

get 'em!
they're nicking
the Lysistratas!

(subs are still old rate -
but not for long)

prevent sabotage!
take out a sub.

← cut here →

8

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8

LYSISTRATA

FIGHTING FOR PEACE AND LIBERATION FOR
issue no. 8 ALL WOMEN



DREADED

1984

(but who's policing the police??)

G.L.C.'s Anti Racist Year

(last year it was peace!)

AND THE GOVERNMENT
ARE PUTTING THE FENCE
ROUND US WITH THE
NEW POLICE BILL

and then
there
were 3
from there
having been
only 2 of us,
we've now
become three -
which makes
us - one Black
woman, one
white (both
working-class)
and one
Jewish woman,
and we'd still
like more wom-
in to join us.
-The Collective



L.R.M. Not to be reproduced without permission of the photographer

LYSISTRATA No.8. Spring '84

CONTENT

LYSISTRATA — ON TAPE FOR BLIND WOMEN

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

SORRY

The price has had to go up this time from 45p to 50p. This is because the price of paper has gone up. But for 48 pages it's still good value, isn't it ???!

DIARY

There's no diary this issue because we didn't have room for it. Please continue to send things in - remembering to include access details and whether the event is wimmin only or mixed.

Women in prison for their politics
Coming out another way
In loving memory - women killed
by men

What the doc's doing
A kind of dialogue on 1984
Animal liberation - a sexual
issue or a wank?

Update on deportations
Women occupy Chilwell Base
From inside - women in prison

NEWS

from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh,
Ireland, Australia, USA.....

PLUS

letters, reviews, poems & more

thanks to: dawn,
jez, josephine,
lily, rachael,
rebekka, sara.

Our Address: 11 Princes St, Brighton, England.
Copydate Issue 9: 7 Mar '84

PRINTED BY CAMBRIDGE HEATH PRESS

TAMIL FEMINIST ON TRIAL

NIRMALA NITHIYANANTHAN IS A WELL-known feminist writer and critic who lives and works in Jaffna in the north of Sri Lanka. In November 1982, along with five other Tamils, she was arrested under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act. She was held in an army camp among male prisoners and a confession forced from her. Her trial begins on 5th June. If she is found guilty she may be sentenced to 25 years imprisonment.

What is terrorism?

The purpose of the Prevention of Terrorism Act was supposedly to combat Tamil separatists. It is modelled on the British Prevention of Terrorism Act but is even more oppressive. The police have wide powers of search, arrest and detention. People can be held for up to 18 months simply on 'suspicion'. Confessions made under torture, or by persons since dead, may be used as evidence and those found guilty may be sentenced to between 5 years and life imprisonment for offences as trivial as painting over a government poster!

Oppression of Tamil people

Sri Lanka used to be a colony. Much of its economy was built on the labour of women working on the tea plantations - these women are

Tamils, but a different Tamil community from that in the north of the island.

Sri Lanka has been independent for more than 30 years, but most of the economy is still under imperialist control. Most line-houses where tea workers live have no sanitation and six in ten women are malnourished. Most plantation workers were also made stateless and had the vote taken away from them many years ago in order to suppress their growing militancy. They are often the victims of racist violence. In Sri Lanka as in other 'third world' countries there is no social security and it is easy for unscrupulous politicians to hire men from the Sinhalese majority to carry out attacks - rape, arson and murder - and so whip up the communalism which was first introduced by the British as part of a deliberate divide and rule policy. Now some educated Sinhalese support anti-Tamil communalism because in a neo-colonial country there are few professional jobs and they feel that with the Tamils out of the way, they would stand a better chance. Others do not know what is happening or the scale of anti-Tamil violence because more and more of the mass media is under government control.

strategic

Sri Lanka is strategically placed in the Indian Ocean and Trincomalee on the east coast is a fine natural harbour, this makes it

attractive to the Super Powers. The prospects of Trincomalee becoming a naval base, and of the Indian Ocean becoming militarised, are less attractive to the people of Sri Lanka whose lives would be disrupted if a war broke out. In addition a US military presence in a country already dominated by the US-controlled World Bank would serve to further intimidate all protest.

Sri Lanka used to urge that Super Power warships should not be allowed in the Indian Ocean, but recently an MP Vivian Gunawardene was beaten up by the police because she handed in a petition to the US embassy protesting about naval and military activity in the region.

What you can do

1. Telephone the High Commission for Sri Lanka. Tel: 01 262 1841, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 and protest about Nirmala's trial.
2. Send a telegram of Protest to the President of Sri Lanka, President's house, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
3. Try to publicise the situation in Sri Lanka in and through your group or organisation.

For more information or if you can help in any way contact:
South Asia Solidarity Group
8 Agincourt Road
London NW3.
01 267 0212

We've recently heard she faces the DEATH penalty.

One of her crimes is having feminist books.

S NEWS NEWS

ON THE BUS!

LAST SEPTEMBER CAMDEN WOMEN'S Bus was launched. The aim of the women running it is to reach women, especially those who can't get out much because they're looking after elderly relatives or children.

On board the double decker is a typewriter, photocopier, video recorder and camera, projector, cassette recorder, reel to reel recorder, magazines and books. Films are shown. Advice and information is given to women about housing, social security, employment. There's also room for children and things for them to do.

On the bus Black women and Lesbians aren't invisibilised. And it seems that this is so upsetting to the right wing press that it really got them going. The bus was launched with a press conference, attended by all the main newspapers. The next day, however, only the Telegraph and Mail, and later the Sun covered it. It got a sickeningly prejudiced coverage from them - racist, sexist and showing hatred of lesbians and prostitutes. The Telegraph referred to the two Black women bus workers as 'well tanned ladies'. They used headlines such as 'Pink and purple bus to aid prostitutes'.

The Mail heads its piece with 'Lesbians can hop on a bus for advice'. And its cartoon makes out the bus is for lesbians only!

The right wing press were obviously trying to put women off using the bus by distorting and misrepresenting the facts.

A group has got together to do something about the increasingly disgusting attacks by the press



on women organising together, especially if they have received local authority or GLC funds of any kind. You can contact them at 213 Eversholt St, London NW1. (01 387 2777).

INQUIRY?!

Heads of Education in Bradford are said to be alarmed over the increase in racial violence in Bradfords' schools. Injuries to children have included one child receiving a broken jaw,

while another was said to have needed hospital treatment after being badly beaten in a racist attack. One Asian youth, Waheed Manzoor, 16 boycotted his school, Eccleshill Upper, for two days because of being beaten up and taunted with racist remarks.

Among the schools listed as notorious for race hatred are Buttershaw, Fairfax, and Thronton Upper schools. Bradford's Education Chief has announced plans for a full inquiry into this.

BE WARNED

On Friday 6 January 1984 a sister member of the LESBIAN & GAY BLACK GROUP was assaulted by a gang of skinheads at the entrance to the Metropolitan Line Tube, King's Cross Underground Station. She had been followed there from Angel Underground Station after spending an evening with another sister at a pub in the area. This is by no means the first racist attack on black people in the King's Cross area. Last year one such attack cost the life of a brother.

The LESBIAN & GAY BLACK GROUP takes this opportunity to warn all lesbian women and gay men to be on the look-out for skinheads when leaving the area around Angel and King's Cross Underground Stations. To women the LESBIAN & GAY BLACK GROUP issues a special warning for those making use of the underground passageway between King's Cross Station and its annex on Pentonville Road where they are particularly open to sexual harassment at night.

The LESBIAN & GAY BLACK GROUP can be contacted c/o 'Gays the Word', 66 Marchmont Street, London WC1.

NEWS NEWS NEWS N

uk tea companies

KEEPING WORKERS IN POVERTY

NEW FACTS ABOUT LOW PAY, MAL-nutrition and leprosy on tea estates in Bangladesh controlled by British companies have recently been revealed. Its also been found that aid to the country's tea industry was not getting through to the estate workers.

On one estate - the Baraocora - which is controlled by the Scottish company James Finlay, one child in three is mal-nourished. The average in countries like Bangladesh is about one in five.

But this company had profits of over 8 million dollars last

year from their tea estates. That's a third of their whole profits - they own a number of other companies and have north sea oil interests too. They produce a quarter of the tea in Bangladesh.

Tea pickers in Bangladesh are only paid Takka 8.50 (about 18p) a day. It's common for them and their families to suffer from much higher levels of diarrhoea, TB, intestinal worms and leprosy than people who don't live on the tea estates.

Wages for Bangladesh tea workers have dropped by a quarter

in real terms since 1978*while profits have gone up by 20%!

Unfortunately we don't know just what make of tea this firm produces, but we'd be glad to know if anyone does. And also any information about what the tea workers themselves want. A boycott of their tea might not help them at all.

Info from New Internationalist

*according to Edinburgh sociologist Roger Jeffrey.

STILL POORER

THE POOR COUNTRIES ARE THE MAJOR producers of raw materials like tin or cocoa. The rich countries then use them to make all manner of sophisticated items like computers and after dinner mints. But raw material prices have been falling while those of manufactured goods have remained steady - so poor countries become poorer. In fact about half the '3rd World' debt increase in 1982 was due to reduced income from such raw materials. The poor get poorer and the rich get their luxuries....

Info from New Internationalist

BRITAIN ABORTION

Doctors are now able to abort one twin when one foetus has been diagnosed disabled and the other not. Six Scottish wimmin have had 'selective foetocide'. Mothers continue to carry both twins until term, but the aborted foetus ceases to grow.

braille

12 leaflets covering all aspects of contraception are now available in braille, free from the Family Planning Information Service. (Branches all over the country.) It includes post-partum birth control, post-coital contraception, (what??-typist) and a leaflet for teenagers.

THE IRISH WIMMIN'S SUPPORT GROUP NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

We are a group of wimmin who provide support for wimmin coming from Ireland to London to have abortions. We are made up of a large group of about fifty wimmin whose names go on a rota and a smaller co-ordinating group.

The wimmin on the rota are 'on call' one week out of about every four months to meet the wumun at the station or airport and perhaps accompany her to the clinic the next morning. They also give emotional support. Two wimmin is the most they can expect in a week.

The co-ordinating group meet monthly. Their work consists of organising the support rota, gathering information and monitoring clinics, fundraising as well as trying to provide support for each other in the wider group.

If you want to get involved or want more information, contact: Margaret on 889 6945 Joan on 263 7263



CASTRATE

RAPISTS?

In South Carolina U.S.A. last month, a white judge - judge C.V. Pyle, offered three rapists the choice between 30 years in prison (each) or surgical castration.

The three men were all Black the judge white. According to the New York Times, legal scholars said 'such a sentence is the first in modern memory'. - (extracted from Off Our Backs)

It would appear that 'modern memory' is very short, as it is not that many years past since Black male slaves were castrated in america by their white 'masters'. And it can be assured that the methods used were anything but surgical.

Clearly the part of the context for Pyles' sentencing is the call for harsher treatment of criminals. While civil rights groups and some feminists have denounced the sentences as barbaric and most likely unconstitutional, the New York Times reports that law and order groups have praised Pyle. - (from the same article in OOB)

Maybe the other part of judge Pyles' reasons for sentencing could have something to do with the colour of the men involved. Would he have been so keen to sentence three white men in the same way? Or would judge Pyle have showed sympathy for the men?-as many judges do, when sentencing for rape and other sexual offences committed by men.

The call from the feminist movement to 'castrate rapists' as a solution to the problem of men using and abusing women's bodies, I feel has many connotations, given the historical facts of what happened to Black slaves in america.

The implications of such a call from the womens movement (the white womens movement that is) can only show the lack of understanding of Black peoples oppression in america, (and I feel the same applies here to a certain degree).

Consider how many white men who have raped Black women, and have then got off scott free because of the racist ideology that Black women are 'sexually promiscuous'. This ideology stems from the days of slavery when Black women were raped as a method of terrorisation and to keep them in the power of their white 'masters'. This ideology is also reflected in many a pornographic video and magazine.

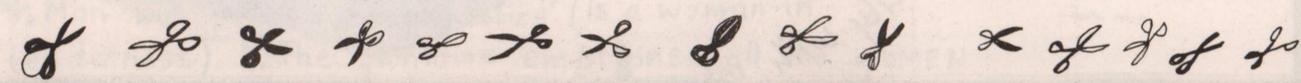
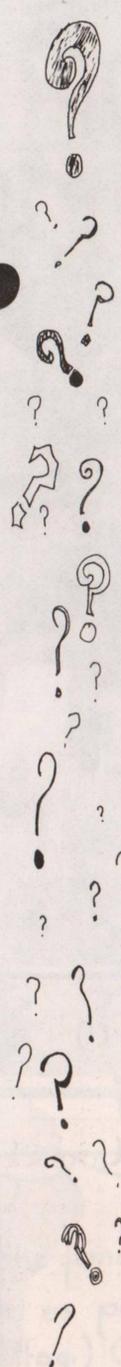
Given history's racist ^{and sexist} myths that surround the sexuality of Black people - how then can a call to 'castrate all rapists' be fairly implemented - given the racist and sexist conditioning that pervades all levels of society?

If then, a Black Woman is raped by a white man-it is her that will end up on trial - not only in the court but by the so-called upholders of the law-the police.

And if a Black man rapes a white woman, and she then cannot give the police an accurate description of the man - will the right man be brought to trial -because of the racist myth that all Blacks look alike?

So then, given the racism and sexism that exists in this society, would in-fact any white rapist be brought to justice by any white male judge if castrating rapists was law??

