

S/4884

subversive sister

50p

The Housewives Choice



Printed by The Pankhurst Press 061 273 5673

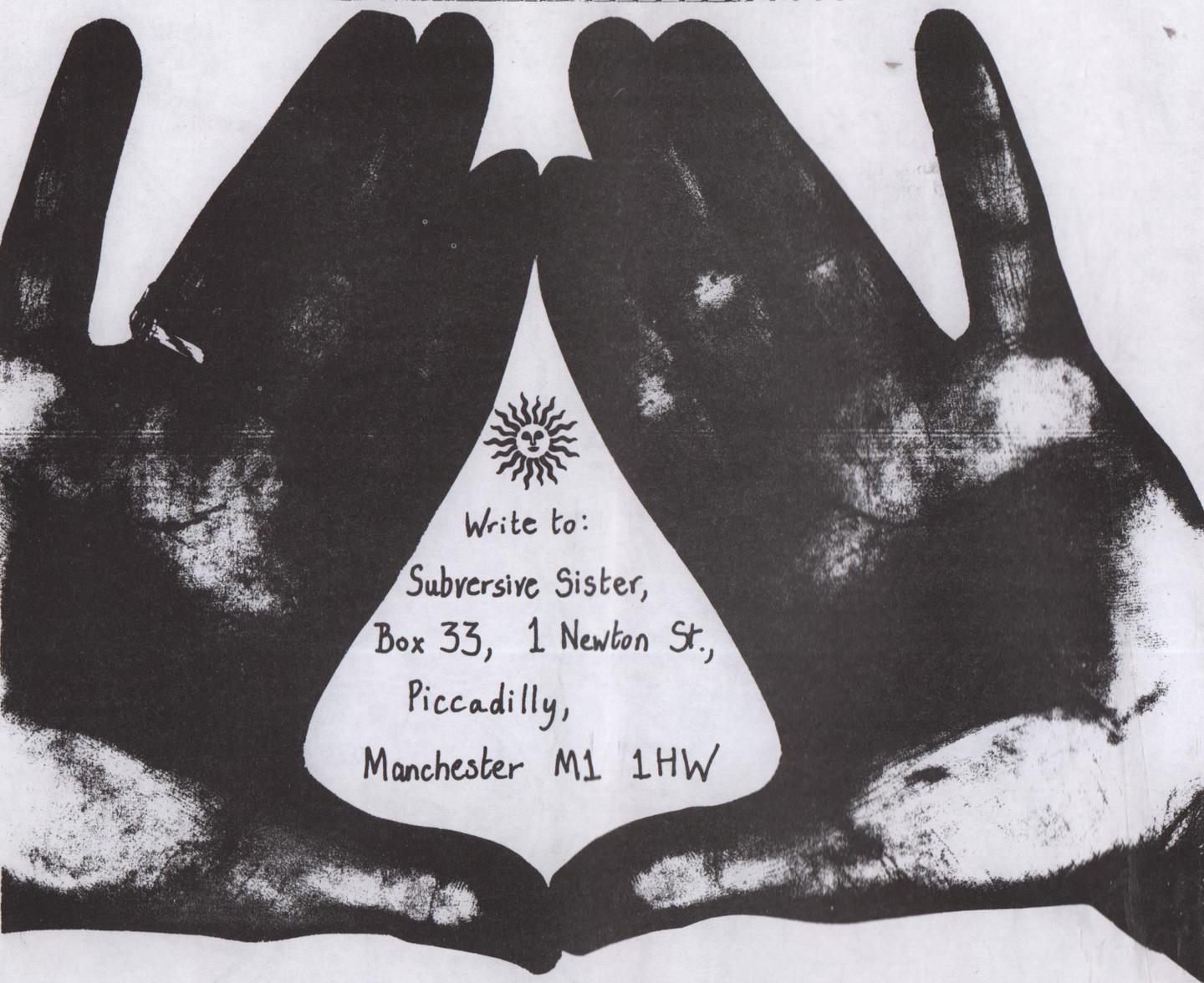


"Yes, Elizabeth Arden's 'Flawless Finish', we wouldn't go anywhere without it."

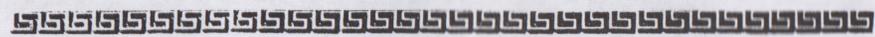
Issue 2

June-July-August 1993

Subversive Sister is produced by an open collective of women. We want more women to get involved, so please contact us if you are interested. We also want more contributions: letters, articles, stories, poems, cartoons & photos (black & white please) and Listings information.

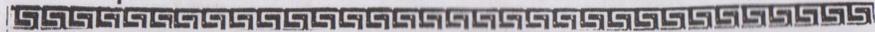


Write to:
 Subversive Sister,
 Box 33, 1 Newton St.,
 Piccadilly,
 Manchester M1 1HW



We will not print anything we find sexist, racist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive; and we won't print work by men or boys.

The views expressed in this magazine are the views of the individual contributors concerned, not necessarily the opinions of the collective as a whole.



EDITORIAL

SEXIST
BIGOT
CORNER...
↓

Well - we're back! - with a new improved, streamlined collective - two of the old collective decided that Subversive Sister was too offensive to men and any women that associate with men (!) so they decided to piss off with some of our funds (well, a tenner or so, but we're dead skint, so if one of those women happens to be reading this... don't get us wrong, we did appreciate all your help with the first issue, but you did know when you got involved that it wasn't a paid job...). So, anyway we desperately need new women to get involved and join the collective/contribute in any shape or form whatsoever. No experience, self-confidence (or talent even!) needed. And send us lots of nice letters, too (preferably with a crisp fifty pound note in each one).

P.S. We wanted to open a bank account in the name of Subversive Sister, but even though we're an extremely skint, unfunded group, we couldn't find one bank that didn't charge just for having the account. Changes in the law due to this bastard government mean that community group accounts don't exist anymore (unless you're a registered charity, I think), are classed as business accounts, which means you have to pay at least £2.50 a month just to have the account. Hardly seems fair. So... we've decided to utilise the bank account of an obliging collective member which'd fallen into disuse. But you can rest assured that we'll be keeping a close eye on her.

Yours subversively,
 the Subversive Sister Collective. xx

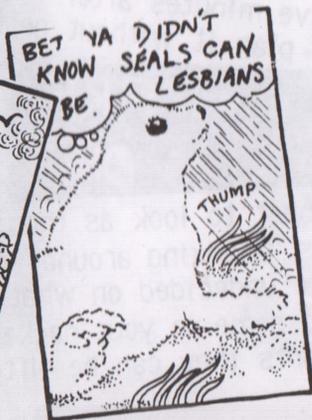
ESSENTIAL ADVICE FROM 'JUST 17'...

It's your solemn duty as a teenager to spend two hours in the morning getting to grips with a can of hair mousse.

besides, you can't be a proper teenager without the latest hair care range at your side.



GOSH!
 IF ONLY I'D
 KNOWN THAT AT 16
 MAYBE I'D HAVE
 TURNED OUT
 HETEROSEXUAL!



Top doc's
 drastic
 cure for
 breast
 cancer

By KEVIN O'LONE

BREAST cancer could be wiped out - if healthy women agreed to have their breasts cut off. This bizarre "cure" is the brainchild of a leading MALE gynaecologist. Professor James Drife admits that many might find his remedy for the disease that kills 15,000 women every year "shocking" and "unacceptably mutilating". But, in an article in the British Medical Journal, he says: "The way to eradicate breast cancer is to remove the breasts before cancer develops." Professor Drife, expert in obstetrics and gynaecology at Leeds Infirmary, claims women, often irrationally, want to keep their breasts as symbols of sexuality - even when they turn malignant.

Shave

The breast at 50 has no function apart from its psychological one... if my beard had a six per cent chance of turning malignant I would shave it off," he says. He sees "the sensible option" as mass mastectomy. "With the insertion of implants it could be carried out at any age." His controversial view was attacked by cancer specialists. Dr Trevor Powles, an expert from London said: "There are no circumstances I could contemplate in which doctors would want to remove a healthy breast. It's an absolute nonsense." A spokesman for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund added: "It is unacceptable."

↑
 FROM THE 'DAILY MIRROR' 18/4/92

STEALING FROM THE RICH

Most people are brought up to believe shoplifting is wrong. This is basically because all stealing is believed to be wrong. Also people who own a lot of money/ property etc like to keep it that way, even at the expense of others. Well, I believe that charging ridiculously high prices for essential items such as food and clothes is a very low form of theft and too common, so shoplifting is morally justified.

Example. A person on a low income steals from a department store. The dept store makes a huge profit every day. And I think the shoplifter deserves and needs the t-shirt/loaf of bread/whatever a hell lot more than the shop needs the money from the item(s).



Don't let the media crap fool you into thinking you're paying for quality when one big brand name is twice as much as another. What you usually pay for is the privilege of buying that particular product, just like designer clothes. We've been sold designer food for years while the big companies spend money on themselves and screwing up the world and its occupants. Shoplifting is not a crime, enforced poverty, that this society thrives on, is!

SHOE REPAIRS

Shoplifting is easier than it looks! It's even easier if 2 or more people are in on it as one person can do the nicking while the other(s) cover them by holding casual conversation and generally blocking the view of the assistant. I generally find it easier too nick something about five minutes after I've thought of it, that way I've had a bit of time to plan it without getting worked up or nervous.

FREE TAMPONS ON THE N.H.S.

THORNE ROAD S.W.8.

Obviously its best to look as though you intend to buy, which can be done in a few ways. Walking around with a few things in your hands will look like you're undecided on what to buy. You can then put some back on shelves and some in your pocket! If you put things back in full view of the assistants they can be lifted later when the coast is clear.

STOPPING

If you walk around the store with a supermarket trolley or basket full of stuff, some of the (more expensive) stuff can be pocketed when you know you're out of sight. If you're going to take things larger than pocket size make sure your bag doesn't look clearly empty when you go into the shop! Pad it out a bit with a thin shirt or cardboard folder for example. Also, with large items such as clothes, remove and hide as much packaging as possible. Not only are tags, labels, coat hangers etc bulky and sometimes rigged with anti theft devices, but if the worse happens and you're caught, its hard to prove you've actually stolen anything if you have nothing on you with the shop's name on it.

The most likely way you'll be convicted, if you've removed all evidence, is if you lose your nerve and admit to it, so try to keep your head! You "bought it the other day but lost the receipt" is hard to disprove unless of course you're on film. So, obvious as it sounds, look out for security cameras (inside and outside shops) and suss out any 'blind spots' they have before taking anything. Saying that, many ominous looking security devices do nothing except look like deterrents. For example bleeper tags don't bleep once they're removed from clothes and computerised tills with bar-codes and pens can't detect anything stolen, they only register what has been bought. Happy shopping!

I DON'T WANT A JOB



THRILLING PASTIMES FOR THE TERMINALLY SKINT...

