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## WHITE WOMEN AND RACISM

### THE BRADFORD WOMENS CENTRE

The Bradford Womens centre has had a bad reputation within the Black community, for making black women unwelcome, and the 9 founder members are all white. As part of a social work course, a black woman was doing her placement at the centre. She set up a Black Womens group. This group looked at ways of involving more black women - and decided that the centre needed a black worker. SO .....

The centre employed an Afro-Caribbean woman, and decided that they needed an Asian woman. A job description was drawn up saying an "Asian language was essential". This job description then went to the collective (of white women) who sat on it. The black woman's placement ended, and the Black Womens group ended too. THEN.....

The job description changed to "Asian language preferable". Fifty % of the applicants were black - but the job went to a white woman (with a degree too), who was lovers with a woman on the selection group.

So.....Black women sent letters to Irregular Periods and the centre, demanding both appologies and positive constructive action. These demands were repeated at collective meetings. The response was last minute and inadequate. The white women explained why decisions were made - it was just excuses and no more. Also Suzanne felt a lot of hostility from white women in the centre.

Black applicants went to Black womens groups to complain, and white women complained about the 'old girls network'. This led to an interview in "Irregular Periods (the Bradford Womens Centre newsletter) in which racist comments were made - such as: "Asian women tend to be anti-lesbian". and that they "wanted someone familiar with the centre". (i.e. ignoring WHY black women were NOT familiar with it) and "We havnt lost, we've won".

i.e. they had Katrina as a paid worker and Nasim as a volunteer - and so could exploit her language skills. And please note - the job is very well paid - over £100 for 24 hours work.

AND SO.....

In response to white women refusing to take black women seriously, and their patronising attitudes, and as it was failing to be a centre for ALL women, BLACK WOMEN OCCUPIED THE CENTRE.

The centre is now closed till the A.G.M. (Annual General Meeting)

sona Boyce, Lubaina Himid, Sutapa Biswas, Cindy Sherman, Susan Hillier, Mary Kelly, Tour St. ICA, Lond March 1:

WOM March. This exhibition is the culmination and celebration of a year long tour of a smaller exhibition the city. It is the

There seems to be 2 "factions" amongst white women - one group wants to take the centre back. The other group supports the black women. BUT they don't seem to be taking much initiative in dealing with racism - but are leaving it to black women. White women should sort out their own shit. Racism is a problem for white women to sort out, not for black women. It is up to white women to confront other white women's racism - and not leave it to black womwn.

IDA AGARD, IN , colour and mix jle of experience nent of Africa he

### AN AFTERWORD ON THE COUNCIL

Bradford Council:

- \* did not offer help with the Emergency General Meeting.
- \* kept interrupting the meeting with formalities and legalities.
- \* the council froze funds when black women occupied the centre - i.e. racism of wanting black women to be 'legal and correct in procedure when they didnt bother when white women were not.
- \* at the E.G.M. the secretary and director both publicly resigned - but are still telling workers what to do.
- \* and RUMOUR HAS IT THE COUNCIL ARE STILL WORKING WITH WOMEN WHO RESIGNED. - the council refuses to recognise the Black Womens collective.

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# STOP STRIP SEARCHES

In November 1982, Maureen O'Neill, on her way to a remand hearing from Armagh gaol, was told to take all her clothes off in front of a group of prison warders. She refused - there had never been strip-searching in Armagh before - and her clothes were forcibly pulled off by the warders. She was then punished by withdrawal of privileges.....

Four years on, the policy of strip-searching women prisoners in the north of Ireland continues. It is used as a weapon to degrade and humiliate women, any pretensions of it being necessary for security reasons are a load of nonsense.

One of the most disturbing recent individual experiences reported was that of a woman who miscarried her baby as a direct result of the stress produced by the traumatic effects of this policy. The woman was arrested by the RUC for non-payment of a motoring fine. With the knowledge that she was 13 weeks pregnant, the RUC took her to Mughaberry prison. She was then strip-searched. The following day, her fine was paid by a relative. Within this short period, she was searched twice and strip-searched on her release. A day later she miscarried.

Other women have continued to be strip-searched whilst: having an epileptic fit; menstruating; and one was blindfolded whilst her clothes were taken off and the search carried out.

Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson, whilst on remand in Brixton awaiting trial for the "hotel bomb conspiracy", also recieved a gross amount of strip-searches. At 4 a.m. on the morning of July 31st, 1986, they were transported to Durham H wing in a closed prison van. Before leaving Brixton they were strip-searched and put into the van, having contact only with prison officers. Upon arrival at Durham they were again strip-searched. In the 14 months from July 1985 to Sept 1986, Ella and Martina respectively recieved 388 and 381 strip-searches. For the month of May 1986, whilst on trial, the number reached a peak of 61 each (approximately 3 a day each).

Meanwhile, on Oct 6th 1986, Simone Dewhurst was arrested on the non-stop picket outside the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square. She was taken to Cannon Row police station where she was forcibly stripped, told that a police officer would like to "fuck her", told that she was a "dirty lesbian", and left standing naked in the view of a group of laughing male police officers. On Sept



17th 1986, when Amanda Collins was arrested outside the Embassy, she was physically assaulted on her way back, and a policeman lowered himself onto her body. When she struggled, he sat on her and bounced up and down on the small of her back. She was sexually harassed and groped in the van, and called a "dirty lesbian", "a dirty slag" and "a nigger lover". Once inside Cannon Row police station she was physically assaulted and groped by male police officers.

These incidents indicate to us how the state and its protectors deal with any woman who does not conform to the passive role that is forced upon us. Any woman who is seen to be political in the remotest sense is seen as threatening and abnormal. She must be controlled and dis-empowered. The police force prisons, media, etc. see the best way to degrade, demoralise and "break us" via our bodies. Hence the role of strip searches, introduced in the North of Ireland in 1982, and the sexual harrasment of female arrestees all over the world.

There are a number of campaigns against strip-searches, for more information, write to:

Sheffield Women and Ireland Group,  
P O Box 104,  
Sheffield 1.

Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson both recieved life sentences. Postcards and letters of support would make a great deal to them: Ella O'Dwyer POW D25133

Martina Anderson POW D25134  
Durham Prison,  
Eld Elvet,  
Durham DH1 3HU.

Stop Strip Searches, a public meeting, will be held on Thurs. 21st May, at Leeds Trades Club. 7.30. There's a speaker from the Sheffield Women & Ireland group, Ann Nelligan, and a video - "If you didn't laugh you'd cry...."

