

LETTERS

Lysistrata
7 Florence Rd
BRIGHTON



Dear Lysistrata,

Many thanks for your immediate reply to my letter. I don't think I've ever had such a speedy response! It was really nice! First of all, let me say how much I enjoy reading Lysistrata. I did have severe reservations about it's function and appeal so it was with a great sense of relief that I travelled through your pages to find myself re-energised by positive comments, ideas, and news of what other women are doing for peace both here and abroad. I loved the photos of Greenham - especially the one showing the circle of women on the silo. I am constantly moved by the courage of my sisters, and it is this bond of a common understanding that keeps me from almost catatonic states of despair at times when I feel most alone with the horror of our likely futures. The letters and articles were all very interesting and heart-warming. The reports from the reports from the prison were shocking but ever so useful too. I suspect that this year will see a great many more of us inside prisons so simple advice like; wear warm socks & have evidence of your address on you to prevent police having to visit your home, is really useful. These things wouldn't have occurred to me until I it was too late. So thanks S.M.! I liked the layout of the prison diary and of the magazine in general. It was well spaced out and easy to read (apart from some of the darker ads.!) Anyway, all in all I'm very impressed by Lysistrata and I look forward to my next issue (subs. enclosed). Oh, and one other point of a purely personal nature. I was intrigued to notice how affected I was by my Beardsley-esque knowledge of the Lysistrata story. On a subliminal level I was almost put off the

magazine by the name which conjured up images of this sexual vampire, this cruel, cold heartless woman, as sexually and physically intimidating as Beardsley's picture of Messalina.

All the construction of a Victorian, sexually repressed patriarch, I know, but obviously still very powerful, begun as it was in my adolescent days of the Romantic Agony. I've only now actually acknowledged Lysistrata's integrity and her brilliant political manoeuvre. If only it were possible as a strategy now.... In Sisterhood,
Julie.
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts.



Dear Sisters

Congratulations on a great first issue of Lysistrata! It is a really important contribution that you are making, and I wish you every success. I'm enclosing an article I wrote about the banner I made to take to Greenham Common in December. I think it's really important that we as women make as many connections as we can with each other, especially as the international news we have of each other's activities comes to us almost entirely through a patriarchal mass media. I'm offering to make connections with women's peace groups in Canada and North America for any British women's group that is interested in corresponding. I hope you find room for the article.

Love and sisterhood
Marion McNaughton, Leeds
See article

more letters page 11.

who was she....

Over 2000 years ago in Ancient Greece, was wumun called Lysistrata. She was sick of war and fed up with male politicians who are too macho to stop fighting and killing. She calls the wimmin together and tells them how, by acting together, they can end the war. First, they should seize the Treasury and make sure no more money is spent on war. Second, they should go on sex strike until the men make peace.

Lysistrata means: 'dissolver of armies.'

SORRY!

We apologise to Raissa Page for omitting her credit for the photo of the wimin dancing on the silo, on page 12 of issue 2.

When sending in articles to us, please type them if you can - it's easier to read! Please enclose your name, as you want it at the end of the article, your phone number (if you've got one) and your address. Please say if you don't want us to edit what you've written in any way - we may have to do this for reasons of space. Please continue to send us articles, bits of news, letters, photos, drawings - whatever you think will be useful to us. Let us know if you want what you send returned, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope - cos we're broke!!
Up until now we've not had to pay rent, but we do have to now. Anyone who owes us money for sold copies - please send it - we really are broke! Anyone who can help out financially - we'll be your friends for life if you send in a donation...

MISPRINTED LOGO

The logo we used on the front cover of No 2 was printed badly - so it was very misleading. It was a picture of a wumun breaking a missile, and the original was half black, half white. Because of the printing she came out all white - NOT our intention at all!

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COPYDATE

The copydate for issue 4 is April 28th.

LYSISTRATA ON TAPE

Are you, or do you know of any blind, or partially sighted wimmin who might be interested in a taped version of Lysistrata? If so, contact us at 7 Florence Rd, Brighton, Sx. (Btn 553466) - it won't be dear!

APOLOGIES TO NELL CRISPIN

Sorry, Nell, for the bad way your advert for handmade shoes came out in the last issue. We have put it in again this time.

LYSISTRATA MOVES!

Please note that Lysistrata has moved. Our new address is:

7 Florence Road, Brighton, Sussex, England
(Brighton 553466)

Wimmin are welcome to come down and visit us as this address will soon be Brighton Wimmin's Peace Place.

Faslane - Scotland's first wimmin only demo



Wimmin blockading the base at Faslane. Photo: Sue Z

Hello! Ace reporter Kris here!

Waking up at 10.30 in a train. Faslane here we come. (We had travelled all the way from Brighton overnight.)

The weather was bleak, rain and wind greeted us at Helensburgh. So did a woman with a mini-bus!

She said that mini-buses were meeting all the trains to take wimmin up to the base - unfortunately we couldn't get in that one - it was full. So we stood around chatting to a woman called Evelyn and her daughter Janine, until a man with a CND poster in his car came and picked us up.

Huh, just my luck I get to sit in the boot!

Ten, fifteen minutes later, we arrive outside the camp. After registering our names we started to walk round. Wimmin carrying bright flowers, children singing - almost another Dec 12th at Greenham!

Then around the corner, a beautiful sight - a lovely view of mountains and sea - marred by a monstrous hunk of metal. This is the nuclear submarine base - yeuch! With their monstrous phallic missiles, the government are ruining more than the countryside!

We walked around the base until we could go no further, then we went back and joined a blockade at one of the gates. It lasted for only

a couple of hours, with everyone in good spirits.

The one mark on the day was that a couple of servicemen walked into the base through the blockade! We didn't see them til it was too late as they sneaked in deliberately to provoke us. They gave a thumbs up sign to their mates at the window.

A little later we managed to stop three servicemen who were trying to leave the base.

Wimmin were talking to them trying to persuade them to go back. One woman even kissed one of the men on the cheek (to the disgust of some of us!) They eventually went back. Hooray!

Then it was all over. The final song, a quick tidy up and everyone went back to the coaches.

I personally think the day was a success, as it appears there were wimmin there who had never taken part in any direct action before. There were no arrests and the police kept a low profile! It was nice seeing wimmin whom I'd seen and done actions with in other places. And now I've met some of my Scottish sisters. Wimmin together are strong! (Can I just say that although the camp is mixed the men kept a low profile on the day, as it was a wimmin only event.)

On March 8th this year, International Wimmin's Day, 14 wimmin were arrested at Comiso, Italy. 6 of whom were from Britain. As we go to press, they have just returned to England, but we don't know what has happened to the other wimmin. Anyone else know any more?

and.....

The wimmin at Greenham have shifted their camp a bit onto Ministry of Defence land until they get evicted from there. As far as we know this hasn't happened yet.

'We wont be sitting ducks...'



Capenhurst



Wimmins



Action



On Monday 21st February eleven women from the Capenhurst Women's Peace Camp and a lad of 11 took over the village pond to give it back to the village. We had six dingies and had to break the ice to actually float. It was ages before the police came and they were determined to keep a low profile. Even after we got off and wandered about the buildings, they just asked 'please girls, haven't you had enough, eh?' After about an hour we decided we would leave, and we did an impromptu sit-in, first at the front gate, after which the traffic was redirected, then six women went to the side gate, where they got arrested.

The Peace Camp has been outside the British Nuclear Fuels Capenhurst plant since November 13th 1982. BNFL is Government owned. They make weapon-grade uranium and export the technology to non-proliferation treaty countries (countries that are not bound by NATO or other international agreements). So the plant is enriching uranium for weapons, not for defence.

A -from Capenhurst

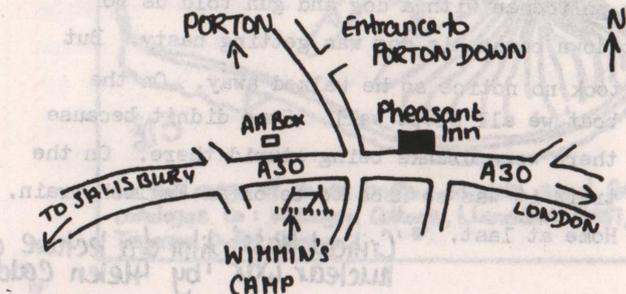
GOODBYE, CAPENHURST SISTERS! After four months the wimmin's camp closed on March 6th Good luck for the future!

wimmin's camp for peace & animal liberation

Porton Down is the main Ministry of Defence establishment where experiments to develop forms of chemical and biology warfare are performed on millions of animals and also some people. All the animals die, some immediately, some in agony over a period of weeks, months and years. What happens to the people is not known. Everything that goes on there is covered by the Official Secrets Act. The research involving the suffering and death of these animals is being undertaken with the aim of finding more efficient ways of killing and controlling people - however, governments try to disguise the true nature of these atrocities as 'defence'. Because of our outrage the camp has formed to challenge the secrecy of this establishment, to say that this torture is carried out with our money but not our consent and expose links between the exploitation of animals and the development of more sophisticated and sickening techniques of mass destruction.

We are a women's camp committed to non-violent ways of working. We have chosen this method because we hope that our continued peaceful presence here will keep these issues in the forefront of people's minds. We hope that women will come and help to create a positive and supportive environment in which everyone can discuss their thoughts, feelings and ideas for action. We would ask people coming to respect our wish that the camp should be vegetarian. We hope to be here till mid-September so come for five minutes, five months or however long you like. We have some spare tents and bedding but it would be helpful if those who can bring their own. We are women like any other, so please don't feel that you need to bring gifts. We welcome you for yourselves.

The women from Porton Down.



BRUSSELS - International Wimmins Day

Brussels was a very gloomy grey place. The part where we were was, anyway.

