

TOGETHER...



we'll plot...



plan...



& shout...



...FOR PEACE
& JUSTICE
FOR ALL WIMMIN

...so help LYSISTRATA keep going - please!

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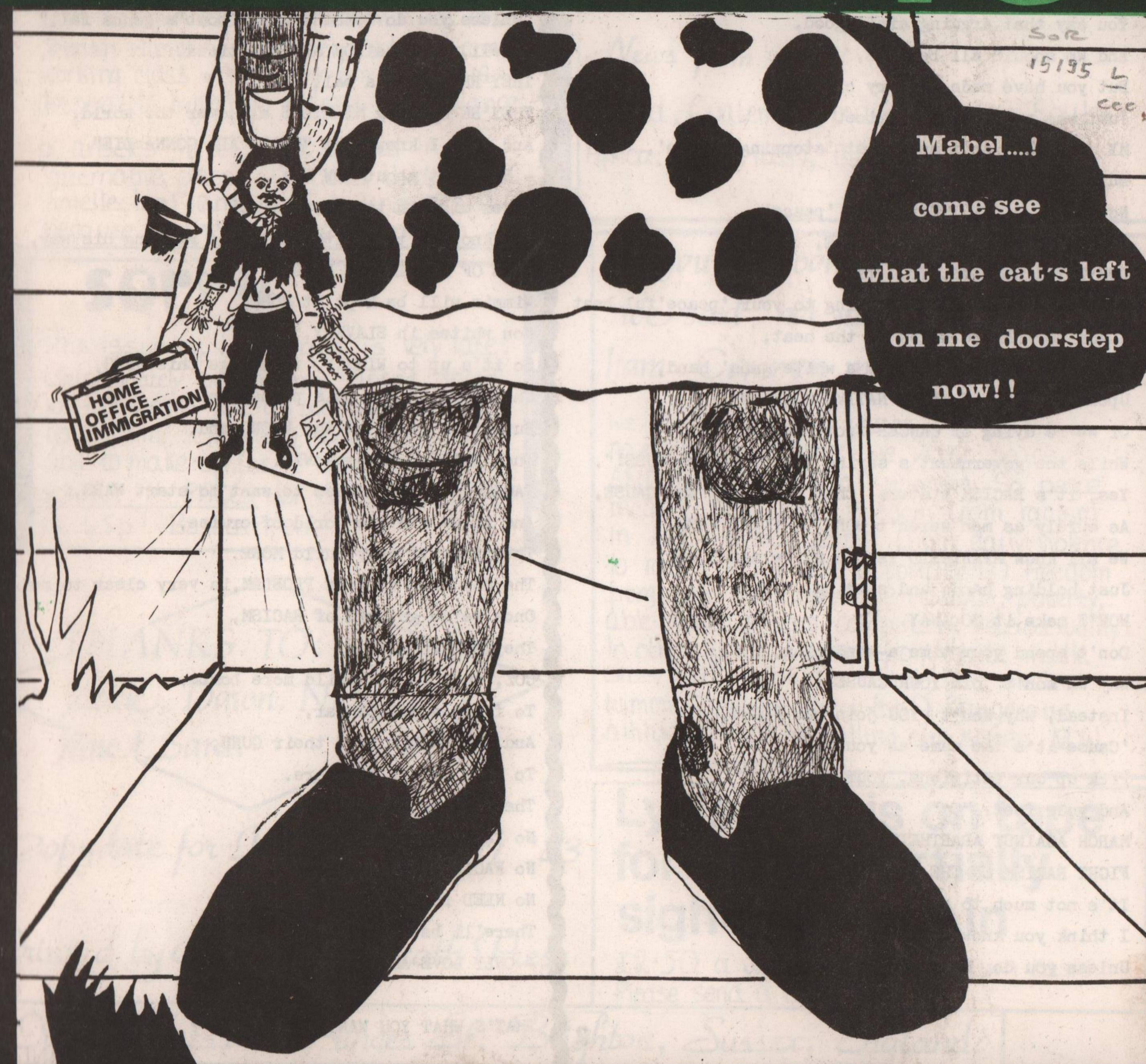
LYSISTRATA

A WOMEN'S PEACE MAG

not just a greenham common magazine

issue no. 7

45^P



Instead of an editorial we've printed a poem
in answer to a question that is often asked:

"Surely we've got to get rid of nuclear
weapons **FIRST?**"

So, YOU'RE saying you want WE BLACK SISTERS,
To JOIN YOU in your cause.
You're saying that our BATTLES,
Should be fought without WARS.
You say that arguing ain't good,
And WE should all be NICE,
But you have made it very clear,
Just who must pay the price.
MY 'peace' can't mean just 'stopping Cruise',
But 'PEACE' for every one.
Not just your WHITE idea of 'peace',
'Cause that won't save NO ONE.
DON'T YOU REALISE.....????
That while you march and sing to your 'peace'ful beat,
BLACK PEOPLE are DYING in the heat,
Of a bomb just dropped by a white mans' hand,
Upon the soil of thier NATIVE HOMELAND.
Or we're dying of CANCER from uranium dust,
While the government's saying "DON'T MAKE A FUSS!".
Yes, it's RACISM sisters, that is surely the CAUSE,
As surely as men weren't BORN to fight WARS.
We all know APARTHEID is the white mans' way,
Just holding hands and singing,
WON'T make it GO AWAY.
Don't spend your time a-wondering,
Why WE won't join YOUR CAUSE,
Instead, why don't YOU join our FIGHT,
'Cause it's the same as yours.
Pick up our petitions, your pens,
And your feet.
MARCH AGAINST APARTHEID,
FIGHT RACISM ON THE STREETS.
It's not much to ask,
I think you know why,
Unless you do, MORE people gonna DIE.

30,000 at Greenham, many more in CND.
I wonder if you're bothered,
That Black people still ain't FREE?
Yet how many times, do you keep telling me,
"Unless you do SOMETHING the bomb's gonna fall"
- Well, in case YOU ain't noticed...
THEY'RE having a ball
THEY'RE killing MILLIONS all over the world.
And well I know that "WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE"
- But what about NOW ?
Never mind in ten years time!
You know, if the white man keeps getting his way,
NONE OF US WILL BE FREE.
Wimmin will be kept at HOME,
Non whites in SLAVERY.
So it's up to WIMMIN, to change this MESS,
That THEY'VE got this planet in.
But if we start at the WRONG end,
Then WE'RE not gonna WIN.
FACISM's their excuse to want to start WARS,
And if we rid the world of cruise,
Then they'll only build MORE.
The solution to this PROBLEM, is very clear to me.
Once we've got rid of RACISM,
The REST is EASY.
COZ, they'll not build more bombs,
To fight a RACIST war,
And THEY won't need their GUNS,
To KILL people any more.
There'll be no HATRED,
No RACISTS on the streets.
No FACISTS in power,
No NEED for the POLICE.
There'll be no FEAR,
- ONLY LOVE AND PEACE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT - ISN'T IT ?

About Us

There's two of us - at the moment -
one Black wumun and one white. Both
working class. We want more wimmin
to join us - hopefully more wimmin of
colour. We want to share our limited
skills & resources with wimmin who
don't usually get the chance to do this
sort of thing.

We've not got accessible premises but if
any differently abled wimmin who can't
get up stairs want to help us please
drop us a line: 11 Princes St, Brighton,
Sussex. We'll try and work out something.
We want to get fully accessible premises
as soon as possible.

We welcome any kind of contributions
from wimmin especially wimmin of colour,
Jewish wimmin, differently abled wimmin,
working class & Irish wimmin. We are
desperately trying to redress the balance

of articles that do get printed in the
"alternative press" - articles that are
"intellectual" and hard to understand
because of the way they're written.

Sorry

This issue of Lysistrata is very late!
Unfortunately our printers closed down
for two weeks just as we were ready to
go to print..... Anyway we're out now
and to make up for it there's an
EXTRA 16 PAGES for the same price
of 45p! Bargain, eh?

THANKS TO: Fiona, Lou,
Jackie, Dawn, Nicky,
Janet, Sara.

Copydate for Issue 8 - Dec 17 '83

Printed by Cambridge Heath Press

Our Address: 11 Princes St, Brighton, Sussex, England.

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Ireland, Guatemala, India, Pakistan, South
Africa, USA, Italy, Britain.

And much more!!

If you're wondering why
we said "not just a Green-
ham Common magazine"

We don't just want peace - in terms of
no nuclear weapons - we want peace
AND JUSTICE for all wimmin. So peace
means **FREEDOM**. Freedom from racism
in ALL its sick forms (from daily violence
to race checks and deportations). Freedom
from anti-semitism, male violence, poverty,
able-bodied elitism, compulsory heterosexuality....
In other words freedom from white middle
class male attitudes (that don't mean
wimmin ain't got them too!) Dangerous
attitudes that're killing our sisters NOW.

**Lysistrata is on tape
for blind / partially
sighted wimmin**

£2.50 a year on a listen & return basis.
Please send a tape pouch.

NO

DEPORTATION

FOR ESTHER ANKELL

For Esther herself, there is no doubt that she would suffer great hardships if she were to return to Nigeria, as she has no home, possessions or associates who could help her.

5. Invite speakers from the campaign to talk to your organisations.

6. Join the Deportation Committee Help to distribute leaflets!!!

For further information contact:
Abasindi Co-operative,
Moss Side Peoples Centre,
St. Mary's Street,
Moss Side.
Manchester. M15 5NA

support Esther in her fight

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write to the Home Secretary, Leon Britton at the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1. Ask that the decision to deport Esther Ankell be reversed, and that she and her children be allowed to stay permanently in the UK. (Quote reference No.: A228773)
2. Write to Bob Litherland MP, c/o House of Commons, London, urging him to do the same as above.
3. Get copies of the petition drawn up by the Deportation Committee to support Esther Ankell, from the address below
4. Send donations to the Esther Ankell Committee Against Deportation at the address below to assist in the campaign.

international language.....

Glosa it's called. No textbook is needed because there is no grammar! They have a basic dictionary of 1000 words which contains all the information needed to speak and write in Glosa. A much larger vocabulary is available for literature, poetry and stylistic variety. They publish a monthly newsletter - Glosa Notas. Contact them: Wendy Ashby, Glosa, 29 Pandora Rd, London NW6 1TS.



Esther and her children

Esther was married in Nigeria in 1972 and came to England to join her husband in 1977. The marriage broke up in 1980. She has two children, Angela(9½) and Felix(3) they were both born here.

Esther is employed here and has worked hard to make a home for herself and her two children.

Both Esther and her children are under threat of deportation simply because of the marriage breaking up.

Esther is one of an increasing number of women who face the injustices of an English legal system which makes women dependent upon the status and goodwill of their husbands for the right to live in this country.

They are denied the basic right to live as independent citizens. If Esther is deported, her children would be deprived of the only way of life that they know and as a result they could suffer irreparable damage.

..... OR

Josephine Thomas



Josephine Thomas (right) pictured with Pow Shien Leong — the Leeds woman who won a successful battle against deportation.

In China, meetings are held at which older people speak out, telling of their lives of suffering under the old society. These meetings are known as 'speak bitterness' meetings. To listen to Josephine Thomas of Huddersfield speak of her life here and of her fight to remain in this country, and to stop her family being divided is to hear a Black woman 'speak bitterness'. Josie has lived in Huddersfield since 1962 and has 5 children - 4 of them born here. Josie says her children belong here. And she wants them to get an education here. The children have a right to be with their mother and she wants to stay and give them all the help that's needed. If Josie is deported the family will be split. Josie has been trapped by the immigration laws. The Home Office are refusing to let her stay because when she went to Grenada to look after her sick mother she stayed over 2 years, and lost her right of permanent residence here under the

'returning residents' rule. She was not warned about this beforehand, but was simply refused the right to stay when she returned.

Josie says she was invited to England with other West Indians, to work, and has worked most of the time since she came here. She has done cleaning jobs and worked in the textile industry, for low pay in bad conditions, with machines that are now on display in museums of 'industrial archeology'.

Josie was badly disfigured by an allergy she developed from her first job - making fireworks, and the sores still cause her suffering. At one time when she was saving to bring her children back from Grenada, Josie did 7 part-time cleaning jobs in a day! She would start at 5.30 in the morning and go from one job to the next until she finished at 9 or 10 at night.

Josie is bitter at the way she has been treated by the Social Security. She went to them in 1979 to claim rent and they got straight in contact with the Home Office. She was told she should get money from the government where she came from.

Josie is deeply religious. In times of trouble she turns to her bible. 'You see, you have got to let these people

see that you're not afraid. They know now that I'm not afraid. They're not stranger than me and I've got to fight them. I'll fight them myself, if no one helps me, because God's with me.'

A campaign had been set up to support Josie and stop her deportation. At present she is waiting for an appeal to be heard in Leeds. She will win her fight only with mass support.

It isn't easy for a Black woman in this society. As a Black person, a woman, and a worker Josie faces triple oppression.

(From Leeds Other Paper)



Josephine Thomas with one of her children

The Josephine Thomas Support Committee can provide further information, it needs donations; C/O 54 Deighton Rd., Huddersfield, HD2 2VF. Tel; Huddersfield 26092

dear lysistrata,

LETTER

This is really just to let you know that we really appreciate what you are doing and to encourage you to keep going. We need your voice. The following is about me. I don't care if you print it or not but I need to get it out in the open.

Recently the full power of the media was unleashed on a nation reeling with shock from the horror of a sexual attack on a six year old boy in Brighton. Sickened as I was by the attack, it led me on to think how desensitised we have become as a people to similar assaults on females, children and adults alike. What has become so commonplace as to be almost an expectation for us is viewed with an almost contemptuous disregard by the press and warrants only a cursory examination by the forces of law and justice. Granted a murder may make the headlines but what of the scores of daily assaults ranging from sexual harassment through to full scale rape with its seemingly obligatory partner-violent assault. Age, class, colour, creed or nationality present neither protection or guarantee. We are all at risk and as such must unite to reclaim our freedom. We are most of us unprepared for the intensity of man's desire to humiliate us by sexual abuse.

I was brought up in a good, supportive, catholic home, with a mother, father and three brothers. I went to a convent school and then a grammar school. Passing over the male teachers who loved to denigrate and humiliate and the boys who got a thrill from punching and kicking girls, I reached the age of 15 still convinced that boys were ok. Some of my best friends were boys. My attitude was one of casual familiarity due in part to my upbringing in a mainly male household and also no doubt to my latent lesbianism.

(What follows in Kate's letter is an account of how she was sexually assaulted and beaten up by a man she'd known for ages when she was 15. His mates in the next room ignored her cries for help. It fills the nightmares of many girls and women. We've not printed it because men can read Lysistrata and many men get off reading about women being raped and sexually assaulted).

I was too ashamed to tell anyone, wise enough to know it was my word against theirs. Wise enough to fear the suspicions of a doubting public. Not brave enough to face the scandal of a court case I

crawled away defeated and the bastard who defeated me strutted away unscathed. Years later after a brief marriage to a violent drunkard I met the woman who changed my life. She showed me the existence of tenderness and gentleness and after eleven years she is still showing me. Our shared interest in nuclear disarmament and in all aspects of defeating male violence is supported and nurtured by women like you and your contributors and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. To those who question the validity of a woman's peace movement I would like to say, many women cannot disassociate violence from the male species. The precept at which we are poised has been hewn by man's greed and stupidity but mostly his lust for power and domination. Some of us cannot join our energies with those who still seek to dominate us. All men are capable of rape and for my own protection I will continue to regard them with watchful suspicion. My attacker wore a CND badge.

Thanks for giving me the chance to write all this down.
Love and sisterhood
Kate

IRELAND

We lost the battleBUT We'll win the war

AFTER TWO YEARS OF HEATED debate and controversy, the Pro-Life Amendment Campaign have finally succeeded in their aim to enshrine the rights of the 'unborn' rather than the mother in the Constitution of the 26 Counties. The referendum was passed by a 2:1 majority, but since only half of those eligible to vote actually did so the constitution is being amended at the expressed wish of only one third of the electorate.

airport tests?

This victory for the anti-woman, anti-life group, PLAC demonstrates the power the Catholic church still wields in the South. The last referendum held there removed the special position held by the Catholic church in the State. Now the situation has altered again with the Catholic church's teaching becoming part of the constitution.

It still remains to be seen how far the 'Pro-Life' are prepared to go with their tactics to prevent women from seeking abortion. Their propaganda shows the womb and the foetus separate from the woman. What is next? Pregnancy tests at airports and seaports?

best informed

However, all the hard work done during the long two year debate by activists within the anti-amendment campaign means that people in the south are the best informed on the subject of abortion and women's problems possibly in the world. PLAC may have done themselves a great deal of damage in the long run in that now women know about abortion and how to obtain one (if they can afford it). Next year a campaign will be mounted to change the law prohibiting divorce (something which is banned under the constitution). Hopefully, the work done and the contacts made with people all

NEWS

over Ireland by the anti-amendment campaign will help to bring in this small measure of social reform and stem the tide of reaction in the South.

(From Outa Control, c/o 7 Winetavern St, Belfast 1)

IRISH ♀- centre in London

Premises are being searched for because at the moment they've only got temporary ones. When they find somewhere there will be lots going on including possibly a newsletter. At the moment they do run classes (like Irish dancing, flute/whistle) but our details are out of date. Ring them on 01 251 4977. The address is, at the moment, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1. Any Irish women needing advice, support etc please contact them.

NEWS

STOP STRIP SEARCHES in armagh

Strip searching began in November 1982 after a woman prisoner picked up a bunch of keys .
(Any excuse! Typist)

Whenever a prisoner leaves or enters the prison they are inspected in the presence of up to 10 prison officers with no medical officer present. There have been assaults on women prisoners and male officers participate in forcing women to undergo strip searches. No items have been discovered on strip searching cannot be justified on security grounds.

Menstruating women have to remove their sanitary towels and tampons. A child of 3 had her pants removed when visiting a relative. A woman released on August 6th was strip searched 145 times whilst on remand.

This humiliating, degrading and violent practice is contravening Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Why is this happening? How can we live comfortably in England conveniently forgetting what is happening in Northern Ireland? Start doing



Joanne O'Brien

Picket outside Armagh on International W's Day 1983

something now by writing to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland c/o House of Commons and/or Margeret Thatcher. Strip searching is a violation of the basic dignity of every woman. We cannot allow it to continue.

Info. from the Stop the Strip Searches in Armagh Jail Campaign, C/o AWP, Hungerford House Embankment, London WC2

FALLS ROAD~

new centre

The newly set up wimmin's centre in the Fall's Road, Belfast urgently needs books and money to buy them with. Contributions will be gratefully received. Contact: Fan Behrens, 4 Walpole Terrace, Brighton, Sussex. or Geraldine Doyle, tel - 01 249 7630.

let Rashida stay!

RASHIDA ABEDI IS A DEAF WOMAN WHO is living with her brother and is

dependent on him financially. She came to Britain in 1981 for treatment to cure her deafness. The treatment was unsuccessful, but she is learning to lip-read in English, attends English classes and is learning other skills so that she can be independent.

The Home Secretary has said that Rashida is to be deported, stating that she is not legally her brother's 'dependent'. She would be deported to Quetta, Pakistan. There is no provision there for her to be treated or to learn the skills she is doing now. There is no-one there to look after her. In Britain she has most of her relatives, and a chance to become independent.

Please write to the Home Secretary asking that she be allowed to stay indefinitely. Petitions and further information from: 'Friends of Rashida Abedi' 45 Wellesley Rd, Croydon. Tel: 01 686 8014.

**on the
next
page
is....**

a letter from

Rashida



My name is Rashida Abedi. I am Pakistani. I was living in Quetta. It is a small town in Pakistan. It is situated near the Afganistan and Iran Border. The climate is severely cold in Winter and hot in summer. Rain and snow fall in the winter months, that is from November to March and sometimes up to April.

One day the season was winter and the month was 15th of December 1973, and it was a very cold day. The snow was falling. Most people of Quetta were in their warm beds, and the locally made heaters were burning with coal to give warmth.

Since morning I had a headache and occasional vomiting. But as the time went by my condition became serious. At about 4p.m. my brother brought a doctor who saw that my temperature was rising rapidly and I had a severe head-ache and vomiting. He suggested that the best way of treatment was to admit me to the hospital.

With the help of our neighbour who had a van, my brother, mother and the neighbour took me to the hospital. All the way I was crying and shouting due to the pain in my head, neck and backbone. As I was crying my mother and brother were crying with me. When we reached the hospital, somebody shouted "Will you please bring the stretcher quickly!" These were the last words I heard. Then I became unconscious.

After that I do not remember for how long I remained unconscious or under sedation. Honestly I was not feeling anything at all.

Later I was told by my mother and brother that the doctor gave me injections, medicines to try to stop vomiting and make the temperature normal. After about two days when I regained consciousness the doctor asked me how I was feeling then. I could not hear what he said. I saw there my mum, sister, brother many doctors and nurses, and I thought, because of my illness, the doctor was talking in a soft voice. So I asked him again what he was saying.

He repeated the same thing. Then my brother explained to me in writing that I was suffering from meningitis fever.

I had nearly died, but I didn't die but became deaf. Then I found suddenly that I could not hear

anything and was deaf. I cried and cried and prayed God that I should die. It was a great blow to me.

It took time to make me believe that I had become deaf. It was my first reaction. From that day onwards in and out of hospital, I kept on thinking that I would never hear the lovely of the birds, sounds of my dear mum, brother and sisters, and also the sound of thunder, dripping of rain, songs radio and television. The radio has become a decorative piece for me. These were my first impressions from that day.

My brother took me to nearly all the hospitals in Pakistan, but there was no improvement. Now he has brought me to England. When I came to London I was taken to several ENT (Ear Nose and Throat-typist) Consultant Surgeons who took different complicated tests, and ex-rays because of the loss of hearing. But since the inner ear and nerves have been damaged, there is no remedy. Time is the greatest healer of all wounds and suffering. As the days went by I started thinking less and less of my disablement. Then it was revealed to me that there are many blind, mentally or physically handicapped people who suffer more than I do. There after I concentrated on the bright side of my life. I am no more a victim of self pity. Nine long years have passed since I became totally deaf, but now I am contented. England is a very nice country. Here there are facilities for the deaf and other disabled. I am learning English and lip reading.

After I have learnt some English, I don't want to be a burden to the country or society and instead I would like to be able to work, and wish to do something for the country and mankind.

Alas this country will not help a disabled girl. Now I think this dream of mine will be broken, Probably I shall have to go back to Pakistan. That will be a great shock to me. Still I am hopeful and in the end by the grace of God I may succeed.

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

8 Asian youths aged 15- 21, were arrested in September 1982.

They were defending themselves and their community against racist attacks. They've been charged with conspiracy to assault persons unknown.

As we go to press, their case is being heard at **The Old Bailey** Court, London. It started on November 14th and is expected to go on for 2 weeks. There will be a picket outside the court every day that the trial is on. **BE THERE!!**

Large scale pickets not only support the defendants but they play an important role in determining the direction of the trials.

The youths were arrested after a series of violent attacks upon Asian schoolchildren by racist white thugs. Asian schoolchildren at Little Ilford School (Newham) were attacked on no less than three occasions in the week leading up to September 24th. In one particular incident, 60 - 70 white youths with iron bars and sticks went on the rampage in the East Ham and Manor Park areas of Newham- looking for Asians to beat up.

The facists are beginning to organise as effectively as they did in the late '70's. In Newham there are large chunks of the area, which are becoming 'no-go' areas for Black people. The local police refuse, ignore or are unable to protect the community from this onslaught - as a result, on many of the estates in Newham, families are imprisoned in their homes after dusk and many people are afraid to walk the streets.

Many other areas of the country are NO EXCEPTION.