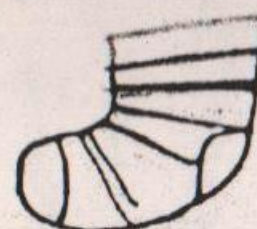
On Sat 13th June, there's a national demo against strip searching in Durham. It will pass Durham Prison, where Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer are still being strip searched. The march (like the meeting) is mixed, but has been organised by women and is to be women-led. Coach (costing £4/£2) will leave the university Parkinson steps at 10.30, the Trades Club at 10.40, and the Corn Exchange at 10.45.





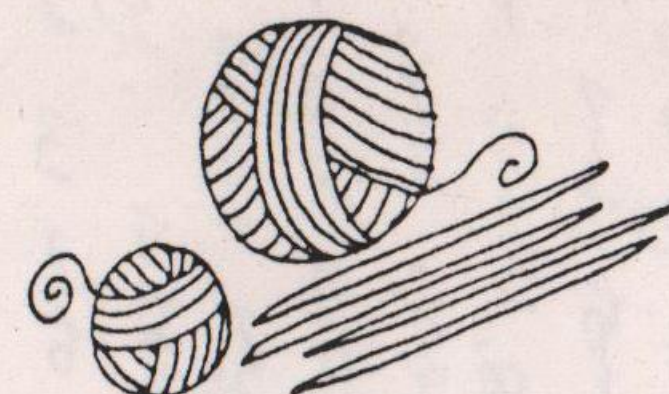


HOW TO KNIT YOUR VERY OWN EVERSO CHIE  
MUSTN'T BE SEEN AT THE DISCO WITHOUT THEM



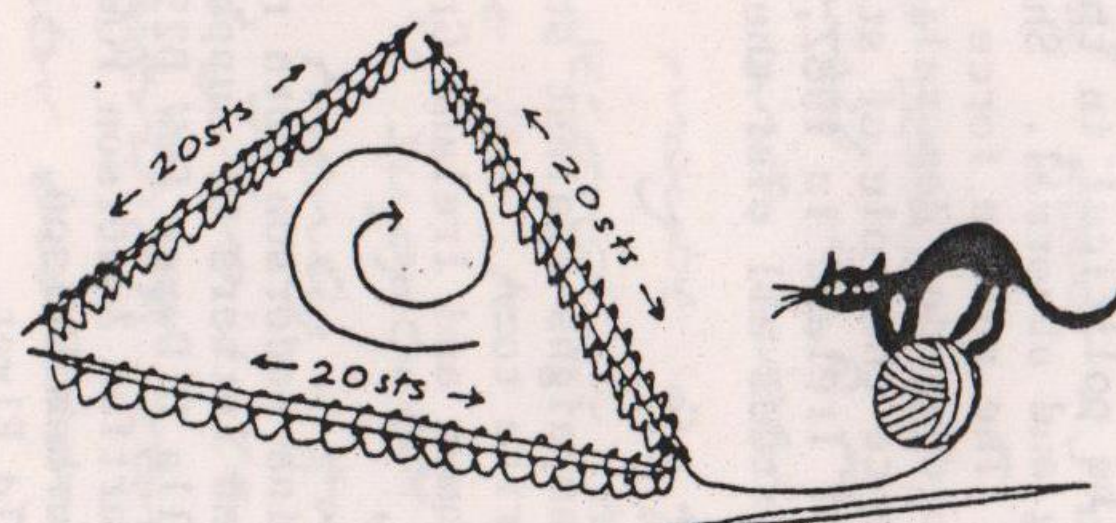
.....COSMIC WOMBYNS SOCKS.....

1. Buy wool...any sort or colour ....be daring.....and a set of 4 sock needles (size depends on wool)  
Cast on 20 stitches, knit a few rows, to check how big it will be....  
so now work out how many stitches you want for the whole sock.....



1. SET OF 4 SOCK NEEDLES  
Et some WOOL...

2. Suppose you decide on 60 stitches.  
Cast on 20 on the first needle, then keeping the wool tight, 20 on the next 2, which leaves one free-- use it to start off knitting and keep going round and round.....socks are spirals - I said it was cosmic.



2. SOCKS ARE SPIRALS...

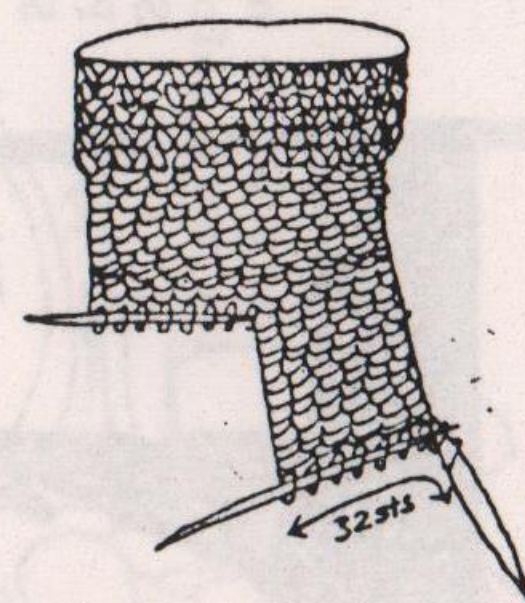
Do several inches of ribbing - knit one pearl one, or knit 2, pearl 2.

After the ribbing is done, keep going doing plain(stocking) stitch till you want to start the heel(no need to do pearl cos you are always on outside/ front of sock.)

Make it as long or short as you want, and stripes are easy to knit.....

### 3. THE HEEL.....

Divide stitches into two and keep one lot held on a pin or pins. Then knit the other half.....about 24 rows - the longer this bit is, the bigger the foot will be.



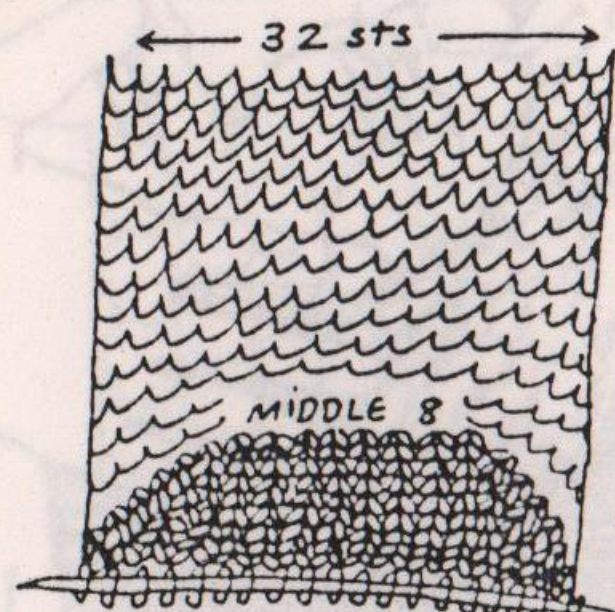
3. THE HEEL!

