

LEEDS ANARCHA-FEMINIST
MAGAZINE

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WOMEN ONLY

FEB. '88

25P

COVER RE-SISTER

APHRA BEHN. 1640-89.

The life that Aphra Behn led would have been extraordinary in any age, but for a woman of the 17th century, it was virtually unheard of. Not only was she the first person to write a novel (she wrote 13 novels 30 yrs before Daniel Defoe wrote 'Robinson Crusoe' - generally termed to be the first ever novel!) but also she had 17 plays produced in 17 yrs.

Aphra Behn was born during the Puritan period, (Cromwell & the Roundheads), when the Royals were exiled & the Puritan government closed & outlawed anything artistic or entertaining - including theatres, maypoles & morris dancing!! Aphra Behn worked to restore the King to the throne, Charles 2nd, & ended up being imprisoned for expenses incurred in this service to the King (!) In May 1660, King Charles returned to the throne, thus began the Restoration period.

The Restoration meant that there was an abrupt & deliberate reversal of the Puritan Ethic. King Charles had to distinguish himself from his predecessors - so promiscuity, frivolity & extravagance became the social norm. It was fashionable to reject traditional restrictions although this only applied to men (surprise, surprise), & so major double standards emerged - 'feminine' chastity was rejected BUT at the same time, 'feminine' modesty was not. So women were left in the situation where a 'gentleman' would do everything to get a woman to his bed, once she was there he despised her for it! Women were left in an impossible position (& still are) - women were not allowed to acknowledge their own sexuality, they either had to sacrifice their virtue or their desire (heard this before...?) In her work, Aphra Behn openly challenged these double standards, & men's use of women.

The first recorded production of Aphra Behn's work was the play 'The Forced Marriage', performed on Tuesday 20th Sept., 1670. It was a break from the tradition, but she chose not to present herself as an exception to the rule, but as speaking on behalf of her sex, declaring her entry into the hitherto masculine domain of literature as a step for ALL women.

The relative success of her first play, encouraged Aphra to submit a second, & only 6 months later, February 1671, 'The Amorous Prince' went on the boards.

For each play, she wrote a prologue - where she attacked her male literary colleagues, & ridiculed the pretentious language that these 'academics' were using in their drama. She also attacked the new science that pretended to classify both literature & language into a system of rules.

Literature in the English language had rarely, if ever, seen such bitter criticism in print with a woman's name signed at the

bottom! Academics (men) told her because she had no letters after her name, she could not partake in such a discussion of the arts but, defiantly sarcastic, she refused to be intimidated into a sense of inferiority because of her sex's non-access to education & dismissed such learning as academic frippery.

The wits, & fops, & critics, & writers might have been amused & titillated by the innovation of a woman writing for the theatre when she produced her first play, but when a second appeared in rapid succession, & then a third ('The Dutch Lover'), it must have become apparent that she intended to establish herself as a permanent competitor. To make matters worse, she had dared to throw herself into a debate over the function & nature of theatre that was beyond her education or proper sphere. A deliberate effort was made to sabotage, discourage, & eliminate her from the stage.

Until Aphra Behn, women had always protected their reputation for modesty - which was such an important reinforcement of the feminine sphere. This constraint led women of literary ambitions into anonymity or constant apology & humble appeal or denial of responsibility for their work being published. It is this tradition of invisibility that makes Aphra Behn's open demands for literary equality & recognition so impressive.

Aphra Behn was not only a feminist who defended the rights of women to an education, & the right to marry whom they pleased, or not at all, but she was also a sexual pioneer who contended that men & women should love freely & with feeling. In her poems & plays, she dealt openly with sex, & regarded marriage as a repressive institution, & embraced an ideal of sexual freedom - she was one of the first to openly discuss such sexual matters in print.

Over the next 100 years, her work was deemed not to be decent & should not be read. Thus, Aphra Behn's work disappeared until the beginning of the twentieth century, when in 1905 her books were published as part of a collection called 'Half-Forgotten Books'.

DEAR READERS!!

Well, we seem to have sorted out our printing problems BUT, we need regular outlets, so if anyone's got any ideas... At the moment here's where we're selling at:

LEEDS: West Yorks peace shop, Vicar Lane.

Leeds university student union shop.

Leeds Poly. union shop.

The womens centre, 229 Woodhouse Lane.

HUDDERSFIELD: Womenspace, (opp. railway stn.)

YORK: c/o the anarchist group.

LIVERPOOL: c/o the anarchist group.

LONDON: 121 Bookshop, Railton Rd., Brixton.

Leslies Bookshop, Turners Rd, East London.

Housemans Bookshop, near Kings Cross.

We would also like women to feel free to contribute articles, letters, pictures, poems, etc. And if anyone wants to get involved, please drop us a line at:

RESISTER

C/O BOX JAG
52 CALL LANE,
LEEDS.



TRADES CLUB UPDATE.

In the last issue of Resister, an article was written, informing women about the victimisation of a lesbian woman who refused to work with men who were sexually harassing her.