When we first got there, at the station, we had a bit of a mix up of what youth hostel we were going to. We were booked into two hostels, the 'CHAB' & 'SLEEPWELL'. We ended up in the 'CHAB'. We had to fill out forms before we could even go to our rooms. Monday the 7th we spent all day at a university where all sorts of peace items were being sold and 'Critical Mass'* was being shown. In this university downstairs there was a cafe and a room where people were painting banners. Carolyn and I painted a banner.



photo: Jody

Louise (right) and friend with Brighton banner



photo: Karen Toward

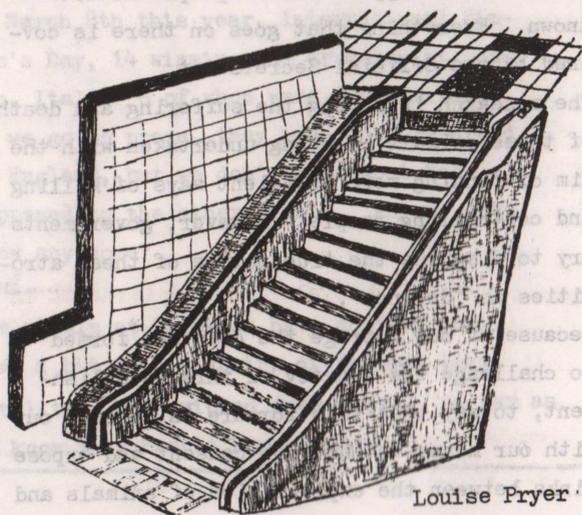
The March

Well, they were mainly Brighton women, the police moved in and carried them away. All the banners were taken and either confiscated or ripped up. The Brighton banner was taken as well.

In the evening we all set off home on the train, whilst waiting for the train we discovered a marvellous slide the side of an escalator. We all had a go, even my mum! Also in the station some women were singing in a circle and dancing. The policeman with a dog and gun told us to sit down cause his dog was getting nasty. But we took no notice so he walked away. On the boat we all slept well. Some didn't because there were drunks being stupid there. On the train it was so nice to be on an English train. Home at last.

*'Critical Mass' film of a lecture on the medical effects of nuclear war by Helen Caldicott.

Tuesday 8th at 12.00 midday we all assembled in a big square, thousands and thousands of us. At 1.45pm we all set off, the length of the march was incredible. We walked and walked and all the Brighton people were planning some direct action at the end of the march. We sat down thinking the march had ended and the others carried on so we had to carry on with them. The second time we sat down hundreds sat down (200). We even had a man sitting down singing 'Women for Peace'. We sat here for 1/2 hr. Then Carmel said shall we get up and dance away so we did down to the cross-roads then someone sat down so we sat down.



Louise Pryer
Age 12

soon



Women For Life On Earth Star Marches

1983

Have you already heard about Women for Life on Earth 'Star' marches, to converge on Greenham Common on Hiroshima Day (August 6th)? The idea is that around 23 marches start off from various parts of the country on whatever date it is necessary for them to arrive at Greenham on the same day. When they arrive together they spend an evening of celebration and night of rest (in a field near the base), probably hold a rally on Sunday, and take some form of action beginning on Monday. 'Coincidentally' there will be a mixed march arriving from Faslane on Hiroshima Day also (quite a walk).

Ideas and contributions welcome. Contact Imogen, 37 Bentham Rd, Brighton, Sussex.

BOSTON, USA - 18 jailed

When the 44 wimmin who went over the fence were about to start the trial at Newbury, we got a telegram from some people in Boston, USA, called the Boston 18. They had been arrested for refusing to leave a room where the government were registering young men for the draft. Military conscription has not even been brought before Congress for approval. The registration is a move towards creating a pool of soldiers that can be mobilised quickly for an intervention. The Boston 18 were sentenced to the maximum penalty - 30 days imprisonment. They deliberately went underground until our trial started on 15th Feb to show solidarity with us!

GREENHAM SUPPORT GROUPS

West London Women waving placards saying 'I thought I couldn't do anything about Cruise Missiles until I discovered Greenham' picketed the surgery of the MP for Kensington & Chelsea, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, recently.

The demonstration took place on January 21st and involved about 30 women from the West London Greenham Women's Support Group (WLGWSG). It is one of many groups set up as a result of a conference on December 20th.

The support groups are setting up local action nationwide and enable information to be passed from group to group with little publicity.

Gwyn Kirk, a member of the London Region GWSG and an active peace campaigner who has stayed at the Greenham camp said (stressing that she was speaking as an individual not as a representative of the women's peace movement)

'The strength of the campaign is in its localisation. We have no committees or hierarchy and this means everyone in a group feels directly responsible for the group. It also enables individuals to act on their own ideas not on a fixed policy.'

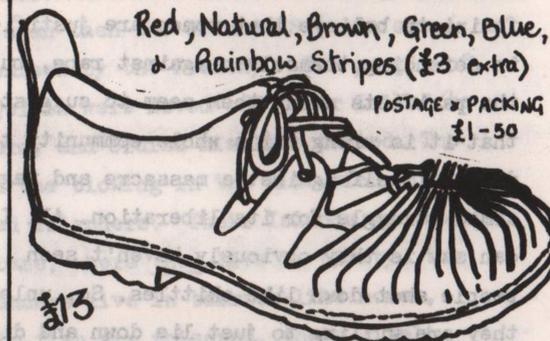
Sophie Moorcock, 32e, St Charles Sq, London W10 6EE (01 968 9773).

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NUCLEAR LINKS

I want to write as a woman of colour about the Peace Movement, Greenham, and the Nuclear Links. The first thing I want to say is that I agree with you that the arms race between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. isn't really about Democracy and Communism - though I find talking about it as Menstuation Envy too mythological. Personally I think that the male politics of it are about Colonialism - Is the U.S. & U.S.S.R; to be the better imperialist, to control most third world countries, to have the most puppet rulers and spheres of influence, to have most sources of raw materials. Say Afghanistan, say El Salvador.

'Cultural Rape'

I also think that the way that people believe the myth that given half a chance, ie. if Britain doesn't have nuclear weapons, Russia would be here in a flash, has to be re-interpreted not as a victory for Communism but as Colonialism. The European countries had no qualms about spreading Christianity, Culture & civilisation to Africa, Asia, India and the America's. (The irony is that Britain is becoming a U.S. nuclear colony, since Britain doesn't control the missiles on her soil). It's called Cultural Rape, but we fought back and threw off the colonial yoke.

On the subject of rape. It angers me that feminists believe that women are justified in defending themselves against rape, but the pacifists among them seem to suggest that it is wrong for a whole community to defend itself against a massacre and wage armed struggle for its liberation. All I can say is they obviously haven't seen people shot down like skittles. So, unless they are willing to just lie down and die, please don't talk to me about pacifism. Is self-defence justified or isn't it?

Moving now to Greenham.

I think it is amazing what the women have done- but I can't say I find the slogan Refuse Cruise enough.

KEEP THE RUSSIANS OUT !!

Before moving on to discuss the Nuclear Links, I might say that I think that until Ordinary People, not just Lesbian Feminists, stand up and say no to Cruise we're nowhere, because otherwise they will continue to vote Tory to keep Black People out, and want nuclear weapons to keep the Russians out.

Can I just say a brief word about the police too. Black people can tell you about police brutality, arbitrary criminalisation, S.U.S., prison, mental health. How horrific the system is.



NAMIBIA:

But anyway to move to the nuclear links: Firstly the Uranium that is used both in nuclear reactors and for Cruise, comes from Namibia, that is illegally occupied by South Africa - that is imposing Apartheid upon her. There are 100,000 South African troops for 1½ million Namibians. Namibia has been at war ever since the Germans invaded at the beginning of this century. There have been massacres ever since 1915 - 1960. The conditions in the mines are appalling, there is no clinic, the men live in a compound, Trade Unions are illegal, blacks are paid for lower wages than whites. These Namibians have no choice but to work in the mine, since the country has been so neglected, that there are no alternative ways to make money.

Britain is complicit in the occupation since she abstains UN resolutions to free Namibia. Why? - because due to Rio Tinto Zinc (a British mining company) she gets her Uranium from Namibia. It is ironic that it was Tony Benn, darling of the Labour Left who signed the contract!



The Namibians feel that armed struggle is the only way to liberate their motherland. Women are involved in the struggle, not only for national liberation, but also for women's liberation. Need I say more, except that I see their struggle as inextricably bound up with ours to stop Nuclear Death - and in such a struggle can you be a pacifist??

Native People Have No Choice

Uranium mining is done in Australia, the United States, and Latin America, a lot of times on the sacred grounds of native people: Navejo Indians, Aborigines, other Indians, where they worship the Earth Mother.

I find it such an irony that people who are so matriarchal, so peaceful, should find themselves living on Uranium - the ultimate symbol of death, violence and exploitation.

The people are thrown off their lands because in the eyes of the Colonial Govt. they were there first - they don't own the land. These people are then forced to become Uranium miners because they have no other means of financial support. These

people want to live in peace - but for our arms race they could.

NUCLEAR POWER = DEATH

Next the Uranium is used in Nuclear Power Stations, where there have ^{been} leaks and accidents. Three Mile Island, Harrisburg; Windscale.

Around Windscale people are dying of bone cancer. Nuclear Power Stations are sold to Third World Countries, who, due to two hundred years of Colonialism are so under-developed only the small urban elite benefit from this.

And of course they make bombs too, and Trident, Pershing, SS20, Polaris and Cruise. And they sell them to other countries. South Africa has her Apartheid Bomb, Pakistan and Libya the Islamic Bomb, and Iran and Iraq the Zionist Bomb, and Argentina and Brazil too. I'm not for a minute saying that it is right for us and wrong for them. It's wrong for us all. Countries are reducing their social expenditure, while their Military expenditure goes through the roof. For people that is bad news. One only has to look at appalling council estates, comprehensives without new books, or Third World slums to see what I mean.

PACIFIC ISLANDERS



They tested their bombs in the Pacific Islands. The Islanders were first a colony of Japan then the UN and US (some are colonised by the French). The people of Kwajalein were moved off their Island to others, and Cruise missiles tested. The wind was blowing in the direction of the moved Islanders. Their Islands are now a US base, where they live in plenty, the Islanders live in barrack-like homes, their fish are poisoned, their livelihood is destroyed, no other financial alternatives. Alcoholism is rife.

Japan, Britain, US, France, dump their nuclear excrement in the Pacific. The Islanders tuna fish are poisoned and they have to import it from Japan. It was the women who first began to demand a Nuclear Free Pacific.