(An interesting book to read on the subject of the Black womans experience in america during the days of slavery is 'AIN'T I A WOMAN' By Bell Hooks...£3.95 by Pluto Press)



v.t. **1.** n. Adult human female; make an

woman of;
woman;

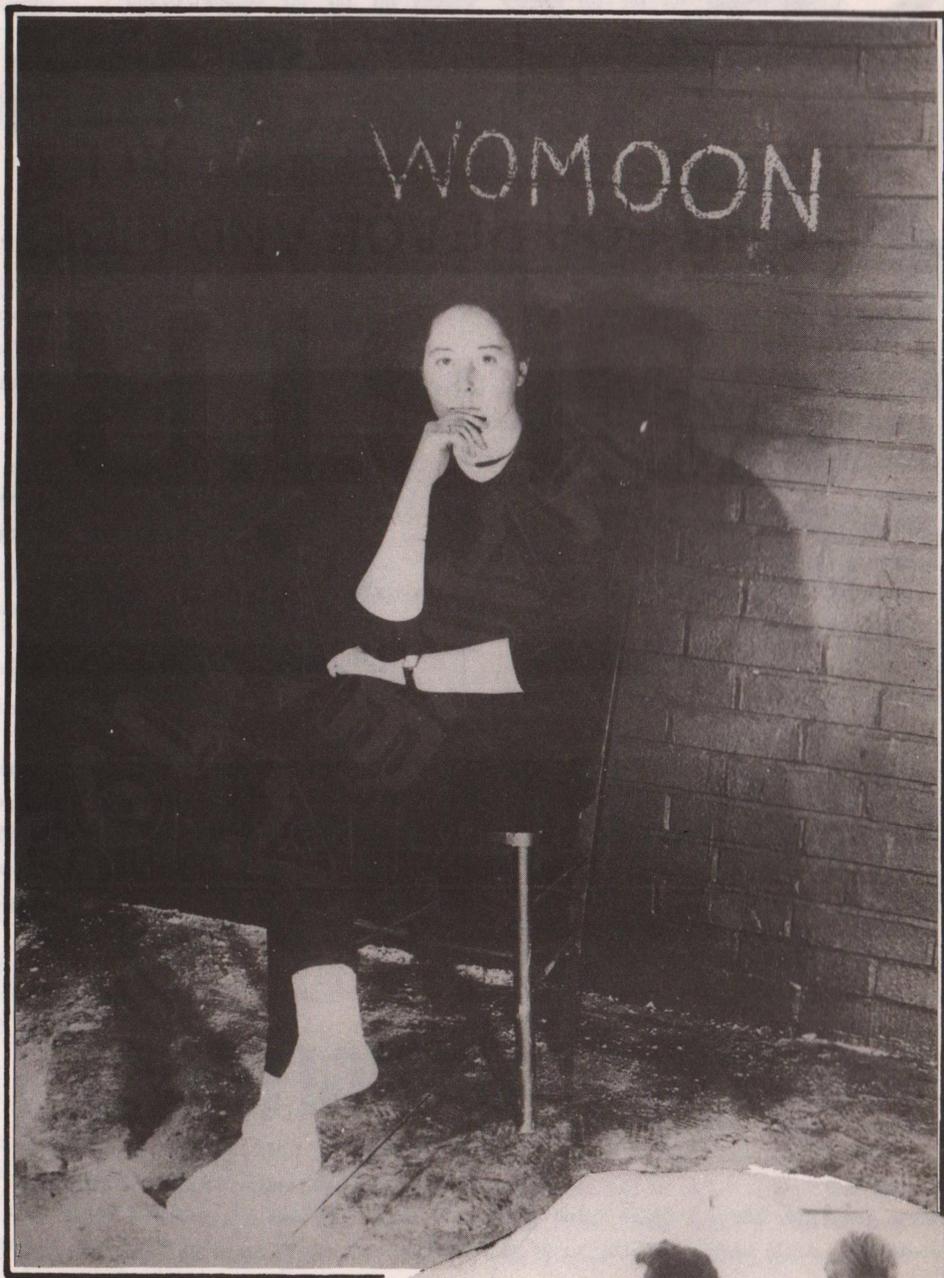
o m a n

(who attracts
~ married man so
that he deserts or
neglegts his wife)

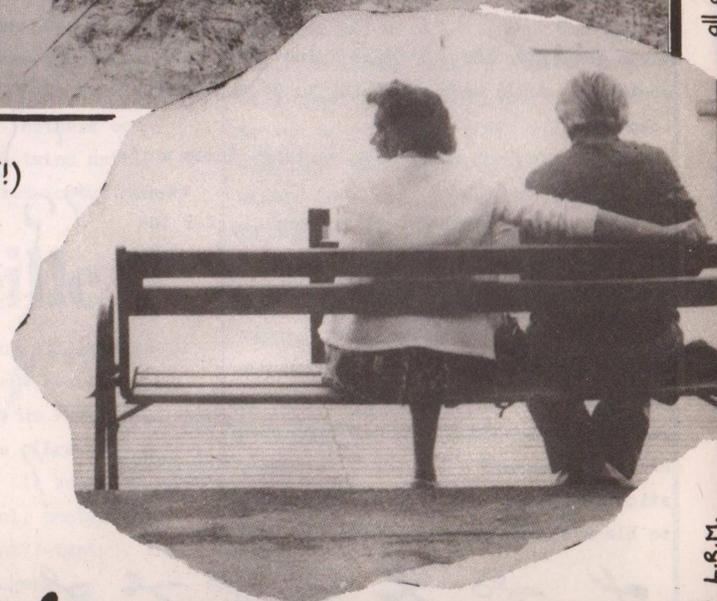
~, weep or show
fear

Institute,
of woman in rural
regularly and en-
etc.; woMEN'S
(eration), movement
liberation of women from domestic (!)
duties and subservient status;
or women's rights, position of legal

and social equality with men

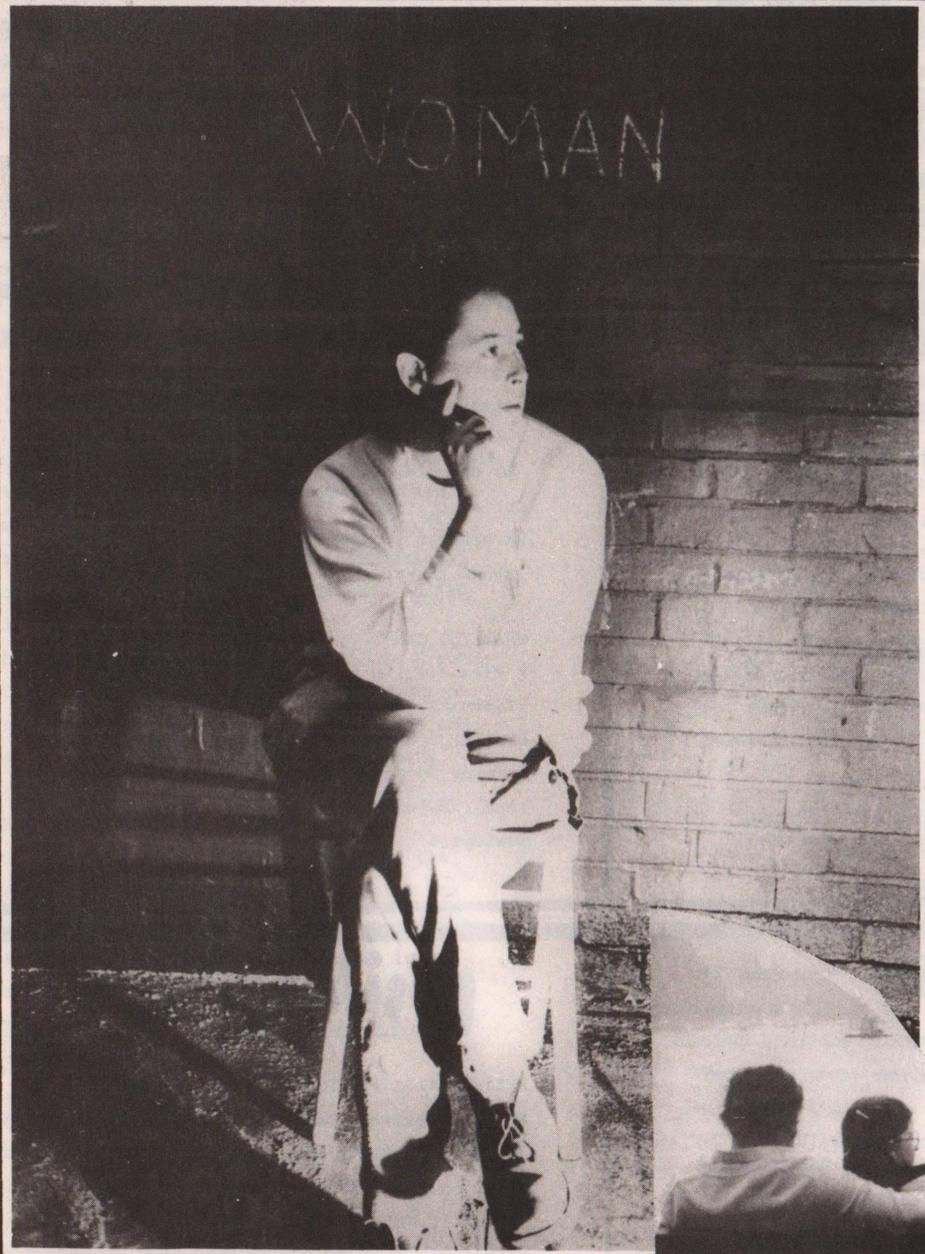


all quotes: The concise (?) oxford dictionary 6th edition, 1981



L.R.M.

wo'man (wōō'-) n. (pl. women pr. wī'mīn), &



HONEST

INNER

LITTLE w

the other

OUTER ~

play the

OLD ~

Women's
organisation
areas to meet
gage in crafts

LIB -
urging

~s

2. The average or typical woman, the femal
sex, any woman; (in pl.) women as part
in illicit sexual activity. **3.** (colloq.) Char

4. Man with feminine characteristics (is a woman in
tenderness). **5.** The feminine emotions (all the WOMEN

WOMEN IN PRISON

south africa

In South Africa, Nonzamo Winnie Mandela has been almost continuously restricted under banning orders or detained without trial for more than 20 years. As well as being a leading political figure, she is the wife of Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, who is in prison for life. Her current banning order was imposed in July '83. She has effectively been banished to the small town of Brandfort, more than 300 miles from her home in Soweto, since April 1977.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

* Please write urging that Winnie Mandela's banning order be lifted and no further order imposed.

Address letters to:

Hon L Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa
Hon H J Coetsee, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

guatemala

On March 25 1983, America Yolanda Urizar was abducted by heavily armed men in civilian clothes and driven off in an army jeep. Since then her whereabouts have remained unknown to her family. The National Police have denied that she is in detention. She has 'disappeared'. In a letter to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in April this year, her daughter stated that her mother was abducted by 'security agents of the Guatemalan Government'. America Yolanda Urizar is a labour lawyer.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

* Please write polite letters requesting information as to her whereabouts to: General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Jefe de Estado y Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

USSR

Anna Chertkova, a 56 year old Baptist, in USSR was arrested in 1975 for her 'open adherence to religious practices, verbal statements and dissemination of religious literature'. She was sentenced to be confined to a psychiatric hospital for an indefinite period and has been given injections of Sulfazin, a drug which raises the temperature to 40 degrees centigrade and causes immobilisation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

*Please write courteous letters appealing for her release. She is being held in a special psychiatric hospital in Tashkent.

Letters to be sent to:

Generalnomu Prokuroru, A Reukunkova, pl Puskinskaya 15a, Moscow, USSR.

philippines

Purification Trinidad and her husband Rolieto were arrested in their home by 30 armed men, in the Philippines. It happened in January '83 while they were holding a meeting to plan a human rights seminar. They were charged with subversion and possession of subversive materials and are still being tried. Amnesty International believes that they have been imprisoned for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression. Since her detention, Purification is reported to be suffering from nervous depression, acute gastritis and cystic mastitis and is in need of specialist medical and psychiatric treatment.

continued on next page

FOR THEIR POLITICS

Address the letters to:

Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, Minister of National Defence, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

Brigadier General Dionisio Tangatue, Regional Command XI Headquarters, Camp Catitipan, Davao City, Davao, Philippines.



DDR

Monika Schley, a 31 year old engineer, is serving a 5 year sentence in Hoheneck prison in the German Democratic Republic. She suffers from asthma badly and Amnesty International don't think she's receiving adequate medical treatment.

She was sentenced in November 1982 to 5 years for 'treasonable passing on of information'. For three years prior to her arrest she had been applying for permission to emigrate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please write urging that she receives the necessary medical treatment and asking the Minister of the Interior to intervene for her release on the grounds that she is a Prisoner of Conscience. Please write courteous letters or you could make things worse.

*Minister des Innern der DDR und Generaloberst der Volkspolizei, Herr Friedrich Dickel, DDR 1086, Berlin Mauerstrasse 29-32, GDR.

(Minister of the Interior and Chief of People's Police)

*Minister für Gesundheitswesen, Prof Dr Ludwig Mecklinger, DDR 1020 Berlin, Klosterstrasse 47.

(The Minister of Health)

*Herr Direktor, Strafvollzugsanstalt Hoheneck, DDR 915 Stollberg, Erzgebirge, GDR.

(Prison Director)

Uruguay

Blanca Gabin is being held in isolation in a military barracks in Uruguay following expiry of her sentence. There seems to be no official reason why she is still being held nor why she is in isolation in a military barracks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

* Please send courteous letters expressing concern over Blanca Gabin's reported continual detention after completion of her prison sentence and ask for clarification of reasons for this.

Address letters to:

Gral Julio Cesar Bonelli, Commandante de la Division de Ejercito 11, 18 de Julio 660, San Jose, Uruguay.

Exmo Sr Ministro del Interior, General (R) Hugo Linares Brum, Ministerio del Interior, Julio Herrera y Obes 1471, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Information from Amnesty International.

10, Southampton St, London WC 2 [01 836 7788]

BREACHING THE PEACE

Order direct from: Onlywomen Press @ £1.25+20p postage
38 Mount Pleasant, London, WC1.

A radical feminist workshop entitled 'The Womens Liberation Movement v the Womens Peace Movement' or 'How dare you presume I went to Greenham' was organized last April.

The women organizing the workshop see the Womens Peace movement "as a symptom of the loss of feminist principles and processes". They were worried that largely because of the Womens Peace movement, the Womens Liberation movement has become 'rife with intimidation and cliché'. Out of this workshop came the pamphlet 'Breaching the Peace'.

Like the women organizing the workshop, I too have often felt almost guilty for having reservations about the degree of radical content of the Womens Peace movement. I have often felt - unspoken - usually accused of being uncaring (and, therefore unfeminist or even unwomanly) for devoting more time and energy to WAVAW than to Greenham, as if not to go to Greenham or actively support local peace camps and events was somehow to invite Cruise into England.

This concern tended to find an outlet in brief conversations with others of like mind which felt almost immoral and certainly not to be repeated in pleasant company.

Before I go any further (and get onto what I'm supposed to be doing, a review of the pamphlet!) I want to stress that I do care about nuclear weapons. I am terrified of a nuclear holocaust. I do include the nuclear threat in my list of 'what male violence is and does'. It is for these reasons, especially the last one, that I have gone to Greenham and to a WONT conference, as a woman against violence against women.

Anyway, enough of the personal! Onto the pamphlet. Breaching the Peace is not directed at the 'converted' You don't have to be a revolutionary or even a radical feminist to find it stimulating, thought provoking or, at least, interesting.

Neither is it a symptom of inter-movement petty politics. It is a serious, lively, readable (what a relief!) set of pieces written by different women who are concerned about women, our lives - all our lives - and our movement.

