

90P

AS SEEN
ON TV

ISSUE 11

That's the last
man tells me to smile...
can't say he tasted
nice, though.

Radical Magazine for Young Women

Young Magazine for Radical Women

In this issue:

Trotula,

some truth about...

Girls Who Love Boys!

& less than usual
about periods

plus cartoons, photostories and other things

Go on, take a little peek inside...

BOOKS AND
MUCH MORE

WHEELCHAIR
ACCESS



PAGE
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A fab vegan recipe (or maybe not as I've not got round to trying this one out yet)...

HOU MOUS (spread it on your sandwiches and impress all your friends with your wondrous culinary talents...as long as they don't know how easy it is to make...)

Ingredients...

1 tin of chick peas
2 tbsps light tahini
4-5 cloves of garlic
bit of lemon juice (or vinegar in an emergency)
black pepper to taste

Mash all the chick peas up and add tahini until the mixture is spreadable. Crush cloves of garlic and add to the mixture, then add lemon juice and black pepper. Leave in fridge to cool.

If you cannot obtain the loan of riding boots, do not on any account wear Wellingtons.

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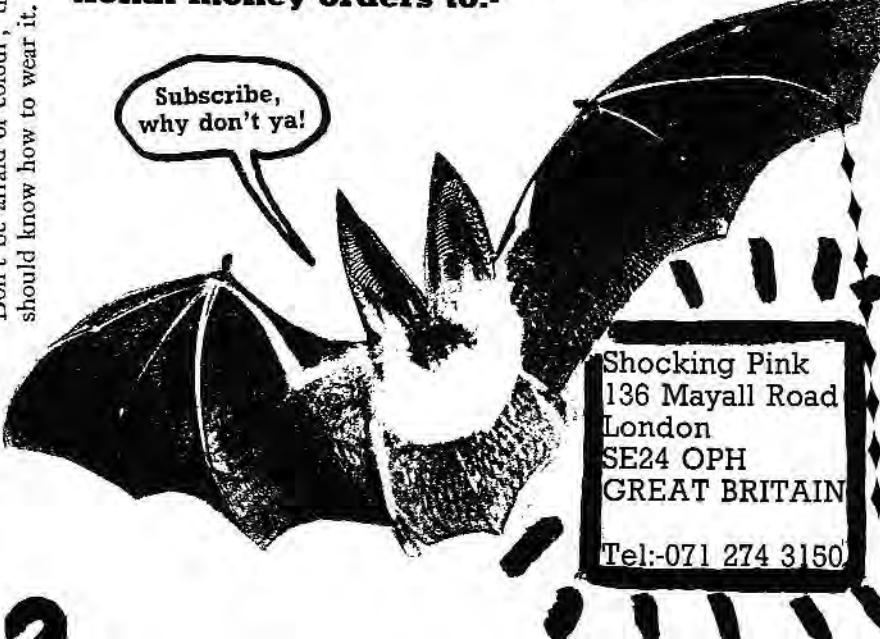
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Don't be afraid of colour; the world needs it, and you, if anyone, should know how to wear it.



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136 Mayall Road
London
SE24 0PH
GREAT BRITAIN

Tel:-071 274 3150

ANSWER BACK



In case you don't know... Shocking Pink is a radical magazine done by young women for young women. It comes out almost trimenstrually. OK?

To advertise in Shocking Pink call 071 274 3150 and ask for the advertising department.

Shocking Pink is distributed by: Central Book, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5LN, tel 081 986 4854 (bookshops) and Periodicals in Particular, 1 Prince of Wales Passage, Hampstead Road, London NW1 3EF, tel 071 388 4060/ 2186 (newsagents).



★★★ Join SP & make loads of friends, learn new skills/use old ones, miss school, forget homework. It's great fun! No experience needed at all...of anything, really. Girls under 18 especially welcome, but anyone under 25 can come along. And if you can't come to see us, send us your drawings, jokes, car toons, articles and all those other things. ★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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To find out about this fabulous offer, simply fill in the coupon and send it off today. No obligation.

I would like to join Shocking Pink because (tick not more than 20 boxes):

- I'm crap at spelling
- I'm crap at grammar
- I haven't got any friends
- I'm a raving loony feminist
- I'm under 18 so I know you're going to be really nice to me
- I'm bored
- I can't write or draw
- I can write/draw
- I've just had my hair cut
- I want an excuse to skive off school/college
- I think you're all so wonderful I want to meet you
- I'm trying to find a girlfriend
- God told me to
- My cat told me to
- I want to hob nob with famous people
- I like helping people move house
- I've just left the SWP
- Dunno really

Name _____

Address _____

Phone no. _____

I'm going to phone you

THREE

SHOCKERS

Dear Shocking Pink,

Firstly I must congratulate you on what a fab job you are doing. You are a real credit to the community. (yeah!!!—SP) I am sure that all those wonderous awards that are out in the big wide world will be raining down on you soon. (good point, where the fuck are they—SP too).

Love,
Rebecca.

Dear Rebecca,

Thanks a lot for your letter, you're obviously a woman of great judgement and wisdom. Quite easy to get things printed in SP, isn't it?

I'm innocent!

Dear fellow Shockers,

Though my first smear test was not a problem pphysically (I thought about Demi Moore) the intellectual trauma was mind fucking.

The doctor (skinny acne ridden curly headed male approx 30) stated 'I'm not interested in doing a smear test on a virgin'. Wow!! As a devoted strawberry lover (eh?? is this something I should understand?—typist—oh, I see) am I a virgin or not?—are all lesbians virgins? I stammered inanely for a few seconds then he said "are you sexually active?" so like a good feminist I replied that I'm not into butch and femme and my partner and I are both mutually spontaneous by acting in both an active and a passive manner. The doctor stopped asking questions at this point. My mind however ticked on. Would any form of penetrative sex count? Does oral sex count as penetrative at any stage?

So shockers am I a virgin or what? I don't feel like one, my sex life is wonderful and I get called a tart quite frequently.

I reckon the doctor was an ideologically unsound prat partially due to his being male combined with being clever and earning a lot. I've also developed an allergy to the word virgin and reckon it was invented by a similar doctor several hundred years ago or whenever it raised its ugly head.

Love, love & more love,
Seg. X

PS Hiking boots are more comfortable, more waterproof and cheaper than DM boots don't be a victim.

Dear Seg, I think you're right to reject the patriarchal sicko term virgin, since it defines sex only in terms of hettie intercourse & defines women only in terms of sex. Ignorant doctors bog off! can you get hiking boots in black??

Could I be pregnant?

DEAR SHOCKING PINK

SP 10...what an achievement: i'm so impressed—but what's this crap on page 20? (she means the drunkenness quiz) Since when was it so revolutionary to be a piss-head?

drink fucks you up. in excess it destroys your body, your relationships & your ability to fight back. you can't throw a brick if you're too cross-eyed to aim it right. and anyway, who's getting your money? the govt rake-off on alcohol is no small amount.

historically, drink has always been the best friend of the ruling class. never wondered why working class areas were built with a pub on every corner? think about it!

isn't the dyke scene already constructed around alcohol? i'm not saying we should all be teetotal evermore—but six pints never changed anything important.

sober up, SP, alcoholism isn't funny.
XL.

Yes I think you're right. We were drawn to put the quiz in because of the good pics with it, but on reflection this was very irresponsible.

I'm not sure I agree with it—I'll have to think about that one.

Is he too young?

Whilst sojourning in my local supermarket the other day, I overheard a delightfully curly-headed toddler saying "Go away you stupid man" and wagging her tongue in the air. Imagine my surprise when I realised she was addressing me! I laughed all the way home.

Yours, T. Mallet Esq., (Mr.)

Dear T. Mallet ESQ., (MR.),

I think you'll find there's absolutely nothing to worry about. This sort of occurrence is very common, especially in old houses. It's not usually fatal, at least not if you seek medical advice immediately. So, don't worry, and—whatever you do don't boil the kettle until you've had your little problem seen to!

Tomboy image

Dear Shocking Girls,

I read your fab & brilliant issue 9 and I really enjoyed it a lot. Being desperately in love with SP, I just can't live without it. So I send you £5 in cash now, directly, hoping you'll accept it for my subscription. Thanks a lot. Keep on this way, you're really making a GOOD JOB!!! I send you all my best wishes for the future.

Lots of love & kisses,

Anna Maria,
Italy.

We like to put letters like this in to make us feel pleased with ourselves.



PROBLEM

Dear SP.

How do I avoid this situation? I really want to be with a woman but seem only to end up with men. I like men as friends but can not do anything with their dicks.

PLEASE HELP!

I know it sounds silly, but my friends are fed up with my yearning for women and so am I! I am old! 21! I have never had sex with a man or a woman.

Maybe you can print this and an answer in the next issue??

xxx!

A Secret Fan! xxx

Hello. Seems to me you know exactly what you want, ie to have men as friends only & sleep with women (clearly a very good arrangement) so this is exactly what you should do. However love is a great mystery & you will know when the Right Woman for you comes along because she will have a pink flashing light on her head, so I warn you now not to sleep with anyone until that Special Moment arrives. Though I suppose you could go out on the piss a lot and have some tacky one night stands, so as to get some practice in... Personally I've forgotten what sex is. Maybe we should get a second opinion.

PS, why are you so secretive??