### 4. SHAPING THE HEEL

Knit to middle e.g. to no. 16 if there are 32. Now go along 4 more to 20. Now go back 8 - leaving the remaining 12 on the pin. THEN .... Turn around and go back, leaving 12 on the other pin too.

So you now have a middle section ONE ROW HIGHER THAN THE REST.  
If not why not!

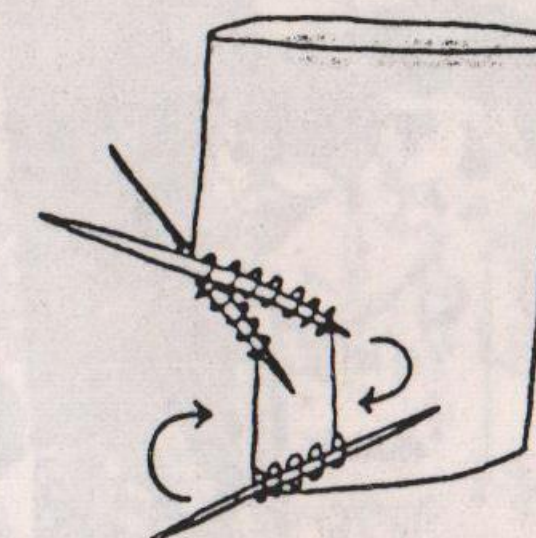
Now start picking up the rest - 2 each row----- knit the last one of the higher bit with the first one of the lower bit (decrease in other words) and pick up the 2nd stitch of the lower bit.  
Keep going till you have picked them all up (there might be an odd one left on each side - never mind)  
IT IS EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS !!!



4. THE HARD BIT OF THE HEEL...

5. You now have to join the top bit (held over on pins) with the bottom bit of the heel. This is done by picking up stitches out of the two edges that form the two sides of the heel, so that the circle is rejoined and you can carry on going round.

The number you pick up depends on how many rows you did e.g. 24 rows so pick up 12, one every 2nd row

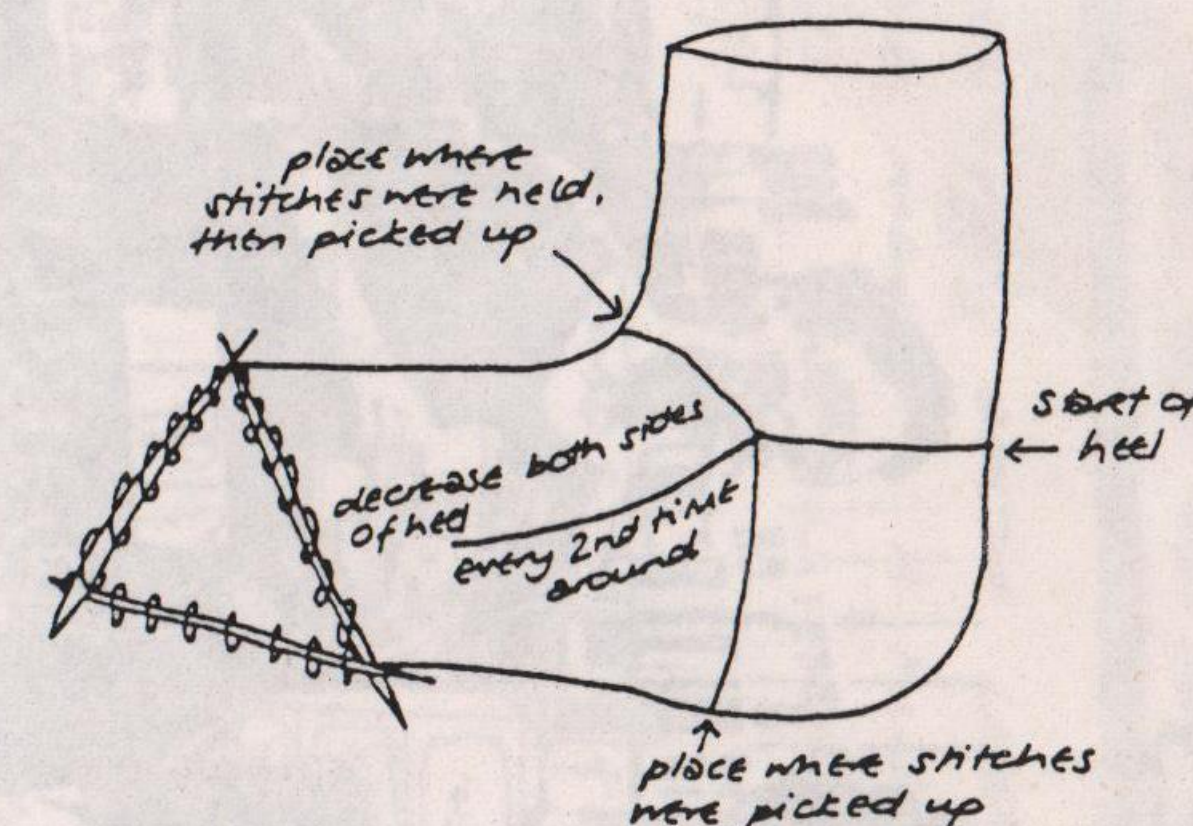


5. THE VERY HARD BIT OF THE HEEL...

6. SO you managed to pick them all up ??????????????????

To shape the foot, decrease every 2nd time round, on both sides of the heel. Do this maybe 8 times. The more you do the smaller the foot.

It's downhill now all the way to the toe - - - make the foot as long as you want BUT don't forget it will stretch.