Since then, the secretary of the Trades Club has been in touch with 'Anne', offering to reinstate her & give her a written apology. In other words, the woman who 'Anne' was supposed to have sexually assaulted, would not go through with it. 'Anne' got back pay but refused to take her job up there - She still hasn't received a written apology.

Meanwhile, the Trades Club still refuses to meet with the 3 women who went on strike in support of 'Anne', claiming that this is a separate issue. So all 4 women are still calling for a boycott of the Trades Club, until this has been resolved. We cannot let the Trades Club get away with this sort of victimisation, so please spread the word about the boycott. For more info., write to Resister.



CLAUSE 28

The House of Lords decided the future for lesbians and gays by voting in favour of the ban on the promotion of homosexuality after discussing it for only two hours. When the decision was announced three women abseiled down from the public gallery into the Lord's chamber.

Lord McIntosh wanted the clause more specifically aimed at young people (clearly they can be taught out of homosexuality!), and the Arts Council have tabled a motion to add a word to clause 28 to make it illegal to 'intentionally promote homosexuality'. This implies some books, films, plays etc up to now written by or about lesbians and gays have not meant to be intentionally about lesbian and gays. Do they think it 'slipped' out accidentally!

Even if these amendments are taken up, the clause will remain as vague as it ever was and open to as many ways of interpretation as there are bigots who'd like to enforce it.

Demo in Leeds - March 5th

Lobby Leeds Council - March 9th, 12.30



RAISING THE FLAG: Aborigine protester Burnum Burnum, an actor-writer who travelled from Australia to England to claim the country for the Aborigines, plants the red, yellow and black Aborigine flag near the cliffs of Dover.

"In claiming this land, we wish our neighbours no harm." He said he was ridiculing the idea of a country being claimed by a group of people. His protest coincided with Australia's 200th birthday celebrations in Sydney.

abortion bill

David Alton's Bill got through it's second reading on January 22nd, by 45 votes. As we all know, Alton aims to get rid of abortion rights altogether, but is using this clever tactic of attacking late abortion as a problem, so as to get his Bill through Parliament. He knows that there is a growing consensus which favours some reduction in the time limit - leading medical bodies such as the British Medical Association (BMA) & the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG), have lined up with Thatcher & David Steel in advocating a reduction to 24 weeks.

The fact is, of all the abortions performed, only 3% are done after the 18th week. Women need these abortions for several reasons, whether it be NHS delays, finding 2 sympathetic Doctors, the results of foetal tests, or not knowing that you are pregnant. These women are directly under attack from Alton's Bill, & if passed this Bill will obviously make way for further reductions of the abortion time limit.

The 1967 Act which we are being forced to defend is far from adequate. The right to an abortion should not lay in the hands of Doctors, but women themselves, this change to the law itself would drastically reduce the number of late abortions, as women could be treated immediately. Real control of decisions about reproductive rights of all kinds, in the hands of women would not lead to the increase in late abortions, as Alton would have us believe, it would mean exactly the opposite.

The Bill is now in the committee stage where changes will be made to guarantee it's passing - Alton has already conceded to exempting women who have been raped & women whose babies would be born with certain categories of disability.