LIFE SENTENCE

When Black people are hospitalised by racists, the police mockingly feel that it is a family quarrel which they don't want to get involved in, but when Black people like the Newham 8 defend themselves from racist activity, it is not then a neighbourly dispute. In fact it becomes a political crime. So they get charged with conspiracy - a law over 100 years old - one that carries the possibility of a life sentence.

guatemala: wumun abducted

As reported in issue 6 of Lysistrata ANA LUCRECIA ORELLANA STORMONT has 'disappeared' in Guatemala City on 6th June 1983. She was abducted by men at about 8.30pm as she was leaving a meeting. The Guatemalan authorities have denied she was arrested however unofficial sources indicate that she is being held by the security forces.

Please send letters to the following addresses urging that the Guatemalan government say where she is, that they don't ill-treat her while she is in detention, she receives treatment for her heart and respiratory conditions, and that she is released immediately unless charged. If charged she should

be brought to trial before a competent and impartial court. Letters of appeal should be sent to:
General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores,
Jefe de Estado y Ministro de Defensa,
Palacio Nacional,
Guatemala, Guatemala.
(Head of State)

Lic. Fernando Andrade
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, Guatemala
(new Foreign Minister)

*



Tiente Coronel Oswaldo Yat Xolon
Jefe del Departamento de Investigaciones Tecnicas,
8 Avenida 3-49
Zona 1, Guatemala, Guatemala.
(Head of the Department of Technical Investigation)

OO

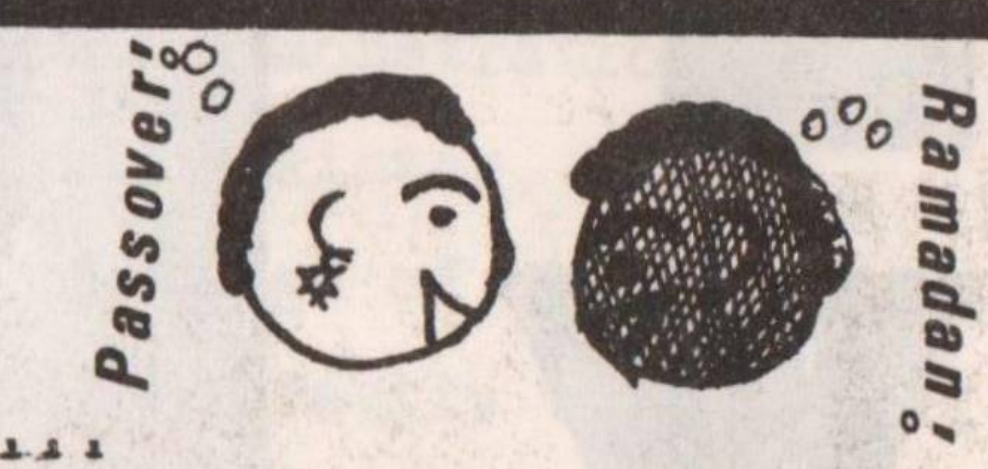
General Hector Orestes Ponce Nitsch
Director de la Policia Nacional
6 Avenida 13-71
Guatemala, Guatemala.
(Head of National Police)

O

You can get a letter writing guide from Amnesty International
5 Roberts Place, Off Bowling Green Lane, London EC1 OEJ
£2 per copy inc postage.

Please write courteous letters or it could make things worse.

LESBIANS INTERNATIONALLY?



LYSISTRATA GOT AN INFORMATION SHEET FROM ILIS (International Lesbian Information Service) about an action meeting.

Throughout their leaflet they refer to 'christmas' and 'easter' as times of the year rather than the christian festivals that they are.

'At the ILIS conference at easter.....'

'.....will not organise a full scale ILIS conference at christmas....'

and to top it all -

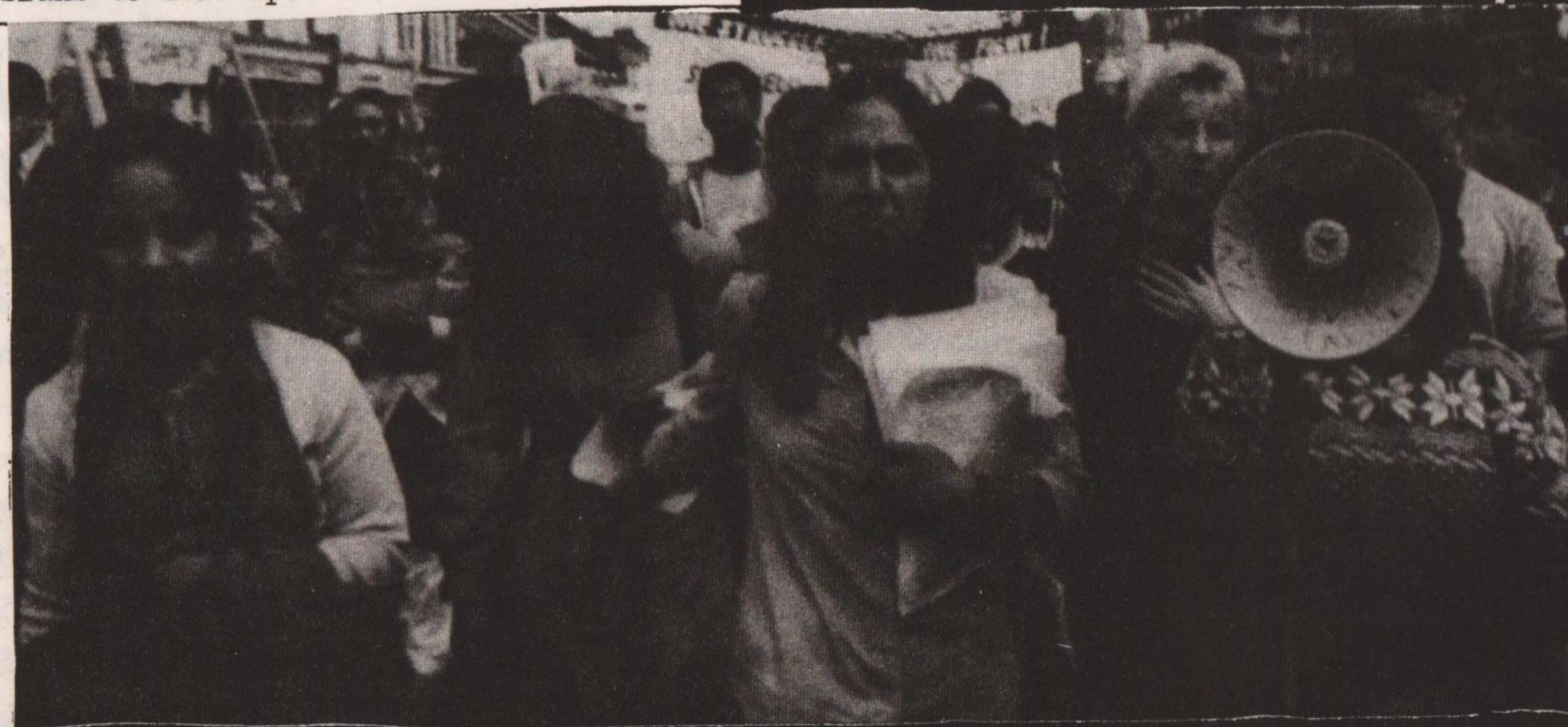
'It appeared that christmas-time is the one time that women should be within their own countries - catching up with long-lost family, girlfriends, etc.'

This assumption that we all celebrate these christ-

ian festivals is narrowminded and offensive. Loads of people - Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and many more - don't see springtime as meaning easter and Dec 25 as the time to be 'within their own countries.' Rarely is the acknowledgement made that women have family commitments on other festivals or might want to celebrate at other times of the year. It says '.....hold the action meeting around the new year.' Jewish New Year, maybe? Somehow I don't think so.

And what is there to celebrate about christmas? The murder of millions of Jewish boy children under the age of 2? And at easter millions of Jews are murdered in anti-semitic pogroms and massacres. Each year this happens.

Asian Women march in protest against Racism and Racist attacks.



BLACK COMMUNITY ON TRIAL!

wumun in free speech battle

IN THE SUMMER OF '82 MERLE WOO PACKED UP and left her office in Asian American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, chalking I shall return on the blackboard. Merle Woo was fired from her lecturer's position at the university in June 1982 because she's a radical, a lesbian, a unionist and she speaks her mind. She is suing the University of California in federal and state court, charging race and sex discrimination and abridgement of her First Amendment Rights. She was outspoken about student rights and supported the fights of other lecturers who had been fired for saying the 'wrong' things. The campaign needs letters of support and donations. c/o Brodine, Merle defense Fund, 2661 21st St, San Francisco, CA 94110, USA.



Merle Woo

DEFEND RITA

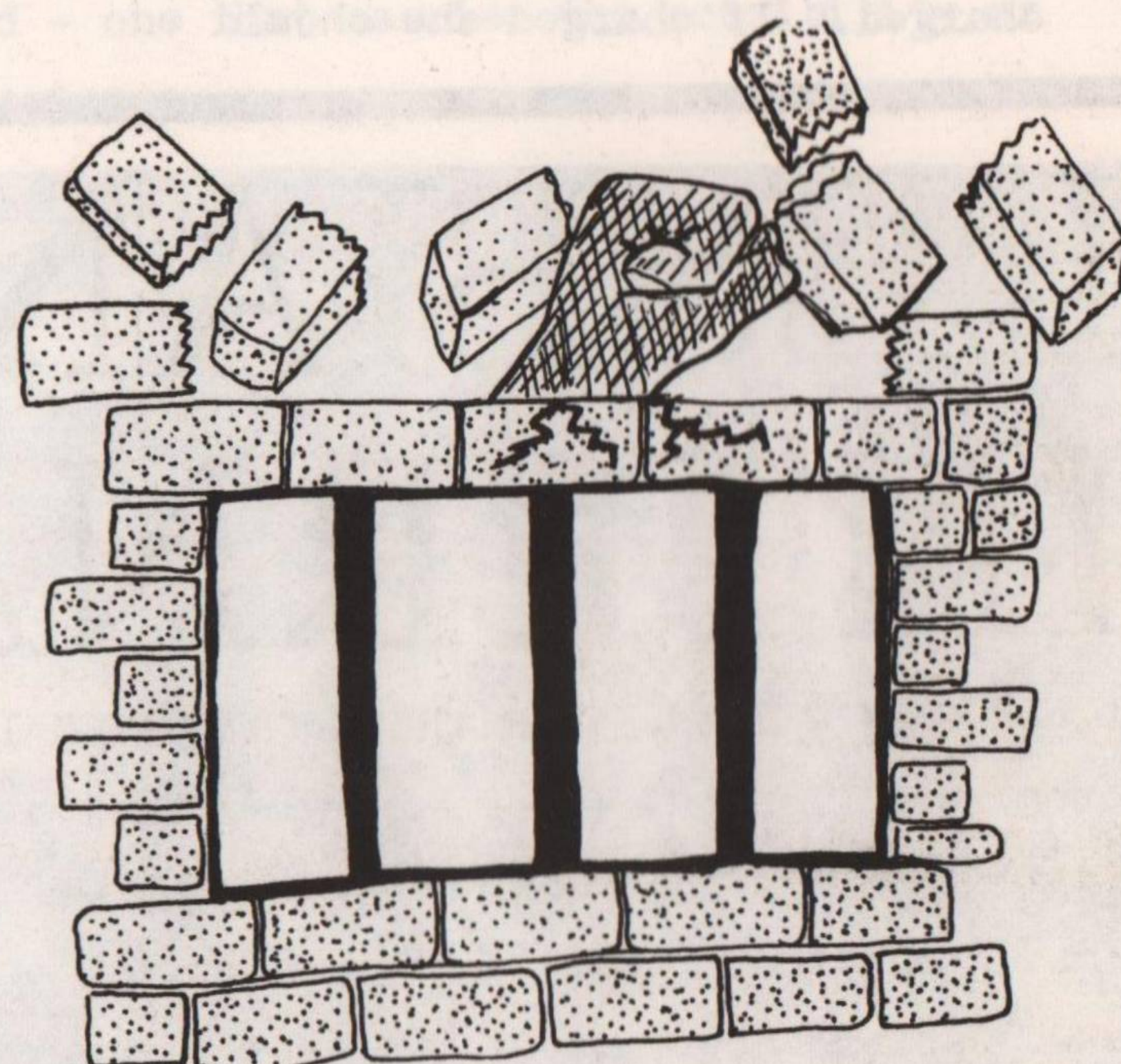
DEFEND RITA SILK NAUNI IN 1980, NATIVE American Rita Silk Nauni was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 150 years by an all white jury in Oklahoma for the self defence slaying of a policeman who had attacked her and her son.

cont top page

She appealed, was freed on bail, and then brought back into 'protective custody' because her public defender decided HE didn't like the the company she kept - a Black family - while she was free on bail.

Rita Silk Nauni has been stripped of all her constitutional rights. Her son has been taken away from her. She is confined to her cell, denied the same access that other prisoners have to the library. And daily she is subjected to the violence of male guards who openly beat up the women prisoners. She, like other Native American prisoners, is denied the right to practice her religion. Your help is desperately needed to get Rita released! She need money, letters of support, and stamps for correspondence. For further information write to: Support and Defence Network c/o Bobbi Alexander Box 712 Wabash, IN 46992. USA.

Address all personal correspondence to: Rita Silk Nauni #109100 Mabel Bassett Correctional Center Box 11492 Oklahoma City, OK 73116. USA.



GREENAM > GENEVA

'WOMEN FOR PEACE' IN BERLIN ORGANISED a march (mixed) from Berlin to Geneva, where the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) talks are taking place. About 50 wimmin from Greenham Common and the wimmin's peace camp in Gornsea made their way to Geneva to welcome the marchers and to join in demonstrations to put pressure on the talks. On Tuesday September 20th wimmin scaled the exterior fence around the Soviet Consulate where the talks were taking place. At the same time, the 50 or so marchers stage a blockade outside the main entrance. Most wimmin were led or dragged out of the grounds but 6 were allowed to stay and present our statement. Eventually a Soviet and an american * representative came out of the talks and listened. They apparently read it back to the rest of the meeting. This got virtually no press coverage outside Switzerland and Germany. We again attempted to unsuccessfully

enter the talks on the Thursday. Police were out in force waiting for us.

Carola

* america shouldn't have a capital letter as it is a country where the indigeneous people are ruled over by others - like australia, south africa etc. - typist,

ITALY ♀'s peace camp

RAGNATELA WIMMIN'S PEACE CAMP IN Italy. It means the spider web. It was formed after the wimmin's action in March when 6 wimmin were deported. Wimmin from all over the world have paid for the small house and stretch of land. Wimmin are growing orange trees around the place to create a living, growing wimmin's symbol. There are everyday threats from men from 12 upwards who can only presume that the wimmin's camp must be a brothel. Daily strain and fear make life difficult particularly as numbers are low (5-15). There is also a lot of police intimidation - passport checks and attempts to deport the wimmin, as most of them don't come from Italy or Sicily. Non-involvement of Italian wimmin is a problem. They have strong family responsibilities, and there's no social security for single wimmin. There are no pension and children are obliged to nurse elderly parents. A Sicilian wumun came to La Ragnatela to escape the authorities who saw her as mentally abnormal when she would not marry her brother in

law (who was trying to rape her) following her sister's death. A wumun from the north of Italy wanted to live with her children at the wimmin's peace camp but the authorities would not allow her to move. There is growing concern about the lack of involvement of Italian wimmin. Foreign wimmin are rapidly being deported. Unfortunately the wumun who wrote this didn't send us her name or address where these things can be sent.

PAKISTAN ♀♀ against martial law

Wimmin in Pakistan are continuing to demonstrate against the repressive regime of President Zia ul-Haq.

In a recent demonstration in Karachi, South Pakistan, wimmin began a campaign of courting arrest. Police heavily tear-gassed the gathered crowd. In Lahore, North Pakistn about 75 wimmin set out on a demonstration - illegal under martial law. They carried placards, demanding an end to martial law, the release of political prisoners and giving their solidarity to the wimmin in South Pakistan. They were stopped by the police after a short distance. 14 of the wimmin were held. 12 of them for two weeks. Undeterred, they shouted anti-government slogans in the court and on the way to jail.

(From Outwrite)

MORE ANGRY WIMMIN

November 7th. Angry Women were responsible for the arson attack on Linda's Sex shop in Bridgend in the centre of Leeds. The shop was totally gutted and extensive damage caused to property above. NO TO PORN AND WOMAN-HATING MATERIAL.

We are writing this as the Yorkshire Evening Post did not publish the attack. WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED. ANGRY WOMEN.

DEFEND THE 7 MOZART WIMMIN

Seven Black wimmin were beaten up in their own home on Mozart Estate (North Paddington) and then charged by Harrow Road Police.

Mother of five, Andrea Nicholas, three of her daughters and three other young wimmin were arrested on charges of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and obstruction following an incident on the estate on July 18th 1983.

self defence is no offence

The incident occurred when the police say they were chasing a young man who they claim had slapped one of them. The police allege that the young man disappeared into Andrea Nicholas's house. When the police attempted to follow the man into the house, Andrea and her daughters told them there was no man in the house, and asked them for a warrant. The police then called for reinforcements until there were over sixty policemen on the estate. A shout of 'Rush Them' came from the senior policeman on the scene and the police then went about smashing doors down, beating up the wimmin and turning the house upside-down, even to the point of emptying drawers, looking for some young man they did not find.

defend your community now

Andrea Nicholas, 46, was charged with ABH, her two daughters, 18 year old Josephine and 22 year old Nazarene were also charged with ABH. The third daughter, Cordelia, and three other wimmin - Sandra Joseph 17, Patricia Joseph 16, and 25 year old Josephine Tawia were all charged with obstruction. Since then the police violence on the estate has increased.

On Friday August 5th on the pretext of looking for someone who the police say had thrown a can of beer

at them, went knocking at doors. Two young men who saw them at one of the flats and said to them, 'Oi, there is no-one there.' were badly beaten up and kicked about the head and body by the police because they used the term 'Oi'.

The same evening squads of policemen with police dogs came onto the estate, anyone who asked them why they were doing that, was arrested and charged with obstruction.

act now against racist attacks

We have already seen the effects of 'Swampstyle' police tactics in Brixton and it is clear that the community will protect itself from illegal police activity. From the three incidents mentioned it can be seen that the Harrow Road police's 'community policing efforts' are a sham to cover-up their brutal activities.

protect your home against police invasion

As we go to press the seven Mozart wimmin are awaiting a date for their trial. We ask that anyone who can come and picket the courts does. See next Lysistrata for details.

From the Black Liberation Front



From Different Worlds

CAPENHURST: BLOCKADE

NEWS

The uranium enrichment plant at Capenhurst near Chester contains a 'civilian' plant which was responsible for enriching uranium used in the first British H-bomb tests and the new military plant being constructed at a cost of £100 million to provide nuclear fuel for trident amongst other things. Both plants use uranium from Namibia, thereby propping up the apartheid system.

The plant has only two entrances connected by narrow lanes and therefore is quite easy to blockade. On 20th September we arrived there at 6.45am and managed to position ourselves before workers started trying to enter or leave. The workers were quite hostile when we tried to talk to them, but became a bit more reasonable when someone mentioned unions.

The mixed blockade at the main entrance stayed until 8 o'clock and then went off singing in high spirits to leaflet the trains.

At the womens gate, we preferred to stay as possible, rather than leave at the arbitrary time decided on originally. The police were very rough and several women were hurt. Seven women were arrested - they only wanted to fill one van so they

took the ones nearest where they brought the van in. At Chester police station the police continuously lied to us about the whereabouts of the arrested women.

They were in court on 10th October when one woman pleaded guilty and was given a suspended sentence £25 costs.

Overall the action was successful in preventing workers entering the plant for about an hour and gaining a fair amount of publicity. We would have been better to vary our tactics rather than sitting down and being moved all the time and should not have relied on the police to tell us where the arrested women were, but had women at the front and back of the court building as well as at the police station. It would have also been useful to have more support women, including one to watch each policeman, and for them to have intervened more actively to try and prevent police violence.

Marion



Portsmouth-invasion of HMS Antrim

ON SEPTEMBER 12th 1983, FOUR WIMMIN rowed a tiny dingy across Portsmouth Harbour and climbed onto a Destroyer - HMS Antrim. We tied a banner saying 'Defence Costs Lives' onto the side of the side of the ship, then, amazed that we were undetected, climbed back into the dingy and rowed away.

We were taken into custody and later released, being 'only wimmin' and not a threat to national security. September 12th was the first day of the Arms Trade Fair in Portsmouth.

Four wimmin, two of whom had taken part in the previous action, fasted in the shopping precinct for the five days the fair lasted. On the last day, frustrated by the lack of press coverage, nine wimmin chained themselves together and blocked the road to the Arms Fair. Local wimmin joined in too.

Contact for more information:
Sue Bolton, Casa Nostra, St Albans Rd, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. Tel: 854457.

FLOPSY FAULT

In a GLC wimmin's committee report on Black wimmin and Black wimmin's Centres an embarrassing mistake was made. The book 'Sweet Freedom' was attributed to Beatrix Potter instead of Beatrix Campbell!! Could this be the beginning of the Tales of Flopsy Feminist??

DAWN AT GREENHAM

We arrived at Greenham at about 1pm. We drove round to all the gates before stopping at Blue gate. At first we were suprised by the apparently relaxed atmosphere of the womin and we were getting worried about what was going to happen until a wom/in came over to give us the details and maps.

It was going to happen at 4 o'clock, 2½ hours to go, 2½ hours to prepare mentally, time for the anxiety panic and excitement of action.

They knew something was going to happen, but

what? The pigs and soldiers were patrolling the fence at very regular intervals. helicopters circled and swooped overhead.

About half three, wimmin began to drift slowly away from the gates in small groups to their chosen spots to have picnics. The calmness outside was in contrast to the tension and edginess inside the base.

Ten minutes to go, stomachs somersaulting and Nicky with a two foot pair of bolt cutters concealed under her ample coat. We chose a spot on a narrow path between the fence and the bushes

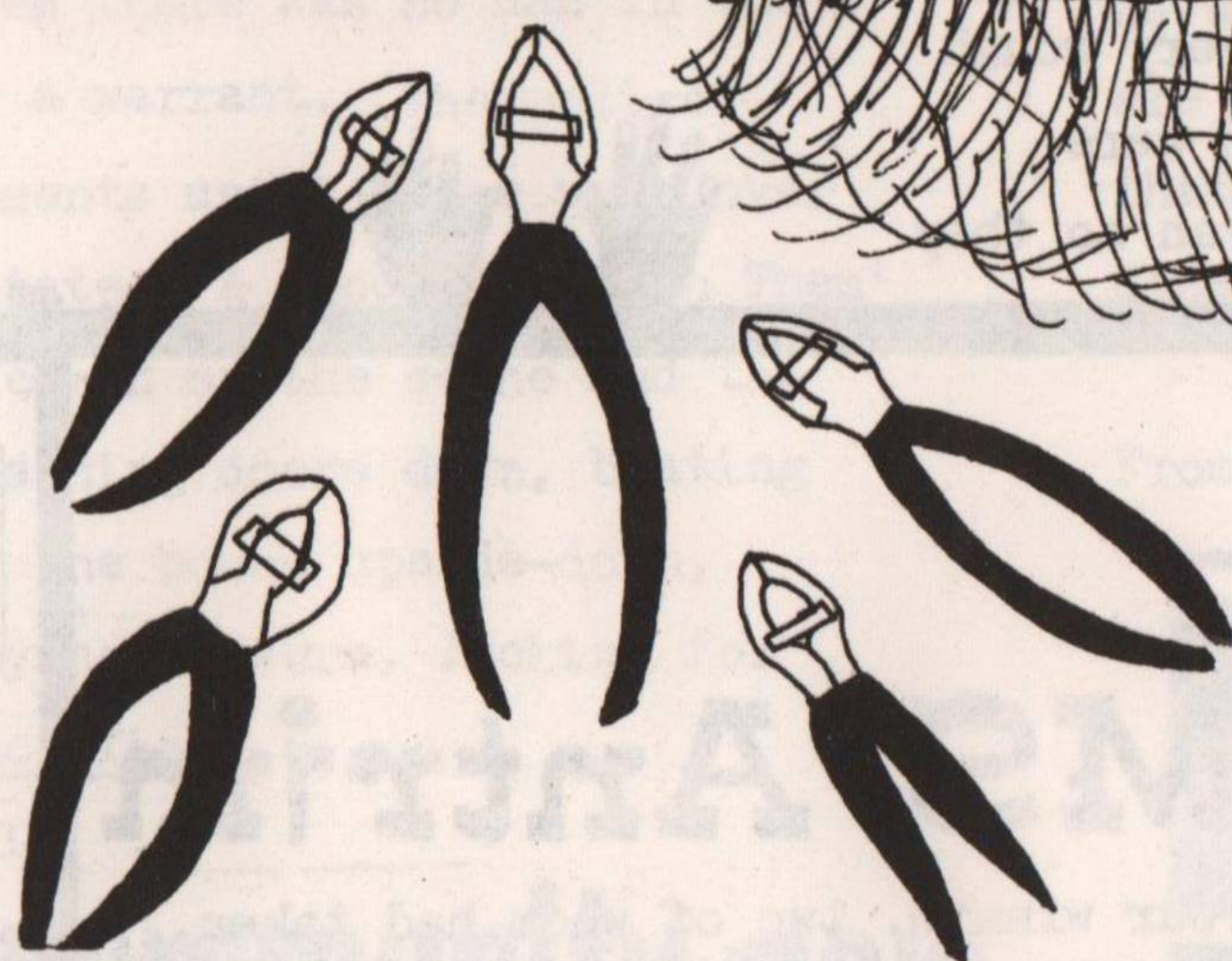
We can't do it we'll get caught, there's too many of them!