ABORIGINES



Also, between 1952 and 1957 the British did tests in the desert in Australia, where the Aborigines live, needless to say some were caught in the blast. In all these places people are dying of radiation sickness and leukemia. The West can't keep its crap to itself, it has to export it to everyone else!!!

DIEGO GARCIA

The Island of Diego Garcia was bought off Mauritius by the British in 1965, all the Islanders were moved off, and their Motherland turned into a British Base. The Islanders are now demanding their Island back. Compare this with the concern shown over the Falkland Islanders. - Well they were British.

AMERICAN INDIANS

Finally Reagan wanted to build the latest military phallacy in Nevada - on lands where the Shoshore Indians live.



With the opposition from the Mormons the plans have been shelved temporarily, but not abandoned. It would seem that the Third World and native people can't live in peace - because the West and the USSR can't live in peace.

Why must you drag us into your system of Death and destruction?

I don't believe Peace will come unless we realise that our struggle is yours, and yours ours. ●

JOAN GRANT

We would prefer it if you did the artwork for the ad. If you can't for any reason, we'll do it for you for extra 10% of the cost (to cover our stationary costs etc). Please give plenty of notice when placing an ad.

ADVERTS

RATES

Full page	£40	(12"x8")
Half page	£22	(6"x8")
Quarter page	£12	(4"x6")
Eighth page	£7	(3"x2")
Sixteenth page	£4	(2"x1½")

Classifieds 10p word.

(Reductions for poverty, unwaged.)

Cheques, postal orders payable to Lysistrata please.

NO ADS WILL BE ACCEPTED THAT ARE RACIST, SEXIST, OR IN ANY WAY DISCRIMATORY. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE THEM.

MORE LETTERS

Dear Lysistrata

As if the inaccurate news that a 'spokesman for Greenham Common women' has been talking to Guardian reporters were not sufficiently annoying for one day, the Guardian of 2nd March also carried news of Tony Benn's proposal to nominate 'the Greenham Common women' for the Nobel Peace prize. But, the Guardian continues, a 'spokesman' for the camp said 'we are not in the business of winning prizes. We are more interested in keeping cruise missiles out of Britain.' Dead well, informed, this spokesman fellow, isn't he? The question is, how could Tony Benn get it so wrong? It's a sick joke to expect women to accept a slap on the back from the same bunch of patriarchs who awarded a 'peace' prize to Henry Kissinger in 1973 and Menachem Begin in 1978! Nor were those awards aberrations - the 'peace' prize has, in the past, often been given to men of war and establishment politicians. The bellicose Theodore Roosevelt got one, as did World War One president Woodrow Wilson, General George Marshall and politician Cordell Hull - two men who, in 1942, okayed the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps - were also recipients.

The prizes are in memory of Alfred Nobel, a man who grew immensely rich on the proceeds of his 'greatest' invention - dynamite! Presumably the 'peace' prize was Nobel's attempt at salving a guilty conscience! Other Nobel prizes - for physics and chemistry have gone to men who helped invent nuclear weapons and were involved in chemical warfare.

In 1976, the 'peace' prize went to Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan - who's ever heard of the Irish Peace People now?

Giving them a prize is a way of making them shut up.

If this is the extent of Tony Benn's political imagination then at least it brings out into the open the limitations of the left-wing male mind and definitely obscures any of the distinctions between Benn and Healey etc that the established male media are so fond of trying to draw.

Yours in sisterhood
Heather and Maggie

dear readers-

We want your help!

This issue has, like issue 1+2, a lot on Greenham Common and Brighton. The reasons for this is that we receive quite a bit of information from Greenham and it seems to be something wimmin want to write about. Also, hysistrata is, at present, produced in Brighton so we know what's going on here. We want to cover wimmin's peace action from all over this country, and the world + we rely on contributions from the contexts that we've made. Please help! let us know about anything wimmin are doing where you live. Very little is said about the problems Black wimmin and wimmin with disabilities have to deal with within the wimmin's peace movement - we particularly want to **BREAK THIS SILENCE!!**

love,
the hysistrata collective

PORNOGRAPHY

IS VIOLENCE ~~AGAINST~~ AGAINST WOMEN

TAKE THE TOYS FROM THE BOYS doesn't just mean weapons for killing, nuclear power, the high technology hardware of the war game. There's a multi-billion pound industry which is built on women's bodies - this war isn't about men killing people, its about men killing women, about men torturing, brainwashing, maiming, raping and assaulting women AS AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR MANHOOD. I'm talking about pornography - the use and abuse of women's bodies for men's pleasure, power and ~~sex~~.

It's not some possible future attack, either, sexual violence against women is all around us all of the time, even in our homes. And our daughters are at great risk too. This war is on now.

Have you ever been into your local sexshop every big town's got one now - and looked at the toys the boys buy? the whips, chains, handcuffs, gags, masks, things for putting up women's vaginas, and anuses, and down our throats? It's worth taking a look at their woman-hating propoganda, too, ie porn, which tells them we love it - love the degradation the pain the brutality the sex the control. More and more pornographic messages are getting into popular mags, into stories and ads and onto TV. And in the agony columns worried wives ask do they have to put up with what he wants - sado-masochistic sex, fetishism, bondage....and get the answer yes love it's liberated. Who's it ever liberated? Not women. Women never had the freedom to say no. Porn is acceptable now. Two years ago it was violence at the cinema. Now it's violent videos, freely available to men and boys of all ages. Some of these depict REAL MURDER of REAL WOMEN. That's a big turn-on for a man. It's death to us. The big porn mags weren't around until the late

50's. Now there's hundreds of them - in every newsagent and stationer's. They've hit the big time with their message of hatred and violence written by men for men - with women and girls as victims. Men's violence against women is getting more acceptable - and it's linked with the rise in pornography, which tells them it's ok we love it. Men believe in porn. It feeds their fantasies, they act them out. On us. And our daughters. Well, women won't take it any more. We're angry, angry as hell and we mean it. We're taking action during two weeks in May, starting on 14th. During the fortnight women will be taking action all over the country against sexshops, porn distributors, cinemas, newsagents and the media. On Sat 14th women all over the country will be destroying pornographic material publicly eg bonfires etc. Groups will be organising porn collection points and publicising them so that women who are insulted by the presence of porn in their homes can dispose of it. The bonfires will be accompanied by singing, dancing, celebrations, music for women and children. On Sun 15th following straight on from the bonfires, candlelight vigils will be held, in remembrance of all the women who have suffered from the brutality fo men - to make the connection between pornography and male violence. On Mon 16th there will be actions against video distributors. This will include phoning them up continuously. For the rest of the week up until Saturday various things like local 'Reclaim the Night' marches, pickets of sexshops, video shops, newsagents etc, identification and embarrassment of men using these places, eg taking their photos.

On Sat 21st their will be nationally co-ordinated pickets of WH Smiths (they sell porn). For the days 22-27th May various things like open meetings for women to discuss porn, public exhibitions of press-cuttings about male violence against women, etc. As May 24th is International Women's Day for Disarmament we should make the connections between male violence and the nuclear threat. On Sat 28th May women will visit Soho in their thousands to see for themselves the extent and nature of the porn industry there. There will be a social in the evening. Coaches for this should be organised well in advance. SEE YOU THERE!

We hope loads of women and women's groups will drop their regular activities during this week and join in. Because if there's enough of us we can stop the porn industry for at least a week. We're asking all the women who love peace, who want their bodies back, to join us in saying NO on a vast scale to what men are doing to us through porn.

THERE WERE 30,000 WOMEN AT GREENHAM - LETS ALL MEET UP AGAIN AT SOHO!

We have some funds to help get women down to London but we need more - donations and fund-raising will be welcome. The PIVAW account is at the Nat West Oxford/East Branch - A/C no. 660 215 53. Bank sorting no. 60 16 06 and you can contact us via

- 1) Oxford Women's Line - Oxford 726 295 (Weds 2-10 pm)
- 2) Anne R 01 701 8314 or Anne H 01 274 8970

In sisterhood
the Pornography Is Violence Against Women
planning group.

THE ODD VOLUME

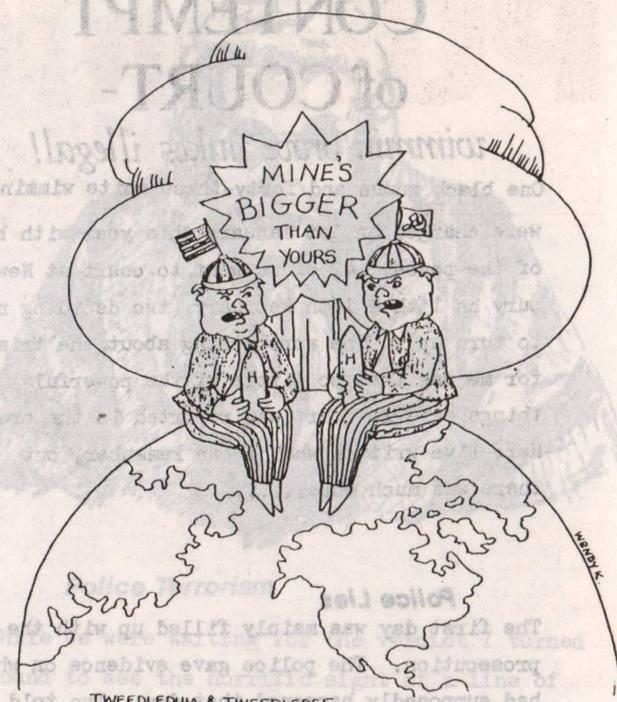
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CONTEMPT of COURT-

wimmin prove nukes illegal!

One black wumun and forty-three white wimmin were charged on 1st January this year with breach of the peace. 42 of us went to court at Newbury on 15th & 16th February (two deciding not to turn up). The worst thing about the trial for me was that so little of the powerful things said in court was reported in the press. Here I've written what I can remember, but there was much more.....

Police Lies

The first day was mainly filled up with the prosecution. The police gave evidence on what had supposedly happened that day. Two told downright lies - one giving an elaborate but weak story about how he was pushed over by two wimmin. We let him know what we thought of him! Throughout the two days wimmin showed the contempt we felt for the court proceedings. Our charge had been changed from breach of the peace to adding on 'with forced entry' and charges of damages to police uniforms. At the end of the trial we weren't found guilty of that - only of the label breach of the peace - not of what we were supposed to have done. None of the press reported this.

