

## DON'T JUST STAND THERE

You may have realised that this second issue of *Shocking Pink* has taken months to come out. This is because the collective has had a large responsibility towards covering almost every aspect of the magazine which includes actual production, selection work and articles! This is a lot of work for us to do, since most of us are at school or work and can only meet in our spare time. It also defeats the aims of *Shocking*

*Pink*, which is to be a magazine that is representative of young women through articles that are contributed from all young women everywhere! So come on! Help us to keep *Shocking Pink* going! We need articles, letters, thoughts, attitudes, poems, pictures, short stories, cartoons, black and white photos — anything that concerns us as young women.

Why not ask around your friends or young women's clubs,

and form a branch of *Shocking Pink*?

Here are some ideas for the next issue — Fashion, Contraception, Parental problems, Swear words, Abortion, Schools, Music. . . *Shocking Pink* is written by and for young women. Its existence depends on you. Write to us at 4 Essex Rd, London W3.

## CONTACTS

National Abortion Campaign (NAC) — 374 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1 (01 278 0153)

Scottish NAC — Cottage 2, The Biggins, Dunblane, Scotland FK15 9NX

Brook Advisory Centres — Contraception and Pregnancy advice. Local Clinics (01 580 2991)

Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) — c/o A Woman's Place, 48 William IV St, WC2

National Women's Aid Federation — For Battered Women, 374 Grays Inn Rd, WC1 (01 837 9316)

Scottish Women's Aid — Ainlee House, 11 St. Colne St., Edinburgh 3 (031 225 8011)

Welsh Women's Aid — 2 Coburn St., Cathays, Cardiff (0222 388291)

Northern Irish Woman's Aid — 12 Orchard St., Derry (Derry 67672)

Irish Women's Aid — 7-8 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2 (Dublin 681583)

Lesbian Line — Phone counselling and information (01 837 8602)

Lesbian Link — phone counselling and information (01 236 6205)

OWAAD (Details of groups in all AREAS)

c/o Black Women's Centre, 41 Stockwell Green LONDON SW4

AWAZ — Asian Women's Movement, c/o 13 Nicoll Rd., London NW10

Rock Against Sexism — c/o Rm 265, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1

Rock Against Racism — c/o Rm 265, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1

Campaign Against Racist Laws (CARL) — Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE15

National Union of School Students (NUSS) — c/o Polytechnic of Central London, Students Union, Bolsover St., London W1

National Union of Students — 3 Endsleigh St, London WC1H 0DU (01 378 1277)

Schools Against the Bomb — c/o King Alfred School, North End Rd, London NW11

Young Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (YCND) — 11 Goodwin St., Finsbury Park, London N4 (01 242 0362)

### RAPE CRISIS CENTRES:

Birmingham 24 hour line — B'ham 233 2122 Office No. B'ham 233 2655

Dublin 8pm-8am — Dublin 601 470

Edinburgh Wed, Thur, Fri 6-10pm Edinburgh 5569437

Glasgow Mon, Wed, Fri, 7-10pm — Glas 331 2811

Leeds Wed 7-9pm, Sun 2-8pm, Leeds 40058

Liverpool Fri 6-8pm — L'pool 709 1938

London 24 hour line — 01 340 6145, office no. 01 340 6913

Manchester Tues 2-5, Thurs 7-9, Sat 2-5 — Manchester 228 3602

Newcastle 10am-10pm Mon - Fri 6, 6.30-10pm weekends — Newcastle 29858

Nottingham Mon-Fri 11am-5pm Nott 410440

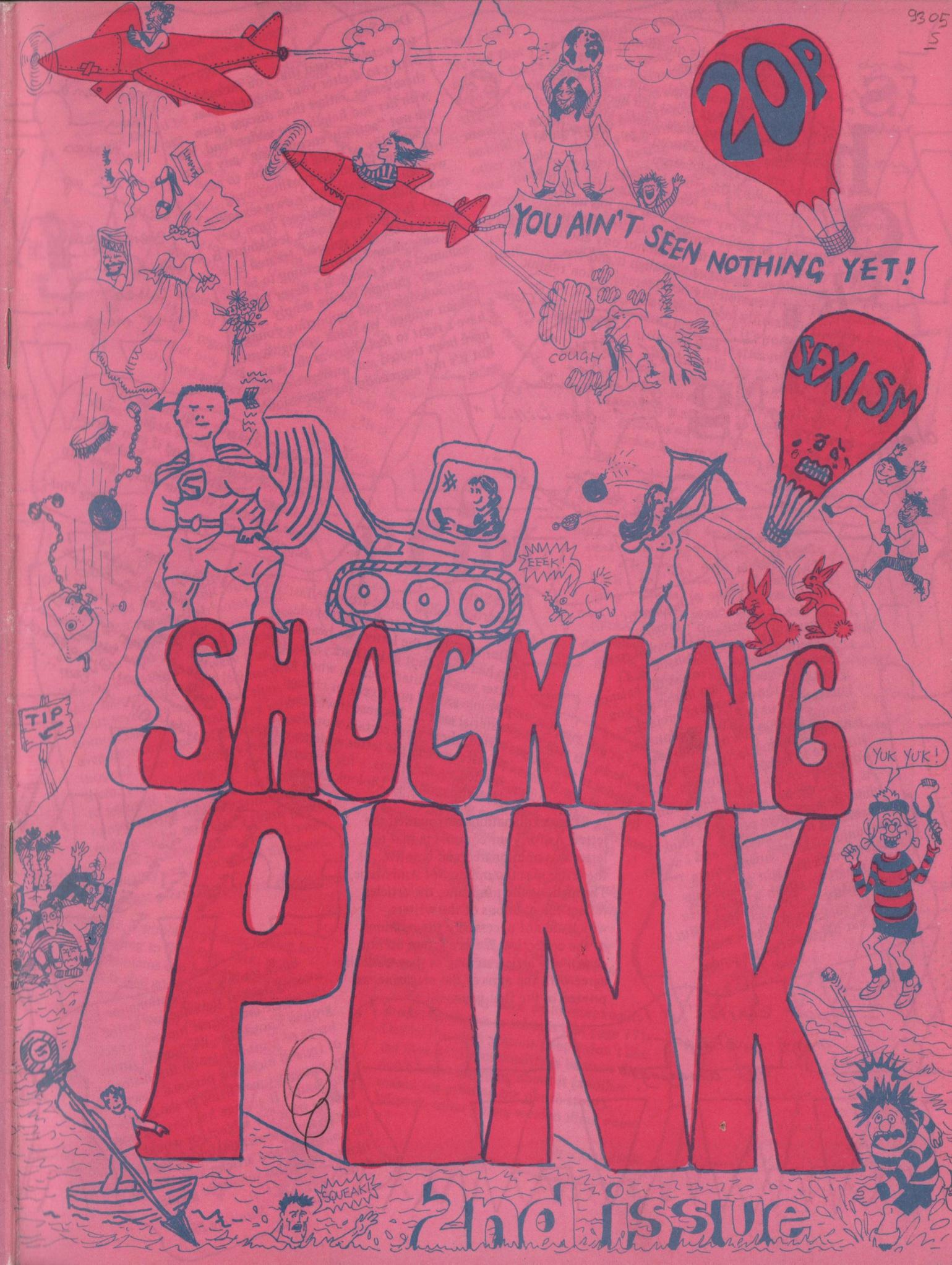
Sheffield write to PO box 34, Sheffield 1 for number