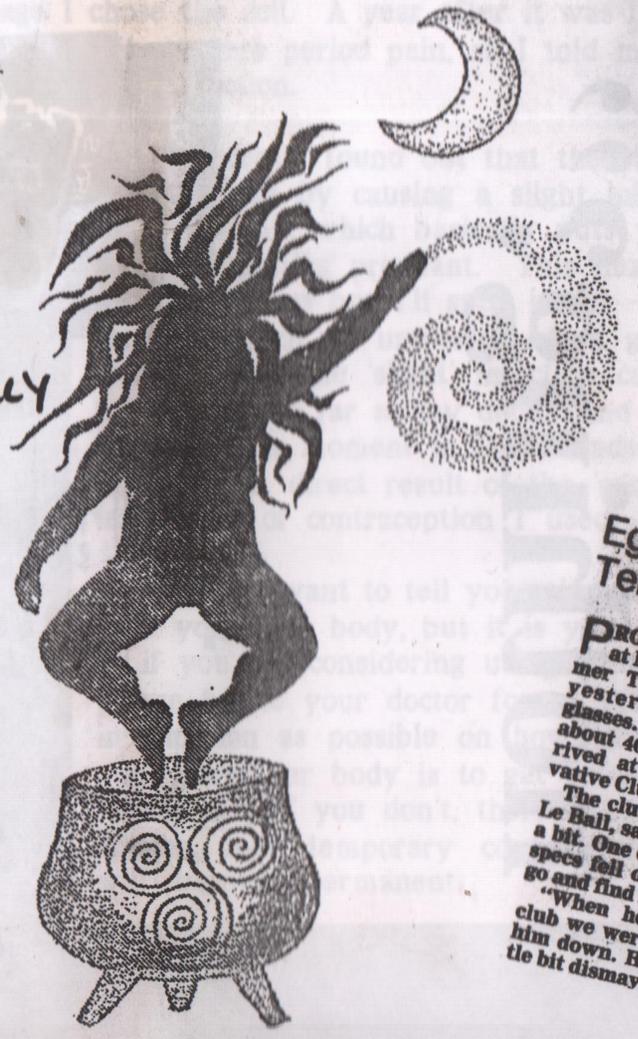
FREEPOST: Send anonymous bricks to as they have to pay postage.

The Field, FREEPOST of 344, Oxford OX2 0DP [bloodsport magazine at 5 Kings Meadow, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford].

Jess Miller Fishing Tackle, FREEPOST, PO Box 1461, London W6 0SL [letter-box sized parcels only].

FREEPHONE: dial from a public callbox and leave the phone off the hook.

Burger King, 0800 181167.
Dairy Crest 0800, 181016.
Group 4, 0800 440000 [DoT's private army on the Dongas - Tory MP, Malcolm Rifkind, is a director and also patron of Friends of the Earth...!]
American Express, 0800 521313 [built ski resort at East Fork, Colorado, wrecking a fragile eco-system].



Egg demo breaks Tebbit's glasses

PROTESTERS threw eggs at Norman Tebbit, the former Tory chairman (right) yesterday, breaking his glasses. He was ambushed by about 40 people when he arrived at Colchester Conservative Club, Essex. The club's secretary, Nigel Le Ball, said: "He was jostled a bit. One of the lenses in his specs fell out and we had to go and find it later. "When he got inside the club we were able to sponge him down. He was just a little bit dismayed."



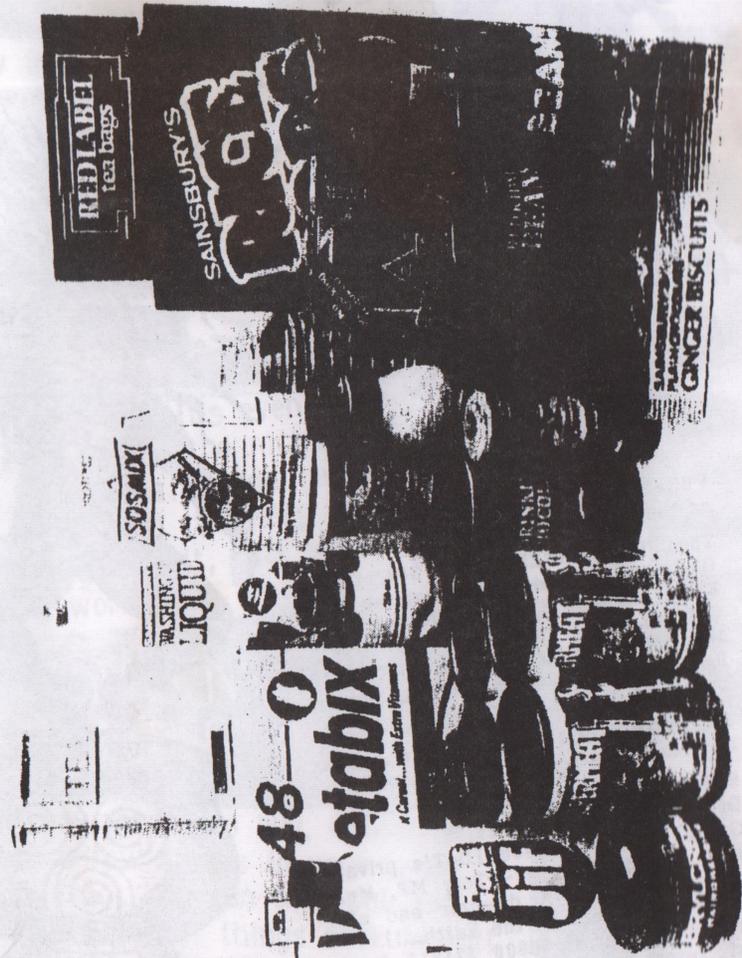
“All this for nothing?”

Yes.

At Sainsbury's we know that good food has never been more important. Today's diet means less meat and dairy products, and fewer chemicals. That's good news for us, good news for other animals, and good news for the earth.

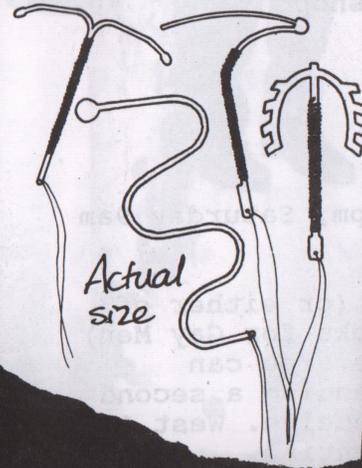
Fortunately good food has never been cheaper. For several years Sainsbury's have pioneered a new concept in consumer-choice. We call it **SHOPPING WITHOUT MONEY**. The idea is simple: food is a right, not a privilege. And we know that making millions by selling food, while three-quarters of the world starve, is immoral. All the more so, since those who make food, package it, transport it and sell it are usually overworked and underpaid.

Our answer is quite simple: under the **SHOPPING WITHOUT MONEY** scheme, if you see something you want, just take it. Some might call it shoplifting. We prefer to think of it as you taking back what is yours.



Good food costs nothing at Sainsbury's

IUD (the intrauterine device or coil) This is a small device, made of plastic with copper, put into the woman's womb by a doctor. Once in place it works for several years and stops any fertilised egg from settling there. Not a first choice method for young women.



I recently found out that the coil actually works by causing a slight infection in the womb, which basically puts your body off getting pregnant. This next bit sounds obvious but I'll spell it out - infections which go untreated often get worse. Well the 'slight' infection caused by my coil, as far as my doctor and I know at this moment in time, made me infertile. A direct result of the 'convenient' form of contraception I used.

I don't want to tell you what to do with your own body, but it is your body, so if you are considering using a coil, please hassle your doctor for as much information as possible on how likely your particular body is to get pelvic infections. If you don't, there's the chance your temporary contraception will become permanent.

No thanks!

If you live in an inner-city area and request NHS contraception you are most likely to be offered The Pill or the Intrauterine Device (I.U.D./coil). If you live in the suburbs, or give the impression that you're 'well off' in some other way, you will be more likely to be offered the cap. Draw your own conclusions from this, but I think the obvious one is that inner-city women, living on crappy council estates etc, are considered either uneducated (therefore thick) and/or promiscuous. Because of this, doctors offer them contraceptives which the women themselves have little or no control over.

The coil is inserted into the womb by qualified medical staff and removed only by them. You will probably be told by doctors and contraceptive 'information' leaflets, that no one is quite sure how it works. Bloody convenient or what! The Pill, as most people know by now, interferes with your hormones, causing your body to 'believe' it's pregnant. Also causing you to put irremovable chemicals into the water supply everytime you pee. I didn't think this was very healthy, so after my son was born 3 years ago I chose the coil. A year after it was fitted I spent about a day in what felt like severe period pain, so I told my doctor who then said I had a pelvic infection.

WEST & WILDE = BOOKSHOP =

Anyone out there as crazy about books as I am? If so - you may be interested in a wonderful bookshop in Edinburgh called 'West & Wilde'. (No - I'm not suggesting you nip up there just to purchase a copy of 'Patience and Sarah' - just hang on.)

West & Wilde is an alternative bookshop stocking hundreds of Lesbian, Gay and Feminist titles. If you require a specific book which they do not have in stock, they will do their best to obtain it for you at no extra charge. This applies even if the book is a foreign publication, say American or Canadian. They will also search for out of print titles.

West & Wilde run an efficient mail order service (I know - I've used them.) and you can ring them or write to them to order a book of your choice, perhaps one chosen from the 'Lavender Lesbian List', a newsletter produced six times a year by women at W & W. It lists all the latest titles by, for and about lesbians. Details of how to obtain the list at the end of this piece.

West & Wilde also stock a comprehensive range of Lesbian/Gay/Feminist magazines. Alongside the usual Pink Paper/ Rouge/ Gay Times, you'll find many other magazines including 'Woman of Power', a wonderful magazine exploring women's spirituality - a different theme each issue, 'Lesbian Connection', a lesbian newsletter from the USA - so perhaps not desperately relevant to us Britons but always extremely interesting to see how our American sisters operate. The Lavender List details all these publications and more, so there's BOUND to be something that appeals to you.

So - if there's a book you're having difficulty with, give West & Wilde a ring and see if they can help. Their address is as follows:

West & Wilde Bookshop
25A Dundas Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6QQ

Tel no: 031 556 0079

Opening hours are: Monday-Friday 9am to 9pm, Saturday 9am to 7pm and Sundays 12 noon to 6pm.

To obtain a copy of Lavender Lesbian List (or either of their other lists, Books for Women and Books for Gay Men) send an SAE stating which list you require. You can subscribe to any of the lists simply by sending a second class stamp for every issue you wish to receive. West & Wilde's mailing list is absolutely confidential, addresses are never passed on to any one else.

Whichever magazine you decide to fall in with, for heavens sake don't stop purchasing Subversive Sister, or we'll be round to kick your windows in. Oh, and don't forget to make Frontline your first port of call when beginning a search for a particular publication!