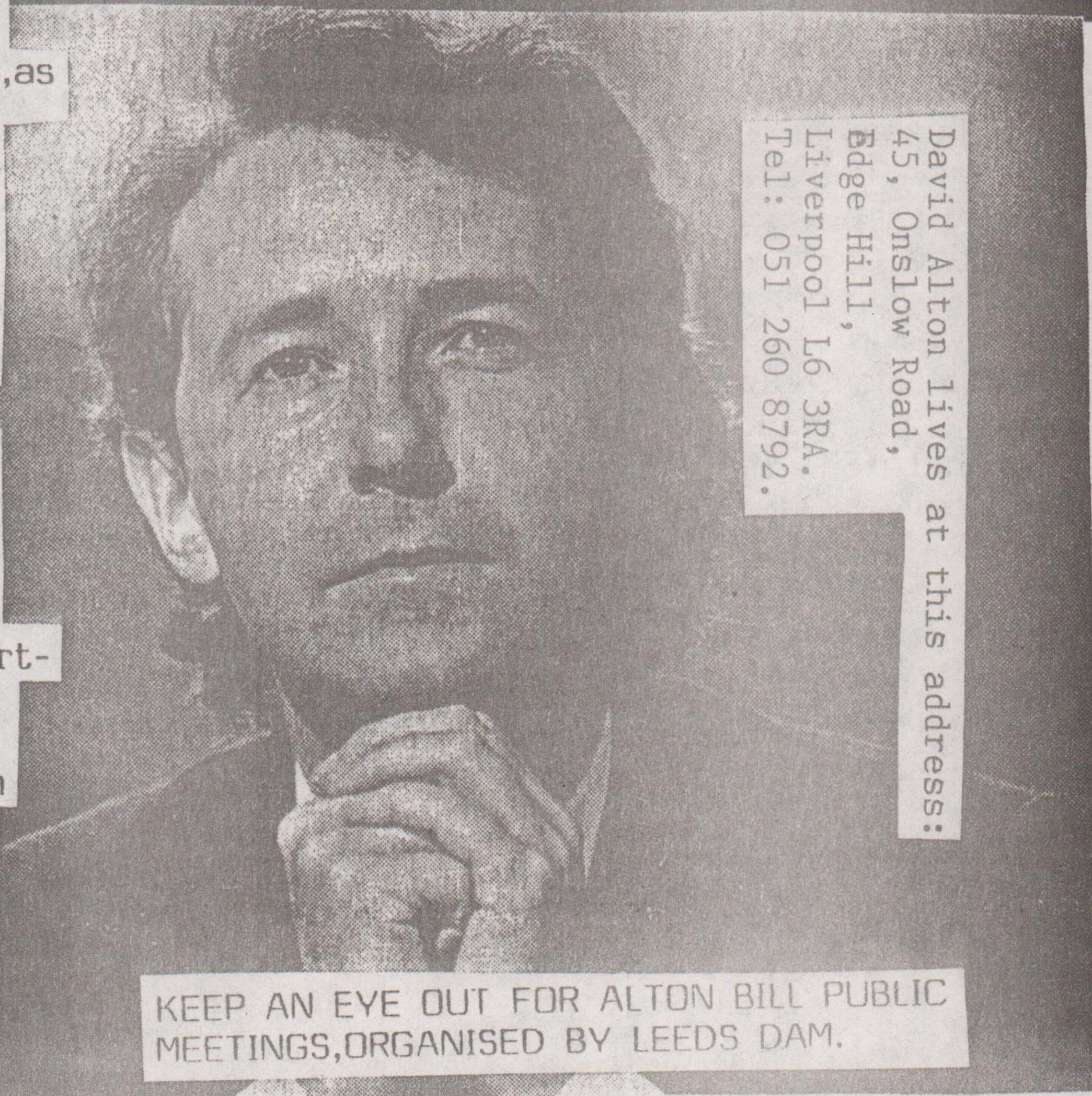
We can expect the Tory Government to attack women's rights - they've been doing it for years, eg., recent maternity rights changes, DHSS changes, etc, but the Labour party holds no hope either; even though it is Party policy to protect the 1967 Abortion Act, 33 Labour MPs voted FOR Alton's Bill.

Governments offer nothing to women which ever party holds the power. Until women can control their own lives, we're going to have to do a lot of fighting to protect the few 'rights' that we have.

There is to be a National Demo on March 19th, 12 noon, Hyde Park, London. Coaches from Leeds - ring 625445.

Labour Mps voting FOR Alton's Bill:

John Battle-Leeds, west
Stuart Bell-Middlesbrough
Dr. Jeremy Bray-Motherwell, south
Ronald Campbell-Blyth Valley
Dale Campbell-Savors-Worthington
Dennis Canavan-Falkirk, west
Tom Clarke-Monklands, west
Frank Cook-Stockton, north
Stan Crowther-Rotherham
John Cummings-Easington
Lawrence Cunliffe-Leigh
Don Dixon-Jarrow
Frank Field-Birkenhead
Bruce Grocott-The Wrekin
Peter Hardy-Wentworth
Sean Hughes-Knowsley, south
Geoffrey Lofthouse-Pontefract
Thomas McAvoy-Glasgow, Rutherglen
Calum Macdonald-Western Isles
John McFall-Dumbarton
Michael Martin-Glasgow, Springburn
Bruce Millan-Glasgow Govan
Alfred Morris-Manchester, Wythenshawe
Gordon Oakes-Halton
William O'Brien-Normanton
Robert Parry-Riverside
Tom Pendry-Stalybridge & Hyde
Dr. John Reid-Motherwell, north
George Robertson-Hamilton
Ted Rowlands-Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
John Smith-Monklands, east
Jack Thompson-Wansbeck
Tony Worthington-Clydebank & Milngavie



David Alton lives at this address:
45, Onslow Road,
Edge Hill,
Liverpool L6 3RA.
Tel: 051 260 8792.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ALTON BILL PUBLIC MEETINGS, ORGANISED BY LEEDS DAM.

STRIKE!

Thousands of Health workers throughout the country, took strike or other protest action on February 3rd, against the crisis in the NHS.

A NUPE leaflet stated that 'our aim in taking this strike action is to publicise what is happening in the health service... The government has provocatively stated there will be no more money for the NHS, despite billions of pounds being available for tax cuts for the rich. Low paid workers like us, & the unemployed, won't see this money. We are fighting now to influence the political debate on the NHS. What we want is free care on demand, adequate funding for our good & worthwhile health care system, & a decent living wage for all it's employees.'

