

**ANARCHIST FEMINIST PAPER**

**RESISTER**

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# Charlotte Wilson

Charlotte Mary Martin, was born 6th May, 1854 into a very upper middle class family, at Kemerton, a village near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. She received the best education then available to girls, going on to Cheltenham Ladies College, & then Cambridge university, where she like all other women of her time were not allowed to study for a degree, but she did take the Higher local Examination (equivalent to 'A' levels).

After leaving Uni., She married Arthur Wilson, a stockbroker, & settled in Hampstead, a fashionable suburb of London. It was during this period that Her politics began to develop, & She became an anarchist - mainly due to the trial of Kropotkin & other Anarchists in Lyons 1883, whose theories on Anarchism were published in many daily newspapers at great length. It was then that Charlotte & Her partner decided to adopt a 'simple life' at Wildwood Farm, on the edge of Hampstead Heath. And very nice it was too!!

Charlotte Wilson's contribution to Anarchist politics revolved around Her propaganda, as opposed to any direct action or strike support. Her first known published work was an article about women workers, in March 1884, which appeared in 'Justice', a socialist paper of the Democratic Federation, & was signed 'An English Anarchist'. The November-December issues of Justice, contained a whole series of Her articles on Anarchism, & She became one of the first Anarchists in Britain to 'preach' Anarchist-communism, at a time when virtually none of Kropotkin's writings had appeared in English. (Kropotkin being the main theorist on Anarcho-communism at the time. Anarchist-communism is the belief in such principles as anti-authority, anti-capitalism, anti-state, etc., but in addition it is the rejection of private property, & instead favours community ownership & communal living.)

Charlotte had joined the Fabian Society in 1884. At this time it was basically a discussion group for socialist intellectuals, with no fixed program or ideology, but went on to become the basis from which the Labour Party formed. Also in '84, She had formed Her own study group, 'the Hampstead Historic Society', which met at Her home to read & discuss the works of various socialists, including Marx & Proudhon & the history of the International labour movement. It was this group which provided much of the early philosophical & factual background for the lectures & pamphlets which became the main Fabian contribution to socialist propaganda, & in which Charlotte Wilson played a very major part.

Charlotte had also published her own work 'Three Essays on Anarchism', which can still be bought today, & includes essays on; 'Social Democracy & Anarchism'; 'The Principles & Aims

of Anarchism'; & 'Anarchism'. It was through Her writing that She became one of the best known Anarchist intellectuals in Britain, & played an important part in the emergence of the British Anarchist movement during the 1880's.

During 1886, the Fabian Society organised a meeting to debate the forming of a political party. It was a move to drive out the Anarchist faction of the society, & which succeeded. Charlotte herself seconded the following amendment:

'But whereas the first duty of socialists is to educate the people to understand what their present position is & what the future might be, & to keep the principles of socialism steadily before them; & whereas no political party can exist without compromise & concession, which would hinder that education & obscure those principles: It would be a false step for socialists to attempt to take part in the Parliamentary contest.'

The anti-parliamentarians were defeated 2:1, Charlotte Wilson resigned, & committed herself to the Anarchist movement.

She became involved with the first English-language Anarchist paper - 'The Anarchist'. However, this paper was produced by Henry Seymour, an individualist, (ie. He was anti-authority but had no criticisms of private property. This led Charlotte Wilson, the Anarchist-communist, to become the main founder, & first editor of 'Freedom', which eventually became the Freedom Press, & which still exists today - although it is now much more liberal & individualist.

Charlotte also became an active lecturer & speaker at various meetings around the country, & helped produce a series of Freedom pamphlets, including Her own 'Anarchism & Outrage' - an explanation of the Anarchist view on terrorism, & translations of Kropotkin's work.

She was the main impetus behind Freedom Press, until 1895, when she dropped out of the Anarchist movement, due to illness in the family. She never returned to Anarchism, instead to the Fabian Society under the influence of the Suffragette Movement & its demand of votes for women, & in 1908, She formed the Fabian Womens Group.

After the first world war, She took no participation in politics at all, instead She left England for America, where She died in unknown circumstances at an old peoples home at Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, 28th April 1944. Charlotte Wilson then, was an intellectual, who believed that the working class needed to be educated about how oppressed they were!! But for all Her misgivings, She was the best known British Anarchist for a decade; the Freedom Press continues after She founded it over 100 yrs ago; & her work has still much relevance to Anarchism today.

Molly Toff.



# 'ANARCHIST CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN'

Despite a few technical hitches (!), the conference seemed to go very well, with about 100 women coming along, & plenty of food for all! The workshops were structured so that there were 5 in all, to fit in a space of 5hrs & so workshops ran alongside each other. The first 2 workshops were on the Poll Tax & 'De Toda La Vida'-a video about anarchist-feminists of the Spanish civil war.

## THE POLL TAX.

The workshop was introduced by K of Edinburgh, where much work around the poll tax has been going on for about a year, as it has in many other parts of Scotland.

(Workshop notes). The poll tax was introduced to Scotland in April of this year, as an attempt to punish high spending councils. The Government tries to justify it's introduction, by saying the poll tax will increase councils accountability to the people. It ignores the fact that the majority of people will be much worse off. At present, claimants, students, pensioners, etc., pay 20% of their rates bill. In future they will have to pay AT LEAST 20% of the more expensive poll tax.

There are 3 types of poll tax:

- 1) The Community Charge-A charge on each person aged 18 or over, for the services provided for the community by the council.
- 2) The Standard Community Charge-A different charge for those with 2 homes!
- 3) The Collective Community Charge-this is a charge set for such institution as hostels, women refuges, DHSS B&B's, etc.

If you don't get your name on the poll tax register, or you refuse to pay it, then the fine is set at £50. If you refuse to register/pay a second time then the fine is anything up to £200. And if you don't have this sort of money then the authorities can sell off some of your belongings to make it!!