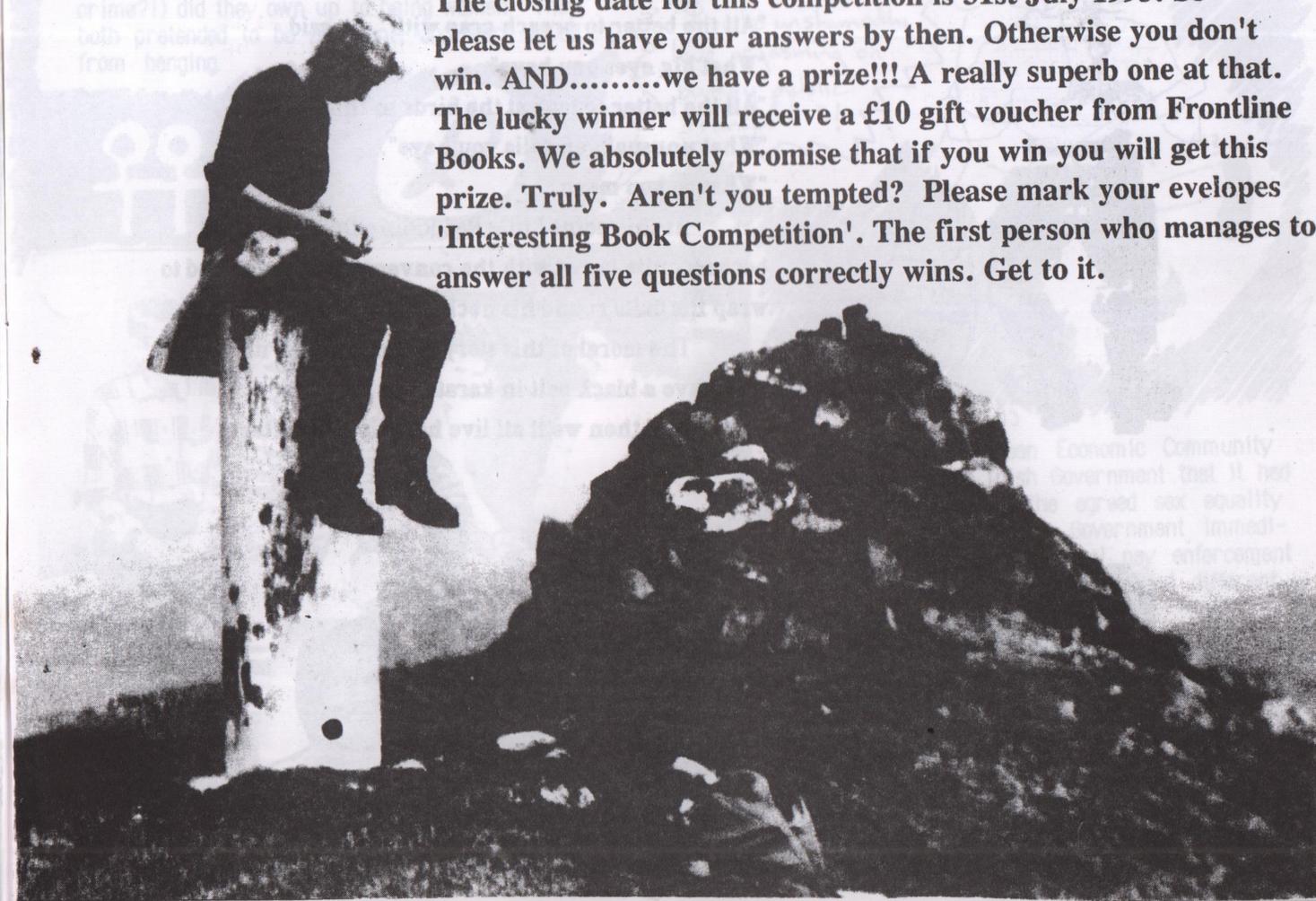


A REALLY INTERESTING QUIZ ABOUT BOOKS

1. Name the author of 'Patience and Sarah'.
2. Name one other novel by the above mentioned author.
3. Give the titles of four books by Jeanette Winterson.
4. Who is the author of 'Rotary Spokes'?
5. Alice Walker is the author of one of the following books. Which one?
 - a. The Unlit Lamp
 - b. Possessing The Secret Of Joy
 - c. Not The Swiss Family Robinson
 - d. Moll Cutpurse



The closing date for this competition is 31st July 1993. So please let us have your answers by then. Otherwise you don't win. AND.....we have a prize!!! A really superb one at that. The lucky winner will receive a £10 gift voucher from Frontline Books. We absolutely promise that if you win you will get this prize. Truly. Aren't you tempted? Please mark your envelopes 'Interesting Book Competition'. The first person who manages to answer all five questions correctly wins. Get to it.



Little Red Riding Dyke

Once upon a time, Little Red Riding Dyke was walking through the gay village when, from behind a lampost, leaped the Big Bad Hettie.

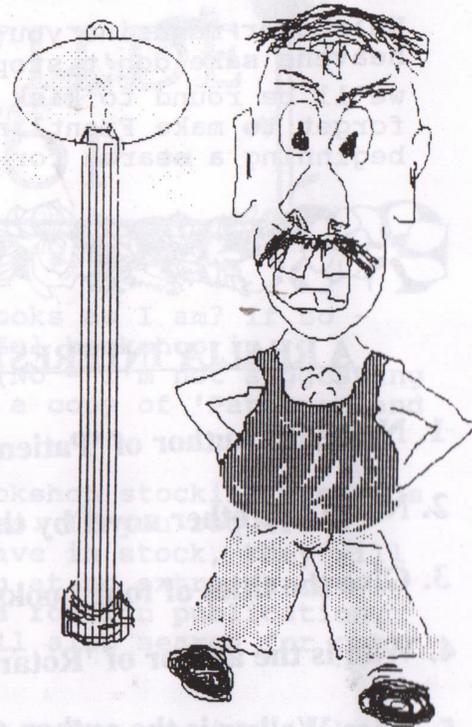
"Where are you going to little girl?", asked the wolf.

"To Follies to meet my girlfriend", she replied.

"What's in your bag?", he asked.

"Just some dental dams and my spare pair of doc's."

The Big Bad Hettie decided to escort Little Red Riding Dyke to Follies "just in case someone attacked her".



Along the way he told her of the 'joys' of hettie sex and how what she really needed was a "real man".

Little Red Riding Dyke was not convinced.

"What a big mouth you have", she said.

"All the better to preach crap with", he said.

"What big eyes you have".

"All the better to look at the birds in the sport".

"What unusual genitalia you have".

"What do you mean?"

At this point Little Red Riding Dyke, who had become quite bored with the conversation, proceeded to wrap his balls round his neck.

The moral of this story is: don't mess with women who have a black belt in karate.

And then we'll all live happily ever after!

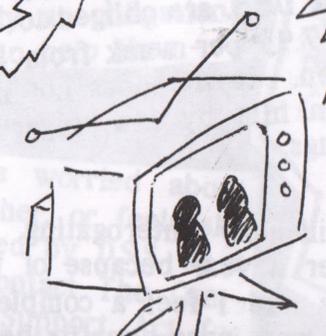


The word 'Hero' is usually used to mean a brave, adventurous man; which is why modern language needs the word 'Heroine' as a female equivalent. Hero was originally a woman, however man simply stole her name.



Manchester's buses & train services have often been criticised for their tardiness, limited late night services & prices.

But we have in the studio a ♀ who claims there are ♀ who look forward to their daily bus & train trips.



F**k London

Ann Bonny and Mary Reid were pirates who once terrorised countless people on the "high seas". When they were finally caught and arrested, their appearances and unladylike behaviour led them to be mistaken for men. Only when they were both about to be hung for their 'crimes' (killing rich men and nicking the money - a crime?!) did they own up to being women. They both pretended to be pregnant, and were saved from hanging.



In 1976 the European Economic Community pointed out to the Irish Government that it had not yet implemented the agreed sex equality legislation. The Dublin Government immediately advertised for an equal pay enforcement officer. The advertisement offered different salary scales for men and women.



THE CHILD SUPPORT ACT (for your own benefit)

In case you don't already know, The Child Support Act came into practice in April. This means that the D.S.S. are obliged to 'fine' any single mother on income support by taking £7.93 per week from them if they refuse to name the father of their children. If she does not name him, she will be become financially dependent on him by law, regardless of her own, her children's, or the father's feelings.

D.S.S. have already been, illegally interrogating, sorry interviewing women on their sex lives for over a year because of the act. Since April, interviews have been compulsory and I feel a complete lack of co-operation is the only way to stop more and more benefits being cut for more and more ridiculous reasons. Remember, there's nothing stopping you from lying to the D.S.S. as long as you aren't caught out, and usually nothing to gain from telling the truth!

If these interviews are successful the Government will have money to spend on 'important' things (missiles, nice suits, etc). While unemployed single mothers are forced to find low waged jobs, possibly turning to prostitution or other illegal and potentially dangerous situations, to avoid poverty or retain contact with a man they don't want to have contact with for a multitude of reasons.

Some people may think its a good thing for a father to be forced into responsibility. But women are only recently finding it possible to be independent from violent/lazy/unreasonable husbands whom they were once forced to stay with for better or for worse. This law's a step backwards for them and anyone who lives outside social stereotypes.

Some expartners have tried to persuade women to stop claiming benefits so that they don't have to be named. Even in less extreme cases, resentment is built up when a man re-marries and has a second family to support.

(CONTINUED) ... ➔

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHILD SUPPORT ACT

Box 14, 1 Newton St, M'chester M1 1HW (061) 344 0758
 (071) 837 7509 minicom/voice (0272) 426608 Fax (071) 833 4817
 CACSA is co-ordinated by the Wages for Housework Campaign & Payday men's network

I feel it is up to anyone interviewed to deny any knowledge of their child's father, this way you can't be fined. The fewer people this crappy law effects, the better, because if they get away with this, who's next? Everyone is made to feel humble because of benefits they receive, but why should anyone be made to feel ashamed by the people who who have no right to judge, only an obligation to help those not allowed to help themselves.

Any mother who is worried about how this law will effect her, or feels she has/will be unfairly treated by D.S.S. as a result of this law, can contact The Campaign Against The Child Support Act for info or support.

Public Meeting
 Single mothers & supporters
 Non-co-operation with the
 Child Support Act

Wednesday 7 July 1993 7.30pm
 Committee room 1, M'chester Town Hall,
 Lloyd St entrance.

Creche * Wheelchair accessible *
 Refreshments * SLI on request *
 Admission Free * ALL WELCOME!

Husbands are such slob



ODIOUS TYRANNY

Paterfamilias insists that the girls shall wear very stout boots in the wet weather, but the girls don't at all like "THE NASTY, GREAT, UGLY, CLUMSY THICK THINGS!"

Punch

WHAT'S AN ORGASM?

naked

abuse...

There is something going on routinely in the British state's jails, police stations and ports of entry which, if it happened in any other situation, the law would undoubtedly call an indecent assault. The Government says it's an important security procedure and that it's done sensitively and only when absolutely necessary. It simply involves having to remove some of your clothes so you can be searched. It doesn't sound too sinister or terrible. Until you know exactly how and why it is done, and think about how it would feel to have it done to you.