Meanwhile, an agenda drawn up by policy advisers & private health care companies, propose; a national health insurance scheme; tax relief on health care insurance premium extending the principle of charges to create a costed service; & encourage the government to disband 'old fashioned trade unions' including NUPE, CoHSE & ASTMS!! Not that the government needs much encouraging!! Mrs Thatcher said about the strike, 'I find it astonishing that some of the nurses' unions should attempt to use a strike weapon at a time when there is a pay review body... sitting to consider how much they should be paid.' She said strikes would 'gravely damage patients & increase waiting lists.' The aforementioned review body has been prompted by the government to suggest a whole 3% pay rise for the nurses (wow).

The health service is highly dependent upon women workers, & in this incredibly hierarchal system we blatantly see women exploited & degraded - nurses continue to be dressed in ridiculous uniforms, titilating & dehumanising, they are not given any power in their work, but are under the guidance/supervision of doctors, the majority of which are male.

In the nursing proffession, 90% of the staff are women, however, 50% of the top nursing posts are held by men! & the union leaders are all men. It's hardly surprising that there is now a shortage of nurses - not only are women leaving the proffession at a rate of 30,000 per year, but women aren't joining it either. There are few opportunities for women in the service, unsociable hours, low pay, & is emotionally draining.

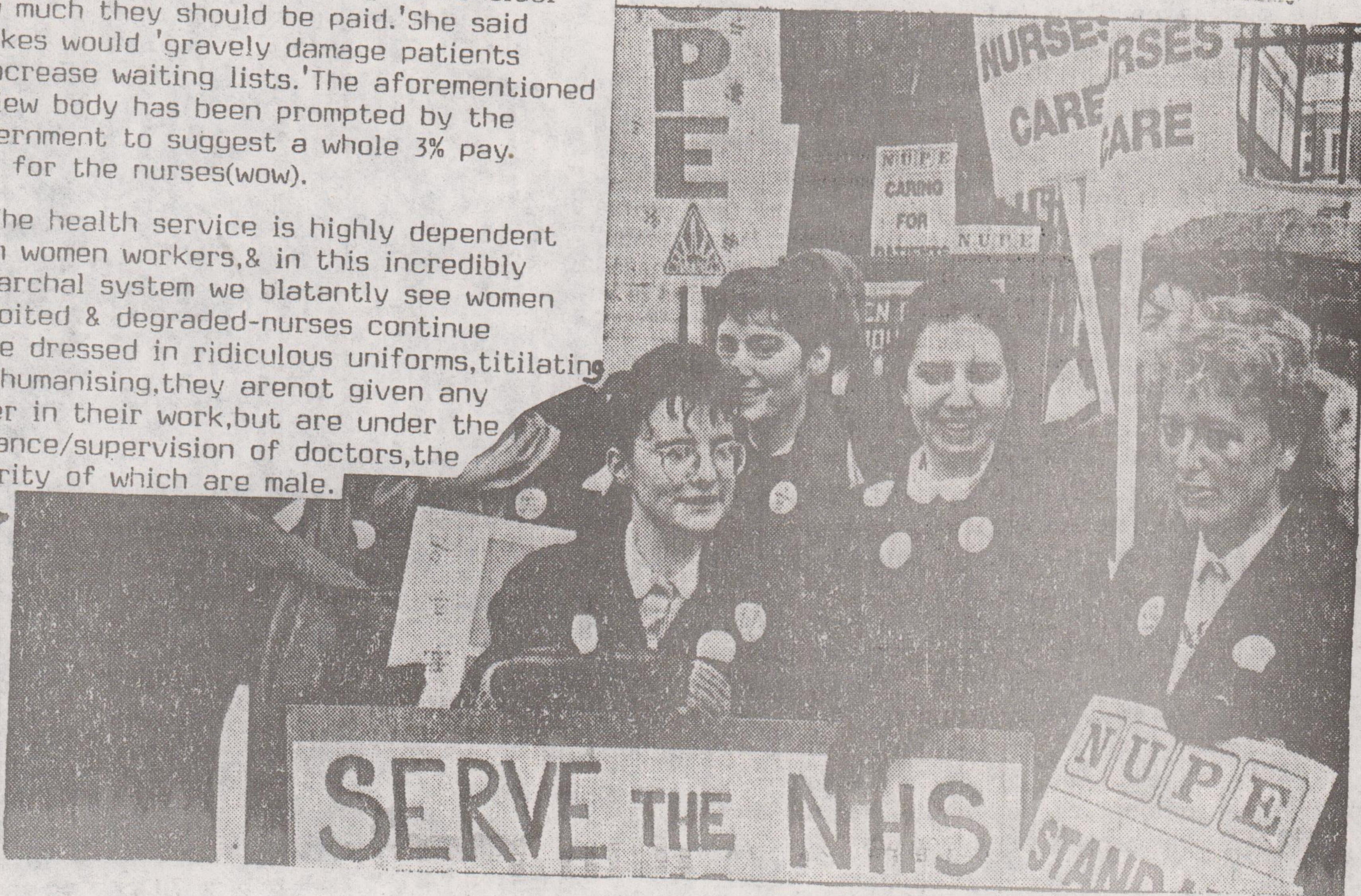
You would have thought a service so dependent on women would fulfill women needs, with creches, no degradation of part-time workers, etc - but no, instead, we see an institution taking advantage of the women, viewing their wages as top ups to 'the mans' wages (after all he's the breadwinner!), abusing womens responsibility to caring, & so on.