Julian the Boy has written to say that him & some pals (girls & boys) are trying to publish an anthology of **anarcho-feminist revolutionary poetry**. Seems they may want contributions, so contact: Julian, 103 Ware Rd, Hertford, SG13 7EE.

RACISM in FASHION

After looking through a series of Qs magazines on a wet afternoon, I came to the conclusion that, not only do these magazines condition and indoctrinate Q into feeling unconfident, inadequate and basically inferior beings (who only want to look 'good' for O). But these magazines who state that 'Black models are now more highly represented positively in popular magazines such as Elle and Vogue than they were in the past' have got it wrong.

OK so 'we' are occasionally on the front covers and 'we' are shown in the inside pages, but in what way and by whom.

Black models' make-up is dominantly applied to produce a European result - wigs with straight 'European' hair are placed over 'Afro hair' and the dominant pigment of the skin is either light brown or very dark (nothing in between).

The wig craze on Black models or any model is not just the product of the Sixties craze in fashion, for on Black models it has been an essential asset for some time e.g. Naomi Campbell has always worn one.

However, what is now a production of fashion and is unashameably shown on all models even those who haven't got them is the 'pout' - the full lips. Naomi Campbell's lips are 'full' and she's proud of it. Why? because those who enforce fashion and image now say that it is OK to have 'full lips'. They're no longer calling them 'big lips' or 'rubber lips' because big isn't beautiful e.g. a big nose. To have full lips which produce a raunchy pout is now irresistably sexy. Though this is, Afro hair is not and neither is a nose which doesn't represent a straight or petite shape.

When not being styled in wigs and converted to how the white dominated fashion world and modelling industry would like Black Q to look (resembling white models) they produce a 'look' which is labelled NATIVE LOOK and stereotypically that of the 'Black African female'. However the look itself suggests how African women in the Western world should represent themselves - high in Native tribal make-up and hair style and low in Native dress and clothing.

Who's to say what the dominant image of African women is - who's to suggest that all African women look like this (shaven hair and tribal make up). It seems as if the Western establishment still has a very egocentric and Eurocentric image of the African female, which is developed only to the limits of European fashion and thought.

As for the so called Black British generation, all traces of heritage and culture is demolished. (Afro English doesn't seem to be a distinguishable factor). I am not arguing that all black models should advocate a look which is not associated with

Although I have dreadlocks I don't believe everybody should have them, just as I don't believe that Naomi Campbell should always be sighted in a wig. There is nothing wrong with wearing a wig which provides a typically European image. Yes we can adjust our make-up, if we wear any, to provide a different look, we can perm our hair if we want to, we can wear extensions in plaits or curls, but lets not get disillusioned with fantasy and reality. Why not produce a look which represents the different images and heritages of diverse cultures and countries which all come under the label called 'black'. Britain is a multicultural society and its about time that the media recognise it.

This is quite a controversial subject, and I realise that it could be also related to the representation of white models e.g. models in general. Therefore I don't believe this is just a 'Black thang' although it could be argued that it is more oppressive for black Q. I believe this is another elementation of how women universally are divided and split up so as to come into conflict with one another - in order for O to get away with their continuous exploitation of Q.

For it is the men who produce these images of Q, which then creates a self-fulfilling prophecy with the Q themselves.



any of the mentioned images. All I am stressing in its basic sense is that Black women and Black hair can be extremely versatile in appearance. There are so many diversities in the looks of Black people as a whole, that this type of narrow minded representation of Black female models really makes a person like myself angry and frustrated.

Oh my Goddess! (some amazing alternative idols to worship...)

DEVI, a hindu goddess is also known as UMA "the great goddess" this is good (well surprising anyway) cos another of her names is KALI which means "black" and that isn't usually linked with nice things. This shit-racist book says that she appears in "horrible form" because she's black-skinned and surrounded by snakes and skulls. I think she sounds fab—and this man-writer probably has nightmares about her! She's beat up the demon durga and killed mahisha the buffalo demon.



DZELARHONS appears in a story of the North Pacific Coast Indians of America. The story records the moving from Alaska to America, of the tribe her uncle Githawn led. They canoed themselves to the land of the Grizzly Bear tribe and there Dzelarhons marries the chief's son. Being heterosexual, she becomes offended when for four nights running her husband (very rudely) ignores her sexual desires. She gets pissed off with him eventually, and in sympathy her uncle's tribe make war on the Grizzly Bear tribe in retaliation. During all this commotion Dzelarhons comes to realise that the boy isn't worth it and she goes off to become a mountain spirit called the Volcano Woman.



Wonderful **EVAKI** is the goddess of night in the myths of the Bakairi Indians of South America. She shut the sun in a pot every night and moved it back to its starting place in the sky for the next day. She stole sleep from the eyes of lizards and shared it among all other living things.

The **THREE FATES** are sometimes overlooked in Greek mythology and not recognised for their great powers in controlling the destiny of the World. They are three wise old women called ATROPOS, CLOTHO and LACHESIS. Atropos spins the past, Clotho the present and Lachesis the future. Another version says that Atropos cuts off the threads, Clotho holds the distaff onto which the thread is wound and Lachesis actually spins the thread. What they spin is the destiny of each individual. When the thread breaks, a life is ended.



DJANGGAWUL were two sisters and their brother who were the ancestors of the people of northern Australia and they made many of the people! Anyway the sisters were in total control of the important sacred rituals, but the boy was jealous and power-hungry so he gang-uped on them with lots of other boys and stole their sacred objects. So from then on the women were excluded, and only the boys could perform the rites.



FENJA and **MENJA** were two Norse giantesses who were enslaved by a nasty king to grind gold night and day without any rest. So they cast a spell on the mill where they worked, so that instead it started to produce a load of magic warriors to attack the nasty king. Now one of the king's enemies saw a good thing there, and got involved. He sent over his troops to help kill the king, but then he in turn captured Fenja and Menja. He was also just interested in getting what he could out of them, and told them to grind salt during the voyage to his home. However, they decided to turn this back onto him. For revenge they produced so much salt that the ship sank and killed him, and forever after the sea was salty as a result, but also as a reminder to any other man who tried to enslave them.

The ancient idea of a witch and her cat may be slightly related to **FREYJA** the Norse goddess of love and fertility. She had a chariot drawn by cats and was also the goddess of magic. This man-writer (who I'm nicking all this info from) finds her and her powers "disturbing" well of course he would because she's marvelously "shameless" in her many, many sex affairs, but she can also change her shape and disguise herself as a falcon and so not be answerable to any man who she upsets. She founded a group of women who worked spells and forecast the future, called the "volva" who could also disguise themselves as birds.

GAIA was the mother of all Greek gods and was the Earth itself. Her husband Uranus was jealous of her children and so hid them in her huge body, until she couldn't put up with his selfish attitude any longer. Then she gave a sword to her youngest child, so that he could disable Uranus.

GALATEA was a greek nymph who was loved by a shepherd and a cyclops. The jealous cyclops crushed the shepherd under a rock, but Galatea wasn't impressed by his stupid violent attitude and so turned him into a river.



HARPIES were greek "monsters" with bird's bodies and women's faces, who persecuted those with whom the gods bore a grudge. They may once have been spirits of the wind as their names show. e.g. Aello means "stormwind" and Ocypete means "swing-wing".



HINA, first woman in Polynesian myths had a daughter, also called Hina or HINE-TUI-NE-PO who became the goddess of death. She was a great explorer and one day sailed to the moon in her canoe. She liked it so much that she stayed there, and spent her time making bark cloth from the banyan tree, which can be seen in the markings on the moon's face.

IPHIGENEIA was sacrificed by her father, a greek king, to appease Artemis so that his fleet could set sail for Troy. However, because of this selfish cruelty, Clytemnestra, her stepmum took action and killed him on his return from Troy. Another version of this story says that Artemis herself saved Iphigeneia from the unwanted sacrifice and made her a priestess at Tauris. Wow!! what brilliant women!

ISIS became the greatest of Egyptian goddesses through her own cleverness. As Ra grew old he started dribbling into his beard and Isis noticed this, because as a woman she had to look after him. However she started to catch some as it fell and she mixed it with earth to make a serpent. The serpent bit Ra and caused him great pain. Now in a position of power Isis refused to heal him unless he told her his magic name. Reluctant to lose his power, he eventually gave in and Isis became a great worker of magic (and rightly so!).

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

TROTULA

Here's the story of another one of the infinite number of women that the patriarchal history books have seen fit to ignore...

In the eleventh century, in Salerno in Italy, there lived a woman called Trotula. She was one of a group of medical women called The Ladies Of Salerno, who were connected to the medical school of the town's university. Trotula was a midwife and physician (doctor) who wrote a book called "The Diseases of Women"; she was aware that women's health problems were never properly discussed, partly because women were too shy to tell their doctors about what was wrong with them, and partly because the (male) medical establishment didn't think women's problems were really very important anyway. Sound familiar...?

The book covered all sorts of medical topics; some of them were things which specifically affect women, like birth control, menstruation and childbirth, and some of them were more general, like toothache, dysentery and worms. Some of the cures it included were very innovative for the time; Trotula suggested herb teas, baths and potions instead of the more widely-prescribed astrology and prayer. The book came to be very widely used, and as it was reprinted over the centuries, somehow her name got left off and people started presuming it had been written by a man. It's only now that the real truth has come to light and the medical establishment are starting to accept the fact that maybe women are clever enough after all to be able to write books.