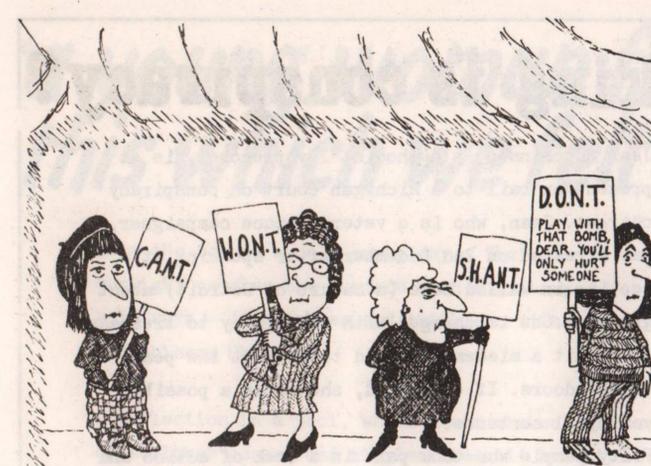
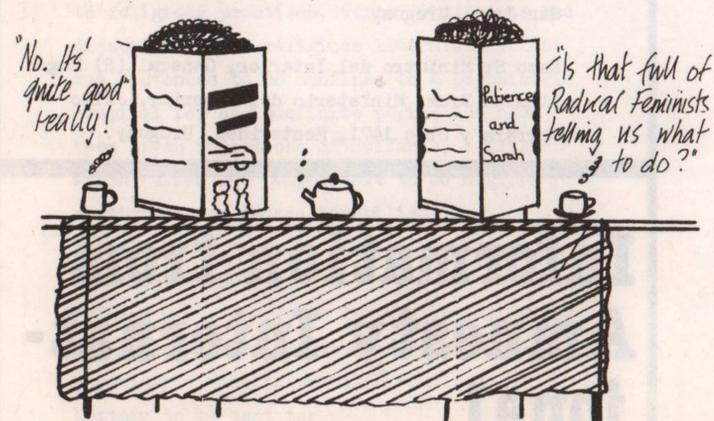
Some of the points raised in the papers: (I don't want to 'explain' them or insult them by putting them into inadequate paragraphs, you should read them yourself).

- Women feel guilt and confusion over Greenham Common. Three women doing things together doesn't make it feminist. There's a real difference between holding hands round a base and doing it on the streets.
- What does 'peace' actually mean? and for who?
- 30 000 women holding hands round a base still doesn't mean much when one man has the power to steal a woman's child from her, because she's a Lesbian.

- Peace women fall for the stereotype of the 'natural, caring' woman who only leaves her home and village so she can save her children, not because she's pissed off with being daily subjected to mental and physical violence or simply because she reckons its time she did something for her self. The Womens Peace movement actually contributes to the idea of the ordinary woman (who is, of course, white, heterosexual, married-with-children)

- The Peace movement reinforces the idea that women are 'naturally' non-violent, a dangerous idea that we inherit our behaviour with our genitals. Campaigns so broad-based and single-issued as that of the peace movement can lack or even shie away from any political analysis.

- The point that men will and do turn nasty when women step out of line (by being Black, Lesbian, uppity...) is an important one that I think is being borne out by the police at Comiso and, increasingly Greenham.

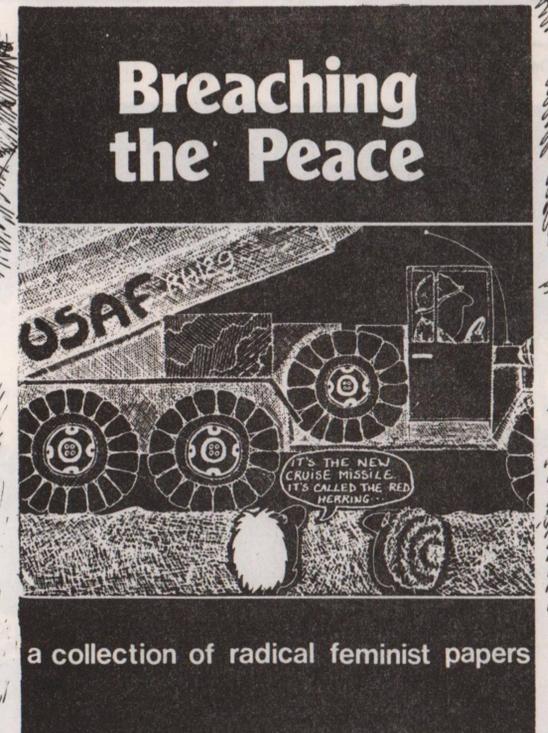


- Is Greenham part of the 'New feminism' being promoted by Cosmopolitan, Company etc at the expense of other issues around women's needs? There is concern that the 'greenham cult' recreates cosy bonds of white het middle-class sisterhood. In the Womens Peace movement everything can be seen to be 'together'

- There needs to be debate about the feminism of fighting nuclear weapons, rather than this being assumed.

- The Womens Peace movement often is within the existing system, not against it.

- The Womens movement has not (yet) made the world a better place for women to live in. "The issues of race and class are seen as divisive as well as essential to feminism.."



- Trying to save the world is not enough, not that women shouldn't be trying to, but that we must also try to improve it.

I have not given justice to everything that is said in the pamphlet, I hope women will read it for themselves and that it will provoke/continue debate around all the issues raised in it.

Meanwhile, thanks to the sisters that wrote it, and those who prompted it being written.

Sara Magen.

CUT DOWN THE FENCE + PULL!

OCT 29 '83 GREENHAM

photo: ULRIKE PREUSS



December 11th 1983

Let's have some immediate responses
responses to today at
Greenham.....

surprisingly talkative, sympathetic police
amazingly weak fences!
beautiful voices

SO MANY women
such young soldiers
alsations and horses
committed not hysterical
moments of disbelief
hope?

Becca T

OCT 29 '83 GREENHAM

photo: ULRIKE PREUSS



CONCERNING GREENHAM

14

talking is conspiracy?

Jean Hutchinson, a methodist lay preacher, is at present on bail to a Michigan court on conspiracy charges. Jean, who is a veteran peace campaigner, was arrested on 2nd December after speaking at a meeting in Walled Lake (a suburb of Detroit) about greenham. She is charged with conspiracy to trespass, to commit a misdemeanor, and to disrupt the peace out of doors. If convicted, she faces a possible year jail sentence.

Fifty people who took part in a week of action and blockade of Williams International in Walled Lake were also arrested. Williams International has a u.s. government engineering contract to manufacture 7,000 cruise missile engines each worth \$300,000. Jean Hutchinson did not take part in the blockade.

Her lawyers claim that her arrest breaches her right of free speech under the First Amendment to the American Constitution. Not since the 1960's and early 1970's have such harsh conspiracy charges been levelled against protesters.

Jean Hutchinson was in Michigan undertaking a speaking tour after attending court in New York as a plaintiff in the greenham women's case against president reagan. She will plead not guilty to all charges.

greenham ♀♀ v reagan

Lawyers for greenham women expect a written decision soon from judge Edelstein as to whether the Federal District Court of New York will hear evidence in greenham women's case against president ronald reagan. The case, filed on 9th November, is supported by 30 'expert witnesses' whose testimony will be heard in open court if the judge rules in their favour.

So far there have been 3 court appearances - 2 unsuccessful applications to stop cruise missiles immediately pending a full hearing, and a hearing on 22nd November on the government's motion to dismiss the greenham women's case.

The u.s. attorney argued that the court had no power to overrule government policy decisions. The greenham lawyers reply that they can prove cruise missiles are illegal under american constitutional law and international law and that the court has no right to abdicate its responsibility in such a vitally important matter.

From greenham women against cruise.

13th January 1984.

'a young woman friend of ours wrote this which we felt ought to be shared'

Like the Sea on a calm sunny day. The sunlight catches the surface with its sharp slim rays. It sparkles and twinkles, it shimmers and shines; Shine On.

A reflection in a pool, wobbles and shakes until a disturbance occurs and ripples break it and it i its shape and disappears, deep down below; Shine

A shiny coin falls into a well. It turns and spins and rolls over and over like a minute disc. Then the little girl makes a wish, and walks away; Shine On.

The Snow falls down in soft, gentle, fluffy white flakes and shivering ice leaves delightful rinks on the lakes; Shine On. Flickering stars gleam and dance showing off like weeny lights dancing and twittering round their beloved moon without tiring every night; Shine On.

Raindrops fall like tiny, precious, diamonds, Tiny glittering Jewels fall from the slate grey sky, landing like pins until the first rays of the Sun peep through the dimmed sky and sing. They disappear until they are called to come again; Shine On.

Autumn leaves fall like rust against gold, A golden carpet falling to the ground. A rich rust, a beautiful brown. A splendid sign of Autumn. So this is what our 'Mother of Nature' asked to be laid down in our world; Shine On.

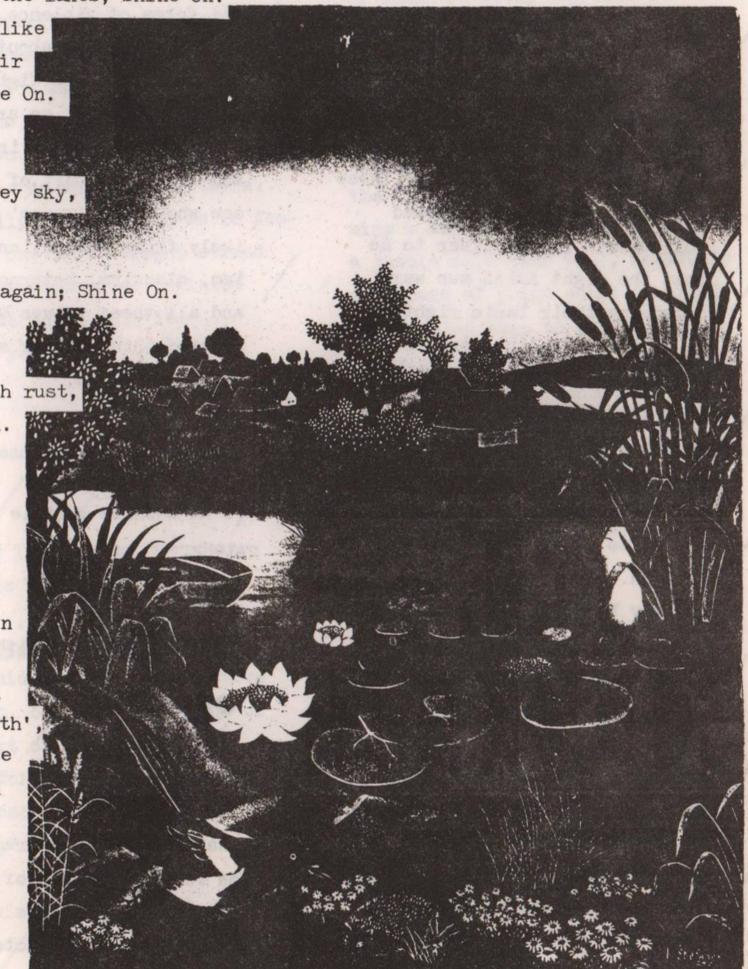
'Mother of Nature', you are in charge of all these wonderful happenings, we poor helpless humans who adore ourselves, do sit in wonder, asking 'How?'

Please do not frown, for we were only brought to this weird and wonderful place called 'Earth', after all something had to fill it. So please 'Mother of Beautiful Nature', let us love and understand your doings; And dear Mother let it and us shine on.

THERE IS NO MALE, NO FATHER NATURE,
THE MALES ARE UNAWARE OF MOTHER NATURE,
THEY CAN ONLY SEE WAR
AND DESTRUCTION MAN MADE.

LET MOTHER HOLD YOU IN HER
PEACEFUL ARMS FOREVER.

SHINE ON



15
RITA ANDERSON

DEAR LYSISTRATA...

The events of the last two days emphasise the importance of Imani's poem in the last issue (No.7). Today I went to the 'Newham 8' picket outside the Old Bailey. The trial has been going on for three weeks. Inside the courtroom I listened to one of the defendants describing events leading up to September 24th,*the day of the arrests. A number of racist attacks had happened both in and outside the local school in the previous weeks. On this day he was walking home some younger school children who were too frightened to go home alone, when a car pulled up and three white men jumped out shouting racist abuse and charged into them. They found out later these three men were plain clothed policemen. It was clear to me that the eight Asian men were defending their basic rights to walk through the streets in the middle of the afternoon, and as a result were now on trial. In the courtroom they were subject to the institutional racism and the less subtle racism of the white council for the prosecution.

The day before I had been to Greenham Common along with 30,000 other women, and together we pulled down the fence in front of a policeman standing nearby. I was not once threatened with arrest. While I, in no way, want to undermine the events at Greenham Common on December 11th, I do think 'peace' actions and those involved in them should be seen and understood in terms of

all the struggles going on all over the world. Hearing white women discuss the rights and wrongs of police treatment, arrests and trials in relation to Greenham actions, are often at the least naive, and at the worst offensive, to all those who experience daily police violence and harassment, and white racism in all its vicious forms. I agree with the definition of peace printed in the last issue of Lysistrata, which stresses peace, justice and freedom from all forms of violence. If we carry on talking about 'peace' and mean only the fight against nuclear weapons, we are only acting in our white interests, and I want no part of it. Anyone who wants 'peace' must actively fight racism, anti-semitism, classism, heterosexism and all those values which have created this nuclear society in the first place.

With love

Jez

(I am a white gentile woman)

*1982

books & mags on tape

Dear Sisters

I have at last acquired an envelope for the postage of tapes and this should be on its way to you. Enclosed with this note you will

find a cheque for £6, £2.50 subscription fee, the rest as a donation. I imagine you can always use a little extra cash and I am more grateful than I can say to people who make the effort to magazines etc. on to tape.

I was very interested in the idea of recording books and would like to receive any that you complete.

I have no ideas of my own, which is why I need to read, as I long to learn more of those working for peace.

With best wishes to you all for 1984.

Vanessa
Cornwall

*At the moment 'The Wanderground' is available on tape from Lysistrata on a listen and return basis. 'Folly' by Maureen Brady will be available soon. We hope to do 'Nice Jewish Girls' and other books that we have reviewed in the past.

Women's Tapeover have a selection of feminist books on tape. The address is: c/o A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2. or you can phone Kirsten on 01 318 2002 (evenings) or 01 584 5030 ex 288 (days).

LETTERS

cop out?

Dear Lysistrata

I'd like to write about whether Greenham is a cop-out or not (Lysistrata No.4). So many points were made, but the underlying message of the points was that the Greenham woman is socially acceptable because she is portrayed as a stereotype. This is not her fault! All women are portrayed in a stereotypical way. Let's not fall into the divisive trap that the media set up - like the old 'virgin-whore' dichotomy. (You're either one or the other if you're a woman, according to the press!). Greenham women are split by the media into 'negative' images: 'lesbian/marriage breaking/drug taking etc' and 'positive' images: 'just ordinary (ie white, middle class) women working for peace to protect their families.' We know the media will distort the variety of what goes on at Greenham, so that the only so-called positive image is that of nurturing women.