The practice is known as strip searching. To call it a strip search, all that needs to happen in theory is for you to be asked to take off any piece of clothing which is worn on your trunk touching your skin; for instance, T-shirt or skirt. In practice, however, strip searching usually goes a lot further than this. And they're not just asking you. They're forcing you.

Your average strip search can last for up to 40 minutes; and for much of that time, you'll be only half-dressed, if not naked. Since a strip search usually means what it sounds like - you have to take off all your clothes. And you may have to do it in a little open cubicle, or in a big cold room in front of several police or prison officers. (There's supposed to be only women present, but there are documented cases of women being strip searched in the presence of male officers, or at least with men able to see and hear what goes on.) There's unlikely to be any explanation about the procedure and what to expect, or why it's being done. Once you're naked, you're likely to have your body examined, like an animal - everything from inside your mouth and between your toes, to under your breasts and between your legs. If you're on your period, you'll have to remove your towel or tampon, and you'll have to stand there with blood running down your leg for a while till they give you a fresh one. You may have to face verbal abuse and insults about your body, and rough, abusive handling. If you refuse to do what they tell you, they will hold you down and remove your clothes by force, often inflicting plenty of bruises in the process. You could have to go through this if you're as young as 15 or as old as 70; just after you've miscarried or given birth or had a major operation. It might happen

just once or twice, while you're being held in police custody or as an immigrant or asylum seeker at the airport, fearing that they'll never let you go if you don't comply. Or it might be a ridiculous number of times - as a remand prisoner, you could be searched twice a day (on leaving for court & on returning) five days a week throughout a long trial, to the extent that your emotional stability and your ability to defend yourself in court is undermined (this, despite the fact that you were handcuffed to a police officer all day so how could you have anything for them to find?) And after being strip searched, whether it was done just once or time and again, you're likely to suffer distress and anxiety. Feelings of guilt, fear, humiliation, disorientation, and anger are common; with nightmares, flashbacks and anxiety for up to two years after your release. In fact, the effects that women speak of are very similar to those reported by rape survivors, including ongoing feelings of distress about undressing in front of anyone, even close friends or lovers. And for what? Even the British government admits that **NEVER** has any item which seriously threatens security been found by a strip search in any British jail.



It isn't a new discovery that making someone remove their clothes makes them feel abused and vulnerable, especially if it's done by their oppressor. And the systematic use of strip searching as a means of intimidation isn't new either; it's part of the ugly history of many colonial and imperialist regimes, including Britain's. Strip searching has also been used for years against dissidents at home - suffragettes, peace campaigners, trades unionists, and all kinds of political activists fighting for justice have suffered it, although the overwhelming majority have been women. In recent years, targets have included prostitutes, AIDS activists, Greenham women and others who, significantly, have been campaigning on issues to do with sexuality and the body (do the powers that be feel that this is the best way to deal with such people and hurt them?) However, strip searching has been used most systematically of all against two groups - Black people, and Irish Republicans, in both cases especially women.

Strip searching was first introduced to Armagh women's jail (a prison in the occupied six counties of Northern Ireland where Republican

women were held) in 1982. In March 1986, the women were transferred to a brand new prison building called Maghaberry, which had sophisticated new surveillance equipment worth £5,000,000. But the Prison officers still preferred to use the "low tech" process of strip searching, despite its questionable security value. Then, since the late 1980's, there has been a marked increase in the use of strip searching outside prisons - chiefly at police stations (especially on people held incommunicado under the Prevention of Terrorism Act) and at airports on immigrants and asylum seekers. (This has coincided with an increase in State racism and a much harsher attitude towards immigration, with the Nationality Act and increases in deportations and harassment of Black immigrants.) On International Women's Day in 1992, a mass strip search was carried out on the Republican women prisoners of Maghaberry - they resisted and were forcibly and violently stripped. But one woman had recently had major surgery, and in an uncharacteristic show of sympathy the prison authorities agreed to search her with a metal detector instead. This is easier, quicker and much less humiliating - if it was OK and didn't jeopardise security to do this to one woman, why not all? Could it be that strip searching has little to do with security, but is preferred precisely because it is intimidating and unpleasant?

Women know about having our own naked bodies used as weapons against us in a system run by woman-haters. Rape and porn are examples of this, and strip searching works in a similar way - it's no accident that the psychological effects are almost identical. A strip search is much more than just the removal of clothes; it's a form of violation, an acting-out of power and powerlessness. Those in authority know that enforced nakedness makes people vulnerable and scared. And they realise that this works particularly well on women, because we are brought up to be ashamed of our bodies and to understand that we have few if any real rights over them, that nakedness is something we have little or no choice about. It's not that women are "naturally" any more modest or weak than men. It's just that the

nature of our oppression means that forcing a woman to strip carries many more nasty implications than doing the same thing to a man. In a sane world, of course, a woman's naked body would be her own, and it could only make her feel pride. But we don't live in a sane world, and the female body is something that is constantly taken away from us, acted upon by the system, in ways that make us feel guilt, shame, vulnerability and fear. Strip searching "works" because it homes in on those feelings. Also, the State knows that a strip search is especially effective against those who know that Britain is their enemy, and realise it's not just some impersonal procedure but is meant as an attack. That's why strip searching, like rape, has been a weapon of war & colonisation; and that's why it is the weapon of choice against Irish Republican women. It is Britain attempting to show who's boss, and trying to break the will of those who oppose its rule in Ireland. "They" can refuse you your rights, your freedom, even your request to go to the toilet, until you agree to take your clothes off in front of them knowing there is no need and they're only doing it to humiliate you. The Northern Ireland Office has said strip-searches are necessary, and that protest against the procedure is "politically motivated," implying that if you are motivated by a political concern for justice then you're somehow lying and your objections must be ill-founded. And implying also that the whole process of strip searching, and the justification of it, is not even remotely politically motivated. Sometimes it seems it's only politicians who are allowed the luxury of not being thought political...

STILL, it's not just prisoners of war who suffer. As with the P.T.A, the whole Irish community is affected, and Irish women who are not republicans are strip-searched and criminalised too. A recent case is that of Kate Magee. Kate was detained on April 14th 1992 after the killing of an Army recruiting officer in Derby the previous day. There were armed raids on the Irish community by the police, just like the hysteria that led to the arrest of the Guildford 4 and Birmingham Six all over



Irish woman Kate Magee

again. Kate was arrested at gunpoint after an armed siege of her road and house; her six-year old child was taken away & they wouldn't even tell her where for six days. Kate was detained for 6 days under the P.T.A. and for a further 3 days under ordinary law, and no-one knew where she was. They finally charged her with failure to disclose information, and impeding the arrest of person or persons unknown. It was not implied she had been involved in the killing herself, just that she might know something. After being charged, Kate was taken to Durham jail, notorious for the strip searching of Irish prisoners Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson. She was allowed phonecalls as long as she didn't say where she was. Meanwhile, Irish welfare groups trying to trace her were meeting a wall of silence; they were even told she was being held in Ireland. Sixteen days after her arrest, the Derby police finally told her family where she was.

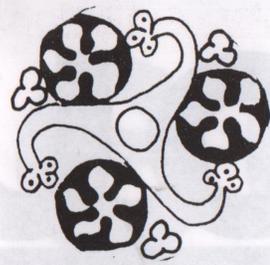
She was held for 66 days, appearing in court handcuffed & with armed police, despite the relatively minor nature of the charges. And she was strip searched before and after every court appearance and prison visit. Finally, the prosecution dropped one of the charges and Kate was released on bail. She is now waiting for a trial date and venue - it is likely to be soon - and needs all the support she can get. Contact:

KATE MAGEE

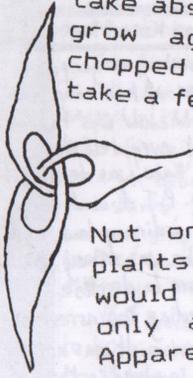
SUPPORT GROUP

P.O. Box 158, Derby DE1 9NB

Guess wot the solution to the earth's diminishing supply of trees and other natural resources, (aided and abetted by rich and greedy capitalist bastard men) is? This isn't an issue specifically concerned with women, but we thought it might make interesting reading.



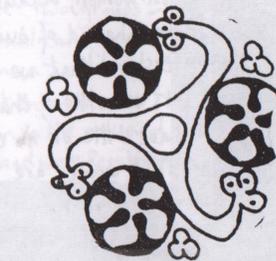
Until the 20th Century the marijuana plant provided nearly all the world's paper, all the world's clothing and textiles and almost all the world's rope. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's own figures show that an acre of hemp plants will supply four times as much paper as an acre of trees. And unlike trees, which take absolutely ages and ages to grow again once they've been chopped down, hemp plants only take a few months.



Not only that, but using hemp plants costs a quarter of what it would if trees were used, and at only a fifth of the pollution. Apparently, the Ancient Romans grew it for this purpose, and that mysogenistic shithead Henry the 8th insisted that every farmer grow a certain amount of it. Levi Jeans were originally made out of it, as were U.S. flags, and the early drafts of the



Yet another fascinating fact about the stuff. In the U.S. colonies in the 1760's *not* growing pot was a crime punishable by

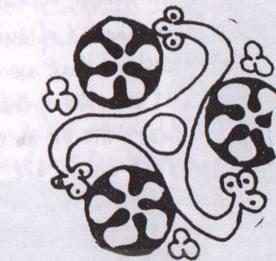


Hemp has loads of uses (so you don't have to be into spliffs to appreciate it's value!) - it's not only the strongest natural fibre there is, cars can run on it, too. You can get at least four times as much cellulose to make gasohol and methanol from hemp stems as you can from corn. This would seem to be a better and necessary alternative in view of the rapidly diminishing North Sea oil reserves. In the 20's and 30's most U.S. cars and farm machinery could either run on petrol or methanol, and most racing cars still run on methanol.



Hemp seeds are also an excellent source of protein, better than soya beans (and let's face it, nothing could be as tasteless as soya beans), and cheaper than them, too. And this is according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture again, so it's hardly likely to be an exaggeration.

And the wonders of the stuff don't stop there either - it has medical uses as well. Hemp can be used in the treatment of glaucoma, pain caused by cancer, and it's also thought to cure herpes.



The Wonders of Pot Plants...

American Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as were King James Bibles (a lot of this info is more about the U.S. than here, as it was taken from an American source).

inprisonment, because it was part of the key to becoming economically independent from Britain.

All this leads us to the question of ...why the hell are we fucking up the earth when

we don't have to, at least not to the extent we are now? (I mean "men" rather than "we" - how big a part do women as a whole play in actively dominating and exploiting the earth?). I'm not quite sure exactly how much relevance this has on a global scale, as this is specifically about the U.S. but probably a fair bit, I'd say. In 1956 in the U.S. a new machine for processing hemp was invented, and as a result pot was destined to once again become the world's largest cash crop. But multi-national bastard companies like Kimberley Cl**k who had large timber holdings weren't too into the idea, likewise the tobacco barons (for obvious reasons). Chemical companies like DuPont, who had just patented a new wood pulp sulphide process, realised that making hemp into paper only takes a fifth of the chemicals that woodpulp does. And they'd just patented some new plastic fibres, too.

