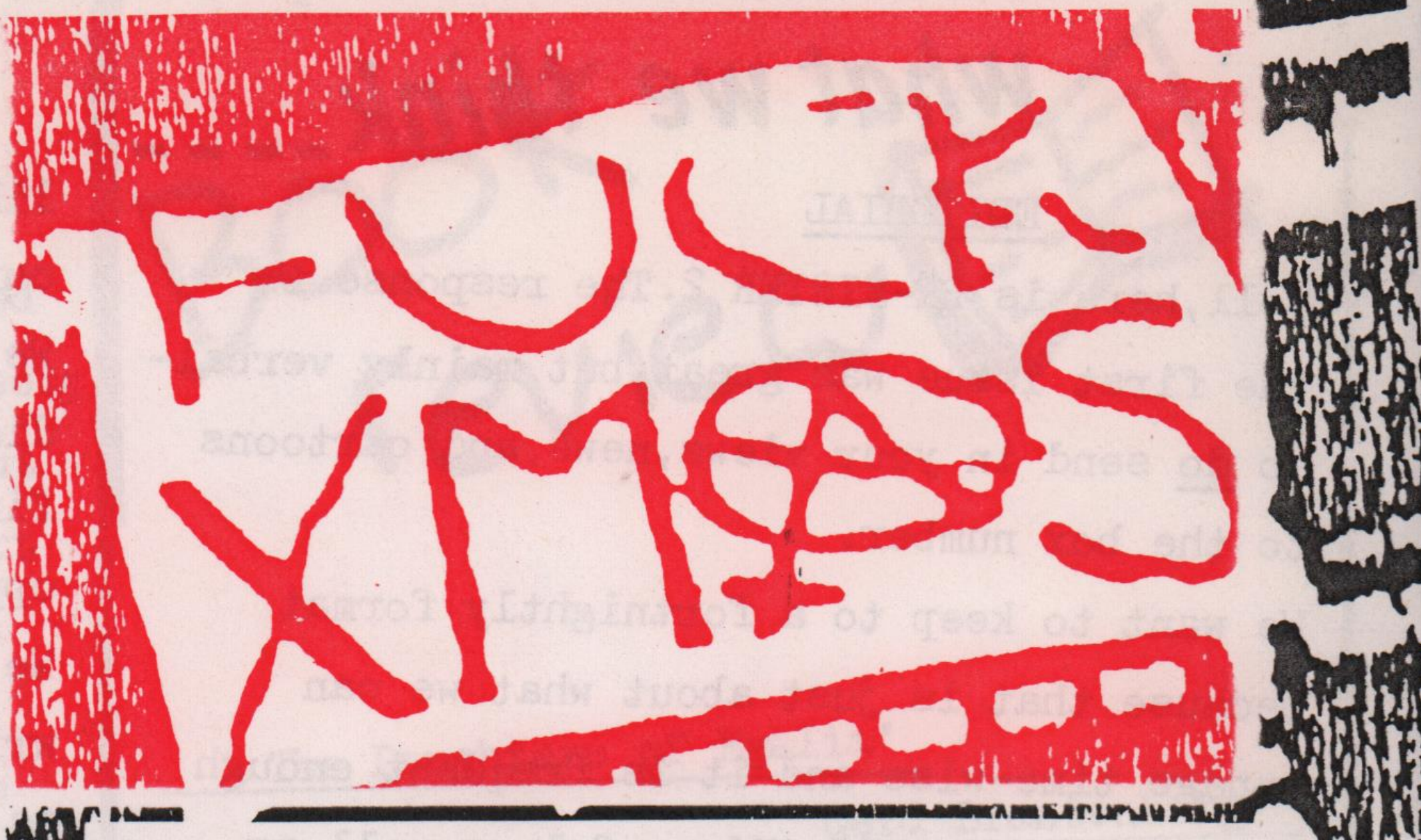
The basic motivation was protection of my children: the rest was intellectual rationalisation. Yet the effect on the children of a mother who is sitting on her beliefs, on what she really feels, may be worse than having her arrested now and then.

I really don't know. But it's good to have somewhere I can write this down. Anyone got any thoughts about it?

Heartfelt thanks to those who took the first step.