But nurses aren't the only ones suffering in the NHS, under them (in terms of pay & status) are auxillaries, ancillaries, porters & ambulance women & men - all suffer poor working conditions, low pay, job cuts/closures privatisation, & long/unsociable hours.

These health workers have had enough, & are fighting the government all the way - we need to support them - "We don't want to frighten people, but now it must be their fight as well. Together we can force the government to change course & save the NHS." (a striking nurse)

For all those available, there is to be a national demo against the underfunding of the NHS on March 5th-10 days before the budget is presented, London.

NURSES PICKETING
AT ST. JAMES'S ↓



BIRMINGHAM PUB BOMBINGS APPEAL

On 28th Jan, the 6 men given life imprisonment for the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings lost their appeal. Even though the Home secretary decided that there was sufficient doubt over the reasons for them being convicted (you can't get an appeal for something this important without good grounds), the Court of Appeal judges dismissed them in a matter of hours.

The judges were Lord Stephen Brown, Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice. According to Lord Lane, the appeal court had three options - erase the convictions, order a retrial or dismiss the appeals, and, surprise surprise, they settled for the last option.

Of course these powerful judges were not very likely to believe that the confessions of the 6 men were obtained after they were repeatedly beaten up by the police. Their statements were cobbled together by the police from 1/2-truths and inventions. Joyce Lynass, who'd been a police cadet on duty at the time, had seen them being beaten up. At first though, she said she hadn't seen any ill treatment because she'd been threatened by another policeman. Later in court she had the nerve to say that she had seen the men being hit, and years later she still stands by this statement. The judges chose not to believe her, being a silly woman who can't stop changing her mind, even though other people in court were struck by the truthfulness of her story, and found her totally believable.

The other reason for the original convictions was forensic evidence, which is notoriously dodgy and very often wrong, and shouldn't be used for proving cases. Two of the men had traces of something on their hands that could have been from nitroglycerine, but then it could also have come from a cigarette packet or playing cards. The forensic evidence was obviously inconclusive.

So the six men, Hugh Callaghan, William Power, Patrick Hill, Robert Hunter, Richard McIlkenny and John Walker, are saying that they were wrongly convicted, and so are many supporters. The British judicial system, on the other hand, says they can't have a retrial until they have some fresh evidence in their favour - it's not enough to say that the original evidence was wrong or based on lies.

Lord Lane said a retrial after all these years would be "highly unsatisfactory" - who for? It's definitely unsatisfactory that innocent people should be wrongly imprisoned.

If you're Irish and accused of "terrorism" then you can be pretty certain that you'll be found guilty. Judges are probably totally convinced that any Irish person is a bomber anyway, so don't reckon that they are really doing anything wrong by sending them to prison for years. And now the loss of this appeal means that it's even more difficult to challenge them - Patrick McGee, convicted for the Brighton hotel bomb isn't even being allowed to appeal now. Much public opinion is with the judges, people want to see these men hanged (they wouldn't be able to appeal then), and anyone who supports the IRA is as good as guilty. But at Resister, we're on the other side and want to see the Birmingham 6, and those accused of bombings in Guildford and Woolich freed, and their names and those of the Maguire family cleared.

P.S. The only one of the judges whose address we could find is O'Connor's. He lives at: 210, Rivermead Court, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3SG.
Tel: 01 731 3563.

Mr Clarke first came forward to tell his story to *World in Action* in 1986. He had told the appeal hearing about injuries he had seen on prisoners, and how

The appellants had said that the tests at the police station must have been mistaken because, later, much more sensitive tests on the same samples had all been negative. Lord Lane said that



Much of the seven days of re-examination of the evidence was spent on the forensic evidence. The judges (left) Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Lane.

LETTERS/LETTERS/LETTERS/LETTERS/LET

A of Brixton...the reply to the criticisms of the Sheffield conference the reply to the reply to the criticisms of the Sheffield conference,& the criticisms themselves(in the November issue)were pretty much a waste of space-all of them were arrogant & all of them considered only what the particular women writing the articles wanted-so of course they would disagree!!Especially the reply to the reply-its simply boring to read BITCHINESS,& it pisses me off when women set themselves aside as the active anarchist women at the conference-not all women can be active(ie.kids etc.)so please introduce me to this elite active anarcho-feminist group who get nothing out of mixing with the lay-about inactive women at the conference!!

Also,about the vaginal infection article-I don't know if this was a mistake or if the woman who wrote the article actually recommend this,but if she does she certainly can't have tried it-garlic IS excellent for cleansing the vagina-but NOT with nicks in!!Having experimented with garlic over a few years trying to get rid of thrush-the one occasion i DID put nicks in it(against what my natural health book said)it was extremely painful-the juice from the garlic actually burned my vagina & hurt so much I was in tears-so be careful what advice you give out!!!