GRAPEVINE BOOKSHOP

'Too much of a good thing can be wonderful'
Mae West.

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to sell SHOCKING PINK and it
also sells Books, Records, Badges
etc.

1 COINCIDENCE?

1 Since the early 80's the circulation of Jackie has fallen from
1,000,000 per week to 450,000 per week.

2 SP first came out in...
early 80's!

GOODBYE POLL TAX *hee hee hee haa*

VIRGIN BIRTH

A lesbian teacher has recently won her case against dismissal, when school authorities tried to put Section 28 into effect. It sounds like a real witch hunt and her friend (who is in fact straight) had allegations made against them such as "pursuing a personal relationship" and "kissing in the car park". Both women were suspended and recommended for dismissal by school governors.

In January they won their appeal to the Education Committee of the local county council. The allegations were completely untrue, by the way. But even though they won the appeal, they were prevented from returning to their jobs by a continuing witch-hunt by the head & staff who had made the original allegations. It's disgusting and will probably make it difficult for the teachers to find other jobs.

One of the women has had to pay legal costs of £3000. Wages Due Lesbians and Legal Action for Women are fundraising for her. Donations payable to: LAW Teachers' Fund at Kings Cross Women's Centre, 71 Tonbridge St, London WC1H 9DZ.

A woman who doesn't want to have sex with a man or woman is going to have a baby through donor insemination from a clinic, and more women in similar circumstances are planning to do the same. So it's all over the papers, questions in parliament, crapping on about how a woman "must" want to have sex with a man if she wants to have children. But let's face it, the two aren't necessarily connected. They must be terrified—they've noticed that men could be 99% redundant! All particularly ridiculous, since one of the basic myths of this society is the Virgin Mary and her sprog - once it was the perfect ideal, but now they're not so keen on it.

Oh dearie dear, the recession has hit private schools. ha ha ha. 4 of them are going to close, including St Audries school in Somerset, which costs £2,320 a term (bargain) & has now got only 174 pupils instead of 250. Well how spooky, I thought it was only state schools that closed.

HERE COMES TROUBLE

There are too many people unemployed, so the government is going to do something about it...encourage the provision of decent jobs for decent pay? You must be joking. The latest plan is for over half a million "long term unemployed" (ie. over a year) to be forced onto temporary work schemes or "community projects", maybe for an extra tenner like Employment Training, maybe not even that. It's grim—3 or 4 days a week doing stupid work for hardly any money.

The official unemployment total is about 2 million, but since this will be the 30th time the Tories have fiddled the figures since they came to power I suppose the real figure is about twice that. This new plan, like the old Community Programme, sounds very damn scary. I think we should try to oppose it—anyone got any ideas?

"IF YOU WANT BLOOD
HAVE SOME OF OURS,
LOVE THE CUNT COVEN"—
BANNER AT ANTI-GULF
WAR DEMO IN LONDON ...

NOT A LOT HAPPENING IN THE WORLD IS THERE? Well here's some news. aliens have landed in Perran-Ar-Worthal and handed out free sweeties. legislation has been passed making it an offence not to be nice. special SNOOZING centres have been set up for people who are a bit tired to go and meet other people who feel like a quick nap. heeheeheeheeheeheeheehee

WAR ON THE POOR!

It has cost 3 times as much to impose the poll tax as it has for Britain to fight the Gulf War. QUIZ: what are the 2 similarities between these things. ANSWER: 1. both of them are stupid 2. neither of them are a bargain



Damsels in Distress Dodgy types in the Disco.....



TEN.

Sue had been drinking too much lager and so had to go for a long pee...

Oh dear... He's coming over here. Why did Sue have to leave me in this Hetty haven...



Well hello there cutie-pie, d'you wanna dance with this gorgeous hunk?

← slimey!

Who?... oh! well
ok - just until my
girlfriend gets back



Later, in the bog, Jo tells Sue what she missed...

-That's why I'd rather have bobble hats than bollocky prats!

That doesn't make sense at all!!



BLANK SPACE!

oh no - don't panic...

ELEVEN.

DON'T GET MARRIED!

OK no, no way

Marriage is bad for women. Well, you may say, that's bloody obvious since it's the way that patriarchy organises women's work and tries to keep them under control of a man. But who's writing this anyway? Marriage is even worse for you than living with a man! It seems the good old traditional ideas of wife-slave are still strong in men's minds and they're more likely to treat you worse when you're married even if you've been living together for years beforehand. Plus there's the greater legal difficulty of getting away from him if you get sick of it. So here are the facts for you.

Men do very nicely

- ★ He will live longer. A married man is twice as likely to outlive an unmarried man, 3 times as likely to outlive a divorced man.
- ★ It improves his work prospects. 81% of Britain's top executives are married.
- ★ He'll be happier. Men's mental & physical health improves when they marry. Single men make fewer and more casual friends than single women and so are lonelier. 2 thirds of divorced or single men drink more than is healthy.

Women don't

- ★ It's bad for your health. Married women are less healthy & happy than any other group.
- ★ No freedom. Research into how 700 married women spent their leisure time revealed that almost half of them didn't actually have any.
- ★ You'll work much harder. A poll by Pearl Assurance (so probably a very conservative view) showed that all wives on average do twice as much housework as their husbands and take on most of childcare responsibilities. 9 out of 10 men are now present at their child's birth, but mothers still get up at night to feed them.

7 out of 10 divorces are started by women (1985 study by Relate, I've also heard it's 4 out of 5). After divorce men are far more likely to remarry quickly. Women do much better after divorce: take less time off work, do more overtime, get promoted faster. Their new freedom gives them a chance of more self-worth. But men are less motivated, lose weight (no one cooking for them, I suppose) and their work output suffers.

Don't do it girls!

Although this picture of drudgery, loneliness and long-term low-level ill health and exhaustion is depressing enough, it still isn't the whole picture. I haven't got many facts about wife-battering, but work by feminists has shown that it's incredibly normal. 40% of women getting a divorce say that violence is a factor in their decision.

Then there's rape, which is still legal in marriage in England and Wales, though not in Scotland and Ireland. The first ever national survey on it done for World in Action shows that rape within marriage is the commonest form. Women are 7 times as likely to be raped by their husbands as by a stranger, and twice as likely as by a boyfriend or acquaintance. This would mean that 1,370,000 women in Britain have suffered marital rape.

In almost half of marital rapes violence was used or threatened. 1 in 5 wives were pregnant when raped. Single instances of rape in marriage were unusual: 4 out of 5 were multiple rapes. Also it should be remembered that the definition of rape used here is having been forced to have sex against their will (that's the legal definition). Over half the women in the survey said they had agreed to have sex when disinclined through tiredness, lack of interest or feeling unwell.

Of course rape in marriage should be made a crime, and it looks like it probably will be soon, but is that really going to solve much? Surely it will be no easier for a woman, who is dependant on her husband in lots of ways and frightened of him too, to report a rape than it is to report violence or leave him because of violence. These are just ways of trying to keep the system of marriage going with a few little reforms supposed to stop women being so dissatisfied with it. But as long as men have the money and the jobs nothing will really change. The best thing would be for women to refuse marriage altogether.

So if any boyfriend-type suggests marriage, there's only one answer! And to any of you right-on straight boys reading this, if you think getting married could be different for you, things could be equal and it would all be rather sweet...think again! Marriage is a thousands of years old way of making women into men's property. Don't insult women by saying you can turn it into something nice—marriage is sick.

watch out for it!

NEWS FLASH!

RAPE IN MARRIAGE IS NOW GOING TO BE MADE ILLEGAL—AMAZING.

HOW USEFUL is a FATHER??



Paragraph 16 of Consultation Paper No 16 (Children Act) is just one of several pieces of anti-lesbian & gay legislation legal cases going on at the moment.

It deals with local authorities consideration of possible foster parents and says: "It would be wrong to arbitrarily exclude any particular groups of people from consideration. But the chosen way of life of some adults may mean that they would not be able to provide a suitable environment for the care and nurture of a child. 'Equal rights and gay rights policies have no place in fostering services'".

This is a nasty piece of prejudice and a nasty lie, since sexuality has nothing to do with anyone's ability to care for children, except I suppose in the case of straight men, who are the most dangerous group of any for the welfare of children, what with sexual abuse and violence. It's all part of the general right-wing attack on non-nuclear non-straight families, which is happening all over the place now and is one of the most serious right-wing movements we face at the moment.

Our latest info says that Paragraph 16 is under consideration, so they may change it, hopefully, then again they might not.

The government is planning to introduce a law to make it more difficult to get a divorce. Apparently the current law on divorce is too lenient and people are 'rushing into it'. What fucking crap—its marriage that people rush into, not divorce. I never realised how difficult getting a divorce in this country can be, especially for a woman, until my Mum tried (and failed) to divorce my dad. So, if the divorce laws are made stricter, it'll be even harder for wimmin to get out of shitty marriages, and it'll affect wimmin much more than men because more wimmin than men want divorces.