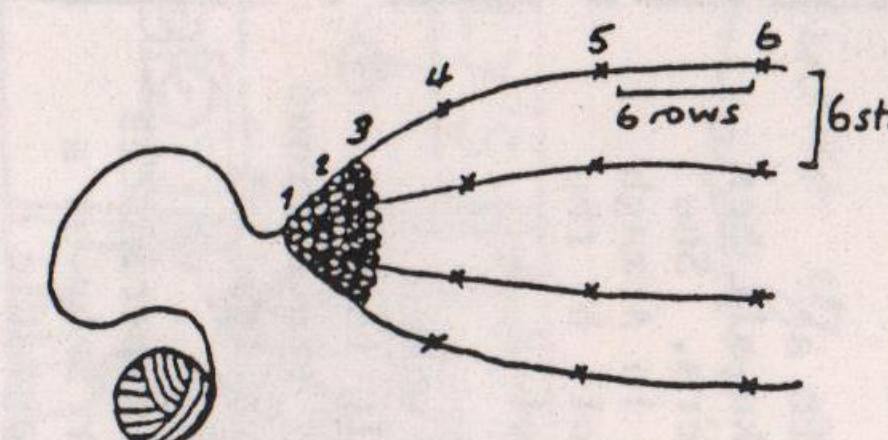


6. heading for the toe...

### 7. THE TOE

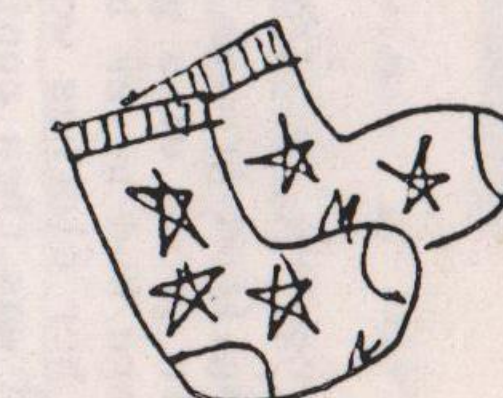
Go round and decrease every 6 \* stitches, then knit 6 rows without decreasing. Decrease every 5, knit 5 rows and so on .....  
If all goes well you end up with NONE AT ALL a crochet hook is use fu' for the last few.

\* If the no. of stitches you started with can't be divided by 6 you will have a few left over. It doesn't matter - as you start decreasing more often, they can be included.



7. THE TOE!

8. NOW GO AWAY AND DO THE OTHER ONE





# LEEDS ANIMATION WORKSHOP

Last month we had a fantastic opportunity to date the complete works, a women's animation workshop, a women's collective, now 10 years on from their work before - Risky - the brilliant "Give Us a Smile" and read good reports of the "Crops & Robbers", I was able to see the rest of what they'd done.

Their work is an eye-opening what? seen from a different point of view, with some bits where they have "crops & robbers".

The workshop just make films about women's issues, although strong and challenging. For instance, a cartoon about work, it's a woman who works, and a safer place.

At the end of the Dunnes strike, I suppose. That's the way to do anything about the world, parts of the world, only linked together, living in the third world, a woman in Leeds who stuff she sees on the shelves.

Pity about "Council Matters", a film part-funded by Sheffield City Council to tell everyone how wonderful councils are, what would we do without them, and don't forget to use your vote. Once again, women feature heavily, which is great, but singing the praises of the council and the ballot box?? Maybe not so great.....

To end on a good note though, but not a good subject, "Give Us a Smile" is about sexism and men's violence, on the streets and in the media. It was sometimes funny, sometimes angry, and sometimes really scary, but always spot-on.

These films do get shown at various events from time to time, but to see them all at once was a treat. It was a pity that there were so few women in the audience, but maybe lots of women had seen the films already.....?

7.30pm Leeds  
Tickets: £1.50/£1

YORKSHIRE  
LEEDS  
WORKSHOPS  
RETROS

Who Needs Nurseries?  
A film about (guess) series, mainly from a woman's point of view, with some bits where they have "crops & robbers".

Business (1980, 15 mins. 16mm, colour).  
A cartoon about health and safety at work.

Id You'll Survive (1981, 9 mins. 16mm, colour).  
One woman's view of the absurdity of civil defence.

Give Us a Smile (1983, 13 mins. 16mm, colour. Music by Lindsay Cooper).  
Fast, funny and challenging. This film deals with sexism and men's violence, on the streets and on the screen.

Crops & Robbers (1984, 10 mins. 16mm, colour. Music by Anthea Gomez).  
A film about the current debates about local democracy and the world.

Who Needs Nurseries? (1986, 15 mins. 16mm, colour. Music by Anthea Gomez).  
A film about food and famine.



## MUST NOT BE DISMISSED

This month we learned that women with mental handicaps have even less control over their bodies than the rest of us. The Law Lords set a precedent and gave permission to Sunderland Borough Council for the sterilisation of "Jeanette", a mentally-handicapped girl of 17, without her having to give any sort of consent.

People with mental handicaps have no chance to make decisions which affect their lives., and this Law Lords decision is a backward step in the slow process to give these people choices. And who's to tell whether it will be applied to other, less severely handicapped women, or those suffering mental illness?

Living in an institution where you have no say in what you wear or eat, let alone whether you can have a sexual relationship or children, has left £,000's of mentally handicapped people without the ability to decide anything for themselves. At last the need for community care, rather than institutions, is being recognised, but it's not uncommon for mentally handicapped women to be given the pill without them realising it, or to have their babies taken from them, because they aren't seen to be fit mothers.

Issues relating to people with mental handicaps must not be dismissed as being in no way applicable to able-minded people. It's this sort of attitude that allows Burke's Peerage to pronounce members of the royal family dead, because they are mentally handicapped and therefore an embarrassment.



Help with housework in a group home.



# WOMEN in the SPANISH REVOLUTION

1986 marked the 50th anniversary of the people's revolution in Spain. As we all know, when historical events are recorded, the role that women played is often neglected or ignored. It is for this reason that I now attempt to write an article on the role of women in the Spanish revolution.

In the early 1920's in Spain, there was a movement for women's rights, but it had a reformist and careerist orientation, based on the women in the professions. For anarchist women, reformism was out, and their focus was on social revolution.

In the 1930's, Europe was experiencing one of its worst ever slumps. In Spain by 1936, unemployment was over 30% in many of the towns and cities. There had been little industrial development and 70% of the people still lived on the land, thus starvation was normal between the harvests.

The Spanish republic was born in 1931. The workers and peasants, having gone through years of dictatorship, believed that maybe there would be modernisation and their living standards would begin to improve. It was not to be so. The republican/social democratic coalition which came to power in 1931 did little to improve living conditions for the workers. Unemployment remained high and the working class organisations especially the CNT-AIT (an anarcho-syndicalist trade union, formed in 1911), suffered repression, with many of the members being imprisoned. In 1911 the coalition fell, and a right-wing coalition came to power. This coalition of the wealthy and powerful now had state power, and were determined to use it to smash working class and peasant resistance.