South Wales Wed 8-10pm, Sun 4-7 Cardiff 374 051

National bookshop distribution: Full Time Distribution, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1, Tel: 01-251 4976. Typeset by Bread 'n Roses, 30 Camden Road, London NW1. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, London E2, Tel: 01-739 1870.

Copyright © Shocking Pink Collective 1981.

All rights reserved, no part of this magazine can be reproduced without the permission of the Shocking Pink Collective.



2nd issue

# Shocking

(A letter from the questionnaire)  
Dear Shocking Pink,  
I found it most unpleasant; aggressive feminism at its worst and likely to do far more harm to the Women's Movement than a more balanced view. Why actively encourage lesbianism?  
Why the crude language? Why not involve men too, in challenging attitudes? As my twelve year old has not yet heard of Rape, Lesbianism, Contraception, etc, I shall not buy another issue - she looked through it and was completely bewildered; "I don't think it's for me", she said.

G. Clarke

"... if we see ourselves as independent beings, men will..."

also hate the sexist magazines!"

Dear Sister,  
We were surprised that you thought it better to shelter your daughter from these issues, rather than discuss them with her and help her to understand. We are not "actively encouraging" any form of sexuality as being preferable to any other, but rather supporting young women in defining their own sexuality and relationships (whatever form they take). In other magazines, lesbianism is for the most part ignored, treated as a "passing phase" or something to be ashamed of or cured. It's never taken seriously, though. We are simply acknowledging and supporting young lesbian women. We think young women have a right to feel angry at the way we have been treated and misrepresented, but it's not aggression for aggression's sake.

We don't disagree with the use of "crude language" - please define "crude". We think it would be good if men started to change themselves, but we feel it's more important that our energy goes into supporting women.

"me and my mates are fed up with stereotypes, and normal, so called 'girls' mags..."

"Why doesn't someone wake up to the fact that we rely on meagre wages from Saturday jobs (for the lucky) and can't possibly afford model-girl prices..."

"I tired of reading pathetic love stories every week..."

Dear Madam,  
I would take issue with some of your more 'political' pieces, in particular 'Letter from Belfast'. It seemed to me a shame that in the first issue of a magazine created to redress the balance existing against women in society you should use the weapons of prejudice yourself. Your article is opinionated, emotive and backed up by no real basic background facts about the situation in Ireland - why the women are in the prison and so on. As a teacher, my aim is to teach children and young people to think reasonably for themselves, and I would feel unjustified in showing them material which sought to make up their minds for them without their knowing 'the facts'. Alert them with factually backed up pieces by all means, but beware of propaganda.

Susan Dudley

"... your 'classic' mag - I think it's amazing!"

These explanations surrounded the letter. As for your comments that the letter was opinionated and emotive, the letter was the opinion of Ann Marie. Throughout the magazine, the articles reflect the opinions of the writers, which are not necessarily the opinions of the collective. We as a group do not censor any article as long as they basically agree with the aims of the magazine, as printed in the first issue.

Since reading the questionnaires and looking back at the issue, we realise that the article did assume too much background knowledge. We hope in future issues to print articles on this history of Ireland including personal viewpoints by young women living in the North and South. If anyone has ideas on how best to treat the subject, or would like to write something please send in your ideas and articles as we would like to cover this subject in greater detail.

Shocking Pink

Dear Shocking Pink,  
This concerns the article about sex under 16. I think that if the law was changed it should go higher not lower although I think 16 is about right. I agree contraception should be available to all women regardless of age.

If the age was lowered to 12 a virgin would be a rare thing. I disagree that a girl of 12 knows what she wants. You should only make love if you love your boyfriend. You have to be mature to love somebody that much and I think at 12 a girl just isn't mature enough, many aren't at sixteen. The trouble with the present law is that when a girl is 16, she may think "Great, I can do it now", and lose her virginity to the boy she meets. I know a couple of friends who had sex under 16 and now regret it because they've finished with that boy and feel used. I think this is a very hard subject to discuss.

Sarah Kelly

Dear Sister,  
We feel that your letter glorifies virginity in a way that's oppressive to women - who ever worries about men being virgins? We feel that women's sexuality should be recognised in its own right instead of being seen as belonging to other people - the idea of having to love your 'boyfriend' before having sex denies women the right to explore their own sexuality and pleasures. Love doesn't have to equal sex - sex can be great by itself.