But it's also important to support those women who are at Greenham because they fear for the lives of their children. Isn't this a valid fear? You are being divisive when you say the women's peace movement is draining the women's liberation movement. Do you think that the women of Greenham don't see the connection between nuclear weaponry and male domination? They live next to that connection. Being at Greenham for a few days around the 29th October was, for me, a powerful way of realising my feminism. It reminded me of all the strengths of women organising together - the space to

show emotions and to plan practically, to show anger and to decide the action must be non-violent. It brought together feminists of all descriptions and heightened our awareness of feminism. In a letter, Sue B said she was worried about cliqueness - 'where you have to be matriarchal to fit in.' I worry about this too. I think women can feel excluded by those who are very much into the symbols and magic. But I think a lot of Greenham women would see that women's symbols are seen on many different levels - as something fun, or as a more direct spiritual meaning. Women of Greenham, tell us what you think! I'd like to know more about the spiritual side of Greenham women. It certainly had an impact on me while I was there. But really Greenham to me is feminism - one wide, bright strand with many colours of feminist conscious woven into it. Love to you all!

Terry
Birkenhead

*In the letter when Terry says 'You are being divisive when you say....' it's a bit misleading because these things were said, not as a collective opinion, but as suggestions of the sort of arguments going round for and against the 'women's peace movement'.

brave sisters

Dear Lysistrata

I find Lysistrata very interesting and it brings information about women which would otherwise never be known. It does me good, to be reminded in my secure (fairly!) little world, of the plight of our sisters in other conditions and countries. The constant bravery of women in every day life is astounding. We should not have to be that brave.

Redditch Women for Peace is planning to make a wall hanging for the Town Hall. We are also planning a market stall (mar 3) and a jumble sale (mar 9th), hopefully a concert of peace songs on April 6. We also hope to get peace campaigner Dr Helen Caldicott to come and speak in Redditch. The next meeting will be on Wed afternoon January. For further information about the group contact me on Redditch 44654.

Peaceful greetings

Audrey

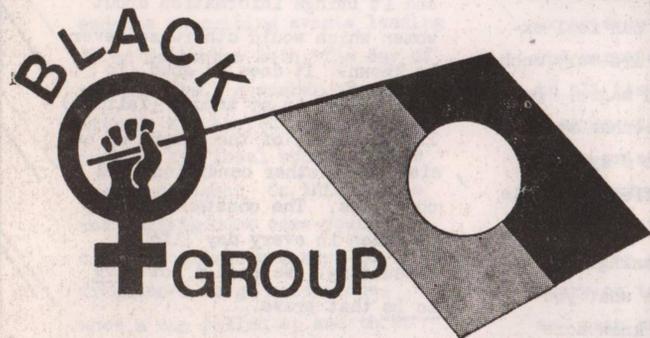
more letters page

LETTERS

COMING UT --

ANOTHER WAY

I think my sexuality came more through my politics than through anything else. And of course, because I am a political person, I made my sexuality a political act and came out as publicly as possible.



My grandparents were brought from Rajasthan in northern India by the Chelsea Sugar Refinery and the British Commonwealth government as indentured laborers for the sugar cane plantations of Fiji. The goal was to create a concentrated population that they could keep in a slave-like way. My parents were both born there and so was I. When I was two we moved to Aotearoa New Zealand. (Aotearoa is the Maori's own name for their land) And as I am committed to Maori sovereignty, I call that country by their name.

So, my first awareness of oppression was that of the racism directed toward us. In retrospect, I realise I wasn't aware of the further oppressed, of the Maori in their own land, nor my role of possible oppressor of indigenous peoples. I was aware of gender oppression, but it was more like something that was unjust and unfair to me personally and to other women than the clear-cut oppression of racism.

Excerpted from an interview with Uma, a New Zealander of Indian descent, from Connexions Aug. 1983.

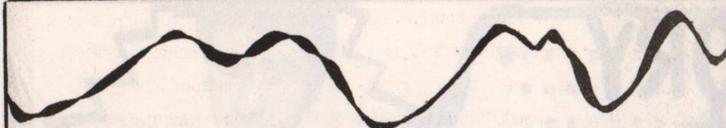
I have been a full-time activist within the women's movement and the gay liberation movement for about three years now. That means I've been in about 20 different collectives. And quite often of course I've been the only non-Anglo or identified non-Anglo. Often, within the women's lib. movement I'm there as a lesbian of color; in the gay lib. movt. I'm usually there as a feminist of color. In other words I'm always representing other oppressed groups that I represent within myself. In one of the groups I belonged to, the Black, Immigrant and 3rd World Women's Alliance, there were about 50 of us at one stage, and we spoke approx. 30 different languages between us. And that included women who were first generation (either who had lived in Australia for many years or were recent migrants), as well as 2nd, 3rd or even 4th generation of Italian, Greek, Lebanese etc. backgrounds. Even if there were two women from the same cultural background, their class and where they came from could be quite different -- so we included all those inter-differences too.

One of our battles has been the fact that feminist and gay media is only in English. But for the first time this year at International Women's Day in Sydney we were able to translate the speech that we, the Black, Immigrant and Third World Women's Alliance, wrote into 14 different languages. We then proceeded to deliver this speech, one after another, in these languages. It was a terrific learning experience, especially to monolingual women --- to have to sit there and listen --- and not understand a word that's been said to them! It's something I'm sure many of them never think about, not even feminist activists! Within the speech we talked about other oppressed groups including lesbians. Lots of our women didn't have a word for lesbian in their language, so we simply translated it to 'women loving women'. And that in itself was quite an interesting comment on some of our cultures.

Most third world women have always had lots of involvement with other women.

As an Indian woman I have always had access to women and to a certain degree to their bodies, so it's been an easy transition for me from affectionate 'sensuality' to lusty 'sexuality'.

INTERVIEW



It's hard to say to western women that what happens is our sexuality is sublimated, and that we may not have that strong desire for sexual stimulation ie. genital sex, that you seem to have, or at least prioritize. Maybe one reason that this is so for us is because what we're getting is physical stimulation from eg. the food, from the affection, from the close body contact with other women.

However, the way most of the lesbians around the women's liberation movement and the gay liberation movement define themselves and live out their lives has been the most difficult aspect for me to try and reconcile myself to: just look at the comedy, the humor, the kind of entertainment and the bar scene.

I refuse to identify myself in the racist and middle-class Anglo way that they do. They so often pursue their social lives in ways that I feel at times are so limited and limiting that I'm quite often unchallenged, unstimulated and definitely bored..

entirely different priorities

It seems to me that one of the things that appears to be of prime importance within the women's and gay lib. movements in Australia is to create a lesbian culture or a women's culture -- women's music, dance and stuff like that. Well, I think that may be a result of the patriarchy and how it operates in your cultures --- you don't have distinctly different women's culture. Of course in third world countries we have entirely different priorities because, perhaps, we already have a distinct and separate women's community and culture. It's like the thing about spiritualism that's become such an important concern in the western world. So many Anglo/white women are turning to ancient goddesses. If I really wish to to pursue that I could worship Kali or Lakshmi -- goddesses that are part of our culture and religion right now.

Our group has been very careful that we're not identified as a lesbian group because lots of our women are working in the community. Our work is most often at grass roots level. So that means if you are for example a Turkish woman and you're working with the Turkish community, the last thing you want is for people to know that you're associated with lesbians or a lesbian, because the doors may all close on you. So there are times you can come out and times you don't come out --- that's all there is to it. If my coming out as a lesbian meant that I didn't have access to the women in my community, I can tell you, I'm not going to come out. And people have got to recognize that there are different ways of operating.

SO THERE ARE TIMES YOU CAN COME OUT -- AND TIMES YOU DON'T



Because there were aboriginal women and Black-identified women who wanted to work together, whose main commitment is to the women of the land --- on their terms, we recently came together to form the Sydney based Black Women's Group. We are a tightly knit, totally supportive group. We see ourselves as accountable to aboriginal women and to each other. We employ political tactics that are very different to that of many other women in the women's movement in Australia. But we feel that this is vitally necessary for we are fighting for the liberation of the most oppressed group in the world ---- indigenous women. Yes, in that group we have lesbians and heterosexual women, but there is absolutely no disharmony. Not that we ignore the issue of sexuality. It just means that for us, we have succeeded in creating a space where at last it is no longer an issue among us.

IN LOVING MEMORY

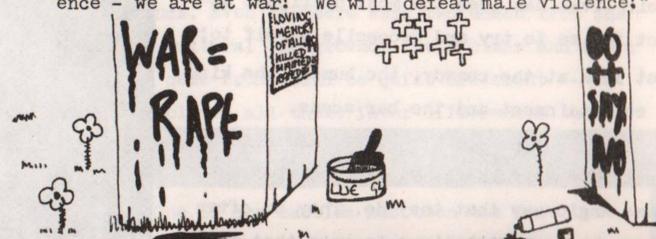
On Nov 13 1983 - otherwise known as Remembrance Sunday, two women sprayed the War Memorial in Brighton with 'WAR = RAPE, WOMEN SAY NO!' and put up posters on the memorial 'for all the women killed, maimed and raped by men.....in loving memory.'
We did this for several reasons (which are connected).

1. Women are raped, maimed and killed by men every day, whether 'at war' or not.
We are despised, ridiculed and blamed for our own destruction, yet men are glorified for doing this to us, as well as for 'heroic' deeds obeying orders.
2. Men soldiers are told, as part of military strategy, to rape and kill the women of the 'enemy'. This has been done by the USA in Vietnam, Central and South America.... and is still being done by British soldiers in N.Ireland...to name but a few.
Women are used to give men sexual pleasure for the sake of the country (eg British soldiers went to the Falkland Islands with cargoes of pornography.)

3. 'War memorials' such as this one feed white British nationalism which is racist and anti-semitic.

Unfortunately, these two were caught and have been sentenced to community service for one, and a fine for the other.
They were 'held' in police cells until their court appearance - a total of 30 hours, not because the crime was serious, but because they had offended the patriotic nationalistic fervour of the old Bill.

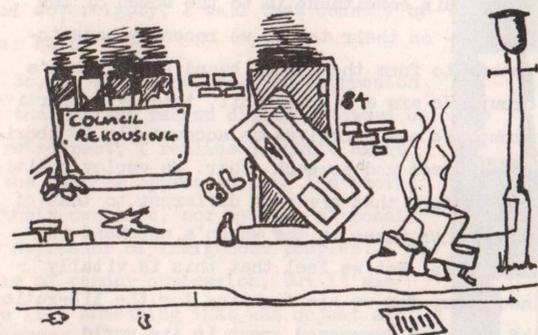
"While men continue to attempt to keep women in positions of inferiority by the act or threat of violence - we are at war! We will defeat male violence!"



GOING ON A CRUISE

They're coming, they're coming
Or they're already here
They're coming, they're coming
To free us from fear
They're coming, they're coming
We'll be no-one's slave
They're coming, they're coming
We can Cruise to our grave.

Jo Stevenson



"Are they here yet?"
"Who?"
"... The threat to world peace - you know - CRUISE!"

b h e n
f u g n
? o k ?

THERE IS A WUMUN IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA OF YORKSHIRE WHO IS WILLING TO TRY AND HELP WIMMIN WHO ARE UNABLE TO READ OR WRITE. PLEASE LET ANY WIMMIN YOU KNOW WHO CAN'T READ THIS AND WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED. SHE CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH LYSIS-TRATA, 11 PRINCES STREET, BRIGHTON.

IRANIAN WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Women imprisoned in Iran for political activity, facing torture and the death penalty, need donations urgently to help them and possibly buy them out of prison.

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: IRANIAN WOMAN'S SUPPORT GROUP
C/O SPARE RIB, 27 CLERKENWELL CLOSE, LONDON EC1



*Preparation: The patient was anaesthetized under endotracheal intubation and pressure monitoring lines were inserted percutaneously.
She was then prep'd and draped in the supine position.

'rape should be depoliticized,

The above extract was found in the medical journal 'World Medicine'. It confirms in its shroud of jargon the everyday nightmare of sexual abuse that female patients are subjected to by male doctors in all areas of the medical service.

----- a further article in the same journal exposes a debate taking place behind the scenes amongst male doctors:

A debate specifically discussing the pros and cons of medical students doing vaginal examinations on patients under general anaesthetic:

According to the article; the advantages of teaching medical students on an unconscious woman is that it avoids treating her like a piece of meat,-- and what's more the unconscious woman consents to this (examination) because she doesn't object (difficult when you're out cold!).

The alternative to this 'method', apparently, is to hire wimmin who are prepared to be 'professional patients'; some doctors prefer this because they get a better feedback from a conscious woman --- and it avoids the 'danger' of the woman finding out and 'feeling she's been figuratively raped' ('figuratively raped????!!')
---- But the chairMAN of the Women's Health Concern is not so keen on "professional patients" because:
"It raises a big question about the character of a woman who is prepared to sell her vagina or rectum for teaching purposes."



Well here we have it, this is obviously not just any old discussion about any old problem ---- it sounds like male doctors are organising between and amongst themselves their continued abuse and violation of wimmin's bodies 'entrusted' to them.

----- It sounds like they're plotting their latest ways of legitimising their access to our bodies, ---- and it sounds like they don't like and are feeling very threatened by what wimmin know about and we are doing about it;
that we know that every hand they lay on us takes something away from us, that we're reclaiming our bodies and fighting back.

Similar activities have been reported in U.S. medical science journals (info 'Off Our Backs') as "doctors and scientists seem to be working overtime to establish a sexual-biological explanation for rape" and prove that feminists have been wrong about rape all along.

Modern medicine's cure for a feminist analysis of rape

It's amidst the big establishment names--the American Journal of Psychiatry and the American Psychological Association--that these attitudes are breeding; a number of articles appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle describing studies and theories surrounding sexual offenders and their biological-sexuality- --- 'men may go through a yearly 'rutting' period of sexual excitement and aggression'.

According to one American professor; 'men who can't find mates are driven to rape as a 'biologically programmed last-ditch attempt to produce offspring'.



Research into the use of Depo-Provera - popularly known as chemical castration (for treating rapists who are then set free again) - continues as a realistic alternative as far as scientists doctors and judges are concerned.

Let's keep an account of what's being done in the name of medicine to counteract our politics.
The medical sciences have always played a central role in creating and perpetuating the oppression of wimmin by their definitions of gender. But we know that and are fighting back.

World Medicine is not on sale to the general public but you can write to the journal at Whittington House, 19-30 Alfred Place, London.

And perhaps it's a good idea as a safeguard, for wimmin going into hospital for operations to get written assurance that they won't be raped whilst unconscious.

UNEXPECTED by Teresa Trull

&

Barbara Higbie

The blurb on the cover of this Album states; "We purposefully created two seperate moods - one for vigorous activities like scrubbing your kitchen - the other for...the Unexpected! We'll let you decide which side is for which. "

It seems that this was said by Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie.

Not a good start when reviewing a wimmins L.P.

This record is a mixture of West Coast, rock, soul, country and western and ballads.

Neither of them seemed at home singing rock or soul although they both wrote the words and music. These tracks seemed experimental and left me feeling there could have been more to them.

Teresa Trull has a strong powerful voice, but its' fullness was hindered by lyrics that rhymed every few words. This made many tracks too organised and structured. All clever stuff but stifling.

On side 2 they both were more comfortable singing ballads.