RESISTER REPLY...i don't agree that the Sheffield conference articles were a waste of space,but yes they were arrogant & bitchy!! I think we have to get something positive out of this-there is a definite need for the present Anarchist-feminist conferences,for women to get introduced to Anarchist politics,& to develop their own analysis.However, women are at different levels of political thought,& whilst these conferences cater for the needs of women who have just begun to analyse the situation,they tend to be inadequate for women who have been through this process & who need to discuss other areas of Anarchist thought.That's why we need several types of conferences,& why Resister is going to organise one for hopefully May of this year.Watch this space... And thanks for the info. about the garlic.

ANARCHIST CONFERENCE

FOR WOMEN...

Resister would just like to clarify our position concerning the conference that we are organising for May.This conference has nothing whatsoever to do with the already existing Anarchist-Feminist conferences.Our conference is a one off(or perhaps annual event),which is aimed at women who already have Anarchist politics,& who wish to discuss various issues from this Anarchist perspective.The workshops will include Anarchist history,trade unions,the media,etc.They will be chaired & minuted so that perhaps a pamphlet can be produced at a later date.I'm afraid this conference will not be suitable for women who are just getting introduced to Anarchist ideas,as we feel that the existing Anarchist-feminist conferences fulfill this need.Other Anarchist-Feminist conferences will continue to be organised as before,the next being in Brixton, our conference will not effect these,but obviously we will arrange our weekend so that dates don't clash.

Regular meetings to organise this event are now being held,if you would like more details please contact 'Resister'.We'd also appreciate any suggestions for workshops, speakers,venues,etc.The conference won't definitely be in May,it depends on how soon we can find a cheap venue!

The housing Bill

The new government proposals for housing clarify the picture that the Tories have already done so much to put into practise. Adding up the effects of the Poll tax laws, the Education Bill it becomes clearer that what they want to do is further ghettoise the poor. It makes from their point of view total sense, once ghettoised we're far more controllable.

The new proposals have two main aims, the first is to decrease local authority/council housing stock the other is to increase the amount of money that private landlords can make - by making it easier for them to get property and once they've got it - to put up rents. Since 1979 the government has tried to push people into home ownership with the right to buy policy. The effect of the housing bill would be to scare those council tenants who can afford to buy - into buying.

Those who can't afford to buy will be given a 'choice'.... The choice is either to stay with the local authority(which already doesn't have enough money to carry out repairs)and will have even less once the bill becomes law) or to opt for a private landlord. Opting for a private landlord is a total farce - anyone who doesn't vote at all - is counted as having voted yes for a private landlord

so a vote could go:-

for private landlord - 20%

for council - 40%

Don't vote - 40%

and the houses will go to the private landlord! Democrassy at work

:Landlords will be able to apply to take over any area of council housing that they want - they will be given the names of tenants who have not voted for them! Once they are in posession of the property the nature of the tenancy will change from secured to assured this means:)

1. There will be no limit on the rent charged (although there will be a limit on housing benefit) - fair renting will no longer exist - there will be what is called a 'market rent'.
2. No more rights of sucession - no longer be able to pass property on to next of kin in the event of a death.
3. Grounds for eviction will be increased, this means that if a person has ever been in rent arrears at all the landlord can repossess. It will no longer be possible to go on rent strike when repairs are not done. The process of eviction will be much faster a notice for eviction will now be able to be served in 2 weeks.

Meanwhile the council will still be responsible for the homeless, with very little housing of any quality left. The way they are being forced to sell off properties means they will lose money. There will be no money from rates, so in some areas council rents will go up 300% they are also not allowed to use money from the sale of council houses.

People living in Housing association houses will have rent increases when they swap properties - as rents will also be assessed according to market value. The other thing the government have dreamed up is H.A.T.S. - Housing Action Trusts- there are going to be four of these to start off with, in Manchester, Bristol, and two in London. These will take over 'run down' council housing. Run directly by central government, the idea is to do up properties to sell later to private landlords. Properties will be transferred to H.A.T.S. without any reference to tenants. They will have all kinds of power of planning within that area.

Women and the Housing Bill

Women of course are going to be the ones most affected by the bill being the most dependant on council housing - Single Black, women with children, all women who have little economic power will either be forced into council stock which is really run down, reserved for the homeless or if they get taken up by a private landlord will be struggling to find the rent. It's going to be even more difficult to find property for women trying to get out of violent relationships, and as ♀ when they still generally earn 35% less than men it will force women even more into economic dependence on men to pay the rent.