"... it is and I think it's much better than any other teenage mag"

Also the idea of 'maturity' in our society is a bit contradictory - young people in general aren't treated as people or adults so how can they be 'mature'? The whole idea of 'maturity' stems from adult prejudice; it's people and their attitudes that matter regardless of age. We feel that age doesn't necessarily have anything to do with a woman's ability to make decisions, it's just society's attitude to age that puts more pressure on the younger woman and makes it more difficult for her.

Shocking Pink

Dear Shocking Pink,  
Congratulations on the first issue! The magazine was well laid out, but some articles didn't make their point clear; especially the one about Ireland. Also, I found the 'true life' photo strip about being a lesbian was not very true. Many girls, like myself, would feel nervous about saying outrightly that they were homosexual or bisexual. They might feel even more unhappy if kids at school mocked them or teachers intimidated them. I'm not saying it's right to keep it to yourself, but it's very hard to feel happy, having told everyone and then ending up by yourself. I think pupils should be shown films about homosexuality and it should be discussed amongst everyone, not just themselves.

Likewise, I would appreciate having boys contributing to Shocking Pink, as no sexist problems can be solved by just girls. It is also good to hear what boys have to say and what they think, so that we can educate and join up with them. I hope you don't mind the criticism - keep up with the great magazine, Lots of love xxx

"BRILLIANT!"

# print

... thank god someone has at last made the move to get out a real magazine for people of my age (16). I'm sick to death of all the crap which is forced down my throat in magazines such as "My Guy", "Jackie" etc. At last, someone has realised that we don't want the mythical female 'role' of Mother, wife or lover pushed upon us - we want to decide for ourselves"

Dear Sister,  
Thanks for your support. We've received a few letters saying that the photo-story about Michele coming out at school was 'unrealistic'. However, it was based on Michele's own account of what happened. It's true that many girls feel nervous about coming out - that's why most don't! So we tried to show that it could be a positive experience. (We'll be dealing with the problems of coming out at school and at work more fully in the next issue.)

We weren't trying to paint a false or 'rosy' picture - just stating what happened.

We agree that films on homosexuality should be shown in schools (see page 17). One of the main reasons people don't like the idea of homosexuality is because they don't know anything about it (another reason for printing the photo-story). What do other young women think about it?

Shocking Pink

"... I was delighted to know that not everyone seems to see teenage girls as obsessed with the latest fashions, their skins, and left Garret's chest..."

"Pink Bits"





# The New Nationality Bill- What It Will Mean To You

The Government intends to put a bill through Parliament which would change the present law on British nationality. If this bill becomes law, it will bring about three kinds of citizenship:

## (1) British Citizenship

The proposed law would make this available to people born in the U.K.; to those living here who are adopted by parents with U.K. citizenship, or to those who are patrial\* on the grounds that one of their parents or grandparents was born in the U.K.; or those already registered or naturalized here. This discriminates against non-white people as the majority of those applying for citizenship will not have a grandparent who was British born. However, the Government does not intend to allow children who are born here whose parents are here with conditions attached to their stay to get British citizenship immediately. In other words, if your parents had entered this country illegally, or are students studying here, you would have to wait for a period of ten years before you could apply for registration. . . . during this period you are stateless, and can easily be deported along with your parents. This would go against the right of every child born here to get automatic British citizenship. This citizenship is the only one which gives absolute rights to people and won't be available to the majority of people who will be applying.

\* Person having right of abode in the U.K. through British birth of parent -- usually through the father.

**'If you are patrial and applying for registration, give the grounds on which you claim to be patrial.'**

## (2) Citizenship of the British Dependent Territories

This Section would apply to people who come from or belong to a country that is still under British rule. This law would mean that people would not get the new British Citizenship in most cases; they will instead be given CDBT, a completely useless status which would give them no right to come to the UK or to travel to other dependant colonies.

## (3) British Overseas Citizenship

This category will mainly apply to people living abroad with British citizenship. It will apply mainly to people living in countries such as East Africa, and mainly from Indian and Chinese descent. British citizenship was given to these people when their countries became independent from British rule, and they decided to remain British. At present these people, who are known as BOC's, are subject to immigration controls, and the only right they have is to hold a British passport. If the bill becomes law, people holding these passports will not be able to use them, and no further BOC's will be created.

This law would serve no useful purpose but only add to the already complicated procedure governing the acquisition of British citizenship. It would split people into different

status' of citizenship, only one of them with any rights and privileges.

These proposed policies are obviously racist as the majority of people that are affected by it are non-white. This would

**'Have you ever been renounced or deprived of citizenship of the U.K. and Colonies?'**

be proved whereby the Government intends to allow automatic citizenship for children born outside the UK whose parents were born here, but not for children born outside the U.K. whose parents were not born here, even though they have got citizenship. As older non-whites are unlikely to have been born in Britain, they will not want to risk having their children outside of Britain as this would cause problems in the future if the children wished to live in Britain. Many people who came to England years ago have worked or gone to school here have not bothered to take out citizenship. This proposed law has put a lot of people in panic and a rush to get registered or naturalised. Registration now costs £50 for people settled here legally before 1973 and £150 for those after. It is quite a humiliating and expensive process at present, but this proposed law would make the situation worse. It would cost more and it would be at the total discretion of the Home Secretary.

If the Government is successful in getting this Bill through, people (who are not British Diplomats or their family) who enter this country after day one when the law comes into effect, or people who came here after 1973 and without citizenship will no longer be able to get direct citizenship. People here before 1973 will be given two years after the law comes into effect to get their citizenship. Instead of citizenship, everybody will be "naturalised". Naturalisation at present, is the process that an alien (someone who comes from outside the British Commonwealth) has to go through in order to become a British Citizen. If the Bill becomes law, naturalisation will confer less rights to people, and people applying for Naturalisation will have to prove that they have good use of the English language, that they are of good character, and that they intend to work in Britain in the future.