It was here that Barbara Higbie showed her versatile talent on keyboards and vocals. My favourite track on the album was by her and called 'Sunken Gold'. A sensitive ballad about coming to know and like herself. Another good track was 'Ruby and the Dancer' written by Carol Bayer Sager. This song did highlight Teresa Trull's talent more than any other track on this L.P.

I think they have made a mistake putting so many different styles on one album. I doubt whether the whole L.P. will appeal to many. This is a shame because there are good tracks which are marred by the wrong mixture of styles.

Kris has just pointed out that the Rock and the Soul tracks have been badly mixed. The music and vocals have been mixed on the same level, making the voices sound muffled.

The mixing was done by men. Enough said?

Dawn.



TERESA TRULL/BARBARA HIGBIE

RECORDS

CALL IT JAZZ by Alive

(An all white wimmins band in america.)

Me, I'm a classical music fan myself. So when someone pushes this album at me and says 'review that' my record player closed its lid together firmly.

Mind you, in my youth I was a bit of a jazz aficionado, cellars, Billie Holiday and all that kind of jazz but strictly male - dominated, especially the lyrics.

So it was good to hear an all-women band and even hear the lyrics - not your usual feminist-but-I-can't-hear-the-words-or-understand-the-music stuff.

As the blurb says they really do play together a collaborating working unit (a collective?) drums,

bass, small percussion, fantastic piano (Barbara Gordon) and the voice of Rhiannon something like Cleo Laine (her range), Fitzgerald in the seat singing (brilliant this) and Barbara Streisland in the sentimental bits (too many of these perhaps). High spots were (for me) "Wild Women Don't Get the Blues", "Heaven Is In Your Mind, Let It In" the drums in "Loving You", (a song about our everyday lives) and the amazing piano in all of them. Personally I prefer more biting, snarling, & scratchy songs, but there were some beautiful lyrics sung beautifully. Lying-back-on-cushions-music.

Open your lid record player, let's hear it again I might even buy it!

JOSEPHINE ZARA,



Judy Small

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'A KIND OF DIALOGUE ON 1984'

In retrospect I see a mist a haze perhaps a dream
Of what I used to live like
Of how I must have been.
Ten years ago my innocence is painful to recall
Remembering how dismissive of emotional disturbance I was
Tears I shed for the bomb victims were for their proximity
Fears I felt for the future I filed in the recesses of naivete
I lived my life, got on with it, while the world went mad.
I raised my child, loved my lover, flirted with others
Friends I made in passing, peripheral, non-political pleasure seekers
Only one remains. She and I have changed yet stayed the same
What happened? I stopped caring and started to care
The mists lifted and I saw racism the deadly disease that poisons
our planet
We exist on this speck of dust floating in an incomprehensible
infinity
We are so unbelievably insignificant and yet we could be so
very much.
We have the gift of reason, the power of love and yet we hate
We persecute, abuse, deride, negate, we perpetrate all manner of evil
On sisters worldwide (my main concern) the greatest evil is man
Why? do they murder, do they steal, do they beat our children,
No they are a different colour
Don't ask how a racist sleeps at night, you might as well ask
How a rapist rapes or a murderer murders
Don't try to impose your conscience on theirs
They have none.
We cannot change them
We have to extinguish them, by our visible support of anti-racism
We can cancel them out.
My eyes opened and I saw sexism, hetero-sexism, where had I been?
Oppression is everywhere.
I saw some kids on TV, a dancing competition. It was all about
domination boy over girl, overtly sexual, covertly violent
It sickened me.
I heard audiences screaming with laughter at a comedian
Talking about 22 year olds with big knockers
It saddened me.
Don't be so obsessive its so trivial I'm told.
Can't you see I retort sexism is with us until we change
Man's total conception of women.

We cannot ignore the trivial
This is where the seeds are sown.
The saddest sound is the sound of a woman laughing at
sexist humour.
Its like a black person laughing at Jim Davidson who isn't only
offensive he's unfunny.
In '83, the saddest sights were, the faces of sisters at Greenham
when the phallic missiles arrived.
Margaret Thatcher on the steps of No. 10 on June 9th.
We could have changed the course of history but we blew it
Aided and abetted by Shirley Williams & Co,
Vera Brittain are you proud of your daughter?
Again the evil of Thatcherism screeching 'Rejoice Rejoice' at
the close of the shameful and wanton piece of warmongering
the Falklands Crisis.
Try telling the families of the dead to rejoice, Prime Minister
We live in a free democracy, we are told.
What of government plans to imprison 'anti-government' elements
in the event of a nuclear attack?
Why? Because we were right!
What of black people trying to survive, just to survive the daily
thuggism from that fine upstanding body of men, white adolescent
youth.
Yesterday in Newcastle I saw in front of me a delightful gray-
faced specimen of human garbage,
Head shaved, eyes blank, leather jacket proudly sporting the
Union Jack that symbol of freedom the Tories hold so dear
'Skins rule' decorated one shoulder
'NF NF NF' the other.
Disgust and anger rose in me to the point of nausea
I wanted to crush him
To grind him beneath my heel
My jaws ached with the intensity of my clenched teeth.
Is this how they succeed I wonder
By arousing in us the same violence they embrace
By making us so disheartened that we slink away,
Defeated, to embrace a creed of non involvement in the guise of
self-preservation,
I hope not, I believe we can win, there are so many of us
I know its a terrible cliché but 'united we stand'

Kate Alexander
Jan 4th 1984

"MOTHERWIT"-A REVIEW

I have done a healing course and a psychic course and I am now a practising healer. I also sit in psychic circles twice a week. This involves giving absent healing, doing meditations and also psychic exercises. Myself and the women involved in the circle take it very seriously and are very much aware of the dangers. There are certain rules that we abide by for no other reason than protection for ourselves, and anyone that is receiving our energies.

ETHICS

Which brings me to the main reason I am writing this article. A friend gave me a book as a present. It is called MOTHERWIT - A FEMINIST GUIDE TO PSYCHIC DEVELOPMENT by Diane Mariechild. After reading it through I started to get worried by the terminology she uses throughout the book and the fact that she does not explain the dangers of misuse energy through ignorance or maliciousness.

We all have psychic energies or are sensitives but we are not all born into spiritualist families or are privileged enough to be around people who have a great understanding of spiritual awareness.

So therefore we must learn in safety the laws of the universe.

In the first chapter of the book Diane Mariechild writes about the ethics of psychic development. She says that once developed, psychic energies are very powerful and that once we start to use them we are accountable to universal laws. And that the greater your awareness, the greater your responsibilities become. What she means by this is that once developed psychic energy can become very powerful and that everybody has a right to their own psychic space and that you must not use that energy for power trips. What she says is right, but I feel she does not back this up throughout her book.

TRANCE

CHAPTER ONE- DEEP RELAXATION

She puts you through a relaxation exercise which I feel is quite a good one. But this is where I get worried about the terminology she uses.

She says "This state is different from your usual waking reality and is a TRANCE. A trance is simply a very relaxed state of mind in which you are able to come in closer touch with your intuitive powers."

Mother Wit

A Feminist Guide to Psychic Development

by Diane Mariechild

Exercises for Healing, Growth and Spiritual Awareness

I know what she means by this type of trance state. What I feel is dangerous is that anyone picking up this book might not and could get themselves into all kinds of troubles. The definition of trance is not an easy one and I think if you are going to use the word, you must explain in more detail than Diane Mariechild does. She uses the word too freely. I will explain a bit from what I have learnt. What in fact Diane Mariechild means by 'trance state' is - **semi trance**

- a state which means the whole body totally relaxes and you are completely in control of yourself. This state is relatively safe, but even people in meditation can drift off. So for safety it is always a good idea to have somebody around to talk you through it. That way if you do drift off you can be brought back.

trance state

- this is where the sitter finds themselves under control. It can be a feeling of some other mind controlling you from outside taking over your mind. If the trance state is deep enough you could find yourself standing alongside your own body. However, you will see or hear what takes place. If you are left in your own body you are unable to control your body and you may not be able to open your eyes

\$7.95

THE CROSSING PRESS FEMINIST SERIES



Ancient sources of strength and knowledge are infused with their original womanwarmth by Diane Mariechild in *Mother Wit*, her new collection of exercises, affirmations, meditations and other psychic tools for furthering our feminist growth. Each is shaped by her personal loving touch and set in a firm matrix of political awareness. Feminism is the foundation of her commitment to the ethics of non-violence, love, concern for others and for self-responsibility. It is a joy to find this material from occult traditions and Eastern religions adapted by her woman-identified consciousness to the needs of women today. Especially promising is her work for children. We are aware of nothing like it.

Jean and Ruth Mountaingrow
of *Womansport Magazine*

Diane Mariechild, an Aries with Scorpio rising and an Aquarian moon, is a practicing psychic and feminist psychotherapist. She has degrees in education and counseling psychology (Goddard Cambridge) and has taught classes in psychic and spiritual development in the Boston area since 1973. Active in creating and celebrating womanrituals, Diane is the founder of the Dancing Wind Coven. She is the mother of two teen-aged sons.

THE CROSSING PRESS / Tintonburg, New York 14886

ISBN: 0-89594-051-5

or lift your hands. This sounds very scary and only advanced sitters practise this and always there is what they call a controller who is also very advanced psychically. They will put you through a trance and bring you back. Sitters who do this have probably been sitting in circles for 10 to 15 years and are very disciplined.

full trance

- this is the highest state of trance.

In this state you will be removed from the body, taken to a higher spiritual level. People that practise this often say that they have been through a beautiful garden. When this happens to you and you are not in your body your life support system will go down to a minimum. This has to be practised in the strictest conditions and only by advanced sitters and they always have protection around them. So therefore someone who is very psychic and not aware of this could find themselves drifting around the universe.

The circles that I sit in do much less advanced exercises and always one woman will guide through. We also put a time limit on each exercise whether it is meditation, healing or psychics. That way there is no danger of anyone drifting off.

PROTECTION

In the same chapter Diane Mariechild talks about using a circle of protection. She says that if you surround yourself with a circle of light you will remain receptive and open without absorbing any negative energy.

In theory I don't think what what she is saying is wrong, only that as a writer I feel she is assuming that we are all at the same level of consciousness. Some of us may well have protection around us at all times, others of us have to learn to tap into this energy at the right time. I know from experience that I sometimes have not had that protection around me, and have let in what they call 'lower entities'. Once you open up to psychic energies you are open to all sorts of entities that are floating around. So therefore if you have not learnt to protect yourself properly you can pick up others' negativity. This could make you manic or depressed. I do not think that this can be learnt from just reading a book, without any prior knowledge in this field.

GUIDES

She casually talks about guides as if everyone has an understanding of them. Spiritual guides are people who have passed over to the spirit world and are sent to look out for individuals this side. We are all meant to have them. I personally think it is up to each individual to decide for themselves.

I will explain a bit about them. Unless you are a medium you will not actually see them. But if say you do believe in them once you get used to that idea you can begin to tune into them and start to feel their presence. It feels like an energy around you and maybe you will get physical sensations like someone brushing against your cheek or feel electricity in your hair or maybe heat. You can tap into them for protection if sitting in a circle or doing healing. They can be Red Indians who were very spiritual people, Egyptians who were psychic. In fact your guides could be of any culture. I often feel the presence of my healing guide because I do a lot of healing. My psychic one not so much because I am very careful about what I am doing and work very slowly on this level. You can't hurry your development. We all develop at a different rate. It is often a slow process except for those especially gifted. Once you learn to meditate properly-that again can take a long time. It is not easy to rid yourself of day to day trials that buzz around in your head especially if you lead a stressful life. Then you can begin to do simple psychic exercises. Diane Mariechild does explain some of this in Chapter Two. The book goes on to teach you many more exercises. Some I like, others I don't.

TRAVEL

She has also written a few pages on astral travel. This I feel is not enough. Again this is another art form. You can not learn from reading a book if you have no prior knowledge of this art. It is a very

continued on next page →

"Motherwit" Continued

dangerous art to play lightly with. The astral energy is connected to the physical body by what is called the silver thread until death when the cord is severed. This she explains. Then she goes on to say that with practice you can learn to project your astral travel whenever you wish. She does say that if it scares you don't attempt this. But what a temptation if you have no prior knowledge of this art and the dangers involved. People do practise this art but very skillfully. I have heard of people that are very distressed and have found themselves in strange places and do not know how they got there. This is called physical astral travel and what has happened is that they have tapped line of energy that is not usually able to be used in normal conditions. It is because they are so distressed that they have become psychically open. So if you are not 100% sure of what you are doing don't attempt these exercises.

Also here is something to think about. What if you astral travel off somewhere and for some reason you cannot get back into your body or the cord breaks. A shock could make this happen. No, not to be taken lightly. Make sure you or whoever is around you knows what you are doing. I don't disagree with everything Diane Mariechild has written and if indeed she practices everything she's written I believe her to be well advanced psychically. In some ways this is my criticism of her book. We are all not at the state of consciousness that she is so I feel she could have simplified a lot of her techniques. And gone into much more depth of the dangers. Also the language she uses throughout is what I call very flowery and hard to understand if you have not had a privileged background.

Jill

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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Brighton
Sussex. England.

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Women's Community Press is a dynamic new publishing imprint. For six months twelve women from varied backgrounds with skills including design, writing, community work, research and book-selling undertook an exciting and innovative publishing course. Sharing their skills they now bring you these titles.

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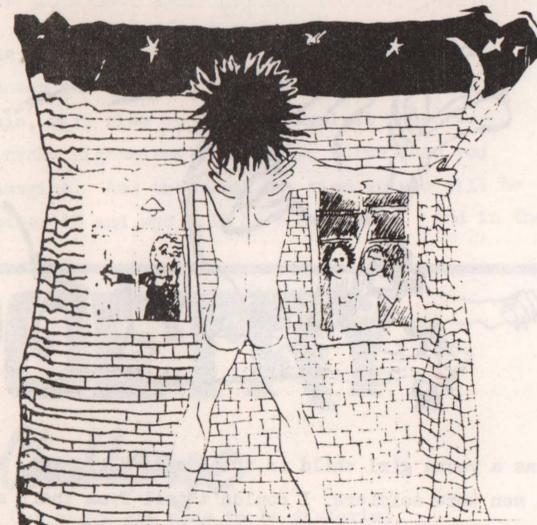
Feminist Fables

by **SUNITA NAMJOSHI**

DRAWINGS by SUSAN TRANGMAR

PUBLISHED by SHEBA FEMINIST PUBLISHERS £2.25

Some extracts from Feminist Fables



Bird Woman

Once there was a child who sprouted wings. They sprang from her shoulder blades, and at first they were vestigial. But they grew rapidly, and in no time at all she had a sizable wing span. The neighbours were horrified. 'You must have them cut,' they said to her parents. 'Why?' said her parents. 'Well, it's obvious,' said the neighbours. 'No,' said the parents and this seemed so final that the neighbours left. But a few weeks later the neighbours were back. 'If you won't have them cut, at least have them clipped.' 'Why?' said the parents. 'Well, at least it shows that you're doing something.' 'No,' said the parents, and the neighbours left. Then for the third time the neighbours appeared. 'On at least two occasions you have sent us away,' they informed the parents. 'but think of that child. What are you doing to the poor little thing?' 'We are teaching her to fly,' said the parents quietly.