A Women Against the Housing Bill has been set up - to find out times of meeting ring Shelter 451460...

much was happening in the home-maker had to go. Out of the window went wide-eyed innocence, and in through the front door burst smouldering sensuality, decked out in the deep plums and warm pinks which were so very Biba. "Anarchists go their sweet way," proclaimed Honey in 1970. "They break beauty traditions and riot. Lip colours go on eyes, eye colours go on lips. And why not? Make-up was getting so dreary." The beauty anarchists wore Galt orange paint near the socket line and Dorothy Gray's Light Up Yellow lipstick as highlighter for eyes; Woltz Italiana's pale green polish on their nails to match their wellingtons. Or Mary Quant's Citrus Jeepers Peepers, 18s 6d, on eyelids, and purple water crayons all around the eyes to tone with hair cleverly coloured in shades of mauve and butterscotch. By 1972, make-up was big business and a complicated affair. Tina Bowles, Beauty Editor from Honey, recalls.

for art lovers everywhere



Clause 28 looks likely to become law this year, and no wonder when there's been barely any support for the campaign against it apart from amongst lesbians and gay men and a few arty types.

Their concern is that some films might not get shown (eg. "Prick Up Your Ears", about gay playwright Joe Orton), or that some books might be removed from public libraries. It could even affect the works of D.H. Lawrence. Art lovers are worried that artists from Michelangelo to David Hockney could have their paintings hidden away. Leeds art gallery is already hedging its bets by removing any pictures of nudes from the public gaze, just to be on the safe side.

So Melvin Bragg is seen in a publicity stunt holding hands with Ian McKellern!! When human rights are being violated, nobody bats an eyelid, but when art is threatened, the middle classes really get angry.



LADY BUTLER

An exhibition of this woman's work has been on for ages in Leeds Art Gallery. Because she was one of the few women painting during the Victorian era, notorious for the repression of women, she is sometimes thought of as a feminist. But this woman wasn't fighting against anything, she was a typical Victorian painter, who chose to paint battle scenes, of all things.



Lady Butler: battle artist
a woman in a man's world?

She wasn't as jingoistic as most battle artists of the time (she was popular from 1874-1880's). She didn't glorify war, but she didn't paint the horrors of war either - she was interested in showing qualities like bravery and self-sacrifice that "the test of war brings out in men".

She was obviously well into the military - she married Major William Butler of the 69th Regiment - painting historic battles as well as ones of her own time.

Her famous picture is "Scotland For Ever!" 1881, a massive horseback charge, thundering towards the spectator.

"Many modern painters would envy her success; she is perhaps the last European painter to capture the imagination of the masses".

Germaine Greer



WinVisible

THE WORK OF DISABILITY AND HEALTH

The work of looking after ourselves and others
 The work of doing housework in inaccessible homes without tools adapted to disabilities
 The work of planning each day, organising our activities, coordinating other work, working out how you want the work to be done
 The work of booking transport, finding alternatives to inaccessible public transport
 The work of going through hospital and follow-up treatment, often when very ill
 The work of dealing with a newly-acquired disability
 The work of educating people about "What's wrong with you?"
 The work of maintaining relationships under pressure from unwaged 'favours'
 The work of communicating
 The work of telling people how we want to be helped, how we don't want help
 The work of persuading people that our getting into somewhere is possible or impossible
 The work of meeting new people when you have a visible disability
 The work of dealing with shop assistants and so on, when you are slow and clumsy
 The work of eking out low benefits and going without
 Having to buy at expensive corner shops because going further is too much work
 The work of being a disability consultant
 The work of giving advice on access for free
 The work of fighting to get this and all our unwaged work counted and waged
 The work of getting around in a badly designed environment full of obstacles
 The work of working out sexual practices to suit ourselves
 The work of combatting disability racism, sexism, racism and ageism everywhere
 The work of maintaining our health
 The work of dealing with abuse on the street
 The work of getting the information on available benefits and services
 The work of fighting for what we need from the DHSS, social services, doctors on
 The work of getting the right papers to back up our claims
 The work of staying sane during humiliating tests and assessments
 The work of exaggerating or minimising disabilities to get what we're entitled to
 The work of making the NHS accountable to us
 The work of surviving in institutions and in the mental health system
 The work of putting people at ease from your hospital bed
 The work of fighting for independence from family control
 The work of getting things out of charities that the State won't provide
 The work of being a 'charity case'
 The work of being a freak
 The work of having your poverty used by charities to extract money from other working class people
 The work of being used to embody evil, courage or purity
 The work of getting accessible housing, pavements, transport and so on
 The work of fighting to be taken by 'normal' schools and colleges
 The work of finding ways of keeping safe given our reliance on other people and vulnerability to attack and sexual assault
 The work of educating alternative health practitioners about disability
 The work of fighting sexism, racism and disability racism in the holistic health movement
 The work of being expected to keep up with 'normal' people because our disability is invisible
 The work of having to learn how to cook new foods that are supposed to be healthy
 The work of having to learn how to eat new foods that are supposed to be healthy
 The work of having to pay more and go further for foods that are supposed to be healthy
 The work of un-sociable eating - following a 'special' diet that isolates you from other people's good times
 The work of preparing 'special' foods to bring along to every occasion
 The work of keeping to a 'special' diet on your own
 The work of finding and reading alternative health books, trying to make sense of them and take your health care in your own hands
 The work of coping with people being patronising towards you because you are a 'terminal case'
 The work of your family being too embarrassed or freaked out to tell the truth when you've 'got' cancer
 The work of being silenced about your disability because other people can't talk about it
 The work of struggling against the power relations between people with visible and invisible disabilities
 The work of being a woman and having a disability
 The work of fighting sexism in our relationships with men with and without disabilities
 The work of fighting racism in the NHS, DHSS, Council, Social Services and so on
 The work of being Black, a woman, and with a disability
 The work of fighting racism among people with disabilities
 The work of having to prioritise being Black over having a disability
 The work of being a lesbian woman with a disability
 The work of being told you are lesbian because having a disability means you can't get a man
 The work of dealing with disability racism in our lesbian relationships
 Fighting disability racism in supposedly radical movements
 Fighting sexism and racism in the disability movement
 The work of organising for all the resources we want and need, and work towards the dismantling of all life-threatening industries, the nuclear industry in particular
 The work of getting compensation for all our work of disability and health from multi-national companies, the military, industry and the State.