**'KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - state whether fair, good or excellent.'**

This could mean that many people might be refused naturalisation because their native tongue is not English, they will also be tied down to remaining in England with-

out any freedom of being able to travel and work abroad without severe restrictions. A good character (as is required) could mean that people who have the slightest record or a wrong offence to their name will not be given naturalisation. Those without any offence against them cannot afford to break the law under any circumstances as they can be easily deported. Deportation could all too easily become more frequent, the powers of the Home

**'Give all addresses in the U.K. or abroad at which you have lived in the past 8 years.'**

Secretary will be increased to extradite anyone with the slightest offence. Also if the Home Secretary refuses to grant naturalisation, there will be no appeals against his decision, an obviously undemocratic and unfair proposal.

## WHAT THE BILL COULD BRING ABOUT

This bill could be the start of attacks against the rights of black people in this country; our rights being slowly but surely whittled away. It could lead to more direct attacks, such as the taking away of voting rights, standing for office, jury service etc. It would leave people in a very vulnerable position to State and police harassment. It could mean that people will have to present their passports (even more often than is now done) when applying for jobs, and passport raids of people believed to have entered the country illegally will be on the increase. It could also mean that school children will be asked to show their passports to prove that their stay in this country is legal.

**'If you claim close connection with the U.K. or the U.K. and Colonies - give details.'**



**THIS BILL MUST BE OPPOSED AND PREVENTED FROM BECOMING LAW.**

**IT IS NOT DUE TO BECOME LAW BEFORE JANUARY 1982 AT THE EARLIEST. THERE ARE ALREADY GROWING CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE BILL, AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PLANNED. TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT YOU CAN LOOK OUT IN YOUR LOCAL AREA FOR CAMPAIGNING GROUPS.**

The rules relating to this bill are very complicated, and every section could not have been covered in detail, as is set out in the White Paper. If people would like to find out more about this proposed legislation, they can go to or ring:

Action Group on Immigration and Nationality  
44 Theobalds Road  
LONDON W.C.1  
Tel: 01-405 5527

Natalie



I love you love  
You love me too love  
I love you love me love

I love you love  
My only true love  
I love you love me love

The moment that he's with me everythin's alright  
**Chorus**

My baby takes the morning train  
He works from nine 'till five and then  
He takes another home again  
To find me waiting for him

**Chorus Repeat**

Turn me on, turn me on  
Turn me loose but don't turn me down  
Hey hey hey

**Chorus Repeat.**

I'm crazy to think you're all mine

**Chorus Repeat**

You don't know how much I want you pretty baby  
You've got the kind of love that drives me crazy

Loving you, loving you  
Loving you, loving you  
**Repeat**

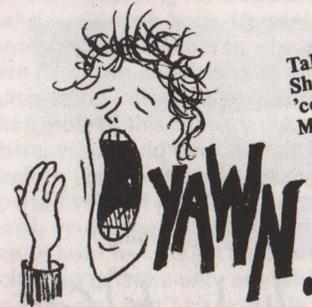
# LOVE STORY

## Contentment

## Boredom

## Madness

## Revolution



# YAWN

Takin' more than my share, had me fightin' for air  
She told me to come but I was already there  
'cos the walls start shakin', the earth was quakin'  
My mind was achin' and we weren't fakin' it

All day I think of him, dreaming of him constantly  
I'm crazy mad for him and he's crazy mad for me  
(Crazy mad for me) **Repeat**

**Chorus**  
You give me fever, you give me fever  
(Burnin' hot) a burnin' fever, hey hey hey  
You give me fever, you give me fever  
(Burnin' hot) a burnin' fever

Light my flame with your desire  
And make me burn with a raging fire  
Hey hey hey

**Chorus Repeat**

Dom uppa dom uppa dom uppa dom  
uppa dom uppa dom uppa dom .....  
Why do lovers break each others hearts  
**Chorus Repeat**

**Chorus**  
I go ub bub bub bub bub  
Bub a dub a dub bub bub bub  
Bub a dub a woh oh woh oh  
I go ub bub bub bub bub  
Bub a dub a dub bub bub bub  
Bub a dub a woh oh woh oh  
Oh I go

**REPEAT**

**Repeat. Repeat**



ENOUGH!

## GIRLS ANSWER BACK

**Chorus**  
It's all over Casanova, it's all over Casanova  
It's all over Casanova (it's all over)  
It's all over Casanova, it's all over Casanova

Sentimental gestures only bore me to death  
You've made a desperate appeal now save your breath  
Attachment to obligation that's so wet  
And your sex life complications are not my fascinations

I'm so happy  
You're so fine  
Kiss, kiss, kiss  
Fun, fun, lies.



ROYAL WEDDING  
EXCLUSIVE PICTURE!!

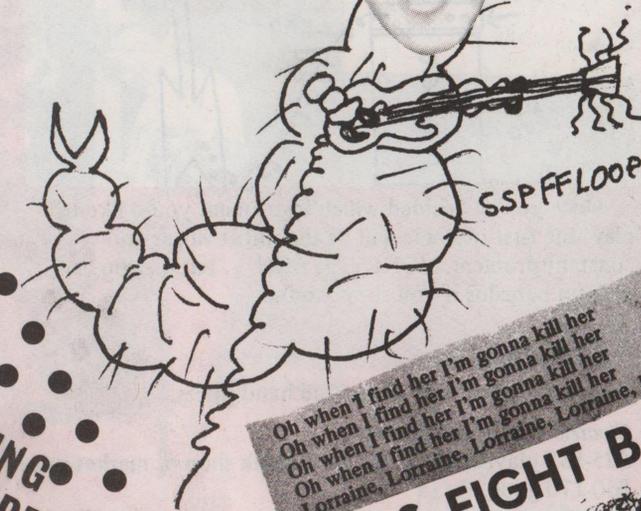


Recorded by **THIN LIZZY** on Vertigo Records

Some people they call me Jack  
Some people they call me insane  
I'm looking for somebody  
And I don't even know her name  
I might be looking for you wherever you may be  
For there's somethin' I gotta do for you honey  
And it's between you and me  
Now you might think it's funny or maybe it's a joke  
But you got plenty of reason to worry honey  
'cos you wouldn't stand a hope  
Now you might think I'm messin', or he don't exist  
But honey I'm confessin' I'm a mad sexual rapist