The drug companies wanted to ban dope because they didn't want to lose their share of the profitable drug market to cheaper remedies made from hemp, coupled with the fact that in the States (and probably over here as well) you can't patent a medicine unless it has artificial ingredients in it.

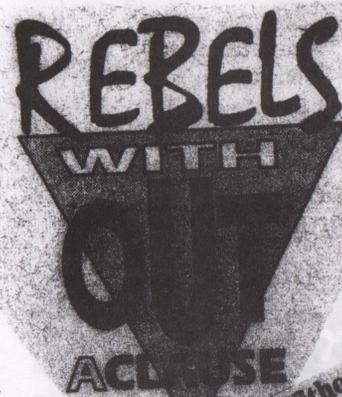
APPLE PICKING WENCH



So - because of their immense influence in the U.S. Congress, draw was made illegal in 1937.



LISTINGS



Phone Cathy 061-236 2773 (day)
or Chris 061-226 2996 (eve).

Rebels Without A Clause is a group of north west lesbian, gay, bisexual writers and actors formed by Commonword's Northern Gay Writers Workshop and Pyramid Theatre Group.
c/o Commonword, 21 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1FZ.

Remember: SEND US DETAILS OF YOUR GROUP OR EVENT!

THURSDAY 1st JULY at 7.30pm
JANET MCDERMOTT
will be reading from her first novel
"YASMIN"

A first novel by an Asian woman living in Sheffield, "Yasmin" is about a woman brought up by her English mother but whose father is Pakistani, and how she gradually discovers her own identity.

The reading is at Frontline Books, Newton St., Manchester. Admission 50p (or £1 if you are waged) Access down a flight of steps.

RAPE CRISIS
834-8784
Tues & Fri 2-5pm
Wed, Thurs, Sun 6-9pm
if you've suffered rape or sexual abuse, no matter how long ago

WOMEN IN THE TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT
are showing a video about
STRIP SEARCHING
on Wednesday June 30th at 7.30pm.
at THE DEAF CENTRE, Oxford Road.
Admission is free & the venue is fully accessible.



Troops Out campaigns to get British troops out of Ireland.

Manchester Black Lesbian Group
Box 26, 1, Newton St.,
Manchester M1 1HW

SHADES - help for homeless young people
48 Copperas St, M4
Phone 834 7360



The Irish in Britain Representation Group (IBRG) is organising a day of discussion on the history of the Irish community, on SAT. JULY 3RD, 10am-5pm, at BRENDAN'S IRISH CENTRE, CITY ROAD, OLD TRAFFORD.

The afternoon focusses on Irish women in Britain and Ireland, and includes a talk by Derry community activist Mary Nelis.

Admission £4 waged, £2 unwaged.
Contact IBRG, c/o 1 Newton St, Manchester M1 1HW, to book.

Lesbian Youth Support Information Service (LYSIS) provides a telephone advice service every Wednesday 7-9pm and Saturday 2-5pm. Also publish "I think I might be a Lesbian...now what do I do?" and other pamphlets. Write to P O Box 8, Todmorden, Lancs. OL14 5TZ. LYSIS info on 0706-817235.

Lesbian LINK

PHONE 236 6205
MINICOM 273 5736
for information; Young Lesbian Group; Black Young Lesbian Group

Waterstone's is at
91 Deansgate, Manchester.

CULTUREWORD/Commonword at WATERSTONES

Black Women Poets: Monday 21st June 7pm

A feast of poetry from Cheryl Martin, Pauline Omoboye and Georgina Blake. Reading from their latest books: 'The Sun Rises in the North' (Smith Doorstop); 'Talkers through Dream Doors' (Crocus) and 'The Delicious Lie' (Crocus).

'Crocus Five Women Poets' Launch: Friday 25th June 7pm

Celebrate the launch of this new collection by north west poets. Pat Winslow, Barbara Bentley, Marguerite Gazeley, Sheila Parry and Frances Nagle will be reading from their new book.

Jo stopped worrying about being a lesbian, when she talked to a 13 year old expert.

Jo and Kathy talked for hours. Boys, music, teachers... GIRLS

Eventually Jo plucked up courage to tell her friend that she fancied girls. Kathy was unusually reassuring.

"I used to be worried about fancying them too. Now it doesn't bother me"

"Really? How long have you fancied women?"

"Since I was 11. I started going out with boys like you, then I started getting these feelings for the girl next door."

IT'S JUST A PHASE

"I told my Mum and she said it was just a phase and that I'll grow out of it. At first I thought I was the only one. I felt really isolated and alone. I thought there was something wrong with me. But then I found a copy of Subversive Sister, and I realized that lesbians were everywhere. So I started doing some graffiti in the toilets at school."

"So that was you then! Everyone was talking about it."

SUBVERSIVE SISTER

"You really should read it! It's based in Manchester and



put together by an unpaid collective of amazing, dedicated, hardworking women. They take pride in being wild and angry. And they're dead groovy too!"

"Do you think I'll like it then?"

"Of course you would. Why not send off for a copy."

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cheque/postal order of three quid payable to L. Bennett.

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Town _____
County _____
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SUBVERSIVE SISTER

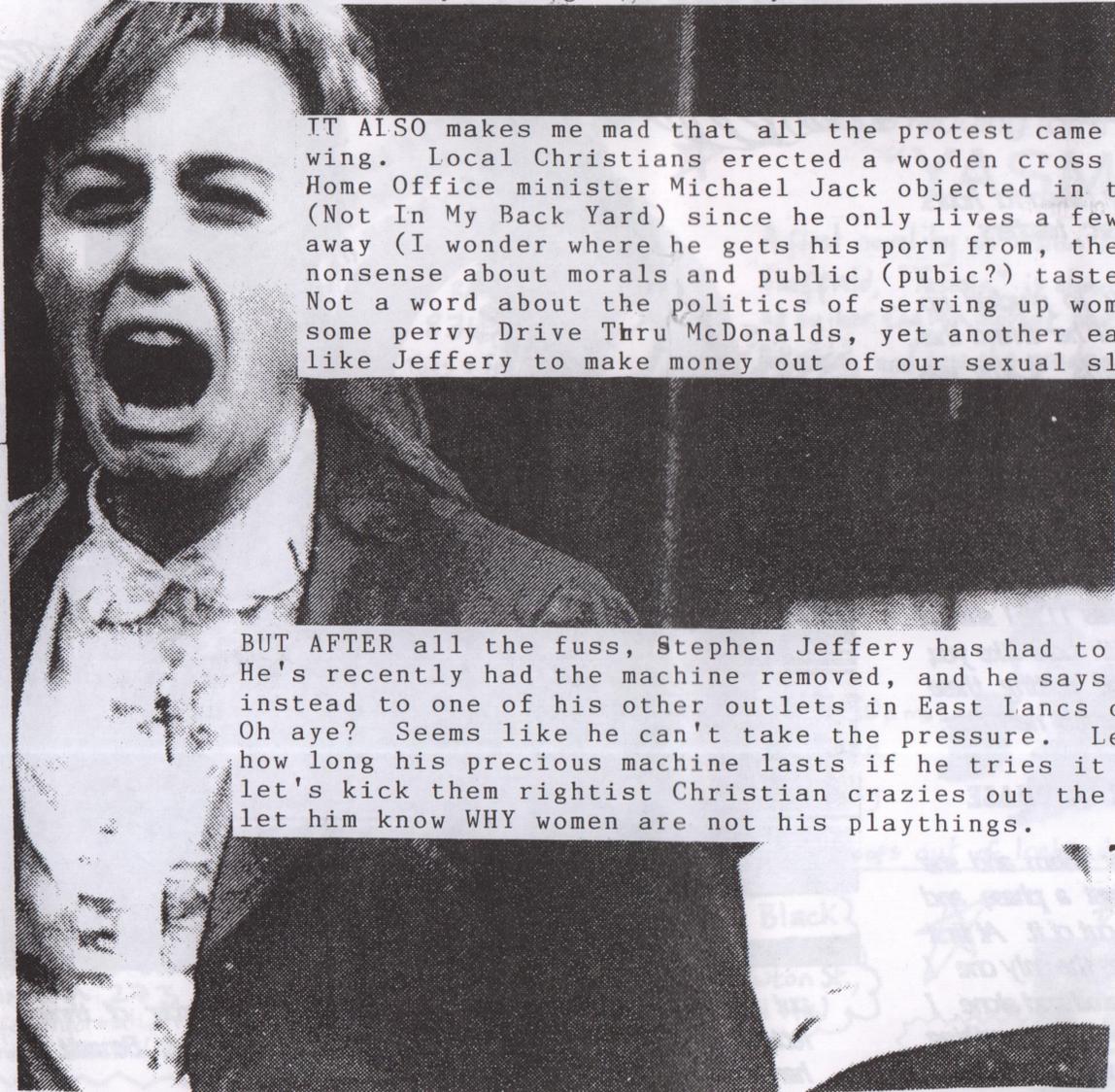
Why stop here. Get involved!

Courtesy of



It Makes Me Mad

THERE'S A MAN called Stephen Jeffery who sells pornography in the North West. At his shop in Lytham, he had a machine installed which, a bit like a cashpoint, could dispense porn videos at any hour of the day or night for lechy bastard men to leer over.



IT ALSO makes me mad that all the protest came from the right wing. Local Christians erected a wooden cross nearby, and ex-Home Office minister Michael Jack objected in true NIMBY style (Not In My Back Yard) since he only lives a few hundred yards away (I wonder where he gets his porn from, then?) Lots of nonsense about morals and public (pubic?) taste and decency. Not a word about the politics of serving up women's bodies like some pervy Drive Thru McDonalds, yet another easy way for men like Jeffery to make money out of our sexual slavery.

BUT AFTER all the fuss, Stephen Jeffery has had to give up. He's recently had the machine removed, and he says it'll go to instead to one of his other outlets in East Lancs or Manchester. Oh aye? Seems like he can't take the pressure. Let's see how long his precious machine lasts if he tries it again, and let's kick them rightist Christian crazies out the way and let him know WHY women are not his playthings.

LOVE IS...



OR IS IT?



HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES

Well they've worked for me as well as, and in some cases better than, 'conventional' methods so here's a list of common complaints and remedies.

P.M.T. Calc. Carb., Graphites, Lycopodium, Nat. Mur., Nux. Vom., Pulsatilla, or Sepia. Depending on what other symptoms you have - weepy, irritable, etc.

Period Pain Calc. Carb., Calc Phos, Lycopodium, Nat. Mur., Pulsatilla.