FUCK XMAS

We thought this would be a good a time as any to say why Re-Sister will not be celebrating the event. Well we want this mag to be used by as many Women as possible and we know a lot of you don't celebrate it, for a variety of reasons. The dominant culture in Britain is christian; Isay culture rather than religion as the religion has become part of the culture, ie. we may not be religious but we celebrate christmas. The assumption being that everyone does, well they don't, and to assume that they do can be very offensive to some Women who are not christian - in the broad sense of the word. Some of you might want to remember



NOTTINGHAM ANARCHA-FEMINIST GROUP are selling these anti-xmas cards to raise money. 10 for £2 from BOX B, RAINBOW CENTER, 180, MANSFIELD RD., NOTTINGHAM. The photo is of a banner they hung from a church last year-what will they get up to THIS year!??

this when you happily go round wishing everybody a merry xmas. You might want to celebrate it, but there is no need to inflict it on everybody else.

christmas is also the biggest event in our consume, consume society; the adverts started a while back, a mammoth campaign to sell us more expensive, irrelevant and useless products. We Don't Need them, and if we did have something to celebrate it wouldn't be by spending, spending, spending.

MYFANWY

A WEE TIP

Sisters, have you ever been caught short, dying for a pee and not a public loo in sight? ('cos as we've all noticed, there are far more male public conveniences than female - we're supposed to be the weaker sex, so how come we're expected to have stronger bladders!) Well, we need suffer no more. Apparently there is an old law, which has never been repealed, which states that any woman needing to relieve herself in a public place may approach a policeman and demand the shelter of his cloak

ANDREA DWORKIN

ON PORNOGRAPHY

You may or may not have heard of this brilliant Woman, but on Wednesday Nov 19th, I went to hear her speak at Bradford uni. on "pornography and Civil Rights". She had a lot of worthwhile things to say, so I thought I would write them down and attempt to summarise what she had to say.

Firstly, she reminds us that the essence of pornography - an industry which deals with the violent and painful exploitation of Women - is that no matter how you look at it, women want to be grabbed and raped and violated and that even if at first she says no, she really means yes.

All women want to be hurt and the more pain she endures the more orgasms she has.

Andrea then went on to describe the main ways in which women are used in pornography:

i) Women have sex with objects and or animals - the most popular articles used are dogs, horses, eels and snakes. Then there are household objects such as telephones, hairdryers, and glass jars and bottles, and weapons including guns, knives and razor blades.

2) Women as Girls - young women are dressed and made up to look like 5 or 6 year old girls. They are then surrounded by toys in a crib and are subjected to anal intercourse accompanied by words such as "she loves to please her father"!!! Pubic hair is shaved ~~xxxxxx~~ and hair is dyed blonde, to give that pure innocent

look and incest is promoted.

3) the pornography of pregnancy - late pregnant women, (even more powerless than other women ~~due~~ to their immobilised situation) are used as a symbol of male victory conquering the vagina - a man hating organ, which kills millions of sperm daily. the pregnant woman is thus used to show that a sperm and therefore a man has been victorious.

Once the baby has been born her breasts are used in sexual acts, where the woman squirts her milk over people mainly Women romping round on the floor.

In America a pornographer, producer paid a Woman to become pregnant, with the aim of making a porn movie involving the Woman having a very late abortion! luckily after enduring several months of pregnancy the Woman changed her mind and turned him in.

4) Sexualisation of Racism - in porn involving white Women, it is the female genitalia which are hated and physically abused. However on using Black Women it is their Black skin which is used in the same way. Their Black skin is raped.

In america, perhaps the most brutal form of racism is the use of Asian Women who are hung from trees, beams, meat hooks etc. and are then raped. This type of porn is abundant.

Spanish Women, who come from a hot climate, are then seen to be "hot people" and by so brutally violating her they are fulfilling her nature.

Jewish Women are also subjected to this sick violence. There are numerous stories where the pornographers have used a Jewish Woman begging the nazis to hurt her. Thus enforcing the view that the victims want this violence and pain to happen to them and they gain sexual pleasure from such torture.

Every genocide and racist atrocity is used by the porn industry, as if they only existed for sexual pleasure

5) sexualisation of disability - missing limbs become objects of fetishism, but the best women to rape are those who are mentally retarded, as people don't believe their rape allegations.

6) The Use of torture - Andrea first puts the word torture into context, it is apparently not torture to be raped or objectified as torture must be something done to men too, so the torture involved is the type of which amnesty international would campaign vigorously against - if it wasn't "just Women"

7) murder - snuff films do exist, don't ever let anyone tell you otherwise! The term refers to those films Women are actually slowly tortured, dismembered - mainly seen as the uterus being removed and a man then wanks all over it - the Woman is murdered.

The latest porn fashion - as stimulated by happenings during the Vietnam war - is to take Womens skulls and each and every hole is penetrated and fucked.