The CNT-AIT organised as best it could against the govt. A rising took place in Catalonia in December, shortly after the change in government. It was crushed in 10 days. Other revolts took place but were invariably crushed. In February 1936 there was another election, which was won by the Popular Front, a coalition of republicans, social democrats and Stalinists of the Communist party. The voters voted for change, and between the election in February and the fascist revolt in July, there were 113 general strikes, 228 partial general strikes, 145 bomb explosions, 269 deaths, 1287 wounded, 215 assaults and 160 churches burned.

The government became desperate and decided that parliamentary democracy was to be abandoned and the workers organisation smashed. Meanwhile, a fascist coup was being organised for July 17th. The initial step was taken when Franco seized Morocco and issued a "radical manifesto" - his aim to turn Spain into a fascist dictatorship. The cabinet resigned on July 18th and Barrios, a right-wing republican, was made Prime Minister.

The activities of July 18th and the threat of return to a fascist dictatorship, resulted in a massive, spontaneous response from the people of Spain. Events overtook the political parties and leaders, and women played a full part - they formed the backbone of resistance, present everywhere, on committees, in the militias, on the front-line and women fought alongside men as a matter of course.

The fascists made headway in some parts of the country, but in 100's of areas, collectives were established. This marked a massive change in the people's way of living, as land was divided equally, regular meetings held and public works built by the people, e.g. schools. However, attitudes to others, including the status and role of women, were still in need of adjustment.

## ¡CAMDESINOS!



Throughout the country the initiative was being taken by workers and peasants, thus stopping the fascists in their tracks over three quarters of Spain, and with all its limitations, the Spanish revolution in its 1st phase brought new possibilities for women, and an element of personal liberation for some. One group which attempted to get a libertarian perspective on the situation was "Mujeres Libres" (Free Women). By the end of Sept. 1936, it had 7 labour sections - transport, public services, nursing, clothing, mobile brigades for non-specialists, and brigades able to replace men in the war. The federation grew, organising for women to make the maximum contribution to whatever practical work had to be done. Its members saw themselves as having an important educational function too, working to emancipate women from traditional passivity, ignorance and exploitation that enslaved them.





In November 1936, The fascists tried to claim Madrid. Again, the people made their stand and again women played a massive part. A women's battalion fought before Segovia Bridge. Inside the city, women organised mass demonstrations, devised propaganda and slogans, including the famous "No Paseran" (they shall not pass), and built barricades. Committees were set up, based on districts, houses and blocks, for the provision of food, ammunition and communication. Women contributed actively to the defence, including anti-aircraft observation and surveillance of fifth column suspects.



As the revolution progressed, attitudes towards the militia women changed. In the early days, many women had gone to the front as soon as they could, and no-one saw anything comic in a woman holding a gun, but militia men later had to be kept out of the way when women were drilling, because they tended to laugh at them and put them off.

Other drastic changes occurred, including the informal leadership decision of the CNT- AIT to enter the government, thus participating in the legalising, take-over and eventual suppression of the revolutionary gains, and paved the way for the Communist Party.

Some reforms were achieved which would be beneficial to women. Abortion was legalised, under controlled conditions; there was the setting up of refuges open to all women, including prostitutes. The government also took some steps in regulating marriage customs, and in April 1937, "marriage by usage" was instituted, whereby cohabitation by 10 months, or less if pregnancy occurred, was considered as marriage. This decision was later reversed due to the ensuing prevalence of bigamy!



Women became the reserve army, coming to the fore only to make up lacks in manpower; and they were forced to queue for hours for food. Conflicts arose within the anti-fascist camp, with the communist party tightening its hold on the republican forces, aided by Russian military and political intervention. Consequently the revolution failed as militias were militarised and collectives suppressed. However, it was no republican victory either, as the fascists gained control.

This meant the abolition of divorce, abortion and birth control, the banning of bare legs, and the educating of young girls to the traditional, submissive roles based on the family and home. Women have continued to resist such measures. When the republic was defeated, many joined the stream of refugees opting for exile, and of those who were forced to return to Spain, many committed suicide. Many others were executed under Franco's orders.

In times of intensified social change, especially war and revolution, women are generally seen to be fulfilling new roles, acquiring a new view of themselves, and forcing changes in society's view of them. This can be taken as an index of the extent to which women are restricted and suppressed in normal times, and the consequent waste of potential.

Even after such revolutions, the demonstration of what women can achieve is effectively forgotten. This history of women has to be rescued, not only from obscurity, but from



2 contrasting stands of attention it receives from time to time: the patronising line about women doing a good job, being 100% BEHIND the men; and the counter tendency, which occasionally comes over in women's liberation writings, to regard everything done by women as good and beautiful - we must remember that women played a part in the fascist side too.

What is striking is that "there is no reason to believe that the condition of Spanish women would have been fundamentally changed if the anarchists had won the war" (Temma Kaplan). So we see that libertarians were aware of how capitalist society exploited women but "they did not develop a programme to prevent similar exploitation in a revolutionary society". The liberation of women had not been thought of in theoretical or practical terms.

The same can be said of today. We have an anarchist movement, which as yet has not analysed the exploitation of women, not only on economic grounds, but on patriarchal grounds too. It seems that anarchists place all of their emphasis on attacking capitalism and the state, believing that once they are gone, sexism, racism, agism, etc. will disappear. This is not so!! As can be seen by the experience of the Spanish civil war, social revolution must be given the same priority as economic revolution, if we are really to achieve anything.

Sources: Liz Willis - "Women in the Spanish Revolution".  
Eddie Conlon - "The Spanish Civil War - Anarchism in Action".

Molly Toff.



# STOL ANARCHA FEMINIST CONFERENCE FEB '87

This  
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ly good weekend, unfortunately only 3  
Leeds in the van we hired (maybe we  
ommunication network between women in  
ay Saturday women were arriving from all  
y, altogether about 150.  
together to discuss what we wanted to  
being the general idea. Suggested were

ence, prisons, mixed actions, women's  
ge, circus, voice, lesbians and anarchism  
en and health, etc. I was a bit dis-  
t had been advertised as a festival and  
ome old workshops seemed to be coming

workshops over the weekend so I'll  
out those.