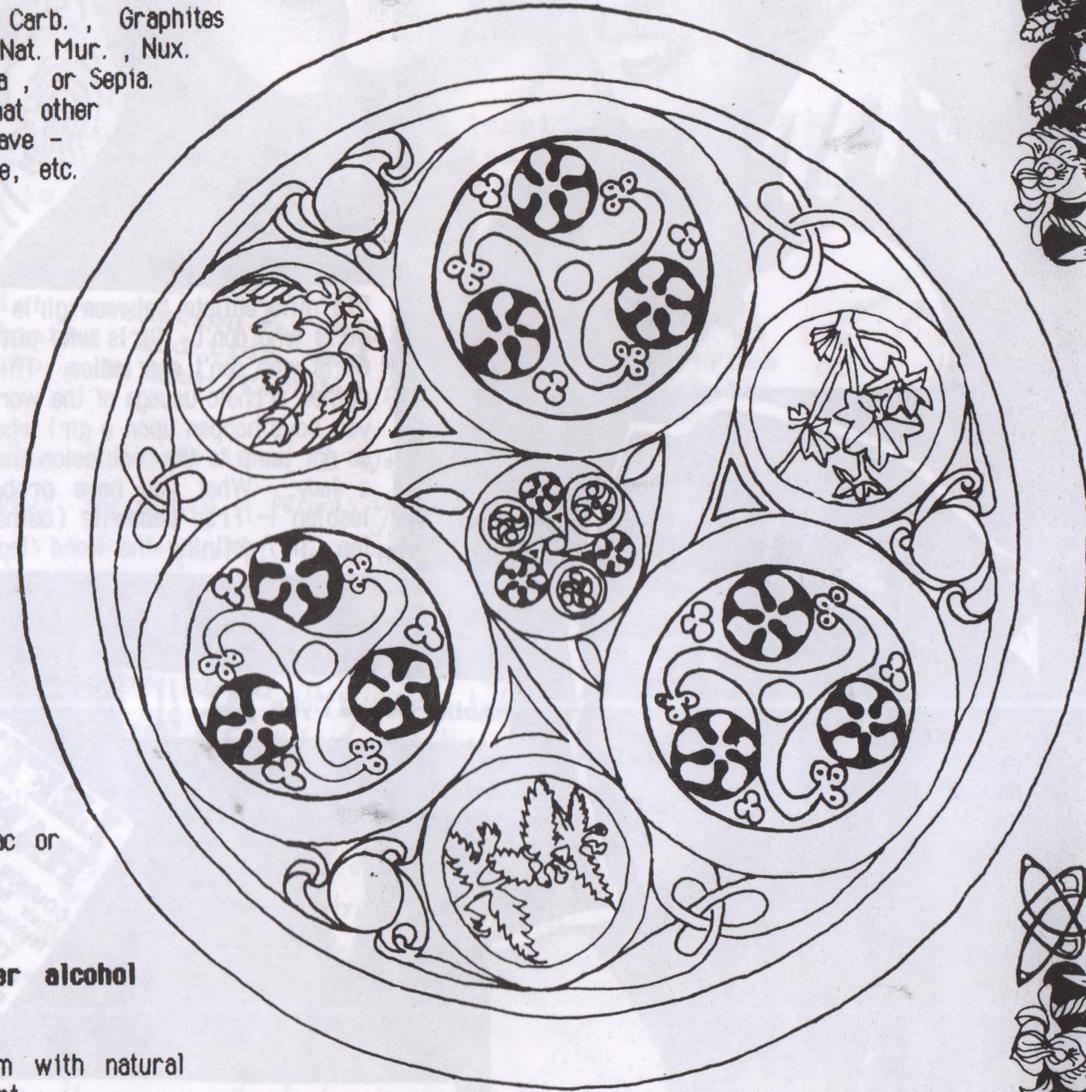
Scalds Cantharis. Taken before blisters are formed.

Sore Muscles Actææarac or Arnica.

Sickness after alcohol Kali. Bich.

Cuts Hypericum with natural healing ointment.

As you can see many of these can be used for various ailments so its worth buying or borrowing a book on Homoeopathy to find out which remedy will cure the most ailments and suits you the best. The book "Homoeopathy for the Family" is about 2 quid I think and explains how often to take the treatment. The only draw-back I had was the price of homoeopathic tablets - about 3-4 quid which's a lot for me, a mere pauper! They are available on prescription though, so if your Doctor's pretty understanding he/she shouldn't mind you not wanting to fill yourself with chemicals. If they do you can always change doctors





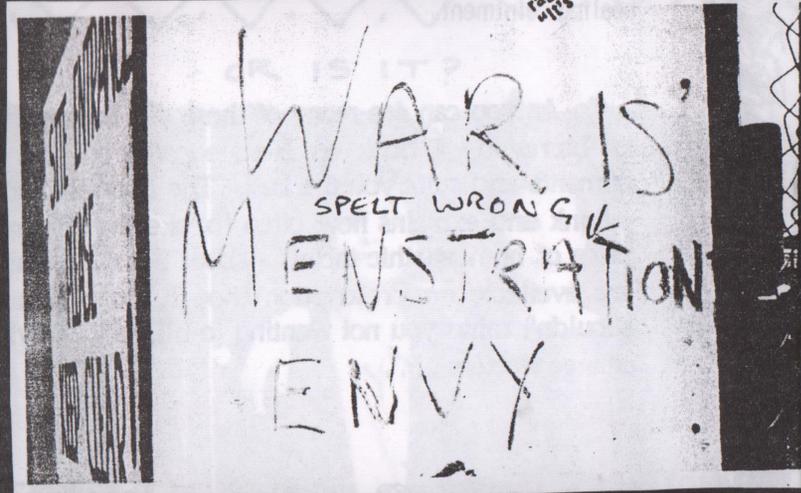
CI 6/93

"To differentiate between girls who put out and girls who don't. Girls who put out are tramps. Girls who don't are ladies. This is, however, a rather archaic usage of the word. Should one of you boys happen upon a girl who doesn't put out, do not jump to the conclusion that you have found a lady. What you have probably found is a lesbian" - Fran Lebowitz (author of Metropolitan Life) defining the word 'lady'



Abber Boggs Dyke ♀ !!

LET'S GAY HAND-OUTS
COUNCIL letles have come up with their looniest idea yet—a gay and lesbian committee!
The barmy new set-up in Camden, North London, has the power to spend £33,000 in ratepayers' money to "protect the rights" of homosexuals.
The committee-first of its kind in Britain—will also have a say in housing, planning and finance. Outraged local Tory Skolar said: "it's a complete waste of money."



LETTERS

Dear Subversive Sisters,
I was half way through it (I was reading it bit by bit so as to savour the golden splendour of each wondrous page ... can I have my free subscription now?!) when I got hideously drunk one night and used it to line the cat's litter tray by mistake. So as you can imagine I wasn't overly chuffed. Mind you, neither was the cat - her paws went a rather disturbing shade of orange, and it turned out that your printing ink didn't agree with her delicate skin. She's not been the same since, poor thing. Tragic.

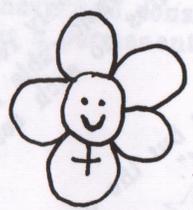
yours lesbianly,
Hepsibar Brillopad xx

P.S. I seem to have become allergic to housework, and my new girlfriend's coming round for tea and toast next week, and the house is a veritable pig-sty - what the fuck am I going to do?

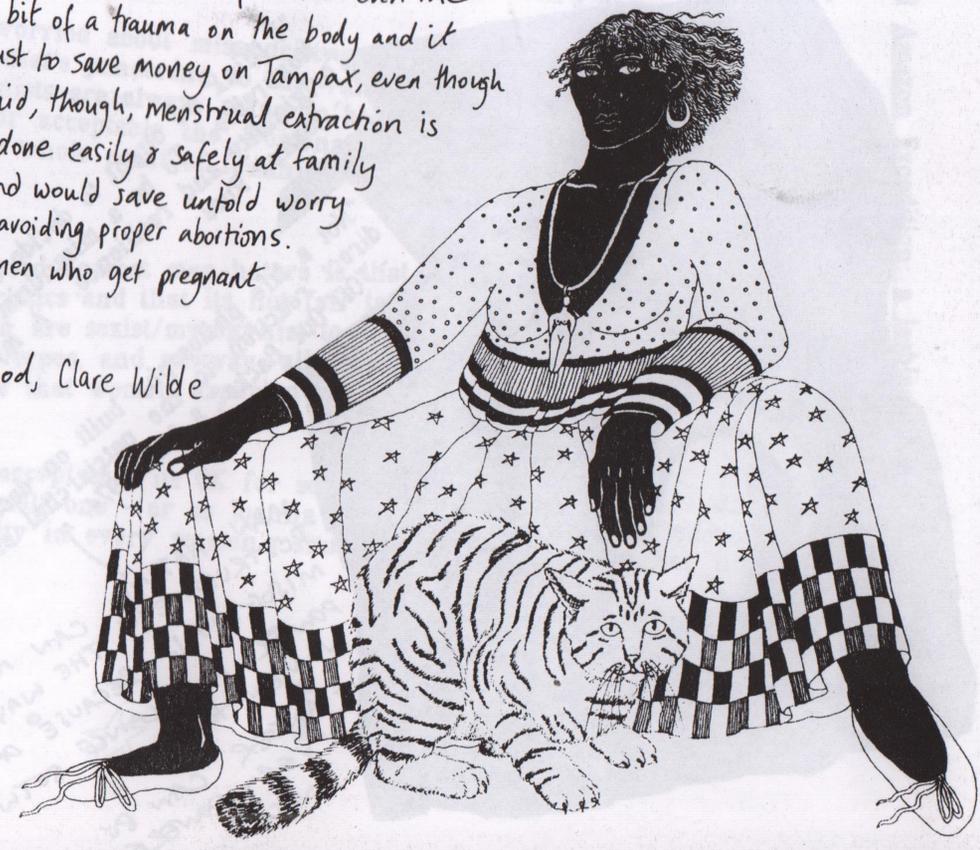
Dear Hepsibar, just make out it's your contribution to the impending feminist revolution - defying sexist stereotypes of women as domesticated and tidy. And don't worry about the cat - we've changed to a feline-friendly printers this time.

Dear Subversive Sister, I thought issue 1 was really good. But in the article about the history of periods you mentioned menstrual extraction as if it's a form of "sanitary protection" (or whatever you call it!) This isn't quite true though. Menstrual extraction is like a very very early abortion, done when you think you might be pregnant but your period isn't even late yet. They insert a tube and suck out the contents of your womb, like you said, and they don't even have to dilate (stretch) the cervix so it's much safer than even the earliest abortion. Still, it's a bit of a trauma on the body and it wouldn't really be worth doing just to save money on Tampax, even though they are expensive! Like you said, though, menstrual extraction is illegal, even though it could be done easily & safely at family Planning Clinics or surgeries and would save untold worry (not to mention NHS money) by avoiding proper abortions. I guess they just think that women who get pregnant fucking deserve to suffer?!

Yours in subversive sisterhood, Clare Wilde



Dear Clare, thanks for the info. Keep the letters rolling in & tell us what you think of us...!