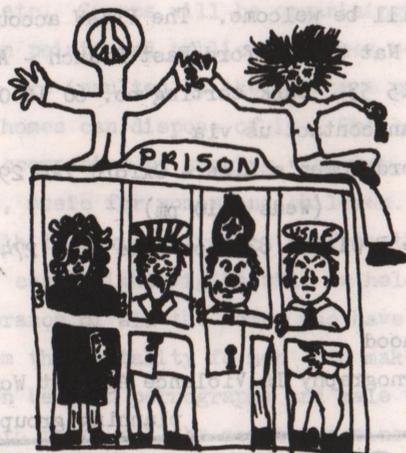
Offensive Weapons

The first of our 'expert' witnesses gave her evidence at the end of that day. We had talked about whether or not we wanted 'experts' to give evidence. Most of us wanted to get away from the idea that people on trial need so-called experts to talk for them. Many of us represented ourselves. On the other hand it was a good opportunity for wimmin who had dedicated their lives to anti-nuclear research to have an opportunity to talk publicly. We hoped that, as a result of the trial television and radio stations would want to interview them. We decided to only have wimmin giving evidence and for some of us to do research into particular things and become 'experts' too. The first witness talked about cruise missiles. What they do, when they're likely

to be used and so on. She explained how they're first strike weapons - how, in fact, they're no use at all unless used as an offensive. How we have no control over their use - its all in the hands of the USAF. There has been talk about dual-control, but the idea is too expensive for us. How the missiles are a target in themselves because they are there to be used. They are, in fact, no use at all as a 'deterrent'. They are offensive because of their superiority over any Soviet weapons. They are direct provocation and give the Soviets no encouragement to try and reduce their arms store.

Species Death Process

The second day was powerful and upsetting - partly because of the evidence given, partly because of the police's treatment of us. Rosalie Bertell, an American nun, gave evidence on low level radiation. She said she'd given up normal life to study and research into radiation to try and give people the information to wake them up. She said how some people are particularly susceptible to radiation - those with hereditary diseases like asthma, arthritis, heart disease, allergies, etc. These people can be up to 12 times more



susceptible to the effects of radiation (which makes a mockery of so called 'safe' levels because these are worked out with healthy people in mind). People with these diseases, because they are inherited, also pass on the low resistance to radiation. Future generations are therefore less able to cope with radiation and yet we are providing them with more and more radioactive material to deal with.

Rosalie called this a 'species death process' - we're killing ourselves off. We are the 2nd generation of the atomic age. By the 4th or 5th generation the damage done will be obvious. Whole family lines will have died out by them.

She also talked about research a colleague of hers, had done into people who are approaching death. She drew parallels between a cancer patient and the population at large faced with nuclear death.

Stages of death process -

- 1) Denial
- 2) Anger, frustration, helplessness
- 3) Partial acceptance (like a cancer patient accepting she's got cancer, but taking extra vitamins for it.)
- 4) The painful reality that becomes your whole life. You cannot pretend things are normal. How can you ignore the fact your life is in danger.

Rosalie said that we, in trying to do something about it, are in the 4th Stage. At this point I was crying because I knew how right she was.

Racism in the mines

Frene Ginwala gave evidence on the conditions of uranium mining in Namibia. How the black workers are dying quickly and regularly, how they have no choice but to do the work, how they all live near the mines where the radiation is high. The production of nuclear power relies on black people to provide cheap labour.

At this point more of us gave evidence on things we knew about or had found out about. One wumun talked about the Genocide Act and the Geneva Convention. Another mentioned the lack of security on the base - if we could get in, so haphazardly and noisily, and then stay on the silos for an hour - it wouldn't be difficult for terrorists to get in. They could even get in now, she pointed out, and get out undetected after having planted a bomb timed to go off after the siting of the missiles. One wumun showed Helen Caldicott's video as evidence as to why she'd gone over the fence.



Police Terrorism

While we were waiting for the verdict I turned round to see the horrific sight of a line of police behind us and all around the sides of us, with their backs to us, folding their arms, separating us from the public and the press. It was police terrorism and I felt sick with disgust. We told them to go. They didn't. Those of us in the back row stood on our chairs and held hands with the wimmin in the public's seats and sang. When the magistrates returned they told the police to stand by the walls, away from us. And they did. There was very little about the legal aspects of our trial in the press. They concentrated on the 'carnival atmosphere of political rhetoric' as the Times put it. There were no interviews of our experts on television. There was supposed to be a press conference but that never happened. This was all newsworthy stuff so what's going on? Why were the press so quiet and how can we make them more accountable for better coverage? In court we proved nuclear weapons are illegal. This was ignored!!!

Sue Z

We were found guilty of 'breach of the peace and were bound over to keep the peace! Six of us agreed to be bound over - to keep our 'version of peace. The other wimmin (except two who didn't come to the trial) were put in prison for two weeks!! For what??

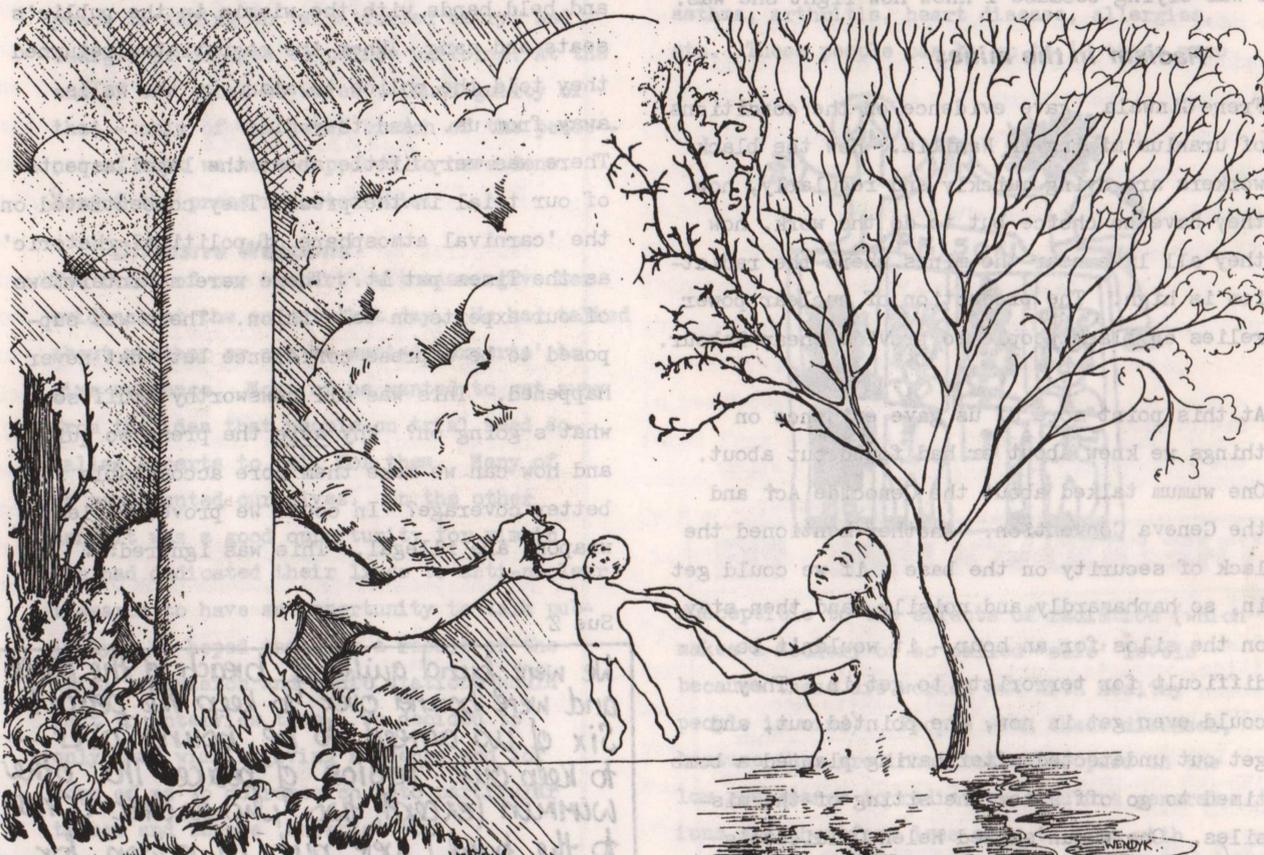
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THOUGHTS OUT OF COURT

And now I sit and wonder how I could ever have any doubts. The evidence I heard in the court room helped me make sense of my life and re-affirmed the direction it should take. If I do not act for peace, for the survival of this planet and sink into apathy and despair which is not a 'life' experience but a numbing experience, acceptance of a system which has already condemned me to death, a stage in the process of dying. I do not accept this, I will not let my spiritual, emotional and physical life deteriorate as a result of power. Crazy men with dangerous weapons. The only way I can live happily and create a peace within myself is by opposing all nuclear weapons and in this process create a peaceful wimmin-loving alternative.

My sisters must by now be in prison. I sit in my own room feeling strong and wanting to share my strength with you, wishing that each and everyone of you can feel my support. Together our hearts and minds can reach across the gulf which divides us because our spirits are all on, united in the common desire to end this madness. We are taking our lives into our own hands. I was asked by one interviewer if we thought we could change history. My answer was 'yes', we are creating Her-story and this is just the beginning.

Jez - the woman who wrote this, was one of the 144 wimmin who were found 'guilty' of 'breaching the peace' at the court case for the action on New Years Day.



Wendy - please contact us about doing more pictures. 7 Florence Rd, Brighton, Sussex.