This sh-- →  
was written by  
this --it →

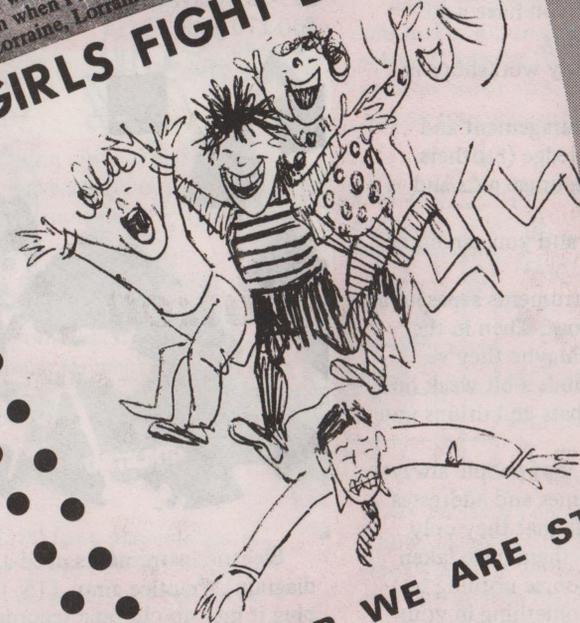
Unwanted hair?



S.S.P.F.FLOOPP!

Oh when I find her I'm gonna kill her  
Oh when I find her I'm gonna kill her  
Oh when I find her I'm gonna kill her  
Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorraine...

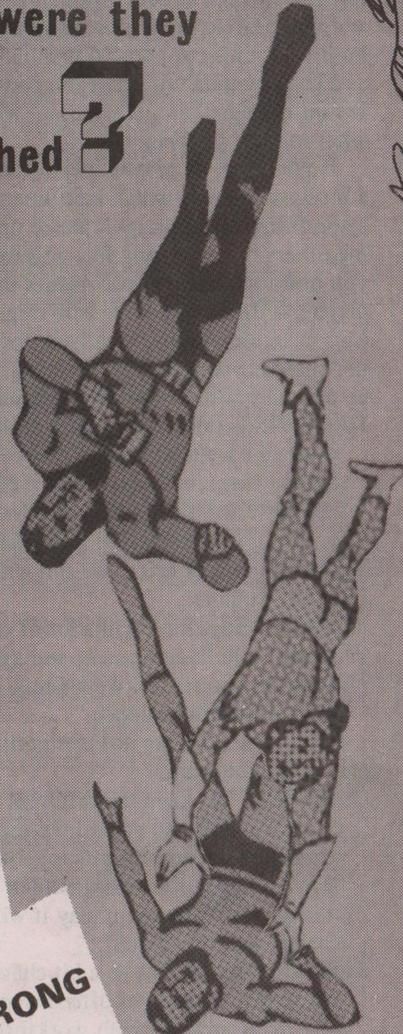
## GIRLS FIGHT BACK



TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG

Did they fall

OR were they  
pushed?



THE END



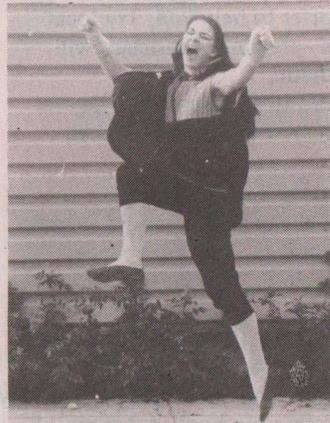
TEE  
HEE

PAT  
PAT



# 'WE ARE THE GOON SQUAD..'

We are having great difficulties in knowing how best to cover the subject of fashion, as we don't want to be caught in the trap of dictating any form of dress or make up onto others. Because of this, we feel it's best if we print personal articles by young women on why they wear certain clothes and make-up. Please, if you're interested, send in your own reasons, and maybe including a full length photo. If you have any other ideas or articles about fashion, send them in as well, as we'd really like more of this type of material.



In the words of one of our most promising writers, Geoffrey King, "I cannot see her back as it is covered by her front, I wonder what front she wears today."

Like it or not, that's what fashion is - a glossy impenetrable facade, and I love it!

With fashion it's possible to live a double life, I find that those who let the media dictate to them what they wear sadly miss out on a great part of it. Anyway, we talk, sing, write and fight about it often enough, so why not go to town on your appearance? I find that my clothes influence my moods therefore I'm attracted to bright clashing colours, and as much glitter as I can possibly squeeze on.



But being what you want to be, and looking slightly different from the norm does have its drawbacks.