Suddenly a woman a few yards away leaps at the fence with cutters and we're away! Hundreds of wimmin cutting together and did it feel good! The cutters that I thought would be too heavy and cumbersome sliced so easily through the soft green plastic coated wire, snip snip snip. Kaz leaps on my shoulders to cut the top. Two sections down, any minute now they'll be on to us.

Further down on each side wimmin are sitting on the cut down fence surrounded by pigs and squaddies but we carry on cutting, tearing down the fence

that is so imposing when up but so insignificant on the ground. A helicopter appears and hovers above us as close as it dares, the noise is terrifying and the wind from the blades is driving loose bits of straw at such a force it burns my face, but I will not be intimidated by small men in big machines and keep on cutting. Eventually it goes away and soldiers appear and try and pull back the cut fence, we pull back and sit on it and sing.

There is total confusion and panic from THEM



resulting predictably in unnecessary violence. There are two ambulances in sight carrying injured wimmin away. The soldiers stand and try to look strong and macho, but from this side of the broken fence they look like Action men toys. The base is full of them playing their silly games, shouting, running, trucks driving aimlessly but fast. Around the corner wimmin are making another attack on the fence, me and Marion decide to help them, I get the cutters out of the bushes and we rush round. I start to cut, somebody shouts a warning, I look around, a black coated figure is about to pounce on me at great speed, (Why do the

police always wear black?) I throw the bolt cutter towards the other wimmin but he pushes past me and picks them up and then grabs my collar. He marches me further along the fence to a long section wimmin have cut down, what a beautiful sight! He pushes me through the wimmin over the fence and barbed wire into the base to an army truck waiting to take me and six other wimmin to MoD CID room 105. We are searched, questioned, cautioned and held in a large classroom type room with about 40 other wimmin for about seven hours with no food and only water to drink. Waves of different emotions flow through the room, elation, satisfaction, frustration and despair. I was finally released at three in the morning after being charged at the racecourse.

As I walked back to the car along the fence, alone tired and cold, I passed three soldiers patrolling the inside. They all shone their torches in my face, one said "There's one of those fucking bitches that cut OUR fence down". Another said

"You wouldn't do that would you, you fucker." I couldn't be bothered to get into a reasonable discussion with them at that time so I just swore, which is probably what they wanted.

A few minutes later I was followed by two policemen who made rude remarks. They stood and watched as I scraped the ice off the windows slowly and eventually drove away. I was soon followed by an unmarked car that stayed with me for several miles.

I felt exhausted and swamped by officialdom and militaryism but as I drove through the glorious countryside in the bright orange tinted dawn I knew that we had done it, we had achieved what we set out to do.

The army, police and press may play down the numbers, the damage and the length of fence down. But every woman at Greenham on the 29th October knows that wimmin won the day!

DAWN

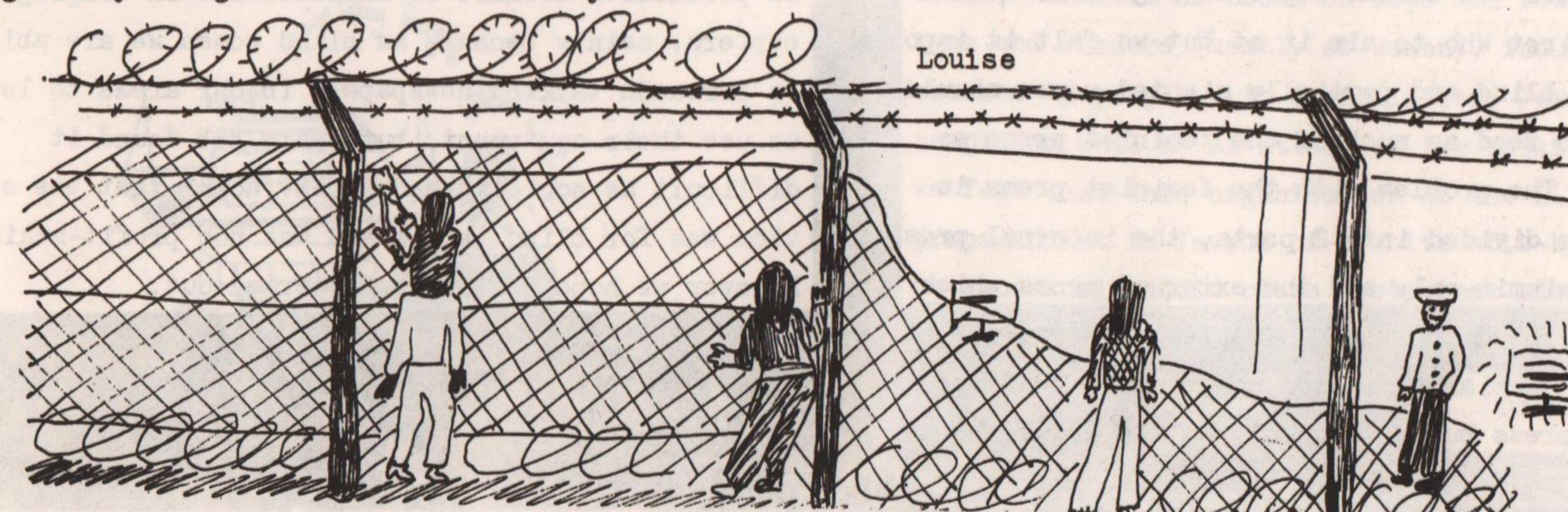
AND ANOTHER VERSION....

The night before the action there was a meeting at the green gate camp. All around the base there were the twelve zodiac signs and you could go to any sign you wanted to. At each sign there were two spiders. There were also going to be mobile spiders to make sure the whole fence was covered. On the Saturday wimmin came from all over the place with their bolt choppers. At 3.30 we walked to our destination and sang at the fence for more than quarter of an hour. Then we began to chop with the cutters. The army were really panicky and saying, "Please don't cut the fence." As if it would stop us. Every now and then the police would come, so the bolt choppers were thrown in the bushes and covered with leaves, soon as they passed we would begin to cut again. The army thought we were going to try and get in the base and they had

put barbed wire inside of the fence which didn't help them to get the bolt choppers. Although they did get some. The soldiers inside the fence didn't know how to cope with such strong witchy wimmin and they ended up throwing stones and mud at us. The american GI's were also hitting wimmin with wooden batons. Quite a few wimmin went to hospital with cuts and broken arms. The police men lost a lot of helmets trying to push the fence back up. 130 pairs of bolt choppers were taken from all around the base. Over half the fence either was pulled down or badly damaged.

And the next weekend.....

Greenham Common November 5th - there were bonfires at each gate and a lot of fire works. At the main gate they were letting off rockets over into the base.



women's tapeover:

WOMEN'S

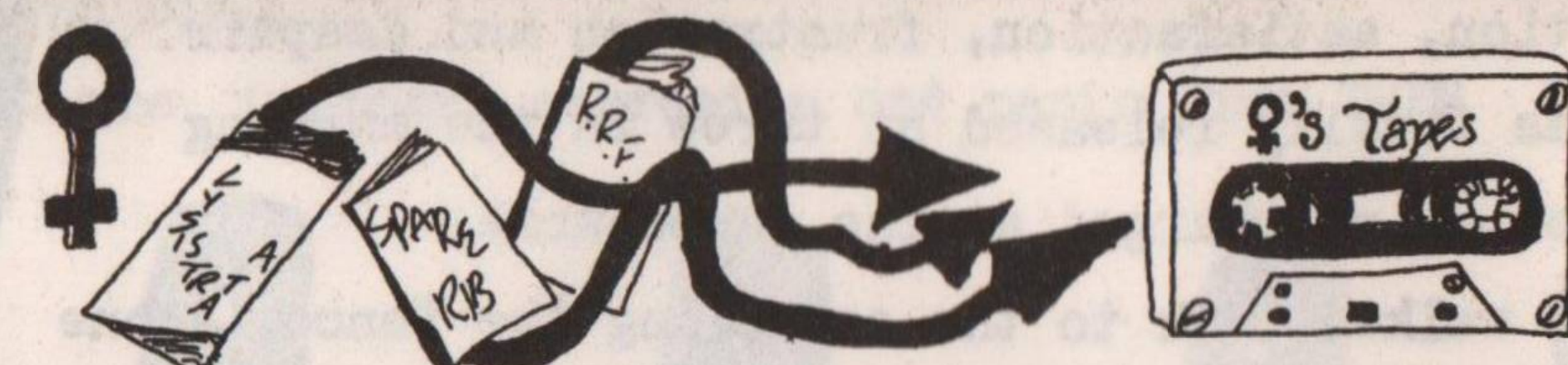
WORDS

In September, Women's Tapeover celebrated their 2nd birthday. Here KIRSTEN HEARN tells of how they got set up and the problems there are still for those who try to get radical information for blind women onto tape. The article was transcribed from a tape she sent Lysistrata.

It feels like only yesterday we were discussing how to start the magazine and having an enormous argument about whether we should have it women only or allow men to subscribe to it as well. Now we have a really large circulation and problems of production, copying of the cassettes, etc. We have difficulties in finding studios, copiers and readers.

We also need energy, which lacks at times, since there are only 4 of us at the moment.

It all began when a group of blind and partially sighted people met together to discuss the lack of information of a radical nature on tape, provided by taping authorities, mostly charities. We felt that the only way to do anything about it was to start something ourselves and also to begin a campaign to get people aware of the needs of blind and partially sighted people. We formed the alternative talking newspapers collective and some months later started the socialist magazine 'Left Out'. This is a digest of the socialist press, produced monthly, collected by blind and partially sighted people. In September '81 Womens Tapeover began. We weren't sure at first who to aim it at but we felt it important that blind and partially sighted women should be able to read as much of the feminist press as possible. The problem with the feminist press is that it is divided into 2 parts, the internal press which is winmin-only and the external press which men are allowed to read. We wanted to be sure that blind and partially sighted women could read the internal press but we did not want to break the copyright rules of that internal press & neither



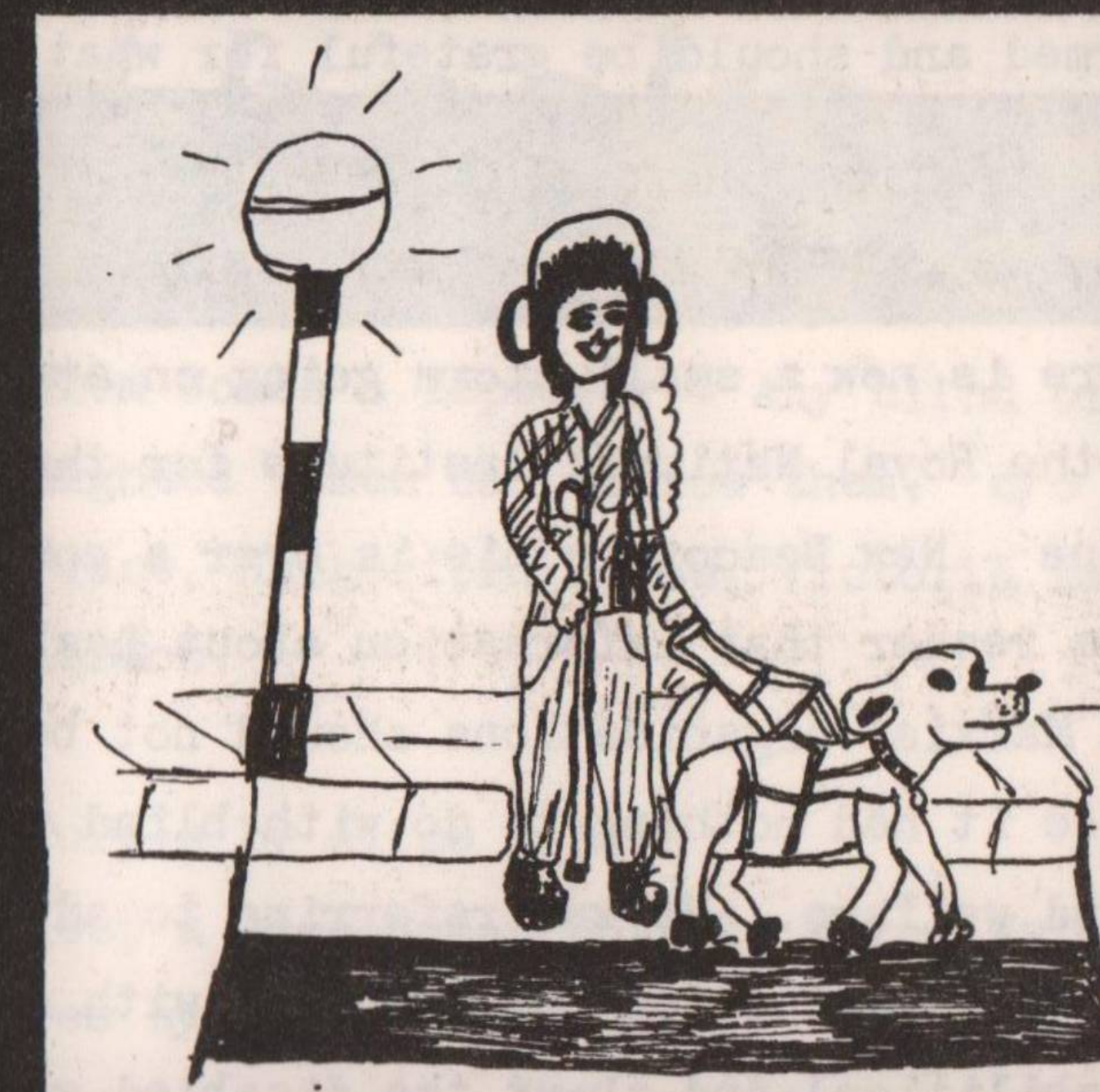
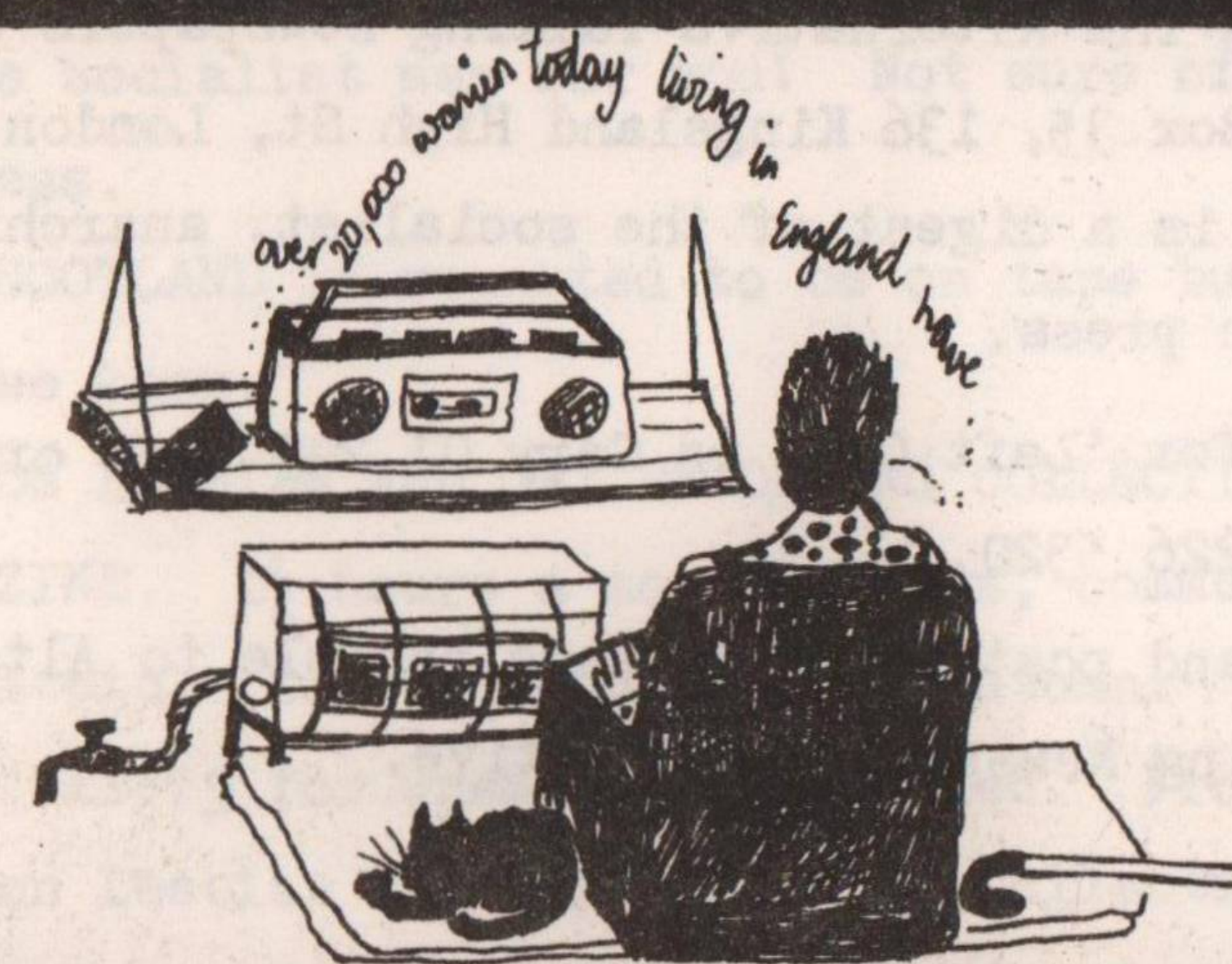
did we want to exclude men who were blind or partially sighted from reading articles in the external press which they would have been able to read if they could see. We decided to separate the 2 areas by producing a monthly magazine of articles such as Outrage, Womens Fightback and Womens Voice. We also decided to produce an occasional women only tape which would include articles from WIRES, Catcall and the London Womens Liberation Newsletter, and this cassette goes out to all women who subscribe to the Tapeover. We did not confine our activities to producing talking newspapers only however. We wrote letters to the feminist press and to the socialist press demanding that they put the information on tape and the result of this was that, on reading a letter I put in Spare Rib, Sara Scott and other women from Oxford decided to tape it each month. They've been doing this now for 2 years, halfway which Sara moved the operation to Lancaster. The first year Womens Tapeover despatched Spare Rib and eventually persuaded Spare Rib to takeover that operation. Since that time there have been hic-cups in production because of difficulties in finding copiers, mainly because as blind women we are able to persuade talking newspapers in our areas to let us use their equipment, but Spare Rib found it difficult as society needed convincing that the service was for blind people and was non profit-making. However we hope its all been sorted out.

HEARD GETTING

Since a couple of weeks ago we are now having to find new women to continue reading Spare Rib. We hope this will be sorted out soon and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Sara for all the work she has done since without her efforts and her initiative in the first place we would never have got Spare Rib, and then we would never have persuaded many other feminist publications to begin taping.

There isn't much on tape, or even in Braille, for blind people or partially sighted people in this country.

As a result of the article published in Spare Rib about some of the women from Women's Tapeover, women from all over the country wrote and asked if they could read books onto tape. We have now started a feminist book library of sorts, we have about 10 or 12 titles or parts of titles on tape already and I'm negotiating and organising with a group of women in London to get a feminist tape library organised properly. Our latest project is the London Women's Liberation Newsletter - soon to go on tape when they have a cassette recorder and copier. In order to raise money for this, a tape sponsored



reading of feminist literature is going to start, which will also add to our tape library as well as raise money for the copier.

Recently we asked the Talking Books Library for the Blind why they didn't have feminist literature on tape. They agreed to go and investigate, to read and report on what they found. The librarian selected 20 books from Sisterwrite (feminist bookshop in London) but turned them all down on the grounds that they were not well written, propagandist, and that it could have been said better! When we asked her whether she felt that some of the novels that were already on the Talking Book Library were propagandist she said she didn't think so. These books are mainly concerned with heterosexual lifestyles, glorifying violence against women, hundreds of books on cops and robbers, detectives and murders (mostly of women), insulting references to people with disabilities, Jews and Black people as well as an attack on the working class. We felt that this organisation of the Library was propagandist in favour of a white able-bodied heterosexual middle class protestant ideal.

continued over

continued from previous page

Her reaction was to round on us and accuse us indirectly through letters she wrote to women who had written in response to the article in Spare Rib about feminist literature on tape, implying that we were hysterical, bitter and twisted and misinformed and should be grateful for what we received!

There is now a small storm going on at the moment in the Royal National Institute for the Blind magazine - New Beacon. This is over a complaint made by a reader that information about Lesbian, Gay and Marxist organisations should not be included since it had nothing to do with blind people and blind welfare. He was referring to adverts about Gemma (organisation for lesbians with and without disabilities) and about the disabled gay men's group as well as the occasional advert for the Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective. He said that Lesbians and Marxists should go back into their own world where they belong. Back to the closet, I suppose.

Lesbians and Gay men who are partially sighted or blind, and socialist and feminists are very angry with this as it simply underlines the attitudes of the charities that run the taping organisations and their homophobic ideas. Since Women's Tapeover began many changes have happened to our subscribers. When we began, we were not aware of any lesbians among our readership. Now they're popping up all over the place, and including in our women's collective.

We are beginning to understand our oppression that we face as women through reading the literature provided and are beginning to challenge the society in which we live. We are beginning to be proud of being blind and to align ourselves with other people with disabilities as members of a proud and strong tribe.

The Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective is short of funds at the moment. We need more people to help us organise, to tape, to help us with the scanning of the press, and we need more participations from blind and partially sighted women. Anyone living in the London area who would like to help with administrating, which is answering letters, sorting out subscriptions, copying tapes and thinking of super ways to raise funds (like through your local unions, clubs, women's groups, colleges etc), please contact us.

Women's Tapeover is a monthly cassette for blind and partially sighted women which contains selections from the feminist press chosen by blind and partially sighted women in London. It costs £3 a year for 12 cassettes on a listen and return basis. We also produce a number of woman only tapes, free to women subscribers.

The address for Women's Tapeover is c/o A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2.

Or phone Kirsten on 01 318 2002 or daytime 01 584 5030 ex 288.

Our brother magazine Left Out is also available on the same terms as Women's Tapeover. Its available from The Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective. Box 35, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8 2NS. It is a digest of the socialist, anarchist peace etc press.