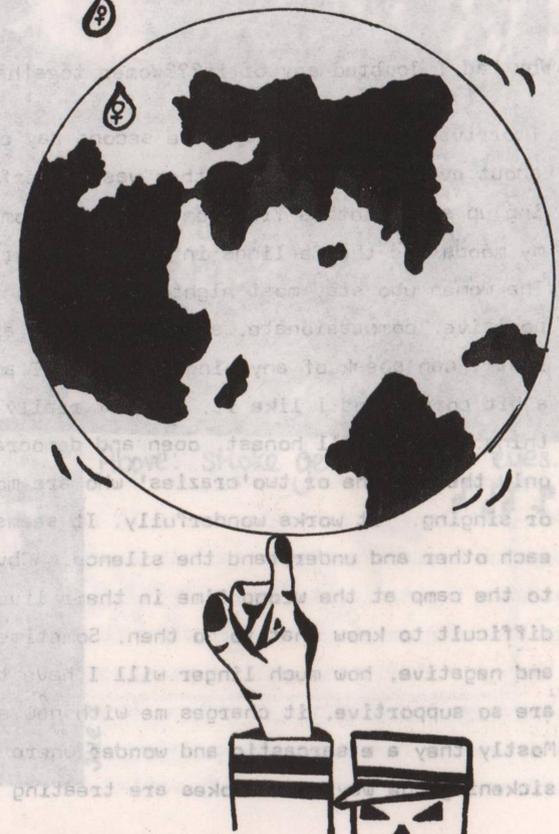
Dear Lysistrata

I'm sending you a copy of this letter I wrote this morning (17 Feb 1983). To begin with it was just for myself, but now I would really love as many people as possible to read it. The only way (as we all know) to make our struggle for peace really work is by motivating as many people as possible. I hope you will be able to print it. Its fairly simple. I'm not an intellectual or well experienced at putting my feelings on paper. It comes from my heart though and hopefully, even if one person is inspired thats enough for me.

Theresa
(from Greenham)

Morning after the Court Case Thursday 17 Feb

Its ten o'clock, the sky is a brilliant clear blue, the sun she's shining so strongly. I've just woken from a much needed good night's sleep. I can't remember any of my dreams, which is new for me. I can usually recall them very vividly. I feel as though I may have died last night. Yesterday was so painful, the sadness so great that I could feel nothing at all, but now a release of so much pressure, to see such a beautiful morning from where I am brings so many tears as I think of wimin, wimin I love, locked away in prisons for crimes not they, but the Governments of our country are committing. I would have been with them if I'd chosen to go to court. I'm free for now, but my spirit has been caged with them. I'm living my life in form of constant struggle for freedom, freedom of mind, body and Spirit, freedom from oppression, for allowing myself to believe that each of us has a right to our future but who's listening, who's listening that can hear the



BRIGHTON WIMMINS PEACE ♀ CAMP

"On the Level"

Brighton Women's Peace Camp started when Brighton Women were in court in Newbury. The Peace Camp is at a place called the Level in Brighton. Here are Two Women's accounts of their involvement at the beginning.....

Spent Monday feeling really depressed about the whole idea. The official at the Town Hall being patronising - what did he say about 'you ladies would be allowed to have a children's sing-song and a collection on the sea front if you had a licence! So we came away with no permission for St Peter's Church. He said we'd have to go to the Level-you're a political group. They all have to go to the Level. We came away feeling drained and angry. We used money collected the week before in sponsorship of the trip to Newbury to say 'Hi' to Michael Heseltine. I kept thinking we're crazy! How the hell is a Wendy House Village going to turn into a Peace Camp???? I had to help get the Churchill Square end of the demo together. I rushed around collecting a banner from Hollingbury, and

three other women were typing skins for the song-sheets and duplicating them. My thirteen year old daughter collated them and I made phone-calls to make sure that the children I was taking with me came. I was supposed to make pancakes but didn't have time. I delivered the powder paint easel, wallpaper paste and paper to another woman with a van. The One Man Band was going to come to Churchill Square with us. Next morning at nine o'clock we set off for Churchill Sq, five children, banners, song-sheets, a drum and me. On the way to the bus the local vicar saw us, and thinking we were heading for a picnic, smiled and said 'Where are you off to?'

'Oh to ban the bomb' I said sweetly. He turned prickly and went back up the hill. We got the bus and passed St. Peters Church, where we were supposed to meet, and I saw no-one. Gloom. We went to the Square and two other young women and some blokes from the Uni were there, and then five more. The One Man Band came. We sang and leaf-letted for an hour-all the time thinking wh.t's happening at the other end. We walked along singing and beating our drum up to the Level. A friend seeing us said we looked like an eccentric family. Then we saw some women together and my heart lifted. We're going to the Law Courts-great. We marched on up to the Level and there it all was. At least 100 women, balloons, pancakes, kids, and yes three tents.

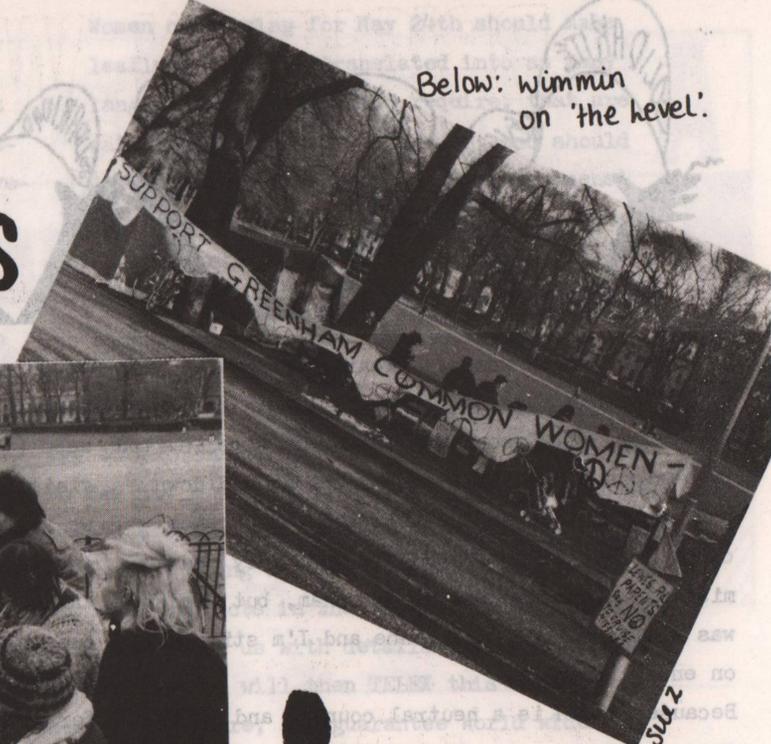
Why had I doubted any of it??? Women together are so strong. Melissa.

I arrived last Wednesday, the second day of the camp feeling really good and positive about everything. The weather was wonderful and the adrenalin was soaring! After picking up some clothes from home. I came 'home' and settled in. Since that glorious day, my moods and the feelings in the 'hard core' group have been falling and rising rapidly. The women who stay most nights feel very close to one another, the feelings and positive, compassionate, supportive. We are all completely ourselves. I feel that at last I can speak of anything I feel. I am starting to find my true self! (it sounds a bit corny) and I like it. We talk really closely together about anything and everything. We are all honest, open and democratic with each other. The public are great - only the odd one or two 'crazies' who are mostly men. We deal with these with silence or singing. It works wonderfully. It seems that sometimes we never to speak...we hold each other and understand the silence. Obviously there are some women who have come to the camp at the wrong time in their lives and get screwed up by it. Its really difficult to know what to do then. Sometimes I don't know. Sometimes I feel really bad and negative, how much longer will I have to cry and scream inside and out. The women are so supportive, it charges me with new energy and determination. The cops are OK??!! Mostly they are sarcastic and wonder where the (dreaded) men are. Its really quite sickening the way some blokes are treating us....they are so very immature. Nikki.

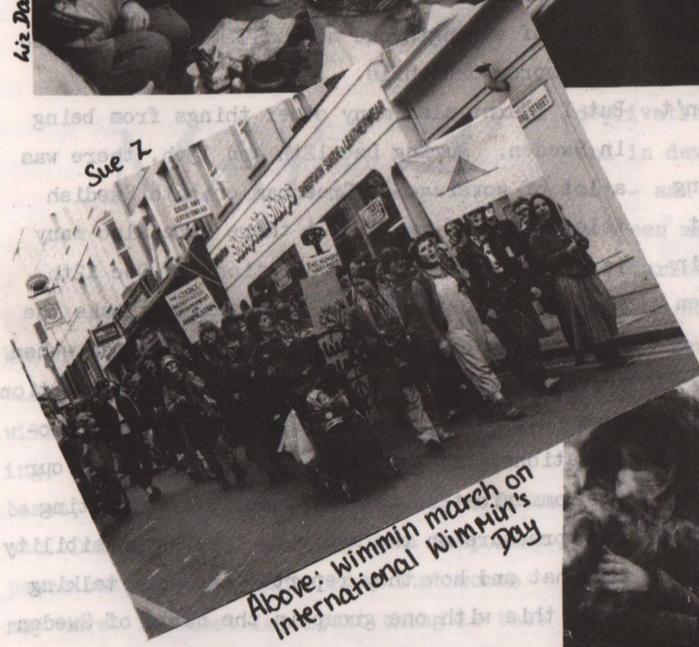
KANDID KAMPERS



Kis Daniell



Below: wimmin on 'the level'.



Above: wimmin march on International Wimmin's Day



Below: obnoxious workmen get the ring-o-roses bit!



Above: smoke gets in your eyes....

Sue Z



SWEDEN / MAY 24th

Like a lot of women, I learned some very important things over Dec 12th and 13th - but I was in Sweden, not Greenham. Two of us were invited by various Women for Peace groups up and down the country to come and talk about the peace camp, direct action, etc. We were very sad to miss all of the action at Greenham, but Sweden was an incredible experience and I'm still high on energy from it.

Because Sweden is a neutral country and quite progressive in general, we expected the Swedes to feel relatively safe, and perhaps above criticism for having no nuclear weapons. Instead, there was a growing awareness that Sweden won't be safe until the world is free of nuclear weapons, and there is beginning to be a strong commitment to actively oppose the government and Swedish corporations which are involved in armaments deals. Many Swedish women have been very active in the international peace movement - with other Scandinavian women they organised the Peace March to Paris, as well as the Stockholm to Moscow and Minsk Peace March, and there is talk of marching to the States or possibly Greenham this year. But many people feel it is important to start emphasising the Swedish links in the arms race. In general, most people seemed to be very aware of the need to do something (and soon!) - but there was a lot of uncertainty about what specific actions to take.