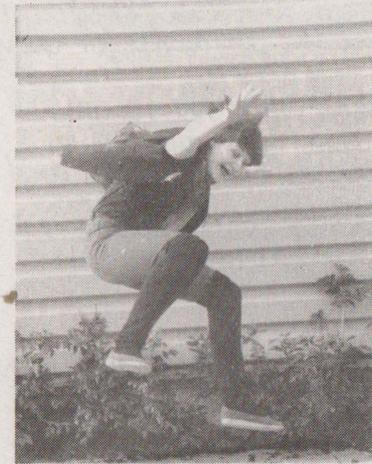
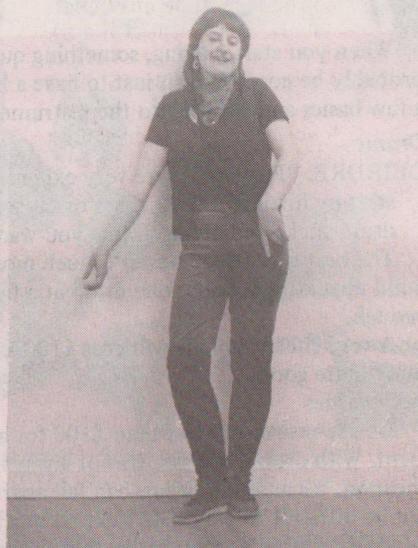
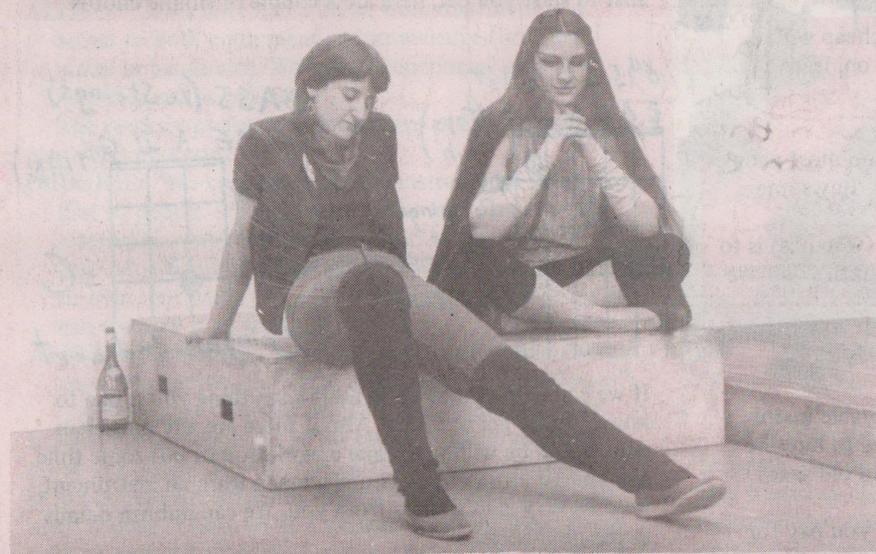
So what, I'm an exhibitionist. I like attention, who doesn't? But this quality seems to single you out to be subjected to cutting remarks from the manufactured, non-extremist, accepted followers of fashion as well as the majority of older people.

I probably spend less on clothes in one year than many people spend in a few months. Charity and second hand shops, jumble sales and my Mum's intuitive ideas with her machine keep me in clothes quite happily, thanks very much.

Fern, 16



Fashion, to me, has for most of my life been a sort of nuisance. As a little girl, I never wanted to wear pretty dresses and have long hair, I wanted to wear trousers and be able to run and climb and have fun. So my approach to fashion that makes one feminine is one of reluctance.



I have enjoyed wearing clothes which are fashionable, I felt attractive, because the teenage magazines told me I was, if I wore certain styles. I was never inspired to create a look and use my imagination in dress. I would rather let others design the look and then go and buy it from the high street stalls, like every other young woman does. This meant I didn't have control over what I looked like. Now I prefer to wear more sensible clothes, although I stick to certain conventions, like non-flared trousers, most of the time, usually jeans. Any shirts or blouses I get, I like to have no collars, or some kind of different neckline to that of the mainstream fashion. I like flat shoes, which are soft (so I can bounce about). And I prefer clothes which look different to what most young women are wearing, ie, from the high street.

I like to think of my dress as individual, although I suppose I still conform to a general style of most people who dissent from the fashion rat-race. Sometimes I want to appear outstanding, but I lack the confidence to do anything really spectacular and consider it a waste of time unless I commit a lot of effort to doing it. Other times I like to blend into the landscape and wear things that no-one will notice, so I find myself just getting clothes which are not remarkable or special, but just attractive in style to me.

My clothes are bought from charity shops, jumble sales, market stalls and sometimes I get something from a clothes shop, like jeans or a jumper, also my grandma often comes up with some item of clothing which is really nice, because it's interesting. I'm really a bit adverse to applying myself to my own clothes, I feel I could never really achieve the image I would like to put over to others, so I tend to just do what's easiest to obtain - a sort of image for myself.

Frances, 17

## ADVERT

**Bert's New Image**

These shorts are fun Bert. why don't you get some?

You know how awkward I feel about showing my legs

I've never stood you Bert. I could look really glamorous

Maybe Fred's right everyone seems to wear shorts these days. My legs look so small and soft

even though I shave them every few days nothing grows. I wonder how Fred copes

So Fred told Bert about 'Mac'. 'Mac' is so simple to use. You just apply it. Wait five minutes and then rinse off. Leaves your legs rough coarse and very hairy works well on under arms too! And Bert tried 'Mac'

Fred's right think about time I tried a new image maybe for the club on Saturday

I don't think you ever noticed down here before

How come I've never seen you before

**MAC** Trademark  
a hairy touch for legs

Available in regular spray, cream and lotion. SWEAT SCENTED SPRAY

"Good" assertive - positive  
**9 to 5**  
WONDERFUL exciting positive fresh  
fantastic funny

Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Dolly Parton - fast and funny in "Nine To Five"

MONICA



SOMETHING YOU DON'T NEED TO LOOK YOUR BEST FOR... PLAY AWAY.



# MASTURBATION



Masturbation is giving yourself sexual pleasure. So why is it that we only ever hear boys talking about masturbating and that the majority of words used to describe it, 'Wanking', 'Tossing', 'Jerking' are for men. It's not because women don't masturbate but because it appears that women aren't supposed to have sexual pleasure without a partner. We are told not to do it because it's harmful or dirty and this often leads to a lot of us either stopping or feeling guilty about what we're doing to ourselves, as it's supposed to be 'abnormal'. There is nothing to feel guilty about as masturbation is not harmful, but pleasurable and satisfying.