However, since the poll tax forms have been sent out in Scotland (most of them by post, some by hand), over 200,000 people HAVENOT returned them. People are now being hired to collect these registration forms from each household & in Glasgow, they're constantly being attacked, & so are receiving police protection!!

The actual collection of the poll tax money in Scotland, will start in April '89. Each adult will receive a rent book type 'Poll Tax Book', & the payments are to be made monthly. As for those on benefits, in the future they intend to deduct the payment automatically, & students will have to pay the rate set by the town/city they are studying in. The government can deduct the poll tax from your wages, but first they must take you to court, so we could in fact clog up the court system!!

The Scottish Office is assuming that everyone will pay! Obviously, they won't, this in turn will increase the Poll Tax charge. The Government will use this to try & get the poll tax payers to pressurise the nonpayers. So local groups must be formed to provide the support needed for nonpayers to remain as such.

Local Anarchist gps could start by putting a public meeting on, & getting street coordinators to coordinate the information for street nonpayment etc. The problem is that a lot of political gps/parties are jumping on the poll tax band wagon. In Edinburgh there are 20 different gps, & in Glasgow 40.

The Poll Tax is to be introduced to the rest of the country in 1990, so we need to start organising now, & begin local anti poll tax gps, before the Trots take a hold!!

## THE POLL TAX

### WHAT IS IT ?

The Abolition of the Rates, etc.. (Scotland) Act better known as the poll tax is now law. It will be introduced in April 1989. The poll tax aims to replace Rates and will be payable at the same level by everyone. The level of the charge will be decided by the local authority and will affect all residents and not just householders as in the past. It is designed to punish the poor for voting for "high spending" councils and so check local authority spending through the ballot box (although the Secretary of State still retains poll tax capping powers). What it will do is further increase the pressure to privatise in order to stay within budget. The community will end up paying for services like: libraries; baths; refuse collections; sports facilities; education and exhibitions.

### WHO DOES IT AFFECT ?

Everyone over the age of 18 is liable, apart from: prisoners; long term hospital patients; the severely handicapped and people living in residential homes.

### WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD IT ?

Under the present system claimants are allowed a full rebate on any Rates they might have. Under the poll tax claimants will only receive an 80% rebate, added onto their Housing Benefit. The remaining 20% will have to be found from your Giro, which will be topped up initially through a 20% National Average Poll-tax top up. This top up will be inadequate for most claimants and is to be phased out anyway.

### HOW MUCH WILL I HAVE TO PAY ?

Edinburgh District Council research unit estimates that if the Poll Tax was introduced this year the charge would be at least £360.11 per resident, per year.





### WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PAY ?

There will be penalties for not registering, not paying or not giving notice of change of address. The fines range from £50 for the offence to £200 if repeated, and if no money is available for the fine there will be a warrant sale.

### IS IT FAIR ?

NO ! This tax does not take into account the ability to pay. Further more, why should a family of four, living in a council estate pay more than a single person living in a detached house or even a palace ?

Also, if you are renting from the private sector the Rates are included in your rent, will this be lowered by your landlord when the Poll Tax comes in ?

### HOW CAN WE STOP IT ?

Lobbying by political parties can achieve little. The only way to stop the Poll Tax is to make it unworkable by a nation wide boycott.

CAN'T PAY! WON'T PAY! Form locally based groups to discuss tactics and fight the Poll-tax.



SOME POSSIBLE TACTICS.

As of the 1st April 1988 registering for the Poll-tax will start. Canvassers will call round with a questionnaire to fill.

1: Don't answer the door. After three visits, if the "responsible person" is not available the form will be sent to you.

2: You have 21 days to return the form. Return it unanswered after 18, 19 days, asking for clarification of a question that appears on the canvass. For example one of the questions you are asked is "Are the premises a dwellinghouse?", ask for the definition of dwellinghouse ?

3: Remember send only one question at a time as you can repeat this. In every instance you will have 21 days to complete it.

4: Another tactic is to use another name as this is not illegal in Scotland. If you have registered under another name then you can, after two months or so inform the registration officer that you have recently moved in and you can start all over again. It would also get the officer wondering where the other person has gone to.

5: Return the form to the registration officer marked "not known at this address".

6: Claim you never received the questionnaire, the burden of proof is on the Registration Officer, not you.

These are only a few suggestions - the important thing is to make the Act unworkable. The end result will have to be CAN'T PAY! WON'T PAY!

For more information contact:

Edinburgh D.A.M.-I.W.A.

P.O. Box 516, Southwest D.O.

Edinburgh. EH 10 4AB

### (VIDEO) 'De Toda La Vida' ('All Our Lives')

This video was introduced by N of Resister, & a handout giving basic information on the revolution & the Anarchist-feminist gp. 'Mujeres Libres' was distributed. The introduction informed women of how the revolution began - a result of a Fascist coup on the Spanish Republic; the workers & peasants fought back.

The main emphasis though, was on the role of women during the civil war, in particular, looking at 'Mujeres Libres' (Free Women), which was a federation founded by women of the Anarchist-syndicalist union, the CNT, & which over a period of 3yrs, grew to over 27,000 members, spread over 147 different towns & cities.

The Anarchist women felt the need to organise autonomously of men, to address women's triple enslavement to ignorance, to capital, & to men. They concentrated on several areas, including: illiteracy, economic dependence & exploitation, childcare, sexuality & health care. So they mounted a massive literacy campaign & set up centres for classes. They also fought to equalise wages; held factory meetings & sponsored agricultural training programs. In Barcelona they set up a 'flying column' of child minders, so that women could get to their classes & meetings. They ran training programs for prostitutes, to give them new skills & find alternative work. They put out a paper 'Mujeres Libres', trained women for the front line, organised demos, built barricades, set up committees for the provision of food & arms, & organised collective meals, laundry, creches, & maternity homes.