Contact for 'Left Out' is Gary 01 249 1251 or Mike 01 226 5320.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective.

FEMINIST MAGS ON TAPE -

REVOLUTIONARY AND RADICAL FEMINIST NEWSLETTER (women only). £1.50 for 3 copies. Please supply wallets, cassettes are not listen and return so you can keep them. From RRF, 17 Kensington Terrace, Leeds LS6.

SEQUEL (women only). No details on price but is available from - Sequel, BM Sequel, London WC1N 3XX Listen and return.

GEMMA NEWSLETTER (women only). For lesbians with and without disabilities. £2.50 for quarterly newsletter. Listen and return. From Gemma, BM5700, London WC1N 3XX.

SISTERS AGAINST DISABLEMENT NEWSLETTER (women only) £2.50 for quarterly newsletter. From SAD Collective, 54 Whitby Court, Parkhurst Road, London N7.

SPARE RIB. No details on price. 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 OAT.

OUTWRITE. Some of the newsletter is on tape. From Oxford House, Derbyshire St, London E2.

EYSISTRATA. £2.50 a year. About 9 copies. Listen and return basis. Please supply wallets. From: 11 Princes St, Brighton, Sussex.

TROUBLE AND STRIFE. New magazine. From: 30 Brudenell Ave, Leeds 6.

OOOOO

IN FROM THE GOLD. (mixed). Liberation magazine of people with disabilities. £1.50 for 9 a year. Listen and return. From: IFTC, Flat 4, 188 Ramsder Rd, Balham, London SW12.

MILITANT (mixed). Rather more expensive. About £12 per quarter on a listen and return basis. That's socialist men for you! Not sure of the address.

GAY SCOTLAND is reported to be on tape but that's all we know.

LONDON LESBIAN AND GAY RECORDING COLLECTIVE TALKING MAGAZINE. 1½ hours a month. News, comments, interviews etc. To be launched this autumn. £2.50 by post, £1.75 for unemployed/disabled. From: The London Lesbian and Gay Recording Collective, 15 Barwick Rd, Forest Gate, London E7.

and books....

Available from Women's Tapeover - Any blind or partially sighted women can borrow them. c/o A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker
You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down by Alice Walker
Braided Lives by Marge Piercy
The Moon is Always Female (Poetry) by Marge Piercy
(The Talking Book Library is doing Marge Piercy's Woman on the Edge of Time and Marilyn French's The Women's Room. More details of that from Women's Tapeover)
Happy as a Dead Cat by Joan Miller
Union Street by Pat Barker
Rubyfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown
The China Man by Maxine Hong Kingston
The Warrior Women by Maxine Hong Kingston
The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
The Dispossessed by Ursula La Guin
From The Spare Rib Reader - the sections on Sexuality and Self Image.

Pornography - Men Possessing Women by Andrea Dworkin
Love Your Enemy - The Case against Heterosexuality Selections

Dear Dr Stokes - Selections from letters to Marie Stokes

The Childbirth Book by Christine Beal
Of Woman Born by Adrienne Rich
Sweet Freedom by Bea Campbell and Anna Coote
(Introduction and first chapter)
Why Children - selected articles about the pros and cons of childbirth.



"She's been used

In issue 6 of LYSISTRATA we mentioned YU SU-CHEN, imprisoned in Taiwan. Here is an article with fuller details.

The existence of a magazine such as 'Lysistrata' shows that women have by no means acquired equal recognition with men either in this country or internationally. But it does give us the opportunity to speak out. This is a right totally denied to many women and a frightening example exists in the case of YU SU-CHEN. She is about 41 years old and lives, or perhaps exists would be more descriptive, in a Taiwanese prison.

Taiwan's history

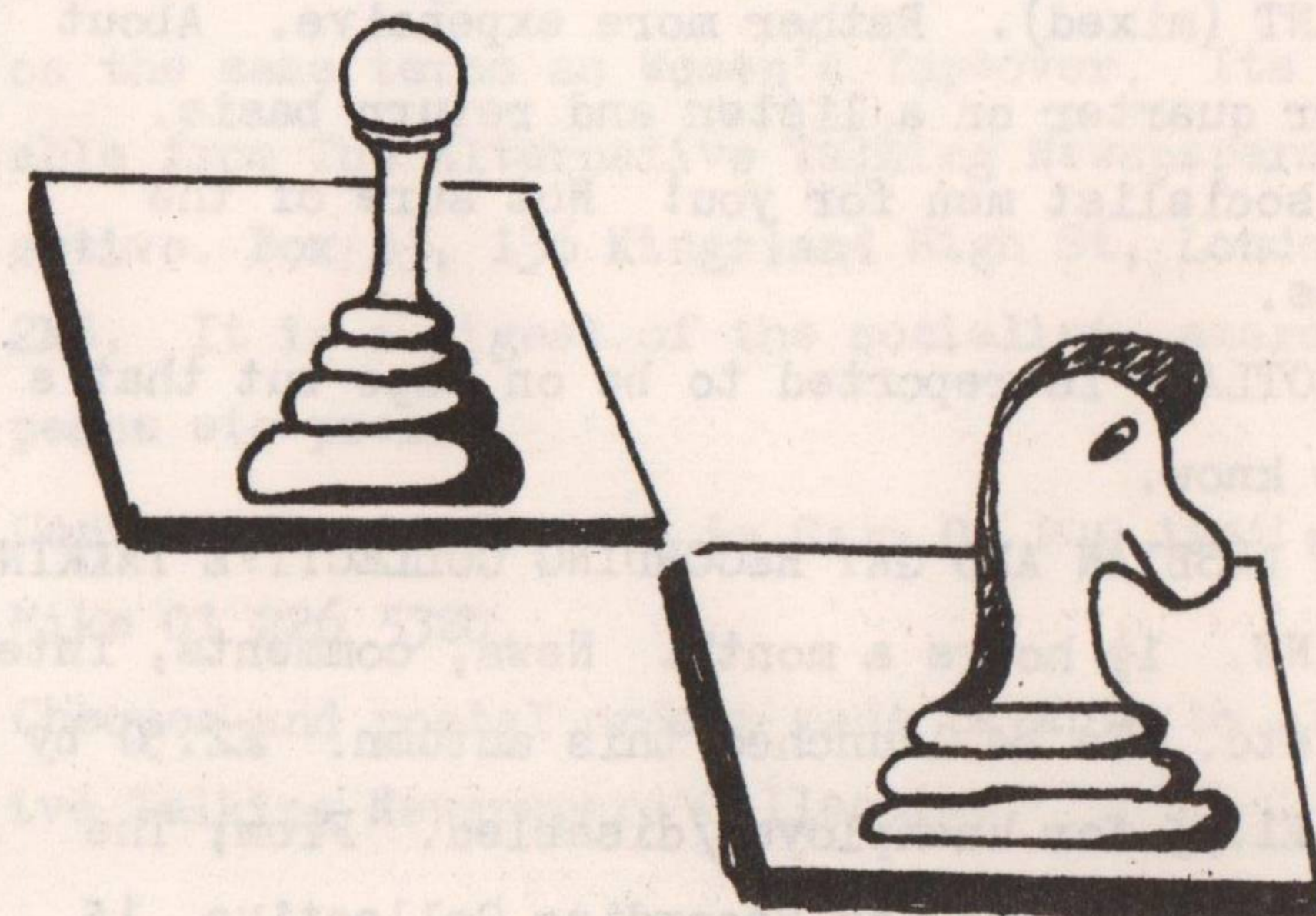
To understand her story it is necessary to look at a little of Taiwan's turbulent history. This island is situated off the east coast of China, its mother country, until the Communist takeover of the mainland in 1949. At that time a million or so people fled from the mainland rather than accept life under Communist rule. They settled on the island of Taiwan and since that date both the island itself and also China claim to be the legitimate government of all China. The countries are still technically at war.

censorship

The government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is diplomatically recognised by few countries. As international trading links form the basis of the country's economy, this censure is felt keenly by the island's ruling body. Sadly for the people of Taiwan, their government's edginess leads directly to an uncomfortable political situation. Although opposition to the government exists it is kept too weak to form an effective party. Additionally, press censorship is almost complete.

suddenly arrested

However, in the later 1970's the opposition was indeed gaining strength and in co-ordination. Taiwan's leadership felt it was time to teach a sharp lesson to any potential dissidents. It is virtually impossible to obtain concrete details as to what plot if any had been made by the opposition to bring down the government. Equally it is only a matter for speculation as to what ploy the government used to discover the identities of those involved. But it seems that they enlisted the services of Wu Tai-an to act as their agent, to pretend he was a part of the group which hoped to rumble fatally the government's foundations. In fact probably his role was simply to uncover the names of its opponents. Yu Su-Chen had lived with this man for several years since the breakdown of her marriage. She has let it be known that, whilst he was involved in all this, she sensed that he was up to something but didn't know quite what. Until October 1978, when she was suddenly arrested, charged with attempting to overthrow the government by violent means, and was imprisoned.



as a pawn in a political game"

govt. agent

Her trial followed in January 1979. Independent witnesses agree that Wu Tai-an gave his evidence from well prepared notes which seemed tailored to the judge's questions. If he was actually a government agent then the authorities needed to bring him to trial, along with the opposition leaders he had named, in order to cover from the public any hint of these doubtful legal tactics. In this event surely he would expect lenient treatment at the trial and some perks afterwards.

no such hope

There was no such hope for Yu Su-Chen. It was a military hearing which means she wasn't entitled to a defence lawyer or to any right of appeal. Although she pleaded guilty and begged the court's mercy, this is by no means uncommon practice in Taiwan where duress is often applied to prisoners awaiting trial and during the course of their interrogations. And so Yu Su-Chen pleaded guilty whilst at the same time maintaining that she had at no time had any idea what Wu Tai-an was up to. It seems a matter of importance that at no time has she ever altered this contention. At the trial no evidence was brought forward to conclusively prove her guilty.

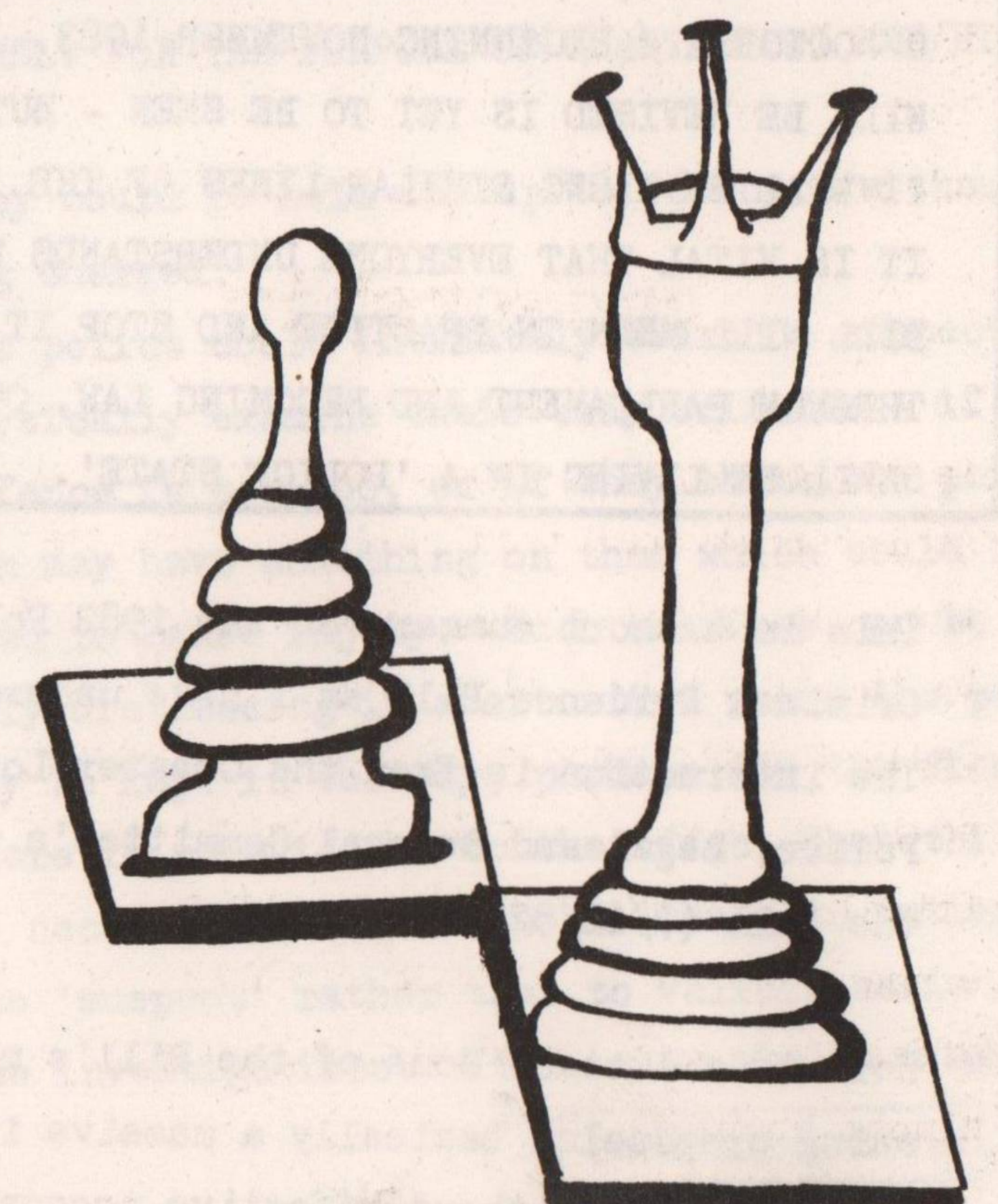
jail

The court did not pass a verdict and she was taken back to jail. It was from there that she learned that another hearing had taken place in her absence early on the morning of 16 April 1979, and she had been found guilty as charged. The sentence was 15 years imprisonment. Wu Tai-an was executed 4 weeks later. If indeed he was a government agent then he'd outlived his usefulness and could only be an embarrassment to his masters.

In the four years that have lapsed since that date Amnesty International has worked constantly to obtain from the authorities in Taiwan further details about Yu Su-Chen's trial. It is important to discover whether or not she had been gaoled wrongly. If she was in fact involved with her boyfriend then why do the authorities not bring forward proof of her guilt? The obvious and simple solution would be for this woman to be retried in an open court with the rights of defence and appeal. Independent witnesses could then guarantee that all procedures were in accordance with internationally approved legal standards.

man-ipulation?

If Yu Su-Chen is innocent then she has been used as a pawn in a dirty political game. In that case she was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, a woman manipulated and discarded because of her relationship with her boyfriend.



YU SU-CHEN cont....

Can you help us discover the truth? Please write a courteously worded letter to:

His Excellency Chiang Ching-kuo
President of the Republic of China
Office of the President
Chiehshou Hall
Chungking S Road
Taipei
Taiwan
Republic of China.

You could ask that:

* her case be looked into. She is currently being held at the Jen Ai Educational Institute.

*that evidence be produced to substantiate her guilt

*that a retrial be ordered which conforms with internationally approved legal standards.

Cathie Pickering of Amnesty International
For more information her address is:

3 Monk End Terrace
Croft-on-Tees
Darlington
Co Durham. DL2 2SQ

If you receive a reply from Taiwan, please send Cathie a copy.

HARASSMENT MADE

THE POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL WAS PUBLISHED ON 18th NOVEMBER 1982 BUT DID NOT GET ALL THE WAY THROUGH PARLIAMENT BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION THIS YEAR. IT IS TO BE RE-INTRODUCED AT THE END OF OCTOBER / BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1983. WHETHER IT WILL BE REVISED IS YET TO BE SEEN - BUT PROBABLY IT WILL BE ALONG SIMILAR LINES OF THE '82 BILL. IT IS VITAL THAT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS WHAT THIS BILL WILL MEAN IN PRACTICE AND STOP IT GETTING THROUGH PARLIAMENT AND BECOMING LAW, OTHERWISE WE SHALL BE LIVING IN A 'POLICE STATE'.

This is a short summary of the 1982 Police and Criminal Evidence Bill as I have understood it. The information is from the Greater London Council's Police, Legal and General Committee's response to the Bill (7/12/82).

Here is a list of some of the Bill's most frightening proposals, basically a massive increase in police powers without effective accountability.

The Bill will give police the power to:

STOP & SEARCH PEOPLE AT RANDOM

Throughout England and Wales police will have the power 'on reasonable suspicion' to stop and search people and vehicles for stolen goods, offensive weapons, etc. Police making searches must identify themselves and state their purpose and grounds if asked. They must also make a written record of the search which you can ask for if you were searched. The Bill doesn't go into what 'reasonable suspicion' means. Also everyday items such as keys, spanners, penknives, torches etc qualify as 'offensive weapons'.

The new powers to stop and search are nothing new and to certain sections of the community, in part-

Go to top of next page

icular Black and working class people, they merely give legal force to powers which have long been used against them. The harassment which already goes on will just become legal. Like:

*Black and Asian people are often given no reason for being stopped and searched

*Unnecessary violence is used to arrest Black & Asian people

*Young people are particularly subject to harassment

*The assertion of one's rights often leads to arrest

*The homes and premises of Black and Asian people are entered at will

The stop and search powers will be used as legal harassment of Black and Asian communities. They will also be used to interfere with feminist activities by harassing women.

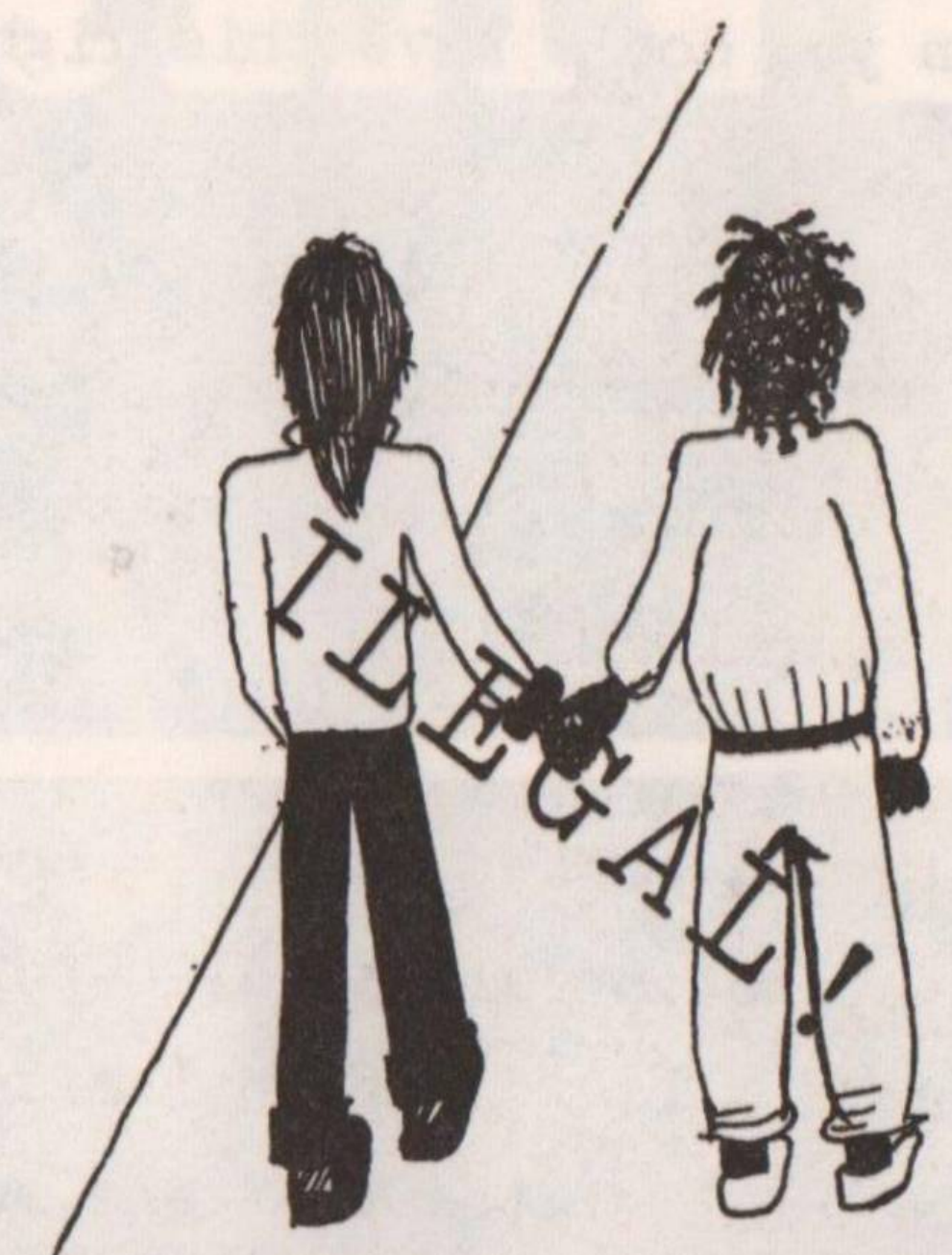
BY POLICE LEGAL

EXTEND ARREST POWER

TO ALL OFFENCES, HOWEVER SMALL

At the moment the police can arrest someone without a warrant if the offence carries 5 years imprisonment or more. Now they'll be able to do this for other offences like - going equipped for stealing, indecent assault on a woman or causing prostitution, and others. They will also arrest without warrant anyone who they, 'with reasonable cause', suspect to be in the act of committing an offence. Immediate arrest is also possible if a person is causing 'an affront to public decency', refuses to go to the police station for fingerprinting, or if s/he refuses to give a constable her/his name and address or if the constable has reasonable grounds (?) to doubt that s/he is giving the correct name and address.

Basically this means that the police will be able to arrest anyone if they believe they are giving the wrong name and address. Again past experiences show that it will be the Black and Asian communities that will be consistently harassed. Also two women or two men walking hand in hand in the street could be an arrestable offence because of the 'public decency' bit.



HOLD A PERSON IN DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE

PURELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF QUESTIONING HER/HIM

They could be held for up to 96 hours without being charged. The police could intimately search a suspect - physically examine their body orifices - if the offence is serious, or if they think the person may have something on them which could be used to cause injury. Such searches can be intensely distressing in a situation where the person may be kept in custody, perhaps for the first time. There is no evidence to the effect that this power is necessary and its use is likely to intimidate the 'suspect' rather than to validly assist police investigations. It is also wholly unacceptable

continued on next page

continued from previous page

that such searches can be carried out by persons other than qualified medical practitioners or on children of less than 14 years old.

The right to have someone informed of your arrest can be 'delayed' in certain circumstances. If you have been detained under the PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT 1976 then you don't have this right anyway.

The additional 'rights' of children and young people who have been arrested are only that a parent or guardian is to be informed of the arrest 'as soon as is reasonably practicable'.

The Bill states that a person shall be entitled, if she so requests, to consult a solicitor privately. But again this is to happen 'as soon as is practicable'. The Bill states that she must be permitted to see a solicitor within 48 hours of being detained. No doubt the police will find it 'impracticable' to allow this in the majority of cases, before questioning.

SET UP ROAD BLOCKS

The police will be able to set up random road checks. This will mean cordoning off areas - putting pressure on certain 'sensitive' or 'high crime' areas by stopping all vehicles going in or out. Undoubtedly such random stops would be followed by equally random searches. Again it will legitimise police harassment of Black and Asian communities.