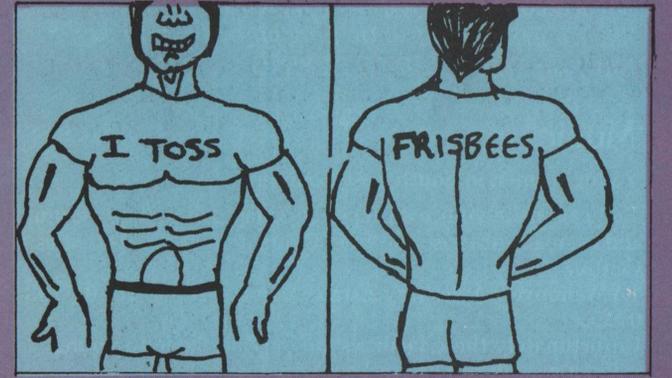
Some people believe that masturbation is a substitute for sex with someone else and that it is an "immature" thing to do which you 'grow out of' when you're older. This just isn't true. Some women start exploring their bodies and finding out what gives them pleasure at very early ages, before being told about masturbation or understanding anything about sex. Also women don't stop masturbating when they start having regular relationships. Many do but this could possibly be because we're told that if we did masturbate then it is no longer necessary to do so when there is someone else to give you pleasure. Women don't masturbate because there is no one else. We masturbate to give ourselves pleasure when we want it.

Some people say that masturbation is a good thing for women to do because they can then tell their partners what gives them pleasure. Though this is true, I think it's important that masturbation for women isn't thought of as just a practise ground for sexual relationships with others.

The following is a discussion between a group of young women involved in the production of this magazine had on masturbation. Even though we had known each other for a long time we were still embarrassed about talking about masturbation, and we realised how ridiculous it was that we should feel embarrassed about something that we nearly all do.

"It's ridiculous that there's a load of words for boys masturbating 'tossing' and 'wanking' but none for women."

"In sex education at school there was a whole section about men and the way they masturbate, that it was perfectly natural but not for women. It wasn't mentioned how women enjoy themselves."



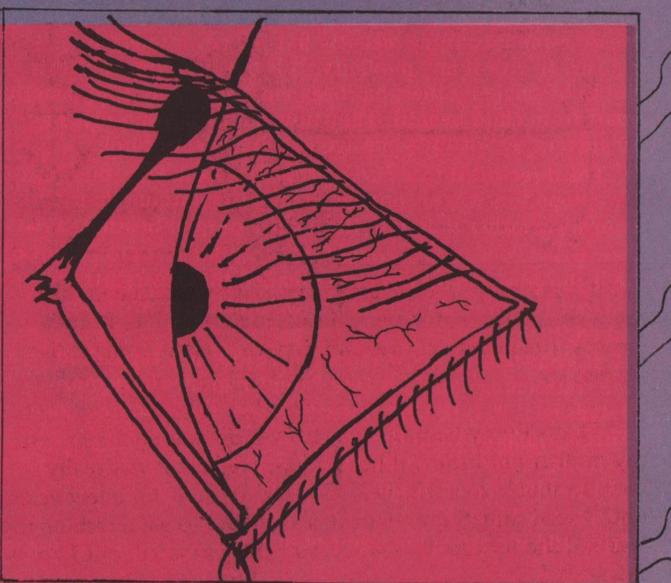
"When I first did it I wasn't sure that what I was doing was what other people were saying masturbation was, because I didn't know what the clitoris was, so I used to do it and then feel really bad and guilty afterwards and not do it for ages."



"Women masturbate with different parts of their body and some worry because they don't do it in the place that they're taught to have sexual intercourse."

"Does anyone here not masturbate?"

"I don't, I tried it once but I was too tired. I always thought everyone did it before they slept and I'm usually too tired. It's probably the way I've been brought up as well. My mum always told me it was bad. It never crossed my mind to do it."



"There's always this idea that masturbation is something you do when you can't get sex with someone else and not something you do because you enjoy it."

"Is masturbation something you only do to yourself then?"

"Yes, masturbation is when you give yourself pleasure, not when you get it from someone else."

One of the women in the group started talking about a discussion she had with some friends.

"One of my friends said that she masturbated on her front and that the reason she thought for this was because she used to share a room with her sister and that it had to be kept a secret."



"Another said that she started in the bath because in her house the only room where you knew no one was going to come in and it was legitimate to lock the door was the bathroom."

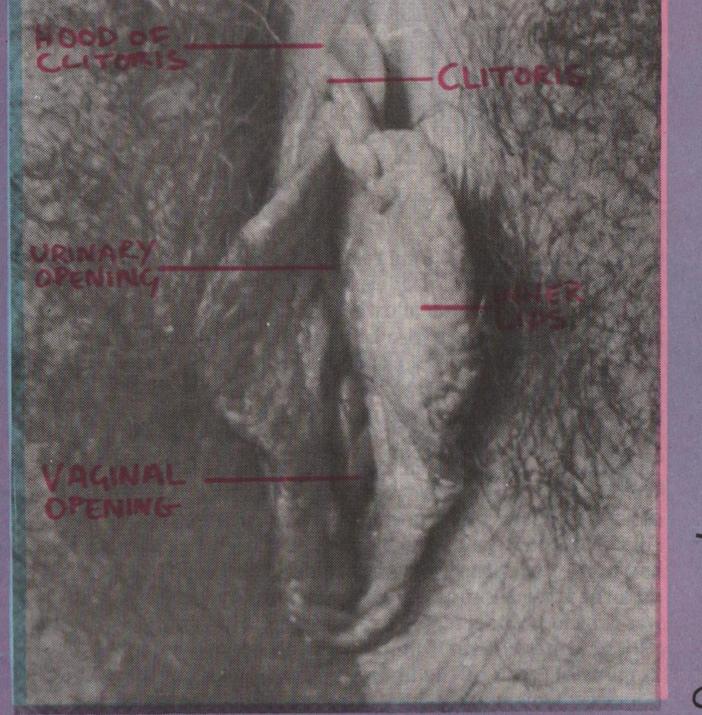


"It was strange the different experiences we all had, like one woman said that it never occurred to her to do it until she was fifteen yet another said that she'd been doing it since she was six."