However, the Anarchist men weren't so keen on female emancipation, & ended up getting hostile. As it happened, the war was lost to Franco & his army, & the women were once again subjected to right wing images of women.

The video followed, which was a documentary type film, involving 7 Anarchist-feminists who founded 'Mujeres Libres', & their recollections of the Spanish civil war.



DINNER BREAK, PLUS 2 VIDEOS.

### VIDEO 28.

This is a video made by lesbians of Leeds & Bradford, & they made it as a celebration & a record of some of the many fightback events against clause 28 of the local Government Bill. It's well worth seeing & really is an inspiration to action!! (Video 28; c/o PO Box HP5, Leeds LS6 2ED.)

I'm afraid I don't know anything about the second video, but details will appear in our next issue - sorry!!

Workshops 3 & 4, ran as follows:

MUJERES LIBRES CNT





## A QUICK HISTORY OF WOMEN INVOLVED IN STRIKES & TRADE UNIONS. (Jef Brixton DART).

(Workshop notes). Women have always been involved, women played their part in the bread riots of the 18th & 19th centuries. In 1838, women organised their own political union in support of the Chartist movement. The hosiery & lace industries largely employed women, & they began to organise, demanding better conditions. Derby & Nottingham women were particularly renowned for their radicalism. Their were also female Friendly Societies set up.

1888 saw the first action of its kind, as hundreds of women took to the streets in protest of their working conditions & demanding a pay rise. This strike action was taken by the 'Matchgirls', who were suffering from 'phossie jaw'-a condition caused by the inhalation of the phosphorus of the matches, & which resulted in the disintegration of the lower jaw. The women won their case, getting better conditions & more pay. They also went on to form their own union, which ran for 5yrs before collapsing.

The National Federation of women workers was formed in 1906. By 1918 it had 20,000 members. In 1911, 3/4 of all women were employed, & after the first world war, over a million women were members of 36 different women only unions. However, the 1920's saw these unions amalgamate with the larger trade unions.

In 1981, 41% of the workforce were women, & in 1986, 45%. In both cases, nearly half of the women are in part-time work. 3/4 of all unmarried women have jobs, & 3/4 of these women who work are in the service industries. In banking, 50% of the total workforce are women, BUT they take home only 28% of the total wages handed out.

Of the part time workers, only 1/3 are in unions, & only 1/2 of the full time workers. The problem is that existing unions do little in helping women organise, or providing any support, although they are only too happy to take the credit for any successful strikes, etc.

### IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP WITH MAGGIE

Well, i'm afraid our recording of this workshop didn't work! So I can't really tell you anything except that alot of noise was made, & everyone seemed to enjoy it!!!



## SUMMARY SESSION.

We decided to combine the workshop on an abortion fund with the round-up session. Leeds Abortion Fund led off. The fund was set up to enable women to have abortions regardless of whether they have the money or not. The fund holds benefits, collects donations & so far has helped 3 women have abortions on demand. They highlighted the difficulties women are facing with the delays in NHS abortions & the high cost of going private. There was some discussion about setting similar funds up in other parts of the country. This was a major factor with the conference & we just did not have the time to discuss all the issues that an abortion fund raises-getting money together for women to have private abortions as opposed to fighting for community abortions, is a limited form of 'mutual aid'. We want to write more on this for a future Resister & if you have any views either way they will be included-or write an article!

The round-up session concentrated on setting up the Anarchist Feminist Newsletter-in Lancaster for the next 3 months: AFN, Single Step Coop, 78a Penny St., Lancaster-For us to keep in touch with each other & share news.

The Liverpool women talked about the hassles they are having in the mutual aid centre, 45 Seel St., Liverpool, from the men. It was agreed that the next conference is to be held there & Brixton women will help with the organising. Other women talked of their experiences in 'mixed' centres-male centres with a womens room, & the mens hysteria about women wanting some space, ending in one case with the men demolishing the walls of the womens room! In the end it just gets down to how much energy are anarcho-feminists prepared to spend on men, & whether or not we want to spend that time on ourselves. In any case, if any women are in Liverpool, it might be interesting to use the womens room, support the Liverpool women & reclaim the space for all of us.

On the whole, women felt okay about the conference-noise was a problem: time was a problem: after the conference one woman pointed out that we didnt talk about ourselves as women as anarcho feminists & that was reflected in the title 'Anarchist conference for Women'. Some room for discussion on this one.....

Holly Toff + Anna Quay.





STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

The pornography company QuietlynnLtd., who run the chain of Private Shops across Britain, secretly moved their administrative headquarters to a new location in London's East End - shortly before the police raided their warehouse in June this year, according to I-Spy Productions who've produced the book "Looks Can Kill".

This secret move was one more stage in an elaborate cover-up whose purpose was to shield Quietlynn's lucrative pornography operations.

Quietlynn's administrative offices had been held under the name of a supposedly separate company. They moved from these offices in Deanery Rd., Statford, in an attempt to evade investigation by Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad.

Brian Richards, Quietlynn's owner, warned employees after the move that the new location of their headquarters - 182 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex, tel. 01 518 2222 - must be kept secret. (So much for that!!)

In "Looks Can Kill" I-Spy describe how the pornographic magazines and videos sold by Quietlynn were produced under the name of Sheptonhurst - supposedly a separate company.

It is now clear that the office held in the name of Sheptonhurst was in fact the administrative centre for the Quietlynn warehouse in nearby Faraday Rd., supplying 120 shops in major towns throughout Britain.

The web of intrigue surrounding Quietlynn's pornography business - separately-owned companies disguising a united operation - gives extra weight to their allegations - set out in "Looks" - that Sunday Sport boss David Sullivan is still involved in the pornography empire he first created.