In Britain you can only get a divorce if you can prove at least one of four things: that one partner has committed adultery; that you and your partner have lived apart for two years and you both want a divorce (five years if your partner doesn't consent to the divorce); that one partner has been deserted for two years; 'unreasonable behaviour' on the part of one partner. Only in exceptional circumstances are divorces granted within three years of marriage. If you want a divorce on the grounds of adultery you have to do it within six months of finding out because apparently the law works on the basis that if you can put up being married to someone who's having an affair for more than six months you can put up with it until your dying days. A lot of wimmin may know that their husbands are having an affair but are unable to divorce them straight away because they're bringing up kids and aren't able to earn any money. This lack of money will also mean that they can't just up and leave their husband—you can't rent somewhere to live without any money, and wimmins refugees are getting fewer and fewer these days due to lack of funding.

When my Mum tried to divorce my dad on the grounds that he'd been having affairs for years and years—and she had grounds to prove this—she was told by a solicitor that she'd left it too late. But she wasn't able to divorce him earlier because she was bringing me and my brother up and so had no money. She didn't have grounds for 'unreasonable behaviour' either, despite the fact that for most of their married life my dad was hardly ever at home and slept at his lover's house one night every week. So fuck knows what 'unreasonable behaviour' is.

That's why I get so annoyed when (male) Tory politicians start ranting on about how the lenient divorce laws are damaging the moral fibre of society and undermining the family, especially seeing as they're probably all having affairs themselves and treating their wives like shit. What we need in Britain (and everywhere else) is 'instant divorce shops' like they have in Mexico... and free divorces on demand for wimmin as well.

Marriage doubts

LESBIAN ACTION FOR PARENTING AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

LAPRR was set up by lesbians involved in the Campaign for Access to Donor Insemination because of attacks on lesbian reproductive rights and Conservative support for the "traditional family". LAPRR opposes policies that state that the best family for children is white, heterosexual, middle-class and able-bodied. LAPRR aims to work for equal access to donor insemination for all women, to oppose discrimination against lesbians in their ability to conceive, raise, adopt or keep children, and to mobilise opposition to any attacks on non-stereotypical families.

LAPRR welcomes all lesbians to its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 7pm at Wesley House Women's Centre, 4 Wild Court, off Kingsway, near Holborn tube, London WC2. The building is wheelchair accessible including toilets.



ASHA

Advice, support and temporary accommodation for Asian women with children and Young Women suffering from violence or threat of violence.

27 Santley St, London SW4 7QF.

071 737 5901 or 274 8854 (ansaphone).

Something else about dental dams, lifted from the Pink Paper...

The dental dam is a square piece of latex (6" x 6") you can stretch across the vulva or anus* during oral sex & stimulate the sex organs through the latex. It decreases the risk of sexually transmitted diseases. ★ Miriam (the writer) also suggests carefully sewing it into a pair of crotchless knickers to leave your hands free for other activities, using your favourite food to cover the taste of the latex if you don't like it.

Some health tips: It's advisable to have several by the bedside within easy reach, but if you have only one between you, wash thoroughly before sharing.

After use, wash the dam in solution 1 part bleach to 10 parts water, dry & store in a cool dry place ready for use.

*When rimming (oral/anal stimulation) be careful not to pass the dam back up to the vaginal area as this may cause infection. **Where to get them from:** Dental suppliers Cotterell & Co, Charlotte St, London W1 (sold in boxes of 36) or Jessie Bells, LLGC 67-69 Cowcross St, London EC1M 6BP—£1.50 for 2 or £5 for 6—and these suppliers are dykes.

MORE INFO: BM Switchboard, London WC1N 3XX enclosing SAE for safer sex leaflet./ Terence Higgins Trust 071 242 1010



GREAT FEMINIST AWAKENINGS No. 16

Oh Louise, that yellow eyeshadow looks crap

That's it. I'm never wearing make-up again



Well it seemed like high time—almost every other lesbian/gay man I knew was out to their family and there was me at 24 still not done it. (I'm a lesbian-leaning bisexual, oh no, what's that mean to mean, well never mind all that). So I plucked up my courage, filled with the optimism of the new year and that kind of thing, and went off for a nerve-wracking weekend with my parents. And it was horrible! Me & my Mum spent a day talking and crying on & off, while she came out with a representative selection of all the prejudices most people have about dykes and I tried to persuade her differently.

But that isn't the end of the story at all. Everyone I've spoken to says it gradually improves, but when my parents came to visit me a fortnight later things were already really different, with them being very nice and saying lots of making-up things. Now I feel a mixture of understanding that they're being relatively nice, and being pissed off with them anyway for thinking the things they do.

This is getting a bit off the point isn't it? What I want to say is: go for it. Assert your strength and don't let anyone make you hide yourself through fear of what they'll think. After all, there are much worse methods of repression than that, and we've got to start somewhere. Don't let anyone else get away with thinking they don't know any lesbians/gays and all that happens to other people. It'll be a wonderfully important moment in your life and you'll feel happier and stronger because of it!

Now let's get back to the practical problem of women's magazines. Now a bachelor faced with the menace of reduce, CLOTHES, or at least eliminate, or at least reduce, CLOTHES, but how can he eliminate, or at least reduce, CLOTHES, when his status? One way is to pick a girl who cannot read, this even this is not watertight in strip cartoons, dangerous stuff is being spread in the

My Coming Out

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So that was a bit of a relief, but even if that hadn't happened I'd still want to encourage anyone else to come out (because I'm a spiteful old bag trying to get them into trouble, no not really). I really didn't realise what a difference it would make to how I feel. I thought it was just a matter between me & my parents, but in fact telling them really makes me feel like it's for real, this IS what I've decided, and it's not just a little secret bit of my life that I get up to when no one's looking. Also having decided not to be frightened of their opinions makes me feel incredibly strong, mature, pleased with myself, independent and all that kind of thing. Hey, I'm the dead cool girlie striking out on her own, no one tells me what to do, yeah, you can't tie me down, blah blah, but then that's probably got more do with my fantasies of being Jimi Hendrix than anything else.

FEMICIDE

Shocking Pink doesn't usually go in for listing murders of & violent crimes against women, basically because there's saturation coverage in the malestream press. Usually this coverage is at the least pornographic, always it works as a reminder to women of what violence awaits us if we get out of line (or even if we don't) & at worst it can be a means of spreading & suggesting new means of terrorizing & torturing women to men.

All men may not rape, murder & attack women (though a lot of them do) but all men do benefit from those attacks on us. Women live in a constant awareness of the potential for violence, of their behaviour being taken as an invitation for attack & a lot of women spend much time & energy looking for that "one exception" who's going to be loving, protect them from the random violence & attention of other men and who, above all, will be "safe". It's all such hard work & effort, it all takes up so much time & so many pages of magazines & books. Meanwhile, the pretence is that these attacks on us are isolated, unrelated & "democratically" gender-free; men disassociate themselves from other men who rape & murder women & from those who are publicly denounced as abusers & batterers. The media come up with ever new ways of separating one attack from another & distinguishing separate motives in each crime. They even come up with brand new names for the rape & killing of women e.g. "wilding", "rough sex" or claims of an "Aztec love ritual" gone "tragically" wrong.

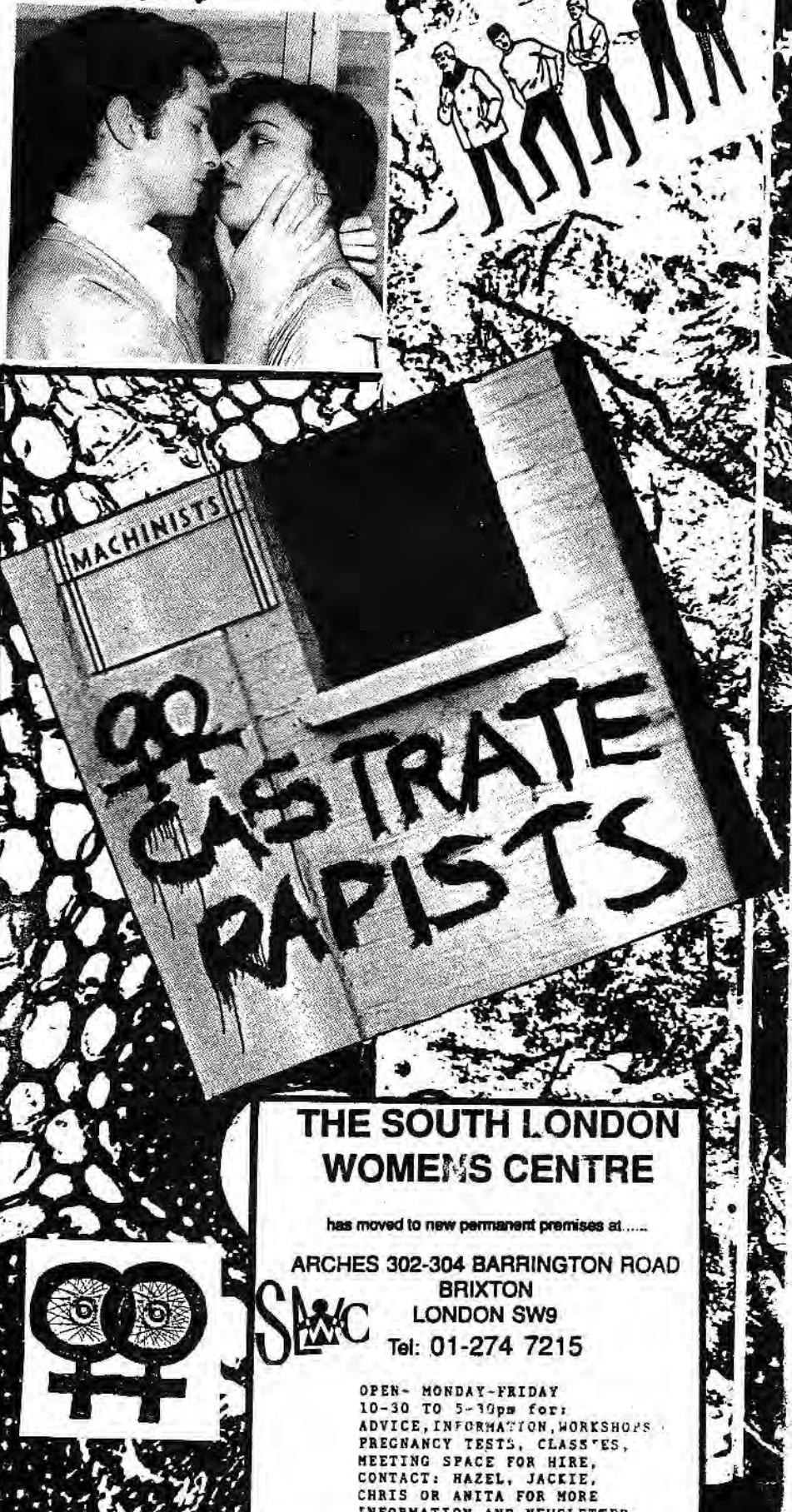
Feminists are fighting against this obscuring of the reality of a long & sustained attack on women as women. Jane Caputi suggests the use of the word gynocide which is "an extreme form of terrorism in the service of the patriarchal state". Another term which is gaining widespread use is femicide.