The Wicked Witch

A rather handsome young dyke strode through the forest and knocked at the door of a small house, which belonged to a witch. The witch answered the door, and the dyke said, 'I'm sorry to bother you, but I've come on a quest. I have a question and had hoped you could help me.' The witch considered for a moment, then asked her in. She made some tea. 'What is your question?' asked the witch. 'What is the Real Thing?' 'What?' 'That is my question,' answered the dyke, 'I fell in love with a beautiful woman, and though she professed some affection for me, she assured me nonetheless that what I felt for her was not the Real Thing.' 'And did you ask her her meaning?' 'Yes,' said the dyke, 'She said that the love between a man and a woman is the Real Thing.' 'I see,' said the witch, 'Well, here are your choices. Turn into a man, go to this woman, and say to her

'Feminist Fables' was first published in 1981. Its a book I only discovered a little while ago, and I'm glad I did.

Its made up of a lot of short stories - some only a few lines long. The stories are usually versions of old myths and fables, and this meant I didn't get the point of some of them if I didn't know of the original.

How about 'A MORAL TALE' which goes-

"The Beast wasn't a nobleman. The Beast was a woman. That's why its love for Beauty was so monstrous."

Goldilocks is a boy and Cinderella walks out of her marriage to the prince when they start arguing.

There are some scathing digs at feminism - especially what white middle class gentile feminists do and say. And how wimmin of colour and Jewish wimmin especially are patronised.

See The Fox and the Stork-

"As soon as Stork arrived, Fox started saying that she, herself, was a very progressive fox and intended fully to respect Stork and Stork's individuality. "Thank you, said Stork. "Now," said Fox, "I do not want to make assumptions, and so I must ask you: do Storks in fact, eat?"

And it goes on.....

There are loads of other things I could pick out but better for you to read it yourself.

Some of it made me go ha!yes, and sometimes ouch!

Sue

this time, "Look, I'm a man, and therefore capable of the Real Thing." "No," said the dyke, "I'm not a man. How can an unreal person feel a real thing?" "Well then," said the witch, "Get 500 people to go to this woman and say to her loudly that, in their opinion, what you feel for her is the Real Thing."

"No," said the dyke, "I feel what I feel, what difference does it make what other people say they think I feel?" "It helps," shrugged the witch, "It's known as the Principle of Corroborative Reality. However, here's your third choice. Forget other people and find out for yourself what you really feel." "I see," said the dyke, "And when and where and how shall I begin?" "Now?" said the witch and poured tea.

BOOK REVIEW

ANIMAL LIBERATION

A Sexual Issue or a Wank?

For the donkeys of Port Said

'He was lonely so we got him a budgie'...'Since my husband died I depend more and more on the cat. Someone to come home to'...'If it wasn't for the fish and Tina (a budgie) I wouldn't talk to a soul for days on end now I can't get out any more'...'my littlest boy was always hanging round the neighbours children till we got him the puppy for company'... (quotes from a neighbourhood survey on pet ownership.)

Substitues for human love. Less risky than a human relationship. And when the 'affair' is over you can always put your pet 'to sleep'. An affair of convenience. The convenience of the dominant species. Capture, domesticate, exterminate.

Alongside exploitation of animals for laboratory experimentation, the pet and petfood industry is enormous, feeding off our alienation from each other, sentimentalising animals to fit in with our deprivations and need for love, physical contact, and control.

So the prettiest and most appealing pets are fed and pampered in return for companionship and obedience. Where have we heard THAT story before...the Miss World contests?The pretty docile pets of male sexist fantasy? Capture, domesticate, exterminate. A new girl every year? A new wife every seven year itch? And the Nazis who selected the pretty Jewish girls for their brothels in the concentration camps. They murdered the old and ugly. Discarded them and used their bodies for soap, lampshades, and even to feed their guard dogs.



30



I was a young girl child in the Second World War. All men were soldiers. I couldn't tell from their almost identical khaki uniforms which were 'ours' and which were the 'enemy'. Some of them came home on leave and mingled their tales of fighting on the front with snickering stories about the reputed brothels of Port Said, where the prostitutes were on offer side by side with donkeys, who were screwed and abused, just like the women were. Extra extra thrills and treats...I couldn't understand the hot eyed glances and laughter at these stories. I was frightened. I am still frightened.

And of course, male military macho ethics approved of these brothels in Port Said rather than encourage homosexual contact between the ranks. Military regimes are terrified of love developing between soldiers. Balls must mean toughness and courage. But the bullet rips through and reveals the vulnerability of the male flesh. Almost as tender as a woman? Almost as vulnerable? They dare not admit that possibility.

Listen, 99% of all butchers are MEN. The master race. MANipulators. TorMENTors. MALEfactors. MANufacturers of meat. Think about it. You rape and plunder the entire range of living creatures of all species, even the female and young of your own species. You train the young to follow in your footsteps, if not by word then certainly by deed.

You must give up your knives. Take instead the vulnerability and tenderness of your own body, your fragile penis. Cherish love between man and man. Learn the tenderness of your own genitals before you so thoughtlessly plunder and penetrate the bodies of young and fertile girls. Learn first the mysteries of contraception, and love, and respect and awe for life of all forms.

In the meantime do not be surprised if the rest of us, women and children, enlightened men, and all animals, will rise up and turn against you. We can invoke nightmares of revenge, worse than you can imagine. And the woman may rise up who will be the other 1% and who will have her knife. And in the

POETRY

Challenge

Our minds are made to be distorted,
We should think of challenges, of power
We should forget.
Not think of beauty anymore
or the threat.

The freshness
The smell of early morning leaves
of busy making bees
Are in danger of losing their power.
They travel beyond our short lives
They constantly tug at our minds
But they are losing.
The gap between their beauty
and our minds has lost its baton
The race is over?

So who is left to pick up our challenge?
Who is around to sort this one out?
We still have beauty on our side
Still a child's perfect eyes will stare
at us a question.
We have to find an answer.
We will.

- Jodie Hope

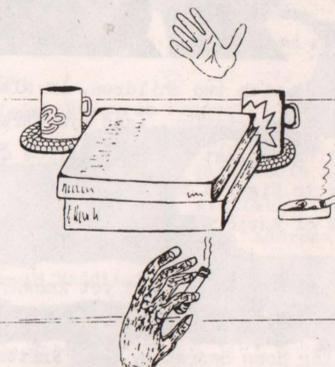


name of LIFE she will take up her knife and castrating, will avenge even the least laboratory rat, that, discarded, ends up in the tin of PAL you may feed your pet tomorrow morning.

Vi Subversa/Poisongirls/ April 1983



This piece was specially written to appear on the cover of the 'Nation of Animal Lovers' EP, but deemed unsuitable and omitted by those who decide what we should or should not read.



Being Visited

You bring me books. They lie
between us and the coffee cups
like chips of bedrock. Those women in them
- Anna, Effi, Emma - that you
really love
go further for you than I ever could.

So little in an ordinary Monday
turns on love. The tumble drier,
the Magimix, and me, are safely earthed,
the iron gives things here a
common touch.
The books lie heavy on my breakfast bar,

quarried from the ground under my feet.
In your hands, all their soul lies bare,
your fingers speak to them in braille,
their leaves, in recognition of that touch,
fall open,
take it all, since you see what it means.

And yet; if I don't die for love of you
what is there left to die for? I could
slip between the subject and the object
of your pen, until my eyes
turn grey.

The doorbell rings. I let the smaller options in.

- Lyn Dawes

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ESTHER ANKELI



For further information and for petitions contact;
Abasindi Co-Op,
Moss Side Peoples Centre,
St. Mary's Street,
Moss Side,
Manchester. M15 5NA

Send donations to the Esther Ankeli Committee
Against Deportation at the address above.

Get copies of the petition drawn up by the deport-
ation committee from the address above.

Write to your own MP.

Write to Bob Litherland MP,
c/o House of Commons,
London.

A Nigerian woman with two children, is also being
threatened with deportation. (see Lysistrata no. 7)
She is appealing against the Home Office decision
to deport her to Nigeria. She and her two children
have no means of support in Nigeria and no home to
go to.

The date for the appeal is not yet known.

Write to the Home Secretary Leon Britton,
The Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1.

Asking that the decision to deport Esther be reve-
rsed, and that she and her children be allowed to
stay permanently in the UK.

Quote reference no. A228773.

JOSEPHINE THOMAS

(See Lysistrata no. 7)

A Black woman from Ghana who is under threat of
deportation, along with her five children, four of
who were born here, has lost her appeal against her
deportation.

At the recent Immigration Tribunal the appeal was
turned down. Apparently however, the adjudicator
reccomended that the Home Office re-examines her
case, 'in the light of the circumstances' (!).
If enough pressure is brought on the Home Office
then they might decide to use their discretionnery
powers to let Josie stay.



Josephine Thomas with one
of her children

Please get everyone you know to write to;
David Waddington,
Secretary of State to the Home Office,
80 Queen Annes Gate,
London,
SW1.

Please quote reference no. T135557.

You could also write to your own MP giving
details of the case.

For Petitions and more info contact:
The Josephine Thomas Support Commitee,
c/o 54 Deighton Road,
Huddersfield,
HD2 2VF
Donations gratefully received.

- HELP THESE

SMASH RACIST³² IMMIGRATION LAWS

DORA AMOAKO



If Dora Amoako is deported her two children will
remain in Local Authority care for years until they
are adult.

Dora has been on Britain since 1978, and has worked
in a hospital since 1980. Both her children were
born in Britain.

Dora is from Ghana, she came here in 1974 to join
her husband who was settled here. She was only giv-
en a six month visa and she overstayed this time
limit. She had her daughter Sandra in July 1975.
In November 1977 she went back to Ghana to look
for her husband. They returned here together in 1978
and were admitted. As her husband had her passport,
Dora did not know there were any restrictions on
her stay here. Her husband deserted her and went
back to Ghana. In 1978 Marie-Ama was born.

Dora is at present working to support her two
daughters, if she is deported social services will
take them into care as Dora has no means of suppor-
ting them if she returns to Ghana.

The Home Office must be persuaded on compassionate
grounds to let her stay to look after her daughters.

You can get copies of the petition and
leaflets from;
Wandsworth Legal Resource Project,
248 Lavender Hill,
London
SW11.

Distribute leaflets.
Available from above
address.

Write to David Waddington.

And to your own MP.

And Tom Cox MP
c/o House of Commons.

WOMEN STAY!

All these cases are because of the Home Office and
this governments racist and sexist immigration laws.
If you or your group could publisise these women's
struggles please do.
We cannot let this government or it's puppets carry
on the victimisation of women in this way any more.

Rashida Abedi a deaf woman from Pakistan, who is
living here with her brother is also under the
threat of deportation was the subject of a debate
in the House of Commons.

David Waddington said that Rashida's case was no
exception. So she will have to return to Pakistan
unless we can help her stay.

Write to the Home Office expressing your wish that she
stay. Get petitions from this address;
Friends of Rashida Abedi,
45 Wellesley Road,
Croydon.

Write to your own MP.



RASHIDA ABEDI

Sophie Sackay a nigerian woman who was due to be
deported with her four children, recently won her
appeal.
You see it can be done!

FIGHT³³ STATE SEXISM

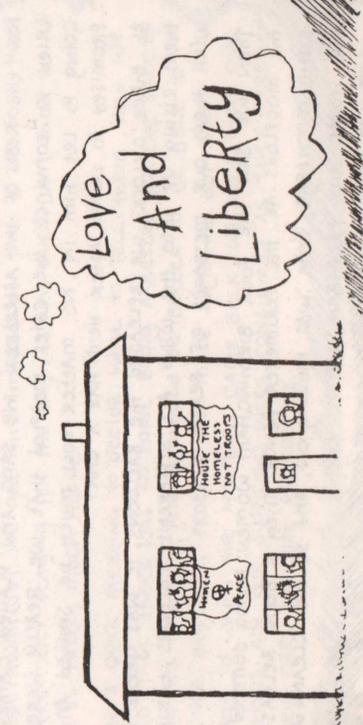
IT WAS JUST AS EVERYONE STARTED TO BE THE LABOUR PARTY, SINGING "WE ARE THE LABOUR PARTY, WE ARE THE LABOUR PARTY", THAT THE POLICE CAME IN AND SAID WE COULD GO

THEY PUT US IN THE VAN AND DUMPED US OUTSIDE THE BASE.

ALL OF US FELT IT HAD BEEN A REALLY SUCCESSFUL ACTION, BOTH IN TERMS OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, AND CONFUNDING THE POLICE... BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT, IN TAKING THE FOCUS AWAY FROM GREENHAM - TO LOCAL PEOPLE TAKING ACTION IN THEIR OWN AREAS IT'S VITAL THAT THIS BEGINS TO HAPPEN, THAT THE WOMEN LIVING AT GREENHAM (AND I STAY THERE QUITE A LOT MYSELF) ARE NOT SEEN AS MARTYRS DOING IT ALL ON OUR BEHALF.

BECAUSE THE STRUGGLE DOES NOT BEGIN OR END AT GREENHAM, OR AT THE YEARLY CND DEMO IN LONDON, BUT HERE IN NOTTINGHAM AND IN BIRMINGHAM AND EVERYWHERE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

FOR RESISTANCE TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT MUST TAKE PLACE EVERYWHERE... FROM DIRECT ACTION, SUCH AS OURS AT CHILWELL, TO THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AND TREAT THE PEOPLE AROUND US...



WOMEN SQUAT FOR PEACE

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

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AVENUE ROAD EXTENSION
GARENDON PARK 7-9pm
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WORKSHOPS + PERFORMANCES
MOAT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MAIDSTONE ROAD 10am - 5pm
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WITH FRANKIE ARMSTRONG
SANDRA KERR, PEAR WEBB
MOAT COMMUNITY COLLEGE 8pm
£1.50 WAGED £1.00 UNWAGED

BALDEV GILL IS NOT GUILTY

Baldev Gill

Wrongfully charged, terrorised and framed, facing life imprisonment.

Baldev Gill, an Asian woman from Southhall has been framed by the notorious Customs Officers on a charge of 'importation of Heroin'.

Baldev is innocent but has already spent six weeks in jail, on remand, and now faces life imprisonment.



Baldev Is Innocent !

Baldev was arrested during a raid on an apparently organised gang of drug dealers. But it was only by accident that she happened to be on the premises, where people were arrested at random.

This included her 13 year old sister, who was illegally interrogated, mistreated and detained.

Stop state attacks on Black People!

Baldev's plight represents the systematic attack and criminalisation of Asian and Afro-Caribbean people by the police and the authorities.