Sullivan's mansion: 48-50, Stradbroke Drive, Chigwell, Essex.

We can also reveal the ex-directory numbers of Quietlynn's Faraday Rd. warehouse :

01 555 4674    01 555 1552    01 555 2989.

"Looks Can Kill - Pornographic Business" by I-Spy Productions, price £3, is available from bookshops or direct from D.I.S., Box 60, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT.



The Quietlynn warehouse - 2, Faraday Rd, E.15.



## A WHITER SHADE OF BLACK.

Twelve years ago, soaps containing mercury (in the form of hydroquinone), were banned from Europe. Banned because those using them were suffering from mercury poisoning, causing such symptoms as: severe cracks on the skin, damaged skin & pigment cells, skin cancer, blistering in the mouth, fever, bloody diarrhea, personality change, miscarriage, malformation of foetus, kidney failure, wasting of the liver, brain damage, death.

It has been known for decades that mercury should be treated with great caution, so why was it put into cosmetic products such as soap, in the first place? This question is easily answered, as the mercury has the affect of lightening black skin, thus it was seen by a racist culture to be a useful product to enable Black people to appear less Black & more white.

The soap first appeared in North America, where it is seen to have lighter skin, is the key to success, & quickly spread to South Africa for obvious reasons.

Once banned in Europe, the firms involved (most of which are British), took their product to countries which are desperate for foreign trade & money, where trading laws are therefore lax, & where vast amounts of profit can still be made, i.e., the so called 'third world countries'.

Such Imperialism involves the multi-national & transnational companies' western prejudices, western cultures & western techniques, to impose on their 'host' countries. Hence Black women are surrounded by images of Black women who are not only small slim & childlike, but who also have light Black skin. Women are pressurised/taught/indoctrinated into aspiring to be like the model in the magazine where to be 'whiter' is better. All of the successful Black female models are light skinned. At school, real peer group pressure is exerted on the Black girls to lighten their skin, not only to obtain a 'boy-friend', but so that they will be accepted by the 'in' crowd etc.

It is Black women then who are the targets of such a product (although some men do use it, including Micheal Jackson, who may have lightened his skin but is now unable to be exposed to sunlight, due to mercury poisoning).

The soap is used on a regular basis, like any other soap, the mercury eventually passes into the bloodstream, travels around the body & does the damage. Attacking pigmentation cells, causing a lightening of the skin but, eventually causing increased pigmentation in certain areas, resulting in rippled, lumpy, blotchy skin. The effect is irreversible & once in the bloodstream, the mercury may go on to damage the liver, kidneys, brain.

If the skin is cracked, or the user suffers from eczema, then the mercury will reach the bloodstream sooner - the companies even advise the user to apply it to such cracked areas to speed up the results. Consequently, in Nigeria (where the soap is banned), 90% of all those being treated for skin problems are as a result of using soap containing mercury.

However, the product not only affects the user, but the producer too, & once again it is women who are affected, for it is they who work in the factories, making & packing the soap. The product may have been banned for sale in Europe 12 yrs ago, but only recently has the Department of Trade & Industry banned its production in Britain - so in Lancashire, 'W & E' had a factory producing the soap, & here women were suffering from miscarriages, still births, congenital defects, & infant deaths - all due to mercury poisoning, where levels of blood mercury in the foetus or infants were found to be 10 times higher than normal. This factory has now been closed BUT W&E have a new factory in Ireland, the Irish Development Authority even gave them a £3/4 million grant to set up their new base. In Stockport there is a company called Shakespeare, they too produce soap containing mercury, & at the end of May this year, the Department of Trade & Industry informed Shakespeare that they must cease production. The company is appealing against the decision, & so continues production.

Many household names are responsible for the production of this killer soap - Cussons & Imperial Leather (Patterson Zochinos), Robinsons, Dettol, & many more. The product was banned in Europe 12 yrs ago (although it is still sold openly in many shops), & so they sought profits in 'third world countries' where the product is readily sold along the streets. The same companies also make cosmetics which cover up the damage caused by the mercury poisoning!

The problem is that once the product is made, it is impossible to stop it from reaching the market, as cross border smuggling is so rife, & Governments are unwilling to commit themselves to preventing it enter their country as such trade makes them money, e.g., to Nigeria it is worth £20 million per year - even though the soap is banned.

Banning the product or its production is not the answer then - only a world free of Imperialism, capitalism, racism, will solve this one.

ANARCHY!!!

Molly Toff.



## ITS THE EDUCATION, NOT THE DEAFNESS THATS THE PROBLEM.

British Sign Language (BSL) is the language of the profoundly deaf, it was evolved by deaf people and reflects their thought processes. It relies on specific signs made by the hands, and also facial expressions (over 50% of information is conveyed by the face alone). BSL has its own grammar which is distinct from english grammer.

There have been two schools of thought in the teaching of profoundly deaf children: oralism and manulism (ie signing). Oralism maintains that language should be oral and so in oralist schools lip-reading and speech are taught. Even profoundly deaf children who were born deaf or went deaf within the first few months of life, who've never heard words or sounds are expected to learn how to pronounce and how to use those sounds correctly. AND they are expected to use it as their first language.

This presents less of a problem to children who have gone deaf through illness eg meningitis or accident, because their original hearing will have allowed them to acquire spoken language naturally.

Alot of educational time is spent teaching prelingually deaf children sounds, repeating again and again the same sound - teaching the child to speak, rather than teaching the different subjects the hearing child of the same age is receiving. "Deaf children must be set to imitate speech...A boy said to me 'long here I said 'Say how long will you stay here?' But the boy did not follow me He insisted asking: 'long here?' and was almost angry that I did not answer him soon enough! This revealed a wrong attitude in the boy. Deaf children must keep an attitude of trial and check, a feeling of wanting to be corrected and set to imitate the language of others" Van Uden (1970) an oralist. Far from revealing the wrong attitude of the boy, this reveals the wrong attitude and frustrations of the oralist method.