But will the term ever get used outside feminist circles? It would be the equivalent of men admitting the power they share from the acts of rape & woman murder & their connection to these acts rather than individual relationships. Following the murder of 14 women in Canada on December 6 1989, the Berkeley Clearinghouse on Femicide was set up. Its intention is to confront the problem of woman-killing, carrying out both activist & educational work. Contributions regarding femicide are welcomed.

While women know the reality of a constant degree of violence & hate directed at us because we are women & the subtle undercurrent of threat in all our relationships with men resulting from this reality, it seems that publicly, i.e. in male-defined spaces, this knowledge is denied, or at least obscured. This crime must be recognised publicly & the complicity of all men must be acknowledged.

For further info: Chris Domingo, Coordinator, Clearinghouse on Femicide, PO Box 12342, Berkeley, California 947013342, USA.

OO! OO!



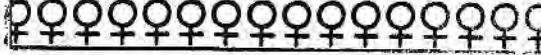
THE SOUTH LONDON WOMENS CENTRE

has moved to new permanent premises at

ARCHES 302-304 BARRINGTON ROAD
BRIXTON
LONDON SW9
Tel: 01-274 7215

OPEN - MONDAY - FRIDAY
10-30 TO 5-30pm for:
ADVICE, INFORMATION, WORKSHOPS,
PREGNANCY TESTS, CLASSES,
MEETING SPACE FOR HIRE,
CONTACT: HAZEL, JACKIE,
CHRIS OR ANITA FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND NEWSLETTER.

IT'S PARK IN HERE! ARE WE GETTING OVERTIME?
LOOK OUT, YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!
HAVE YOU SEEN WHO'S HERE? MEAH! - IT'S MICHELLE FROM EASTENDERS!



The Abortion Pill

RU 486, the 'abortion pill', is a new drug soon to be available in Britain which causes abortion early in pregnancy (42-49 days after your last period). It does this by blocking the production of a hormone called progesterone in the uterus and if taken with prostaglandins (another drug) it stops the lining of the uterus being maintained and so ends a pregnancy.

Many feminists have been campaigning for RU 486 to be released in Britain and other countries. Anti-abortionists have been fighting it hard, threatening to boycott the pharmaceutical company that produces it—Roussel Uclaf.

But is RU 486 such a good thing for women? Before we automatically say yes, we need to know more about this drug, which is being put on the market relatively quickly, without much testing compared to other drugs, bearing in mind too that large pharmaceutical companies are well known for putting their profit before anyone else's life or health.

First of all, it seems very dangerous. It messes up your hormones and the long-term effects of this are not known. Also, the immediate effects of the abortion pill don't seem at all safe—★ very heavy bleeding in 15-25% of women in trials in Britain, 1% needed blood transfusions and catherization.

★ incomplete abortion, continuing pregnancy or tissue left behind in 2-13% of women in tests.
★ 80% of women needed painkillers, often very strong ones.

★ many other nasty effects: vomiting and diarrhoea are frequent. Also fainting, fatigue, mood changes, thirst.

All this means you end up taking a whole load of drugs: RU 486, prostaglandins, pain-killers, sometimes medication beforehand.

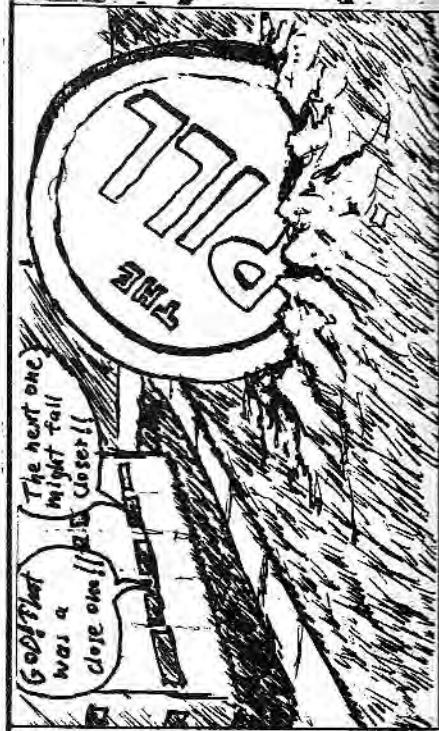
Also there are many circumstances under which you shouldn't take the drug, eg 'obesity', heavy smoking, using the pill or coil, asthma, anaemia and many illnesses and disorders. Several of these are likely to be worse for poor and Black women.

Apart from how dangerous it is, the other main thing against RU 486 is that it's actually very complicated to use and the hype about it giving women control of abortion isn't true at all. You'll only be able to get it in a medical centre, with several visits for different things and close supervision by doctors/nurses. The only 'private' bit of it is that you may possibly expel the foetus at home (after hours, days, sometimes weeks).

This makes it particularly dangerous for use in the so-called Third World, where women are not likely to get all the medical care they need, eg, because medical centres may be a long way away, making all the necessary visits impossible. This will probably have deadly results. The 6th International Women and Health Meeting in the Philippines in Nov '90, decided to oppose RU 486.

All this makes me think the Abortion Pill is very bad news. Abortions can be very simple: women could be trained to do them in local health centres. We need to try to stop the medical profession having control of abortions. The last thing we need is more dangerous drugs being put into our bodies.

I've takin all this info from an article by Janice Raymond in Spare Rib. Ta!



More on McYuk

Last September McDonald's began suing 5 people who'd been involved with the activities of London Greenpeace. They claimed that they'd been libelled in the leaflet 'What's Wrong with McDonald's? - Everything they don't want you to know', which was produced by London Greenpeace.

Under extreme pressure and through having no money to fight the case (legal aid is not available for libel) 3 of the people decided to apologise, which meant that the case against them was dropped (as long as they don't say anything else bad about McD) BUT.... two didn't, and the case against them continues. More importantly, the campaign against McDeath must continue, we have to show them they cannot use threats and intimidation to silence people fighting their evil empire.

MCDONALD'S are being sued by the parents of a toddler taken severely ill after eating one of the company's burgers.

PICKET McDONALD'S
Headquarters, High Road,
Finchley, Next to East Finchley tube station
TUESDAY 21st MAY 4.30-6.30pm

Be there to demand they drop the libel action, and end their evil practices.

There will also be a picket of a central London McDonald's on Saturday 18th May, and of some other branches in the rest of the country. For more info on the pickets, or the McLibel Campaign, contact: McLibel Support Campaign, c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1.



It's hard to say whether it's in pain,

as such..

This particular experiment could prevent, even eradicate arthritis from the entire bird-race..



BOFWA

As a dyke into punk/hardcore music I sometimes feel quite isolated from the lesbian scene/culture. Most lesbians/feminists seem to be into folk music or country and western stuff and whenever you go to a wimmin-only bar or club they only seem to play folk stuff (or sometimes rap or soul stuff, which is just as bad). I think it's a shame that there aren't any lesbian punk bands—I don't particularly want to listen to men inflating their egos by playing in a band (besides which, wimmin have much nicer voices... and I'm not biased at all in saying that—ha ha!), but I like the anger and loudness of punk/hardcore. Wimmin should be angry about how crap society is for wimmin, especially lesbians, and punk's a good way of expressing angry feelings.

A lot of wimmin get disillusioned with punk or don't even try listening to it in the first place because the punk scene's so male-dominated and full of sexism, homophobia etc. Going to punk gigs can be crap as well because they're usually full of men, and the few wimmin that are there have usually only come cause their boyfriend's into it. Most of the men there spend all their time dancing aggressively and trying to look as macho as possible, while the wimmin stand at the back to avoid getting hurt.

Although there aren't any lesbian punk bands (not that I've ever come across anyway), there ARE some fab all-wimmin punk/hardcore bands around, some of which are a bit feministically inclined.