Women as people continue to be exploited and debased. We are seen as entertainment. Yet society gives men the freedom to do this to us! Nothing is done about this atrocity, for first, people demand proof that Women suffer because of this industry. Andrea Dworkin and Catherine Mc Kinnon decided to collect statistics on various aspects of pornography. They found that 65 - 75% of the Women involved were incest victims. The majority of working class origins and many had ran away from home, got picked up by pimps who teach these Women that there is no escape from the industry - they are taught helplessness, they are introduced to prostitution and this prostitution is then used in the porno films

Over the years there has been an increase in the no. of rapes based on stories found in porno literature not surprising for rape is central to the porn story. Pornographers are increasingly using throat rape stories, so we see an increase of this on streets. Gang rapes are being increasingly used, there is a video game on the market called "Custers revenge", where he and his men

capture a "Squaw" as she is called in the film, tie her up then several penises appear and rape her. So we see an increase in actual gang rapes where the language used is as in the porno texts. Within the marital sphere, we see an increase in the maiming and binding of Women, the increase in the use of dogs as suggested by porno literature and films. In jobs colleges and on the streets, porn is used constantly to harass Women.

SErial murders are on the Incrase, whereby men continue to rape and murder Women until they get caught.

The problem is that violence against Women is taken as normal, and is thus sanctioned. But there is increasing proof by laboratory and social studies that porn increases male hostility towards Women; increases their bigotry; they become less able to recognise rape, become more wanting to rape and hurt us. McKinnon and Dworkin formulated a law; "Pornography is the sexually explicit subordination of Women through pictures or words" , subordination being made up of four elements; Hierarchy, objectification, submission and violence. POrn sexualises all of these elements, to the extent that submission and violence become inseperable from sex. Inequality is sexualised and womens inferiority becomes synonomous with the male orgasm. This is not just a pschological reaction, but a physical one. - 99.9% of men can not imagine having sex with an equal. Thus sex becomes the degridation of women and porn becomes a private form of terrorism.

To the politcal parties, porn is seen and treated as a moral problem! They want porn to be hidden away from 1st class citizens, placed in poor or ethnic minority areas. They want it to be private and hidden from Women, the result being that Women have little understanding of why men see and treat us as they do, WE would view sexual aggression/harrassment as as increasingly

individual problem and would become more immobilised politically.

Women are censored out of political speech, art, science etc. as we are isolated by patriarchy, and laws are created and applied to further protect the aggressors in the case of porn the pimps and owners. These men can't make their productions without hurting us, their right to their freedom of speech, becomes our subservience Dworkin and McKinnon believe that porn is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of the civil rights of Women, because it dehumanises, rapes, causes physical pain and humiliation, and dismembers and murders us.

Dworkin and McKinnons law whereby any man Woman or Child could sue the pornographer if their product causes bigotry hostility or aggression. Anyone who is made to see porn on tv. or in adverts can sue. anyone physically injured can sue. They developed this civil law, and in two cities in the USA tried to get it passed. In both it failed, and to Dworkin they had succeeded, she knows that political parties in the state will never help Women, so to attempt to give Women equal protection under the law and it be rejected shows to Women in america what a load of shit the system is. Andrea uses the court system to create social conflict, the courts hearings recieved much publicity and created a public outcry as Women realised that porn and men are protected by the very political system they thought they could enter and change.

So Andrea Dworkin believes that Women in every country should analyse their own political state and power systems - and attack it from every angle possible, but whether she calls it Anarchist or not I do not know. As I said earlier she is a brilliant Woman and if you want to read more of her work here is a list:

"PORNOGRAPHY: MEN POSSESSING WOMEN"

"OUR BLOOD"

"INTERCOURSE"

and a novel "FIRE AND ICE"

by
Molly
10/5/55

Women please note; we have a policy of not editing any article you send us, but please can you not make them too long. Also if you are sending hand written manuscripts can you please send them in at least two days before the deadline, so we have time to type them up.

OUR NEXT DEADLINE IS SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER

We need news, articles, poems, views, info of whats on - anything you think might interest other Women in Leeds - and almost everything does.



Andrea Dworkin speaking on porn in Bradford last week was quite harrowing to listen to, here is a brief outline of her and Catherine McKinnons legal battles. Having had to prove to the legislators "scientifically" that porn promoted violence against Women; The state of Minneapolis passed a law stating that any man Woman or Child could sue porn makers for the harm porn had done them. Within one hour of passing this law, the state was sued by pornographic publishers on the grounds that this legislation interfered with their freedom of speech, the hallowed first amendment of the usa.

The judge - a Woman ruled that sex discrimination was never as important as interference with the first amendment. A supreme court refused to hear the appeal.

In these legal battles Andrea stated that they had succeeded in making a no. of things clear.