Talking with them was very inspiring - we spoke to 13 groups in 8 towns, as well as a rally of 6,000 - we also did interviews with 14 newspapers and 4 radio stations (all in a week!). Greenham's reputation is incredibly strong - there had been an award-winning film about the camp on television, and several groups were working hard to publicise Greenham, but that didn't account for their overwhelming enthusiasm for us. One woman actually wanted to

touch us because she'd heard so much about Greenham, but couldn't believe we were real! Spider webs (that a woman had learned to make while visiting Greenham) decorated one of the schools we visited. And everywhere we went we were greeted with songs, flowers and lots of women anxious to hear all about Greenham and to discuss how we can work together for Fred (peace, in Swedish). Possibly, the most valuable thing for me was the time spent getting to know them, and sharing stories and songs, for it gave me a lot of strength and made all the work seem so much more worthwhile.

But I learnt also many other things from being in Sweden. During Dec 12th and 13th, there was a lot of coverage of Greenham on both Swedish television and radio, but there were also many large anti-nuclear demonstrations on Dec 12th all over Sweden, which I knew wouldn't make the English press. We talked with the Swedish women about this, and agreed that women's direct action is a much more powerful message that most demonstrations, but also that we must establish our own communication networks, as well as putting more pressure on the media to take responsibility for what and how they report. (We were talking about this with one group in the north of Sweden and the meeting ended up with the whole group trudging through the snow at 11.30pm, in 20 degrees below zero, no less! - to the local newspaper offices and complaining that there hadn't been adequate coverage of the meeting, and that it was a vital issue that concerned everyone, etc....the next day there was a full page devoted to it!) Personal contacts within the media seem very important - there were two Swedish women who went over the fence on January 1st at Greenham, so we rang all of our Swedish media contacts and they put the story out all over Sweden, and did follow-ups when the women returned to Sweden.

The strongest insight I got, came from thinking about their willingness to do direct action but wanting 'guidance'. It really brought home to me how much potential we have as an International peace movement, if we gave non-violent (nvda) training, and then co-ordinated all the available peace networks and media contacts. While talking about this with the Swedish women, we came up with the idea of an International day of womens' action for disarmament. When we returned from Sweden, we took the idea to Greenham, and it was agreed that May 24th would be a good date as it was already established as INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY FOR DISARMAMENT.

(Swedish contacts;
Radio Ellen-national women's
radio programme;
Box 254, 901 06 Umea, Sweden.
Women for Peace;
Agneta Norberg, Fysikgrand 39,
90 240 Umea, Sweden.)

MAY 24

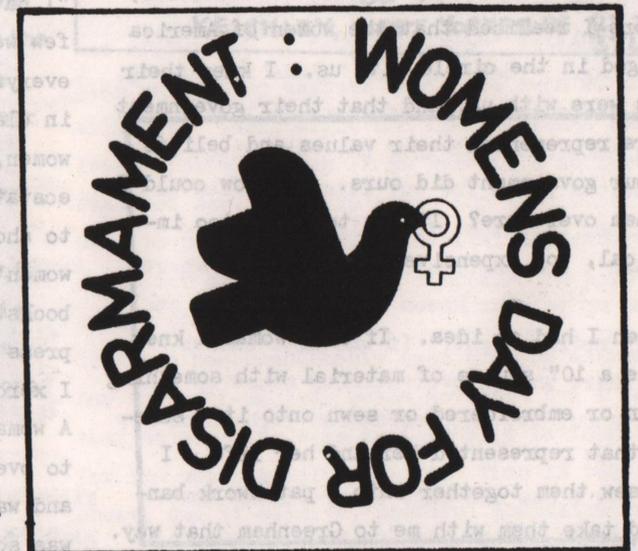
Womens' direct action will be happening all over the world on the same day. This will take the form of blockading, encircling, decorating, and occupying military bases, armament firms, banks, govt. offices etc. Doing die-ins, setting up a temporary peace camp, or any other idea that women may have. The most important thing is that we use our imaginations and THINK BIG!!

So far, we have contacts for most of the UK who are contacting individual women, groups, and Trade Unions etc. in their own local area. There are also women working on the day in at least 25 other countries. We need to get the idea of an International Womens' Day of Action across to women everywhere, not just able-bodied, middle-class white women. Work must be done to give even more women the confidence to participate in positive action for disarmament.

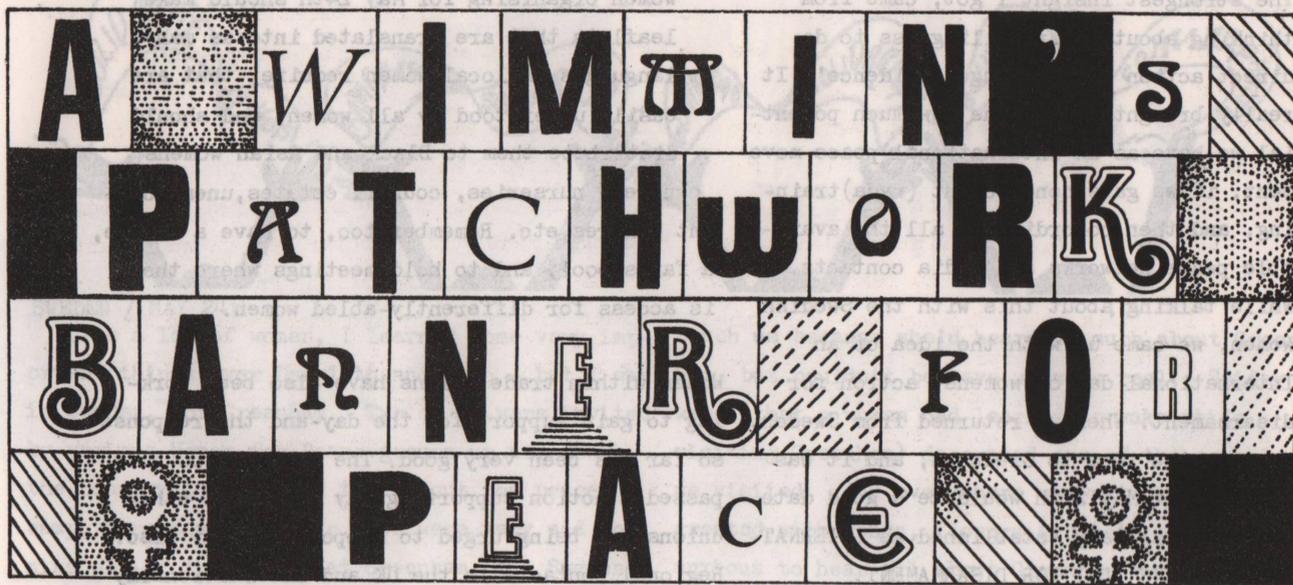
Women organising for May 24th should make leaflets that are translated into as many languages as local women require, that are easily understood by all women, and should distribute them to Black and Asian womens' centres, nurseries, council estates, unemployment centres, etc. Remember too, to have a creche, a fares pool, and to hold meetings where there is access for differently-abled women.

Women within trade unions have also been working to gain support for the day - and the response so far has been very good. The womens' TUC have passed a motion supporting May 24th, and other unions are being urged to support the day also. Regional contacts in the UK and Internationally will telephone us with details of local actions on the day. We will then TELEX this news to media everywhere, and guarantee world wide coverage.

Connecting the nuclear issue with the financial deprivation that it causes both in our own lives, and in developing economies is also very important - and we need to make a very real connection between male power/violence and the growth of Militarism and the nuclear industries. Our actions on May 24th should show our understanding of the causes of the nuclear threat. May 24th has the potential to be a SPECTACULAR SUCCESS!!!! It is your energy and imagination that will guarantee that it is.....



Contact May 24th group at: 16 ARUNDEL ROAD, BRIGHTON SUSSEX, ENGLAND. for more information.



A WOMEN'S PATCHWORK BANNER FOR PEACE

What did I most want to take to Greenham Common for the December action? to have with me as we circled the base? to bring to the fence as my contribution to our common statement of our reality? Two months beforehand I was turning ideas over in my mind, and one thought wouldn't leave me. I realised that what I wanted most was the women of the United States, who had been such an important part of my life for the last four years that I lived there - women I had worked with, marched with wept with, grown strong with. The more I thought about the US Air Force on one side of the wire fence, and the women of Britain on the other, the more I realised that the women of America belonged in the circle with us. I knew their hearts were with us, and that their government no more represented their values and beliefs than our government did ours. But how could I get them over here? It was too far, too impractical, too expensive.

And then I had an idea. If each woman I knew sent me a 10" square of material with something written or embroidered or sewn onto it - something that represented her and her life - I could sew them together into a patchwork banner and take them with me to Greenham that way. It seemed worth a try. So I wrote a letter, made 40 copies, sent them to women friends in the States and waited.

What happened took my breath away. The squares started to arrive slowly during November in little envelopes, some from women I knew, some from strangers. Who were they? The envelopes became packets, the packets became parcels, and by the end of the month boxes were arriving at my door by every post. They came from all over America, and Canada too.

It seemed as if the word had spread from woman to woman, and had released a longing to be involved in the December action, to have their voices heard, their energies mingled with ours, to be present in some tangible way.

A friend from Massachusetts wrote to me; "I have felt so connected to you these last few weeks, walking around with 10" squares everywhere I went, reading your letter to women in classes, at meetings - anywhere there were women, out would come your letter. Women were ecstatic for the opportunity to do something, to show support, love, solidarity. The local women's paper reprinted your letter, the women's bookstore set up a display with the pictures and press releases you sent, and a sample square. I xeroxed your letter and sent it to 35 women. A woman in New York xeroxed it again and sent it to over 150 groups...the web weaves on, the love and wanting of all these women to do something was so evident. I know you are being besieged by squares and love and energy and commitment from all over."