INSIDE OUT

FIRE PARTY are really fab. They're four wimmin from the US and I suppose their stuff's melodicish hardcore (that's probably an extremely crap and inaccurate description, so you really ought to get hold of some of their stuff and find out for yourself). Anyway, as far as I know they've got 2 12" EPs out on Dischord Records "Fire Party" and "New Orleans Opera".

INSIDE OUT play psychedelic hardcore stuff and have got an LP out on Meantime Records "Take you apart, put you back together". They say they're "not feminists" although they hate sexism and think "it'd be cool if men and wimmin could live together equally".

* Babes in Toyland *

OUT

FRIGHTWIG have got an LP out on Boner Records—"Phonesexy" (!), and their name was originally a slang term used in the '50s by men to describe a woman who was untidy—messy hair, smudged lipstick etc. Frightwig hopes to inspire young girls and show them that you can do what you want if you work at it.

Shit—this is getting boring... I'll just briefly mention the rest...

BABES IN TOYLAND "Spanking Machine" (!) LP on Twin/Tone Records.
SCRAWL —LPs on Rough Trade

FIRE PARTY

KAMALA AND THE KARNIVORES—they've split up but they produced some wonderful grungey melodic garagey stuff while they were still going—like their "Girl Band" 7" EP on Lookout Records. **BURNING BUSH, BARBIE ARMY, BITCH FIGHT**, and especially **THE SLETS** (Peel Sessions) are also fab and no longer together, but their records are definitely well worth looking out for. The only other all-wimmin punk/hardcore bands I can think of are **L7, DICKLESS** and the **LUNACHICKS**, though I've not heard any of their stuff. **The Breeders** are fab as well, though they're not really a punk/hardcore band.

FRIGHTWIG

INTERVIEW WITH THE FAB MARY WHITE... sexism in the Shetland Isles

Mary White is a fab lesbian feminist erm... folk (yeah well I know I said I didn't like folk music, but Mary's stuff is just so wonderful I had to make an exception for her) singer who lives in the Shetland Isles. Interestingly enough, she used to be into punk bands like Crass and Zounds, although now she listens to stuff like Michelle Shocked and k.d. lang. She's been writing and playing songs for seven or eight years now, in different set-ups, but mainly just it's just been Mary and her guitar.

I asked Mary what her first feminist influences were...

I remember when I was about 12, my dad bought four family heritage book things—to fill in with your family history. Anyway I thought—"one for me, and one each for my three brothers". When he wrote their names in three of them, and his name in the fourth one, I said to him: "Where's mine then?". He replied: "You won't need one, you'll grow up, get married, change your name, no longer be a 'White'—and you'll be someone else's property". I'm still angry about it.



Two competitions for budding cartoonists...

2 sections of the 4th biennial exhibition of women cartoonists to be held in Ferrara, Northern Italy, in Autumn 1991, will be dedicated to 2 competitions for young/amateur women cartoonists: "Fani Perhavec

"Tufani" (well fancy) which is open to all amateur artists, & "Melaverde", open to schoolgirls/students only. The theme of the 4th Biennial is FEMALE FRIENDSHIP (friends/enemies, sisters/sisterhood, lovers/ex-lovers etc).

Competitors should send a selection of 5-15 cartoons (or 3-10

strips, or 1-2 complete stories), black & white or colour, preferably good-quality photocopies rather than originals, to: LEGGERE DONNA, Via Tichioni 38/1, 44100 Ferrara, Italy, clearly indicating the name of the competition. Closing date: 28 Feb 1991.

oh bollocks, well you

could try anyway.

The drawings selected will be exhibited in the 4th Biennial Exhibition along with work by best-known professional woman artists from Italy & abroad. Winning cartoons will be published in Leggere Donna, the Italian women's review of books.

Edinburgh Lesbian Line 031 557 0751, Mon and Thurs 7.30pm 10.30pm,

Well the Gulf War is over, kind of. How many people died? Probably we won't ever know, though one estimate is around 100,000 people dead in Iraq and the same again injured. It sounds as if the last days were especially vicious as Iraqi troops were pulling out northwards up the Basra road and the US said they couldn't decide if they were withdrawing or "regrouping", so they took the opportunity to try to bomb them to bits.

The war hasn't really stopped. There's civil war in Iraq—16,000 people are supposed to have died in the last week in the south of Iraq. Throughout the country people are starving and dying of disease. Palestinians are being tortured and killed in Kuwait now as 'collaborators', with the Kuwaiti govt at least knowing about it, quite likely doing it. And will the Kurds end up any better off? If they do it certainly won't be thanks to anyone else.

YEAH! THE BIRMINGHAM ARE FREE!!! 6

London Bisexual Group meets every Friday, 8pm at London Friend, 86 Caledonian Road tube Kings Cross. Go on, you'll be glad you did.

A tall cane painted black and topped with a bouquet of flowers will make you the perfect little Hungarian on festive days.

I haven't really read that many feminist books, I've kind of made up my own mind about it. I like feminist poetry, I like Alice Walker's stuff (what I've read). "Oranges are not the only fruit" was a good book, it made me laugh.

I also asked her about what its like being a feminist and lesbian in the Shetland Islands.

Well, for me, being a lesbian up here, I felt really isolated. I used to kid myself that it was maybe a good thing, but you can only stay quiet for so long. It doesn't do you any good whatsoever to shut yourself off, it's too destructive in the long run. So here

Interesting Riot Fact... There have been more riots in Thatcher's decade, the 1980s, than any decade since the 1830s when the Poor Law Reform Act was brought in and a lot of agricultural workers suddenly had nothing to live on a lot of the year.

FEARSOME EH?

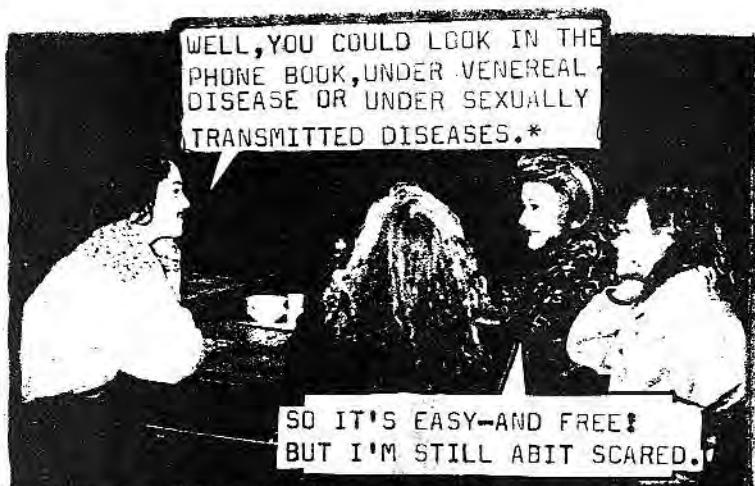
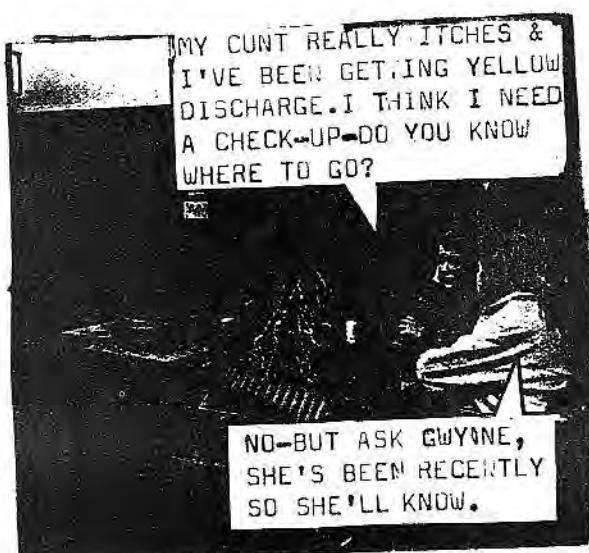
There isn't a feminist/lesbian community up here (not one that I know of anyway). There is however, the Women's Festival Group. It started about 4 years ago. A group of women got together to approach the Lerwick (main town in Shetland) "Up Helly Aa" Committee. "Up Helly Aa" is a festival they hold every year to celebrate the coming of the Sun. They elect a jarl committee, who elect a head jarl. He leads the procession through the streets of Lerwick, standing in a viking longship, built specially every year. Jarl squads follow behind, dressed in traditional viking gear with lit torches—and brass bands—then they pull the longship into a local park, throw their torches into it and burn it to the ground. There's also about 20-30 other squads of men dressed up, who follow each other around all the local halls, and do a small sort of play. Now there's one thing wrong with all this—no women allowed. Except to serve soup and sandwiches in the local halls. Any squad found harbouring a disguised woman is automatically disqualified—for life.

Anyway, the Womens Festival Committee was set up to ask the "Up Helly Aa" Committee to let women join, but the answer was a much snidely "No". So every year for the past four years we've held a Shetland Womens Festival. Women from all over Shetland get together for 1-2 days and show their collective skills—craftwork, photography, music...all sorts of things. Women give lectures and workshops, there's videos, creches/minders for kids, and of course an all day bar! Beatrix Campbell came up two years ago to give a couple of lectures and sign books. I usually sing at them, along with other musicians. Men are allowed, there'd be too much hassle otherwise—they can give, but not take.