## MIXED ACTIONS

a Hunt Sabs women's day that had been  
to the sexism women came across in Hunt  
and how good that had been for sharing  
and gaining more confidence. Then women  
sexism in different mixed groups they'd  
in. The general feeling was that  
red to be involved in women only actions,  
ere were not enough women around to do this  
wanted to do anything political, there  
choice but to join a mixed group.  
ested that if anarcha-feminist groups were  
ever small, at least women would have a good  
base from which to get involved in other  
they wanted.

## DEFENCE

the "rights and wrongs" of violence, and  
ned to think it depended on the situation,  
efence it was OK to do whatever was  
et out of a situation. However, when we  
ssing vigilante groups we differed. Some  
igilante groups were a good idea and  
of when rapists had been intimidated out  
hers thought it was wrong to react to  
violence. It was pointed out that over-

fear of violence was really important, and maybe  
up self defence was a good idea to build up  
ence.

## 3- SQUATTING

Basically women who had squatted, giving advice on how  
to squat. I'd have liked to have talked more about the  
problems and about the practical side of squatting,  
how to overcome these as women, and also to have talked  
about women's squats, as there aren't many. But it was  
good to meet other women who were squatting

## 4- CIRCUS

This was really good - learnt different rolls, balances,  
juggling and unicycling!

We talked about getting an anarcha-feminist network  
together and a newsletter, so we could keep in touch with  
each other and with what was going on (but I haven't  
heard anything as yet!)

On Saturday evening was a cabaret with loads of women  
there. A few women did turns - singing etc., then women  
started getting up from the audience, singing, reciting  
poems that they'd written - brilliant! Then a disco  
finished off an ace evening.

One bad point that upset some women was over the  
lesbians and anarchism workshop. After it had happened  
a woman complained that some straight and bisexual women  
had gone as they were interested and it hadn't been made  
clear that it was lesbians only. Some women wanted  
another lesbians only workshop followed perhaps by a mixed  
workshop, so this was arranged.. I don't know exactly what  
happened as I didn't go but this second workshop produced  
bad feelings too as a woman who went said that women felt  
they had to "define their sexuality" before going to the  
workshop. (What's wrong with having a workshop for women  
who have defined their sexuality and want to talk about it?)  
Apart from that (and the fact that again just about  
all the women there were white - something to think  
about), it was a good weekend, with a mixture of things  
to do and lots of women. Looking forward to a women's camp  
in Sheffield in the summer. Look out for details.....

CONFERENCE  
FEB '87

BRISTOL  
TOM  
FEB '87

87



# Potato chips at Nato's

SE missile control vehicle, costing million pounds, has been disabled at.

Vehicle ground to a halt two miles from Greenham Common, apparently the potato blocking its exhaust

Incident followed another raid on missile convoy by members of the anti-nuclear group. Several members of the group broke into the new paint at cruise convoy vehicles distributed leaflets. They were shown off the base, one happened to have a potato in her

By Mark

CONVOY ACTION -MAY '87.

pocket", according to spokeswoman, plugging a M.A.N articulated. The convoy of two control vehicles left Greenham Gate on Wednesday. After the break hicle took the con Yesterday the firmed the break or five Cruise

Our congratulations to the resisters(still) at Greenham for blocking the exhaust pipe of the CRUISE CONVOY control vehicle with a potato. This simple, inexpensive and totally effective method of disabling any vehicle brought the convoy to a halt two miles outside of the base on the 6th of May. The Independent(They're Not.We Are.)carried the story on the front page two days later, and took the opportunity to take the piss out of the MOD(why not!) whilst at the same time trying to play down the fact that effective sabotage is within the reach, and pockets, of activists everywhere. Let's see more of the same to stop scab lorries at picket lines, and preventing the kidnapping of activists at demos! IMAGINATIVE DIRECT ACTION-YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE.



## Nuclear capability

into Greenham and sprayed paint on the convoy before it left the base.

But a spokesman said he had no knowledge of the offending spud. "It was mechanical failure, it was nothing to do with the protesters," he added.

The launch control vehicles carry computers, satellite communications equipment and the consoles needed to fire the nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. The trailer is operated by two officers, both of whom must "press the button" to launch the cruise missiles.

Last November, a 100-strong group of protesters disabled a convoy by cutting the

brake lines of missile vehicles. Convoys are protected by over 40 from the RAF regiment and US Army security police.

Security experts have expressed about protection of the Wednesday's protest may suggest convoy would be vulnerable to s armed with no more than a pound Edwards.

However, in war anybody who the missile launchers could be treated "lethal force". That, as the comm Greenham put it after last November incident, would be a "different ball

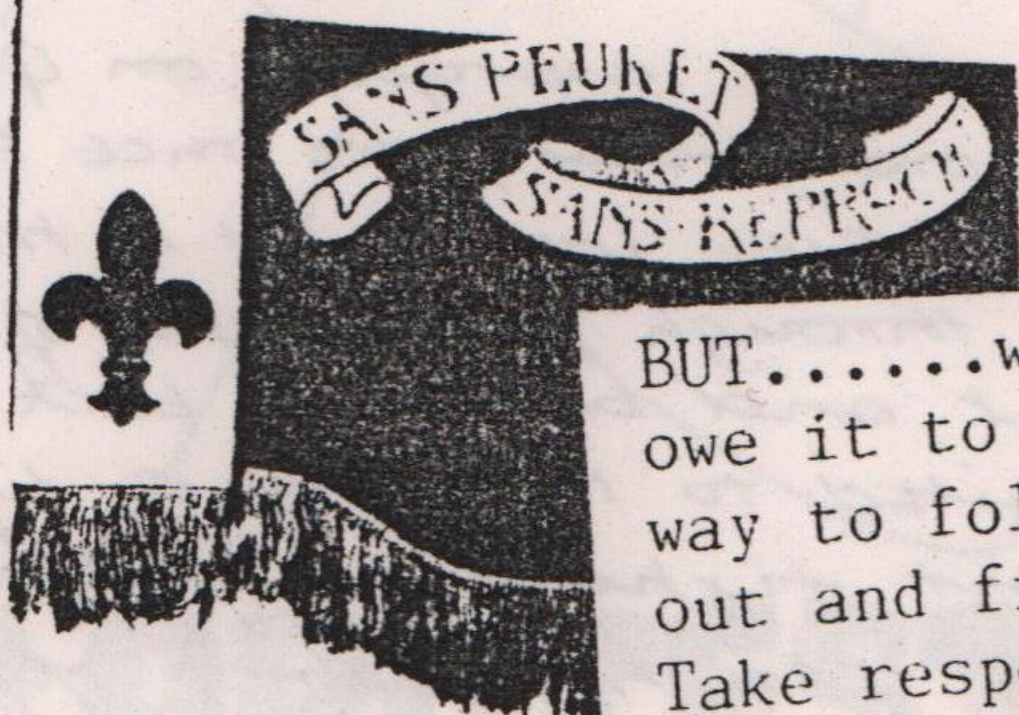
VOTE DONT VOTE VOTE DONT VOTE VOTE DONT

JOAN



June 11 is the big day - when the boys with the power(+Mrs T) pretend that we all get OUR say in how we are ruled by them. Parliamentary democracy - the system designed to maintain the status quo - the system in which EVERYONE who does not have power is a 'MINORITY'. So.....come June, out we go to say "yes, please carry on having power over us.