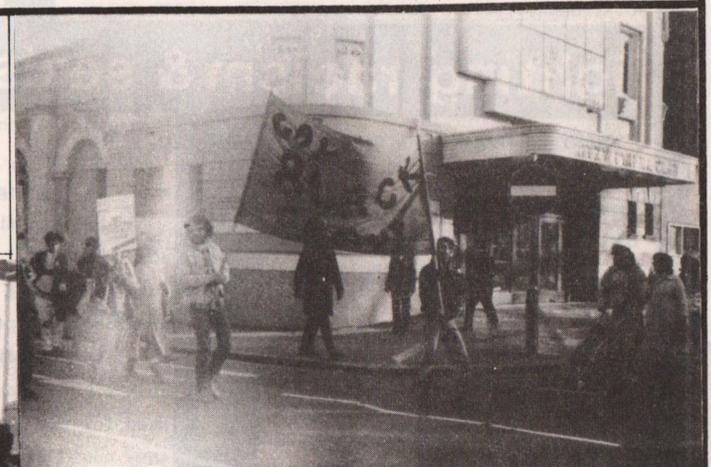
In this case they have chosen to victimise a member of the most oppressed section of the Asian and Afro-Caribbean community : BLACK WOMEN.

For Further Information, ring 01 843 0578 or 01 84 01 843 0343 otherwise write to 86 Northcote Avenue, Southhall, Middlesex.

Baldev is at present waiting for a date for her trial. There will probably be a picket. Petitions are available from the above address.

KILL THE BILL!

PHOTOS: DRAWW



MARCH AGAINST THE POLICE BILL (see Lysisbrata 7 for details of what this bill means to Black people especially & to lesbians, gay men & all kinds of political people) JAN 21st IN LONDON. IT WAS ATTENDED BY A LOT OF DIFFERENT GROUPS BUT THERE COULD'VE BEEN MORE PEOPLE. BAD PUBLICITY?

Dear Lysistrata,
In December '83 I spent 5 days at Risley Remand Centre after refusing to pay £25 court costs, incurred after a blockade. Risley is a terrible place. I have recorded my experiences onto a tape, which I think will be useful to women considering considering putting themselves in a position where they may be jailed; to people who are interested in womens prisons; and to women who are facing jail now. It could also be used for discussions.

I haven't edited the tape at all, so it's a bit patchy and hesitant in places, but I think this quite well my emotional reaction to imprisonment. There is also practical information on the tape - what to take, etc..

The cassette lasts just over an hour, and is available from Chris, Box C, Mushroom, 10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham. For £1 + 20p postage.

If there are any profits they will go towards distributing the cassette free to places where I feel it should go, and to defence and aid funds.

CHRIS.
Nottingham Women for peace produced a half hour programme of songs and statements about the womens peace movement, which was broadcast on local radio. Tapes of the programme are available from us for £1.75 + 20p postage.

(programme on one side of the tape the other side's blank.)
contact: NOTTINGHAM WOMEN FOR PEACE,
c/o 604 WOODBOROUGH ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM.

fighting racism & sexism in schools

Dear Lysistrata
I am responsible for a Reception Class and read the Inner London Education Authority's "Race, Sex and Class" booklet. The reaction of the other teachers made me very sad. There was a hopeful suggestion by the Head to form a working party on racism to reform the curriculum. It would have consisted of the same number of us who formed a sexism working party - a joke to our colleagues. It seems one can't force teachers to devote their time to something

they claim is nonexistent. I teach Czechs, Poles and Russians whose faulty English labels them as stupid and mildly funny by some children. Occasional black faces appearing in the school are lonely scapegoats. The 'dinner ladies' said they didn't understand or see the need for the booklet. I wish they could see how powerful they are in the daily life of a child. I haven't given up however and thankfully I'm not alone. Make '84 worth waiting for!
Rebecca Thackray

Dear Lysistrata
Can any women offer suggestions for improved non-sexist primary education? With colleagues in an Inner London Education Authority primary school I am examining our teaching, the curriculum and school organisation to ensure sex equality. We have only implemented the following as yet: positive discrimination in favour of girls in the use of computers, scrutinising our reading matter, alphabetical records in registers,

LETTERS

leveller again

Dear Lysistrata
The Leveller ran for 7 years as an independent radical and latterly feminist magazine. In Feb 1982 it folded, due to pressure of debts, but 2 collective members stayed in the office and used the facilities to run a typesetting and layout service.

We are now contemplating the possibility of a relaunch of the magazine, and need ideas and advice and, hopefully, people prepared to work with us on the project. We have in mind a mixed magazine with a strong feminist and Third World input - but more ideas welcome.

Come to ASTMS Head Office, 79 Camden Rd, London NW1, 2pm Sat Feb 25th. We are particularly keen to form contacts with people outside London. Good disabled access. Ring for details of creche, accomodation or anything else: 01 274 2288. (Mixed).

With best wishes,
Saah Gellner.

LETTERS.....

and an end to single-sex swimming lessons and gender grouping. But there must be many instances witnessed by parents where sex discrimination operates at primary level. Therefore I should be grateful for any suggestions.

Yours truly

Becca Thackray
The Fox Primary School
Kensington Place
London W8 7PP.



Drawstring dungarees with optional womens' peace symbol on pocket. Fabric - bright green, fade-out cotton, -fades with every wash.

Sizes;
S - 36" bust & hip.
M - 37"-39" " & "
L - 40"-42" " & "
XL - 42"-44" " & "

Price; inc. P&P & VAT
£14.50. inc P&P & VAT
£15.50 with peace symbol.
(profits on peace symbol to womens' peace movement)
Or send s.a.e. for our

leaflet. Cheques/p.o.'s to; RAGGED ROBIN LTD (Dept. L), TREGARON RD., LAMPETER.

STOP THE CITY. 2 carnival occupation

WHY THE CITY?
ECONOMIC SYSTEMS EAST AND WEST CREATE DEATH AND POVERTY THROUGH ARTIFICIAL SCARCITY, SICKNESS, DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS, PLANTS, LAND, REPRESSION AND WAR.

They exist for the profit and power of the rich few. In Britain the nerve centre of this planned misery is 'the CITY' or London - people once lived there but now it is full of Banks, company headquarters, Government buildings and places like the Stock Exchange.

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT.
PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT AND MORE POWERFUL - THAN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS WHICH RUN ALL OUR LIVES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GREEDY FEW WHO -
* steal land and livelihood from native people
* create artificial scarcity - millions suffer famine poverty and homelessness, though the resources exist to abolish them now.
* build up economic systems and social systems based on useless, unhealthy jobs e.g. in the nuclear industry, or unpaid useful work which is unevenly shared out - childcare and house work which women mostly do.

* destroy our fellow animals, plants and land, our 'life support system' - through pollution from factories, industrial agriculture and traffic.

MARCH 29TH - PEACEFUL CARNIVAL - OCCUPATION
WE AIM TO OCCUPY THE STREETS AND RECLAIM THE AREA FOR PEOPLE. WE CALL ON ALL THE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE AREA TO CONSIDER HOW THE FINANCIAL EMPIRE WHICH EXPLOITS THEIR LABOUR ALSO HARMS THE REST OF US.

We are asking drivers to leave their cars at home - or outside the city area - and would like as many people as possible to bring bikes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ;
Tell everyone you know.
Come along on the day.
Photocopy this, or make your own leaflet.
On the day bring what you will need, musical instruments, food, leaflets, ideas.
Stop The City (LONDON)
c/o BOX STC.,
6 Endsleigh Street.
London WC1.

FROM

This article is taken from some Greenham wimmin's experience of Holloway, and from talking to the long term prisoners. After their release they accused Holloway, when they were interviewed, of inhumane and outrageous crimes against wimmin.

prison is a crime

The reason most wimmin are in prison has to do with class, race, and power. Many wimmin in prison now have found few legitimate ways to make money independantly of men that they have had to turn to illegal ways. They are then punished by being locked away. The ultimate in becoming invisible and powerless, the institutionalised extension of 'go to your room and stay there until I say you can come out'. Big daddy at home replaced by big daddy state. This shutting away of people who break the accepted code, and then seeing them as less than human is part of the nuclear mentality that can justify pressing a button to destroy millions of people who are seen as the enemy. It is a facist mentality. The rest of this article is mainly statements from the wimmin themselves.

the 'therapy' wing

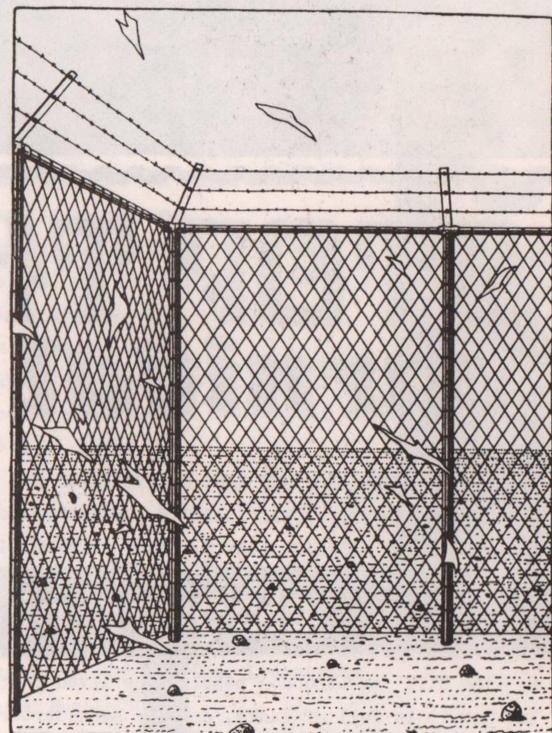
Through 'lack of staff' there was no therapy given.

medical care

Many of the wimin have gynaecological problems. one womin referred for an operation to an outside hospital was told by them that the prison doctor should be sent on a refresher course. Yet Dr Tenari has absolute charge. The wimmin have no recourse to treatment outside the prison unless he decides on an operation.

wages

Wages have gone up 10p in the last 3 years to £1.05p a week. Sentenced wimmin get the same wage as remand wimmin, but they often work up to 16 hours a day, so really they're getting less.



complaints

'Any complaint we make goes as far as the Governor. Because we have no recourse to an impartial hearing, we don't complain, otherwise we won't have our time taken off. I've had to work hard for that remission.' You have to learn when to push and when to wait, a constant sense of being manipulated and deceived.

psychiatric wing

There are no windows, a bare cement floor, filthy mattress and filthy blankets. Many wimmin are put straight in on admission because of their crime, e.g. arson, etc. The screws and the powers that be think

INSIDE

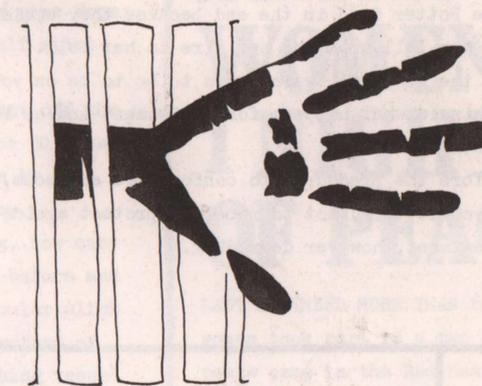
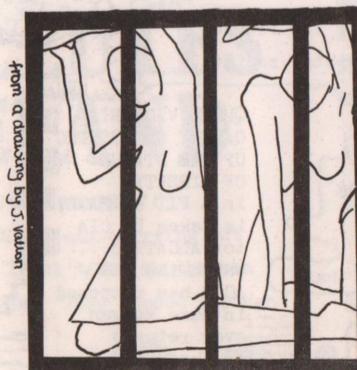
must be mad to have done it. Most wimmin, after a while are 'too disturbed to come out' to an ordinary wing. They get sent to Rampton. (A high security prison.)

punishment wing~ the strips

'In the strips you have nothing, given a potty, a canvas dress, no books, the light is on all the time. You are locked up 23 hours a day. During the other hour you are allowed either a bath or exercise, but not both. 'When you are on rule 43, you are locked up for no reason and there is nothing you can do about it.' 'I have been given drugs of all kinds by force, but now I take them without force.' 'I was on my own, I kept ringing the bell but no-one came, this is what cracks you up in the end, you go off your head. So I smashed a window and they sent me to the strips. There were men holding me down, I said I wouldn't take my clothes off. (you arn't allowed to keep your own clothes in the strips.) 'One of the men got hold of me and put my arms across my throat and I passes out through suffocation.'

education

'The Governor is very much against education and would like to stop it if she could. The wimmin here seem to like it.' One womin is doing 'A' levels working towards occupational therapy qualification when she gets out. 'It's a life saver in the months when you first come in, but that's just when you don't get it'.



guilty until proved not

The prison is basically for remand and you can wait up to 18 months for trial. This means that you have to be found guilty. 'No judge is going to find you innocent after you've served 11 months already'. He can't he says 'because there'd be a hue and cry from the media if I set this w min free'.

adoption

'If you have your baby in prison you can keep it for up to nine months', then the child is taken into care. A womin on the wing we were on had lost her two year old child to the authorities. Another was in danger of losing her 9 year old daughter. She was refused legal aid to fight the custody case on the grounds that she would probably lose it anyway.

support on release

'If you get probation you walk out of the court free, if you're lucky you still have a contact'. It's almost impossible to get things together after months in prison. We were all totally disorientated after only 2 weeks in Holloway, and we had each other about 30 of us and constant and overwhelming support. 'You've lost all your contacts, even with family and friends. It's bed& breakfasts into bedsits, since you'll have lost any tenants rights on property you might be unlikely enough to have had.' Struggle leads to more crime leads to more prison.

FROM INSIDE contd.

'There is a constant erosion of your self-respect, and yet we're really restricted in what we can do about it because they simply take time off us or add it on. So much is up to the discretion of the screw, eg June Potter died in the end because they wouldn't answer her bell when she set fire to her cell.'

One of the greatest fears seems to be to be on your own, this is what happens for punishment and/or if you crack up.

There fore the pressures to conform are enormous, to do as you're told, not to rebel or protest against the treatment, however degrading.

Some wimmin do resist fiercely and openly, many beat them at their own game. There was an inspiring sense of solidarity, humour and resilience and cunning (in the good sense of the word) in the wimmin's way of surviving the world of prison.

Taken from the Edinburgh Wimmin's Newsletter.

This article leaves out important things - like the racism that Black wimmin are faced with on top of every thing else. Like the fact that there are wimmin in Holloway waiting to be chucked out of the country because of racist immigration laws.

1
9
8
4

NOSTRADAMUS. 1984
interpretation by S.G.H.

January.
The very last Home Rule is granted to: LLAREGGUE

February
LONDON BECOMES THE LAST BASTION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

March.
The House of Commons is taken OVER by a Little Dragon

April
The Cabinet R U S H E S TO ABDICATE. Number Ten Downing put up for £5

June
Number Ten Downing bought for new offices to house the resurgence of: GAY NEWS.

July
WOMEN TAKE OVER ALL UK NUCLEAR BASES & FIND ALL THE USA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO BE FORGERIES MADE OF PLASTIC.