A week before the action I had 400 squares. I had no hope of using them all. Selecting them was agonising. Every time I sat down to work at the banner I would find at some point tears in my eyes as a particular message found a way into my heart, and I found myself at one with the woman who sent it. When at last I finished the banner, it was 35 feet long and took at least six women to carry it. It is beautiful and awe-inspiring, a living presence. It expresses the anger and hope, the courage and dreams of women of all ages and all faiths. It is in every colour, every kind of material, it has words, music, embroidery, applique, drawing, painting, ribbons, wool, badges, and photographs. I feel privileged to have worked on it.

Many women saw it at Greenham, stopped to look at it and read the messages. They were touched and delighted, reading aloud the names and places with wonder and pleasure. At one gate on Monday as we carried it towards the women sitting in the road, the police formed a chain and rushed between us and the women, preventing them from reading it - was it that much of a threat? (We simply climbed the hillside and stood knee-deep in gorse bushes holding it high over our heads as the women cheered). At the end of each day women helped me roll it up, silently touching the squares, smoothing each one into place, handling it with great tenderness, as if they felt the presence of the women who had made it.

This Easter I am taking the banner 'home' on a trip to America and Canada, to visit some of the women who made it; to share with them what we are doing in the disarmament movement, and hear what they are doing; to strengthen our networks and our connections. Making this banner reminded me yet again how our unity as women can transcend national boundaries and interests. It was an amazing experience for me - there is a world of energy out there for us to harness, and a sisterhood waiting to embrace us. As one woman wrote on her square, under a sketched portrait of herself:

'Dear British sisters, when times get hard, remember that I, Jane Keeler of Ottawa, Canada, a US native woman - and all women that I know - support you in our struggle.'

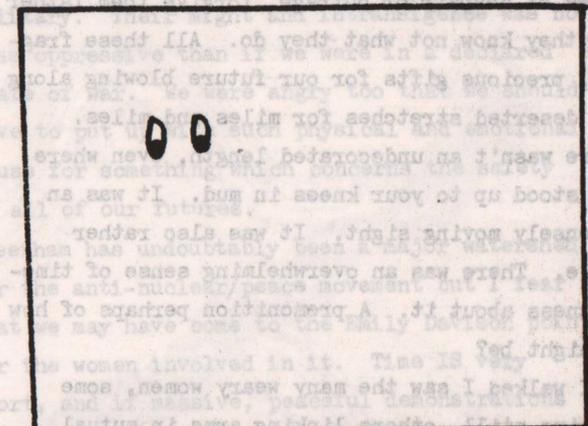
If your group would be interested in making contact with a women's peace or disarmament group in Canada or the US, please drop me a line, and I will try and make a connection for you. So much of what we are all doing is kept from us, or distorted, by the patriarchal mass media. Hearing directly from sisters in another country spreads the real information, as well as being a great source of joy and encouragement to us all. Give me some idea of the nature of your group and what kind of group you are interested in hearing from (rural, city-based, specifically anti-Cruise, etc.)

Marion McNaughton
Aisling Cottage
Back Church Lane
Leeds LS16 8DW

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Q - Wats this a picture of?
A - A white cat - sitting in a snow filled garden!
more next issue !!!!

GREENHAM

more about dec 12 & 13

by Julie Christina

One woman's account....

I returned to Greenham on the Monday. I was lucky, I had slept in a warm bed, others had turned up expecting to find accommodation there but of course there were too many of us. It was a bitterly cold night too, so many women faced Monday exhausted even before the day's events began at dawn.

I arrived mid-morning to walk the 9 mile perimeter of the base and admire the precious things that had been left by the women on the grim fencing. It was a very poignant route for me, filled as it was with an endless vista of the remorseless fencing transformed momentarily into the warp and weft for the fragile tapestry of what life on earth means to us. As our fore mothers wove fabric to protect and sustain life, so we wove together, in our thousands, to continue the beautiful but threatened designs. All those children's things, soft and lovely objects, household things, a line of laundered nappies, stories and paintings by children, craftwork, embroideries, designs made from twigs and leaves and moss, photos, hundreds of photos from a multitude of backgrounds and beliefs - I've never seen such unity. There were love letters, personal messages, poems, quotes, pleas for sanity, cries of despair or outrage, forgive them father for they know not what they do. All these fragile, precious gifts for our future blowing along the deserted stretches for miles and miles.

There wasn't an undecorated length, even where you stood up to your knees in mud. It was an intensely moving sight. It was also rather eerie. There was an overwhelming sense of timelessness about it. A premonition perhaps of how it might be?

As I walked I saw the many weary women, some singing still, others linking arms in mutual support, and now and then I passed women conversing with the attendant police or providing

them with tea while they reminded us of the Russian Threat and the necessity of having to have bombed Japan, twice.

One woman's foot had been crushed that morning by a vehicle. At another gate a policeman on a motorbike had raced towards a group of sitting women, stopping only when he hit a leg. He carried on revving up and demanding that a path be cleared. A friend of the owner of the leg asked if he was mad or something? He replied that she must be mad if she thought he wouldn't run her over too if she didn't get out of the way. To prevent further injury the woman walked around the bike and turned his ignition key off. She was promptly arrested.

One other woman was arrested that day along with a man. Many of the women were bruised and visibly shaken from the morning's events. Being tired and cold doesn't assist your resilience levels.

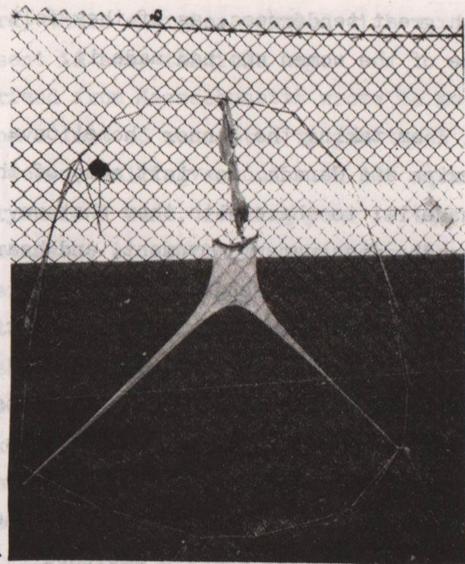


photo: AL

Night was falling as I arrived back at the main gate where about 40 women were cuddled up together in front of the gates. I noticed that it suddenly became very quiet. The police had

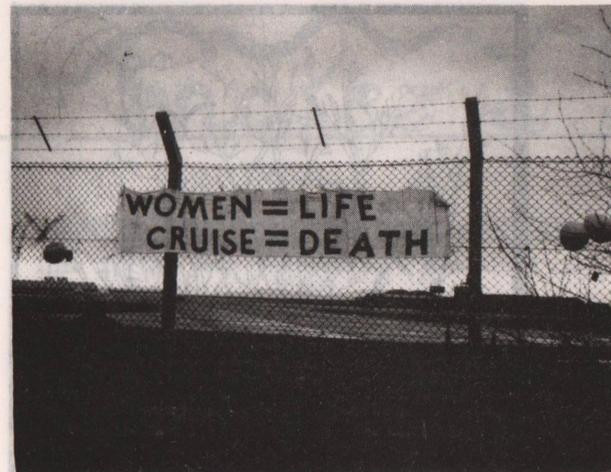


photo: AL

just cordoned off the road. Inside the compound, a group of Ministry of Defence police moved up and began to sweep the wide gates forwards and out. This movement involved sweeping rows of women forward with it. Rows of women, about 6 deep, were seated on plastic sheeting in front of the gates. To open the gates by force meant that these women would be pushed up and over like a human wave. This they started to do. More women rushed to join those sitting, or prepared cameras, or took names of those in jeopardy. The men working on the missile silos wanted to go home. There was no question that we could prevent them leaving, but we could delay it for as long as possible.

All this activity was happening quickly to my left. To my right I heard a strange rustling sound and turned to face what was for me, a very frightening scene. I've never been involved with any close confrontation with the police before. But I saw a stream of them in their night-coloured clothes come running, close-packed, elbows rocking, in unison and without a word. They moved so swiftly and in such ludicrous numbers that to my startled imagination they seemed to be haemorrhaging from the surrounding nightfall. In comparison to the gentleness, the calmness and the bright-coloured clothes of the women, these dark uniformed beings appeared as nothing other than manifestations of certain evils against which I felt hopelessly inadequate to defend myself.

The policemen all wore raincoats over their uniforms which meant that they were still in official dress but that you couldn't see their

individual numbers should you wish to report any of them. And this uniformity made them look even more menacing, even more inhuman and therefore unapproachable - there could be no dialogue with them. They came in droves, running and rushing up to form a grunting line of bully-boys who grabbed and threw women by the hair, leg or earring, up bare-backed across the tarmac, up and over into ditches or the roadside. Women ran back time and time again to receive the same punishments from the police who played coal-sacks with them as many times as the women returned. Eventually the way was clear for a heavy convoy of American trucks to thunder out, jam-packed with sneering faces.

What disturbed me most was that those trucks relied entirely on the police to drag women's limbs and heads out of the way in time. The women's heroism in returning to fling themselves down time and again meant that I saw far too many near misses. I saw one woman being carried away by a male colleague. When the convoy had gone, we were left with the shambles of the tipi they had pulled apart, the torn groundsheets, ground candles and so on. Several women were weeping with distress and shock at being man-handled in this way. Others were raising their hands, open handed in despair over this crazy situation, flinging them down again and calling 'Shame on you, shame on you!' to the departing boys in blue whose future we were fighting for too. We were all a bit bewildered by the speed and efficiency of their methods. It really felt like we were up against the brute face of the military. Their might and intransigence was no less oppressive than if we were in a declared state of war. We were angry too that we should have to put up with such physical and emotional abuse for something which concerns the safety of all of our futures.

Greenham has undoubtedly been a major watershed for the anti-nuclear/peace movement but I fear that we may have come to the Emily Davison point for the women involved in it. Time IS very short, and if massive, peaceful demonstrations have little apparent effect on government policies and the Cruise missiles arrive next year, then I fear for the lives of many women I saw at Greenham who are prepared to prevent their arrival bodily.

REVIEWS«...»REVIEWS

SIREN PLAYS

LP by The Siren Theatre Company

Siren Theatre Co is an all women feminist theatre company and their rock music has now, rightly been given a place of its own. Siren's LP 'Siren Plays' is a collection of songs from their three shows; 'Mama's Gone a Hunting', 'Curfew', and 'From the Divine'.