That the 1st amendment is there only to protect the freedom of speech of privileged men. It is not a right to speak in the first place but protection of what has already been said; Thus films made of women being raped or murdered, although both criminal acts, are protected by the 1st amendment and can be shown.

The state is now openly defending the porn industry - an eye opener for many Women.

As Andrea declared the defence of porn is war, the profits are, money - 10 billion dollars estimated for this year in the usa; and pleasure for men. In the usa there are 3 or 4 porn shops for every macdonalds restaurant - and there are a lot of them in america.

Asked the question that we had maybe all wanted to ask, Why bother with all this legislation when we know it won't really do anything for us; Andrea stated that in no way did she see it as an alternative or instead of direct action by Women against our enemies. In other words the legal battles were a huge publicity stunt. Whether putting so much time and energy into these legal battles is our best tactic is a debatable point. Nevertheless Andrea was a very powerful and inspiring Woman to listen to.

Cris

COURTS

RECLAIM THE NIGHT - BENEFIT

On Friday 21st november, there was a benefit disco held at the Pavilion to raise money to pay the fines of the Women arrested on the Reclaim the night march in York on nov. 7th.

Sappista sisters provided the music and we all (about a 100 of us) all had a good time dancing the night away.

The benefit raised £72 towards paying the Womens fines, probably not enough but a start!

The Women appear in York magistrates court on Thurs nov. 27th. Aminibus will be leaving from Parkinson steps, outside the university at 8.30 am to take supporters to the court.

PUBLIC (DIS)ORDER

Talking of demos and free speech and such like things...the PUBLIC ORDER BILL got royal assent on the night we got attacked on Reclaim The Night. Which means that after January 1st. 1987 most of us will be liable for heavy fines and/or jail sentences. Basically the new laws are;

- organisers must give the police seven days notice of a march.
- a senior police officer can alter the route and impose any conditions on a march, either before or on the spot, if s/he thinks it may cause serious public disorder, serious disruption to the community or the coercion of individuals.
- 'knowingly participating in a prohibited procession', is a new offence, you can be arrested for it and fined £400!!
- in addition the police have the power to ban a single march (at present they only have blanket bans).
- organising a prohibited march (or being

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COPS

said to) carries a fine of £1,000 or three months imprisonment.

-on Public meetings, vigils, pickets or any static demonstration there is no need for advanced notice, neither can they be banned, but the police have powers to; a) say where they can be (out of sight), b) say how many people can be on it-six-and c) how long it can last.

-the penalties for 'knowingly failing to comply with police directions' are £400 for participants and £1000 or three months for organisers or inciters (who ever they are).

-they have also extended section 5 of the 1936 Public Order Act, which was brought in to curb fascist demonstration but which have been used against anti-fascist groups- at the moment 'breach of the peace' only applies to public places, after Jan. it will apply to private places excluding private dwellings; this section has also been doctored to enable convictions. At the moment if the person you are supposed to have directed your 'threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour' would not be likely to be provoked to use violence, you get off. The new bill will convict you if the person fears unlawful violence, regardless of whether they will act or not.

-the new bill also gives the magistrates a really dangerous new power; they can impose alternative verdicts. So if you successfully defend yourself on a charge of obstructing a police officer they can turn around and convict you of disorderly conduct, for which you have not had a case prepared. A case of tails you lose, heads they win.

-finally, there is a section on inciting racial hatred, with powers to seize material intended for distribution but there is no curb on fascist broadcasts...

CONT'D OVER →

(DIS)ORDER CONT'D.

Pretty depressing stuff. We now are faced with the 'choice' of staying off the streets and silent or having to defend our dissent with ever increasing violence. In the short term many people will choose to be quiet, but as more is taken from us, as women face increasing/continuing attacks, as the state's racist policies increases against Black people, there will come more and more flashpoints against the police. We have to start planning now for what will do. For many of us silence is not a choice.

Next weekend Sat. 29th there will be a demo against the bill in London, assemble by the Clock Tower opp. Caledonian Rd. tube.

ANNA QUAY.

NOTE: THIS IS ONLY A GUIDELINE - CHECK WITH A SOLICITOR FOR THE LAW ON THESE POINTS.



- REVOLUTION.
9 out of 10 women
say they prefer it!

ES 15/11/81

BOOK review



'The Daughters of Egalia'

Gerd Brantenburg

A brill!!! book. Basically she turns society upside down, and instead of men being treated as superior to Women, it is the Women who hold the power; and we are 'on top'. Society revolves around these aggressive, competitive, highly sexed females, whilst the men have to endure the boring tedious tasks in life, such as housework and childcare. He is treated as the skivvy, must always be available for sexual and supportive purposes, and any ideas of careerism and equality are quashed from birth.