Deaf children are made to use heavily amplified hearing aids which only serves to amplify all sound, which remains directionless, so all they gain is a confused mass of noise from which they are expected to be

able to pick out the sounds which are relevant. Deaf children are also taught to lip read, although profoundly deaf children, having never heard the difference between a P or a B, or the difference between the group K, L and D, have great difficulty knowing how to pronounce it. Lip reading at best is 80% guesswork.

Cued speech, a method for teaching deaf children how to lip read was invented in 1966 by Orin Cornett, although never meant to be used exclusively, it is the sole method used by many oralist teachers. The sounds of speech are indicated by the teachers' eight different handshapes near the child's mouth. "The deaf child is able to decipher every sound that is uttered. As she becomes proficient at recognising the combined patterns of language she is able to drop the prop of cueing" So the theory goes... However in 1979 the first ever comprehensive deaf school leavers survey was compiled (they took their time to realise such a survey was necessary!) It found their lipreading was no better than a hearing child with no practice. The survey also revealed deaf school leavers' <sup>reading age</sup> averaged 8½ years and their speech was mostly unintelligible. The oralists had succeeded in one sphere however - the suppression of sign language as a means of communication and instruction.

The oralists did use one sign system - the Paget-Gorman system but this system of over 4000 words was created by hearing individuals without any reference to the deaf community, it has no relation to BSL, the signs are completely different, and is thus of little use to deaf people when they leave education.

There can be said to be 'oral successes', usually these are partially deaf and deafened children with a few deaf children of deaf parents. Of course there remain 'oral failures' across the whole range; people unable to communicate in a hearing world - for which an oralist education was supposed to prepare them - or more importantly with each other. Most children continued to use BSL throughout their schooldays. Many deaf people tell stories of having to sit on their hands to prevent them using their own language, or



BAD



CONT: setting someone to keep watch for teachers while a group of friends signed to each other in a remote corner. In the same way Welsh and Gaelic speaking people have had their indigenous language excluded from their education. However only 10% of deaf children are born to deaf parents so there is only a minority of deaf children who have deaf culture and signing as part of their home life. Unlike Welsh, Gaelic, Urdu, Punjabi etc speaking children where the first language might be actively encouraged at home. Unable to learn BSL within school, many deaf people learn it in the playground or by meeting other deaf people at the deaf club.

Recent developments in the education for the deaf include Total Communication which is the philosophy calling for every means of communication to be used - technological aids (hearing aids and visual aids), English (speech, lip reading and finger spelling) and signs (signed English, BSL). The key to Total Communication is its flexibility - it recognises that children have varying needs and that different settings and situations demand different communication skills. Unfortunately in practice Total Communication tends to be simply a blend of speech and signed English or signs supporting English.

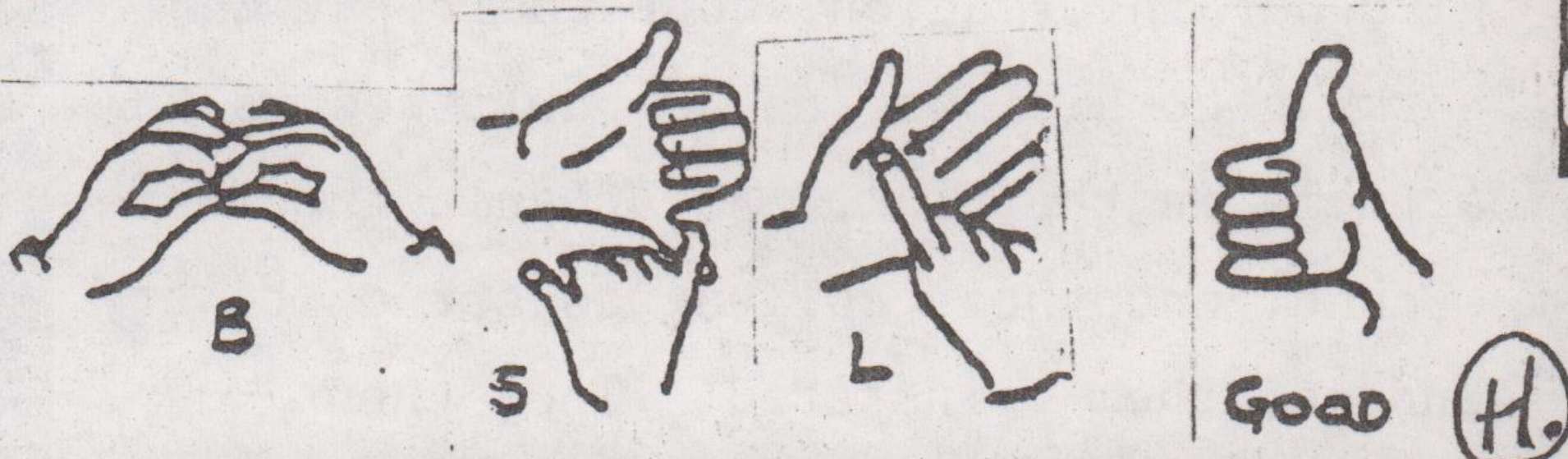
So what's the difference between signed English (SE) and signs supporting English (SSE)? Well, SE has the signs in the English word order, with additions to show tenses and word endings, and SSE is similar except it uses finger spelling or lipreading instead of added signs. SSE still uses English word order. The most obvious sign language to use in schools would be the language deaf adults use - BSL. BSL has its own grammar, if you present signs from BSL in English word order and accompanied by speech, you lose many of its essential features. If deaf children could be taught their own language first, with its structure which is far better suited to their mental processes than English - the born deaf and prelingually deaf do not think in strings of words - then SSE can follow.