Siren are incredibly versatile. Combining guitar, sax, drums, flute, synthesiser, and keyboards with their sharp and astute lyrics, they produce catchy yet powerful rock music. Both the music and the lyrics create dramatic, but not unreal, imagery. Siren have the extraordinary power to match music and voice to their subject. Bitter, sardonic, gently amusing, humourously detached, angry, Siren capture the feelings and responses from observing and being involved in a woman and lesbian hating world.

Siren sings about subjects that are so familiar to us all; fear of the night, closeted sexuality, nuclear weapons, pornography, fighting back. Yet Siren presents it in such a thought-provoking way that its like seeing these things for the first time again.

Although Siren's music has the power to provoke the fear in us, it doesn't stop there. In 'Breaking It Down' we move from our own experience of madness in a mad world, to taking back our power, challenging, fighting:

'Women's bodies, commodities -
Take your hands off my body
Give it back.....'

Or else!!

Some of the songs are hilarious, a dialogue between Calamity Jane and Wonder Woman:

WW - I'm all in a funk about Hunk

And me knees turn to jelly

CJ - Hunk is a skunk

What he needs is a bullet in the belly.

But there is always an undercurrent of seriousness, a question, a challenge or a statement. The music is penetrating, haunting, and catchy.

Some of the music is disco material, non of it loses its magic after just a few hearings. Well, some would say a review is not a review unless it contains some criticism so here it is. I felt that having 'A Difference of Opinion' as the last song on the LP left me with a feeling of incompleteness. I would have put 'Mama's Gone A-Hunting' last as it conjures up the feeling of a big feminist party going on that we can all join in.

PW

'Siren Plays' can be obtained from Brighton Women's Centre for £4. 6 Marlborough Place, Brighton, Sussex.



ZAMI - A NEW SPELLING OF MY NAME by AUDRE LOURDE

The story of a black feminist growing up in New York in the 1930s. The style of writing makes the book easy to read. It is as if the pages come alive as you read them and you are living the life of Audre Lorde. The way the historical facts are put into the story in a matter of fact way give the book depth. She has an air of honesty about what she is writing and it seems hard to believe that any of the book is in fact myth, as she seems to tell her story with such feeling all the way through.

I found myself easily understanding and feeling her oppression, her pain and also her happiness. I recommend you read the book. It's great! **Kris**
The book is published by Persephone Press,
PO Box 7222, Watertown, Massachusetts 02172.

AMAZULU

I spoke to Lesley from Amazulu over the phone about the B-side of their current single. Its called 'Greenham Time'. Because it was over the phone I can't quote her word for word but I'll write what she said as best as I can. Sorry, Lesley, if I get anything wrong!
NB - my spelling of 'wimmin'!

Lesley - I think the wimmin at Greenham are incredible - because they can bear this cold! We've not been but we'd like to go and maybe play there when we've got time. When some of the wimmin got arrested there the newspapers labelled them all as militant feminists and lesbians, which is bad, terrible. What we're trying to say is - the press shouldn't twist it all. They make out they're all lesbians having orgies. - even if they are what's their sex life got to do with it anyway? 'Babylon' means the end of civilisation as we know it. Which is what it would mean if these missiles were brought in. It also means wicked governments. We say leave the wimmin alone. Also, what are the police, courts and press doing? These wimmin are trying to stop nuclear weapons being brought in - these bombs will kill them too.

Lesley talked about people wanting to label them as feminists, which is something she doesn't want.

Lesley - I don't know what a feminist is. To know that I'd have to go and study, you know? It seems any sensible woman who does anything on her own is called a feminist or a lesbian by the press. If you're not married people assume you're a lesbian. There is one man in the band and the driver is a man. We get asked if we're going with him, are you going out with him. And when you say no, they automatically think you are a lesbian.

Mmm.....does this mean that the press has such a good image of us lesbians that any woman doing anything wonderful must be one? It must be annoying for the band to be labelled simply because they are a woman-dominated band, it seems a shame, though, that Lesley seemed to think it was such a bad thing to be assumed a lesbian. Most dykes have to put up with constantly being assumed to be straight.

The single is great! Its got a slow, pulsing reggae beat that has a menacing feel to it - goes with the subject matter..... Its the first publicly released song about Greenham - and you can dance to it!! Makes a change from some of the songs about Greenham! I just wish it was the A-side!

'Greenham Time' and 'Cairo' (the A-side, which is going up the charts at the time of writing) are on Towerbell Records.

Sue Z

Greenham Time

You too soon old
Too late wise
Open your eyes
To the menace
In the sky.
The wimmin them a shout about peace
The wimmin them a scream about missiles
This nuclear race must cease
Don't trouble them wimmin in Greenham Common.
Babylon, Babylon, Babylon.....
We say leave them wimmin alone.
Together we'll fry
Together we'll die
Got no time to rest
Got no time to jest
Babylon, Babylon, Babylon.....



wimmin's peace CONTACTS

Wales

Brawdy Women for Life on Earth
Linnie Baldwin, Pantilyn Terrace, Llandybie,
Ammanford, Wales.

Scotland

Edinburgh Women's Peace Group
c/o Sos, 20 Stanley Rd, Edinburgh.
Forres Women for Peace
Ange Stephens, Cluny Hill College,
Forres, Scotland.

England

North-
Chester Women for Peace
7 Lumley Rd, Chester.
Capenhurst Women's Peace Camp
c/o Barbara Doris, 19 Warwick Close,
Neston, Wirral, Merseyside.
051 336 3334

Leeds Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat
c/o Corner Bookshop, 162 Woodhouse Lane,
Leeds 2.
Sheffield Women for Peace
Sarah Green, 118 Broomfield Lane,
Sheffield 10.

Midlands-
Bristol Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat
c/o C Bradshaw, 73 Cumberland Rd, Bristol.
Birmingham Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat
c/o 6 Caroline Road, Mosely, Birmingham
Norwich Women for Peace
c/o Bee Sanderson, 29 High Bungay Rd,
Norwich.
Nottingham Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat,
32a Shakespeare St, Nottingham.

South-
Cambridge Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat
c/o Wendy Mulford, 87 St Philips Rd, Cambridge.
Islington Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat
c/o 55b Tabley Rd, London N7.

Please send us any contact addresses you may have, especially abroad, so this list can be more complete.

Greenham Common Peace Camp
RAF Greenham Common, Nr Newbury,
Berks.
Greenham Office: 01 274 6655 } 4.30-6.30pm
01 226 1474 }

Oxford Mothers for Nuclear Disarmament
Jini Lavelle, 11 Warnborough Rd, Oxford.

Totnes Women for Peace
Rowena Harris/Sue Knight, Women's Centre,
4 The Plains, Totnes, Devon.

Watford Women for Peace
Women's Liberation Group, Oxley Grange,
Oxley Lane, Watford, Herts.
Gadebrook 89042.

General

Mothers for Peace
Lucy Behenna, 27 Penn Court, Ifield,
Crawley, Sussex.
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
29 Great James' St, London WC1 3E5. 01 242 4817.
Women for World Disarmament, Kathleen Tacchi-Morris,
Langs House, North Curry, Nr Taunton.
Curry 207
Women for Life on Earth
82 Lady Margaret Rd, London N1G 5BS

York. c/o Judith Nitz, 1 Windsor St,
South Bank, York.

Hitchin c/o 19 Doere Rd, Hitchin,
Herts.

Southampton Families Against the Bomb
(Southampton) 30, Westwood Rd,
Southampton 0703-554434.

Lancaster c/o Hazel, Flat 2, 37 Sotforth Rd,
Lancaster LA1 4TS.

Leicester c/o 82 Howard Rd, Leicester.

London c/o 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

Loughborough c/o Trinity Methodist Church,
Rayland Rd, Loughborough.

Merseyside c/o Women's Centre, Rialto
Community Centre, Upper
Parliament St, Liverpool 8.

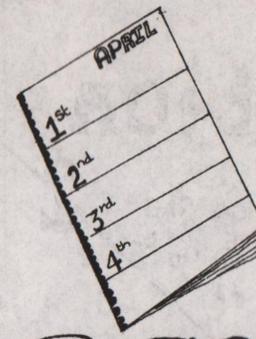
Rochdale c/o Chris Benett, 5, Fenton St,
Rochdale.

Peace Camps In Europe: Contact:
Leidge Thomassen, Emmalaan 6,
Suest.

Women of the International Peace Camp
Comiso,
Via g. Morso 29, Comiso,
RAGUSA
Italy
Tel: 0932 966319

Coordinamento dell' Autodeterminazione della Donna
c/o Emma Baeri,
Via Paolo Bentivoglio 30,
95125 CATANIA,
Italy

DIARY PAGE



When you send in dates, please state whether or not they are wimmin only.

APRIL

8 - 10 (mixed)
CAAT National Meeting
Glasgow (01-278 1976
for further information)

2
Anti-Trident Demo
Glasgow. (mixed)

20
Debate in Parliament
whether or not there is to
be a referendum on Cruise
missiles!!!

MAY

1
Children's party on
Greenham Common.

10 - 12
Arms Trade Conference!!
Metropole Hotel, Brighton.

14 - 28
P.I.V.A.W. 2 weeks of
action against PORN!!
See page 12 for details.

MAYO

AVRIL

3 - 4
Easter marches & NVDA
at nuke weapon sites
in F.R.G.

10 - 16
Jobs with Peace Week U.S.

15
28 Greenham women on trial
for wilful obstruction.
Newbury.

3
Fun & games for kids at
Brighton Peace Camp. 3pm.

MAI

7
YCND Festival for Peace
London. (mixed)

19 (mixed)
Faslane-Greenham March
sets out, due to arrive
on Aug 6

MAGGIO

24
Wimmin all out for Peace.
See page 21 for details.

31

20
Mothers for Peace at
Greenham.
A vigil at Main Gate.

3
Joan Armatrading in
Brighton (woops).

March 31 - April 1
Chain from Greenham to
Aldermaston & Burghfield.
Blockade on 1st.

Please state whether there are facilities for differently-abled people.