THE WELL OF WICKEDNESS



*I DUNNO WHETHER A CLINIC WOULD PRESCRIBE SAVLON FOR THRUSH, BUT 1 SP-ER SAYS IT WORKS!

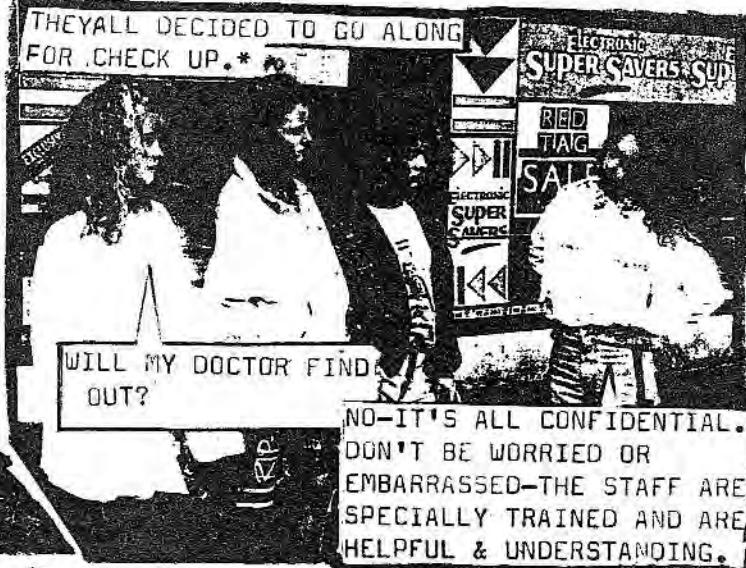


IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING IT THEN PHONE YOUR NEAREST MAIN HOSPITAL OR THE FAMILY PLANNING INFO SERVICE ON 071 636 7866. they have a list of clinics throughout the U.K.

P.ZO!

AND I'D GET A SMEAR
DONE THERE, WHICH IS
A GOOD IDEA.

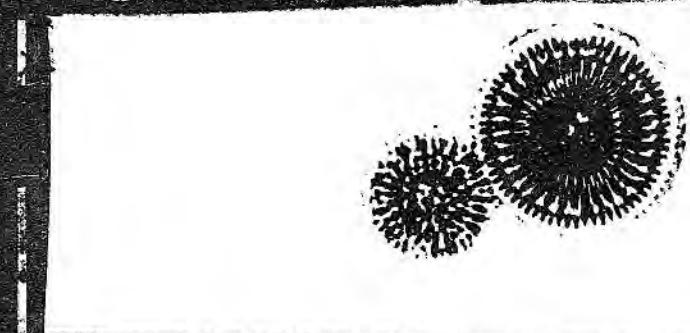
*USUALLY YOU CAN JUST DROP BY WITHOUT AN
APPOINTMENT, BUT YOU MAY HAVE TO WAIT A VERY
LONG TIME TO BE SEEN.



AFTER THE CLINIC.



A WEEK
LATER



Those who feel they are
neither man nor woman,
vegetable nor mineral...
- Who slip through holes in the welfare net...
- Who don't fit into anything

swings with a size 12



21



THE END

Eritrea is a former Italian colony. Italy's two other colonies in Africa were Libya and Somalia. After World War II, the United Nations facilitated independence for those two, but not for Eritrea. Instead the U.N. created a loose "federation" between Eritrea and its southern neighbor, Ethiopia.

In 1962 the Ethiopian government violated the U.N. federation agreement, and annexed Eritrea by force. Neither the U.N. nor other governments responded to that illegal act.

Eritrean Women

Everyone's heard about the crisis in Ethiopia, but the media is not interested in telling us what's actually behind all the problems. Especially as a lot of it's the West's colonial legacy (ever noticed how straight the lines are on Africa's map—lines drawn with a ruler in Whitehall Chambers, in 'the scramble for Africa' at the end of the last century, countries divided up regardless of the views of the people who lived there).

Tblez Fesseha is a 27 year old woman from Asmara, the capital of Eritrea. She wanted to be a doctor until the Ethiopian Government forces (under the rule of the military Junta, or Dergue) started indiscriminate killing in Eritrea. So she joined Eritrea's liberation movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

Women who join the EPLF have access to contraception—mainly that stuff Depro Provera, that doctors seem keen to inject into women in 'poorer' countries (which is more than other Eritrean women seem to have access to. Contraception only seems to come in as interest to most group with prevention of AIDS and condoms! Hmm) Next door to Eritrea is a region called Tigray. While the EPLF is asking for total independence, the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) wants autonomy within the Ethiopian state. But since the TPLF are now within 10 miles of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa (according to present news reports—though you'd hardly even know anything ever happened in the African continent, the amount of coverage the media allows it!) the TPLF may soon be asking for a lot more than regional autonomy.

And as for Haile Selassie Rastafari, so-called King of Kings was he not just another colonialist out for self-gain? He annexed Eritrea as another of his kingdom's states. Why not ask Eritrean women what they think of Jah Rastafari... their address: the National Union of Eritrean Women, Mainzerland Strasse 147, 6000 Frankfurt, M1, Germany.

Their official magazine is:

Voice of Eritrean Women, P.O. Box 631, New York, NY 10025.

National Union of Eritrean Women

Women are a large part of the struggle to liberate Eritrea. In the process they gain strength to survive the traumas of the war, and also to undo the oppression women face in traditional society. The EPLF promotes the equality of women - through changes in property and marriage laws, better health practices, and general participation in village affairs. Education is a key, and thousands of women have received basic literacy training. Forty percent of the fighters in the Front are women.



★ • BARBIE: A SAD AFFAIR • ★

THE INCLUSION OF THIS ARTICLE IS COUCHPOTATOIST. I'M AN OUT + PROUD COUCH POTATO GIVE ME PRISONER + NOTTS LANDING ANYTIME!!

Wife kills her couch potato!

From MICHAEL McDONOUGH
in Miami

YUK, YUK, HOW REVOLTING... Mattel toy company and producers of Barbie doll want to find a woman who is the "physical and spiritual embodiment" of their product. They claim they want to humanise Barbie—but the whole process sounds completely dehumanising for the poor woman picked to play the part of the "walking, talking, living doll". The company assures the media that they want to make the incredible Barbie woman a woman of the nineties, but after one look at the titles of the outfits lined up for this poor woman things are not looking good for us girls of the nineties! OH YES, WE HAVE "BARBIE ELEGANTE", "BARBIE ALL STARS", "BARBIE HOLIDAY ON ICE" and not to forget the all new "BARBIE SUN CHARM LOOK". Dressed in this particular outfit the unfortunate Barbiewoman will arrive all her functions on Suncharme the horse. I will say no more about this boring piece of crap invented for the further indoctrination of all young women blah blah blah other than to say beware of avaricious tendencies all you SPers—don't let the evil Mattel tempt you with all their dosh, into growing your hair long, bleaching it a straw colour and putting piles of disgusting colours on your face—**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

STINKING PINK

The vivid colour known as **shocking pink** is named after a famous perfume box. The sweet scent was marketed in the 1930s by designer Schiaparelli, in a bright pink wrapper—and it's name? It was Shocking, of course.

P.S. YOU'VE MISSED YOUR CHANCE:
BARBIE HAS NOW BEEN CHOSEN NO DOUBT TO APPEAR IN A SHOP NEAR YOU SOON

A TEMPTATION YOU ARE ON

MY OH MY WHAT



● LAZY Joe Grieco was killed by his wife because he spent all his time lounging around and watching TV. Mary Grieco, 48, shot the potbellied office worker as he slept.

● Mrs Grieco told detectives: "There was no emotion in him. He was a blank wall." She plotted the murder with her daughter Ann, 15, and the girl's boyfriend Melvin Steele, 19.

● First they STUFFED Joe's chicken dinner with the drug LSD. He ate it all—and laughed a lot. Then they SPIKED his wine with cocaine but Joe downed the booze and asked for more.

● Eventually, Mrs Grieco shot him and could now face the death penalty in Florida.



Man's nose 'sliced off'

Police are interviewing a woman who allegedly sliced off her husband's nose with a knife when she lost her temper during a trip to a DIY store at Harlow, Essex, yesterday.





if you don't fancy anyone, rally driving
is "e ssily as exciting as being in love"

Lesbians with disabilities and health—8 week course As lesbian women with disabilities from different backgrounds and situations, we'll discuss: staying healthy, fighting discrimination, NHS & social services, having children & lots more. Includes video "Lifetime Commitment" about Sharon Kowalski. Mondays 6-8pm starting 15 April, Newham Community College, East Ham Centre, High St South, E6 (opposite Newham Town Hall). To enrol, just come along. For further details: Claire Glasman, Kings Cross Women's Centre, 071 837 7509, or Philipa Bragman, Newham Community College, 081 555 1422, Minicom 534 3602.

Obnoxious Wimmins Network, PO Box 69601, Str. K, Vancouver, BC, V5K Canada.

Manchester Young Lesbian Group meets 7-9pm on Thursdays. Details from Ali at Shades: 061 834 7256 or Lesbian Link: 061 236 6205

Cypriot Lesbian and Gay Group meets 1st Sunday of the month 2.30-5pm at London Friend (see Shakti London for address). Tel 071 837 2782 (day) for more details.

the brilliant Black Lesbian & Gay Centre Project newsletter is really good, with lots of interesting round the world news and features. Contributions and volunteers are always welcome, so get in touch with them! BM Box 4390, London WC1N 3XX, tel 081 885 3543

PINK BRICK is a FREE newsletter 'lesbian + gay class war' from BOX 5, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24. Send SAE.