August.
Hilton buys the Tower of London; refurbishes it to Hilton standards. REAGAN imprisoned in the Tower of London for FRAUD. Given the good life there as reward, for life, by THE GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN.....

September
The Little-Dragon breathes the-air of lead; the dual and STOPS all-DISCRIMINATION AT THE FLICK OF ITS TAIL

October
It devours ALL BOMFOG literature & The Presses. When it regurgitates-it, all sexism, racists, disableists & ageists QQQQUAKKKE!

November
Some visitors to Lands End find a load of abandoned bikes. Some yachts found missing from yachts' pounds.

December
The Little Dragon brings Third World provision standards up to that of the First World. Its MAGIC baffles everyone. FORT KNOX GOLD VAULT FOUND TO HAVE BEEN RAIDED BY GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN!

QUEEN VICTORIA CAUGHT SSMASHING UP THE STATUE OF LIBERTY in a FIT of RAGE; is taken by CIA to: ALCATRAZ...! which the PENTAGON has reopened in case Reagan ever returns to the USA.

42

NUCLEAR WASTE:

CAUSES MONGOL BABIES

Two Dublin doctors have found connections between increased numbers of Down syndrome babies in the Dundalk area of Ireland and an accident at the nuclear reprocessing plant at Windscale in Cumbria.

A group of six women have given birth to mongol babies between 1963-1970. The only common factor in their lives seem to be that they lived in the Dundalk area and they all suffered a type of influenza in October 1957. At that time there had been a significant outbreak of a flu type virus in the schools. This was a few days after a major nuclear accident across the Irish sea at Windscale on the 10th October 1957.

To date 4 tonnes of plutonium has been discharge into the Irish sea from Windscale. One millionth of a gram is sufficient to produce cancer if breathed into the lungs.

POLLUTES IRELAND

ON SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER '83 Greenpeace dingy was carrying out radioactive level tests in the sea near Windscale. They passed through

what turned out to be a radioactive slick near the discharge pipe from Windscale. One and a half miles out to sea. Their counter reading went off the scales. It was well over 30 times the level permitted even by the Nuclear Protection Agency.

So, Greenpeace is asking, how many times has this happened before and how long has this particular slick been lying on the calm waters of the Irish sea? Any fishing vessel or fish passing through the area is most certainly contaminated.

Junior Environment Minister William Waldegrave, claimed that there was no danger and that the discharge had been just over twice the permitted daily emission rate. Process workers tell a very different story. Besides what was sent out to sea, the records show that 14 times that amount was transferred to a buffer tank. But workers who later inspected the tank found no trace of it. As one process worker said, 'All footsteps lead to the sea.'

Information from Outa Control.

ON SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER A TRAIN load of Cumbrians from the area around Windscale marched from Euston station to Downing Street. They handed in a petition and dumped piles of sand, sheeps livers and fish - all radioactive - at Whitehall. Two people got arrested.

43

BLACK WOMEN ~ 1 NIGHT OF PEACE

LAST NOVEMBER MORE THAN 600 women took part in a two week peace camp in the Red Heart of Australia. It was outside Pine Gap, the largest CIA installation outside the USA. It houses missile tracking devices which make it a prime nuclear target.

On November 12, the anniversary of the mysterious death in 1974 of American anti-nuclear activist Karen Silkwood, 111 women were charged with trespassing after they entered the grounds of the base and held a tea party to declare Australia's independence from US military policy. Human rights commissioners are now investigating complaints of brutality towards women who refused to be finger-printed. (Legally 'necessary force' can be used to obtain prints.) Members of local Aboriginal organisations commented that this was everyday treatment for them. And the night the town jail was filled with women peace campaigners was the first night that Black women had not been harassed by the police. Women on the peace camp supported Aboriginal land rights and publicised the fact that the base is on Aboriginal ground.

Information from Spare Rib



SAN JUAN

OVER 1,000 PUERTO RICAN WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND MEN MARCHED THROUGH THE CITY OF SAN JUAN (PUERTO RICO) IN PROTEST AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE.

The march was lead by a banner proclaiming Rompamos el Silencio - Let's Break the Silence.

They carried gasoline torches, and flares and banners proclaiming the stark facts and statistics of women who have been raped murdered and sexually abused by their husbands, lovers and by rapists.

Women who marched included feminists from all different organisations, women with children and women from various different womens' groups. A group of about thirty women

marched together near the back dressed in clothing ranging from nurses outfits, karate suits and one woman even wore her wedding dress. She said "We represent all the different roles of women - a bride, a domestic, a teacher - and men try to rape us all". the woman in her Karate

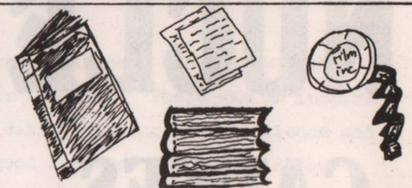
suit had similar reasons for marching in her outfit, "I want to show that I could be a Karateka and I still couldn't resist..we have to share our experiences," she said.

The march successfully brought together a variety of women with differing views politically, but they were united in their protest against something that affects all women - the daily threat of sexual violence from men.

There was no trouble from any of the onlookers. It concluded with a rally at the Capitol building, Lydia Falcon founder of the Spanish Feminist Party addressed the crowd. She compared the status of women in Spain and Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico she said she found women more passive and domestic than those in her country, and more influenced by men, while in Spain the oppression of women by the govt. is greater - 100's of women who have survived illegal abortions are now in jail for having the abortions.

At the end of the evening, the Brigada de Teatro Popular performed silent dance and theater on the steps of the Capitol building. Two women chanted a seemingly endless litany comprised of a list of the names, ages, and details of the murders of 118 women who have died in Puerto Rico at the hands of their husbands, boyfriends and rapists. Punctuating this, was the shout of a fervent promise from the speakers and the march participants: "TU MUERTE NO SERA EN VANO / MIENTRAS NOSOTRAS LUCHAMOS!" - YOUR DEATH WILL NOT BE IN VAIN / AS LONG AS WE STRUGGLE

(Taken from an article by Lynn Yanis Off Our Backs - An American News Journal. Available from OOB, 1841 Columbia Road NW Rm 212, Washington DC, 2009, USA.



3rd World Women's Archives

Founded in Oct. 81 by a group of Latina, Asian, and Afro-American women, the 3rd World Women's Archives has been gathering diverse, multi-lingual material which will enable us to piece together our histories. The documents we have been looking for include personal papers, letters and diaries, photographs, tapes, films, unpublished manuscripts, articles, books, journals, newspapers, flyers and posters, artwork in general, sheet music and records, and any other documents about, by, and for 3rd World women in the U.S. and abroad.

At present we have approx. 4000 books and periodicals, a sizeable vertical file collection of reprints, newsletters, clippings, and flyers, a women's, gay, and 3rd World/left newspaper collection, and a very small collection of personal papers, photographs, posters, artwork etc.

We have made the collection and preservation of these multi-cultural materials a political priority. Shared knowledge of the past and present struggles of internally colonized 3rd World women in the U.S.

and of women in Latin America, Asia, Africa and other areas of the 3rd World will provide us with vital political and personal energy and will be one more resource for our collective survival. As a non-profit organisation, the Archives also sponsors educational projects and programs of interest to the community (lectures, workshops, film series etc.). We also publish a newsletter and have several subject bibliographies on 3rd World women available for purchase.

WE INVITE ALL WOMEN TO HELP MAKE THE ARCHIVES A USEFUL RESOURCE
Address is: P.O.Box 159,
Bush Terminal Station,
Brooklyn, N.Y.11232, USA.

(Womanews, Nov.1983)

A Form of RACISM

CHESHIRE POLICE
ARREST FORM

CHESHIRE POLICE.

RACIST, ANTI-SEMITIC, SEXIST, ARREST FORM.

1. Arresting Officer... P.C. FAYAT, P.P.
2. Occupation... B.H.P.T.S. M.V.P.F.S.
3. Address... 100, QUEEN ST. W. W. W.

Personal Characteristics of Innocent suspect arrested.

1. Has the victim been raped, sexually abused, beaten, hung, maliciously wounded, shot, or had a faked suicide yet? YES, NO, etc.
THE YEAR..... (state which combination)

2. If not, why not? WHY NOT FOR.....
REASON.....

3. Fabricate the lie to be released to the Press and relatives... A. L. S. T. S.
FOLLOWING OFFICERS.....

Dated the 1st day of JANUARY, 1984
Signed..... A. S. P. S. T. S.

(By order of Racist and Anti-semitic Act 1939, Sexist Rules 67(c))
Supported and funded by H.M. Govt.

An arrest form that has been used by Cheshire Police has been at the centre of a row because of it's racist, sexist and anti-semitic language. The form is used by the police to take down details to describe a person who has been arrested, suspected, or summoned for an offence.

Continued top of page

The form uses the terms 'Negroid', 'effeminate' and 'Jewish nose'. Cheshire police say the form has been used for years without complaint. A spokesman for the police said: "our aim is for complete accuracy of description of suspects, and certainly not to offend anyone. However the complaints will be considered." Manchester University students have denounced the form as 'outrageous'.

(From WestIndian World)

ASSAULT IN LIVERPOOL

Today (Jan. 17th), in Liverpool the Social Services admitted placing a 7 year old differently-abled girl in the 'care' of a Foster father for a weekend, knowing that he was under police investigation for indecently assaulting another little girl that very week. The seven year old girl was indecently assaulted that weekend. The Social Services had been told by the police about the investigation into the previous assault, but were told not to 'do' anything any differently that normal. They did behave 'normally' and now excuse that encouragement of the abuse of this young girl by saying 'everyone makes mistakes'.

STOP PORN & VIOLENCE WILL IT?

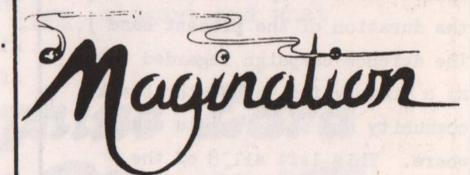
The Video Bill must be in it's third reading now in Parliament, and will probably be law by the end of 1984. Briefly, the Bill wants to be able to put certificates on every video made, like the type of categories used for films shown at the cinema.

45 continued at top of page

Anything the censors think too violent or pornographic would be made illegal - just not letting them have certificates !! All video shops will need licences to have videos of certain censorship in their shops. Brighton W.A.V.A.W. (Women Against Violence Against Women.) is leafletting about the pornography and violence in videos, and also about the Video Bill. We've met M.P. Bright who is putting it through Parliament and we're now waiting to see how ineffectual it is.

Why not write to your M.P. about how concerned and angry you are at the level of violence in videos, and to object to the porn that is also on sale in video shops.

You can contact Brighton W.A.V.A.W. by writing C/O 6 Marlborough Place, Brighton, Sussex.



A NEW VIDEO GAME - 'BASE INVADERS' has been launched by Magination, a company set up by two women in Newcastle - Fran Martin and Annie Lockwood.

It is a game that involves avoiding the policemen and cutting down the fence at Greenham Common!

It generated a lot of controversy in the press and a local computer shop refused to sell it because, in his words - 'it can only be played by women.'

All profits will go to Greenham. You can get the video game from: 21 Stratford Grove, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne for £3.

NEWHAM 8 WERE INNOCENT!



Newham 8 - Colin Roach ! One struggle One fight

As reported in Lysistrata no. 7, 8 Asian youths (the Newham 8) were arrested in September 1982.

They were defending themselves and their community against racist attacks. They were charged with 'conspiracy to assault persons unknown' and more minor charges such as causing an affray and being in possession of offensive weapons. The conspiracy charge carries a possibility of a life sentence.

VICTORY

However, after a year of deciding what charges to bring against the 8, the prosecution decided to lay the conspiracy charge on file (ie it cannot effectively be heard during the duration of the present case). The defence campaign regarded this as a victory for the 8, the black community and anti-racists everywhere. This left all 8 of the youths charged with causing an affray and four of them charged with possessing offensive weapons. Other charges included actual bodily harm and threatening behaviour.

The youths were arrested after a series of violent attacks upon Asian schoolchildren by racist white thugs. They had formed groups to take the children to school and on the day they were arrested, a car full of white men drew up. They shouted racist abuse at the youths, a fight broke out and these men turned out to be police in plain clothes. At the trial the prosecution case seemed mainly to draw attention to lies and contradictions between the police themselves!

SPG

The police officers questioned seemed startlingly unaware of the frequency of racist attacks in the Newham area. It also emerged during the trial that the plainclothes police involved in the original incident were members of the District Support Group (local SPG).

EGG!

Four of the 8 were let off and the other four were found guilty of causing an affray and were sentenced to 50 hours community service. The defence campaign sees this as a victory for the 8 and for the black community as a whole. The strong support the campaign has got from groups and individuals all over the country has made a great difference. There was a picket line outside the Old Bailey where the trial took place, during the six weeks. There was racist abuse and attack from some racist building workers on an adjacent site, which the police ignored even though one officer was hit by an egg himself! But those on the picket were not to be intimidated and the attacks stopped.

yet another TORY SHOWS HER RACISM

The newly-elected chairperson(?) of a local Conservative club was fined £450 damages for racial discrimination.

Rita Trowse, owner of the Beck Bakery in Scunthorpe, admitted turning down a job applicant after asking whether he was 'foreign or coloured'. Mrs Trowse informed the job centre that she urgently needed a baker. The job center gave details of the only

baker on their register. Having been told that the mans name was Jackson Mabwe, she asked if he was 'foreign' or 'coloured'. Having been told that he was, she answered, "I can't take him." She went on to claim that the employment of Kenyan-born Jackson Mabwe would affect her trade and upset her staff. When Leeds CRE (Co-

mmission for Racial Equality) accused her of discrimination, she admitted the charge and settled out of court. (Taken from WESTINDIAN WORLD)

DOWN WITH
FASCIST
BAKERY

DON'T SHOP
THERE

Hope she
chokes on her
doughnut!

IT'S MY BELIEF...

Frankly, I think she chopped him up. And no wonder, he was a miserable chap! Always in the bar and always quarreling with everyone, Sour-faced too. Not a man who is "happy in the bar and unhappy at home", as they say in these parts.

All the time complaining and arguing - everywhere.

He was always being soothed though, always being calmed down. I remember how they used to buy him a drink and seperate him from the other chap. What a reputation! Cross in a country like Spain, full of smiles and laughter, especially our village. No real problems either, his land was good, watered like everyone elses, when it was his turn. And his wife, what a worker, looking after the children cleaning the house and helping on the land. Good children too, plenty of respect, learning English, all helping. Even so, he was a cross man, cross as the mule we all use for ploughing. He had a machine of course.

It was all in the papers, there's a lot of cases of people getting their clothes caught in a machine. But his wife! Why didn't she know which handle to pull? Why did she push the forward handle? In little bits they said.

I met her yesterday - in the bar. Lovely clothes, very elegant and what a hair-do!

By Josephine Zara