This is an unfinished, continually expanding list

I wanted to print this "work list" from WinVisible because it contains some good points. WinVisible is a network of black and white women with visible and invisible disabilities, campaigning for economic independence; political and social autonomy; for mobility, access and housing; against welfare cuts, racism, rape and military/industrial pollution in metropolitan and Third World countries. They are also, like all the groups based at Kings Cross women's Centre, a front for The Wages for Housework Campaign, a group I'd be wary of. As their title says, they want women to receive payment for their unpaid work, rather than trying to destroy the system that creates paid and unpaid work. Therefore all their campaigns, whether about abortion, race, disability, prostitution, sex sexuality, etc. are all reduced to a question of needing to be paid for "work". (c.r. WinVisible's work list).

The Wages For Housework Campaign isn't part of the male left, but its dogmatic approach and inflexibility are reminiscent of how those political parties work.

If anyone is better informed about Wages For Housework/Kings Cross Women's Centre, then we'd be interested to hear.....



**Women with Visible
and Invisible Disabilities**

whats on

Feb 20th: Clause 28 demo, Manchester, coaches leave Parkinson steps 11am, tickets available from Leeds Uni. Union tel. 439071, ext 254.

Feb 25th: "Working Girls", Hyde Park Cinema, 7.30pm.

Mar 1st: Hope Augustus & Sensible Footwear, Bradford University Communal Building, £1.50/2.50.

Mar 3rd: "Miss Mary", Hyde Park Cinema 7.30pm.

Mar 5th: Clause 28 demo, Leeds.

Mar 5th: Women only disco, Rockshots. Benefit for Women Against Clause 28.

Mar 5th: Demo in support of NHS, organised by TUC, London.

Mar 5th-12th: International Women's Day celebrations, contact the women's centre for details.

Mar 12th: Women of the World Speak Out for Change festival, 10am-4pm, Leeds Poly Brunswick Building, Brunswick Terrace, Leeds. Stalls, speakers, creche, etc. Contact Women's Centre for details.

Mar 12th: International Women's Day Cabaret, Arts Centre, York, 8pm.

Mar 12th: Stop Strip Searches, women only demo, Durham.

Mar 13th: Mixed strip searches demo.

Mar 17th: "Comrades", Hyde Park Cinema 7.30 pm.

Mar 19th: National demo against Alton Bill, London.

Mar 19th: People's Sanctions Against Apartheid Conference, Civic Hall, Leeds, 10am-4pm. Organised by Yorks. & Humberside Anti-Apartheid.

Mar 25th: British Withdrawal from Ireland meeting, 8pm, Trades Club. Speaker Ken Livingstone. 50p. Organised by Troops Out Movement.

Mar 25th: "Housekeeping", film by Bill Forsyth, 7.30pm, Hyde Park Cinema for 7 days.

LEEDS ABORTION FUND

Just recently, a fund has been set up in Leeds for women who need money to help pay for abortions. The fund needs a regular flow of money so please help by sending donations to the address below. Also women who need financial help for abortions, then get in touch.

Correspondence to:-
Leeds Abortion Fund
c/o Box 32
52 Call Lane
Leeds. LS1

Watch this space for more details.

Thanks!

FREEDOM THROUGH

CHOICE

Regular Meetings

Women Against Deportations every fortnight, 4pm, from 26 May. Harehills Housing Aid, Roundhay Road.

Women's Reproductive Rights meet once a month. Ring 625445

Leeds Older Feminists Monday nights. Tel 664761

Women and Ireland last Wed each month. 8pm Trades Club

Women and Manual Trades 2nd & 4th Wed each month Primrose pub, Meanwood Rd, 8pm.

Rose Alaso Campaign 2nd & 4th Wed each month. Trades Club 7.30pm.

Women Only Discos

Phono, Merrion Centre. Every Tues night Rockshots, Call Lane. Fortnightly on Thurs from Aug 6 10.30 - 2am £1/50p

Checkpoint, Bradford. Fortnightly on Thurs from Aug 27.

Our address: -

Re-Sister,
Box . J.A.G.,
52, Call Lane,
Leeds 1.