Once deaf children begin to read, the lines of words will make far more sense if they can be explained in a language they understand, and

lip reading will be far easier once they start to read English. It is impossible to combine English and BSL, and BSL is much easier for a deaf child to learn early; and early linguistic development in a language deaf children can understand will be much more liberating for profoundly deaf people than any oralist attempt to integrate them into an uncaring, disinterested, rejecting hearing society.

"The tragedy is not that some people are born deaf, but that they are denied a means of communication appropriate to their needs.

The tragedy is not that parents have deaf children, but that they are denied the opportunity to make an informed decision about the education of those children." (Lorraine Fletcher parent of deaf child).



## SEOUL warfare!

Last month we told you about the atrocities being carried out on the people of Korea to prepare for this year's Olympics being held there, such as mass evictions. As well as this, riot police have attacked peaceful demonstrations of disabled people, who have been protesting about the Paralympics (disabled people's Olympics) also being held in Seoul. They are protesting about the hypocrisy of the Korean state which is hosting such an event, yet treats its own disabled people very badly, with few benefits. The riot police have been treating these protests in just the same way as they would treat any other, and a boycott of the Paralympics has been called for.....



## MATCH GIRLS' STRIKE 1888.

It's 100 years since the famous "Matchgirls strike" at the Bryant & May factory in the East end of London. This was the first strike by one of the "new unions", the more militant unions set up with socialist principles rather than the old friendly societies which provided funds for members in times of trouble.

At this time there was a swerve to the left in the British labour movement. The Fabian Society had set up a paper, the Link, edited by Annie Besant, who visited the Bryant & May factory and persuaded some of the women and girls to give her information about their pay and working conditions, to be published as an article in the Link. As a result they were sacked, and their colleagues struck to try and get them reinstated. They then marched together to Fleet Street, where Annie Besant saw them from her office window. She and the Women's Trade Union League formed them into the Matchmakers' Union, and started negotiations for improvements with their employers. Conditions then for matchmakers were appalling, as well as long hours many of them contracted necrosis of the jaw or "phossy jaw", caused by working with phosphorous. Teeth would fall out and often the whole jaw would be eaten away.

The strikers aroused public sympathy to an extent then unheard of; a boycott of Bryant & May was called and a lot of money was raised for distribution as strike pay. Consequently Bryant & May had to make some concessions and the strike was successful. However, conditions remained bad for workers in match factories and the Women's Trade Union League carried on campaigning for match workers of both sexes.



Annie Besant.

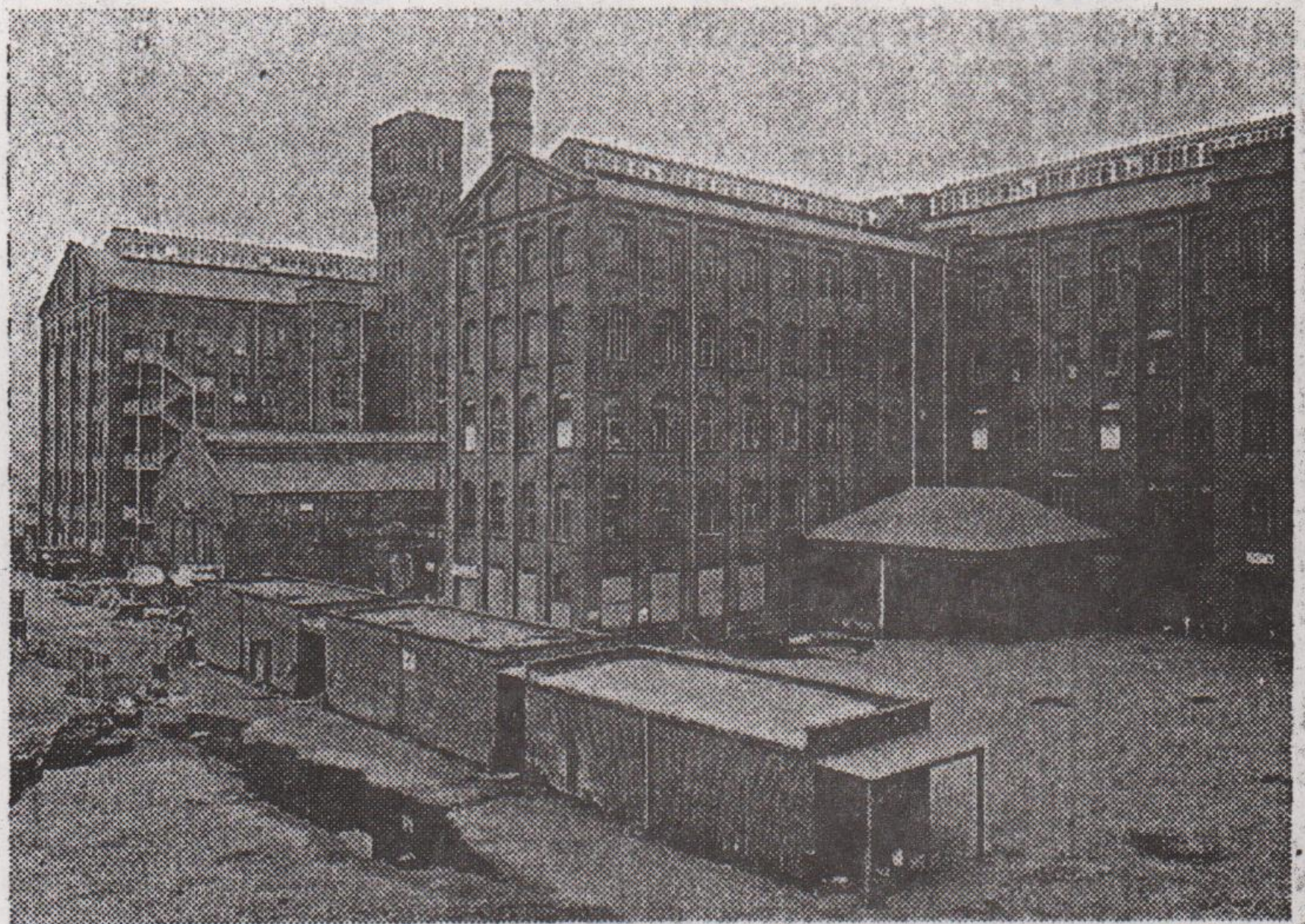


The striking women of 1888 showed amazing solidarity with their workmates who'd been sacked, considering that they could easily have lost their own jobs, and their success gave hope to other sections of low paid and unskilled workers.