TO SEARCH PROPERTY OF INNOCENT PEOPLE

IF THE POLICE SUSPECT THAT EVIDENCE TO A CRIME IS ON THAT PREMISES

Yet more powers to search.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

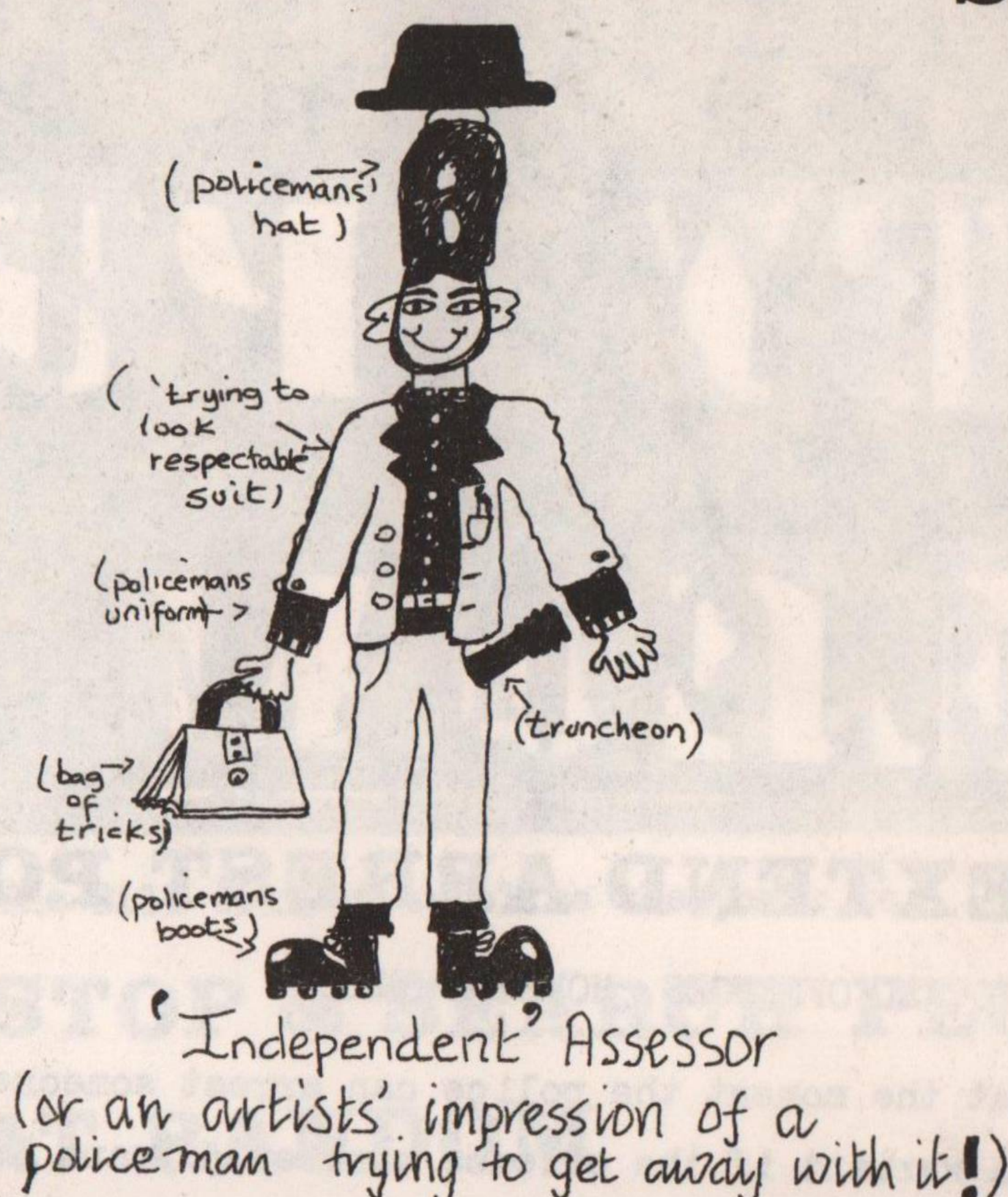
The police will have access to medical records, journalist's files, documents held by advice agencies, files of probation officers and social workers. Even communications between solicitor and client. This is wholly outrageous and amounts to sanction for police interference with defence evidence.

CONCLUSION

Experience has shown that the police always tend to act in excess of their legal powers. By granting the police most of the extension of power they sought, and not devising adequate safeguards for abuse of their power (they in effect will investigate complaints against them, themselves - with the exception of one 'independent assessor'), the Bill will lay the foundations for the legitimisation of the authoritarian policing already practised on the Black and Asian communities.

It is yet to be seen how similar the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will be to the 1982 one that I have described above. Probably it will be along the same lines. I think therefore it is vital that everyone finds out what horrors the new Bill will propose and that we take collective action to try and stop it going through, so that we don't lose the few civil liberties that we have!

SW



ADVERT

Are any other Irish Women in the Brighton area interested in learning Irish? I do not speak any Irish but have a tape and some books.

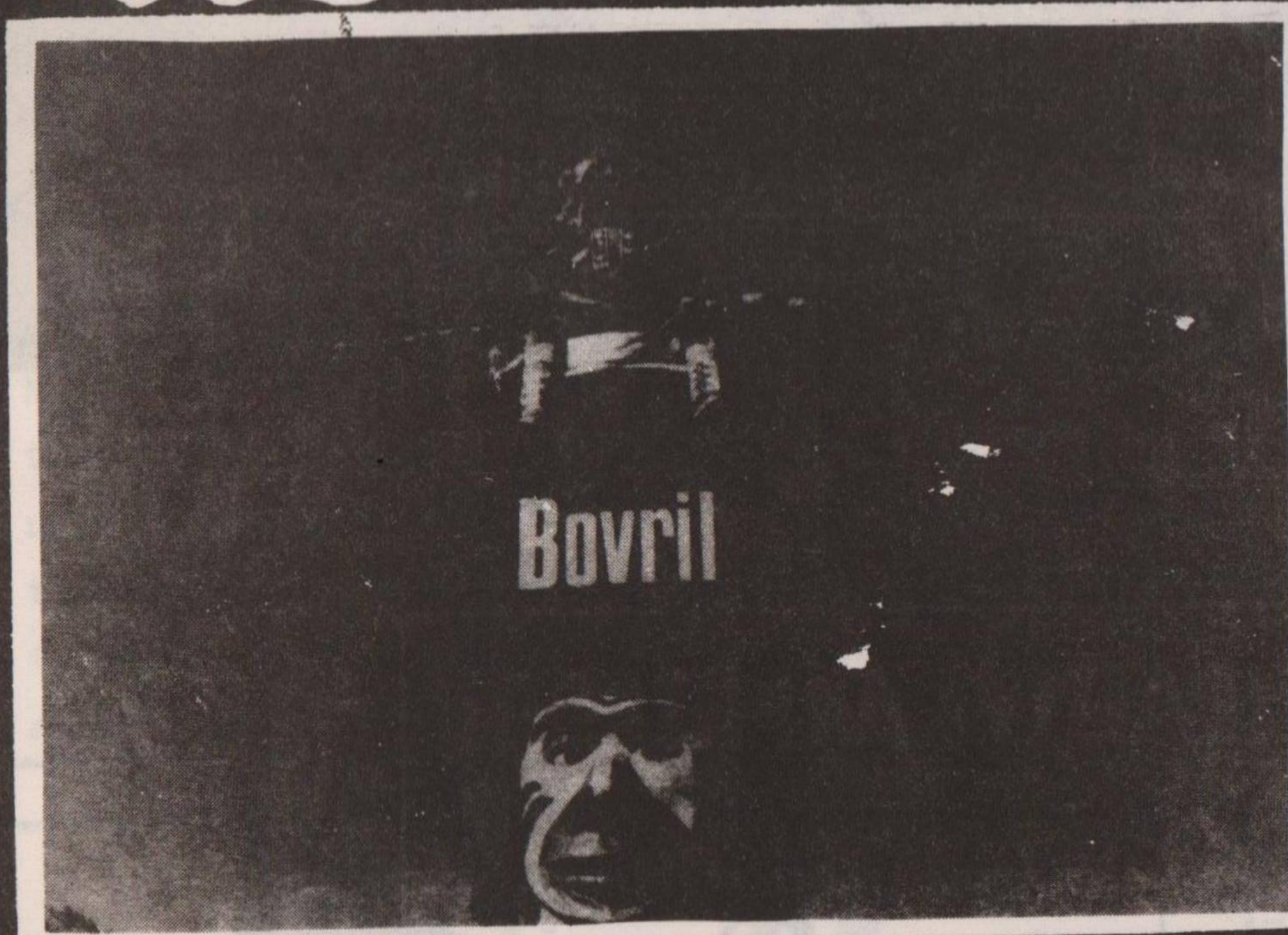
Would any women who do speak Irish be prepared to teach Irish?

Please contact Stephanie at the Brighton Womens Centre. 600526

WHAT'S THIS NASTY TREND?

In British tv adverts

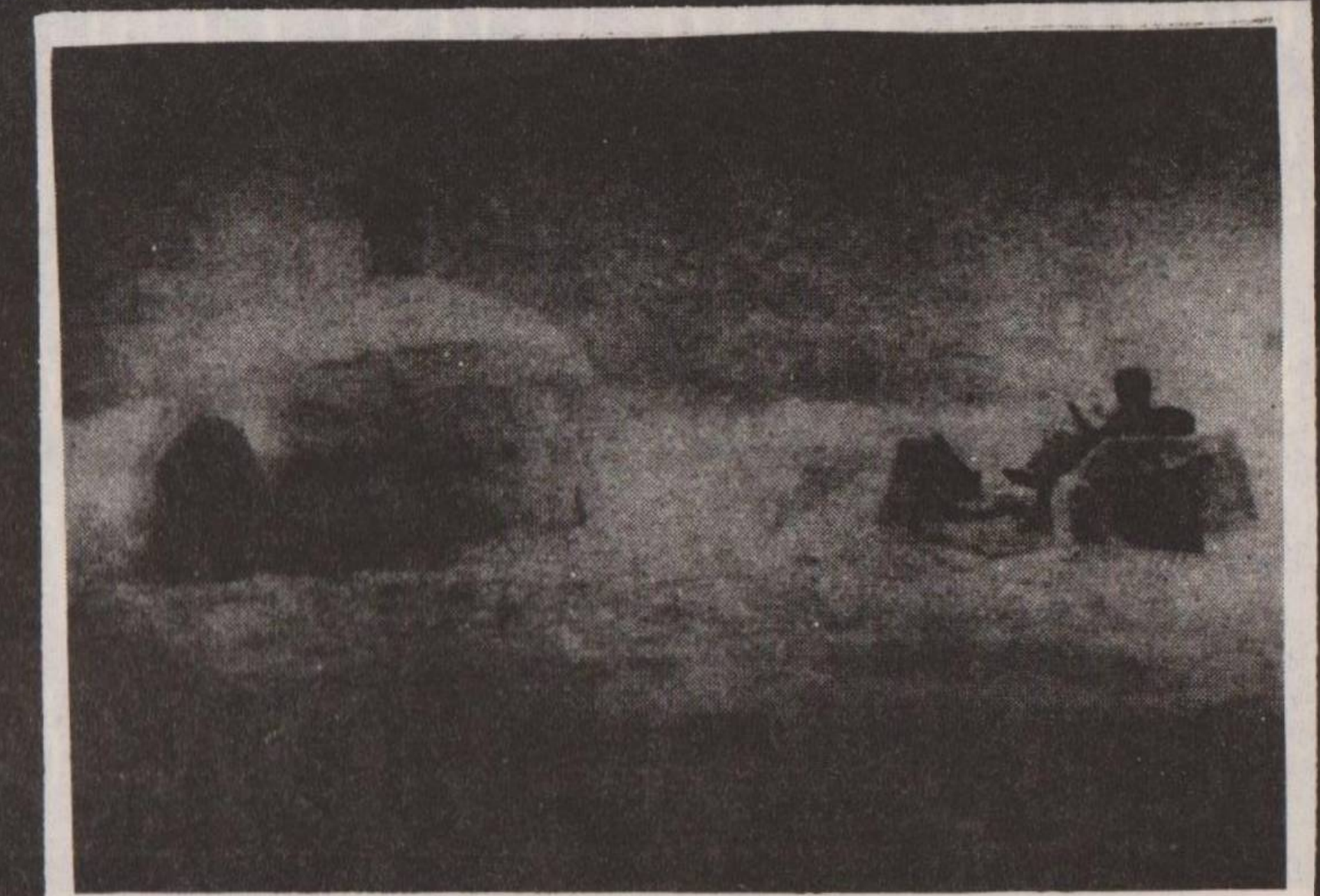
A Hollywood Indian sits atop atop a Boveril totem pole. On a film-set dumped down on land robbed from its original custodians. The buffalo once roamed there. Now the herds of the past are commemorated in a bulbous bottle.



Back in the tipi the St. Bruno man passes round a much more satisfying pipe than that of peace.

Never mind that the first tobaccos were native American. Or that the first alcohol came from native grains.

GUESS WHO'S BRIGHTENING UP LIFE ON THE YUKON TONIGHT?



Further north an "Eskimo" woman proves that Coalite can burn down your igloo but will certainly warm perishing lives. Traditional fuels stink out the air.

Consumerism has long been sold as if it were a way of life.

But now western junk is promoted as if it were being taken up by native peoples as a better way.

Cultural imperialism to give a fancy name.

RACIALISM to give it its real flavour.

Lifted from Native Peoples' News.

FORCED.... TO DO NIGHTS

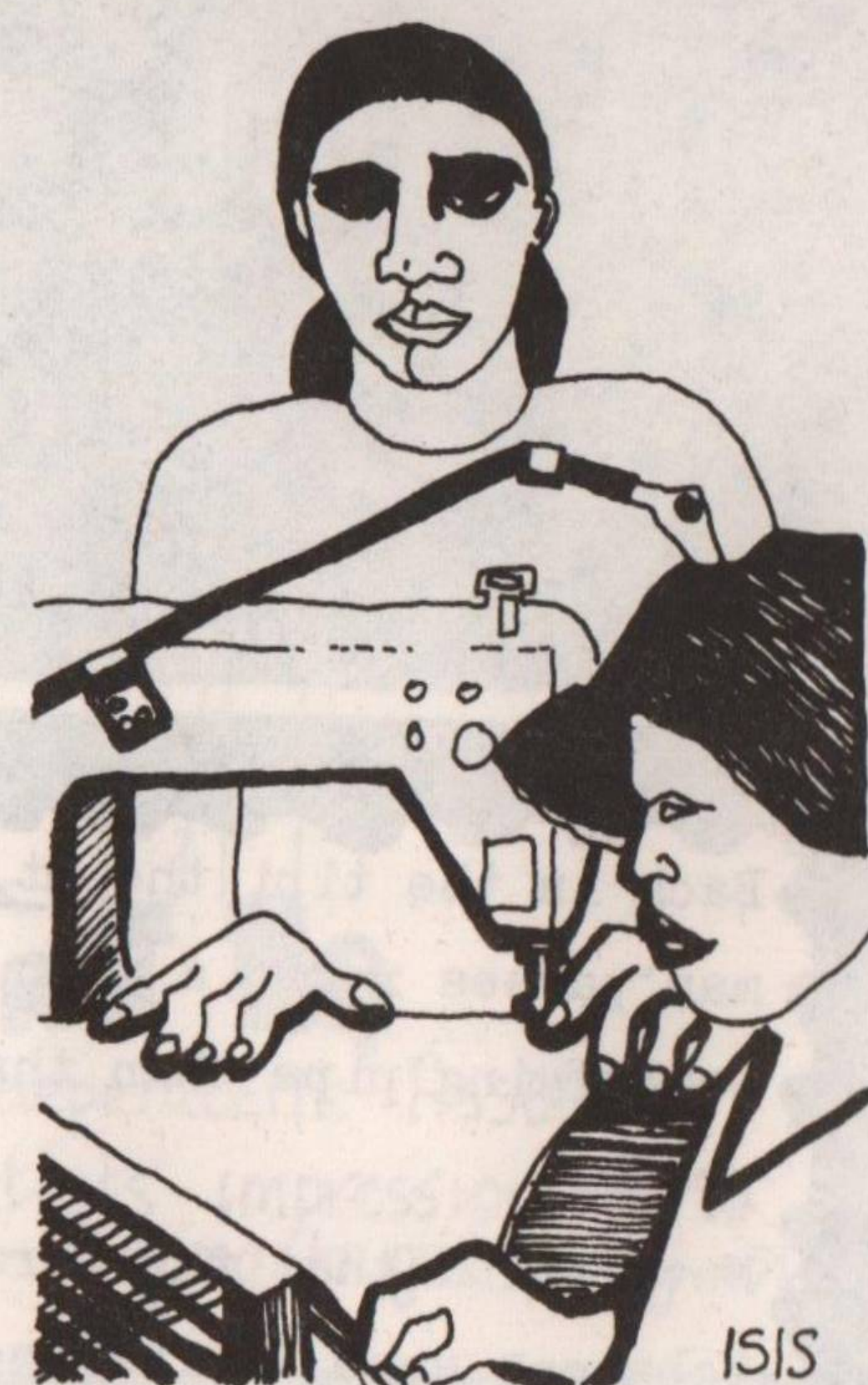
The recent racial violence in SRI LANKA against 3 million Tamil-speaking people meant the cold blooded murder of at least 1 thousand people & left another 200 000 destitute, burnt out of their homes & fleeing to shelter in the traditional Tamil homelands.

Here Shanthi describes how this means women have to do dangerous night work.....

68 factories in Colombo and a further 2497 manufacturing outlets in the country were destroyed putting up to 100 000 people out of work. 17 of the largest factories affected were involved in the production of textiles and ready made garments for export. 80% of the workers were women. Often the sole wage earners of large families - a fortnight of racist barbarism has deprived them of their sole means of livelihood. And the Labour department talked of being 'saddled with' applications for alternative employment. It also complained of the reluctance of women to take night shifts and to travel long distances daily, especially as there has been large increases in bus fares.

'Long distances' could mean 15-20 miles and journeys lasting three hours each way! Some of the factories considered 'suitable' for the women to take new jobs in are nearly 60 miles away from Colombo. Women would be forced to move away from their homes, taking their families with them or living on their own. They won't even be able to get re-settlement benefits so most of them could not afford the move.

The government has requested that displaced workers be paid a minimum wage which means that wage levels



(at the moment hardly at subsistence level, averaging 60p per day) won by women in the course of long and constant struggle will be lost. So will be increments won in the course of 'experience' gained over long and arduous years of back-breaking labour and super-exploitation. There had been previously a ban on night work for women, which most women felt was a right they had won which also should be extended to men. However this ban has now been lifted, the government saying

they didn't want to discriminate against women any more! Unfortunately they don't share the same concern in other areas of discrimination against women at work. There was widespread protest against this from women workers, the womens movement and the Trade Union movement.

dangers

It has been proved beyond doubt that night work is injurious to health and disrupts normal social life. There is also no guarantee that women working a night shift will be able to get sufficient rest during the day. Women living in crowded and noisy boarding houses with the constant comings and goings of other workers will be badly affected. So will women with families. There are hardly any creches or day schools in Sri Lanka and most working class women couldn't afford them anyway. Most people believe that the housework and the caring of children is the sole responsibility of women so the burden on them would be much worse if they worked nights.

Night work would also mean that women would have to travel to and from isolated areas, either using notoriously poor transport facilities or on foot through ill-lit streets and alleyways, easy prey to thieves and sexual harrassment ranging from assault to rape.

militancy

Industrial action will also be affected by permanent night shifts. Striking workers from the day shift can easily be dismissed and the already experienced workers on the night shift be brought in without any significant loss of production. It is significant that Polytext Garments was the first to offer immediate employment to displaced women workers on a permanent night shift. The women at Polytext have a militant history. They launched a successful month long strike in December 1982 to get their union recognised, for higher wages, enhanced leave facilities and the immediate reinstatement of dismissed workers. The strike was launched during 'Emergency' rule, the women were met with brutal police attack, some of them were hospitalised, two of the leaders were arrested and remanded and various methods were adopted by the bosses and the state to break the strike.

Loss of production speeded settlement and this move to employ a night shift may well be a measure to negate the gains made by the women of Polytext. It also made a great difference to their fight that there was national and international support for them. This is needed now too.

'burden'

There is also danger that in the economic chaos left behind by the riots, the re-employment of displaced women workers may be too much of a burden to the state and excuses such as 'a woman's natural place is in the home' that 'women work only to supplement an already existing source of income for the family' that 'they will quit in any case on marriage or pregnancy' or that 'the re-employment of women would only mean that resources for the creation of jobs for displaced male workers have unnecessarily been diverted', may well be trotted out as reasons for not re-employing all the women affected. Women will no doubt suffer the most from the economic crisis.

The Womens Movement of Sri Lanka calls upon the rest of the womens' movement and trade union movements to launch an international campaign:

- 1) that all workers displaced be adequately re-employed or
- 2) that they be paid a monthly wage until adequate employment is found and
- 3) that women workers are not forced to work either a temporary or permanent night shift.

ABOUT US

We are members of a Womens' Centre, set up by the Womens Liberation Movement of Sri Lanka.

We work mainly among working-class women in the 'Free Trade Zone' area of Sri Lanka. The womens centre offers recreation facilities to women workers and educational and library facilities. We organise seminars, discussions and workshops and offer legal advice and advice on labour regulations. The womens centre is organising collecting of food

continued over.....

NIGHT WORK CONTD.

clothing and money from those who weren't affected by the riots.

Work forces in some factories have already decided to donate half a days wages towards this fund for relief, rehabilitation and maintenance work.

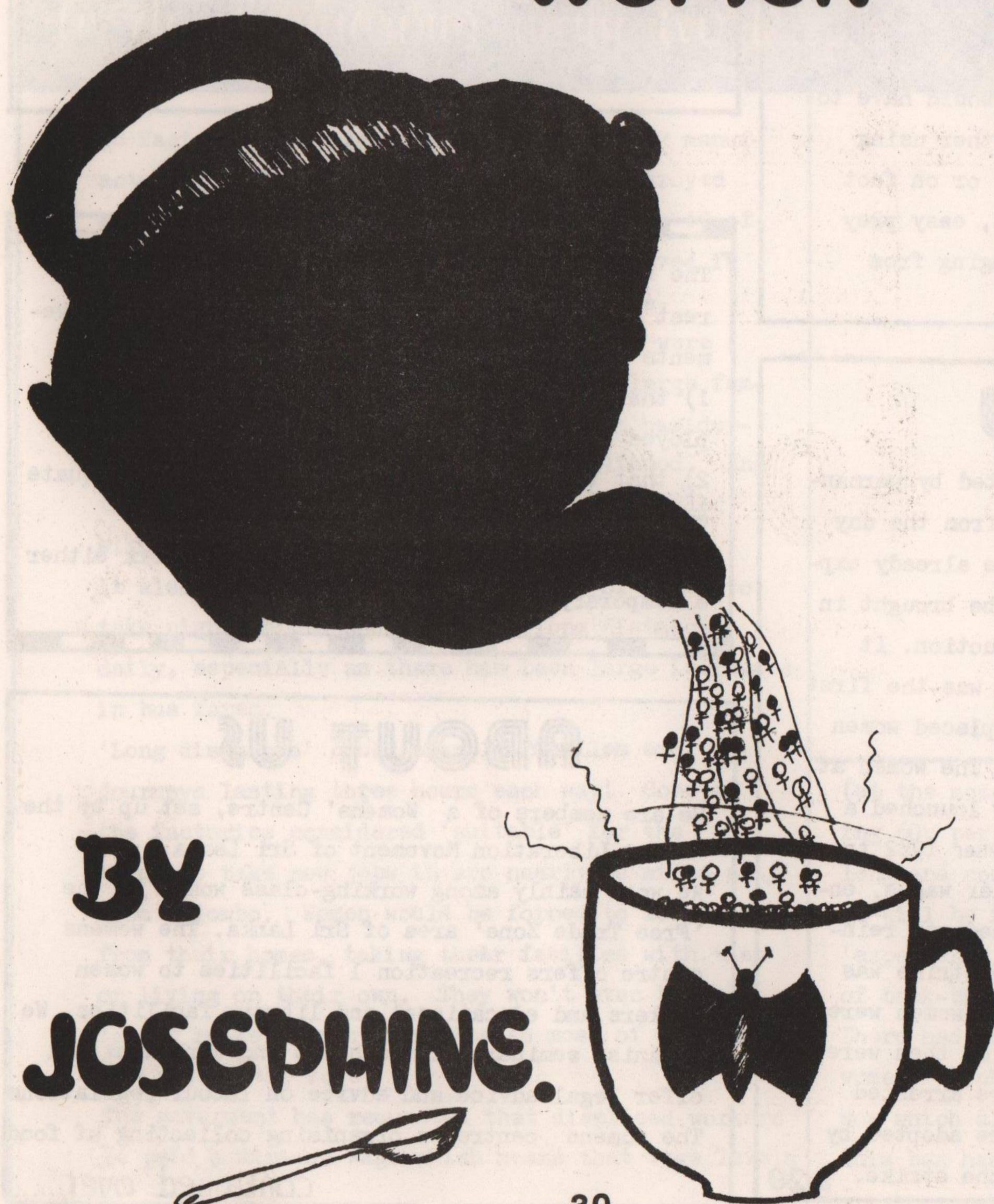
Discussions are also taking place with women and workers about the recent violence and the events

leading up to it. They are getting together to counter anti-Tamil and racist propaganda.