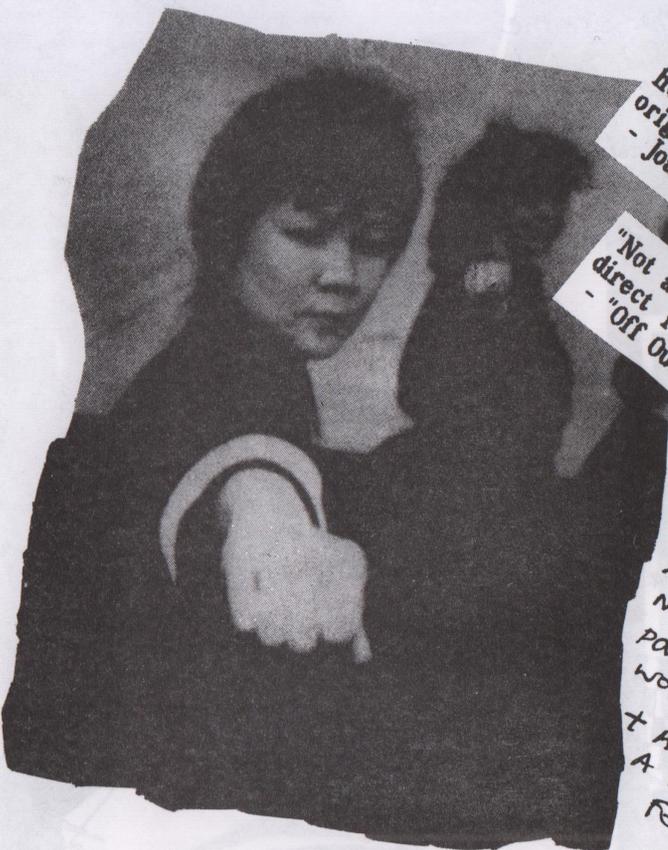
Oh no, you're not a

MAN-HATER are you?!

In the cocooned sheltered world of Shocking Pink misandry was accepted and seen as positive and unavoidable in this shitty society. But once the collective disbanded and I moved to Manchester I've realised that man-hating is seen by most feminists as dreadful and extremist. It's like they think man-haters are going to rush out straight away wielding labryses to kill off the entire male species. As Joanne Russ points out, there's a difference between feelings and acts, and that "if misandrists were the uncontrolled ravening wild beasts they're supposed to be they'd have been strangled in their cradles". Besides, when you think about it, most women, even straight ones, spasmodically experience feelings of anger/hatred towards men to some degree, even my Mum. Its just that it's not acceptable for women to admit to it, especially in conventional hettie society.

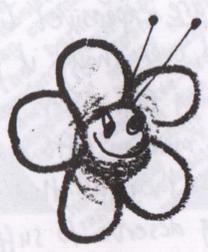
At a more personal level, I've very, very rarely had any hassle from a woman in the street and when it does happen its never threatening or frightening in the same way as when its a man/men. But I get sexist/sexual comments from men nearly every bloody day. Everytime I get shit from a man when I'm walking down the street it reaffirms my misandry - and as it happens on a constant basis man-hating has become a constant part of me/my nature.

Men are the ones who cause most of the evil in this world - wars, rape, nuclear weapons, fucking up the world for profit etc. I'm not trying to say that all women are completely wonderful and never do bad things, but it has to be said that regarding women in general compared to men, there's just no question of which group deserves to remain on this earth.



"I think we ought to decide that man-hating is not only respectable but honorable. To be a misandrist a woman needs considerable ingenuity, originality and resilience. A misogynist requires no such resources" - Joanne Russ

"Not a life philosophy built on destructiveness but the only healthy direct reaction to the patriarchal establishment" - "Off Our Backs", 8 July, 1974.



MAN-HATING CAN NEVER BE DESTRUCTIVE IN THE WAY THAT MISOGYNY IS, BECAUSE OF THE POWER IMBALANCE BETWEEN WOMEN + MEN. ANGER CAN BE A VERY POWERFUL FORCE...

For ages now this group of lads have been hanging round outside our house - sitting on the windowsill of the front bedroom and our doorstep; leaning against the front door; putting their faces up to the window in the front door; as well as engraving their initials on the door, thus effectively marking their territory, colonising our house. When one of us confronted them they just said it was their street and consequently they had a right, and then we got even more hassle from them. As women we felt defenceless against them. What we really wanted to do was to kick the shit out of them. But what we ended up doing was smearing golden syrup over the front of the house to stop them coming near it.

WELSH TOIT

ANY TIME YOU ENCOUNTER YUPPIE, NEW-AGE LIBERAL MEN... SHOOT THEM ON SIGHT. THEY'RE NOT DOING ANYONE ANY GOOD + THEIR WIVES WILL PROBABLY THANK YOU FOR IT...

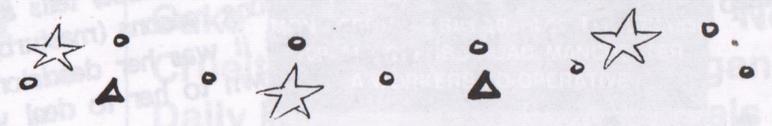


Basically its true that patriarchy is based on rape - ie. that the threat of rape keeps women in a constant state of fear. I think it was Susan Brownmiller who said that - at the end of the day that's what we were afraid of - men's physical power over us.

Many feminists are worried about misandristy ruining the "acceptable face of feminism" - but surely that's pandering to the values that malestream society thinks is acceptable. Feminists are always going to be seen as threatening by men, however unextreme or acceptable the Womens Liberation Movement tries to make its ideas. Besides, the whole point of feminism should be to show that women don't need men.

Another argument used against man-haters is that we should judge men on their individual characteristics and that its not fair to condemn them all as a group. Bullshit! All men are sexist/mysogynist to some degree, even the supposedly right on/anarchisty types, and anyway, all men benefit from patriarchy and the constant fear of rape that women experience.

Anyway, you can accept that its OK for some women to be man-haters without having to consider yourself one - or as Joanna Russ puts it, "accept that misandry is a permanent possibility in every woman's situation and therefore in her life".



QUESTIONS + ANSWERS pt 2 taken from: Feminist Dictionary and Amazon Expedition: a lesbian feminist anthology - Ed. Phyllis Birkby et al.

STAND WE AT LAST - Zoe Rathbuns 1983

This book starts in 1855 with one woman getting married and her sister leaving the country in order to pursue a more fulfilling and independent life. As the story progresses how they affect history.

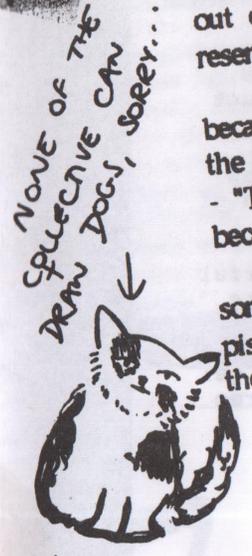


Maybe your best friend wants to give up just as much as you. After all, men are bastards.

We see how things don't always change for the better. Prostitutes had a union and therefore medicals, and much more respect and freedom in the mid 1800's. Women had responsibility and freedom forced on them during the book's account of wartimes, only to have much of it taken away again during peace times.

This being a book about how women take charge of their own lives, being pregnant (or not) crops up quite a lot. An 1860s doctor (male of course) tells a woman she has made herself infertile by using her body for the wrong reasons (masturbating). A 1960s "male feminist" tells someone he got pregnant, that it was her decision as a liberated woman to sleep with him so it was completely down to her to deal with the consequences.

THEY EXPLOIT



9. PRIVATES ON PASSING OUT PARADE

Male commuters' legs were observed to cross with choreographed precision as they turned to the story of Lascelles Carruthers. He understandably passed out after seeing his ripped-off testicle in the hand of his wife, Dorreth. This domestic incident occurred "during a row". Judge George Schindler said: "The situation clearly got out of hand."



THE PLAGUE DOGS - RICHARD ADAMS

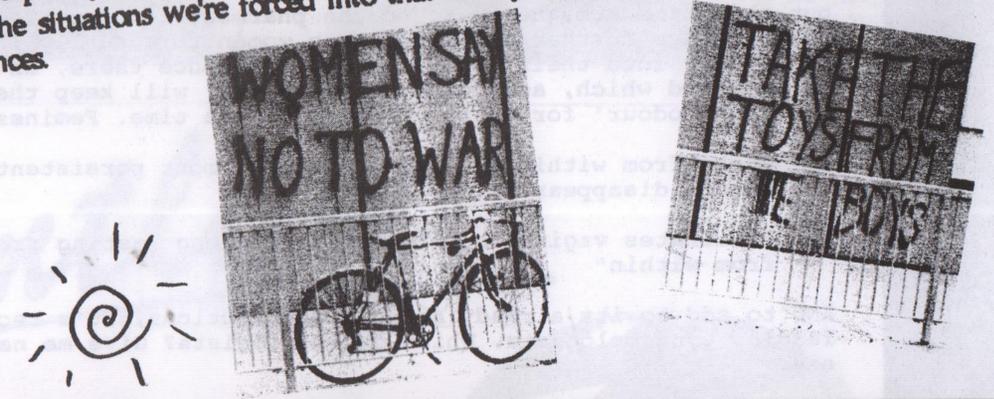
This book was written in 1977 but I feel that the story is still very relevant today. It's a work of fiction about two dogs who escape from an animal experiments lab in the lakes. Even though the lab is Adam's invention, all the experiments he relates are factual.

Adams writes in a very matter of fact way, sometimes sarcastically, showing his disapproval of vivisection. However the lack of sentiment shown both in his own words and in his portrayal of the characters, stops the book from appearing to preach. The workers in the lab are not evil or sadistic, simply desensitised and anyway the pay's good.

I liked the way he portrays believable personalities and conversations between the two dogs, Snitter and Rowf. Snitter is mad because of various brain experiments carried out on him. His strength comes from him knowing he hasn't always been mad and resenting the 'whitecoats' for it.

Even if you're not interested in animal rights I think this is a brilliant book to read because of the personalities given to the dogs. We're given two contrasting examples of the way long-term oppression affects individuals, Snitter is optimistic and determined - "The door's open, we can escape!", while Rowf is defeatist and accepts his situation because he is afraid - "There might be something worse through the door".

I thought this alone made the book worth reading. It's a brilliant illustration of how some of us accept any treatment we're given through fear, while some of us become so pissed off at the situations we're forced into that we try to change them, no matter what the consequences.