BUT.....what about the Labour Party??? They have a wonderful record - Lesbian rights ? Black sections ? Will they do any of what they promise ? - except to increase the community programme.



BUT.....what about the suffragettes ??? Do we owe it to them to vote ?? -I think the best way to follow on in their tradition is to go out and fight like they did for what we want. Take responsibility ourselves and ACT.....

LOSER



LY ROSE

Suffragette banners from a recent exhibition in Huddersfield



# SAVE LEEDS MARKET!

What do you enjoy about Leeds city centre? The only part I have a lot of feeling for is the market. A hustle and bustle of all kinds of people buying and selling all kinds of things. An open atmosphere, crowded with colours and shapes and faces.



Multinational companies reduce city scenery to a series of money-making symbols. There's a Woolworths in every town. There's Coca-Cola signs in Katmandu.

A market is something else. It's a place of small and local business. It has a particular character to it - made up of the hundreds of characters of the traders and shoppers.

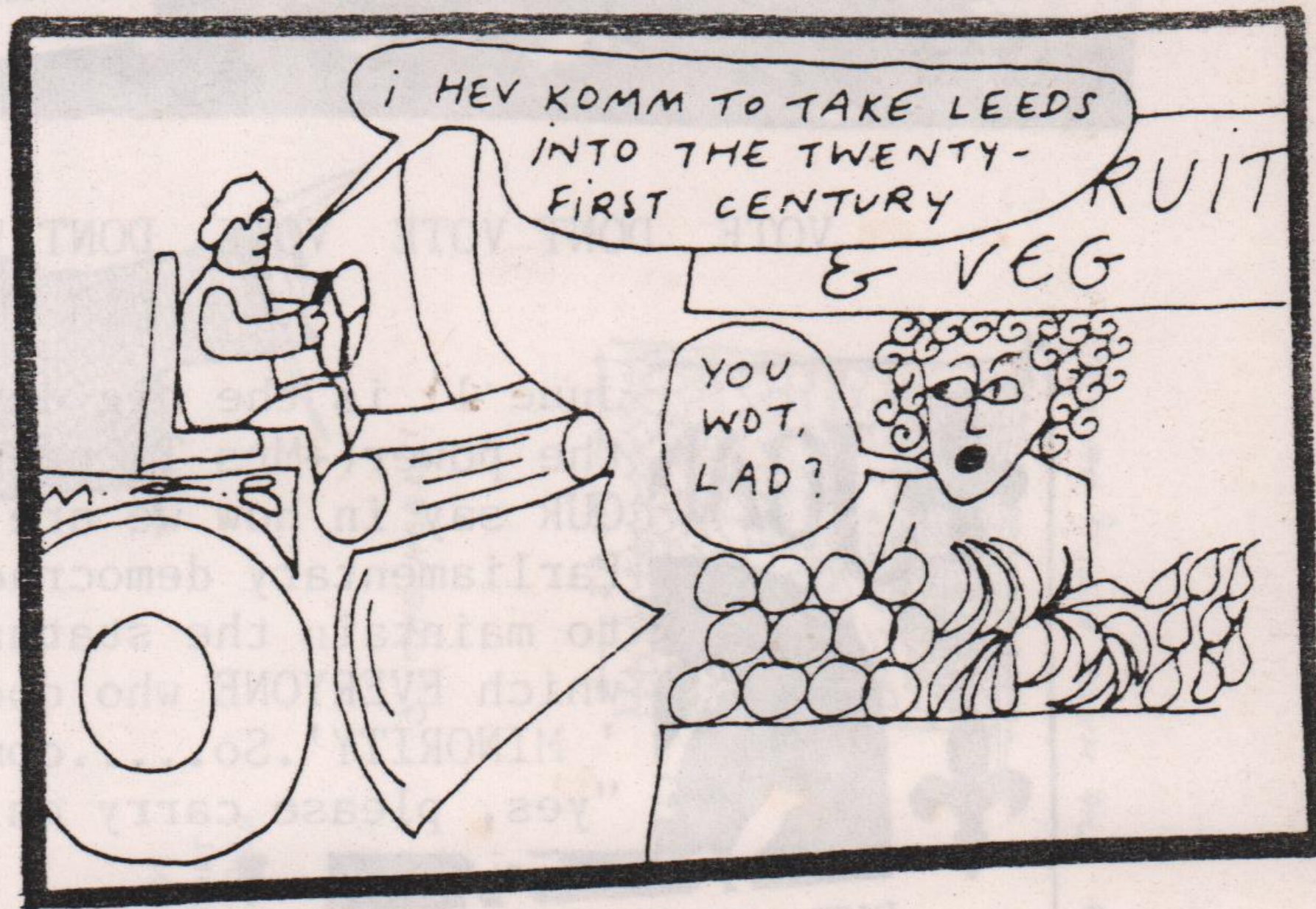
Leeds market is an easy-going place. People with some time to spare, unemployed, down and out, people who want to sit in a place lively with other people and have a chat and a cheap cup of tea, come to Leeds market. It's the cheapest place to buy fruit and veg. and a lot of other things besides.

People come from all over to Leeds market. One woman from Billingham told me that it's the highlight of their Christmas shopping trip to Leeds.

The market is an essential part of city life in Leeds - and a tourist attraction for people living outside the city.

So what do Leeds Labour Council think of this hub of Leeds life? Well - they've arranged for a Dutch company (M.A.B) to bulldoze the lot (apart from the very front bit, which is a listed building), get rid of a few old roads with a few score of little shops and part of the bus station, and erect a mammoth four-storey complex in its place.

This planned complex, called the Kirkgate Centre, will be a massive multi-storey carpark, with cinemas and a bus terminus, maybe a few market stalls on the second or third floor, and space to be let to department stores. It's supposed to bring Leeds into the twenty-first century. Like the St John's Centre brought us into the twentieth century - the century when new buildings stand empty for years...