The book centers on a family, a family which produces a very frustrated boy (frustrated with his sexual inequality) and a very depressed housebound - ie husband, and we see boy grow physically and politically until he and his men's group begin to take direct action and attack the sexist structures which surround him.

The book is dead funny and once you start reading it you won't want to put it down. It is brilliantly written although the use of words can be a bit annoying at first, as she creates new words to fit in with this kind of society; but you get used to it. No matter how long you've been a feminist and aware of sexual oppression it'll question many of your assumption, so get it and read it!!

-o-

MOLLY - TOFF

Lesbian Map of the World



| Discriminated | Illegal |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Austria | Iran |
| Belgium | Liechtenstein |
| Federal Republic of Germany | Oman |
| Finland | Rumania |
| German Democratic Republic | |
| Hungary | |
| Iceland | |
| Luxemburg | |
| Netherlands Antilles | |
| Surinam | |
| Switzerland | |

* IN MANY COUNTRIES HOMOSEXUALS ARE TREATED AS CRIMINALS - BUT LESBIANS ARE TREATED AS INSANE - THIS WAS TRUE IN AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND - WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY?

The map concerning lesbian oppression

In comparing the maps depicting lesbian vs. gay oppression one difference becomes immediately apparent: female homosexuality is not mentioned in the law of a great number of countries. However, while reading the map one has to bear two things in mind. Firstly, as has already been pointed out, information concerning the legal position of lesbian women and gay men has been obtainable from only 83 out of 145 countries. For sake of convenience those countries which we do not have any information in this respect have been grouped with countries where female homosexuality is not mentioned in the law. Secondly, the statement that female homosexuality is not mentioned only applies to adult women, i.e. women who have reached sexual majority for heterosexual relationships. It could very well be that female homosexuality is mentioned with regard to relations with minors. However, we lack information on this point.

FROM: GAY PINK BOOK 1985.

How can the invisibility of lesbians within legislation be accounted for? Without furnishing an extensive analysis, we want to point out the relationship between lesbian invisibility in legislation and lesbian invisibility in society. In society, where men occupy the most influential positions and the family is considered the natural and fundamental unit, lesbians are invisible for many reasons. The position of (lesbian) women and of female sexuality has briefly been described in the introduction. Women have difficulties in establishing their own (homo)sexual identity. On top of that they are often economically dependent and do not play a sufficient role in the decision-making process within their families, communities or countries. Many lesbians do not recognize their

homosexuality until they are older and all too often not until they are married. Breaking up a family is a hard step to take. To be known

as lesbian and in need of a job might leave them socially isolated and unemployed.

Viewed in this light it is understandable that would-be lesbians have to overcome many obstacles before they can accept and identify themselves as lesbians. Many do not and lead a double life. Others prefer to remain in the safety of acquaintance circles, hence, are not visible in public life and therefore are not considered a threat to heterosexual society. Consequently no need is felt to enact laws to oppress female homosexuality.

RESISTER NOTE: ANOTHER REASON FOR OUR INVISIBILITY IS THAT STATES, LIKE BRITAIN IN THE 1930'S, REALISE THAT BY NOT LEGISLATING OPENLY AGAINST US THIS INCREASES OUR INVISIBILITY. BUT WE ALL KNOW THEY DON'T NEED LAWS TO OPPRESS US.

DIKE MAP.

WOTS not ON

Regular Women only events



Disco (pub hours) Dock Green pub on hare-hills rd. 50p wednesday only

Disco Checkpoint bradford bi-weekly on thurs. next one on dec. 4th.

Leeds poly Womens disco. every second tue of the month. At bar in Brunswick buildings behind Merrion centre

OTHER EVENTS

Reclaiming our lives - mass peace demo at Greenham dec. 13th and 14th contact Alison 718587 or Tulip 786168

Voice Workshop - pavilion 25th nov. 7.30 pm tel. Claire 753442 for details

Massage for Women nov 23rd details Liz 785717

Please note Maria Tolly concert has been cancelled.

If you are planning anything please drop us a line at our box no. and let other Women of Leeds know about it

-o-

WOMEN



All my lovers are women
we are moved in the same places
at times it is hard
to confront mirrors.

All my lovers are women
we sing our ancient tales
into the ears of midnight
and wake up smiling
at the ocean.

All my lovers are women
we sense the same strengths
and raise ourselves like mountains
above our common tragedies.

All my lovers are women
we are hurt in the same places
tears track the same lines
reaching into ourselves
our joys find the same voice.

All my lovers are women.
All the women I love
fill my hands with kisses
and my mirrors with strong,

strong images.



OUR ADDRESS
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