"That's funny because I started when I was about six, but my mother put me off it because she told me it was really dirty to touch yourself there. So I didn't do it for a few years until I read something about it. I also used to get a rash on my legs and she told me it was because I masturbated, but I know it wasn't."

There isn't a set place or way to masturbate. Women masturbate where and how they get most pleasure. Many women masturbate by rubbing their clitoris, and the area inside or outside their vagina. But it is not just the clitoris that gives us pleasure, the whole genital area is sensitive and some women stroke this area, (that is the area surrounded by the outer lips - 'labial') and or the clitoris while masturbating.

The vagina for most women has little or no sense organs of touch. This means that by touching the vagina and no where else can give no pleasure. The vagina is incapable of responding to stimulation by touch.



The above is a photograph which we hope will help you understand the article. Don't worry if the positioning of certain parts of your body are not the same as in this drawing, as hardly any women's bodies are identical.

Scientists used to believe that though the clitoris was the major source of sensation before a woman's first period, the 'mature women' transferred the place of sensation to the vagina. It was said that to be able to have a 'Vaginal Orgasm', (an orgasm is the so-called peak of sexual excitement), was a sign of sexual 'maturity'.

Nowadays even male scientists in their wisdom have decided to believe women and all but a few believe the areas which are most involved in giving women sexual pleasure during sexual intercourse are exactly those which are the major areas involved in masturbation, that is the clitoris and the labia and not the vagina.

Only you know what pleases you. Masturbation is good, not bad and ugly, not something to feel guilty about, hide and not talk about. Some women do not masturbate and having said all this there is nothing 'abnormal' about not doing it.

BUT THE MAJORITY OF US DO, SO CARRY ON AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.

You may have been offended by some of the words used in this article. I'm sorry if you were but I felt that they were necessary. Maybe we should ask ourselves why these words and the topic are supposed to be offensive.

Chris

FOR THOSE MOMENTS OF EXTREME BORE DOM... a teddy bear QUACK bath nights are fun again!!

tee hee



# REVIEWS

## "BREAKING THROUGH" Women's Theatre Group

The Women's Theatre Group have produced a play which is political yet gripping and informative yet imaginative. It's a kind of space-age fairy tale about how Si and Phy (two friendly beings from a parallel universe) come to our planet after receiving danger signals of earth's destruction. They meet Julie, a 16 year old schoolgirl and her friend Angelina. Together they aim to expose the horrors of a nuclear future and inspire people to believe in their own strength and take action before it's too late.

The set is packed with powerful, sometimes frightening visual images, like an enormous black cancerous body (nuclear waste gives off radiation — radiation causes cancer) and two soldiers wearing ghostly white masks, clashing swords, performing their dance of death and power. The music (including terrifying sound effects) was written and performed in excellent style by Stephanie Nunn and Joanne Richler who operate all kinds of flash electronic gadgets, as well as play sax, guitar and piano.

Si and Phy come from Allo, a planet where they have things well sussed. The young people make the important decisions because they have to live with the consequences.



The message is simple; resist, get information, inform others, understand what politicians and the military are doing, and that it can't just be an issue for experts because it affects all of us. (They have cozy warm fall out shelters, we have radiation burns and melting eye balls.)

Ask your parents to think twice before they buy your little brother a shiny new 'ground to air' missile model for his birthday.

They tour a lot round the country and can perform their play in schools, so why not get together with some friends and ask a teacher to contact the W.T.G. for details and see it yourself.

Tierl Thompson/Sue Leader  
5 Leonard Street,  
London EC2  
Phone: 01-250 0775/01-251 0202.

Contact addresses:

Schools Against the Bomb  
c/o King Alfred School,  
North End Rd.  
London NW1, or phone CND

Young Campaign for  
Nuclear Disarmament (YCND)  
11 Goodwin St.  
Finsbury Park,  
London N4  
(Tel. 01-263 4954)

For details of where to hire an anti-nuclear film, *The War Game*, contact CND (address above).

Ilona

## Delta 5 and U2 at the Lyceum, Feb 1st

This gig was interesting because of the contrast between Delta 5, generally thought of as a feminist band, and U2 who were top of the bill. If the Sunday night dos at the Lyceum can be said to present quite a few lesser known, radical bands, it really sank in how rare it was to see a band with women playing — it was exhilarating, I really wanted it to be a normal not special experience. Grrr.

Delta 5 play a really fun, energetic set. Their music and stage presence is assertive and confident — they don't 'sing sweetly', they whoop and shout and do strong vocal harmonies, they make you want to dance, they provoke with songs like 'Mind Your Own Business' and ("who took me to the Wimpy for a big night out") 'YOU!' It's probably this kind of liveliness that provokes reactionary reviews from male critics writing for so-called progressive music papers. Maybe they're so disconcerted they miss out

on the humour, or maybe Delta 5's don't-beat-about-the-bush lyrics hit too close to home. They left me feeling high on a wave.

The atmosphere changed for U2. A huge backdrop was unveiled showing the picture of a young boy (from the LP cover called, surprise, 'Boy') and the music they started playing sounded strangely familiar — as if the image it was projecting was the same old theme dressed up, this time romantic young macho. In a way U2's music is quite exciting — rushing and full of pretty guitar; to put it crudely they make me think of Echo and the Bunnymen gone wrong. But this makes it worse because they're not saying anything new. Watching them, the whole thing seemed really hollow. After Delta 5 it was like stepping back in time. I left as U2 were getting into full swing. Leaving the Lyceum felt like coming out of an oppressive cavern into fresh air and optimism — if we want to see more women bands, we've got to get up and make our own music!

Sue