Send any contributions to:

War on Want, 467 Caledonian Rd, London N7 9BE-
marked Womens Centre Relief Programme, Sri Lanka.

LIVING WITH WOMEN



BY
JOSEPHINE.

To live with women
Is difficult, they say.

In my husband - bound time
Life organised & fettered me
With supper, bed,
A man's homecoming, his sex.

My dreams, ideas,
Like old Newspapers
Were gathered up, bundled,
Thrown away.

Conversations like orange peel
Were twisted, Arranged in order
With the knives and forks.
Mind & table dusted, straightened
Cups and words placed on a tray,
Plans and napkins folded into symetry.
Chairs stood in ordered anger.
And in silence

Now in my woman-loving time
Secret - anytime - conversations
Run as a spool
Ideas and argument
Lie on the unscrapped dishes,
Tangle me on the unswept floor,
Trip me on the littered stairs,
Hold me with coffee-stained fingers,
Leap from bursting cupboards
And stay me in the nettled garden.

Life disorganised, my life, my time
My thoughts, my dreams &
my imaginings
It is difficult to live
with women ?

INDIA DEMONSTRATION TO EXPOSE KILLER

Wimmin, children and men in Bombay demonstrated to let people know about a wumun who'd been killed, hanged or driven to hang herself by her husband and in laws. Chanting anger, they moved in protest down winding streets, dressed in white (the colour of mourning).

Outside huge apartment buildings a wumun spoke -

'Why should a wumun, a doctor, with a ten month old child and a one day old degree in acupunct-ure, kill herself?'

Varsha. Child. Wumun. Healer.
Wife. Mother. Child denied her dream. Wumun denied her being.

Healer denied her skill. An MD not allowed to practise. Mother denied her child.

They reached Dr Venkataraman's clinic. Here the killer masquer-ades as healer. They painted 'KILLER' across the corrugated shutters of the clinic. Another wumun told another tale of yet another wumun who was also dead, killed, or so it was 'alleged'. Some wimmin lawyers who were present undertook to investigate this case.

From Manushi

more police force!

ON OCTOBER 24th THE NEW PREVENTION OF TERRORISM Bill received its second reading in the House of Commons and is likely to become law shortly.

The old Prevention of Terrorism Act was in-troduced as a temporary measure after the Birm-ingham pub bombings in 1974. Its stayed in force for 9 years! It referred to acts of 'terrorism' only related to Northern Ireland. Many Irish people have been detained and harassed because of it. The proportion of charges following PTA arrests are less than 5%!

This discrimination against Irish people in Britain will be extended now to anyone involved in international struggle, especially politically

active exiles and refugees. Palestinians, mem-bers of the African National Congress and of SWAPO will be under suspicion and could law-fully be held and questioned without ever having been suspected of an offence under Brit-ish law. Given the strong links Britain has with Chile and South Africa (to name just two) these gov-ernments will no doubt look forward to rec-eiving information passed on to them by the British Government.

From Outwrite

(See also page 24 for stuff on the Police Bill.)

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HELP THEM STAY!

SOPHIE SACKAY & EVELYN SKINNER

Sophie is a Nigerian woman. She was married in Nigeria, by traditional ceremony in 1972 to Robert Sackay, a Nigerian living in this country. She came to this country in 1974 to join him, but was refused entry so she returned home and managed to obtain a passport in her mother's maiden surname and was admitted, as a visitor on her return. She has remained here ever since and has lived with her husband, until they separated last year due to his violence towards her.

Sophie now has their four children and is working, to support them. The two eldest are at Junior school.

Sophie is being investigated by the Home Office as an illegal entrant, and is liable to be 'removed' from this country, with her four children even though all of them were born here and are 'British citizens'.

If Sophie were to return home, she would not be able to support the children. Her parents are in Ghana. They do not have a permanent home there, as they have just returned there after living in Nigeria. They would not be in a position to house Sophie and her children who would have nowhere else to go.

Sophie has worked hard to support her children. She has already suffered enough. Help her to stay in this country.

WRITE TO:

David Waddington,
Secretary of State to the Home Office,
80 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1

AND

Tom Cox MP (Sophie's MP)
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1

*In both these cases, a letter to your own MP will help.
Information from Wandsworth Legal Resource Project: 248 Lavender Hill.
London SW1 tel: (01)-228-9462*

Is from Malta. She came to this country to marry in 1978. The marriage did not take place. Evelyn overstayed her leave here and started working. 2½ years ago she met Rupert Skinner who is a Jamaican, settled here. They married in June '83. She has a three month old baby who was born in this country.

Evelyn is now subject to investigation by the Home Office, and faces the threat of immediate deportation. The Home Office say that her marriage is one of 'convenience', even this is not the case, and even though immigration rules do not mention marriages of convenience, where women are concerned - only where men are concerned.

Ridiculously enough, in the circumstances, although Evelyn faces a threat of deportation, her husband would have the right legally to bring her here to join him if she were now living in Malta.

However if the deportation is carried out on the grounds of her overstaying her leave she would be unable to return in the immediate future. She would probably have to wait at least three years!

The one thing that would secure her right to stay in this country, is the fact that she has a Scottish grand-father. A Commonwealth citizen who has a 'UK'- born grand-parent can come here to work, and should be given indefinite leave to remain. BUT..... according to the immigration rules it is up to Evelyn to prove it, and unfortunately she does not know her grand-father's date or place of birth. This makes it almost impossible to trace him.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write letters supporting Evelyn Skinner to:
David Waddington,
Secretary of State to the Home Office,
80, Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1.

AND TO

Alf Dabs MP (he's Evelyn's MP)
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London, SW1

PUNISHMENT FOR RACISTS in schools

The Inner London Education Authority have published a document called 'Race, Sex and Class' which lays out proposals for their schools and colleges.

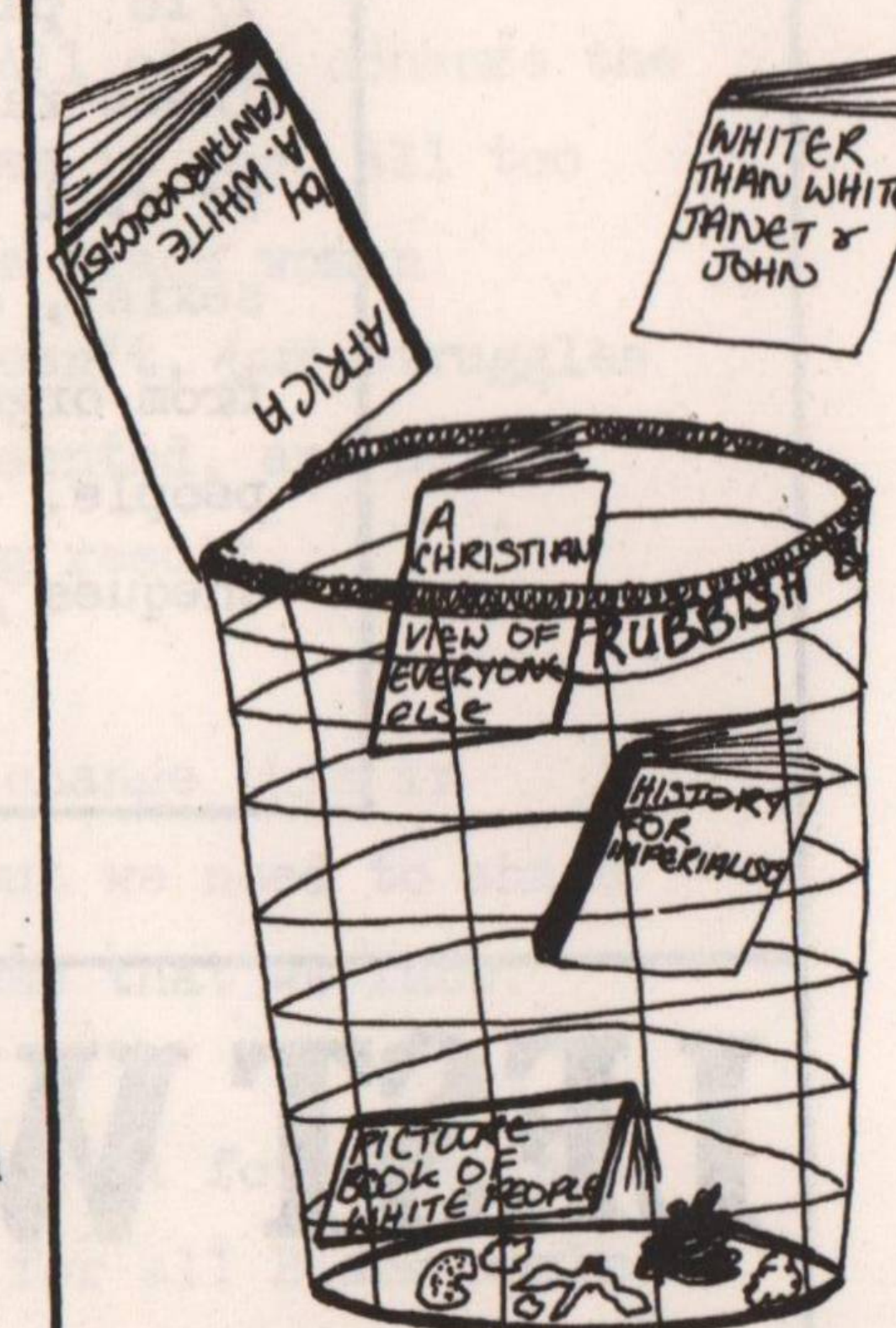
The proposals include punishments for pupils and staff that are racist. About time too. Reports of all racist incidents, as they occur would be fed into a central ILEA computer so that it would be seen if they're 'isolated incidents' or part of a more sinister pattern. There would be deliberate school policies to ensure that assemblies, displays, parents meetings etc will 'regularly and consistently feature references to and discussion of, Britain's multi-cultural nature.' Books and syllabuses would be checked to make sure they did not ignore the experiences of Black people. There's also proposals to make science compulsory for girls in the fourth and fifth years.

Racists within the National Association of Head Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers have spoken out against the proposals (how suprising). David Hart, the general secretary of NAHT said he and his members were sick of political interference from the ILEA stopping them from getting on with their jobs. Stopping them from carrying on their racist practices???

And worse - Nigel de Gruchy, deputy secretary of the NAS/UNT called the proposals 'reversed racism' and therefore racist!!!!

'These documents are all indicative of the takeover of the ILEA by undesirable and unrepresentative influences. If it goes on like this, we'll soon reach the stage where you have to be dark-skinned and or unorthodox sexual taste to get anywhere.'

And these are the sort of people teaching our children.....



PORTON DOWN

SEVEN OF THE TEN WOMEN WHO were arrested in August for trespassing for seven hours on MOD land at Porton Down Chemical 'Defence' Establishment, were found guilty by Salisbury magistrates and fined £35 and £40 costs each. They are all but one,

unemployed and would appreciate any help towards paying their fines. Please send contributions to them c/o the address below.

The women at the camp have decided to close the camp for the winter. Numbers of visitors are already dropping as the weather changes, and so we feel that our energies could be better spent during the next few months talking to groups around the country about Porton Down, gathering support for further actions here and for opening the camp again in the spring.

Please keep in touch with us through this address:

Porton Down Women's Camp for Peace and Animal Liberation,
c/o 5 Leonard St, London EC1.

Call from Porton Down.

APARTHEID'S KILLER DOGS

RACIST WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS have been showing themselves in their true colours (again). Helenah Dorris Ndubazi was ripped apart by her white employers dogs and died. The dogs were not put down as quickly as they probably would have been had they killed a white person. Instead they were put in an animal home. As if this wasn't enough the dogs home then received a number of phone calls from people asking if they could buy the dogs.

(From Outwrite)

MANUSHI

MANUSHI is a quarterly Indian women's magazine produced by a women's group in Delhi, India.

MANUSHI aims to bring women's organisations and activists together and reach women everywhere.

MANUSHI offers an insight into women's lives in India, their resistance to oppression and the development of the Indian Women's Liberation Movement.

MANUSHI contains news, reports and features by and about Indian women ... on land struggles, employment, resistance to violence, health issues, anti-dowry campaigns, women's achievements and struggles regionally and nationally ... film and book reviews, poems, letters, fiction and more.

MANUSHI is available in England in English and/or Hindi from:
Manushi (UK) Distribution, c/o 147 Grove Lane, London SE5.

Subscription rates: £8 for 6 issues. Copies are also available on a sale or return basis. Single issue: £1 (incl. p&p).

SEND FOR YOUR COPY NOW!

Please send me a subscription to MANUSHI.

Name.....

Address.....

Amount..... Date.....

Starting with issue no.

Cheques payable to Manushi.

go on.. ADVERTISE!

ADVERT RATES

Full page.....(12" x 8").....£40

Half page.....(6" x 8").....£22

Quarter page.....(4" x 6").....£12

Eighth page.....(3" x 2").....£7

Sixteenth page.....(2" x 1½").....£4

The above are rates for adverts placed in Lysistrata for just one issue.

Below are rates for adverts placed in several issues. They work out to be a lot cheaper....GO ON ADVERTISE!

3 ISSUES

Full page £36

Half page £20

1/4 page £10

1/8 page £6

1/16 page £3.50

6 ISSUES

Full page £30

Half page £18

1/4 page £8

1/8 page £5

1/16 page £3

These rates are per issue.

We will not accept ads that are racist, sexist, or in any way offensive, or ones from organisations that put profits before people.

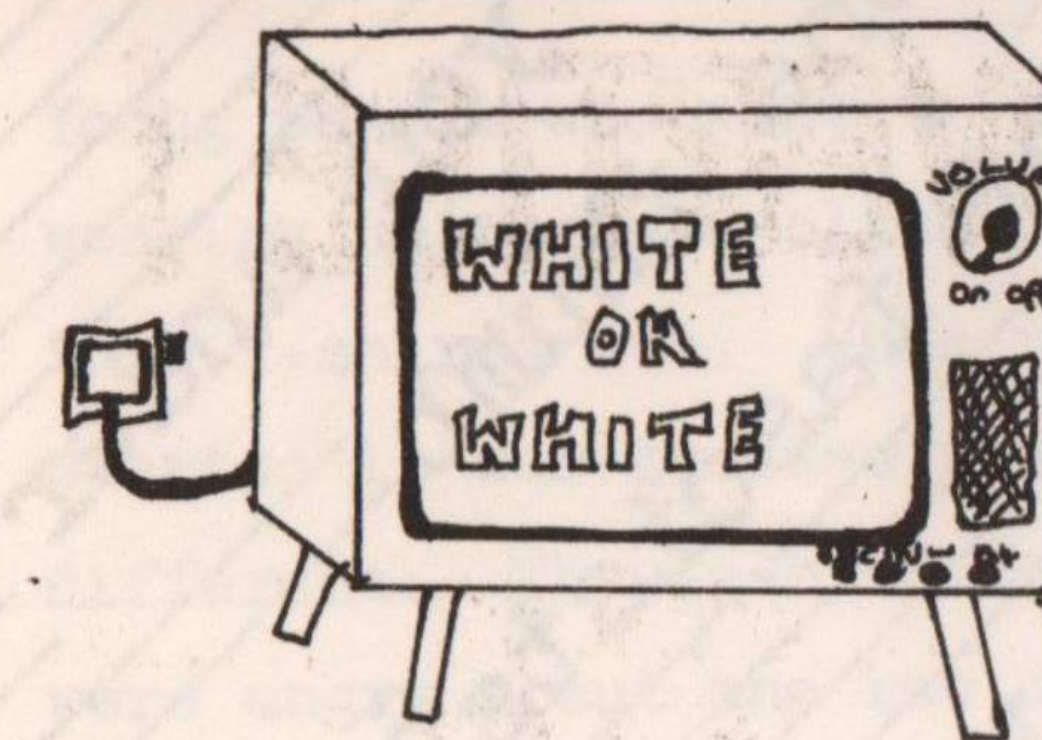
Cheques / PO's payable to GEMINI PRESS.

LEST WE FORGET.

Japanese still flock to the Pacific island of Okinawa to mourn at "The Cave of the Virgins" This is where 85 terrified student nurses hid from the American advance. Marines heard Japanese voices in the cave, didn't recognise them as female and ordered them out. When they didn't emerge, the marines sent in flame throwers. Every nurse was burnt alive.

(From the Scottish Sunday Mail, 13/11/83.)
Remembrance Sunday

FED UP WITH THIS?



NEW SERIES
Starting...

THIS?

A few Black wimmin are organising a conference for Black wimmin to get together to talk about the media in this country, and to think about creating our own (good idea this - typist). Already a few publications about Black womin exist written by and for Black womin, as does a Black Wimmin's radio group, a theatre group, and a publishing group.

But these are a mere handful. All of us consume the media and some of us try and use it too. All too often however the media ignores Black womin altogether and even when it doesn't, our struggles are distorted, we are misrepresented, and sexist and racist images and reporting result.

Black women are struggling to change this in various areas of the media - but we need to share our experiences and the problems that we face.

The proposed conference is not just for women are working within the media, but for all Black womin. We want the conference to provide space for discussions as well as for practical skill sharing.

We have met twice already to discuss all this, at the second meeting quite a few ideas came up. Before we meet again we would like to have more feed-back from more wimmin. As well as more womin who would like to help plan the conference.

Some of the ideas for skill sharing workshops so far have been.....

Magazines and publications, Theatre and Acting, Music, Screen Printing, Poster Making.

We are trying to contact Black womin who can actually provide equipment and skills for this conference.

& THIS?



SO ARE WE!

We are also looking into funding and are trying to find an accessible venue in London. We hope that other womin will be able to fundraise too so that all sisters who want to come will be able to come. Accomodation will be arranged, and so will a creche. We will arrange for sign language interpreters and are considering the possibility of translators.

We would like our next planning meeting to be open to all Black womin, if you have any ideas, skills, topics you would like to discuss, or any equipment or materials you could share, or any contacts, or even if you would just like to find out more, please feel free to come along. If you can't make it to the meeting please drop us a line. We really do need more womin to help get this together. Please tell us if you are coming with children.

The next meeting will be on : NOVEMBER 26th, At AWP A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment.(nearest tube Embankment) AT 1 pm.

We have a temporary mailing address: all letters can be sent to Black Women and Media Conference, c/o Outwrite, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2.

Telephone Da (01) 263 - 7263.

If any womun who is reading this knows of another who might be interested could you photocopy it and pass it on or whatever.....Thanks

Anne, Hansa, Shaila, Da, Kris.



WOMEN COVER THEMSELVES WITH RED PAINT, SYMBOLIZING BLOOD. AND MARCH THROUGH THE GATES AT GREENHAM COMMON. HIROSHIMA DAY 1983.

Photo by ULRIKE PREUSS
North Paddington Community Darkroom.
510 Harrow Road. London. W9

Are you under the thumb of fascists?

Is it studded wristbands

Leather bondage? You're into...

This gear represents death and suffering which has grown up over the years from Nazism against Black and Jewish people.

Think about it? It is you being chained to racist money makers

And you chaining painful memories to Black and Jewish people.

Do you really care? Which side are you on?

Fight now AGAINST RACISM

AGAINST HATE

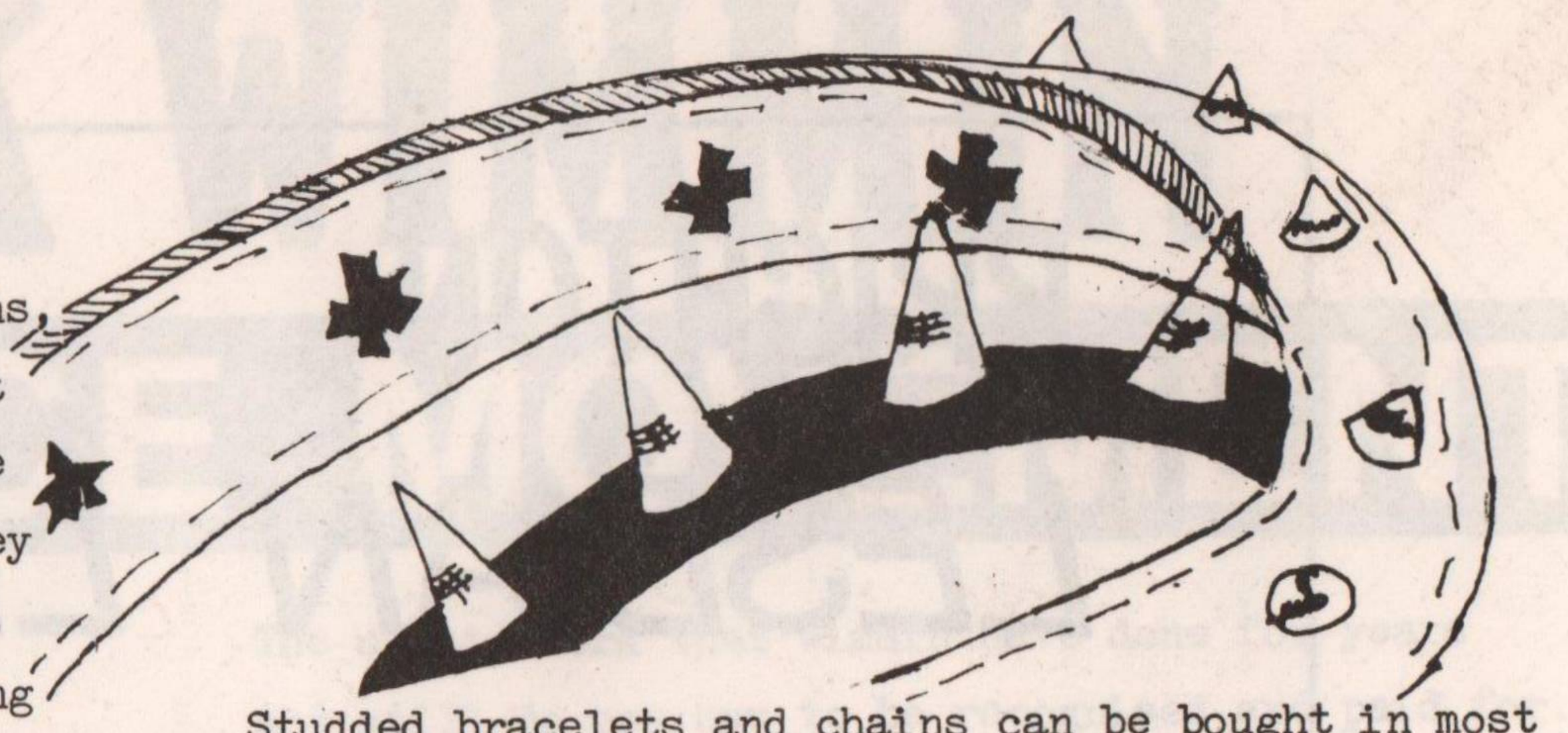
BUILD FOR A BETTER FUTURE!