What will happen to the market traders during and after the construction of the Kirkgate Centre? One market trader explained that the council have been very vague about it all, but as far as he can gather those who manage to stay in business will have to make three moves.

The first move will be to a temporary site under marquees on Quarry Hill. Many of the present traders went into temporary marquees once before, when the back part of the market burned down. They lost a lot of trade, through people being unable to find them and through the hassle of having to take the whole stall home every night and bring it back in the morning. Many of the indoor stalls are not suited to the way of life of an outdoor market stall. They have permanent fixtures which have taken a long time to set up. One man selling TVs has taken a year to get all the serials working so he can display his goods properly.



THE second move will be to a site of 291 stalls (outdoors) on what is now the carpark by the police station. Who will get these ??? There are many many more than 291 stalls on the market at the moment.

THE third move will be to some stalls inside the new complex, on an upstairs floor. Who will be able to afford rent and rates in there ???

And what happens to the shops around the outside of the market? Most of them will have to stop trading, as there will be no place for them to go. And the Market Tavern will be knocked down. Hundreds of people will go out of business.

Nobody's saying there isn't room for improvement in the market. Since the old wooden part burned down most of the indoor stalls have been housed in a corrugated iron shed. Has Leeds city council been open to proposals on how to improve the market? Not at all! The council agreed the plans with the Dutch company and then told the traders that this is what is going to happen.

The market traders recently took the council to court over whether or not they'd been properly consulted over plans for the market. The court case cost £40 000 and the market traders lost. The judge said that he was sympathetic, but he couldn't find anything illegal in the way the council is carrying on.

M.A.B. were given three months to come up with the money to build the Kirkgate Centre after the plans were approved by the council. They failed to raise the money and were given another three months. Then another three months. They still haven't come up with the money.

Isn't it time for a council re-think? Isn't it time the council consulted the market traders and the people of Leeds, and asked us what we want to do with our market?

The market traders don't want the Kirkgate Centre. Most market users don't want the Kirkgate Centre. The only ones who want it are a Dutch company who can make a lot of money out of it, and an egotistical council seeking prestige and a higher rateable value for city centre land.

Who does Leeds city centre belong to anyway? A Dutch company and a bunch of councillors nattering about bringing Leeds into the twenty-first century? Or the people of Leeds ???



SUPPORT THE MARKET TRADERS! write & complain to the council, sign the petition in the market, write & complain to the M.A.B. nearest office (MAB Building Design Partnership, Vernon Street, Moor Lane, PRESTON, PR1 3PQ) ~ and try to come up with some BRILLIANT IDEAS about what we can do to save our market! QUICK!!



# WHAT'S ON.

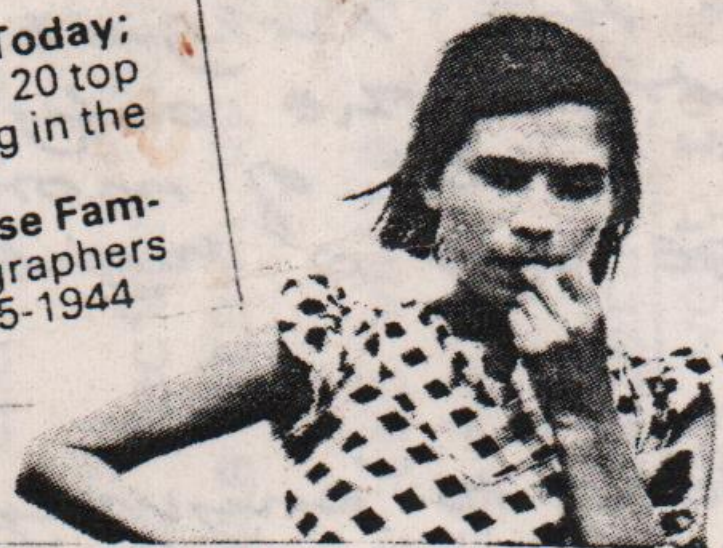


NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST  
STRIP SEARCHES - DURHAM  
Sat 13th June. Coaches from  
Leeds.

28 APRIL - 19 JULY

LET US NOW PRAISE

FA - Bradford  
National Museum of Photography  
Princes View, Bradford. Tel: Brad.  
7274. Tues-Sun 11-6.  
Until 19 July Twenty for Today;  
devoted to the lively talents of 20 top  
young photographers working in the  
field of portraiture today.  
Until 19 July Let us now Praise Fam-  
ous Women; Women photographers  
for the US Government, 1935-1944



WOMEN'S DISCO'S - now  
every Tuesday at the  
phono 10.30 pm.

Esther B  
public library

LEEDS ANARCHIST FAIR

Sat 11th July - Trades Club  
12 noon - 11 pm.

This is a mixed event of  
entertainment, workshops  
and stalls, but there will  
be women-only workshops,  
video's, etc, including a  
Re-Sister workshop!!!

A gig in the evening will  
feature the Wedding Present  
and Chumbawamba.

## COURT DATE FOR ANTI-PORN ACTIVIST.

Julie Thompson, arrested earlier this year  
whilst attempting to prevent the display and  
broadcast of Sado-Masochist videos and  
paraphernalia in MARTINA'S nightclub, London  
is to appear at KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES CROWN

COURT on JUNE 1st.

She has been charged with; Criminal Damage, and  
Intent to cause criminal damage with a dangerous  
weapon.

She is pleading Not Guilty. There is a legal  
defence against a charge of criminal damage;  
that is, that the damage was caused in order  
to prevent a crime being committed. In this  
case the crime is the incitement to sexual and  
racial hatred. (A common feature of S-M displays  
is the adoption of Nazi uniforms and regalia).  
As part of her defence Julie states the sight  
of a German uniform in a cage, along with other  
obscenities totally enraged her, and she destroyed  
the display.

Unusually, the date for her court appearance came  
through only last week, possibly to make it more  
difficult for women to organise and support  
Julie through her case (which could go on for  
several days). At present it is unclear whether  
there will be a picket outside the court, but  
we urge all women to be there on JUNE 1st.  
(see next issue for feature against S-M).

Write to Re-Sister  
with your : ideas,  
articles, letters,  
comments,  
news - of events, actions.

"Re-Sister" c/o The Leeds  
Womens Centre, c/o L.C.V.S.,  
229 Woodhouse Lane,  
Leeds 2.