Despite their success, their story is to be found in few books about the rise of trade unionism - perhaps because they were women, or unskilled workers, I don't know. But with the centenary of the strike they are again in the news as we see that the Bryant & May factory is to be turned into yuppie flats!!

amous "matchgirls" strike took place 100 years ago is to be converted into 600 flats by Kentish Homes. The £30m development project should be completed by early 1991.

They are expected to start at around £60,000 when they go on the market (unfinished) in October through Alan Selby and Partners (01-986 9431).



The former Bryant & May factory in Bow is to be turned into 600 flats

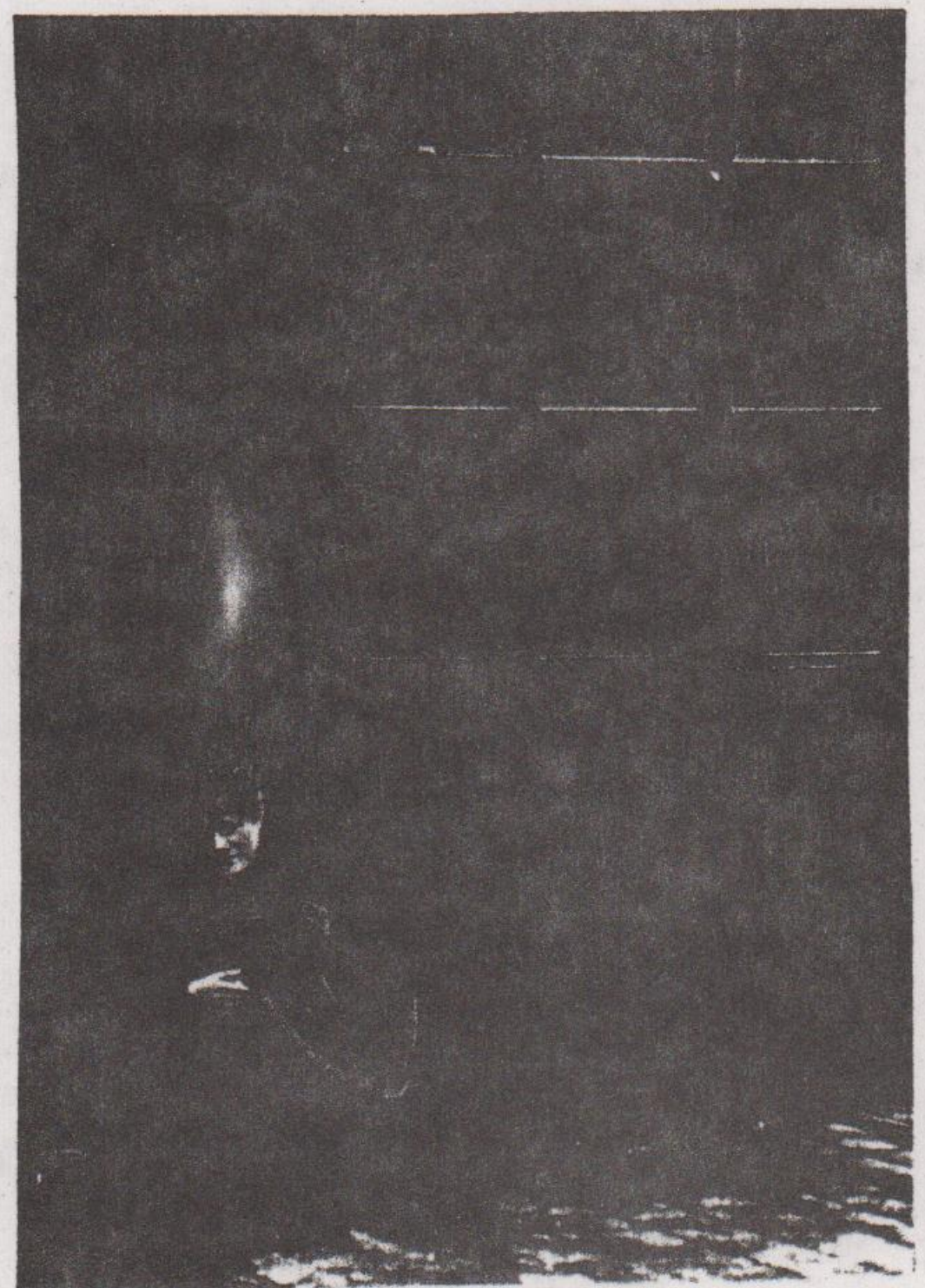
## Grizzly Risley

Janine Evrard, as far as we know, is still on hunger strike in Risley Remand Centre. She has been in Risley since July 1987, and is protesting against serving a 2 year prison sentence BEFORE trial. Her trial isn't due to take place untill October 1988 at Liverpool Crown Court.

Janine is charged with "conspiracy to defraud", so obviously isn't a threat to society that she can't be released on bail, and is pleading Not Guilty. Before going to court and having a chance to prove her innocence she will have served 16 months, the equivalent of a 2 year prison sentence, with time off for good behaviour.

There is a picket of Liverpool Crown Court in support of Janine from 9am - 2pm daily.

"everyone arrested or detained shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial."