Pulses Chocolate Cake Flour Dried Fruit B Cereals Snacks Fruit Wine Sal Vegetari Vegetables Cosmetics Frie Green Jam Nuts Free Rar Cappu take Croissants Daily Non-S Cruelty Free Vegan (Foods es Vegan Chocolate (Flour eals Beer Grains Tak Snack ads Vegetarian Cider Sea V Green Cleaners Peanu Jam M Cappuccino Vegan C Cake MON - FRI 10 - 7 SAT 10 - 4.30 TEL. 273 1850 Non-Smoking Biscu Cruelt 109-111, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER gan Chocolate Cake F Daily als Grains Takeaway: Cider Vegetarian Cakes Sea

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♀ feminine freshness ♀

How many of you have been into Boots (or any large chemist) recently? Those of you that lurk around the 'Feminine Hygiene' section may have noticed the appearance of certain products aimed at providing us (women) with 'intimate freshness'. Deodorants, cleansing wipes, etc. These products are aimed directly at women and although certain brands are displayed alongside the Tampons and other menstrual paraphernalia, they are not simply for use during a menstrual period. No, these items are designed to be used at all times of the month. Or, as one pack states; "...at times of particular stress." Now, I don't know about you, but there are many things I do when I'm stressed, However, reaching for a moist cleansing tissue to whip across my privates is NOT one of them.

There is a particular range of products labouring under the name 'Summers Eve' (oh- how dainty!) and this particular range runs the gamut from talc to a 'special' feminine wash. Also a range just as daintily titled, 'Femfresh'. This type of Feminine Freshness product was big back in the seventies, but seemed to disappear from the market. I gather this was because many women were experiencing adverse reactions to the deodorants etc. This is not surprising as the vagina is a very delicate area and does not welcome chemicals of any kind being thrust upon it.

Now at this point I would like to bring to your attention a wonderful (!) product named 'Feminese'. Feminese can also be found in Boots but this time somewhere around the pharmacy counter. This product goes a stage further by instructing women to actually INSERT an applicator into their vagina, whereupon, once there, an amount of gel is released which, according to the blurb, will keep the vagina free of 'fishy odour' for up to three days at a time. Feminese;

1. "Works from within to ensure even the most persistent fishy odours disappear"
2. "Eliminates vaginal odour - restores long lasting freshness from within"

AND to add to its already abundant attractions, it's recommended by leading gynaecologists. Which gynaecologists? Give me names is what I say.

For Feminese you will pay £9.85 for eight applicators, £2.75 for two applicators. Is it my imagination or is this a complete rip-off?

Now - I don't know how you feel about this issue but quite frankly it makes me bloody angry. The manufacturers of these products are playing on women's fears of smelling 'bad'. Because we all know that women's genitals are unclean, don't we? Therefore, perhaps we should thank our lucky stars that something has finally been invented that will rid us of these vile odours. I think not.

A woman's genitals are, in their natural state, perfectly clean. The vagina is self-cleansing in a sense, the cervix and vaginal walls continually secreting lubricants to carry away debris, old cells from the vaginal wall etc. The acid balance of the vagina is self regulating and remains stable when left to its own devices, If the vagina/vulval area is healthy, all that's needed is regular washing with warm water to prevent odour from building up. No woman will ever achieve the state of a completely odourless vagina. (What knowledgeable woman would wish to? A woman's natural smell is very sexy!!)

If any woman experiences problems with her vagina, she should either consult her doctor or, alternatively, employ any one of a number of self-help remedies, depending on how serious she perceives the problem to be.

An odour that a woman does not perceive as 'normal' could indicate that an infection is present. This is why it is so vitally important that the balance of the vagina is not upset in any way. And as for the 'persistent odour' referred to by Feminese, if the odour you are experiencing is persistent, then its positively dangerous to try and mask it, as you are simply denying that there is a problem, which could well lead to further, more serious problems.

I would have included the name and address of the manufacturers of these products if only I hadn't left the writing of this article so late. However, I would exhort every woman whose feelings are as strong as my own on this matter, to go into their nearest Boots/chemist and make a note of these details. Then write to them and ask what the hell they think they're playing at? And when are they bringing out 'Manfresh'?

Here are some more of those wonderful magazines you wouldn't want to be without, from America, the land of the free and the freaky. *Dick Yourself* includes "helpful hints for the morally bereft", and investigates rumours that tofu taken in excess can be hallucinogenic, while *The Amateur* aims to show women that "just because males are the better of the sexes is no reason to resent them."



Guinea pigs do it, bugs and worms do it, lizards and sticklebacks do it but when we do it, it's unnatural. German anthropologist, Volker Sommer, has just brought out a book which looks at the 'unnatural' arguments against homosexuality.

In his studies, Sommer has come across lesbian seagulls as well as monkeys performing anal sex or mutual oral sex and masturbation, leading him to the conclusion that all gay practices can also be found in the animal kingdom. His book, 'Wider die Natur?' (Against Nature?) is published by C.H. Beck of Munich.

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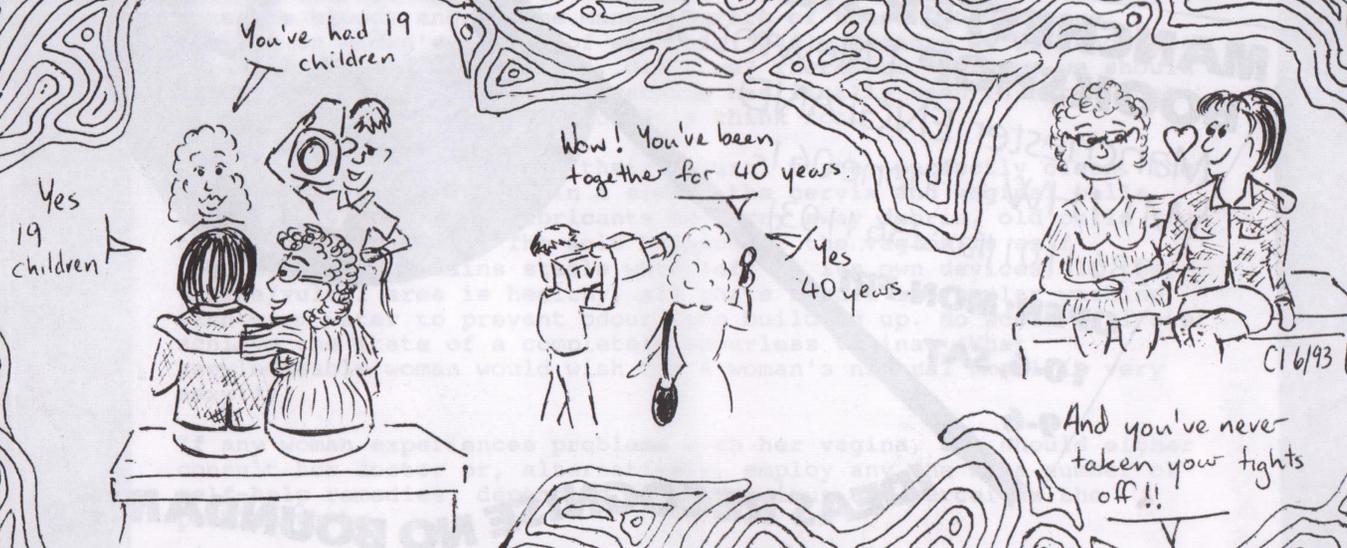
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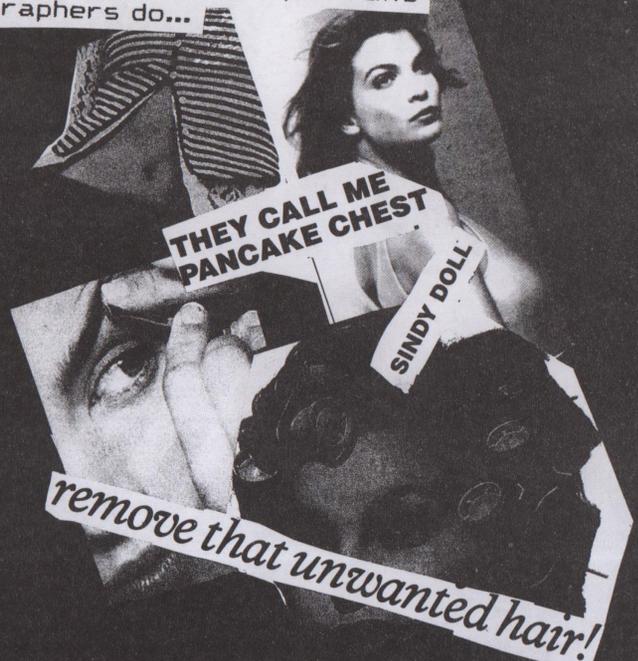
This is a good book, a 'good story. Unfortunately, much as I would like to, "enjoyable" is not an adjective I can use in relation to it. This book has the most superb undertone of depression and loneliness I have encountered in a long time. Sacred Country tells the story of Mary, a woman who realises she isn't or shouldn't be. Throughout her childhood years she is convinced that, given time, her body will realise its mistake and revert to that of a male. When it becomes clear that this was not going to happen, however, drastic measures are called for. Can you guess what they are? I'm sure you can but read the book anyway. Mary's story is intertwined with those of people around her, of whose lives are as drearily empty and monotonous as Mary's own. Read, and weep for cord with his Palsied eye, mourn for estelles lost sanity. (No, really its a good book!)



Plastic Surgery Disasters

We've come across this really disturbing article from that awful *Bella* magazine, about this woman whose life-long ambition has been to look like a Barbie doll. She's spent £20,000 on painful plastic surgery in an attempt to try and achieve this aim and has had to sell everything she owns to pay for her operations. She's even had to give up her rented flat and kip on friends' floors to make ends meet. And she says that even after all that she still doesn't consider herself perfect, and that she wants to have more plastic surgery.

men profiting off women's bodies and women's insecurities, in the same way that pimps and pornographers do...



She says she felt suicidal and self-disgusted about her "puffy, baggy-eyed, mean-lipped face" (!...they showed a picture of this woman pre-surgery in the article, and she looked completely OK), and she considered herself "truly ugly", especially when compared to a Barbie doll. Whaaat!! Barbie dolls don't look like anything even vaguely resembling a real live woman!! - more like a stick insect, I'd say. This just goes to show how hideously harmful Barbie dolls can be, presenting an "ideal figure/ image for girls and young women to live up to. It's not natural for women to have flat-stomachs and hour-glass figures.

A FEMINIST FANTASY...

Clandestine groups of feminists identify and confront local plastic surgeons. Four women tie him to a chair while the fifth slowly unbuttons his shirt. She then produces two plastic ziplock baggies, filled with dog shit (or other suitable gelatinous material; silicone it, with a pinch) and a straight edged razor. She points the razor at him, with a legitimate surgical procedure. While holding the razor gently to his skin, she asks him politely to sign a consent form she has brought, which he does. She then proceeds to paint two enormous breasts on his chest with purple paint, shaves his head bald with the razor, and paints it purple as well. She leaves the dog shit for him to ponder. (You may imagine alternate endings to this fantasy.)

Pamela Jean Johnson sued a silicone breast implant maker for \$64.3 million. A jury in Houston, Texas awarded \$25 million in damages. Johnson had to have a partial mastectomy after her implant ruptured. This is the first civil lawsuit to go to trial in Texas against a silicone breast implant maker. FROM OOB

"I want our blood to stop spilling. I want their's to start."

Fab Feminist Network.

PLASTIC SURGERY HAS A 60% COMPLICATION RATE...

MURKIN (FEMINIST) TALKS!