Say NO to fascist fashion!

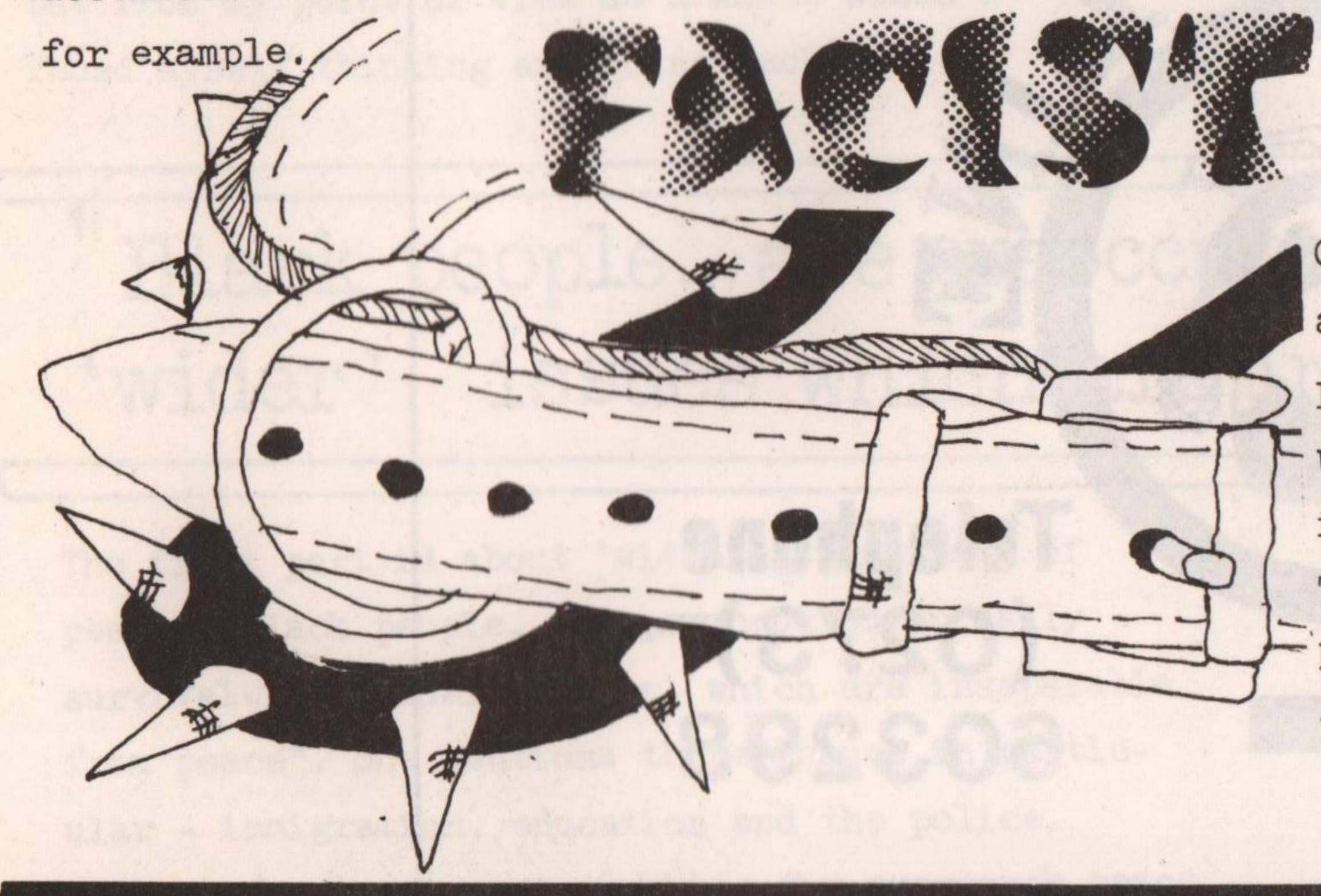
Nicky

YOUNG PEOPLE AND FASHION

Young people who want to express their anger by wearing outrageous clothes very often wear chains, torn T-shirts etc. When the punk movement first started it was because young people wanted to be different. They wanted to show society that they were angry about the raw deal they were getting. Growing up knowing that you're probably not going to get a job can make you angry to say the least. Today punk has become commercialised. People who sell 'punk' accessories are making a lot of money out of people. They're also doing it by selling accessories that are racist - take the swastikas, for example.



Studded bracelets and chains can be bought in most shops that sell fashionable clothes. Yet do the people who buy these things think about what it means to wear a swastika - a symbol of the death of millions of Jewish people in Nazi Europe.



FACIST FASHION

Or take the studded bracelets, anklets or dog collars. Do you know that in the days when Black people were used as slaves they were forced to wear things like those around their necks only instead of studs they had spikes. These collars and chains were worn by people who had no choice as to whether they wore them or not, they didn't walk into a shop and buy them.

BIB

CAN YOU GIVE £1 A MONTH ?

If you're able (and willing!) to support Lysistrata financially you could take out a STANDING ORDER for £1 (or more, if you want) A MONTH. For that you'd get a free copy of the mag each issue. So its like a sub - but different! All you have to do is fill in the form opposite and send it to us:

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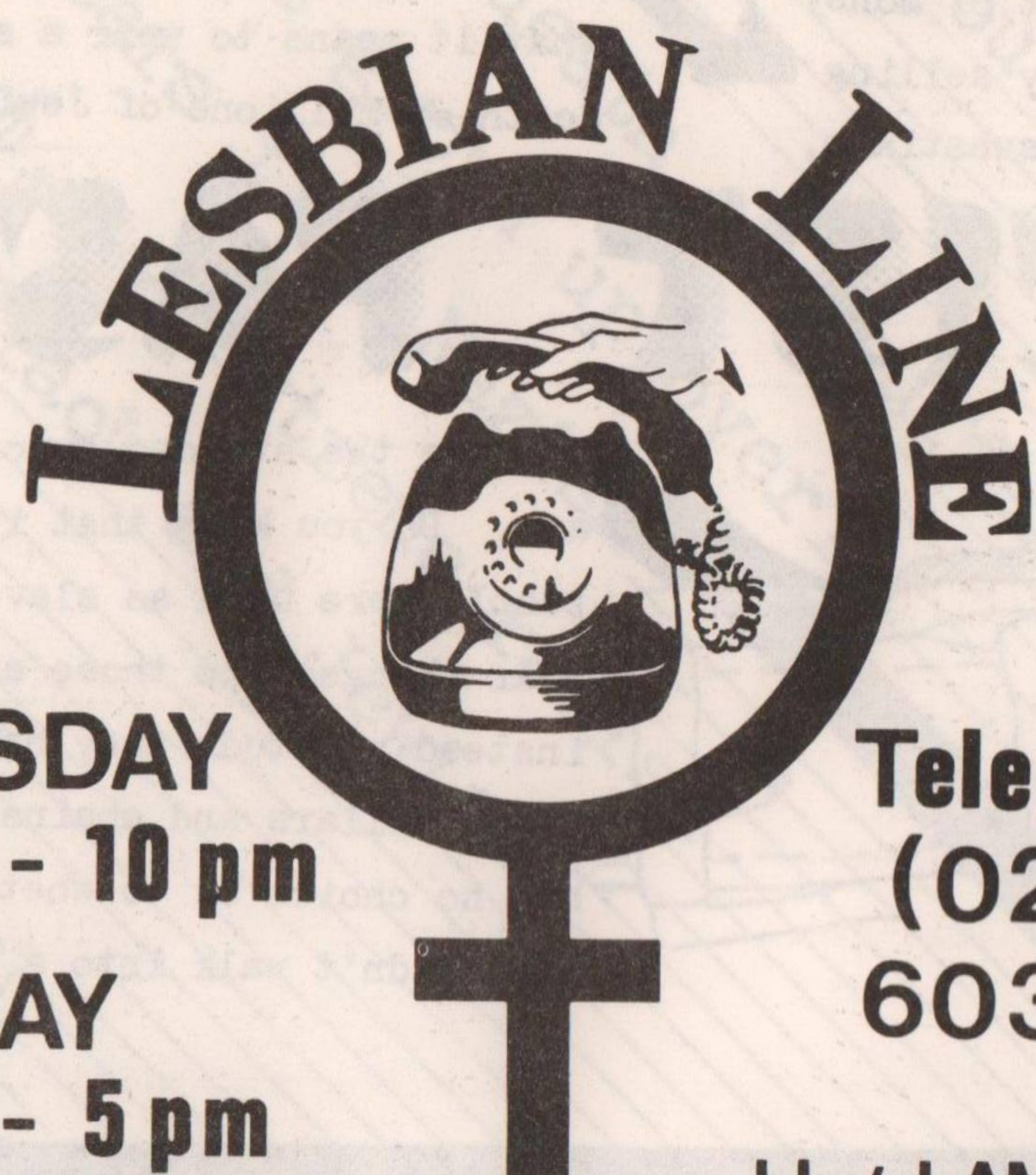
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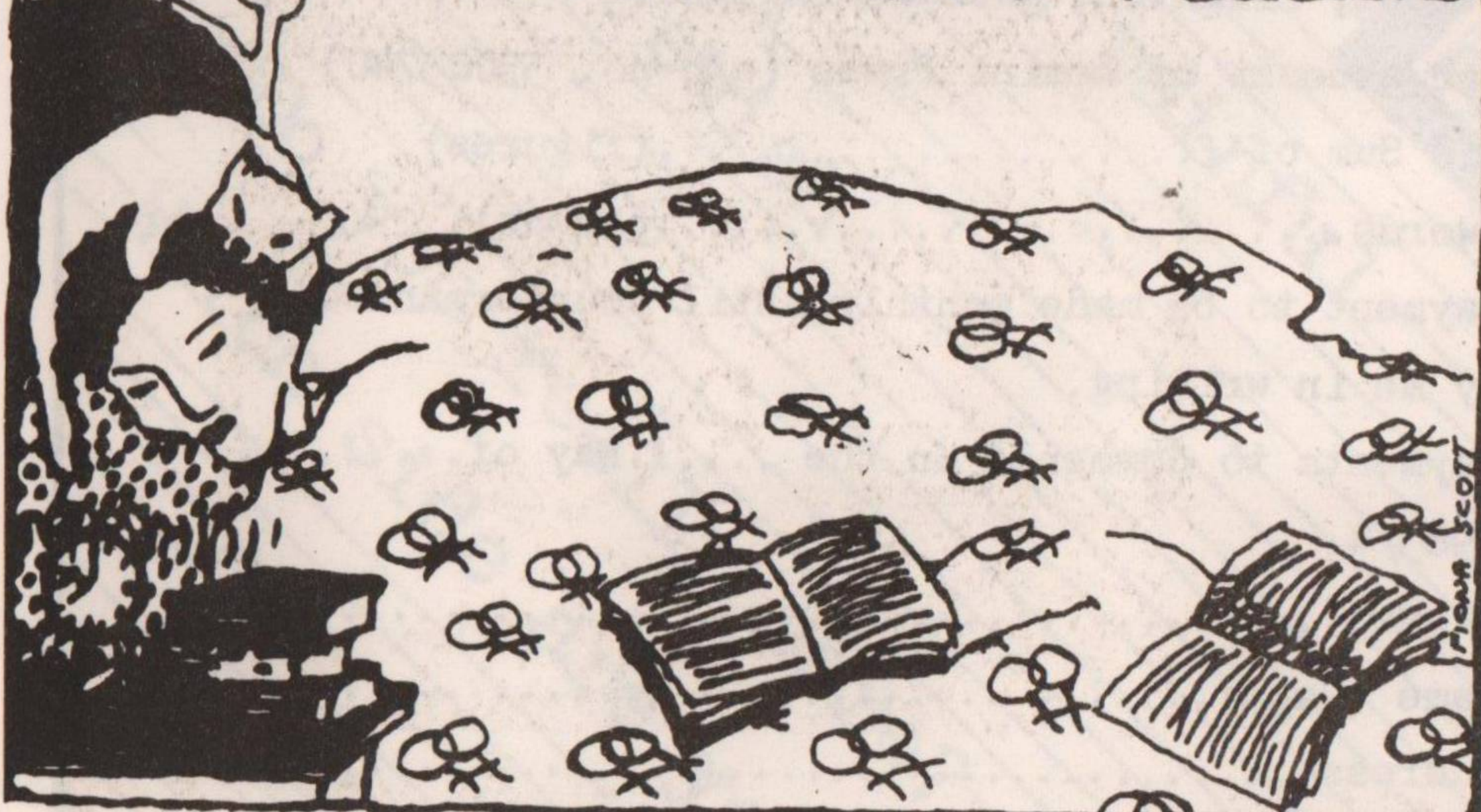
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Including:

The Color Purple by Alice Walker. Celie, a poor Black woman, tells the story of her own awakening, escape from a forced marriage, and her love for another woman. £3.95

The Shattered Chain by Marion Zimmer Bradley. A story of the Free Amazons of the planet Darkover - and Magda, the earthwoman who impersonates them and is forced to join. £0.95

A World Without Men by Valerie Taylor. Erika meets Kate and they rent a flat together - and face harrassment as open lesbians. and many more.....(they do a catalogue)

38 We'd love to receive any book reviews!

BLACK WIMMIN & THE PEACE MOVEMENT

by Wilmette Brown

This is a small pamphlet with a few words but lots of ideas. You can read it in half an hour, but from my point of view as a white woman I found myself thinking and going back to it.

The unpaid work that wimmin have done for years and still do now has to be recognised and paid for. She talks about "the military-industrial complex which has amassed our stolen work as their wealth". If this wealth is given to the wimmin so that 'every woman has economic power in her own hands' the military-industrial complex would collapse.

"Black people...are preoccupied in daily survival with 'wider' issues which are inseparable from peace."

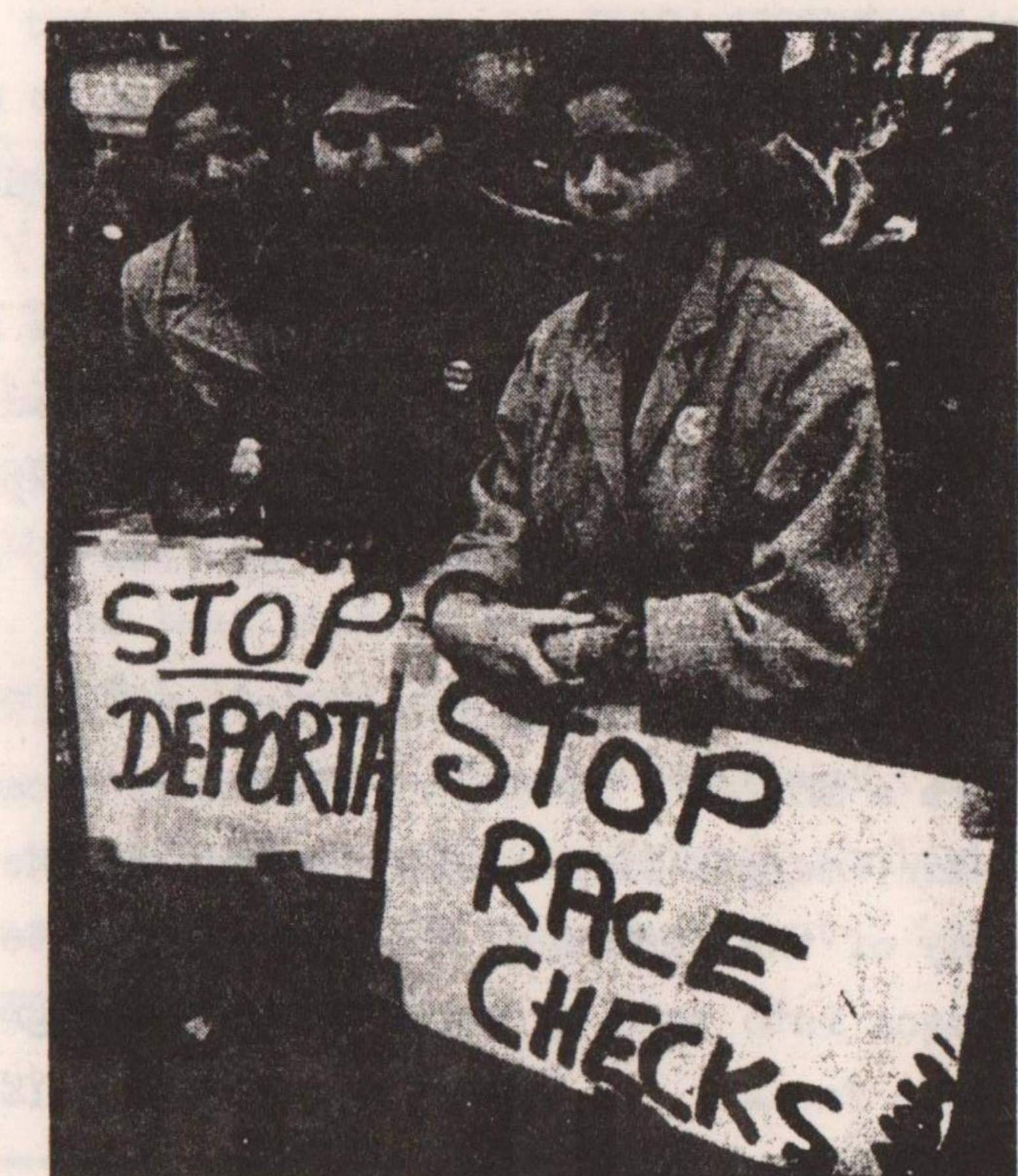
The first part is about 'widening the issue of peace'. "Black people...are preoccupied in daily survival with 'wider' issues which are inseparable from peace". She mentions three issues in particular - immigration, education and the police. Working for peace means working for everyone's peace. She attacks the peace movement for refusing to acknowledge Black herstory. She tells about the Black welfare mothers who organised to fight for basic human rights and also tried to stop their sons being sent to Vietnam as human fodder. She gives examples of racism in the wimmins peace movement today.

In the 2nd part of the book she explains her strategy "Pay Women - not the military", she says that its not only racist attitudes that we're fighting but its institutional racism ie "money-making, war-making, profit-making and world domination." She argues that the root of all this is economics. At the moment men have more economic power than wimmin and certain races (in England white gentiles) have economic power over others.

"Women do two thirds of the Worlds work, earn one twentieth of world income and own one hundreth of world assets."

"pay Wimmin-not the military" is something that all wimmin can fight for together - wimmin fighting for better living conditions and also wimmin fighting against nuclear weapons. If you consider yourself as working for peace - then get hold of this pamphlet and read it. And think about what kind of peace you are working for. Gill Rhodes

Copies available from Kings Cross Womens Centre
71 Tonbridge St. London WC1



(photo from Nukn)

A. Potheary

EW..

REVIEW..

REVS

NICE JEWISH GIRLS

a lesbian anthology



Joslyn and Rachel, 1982

When Joslyn and I met, there was an immediate sense of identification. We were two passionate Third World Jews who didn't fit into the prevailing Jewish stereotypes.

RACHAEL WAHBA

They are always looking for Christian babies blood in the matzah. They will always use anything they can against us.....My mother said "Scratch a Goy and you find an anti-semite."

PAULINE BART

As Jewish women, we are often blamed for our strength.

...To fortify myself, I collect names and as much information as I can find. About women who fought inside the camps. Say their names.

...Kitty herself who worked the gas chambers and doesn't lie about it; who stole from the dead(only from the dead) and hoarded the gold to buy explosives to blow up the Auschwitz ovens. They blew up one of the Auschwitz ovens...

...Dvorah Baron, a rich mans daughter, blond, with a nose like a shiksa - an expert messenger because she could pass; emerged first from a bunker on the fourteenth day of the uprising, using her looks to shock the Germans into pausing while she threw a grenade into their faces.....

MELANIE KAYE

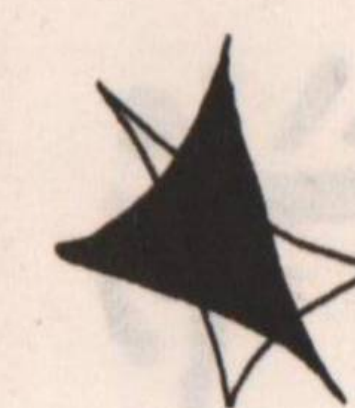
Nice Jewish Girls has been out a long time now, but I have read very little about it in the feminist press, let alone the Jewish press! Until I started trying to review it for Lysistrata, I wondered why this was. Now I know.

It is very difficult to describe a book that to read is like coming home. As Evelyn Torton Beck says in the book, this book is written by people who don't exist. Now she meant that according to Jewish Law, there is no such thing as a Jewish Lesbian (they should read the Book of Ruth again!) but also, until too recently, we Jews have been invisible in the Lesbian movement. So to read a WHOLE BOOK by us, for us and about us, that's some cause for celebration!

There are writings in Nice Jewish Girls by all sorts of Jewish Lesbians (yes, we are quite varied, you know!) from different backgrounds, cultures and races. The women in it describe a huge variety of experiences, yet there is somehow (!) something I can relate to in each piece.

The first time I read the book, I just devoured it, thinking 'Yes, Yes, I know that too!'

Of course, each piece is different, and has a different effect on the reader. Some, like Irena Klepfisz' piece from 'Bashert', tears at the gut, reminding us of who we are, what happens to us because of anti-semitism, and filling us with that sense of responsibility to BE Jewish and not



Maxine



to attempt to pass, or allow ourselves to be 'gentiled over', which I think is a feeling only those who are from 'different' races and cultures can experience. Other pieces instill an enormous sense of celebration about being Jewish, like Dovidia Ishatova's 'What May Be Tsores to You is Naches to Me'. In the book, women write about their relationships with other women; their mothers, their lovers (Jew and Goyim), their friends as well as their relationships with their families, the Jewish community, the Lesbian/Feminist movement and with Israel.

I think that any attempt by me to describe what the book says and is will be unsatisfactory; partly because I cannot capture the flavours of the book and what is written in it, and partly because I know I would attempt to 'translate' those flavours for women reading this who aren't Jewish. (Such is an effect of being different in this society.) So I have chosen some extracts from the book, to let it speak for itself, and I hope that my choice will reflect the strength in being Jewish I have gained from this book.

Like Evelyn Torton Beck, I also would like to 'thank our ancestors for their determination to survive'.

Sara Magen

My Jewishness feels like a tangled web. Almost too tangled and vulnerable to unravel. But there are a few strands that can be looked at, some words, some stories, remembrances that can give a vague outline to an even vaguer picture of growing up in America as a Jew.

BERNICE MENNIS

Words used - their English meanings

Tsores...misery, woe

Naches...joy

Goyim....non-Jew

Matzah...(often spelt Matzo)...unleavened bread

A sort of Jewish crisp bread.

Rebbitzin..... respectful term for a Jewish woman.

Bashert....Inevitable

Christian... religion that has been responsible (and is) for the death of many millions of Jews.

BOOKS

Nice Jewish Girls- a lesbian anthology

ed. E. Torton Beck Persephone Press

The War Against the Jews Lucy Dawidowicz

Sisterwrite has a selection of books

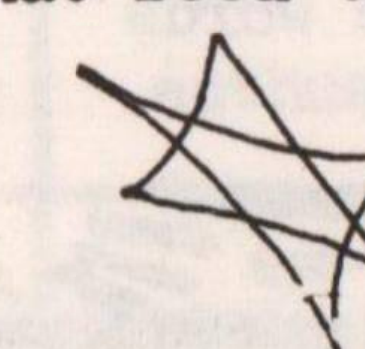
by/about Jewish women.

190 Upper St. London N1



And afterwards, every Saturday, she would go down to the house behind the temple, and the rabbi's wife would feed her lunch, kiss her, as she played with the rabbi's daughter.....she went because of the warm face of the rebbitzin, the way she enjoyed her,.....To be among those womyn throwing their heads back singing. The warmth grown Jewish womyn have in their smiles, some woman thing that feed the child.