The new address for Lesley Phipps, a woman jailed for 15 months for a raid on Cocksparrow Farm, is:

Lesley Phipps T82697,  
HMP & YCC,  
Drake Hall,  
Eccleshall,  
Stafford  
ST21 6LQ.

She'd appreciate lots & lots of letters...



# whats on

Aug 10th - Women's disco, Rockshots.

Aug 12th - Leeds Campaign Against Poll Tax Benefit, 1pm-1am, Astoria. £2/£3.

Aug 20th - Black Cross meeting, Leeds West Indian Centre.

Aug 27th-Sept 3rd - Quilt exhibition, Nostell Priory, near Wakefield.

Sept 3rd - Speaking Out Festival, St. Helens town centre.

Sept 10th - Northern Anarchist Network meeting, Manchester. For more details contact ReSister.

Sept 22nd - Cabaret by disabled performers, Alhambra, Bradford.

October 1st - Conference, "Women, Censorship & the Media", organised by the women's section of the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom. At the London Women's Centre, Wesley House, 4 Wild Court, London. Includes a workshop on pornography and companies by I-Spy women. More details as we get them....

Till Dec - Every Thurs there is an anarchist day school at "New University", 24 South Rd. Hockley, Birmingham 18, 3-6pm.

Creche/meals/accomodation available.

Aug 11th - the subject is anarcha-feminism.

## REGULAR EVENTS

Every Thursday - Women only evenings at Fat Freddy's, Call Lane.

Every other Thursday, from Aug 11th - Women's disco at Checkpoint, Bradford.

Every Thursday - Women's football, Woodhouse Moor. Contact Women's Centre for exact times.

Thursdays - Quatsh (gay/straight disco) alternates with women only discos, at the Phono, Merrion Centre, Leeds.

July & Aug - Women's B&B, Mid Wales. Tel. 057045 370.

**VIDEO 28-5** lesbians from Leeds & Bradford produced this video. It covers the provisions of clause 28 & its effects. For hire £15/£10. £30 to buy. PO Box HP5, Leeds LS26 2ED.

**Leeds Psychiatric Users Action Group** (ex-users welcome) Tel: Leeds 742983. Mind, 157 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2. 1-4pm. Box no 172, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT (postal address only) **Fridays**.

**Leeds Gingerbread Centre** - Room 7 (second floor), Westminster Buildings, New York Street, Leeds LS2 7DT. Advice, information, support for one-parent families. Phone 459580 (24 hour ansaphone). Open 10.00am-2.00pm. **Mon - Fri**.

**Leeds Gingerbread Group**. Regular Sunday meetings for solo parents and children. Phone 459580 (Mon., Wed., Fri.) 10.00am-2.00pm for details.

**Leeds women's campaign against deportations** meet at 4pm every fortnight (from 26th May) at Harehills Housing Aid, Roundhay Rd. All women welcome.

**Weekend club for recovering mentally ill** South Leeds 713337 at the weekend.

**Leeds Namibia Support Group** meets every 2nd Mon of month, 8pm, Palace Youth Project, 92 Sheperds Ln, Ls7.

**Amnesty International** meets last Monday each month, Headingley community centre, North Ln, 7.45pm.

**CANSUPPORT** Cancer in the family support grp. Leeds central gp meets 1st Mon each month, 7.30pm, Oxford Pl Community Chambers, Ls1. Crossgates gp meets 2nd Mon each month, 7.30pm, Crossgates Methodist church, Austhorpe Rd, Ls15. **Leeds women's reproductive rights campaign** meets once a month. Details 625445. All women welcome. **MONDAYS** Playgroup Belle Vue Centre, Leeds 3. Call in to see us.

**Leeds older feminists informal discussion group** meets Monday evenings. Details 664761.

**Claimants Drop-in** at Harehills Pl. 12-3.30pm. Chance to have a snack, a chat and get advice & info. Videos, film shows etc.

**Leeds Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign and La Concha meeting** 2nd Tues of each month. 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mount LS7. NB. Tues 10th May meeting will be at 23 Hartley Ave, Leeds 6.

**157 social centre friendly informal meeting** place for people recovering from mental illness. Details 451662.

**Self help groups**. Mind Your Self group 10.30-noon at Meanwood Health Centre, 548 Meanwood Rd & 7.30-9.30pm at Mind Your Self, 155 Woodhouse Ln, LS2. 30p per session.

**Tai Chi for beginners** 8.00-10.00 at Wrangthorn Church Hall, Hyde Park. Tel. Desmond Leeds 628272 **WED**.

**Leeds Personal Effectiveness Group**. Every Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm, Leeds MIND, 157 Woodhouse Lane. ☎ 451662

**Womens Social & Discussion Group** Every Wed. 2-4pm. Leeds MIND, 157 Woodhouse Lane, opp BBC Tel: 451662

**Leeds Women & Ireland Group** meet last Wed each month, 8pm, Trades Club.

**Leeds Anti Fascist Action** meets alternate Weds from 29 April, Trades Club, 8pm.

**Viraj Mendis support group** (Leeds) meets alternate Weds from 6 May, Trades Club, 8pm.

**Leeds Chile Solidarity Committee** meets 2nd Wed each month at Leeds TUC Club. All welcome.

**Feminist support/CR group** meets Huddersfield 1st & 3rd Wednesdays. Details Huddersfield 666891.

**Anarchists/Syndicalists** meet informally at Woodpecker pub. every Wed. 8pm.

**Leeds Mozambique Support Grp** 2nd Wed each month, 8pm. Details Joss 444969 day, 433927 eve.

**Bradford University Lesbian & Gay Soc** 7.30pm. Details c/o student union, Richmond Rd.

## DEADLINE DATE

## AUGUST 23rd

### RESISTER

C/O BOX DAM;  
52 CALL LANE;  
LEEDS.