ELANA DYKEWOMON



The truth is that the issue of anti-semitism has been ignored, has been treated as either non-existent or unimportant. And, therefore, I am not surprised that pride is low among Jewish Lesbian/Feminists. For that kind of evasion, that kind of stubborn refusal to focus can only breed low self-esteem, can only increase defensiveness about drawing attention to oneself, can only encourage apologies for distracting others from "more important " issues.

IRENA KLEPFISZ

REVIEW... REVIEW... REVIE

W... REVIEW... REVIEW... RE

CURSE of Eve



WHO WE ARE....

BY

KEZ, MING & SNACK

During the year that we have been in existence 'Curse of Eve' has provoked mixed reactions. To begin with we were an all-female band and this seemed to give us novelty value because unfortunately, there are not many women-only bands around. On the one hand, we were put down by people who thought that it was funny that we were even bothering to start a band, would never be able to play our instruments, on the other, there was an interest because we were all women.

Even though Gaz has joined now we are still thought of as a female band, which does tend to be an advantage, but we don't believe in using our sex as a selling point although we have been told that it makes us "commercially Viable". We would rather people listened to the words and music in our songs.

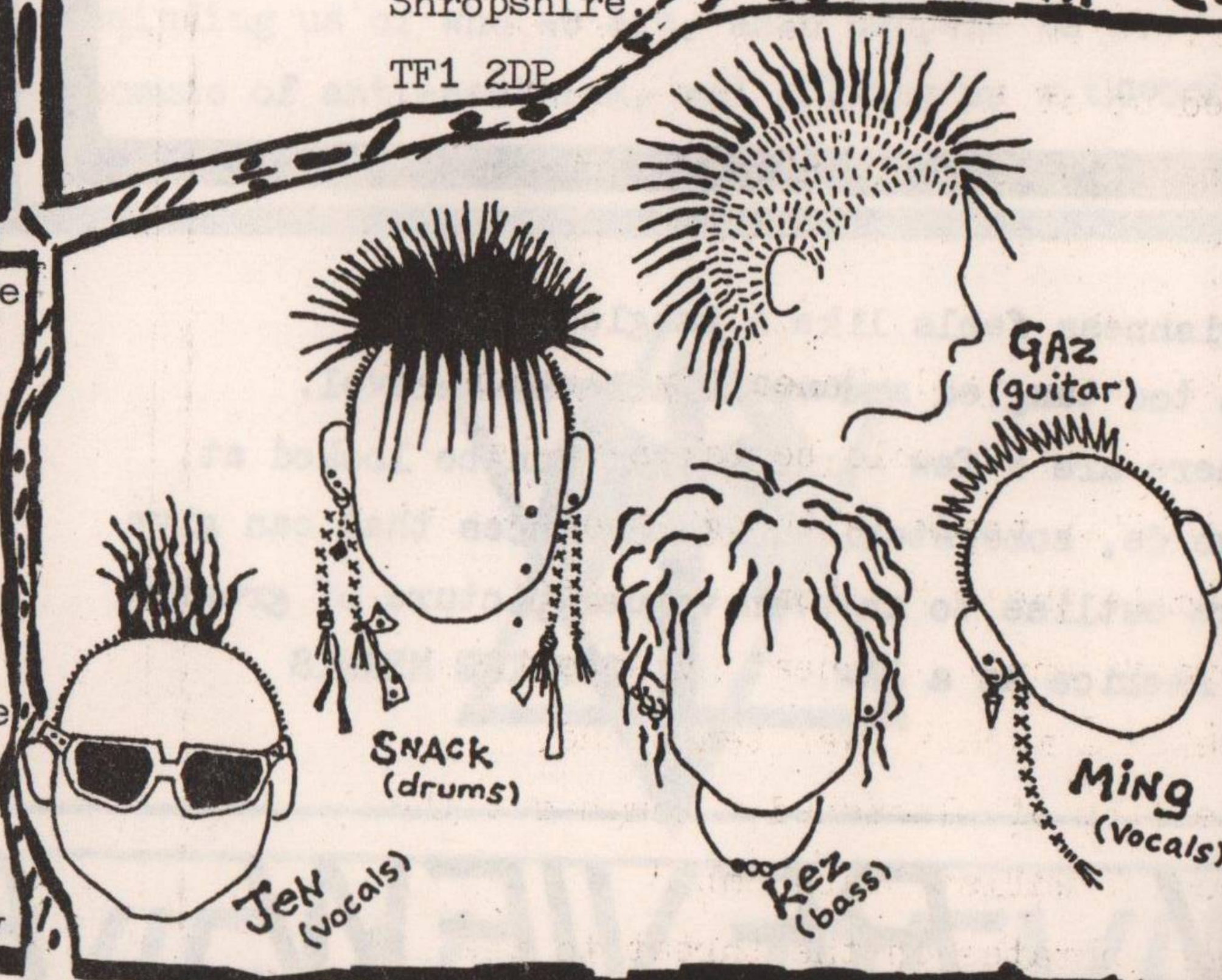
We have received a lot of support from other women and through being in a band, come into contact with other female musicians and poets.

At the moment we are busy doing a compilation tape we've recently started, called 'Forbidden Fruits Tapes'. Perhaps women can identify more easily with some of the subjects we sing about such as rape and pornography, but we have had a positive response from men who had never really considered those topics seriously before. At one gig we gave out leaflets concerning rape and had letters back from males saying it had made them think about rape differently which is encouraging because they

have got to solve the problem too. It is more of a challenge playing to a mixed audience, sometimes there is heckling, but then that can be useful as we then know who to tackle afterwards! It would be good to see more women in bands - the hardest part is just getting the confidence, but once it gets going being in a band is a wonderful (non-violent) way of getting rid of all that excess energy, creativity and anger!

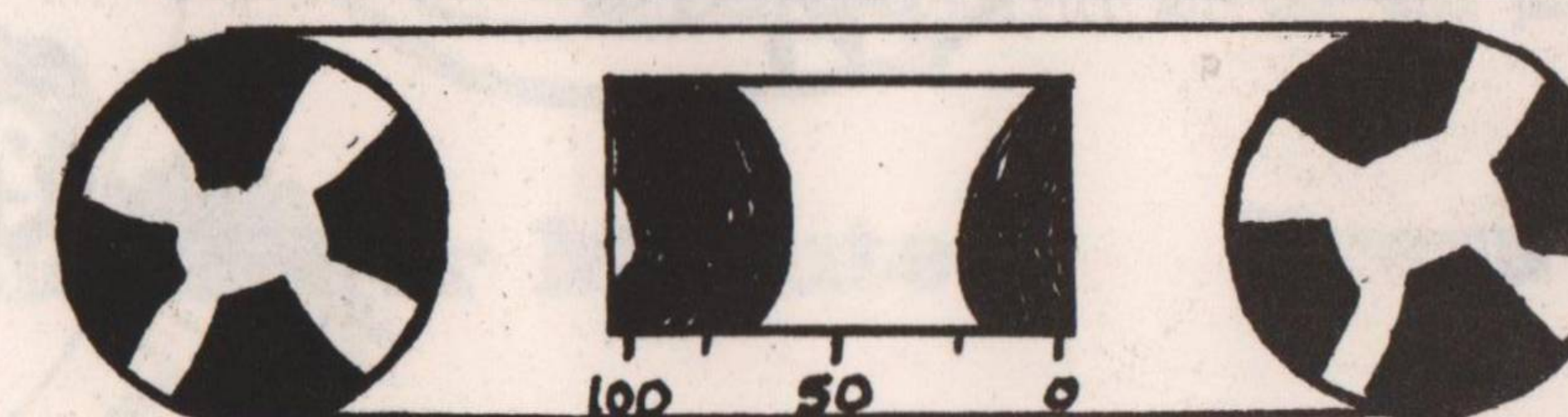
Kez, Ming and Snack of Curse of Eve.

You can contact Curse of Eve at;
C/O Snack,
195 Hollyhead Road,
Wellington,
Telford,
Shropshire.
TF1 2DP



REVIEW of

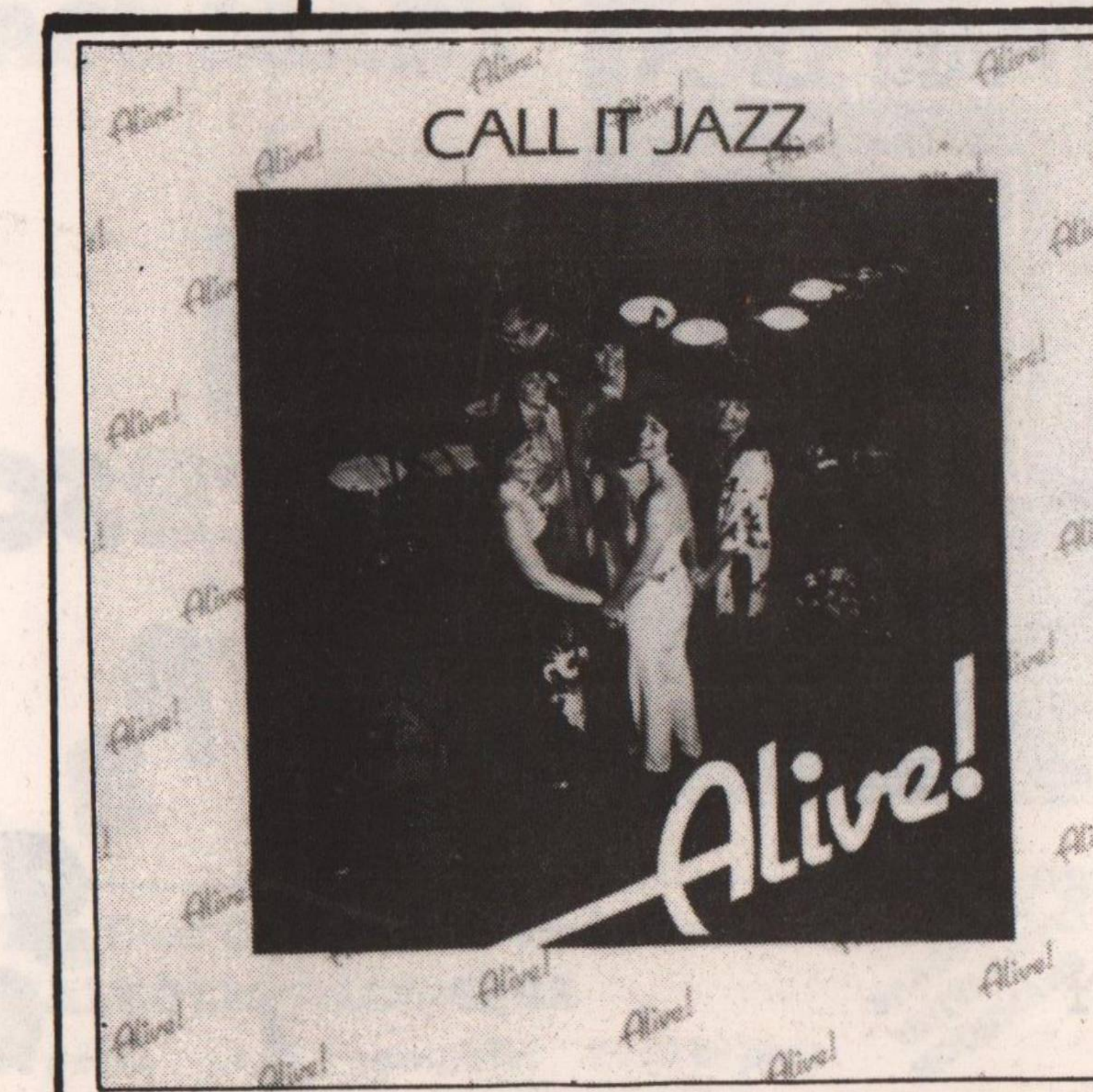
CURSE OF EVE DEMO TAPE



by
SAM

'Curse of Eve' have recently been getting themselves a lot of attention. I think their music could best be described as 'punk' although hardly in the fashion of the media-presented concept. The first track on their demo, Nursery Rhyme, is possibly my favourite. It uses the vital emotion of anger which these women obviously feel at having their sexual roles dictated to them by the outside world, although they make the concession that men may be similarly forced to conform. 'Public Property' is another amazing song. It is stating the link between pornography and rape and could be said to be disturbing. I certainly found it so. Indeed, this is not meant as a criticism. Aren't we all just so fed up of the normal 'rape isn't really a terribly nice experience for a woman to go through' type comments from the outside world? 'War Womb' and 'Unhealthy Appetites' could be taken to be pacifist tracks although they both tackle the situation in a different manner, 'Unhealthy Appetites' being a much slower tempo and telling of bloodshed through-out the world, whilst 'War-Womb' concentrates on the threat to the world as a whole.

ites being a much slower tempo and telling of bloodshed through-out the world, whilst 'War Womb' concentrates on the threat to the world as a whole. The last track on the tape is called 'Distort' and is suitably rowdy. It's about drugs and their harmful effect but doesn't go into too much detail beyond stating that we ought to 'destroy drugs because 'drugs destroy''. It would be true to say that this is one of the most essential and exhilarating musical 'trips' I've been on this year. It's just brimming with raw enthusiasm and vitality and it's just waiting there for you to have a listen.



More women's music from W.R.P.M. on record and cassette. Available from Radical Book and Record Shops. Mail order: send S.A.E. to: W.R.P.M., 62 Woodstock Rd., Birmingham, B13 9BN.

MEETINGS~ A POEM BY Nikki

I could speak,
But my voice might...
be too loud ?
too nervous ?
the words may.....
make no sense ?
be wrong ?
I could leave the room but
I might....
trip over on the way out ?
catch someones eye ?
I could be honest
I could say,
"Look I feel really
nervous, lets talk
about this
atmosphere first"
But no
I sit
and shift
I blush
fidget,
look down
look up.
I cough
sniff
and say nothing.



DID YOU KNOW?

WIMMIN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 40%
OF THE WORLD'S FOOD PRODUCTION,
YET WIMMIN CONSTITUTE 7% OF THE
WORLD'S UNDERNOURISHED.

(Third World Wimmin's Project USA)

escaped from diary

Page

Mass Wimmin's Action at Holy
Loch. 21st January 1984. For
more information: Jan 21st Holy
Loch Action, c/o Women for Peace,
Glasgow Women's Centre, 57 Miller
St, Glasgow. Send SAE if you
want to be on their mailing list
for further information.

Teresa Trull grew up singing gospel music in North Carolina. She sang in a rock 'n' roll band as a teenager until her love of the blues and a need to sing songs relevant to her life made her go solo. Her voice is wide sounding and soulful, born of the rhythm 'n' blues - the 'Mother tongue' she was steeped in from the start. Her music pulses with the ecstasy and excitement of the Black church, be it the funky bass lines, the Latin rhythms or the harmonies and inflections of the backing singers. But Teresa's message is about wimmin, their lives, their struggles, their closeness.

Barbara Higbie is a talented and versatile musician. She started playing the piano when she was three, adding guitar and fiddle to her repertoire at high school. She received a BA in music, studied at the Sorbonne and researched African music on a scholarship. She came sixth in America's National Old-Time Fiddle Contest in Idaho.

UNEXPECTED is Teresa and Barbara's latest album. They produced, wrote and play it together. It takes us through disco, R&B, bluegrass and touches us with soulful guitar and piano songs.

Women's Revolutions Per Minute Press Release:

Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie

'UNEXPECTED' Olivia Records

Copies available from: WRPM, 62 Woodstock Road,
Birmingham 13. 021 449 7041.
This record will be reviewed in Lysistrata soon.

Published 12th September
HOUSMANS PEACE DIARY
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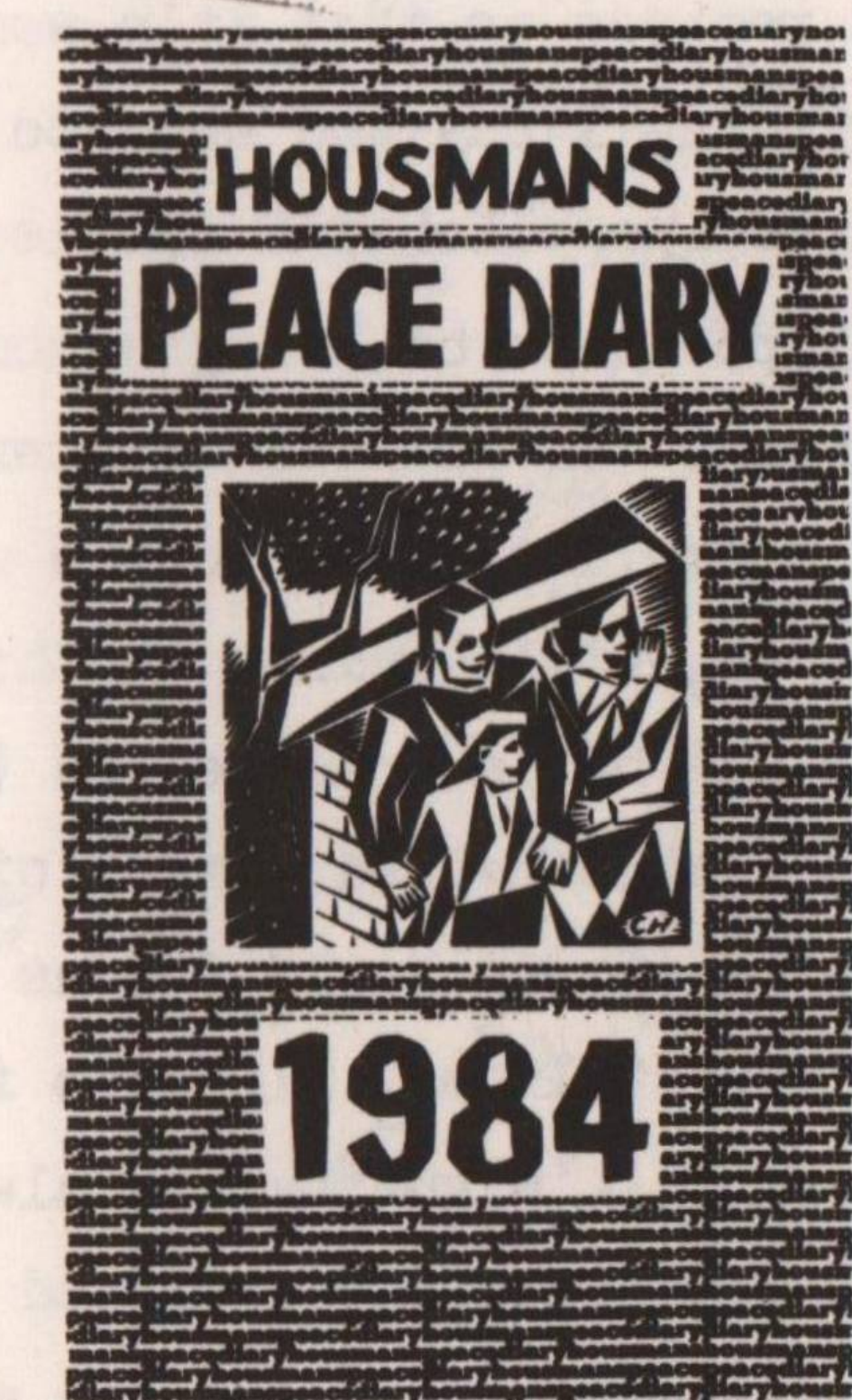
A practical diary for day-to-day use
A directory of the peace movement
Profiles of some of the major
organisations
Dates for peacemakers to celebrate and
to mark with protest
Features on peace issues through the
year

This is the 31st year of our Peace
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letter

Hello Sisters !

We're writing about Imani's article in Lysistrata no.6. 'We' are one Jewish woman of colour and one white middle-class gentile woman:

As a Jewish woman of colour, I can't say how glad I was to read, in a feminist magazine, something that I could directly relate to. Like Imani, I have spent(too) much time and energy trying to explain to white gentile women what racism and anti-semitism is, how they use it/are it, how it affects me and how much their own lives would be enriched if they would only acknowledge their own racism and anti-semitism, confront it and get rid of it. Like Imani, I too often feel 'eaten up' by racism and anti-semitism, depleted, exhausted and desperate. So it's so good to know that its not 'just me', that I'm not being hysterical/paranoid, unsisterly, divisive etc etc...

I'd like to say as well how relieved I am that a 'peace' magazine is talking about peace for all women and is concerned for my children, living under the threat of another fascist Holocaust as well as the nuclear holocaust. Keep it up, my Sisters ! Ruth.

I'm a white middle-class gentile able-bodied woman and Imani's article hurt and will go on hurting - It's fine knowing I'm an oppressor until a Black /Jewish/working-class/differently-abled woman's real pain reminds me that it's women I'm hurting with everything I say and more to the point don't do. The oppressive cliches I rattle out when put in the unusual position of being uncomfortable are frightening when I see how self-centered and destructive it is to me, let alone to the women who listen. One fear that little hollow mouthpiece forgot to throw up was how scared we are (white middle-class gentile able-bodied women) of being left in the womens' movement built for us on the backs of women we invisibilised, alone to face our own hypocrisy and shit. I'm guilty and always will be of racism, anti-semitism, classism and physicality prejudices. But now I can't handle all that passively, my privileges make it easier for me to act against all I see and all I am. My kind shouldn't need any more reminders from all those we're hurting. Rachael.



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A selection of titles available for purchase (also available for hire)

"For Life's Sake Let's Fight" (58 mins.)	£40.00
"Is It Me You Want to Kill?" (55 mins.)	£40.00
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DIARY PAGE

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THE SORT OF INFORMATION WIMMIN NEED TO KNOW IS:

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 - *width of toilet doors/do they open in or out/is there a handrail/is the seat raised
 - *will there be a signer/lip-speaker/mike-amplifier/induction loop
 - *and for deaf wimmin:- will there be a signer & speaker/ notes accepted/volunteer scribe available
 - *will documents be available on tape or in braille
 - *parking facilities/ramps
- Please also state if events are mixed or wimmin only.

21 nov
Wimmin only picket of DHSS Headquarters, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1. This is the day new social security benefit laws come into force. Starts 9am. Ring Rada on: 01 278 6349 for details. Please come!

29 nov - 4 dec

Black Woman Time Now:
Week long arts festival. Visual arts, music, theatre, films, literature, poetry, dance. Battersea Arts Centre, London. Wheelchair access, help available upstairs. Induction loop. Detailed programme from: Black Woman Time Now, 4c Churchmead Rd, London, NW10. Tel: 01 451 2236.

30 nov - 18 dec
PATIENCE & SARAH at the Oval House, 52 Kennington Oval, London SE8. (Box office: 01 735 2786). Downstairs theatre accessible: ramps, wheelchair-accessible too. Hearing induction loop. Oval cafe access.

2/3 dec

2 days of action at the Trident warhead factory, ROF Cardiff. Friday at the factory. Saturday in the city. Enquiries and donations to: ROF Action, Cardiff CND Office, 56 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff. Tel: 0222 491897. Cheques payable to ROF Action. Mixed.

3/4 dec

Wimmin and Employment Conference. 10-5.30. Sheffield Centre Against Unemployment, Bridge St, Sheffield. Creche, limited wheelchair access. Food. Small fee. Workshops inc. Black Wimmin & employment. De-tails: % Commonground, 87 The Wicker, Sheff. 0742 738572 & only.

3 dec

Wimmin in low pay conference. Aston University, Birmingham. Fully accessible. Wimmin only. Creche available. Contact: Trisha Davis, TURC Centre, Tel: Birmingham 236 8323.

17 dec

London Wimmin's Aid Benefit. 8.30-12 at Islington Town Hall. Accessible. Bar. Disco. Bands. Raffle. £1.50 unwaged. £2.25 low waged. £3 high waged. Wimmin only. Tickets from: Sisterwrite, 190 Upper St, London. 01 226 9782 or Wimmin's aid:- 374 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1. 01 837 3762