Camden Black Lesbian Group runs socials, discussions and workshops for Black lesbians. Camden Lesbian Centre/Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Phoenix Rd, NW1, tel 071 383 5405.

GEMMA Disabled & able-bodied lesbians Contact: BN Box 5700, WC1V 6XX.

So here goes for yet another rant

There I was, queueing to buy my sprouts, minding my own business, feeling pretty 'mellow' & generally hippy-like, when 2 women trotted past, who I knew & who were feminists. As usual, I listened in to their conversation (you never know what you might learn.): 'Well I just don't understand it myself. I mean, she must just hate men or something. I mean, she must have a problem or something. Why doesn't she want men there? She must be a separatist. You know, I just can't understand separatism. I mean, she'd have to stop seeing her father & what about brothers? She must hate her father. How? I mean, I can understand if he raped her, or if he beat her up, or if he battered her mother. How can you be like that?...etc.' I was so pissed off by the time she'd walked past that I ended up buying carrots instead of sprouts. For a start, surely it doesn't mean you're a separatist just to want a women only space from time to time? And surely that white-knuckle, shaking-in-a-corner, frothing-at-the-mouth fear of separatism went out with boob-tubes & glitter-dust. And what's more, you don't have to be a separatist to be a man-hater, or even a feminist, for that matter. Man-hating is something I'll bet all women do, on at least a part-time basis. It's fun, it doesn't cost a penny & it is extremely good for you (I sound like a problem page writer going on about wanking.). In fact, I'd think it was really odd if a girl didn't go in for man-hating. As for the paranoia about Life Without Men, allegiance to the Father is drummed into us by Religion, State & Culture & many's the unnatural Daughter who didn't need the demonstration of explicit violence to rebel. Deciding that men aren't the ultimate end of a female life doesn't necessarily have anything to do with a girl's experience as a daughter, although the 'traditional' family relationship enforced by the state goes a long way to eroticise & sentimentalise subsequent power relations. Basically, it is about paranoia. Second to waking up & finding that the fairies have stolen their willies, men are scared that women are going to wake up & discover that women do not need men. That's why they work so hard at keeping women in their place, through terror as well as cajolments, that's why they work so hard at controlling our fertility (just look at the fury over this 'virgin birth' business). I could go on, but why bother? What I do find hard to understand is why some sensible women get so outraged by **a. separatism & b. man-hating**. Maybe it's because they think that they're going to be forced to give up relations with the men they love & think of as o.k., but is that a real threat? Those who become most annoyed at the supposed threat to their personal choice posed by separatists etc. seem to perceive a threat to themselves merely in the fact of women living without men. How much 'personal choice' are they exhibiting there? And how can feminists come out with the old anti-feminist cliché 'she's just a man-hater', without any touch of self-parody or analysis?

Ultimately, I think the women who get most worked up are those who are convinced of the rightness of man-hating etc. but experience profound guilt at its expression, either because they feel like failures for not carrying it through to all their lives, or because they retain close affections for some men & feel they've sinned against them, or maybe it's even deep-seated lesbophobia.

So there you go; you must be completely neurotic if you don't man-hate at least 3 times a week.

8/76
Latino American Women's Rights Service, tel: 081 694
Latin American Lesbian Group meets 4th Friday of every month at Camden Lesbian Cen-

Lesbian + GAY SWATCH AND 1407 737 7324
Shakti Bradford: tel 0274 723802
Shakti Leicester: 1/6 LLGL, 45 King St, Leicester LE1 6RN, tel 0533 550667

Woollies

of all kinds, and the chunkier and heavier the better.

HER ACHING HEART.

(The Women's Theatre Group)

We went to see this. Although it wasn't by any means perfect, it's certainly worth going to see. It's performed by two women who each take several parts, and is basically a piss-take of popular romantic historical novels. It's about an arrogant lady-of-the-manor and an honest, gentle village wench who hate each other at first sight but gradually... Well, the plot isn't exactly newfangled so it's not difficult to work out what happens; the interest of it lies not in WHAT happens (we've seen it all a hundred times), but in HOW it happens. The play's even got the odd song in it, and a nice evil (male) baddie to hiss at. All through the performance I heard sniggers of recognition from members of the audience who've obviously indulged in this kind of literature at some point of their lives (Well let's admit it, most of us have haven't we?). Imagine the crappiest, soppiest, naffest story about the aristocrat and the serving maid who fall in love in spite of all the obstacles Fate can place in their way, then turn everything upside down till it's beyond even Barbara Cartland's wildest fancy. It was funny, fascinating and, although it wasn't meant to be serious, it was a nice bit of story-telling. Unfortunately, by the time this issue of **Shocking Pink** comes out the run'll be over, but if they ever do it again and it's round your way, I'd definitely say it's worth spending good money to go and see.

Another Shocker says ...

I went to see '**Her Aching Heart**' twice because I thought it was so fab (despite all the cringingly embarrassingly naff songs). The second time (which was the one the above SP'er went to) it wasn't as good though because there were lots of horrible men in the audience laughing loudly and irritatingly.



And the first SP'er would like to add that:

Being Cornish, I took offence at the use of not-at-all realistic-sounding Cornish accents to get a few laughs. I don't understand what it is that south easterners find so funny in west-country accents, and it **FUCKING PISSES ME OFF**. Why is it considered acceptable for so-called right-on people in the south-east to hold a cultural stereotype up for ridicule in this way? These hypocritical double standards make me **PUKE**, and so do the shitheads who think anyone that doesn't live in a city is an idiot. **Well I'm going to bomb the lot of you, that'll get you back you scum. KERNOW KENSA!!!** *

* And if you don't know what that means, tough shit I'm not going to tell you.



Manchester Black Lesbian and Gay Group
are back! Meetings 1st and 3rd Thurs of every
month at Manchester Gay Centre. Further info
from: PO Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.

HORRIFIC STATISTICS
Apparently only nine percent of children walk to and from school, as opposed to eighty percent ten years ago. And only FIFTY PER CENT of people between fifteen and eighteen years old are allowed out at night. This is because parents are too afraid of their children being attacked to let them out on their own.

(the figures might not be exactly right because I haven't got the magazine with me, but they're pretty close.)



There is now a group of **Asian Lesbians Outside Asia** (ALOA) which can be contacted via The Pink Paper, 13 Hercules St, London N7.

twenty - 5

→ → → → → → Forward walk → → → → →

Peckham Black Lesbian Group meets fortnightly at Peckham Black Women's Centre, Bellenden Rd, SE5, tel 071 358 1466



FRAUENORTE UBERALL—the first west-european travelguide for women. Over a hundred addresses and descriptions of guesthouses, camping-sites etc in 18 european countries. Also includes information about women's bars, coffeeshops etc. Translated into English, French, Spanish and Italian, size 12cm x 18.5 cm, 256 pages. Cost 24 deutschmarks (about 6 pounds), not including postage.

Order directly from: **Frauen Unterwegs e.V.**, Postdamerstr. 139, D-1000 Berlin 30, Germany. (Telephone: 030/215 10 22) Give them your name and address (including postcode), and don't forget to tell them which country you live in. Also let them know how many copies you want.

There are some things a woman just can't put up with — and finding another girl in her bed is one of them.

Guides in the dock

THE Girl Guides have been reported to advertising watchdogs. They refused to enrol Abigail Wright, 10, of Perranporth, Cornwall, because she wouldn't pledge to do her duty to God. But the British Humanist Association said the "misleading" Guide manual did not make clear they were an exclusively religious body.

Young Black Lesbian Group at Lewisham
Young Women's Project meets the last Weds of
every month 7-10pm, 308 Brownhill Rd, Lewisham.
For further details: 081 698 6675

The Child Garden by Geoff Ryman

This is an amazing book, and—even more amazing—it's by a man. It's sort of science fiction, although it's not spaceships-and-aliens sort of sci-fi. It's set in the future, where people are infected with various viruses when they're children, supposedly for their own good, but maybe it's something more sinister..? These viruses painlessly infect people with knowledge; 'belief was a disease.. Acceptable patterns of behaviour could be caught or administered. Viruses made people cheerful and helpful and honest. Some of the viruses implanted DNA directly into nerve cells, others took over the DNA of the brain, importing information and imagery.'

Milena was immune to the viruses when they tried to infect her when she was a child, so she's grown up without the preconceptions of her society. She was given a job in the Theatre (everyone's assigned a job by the State), but she's crap at it because she's too individual and doesn't like to mimic other people. One day she goes to 'the Graveyard', where they dump all the unwanted theatrical costumes, because she doesn't like the boots she has to wear for her part. It's dark and creepy, and she meets a GE: a genetically engineered human. Special people had been made to work in arctic conditions; this one is big and shaggy like a bear, twice as tall as Milena, has rotting teeth, and likes alcohol and opera. She's also a Girlie. Well, do you think they get together? I'll give you a clue... Yes, they do. But it's not soppy crap about people falling in Luv. It's also about Milena struggling to exist in her society; I'd love to go on and on about this book, I was so impressed by it. It makes a refreshing change to encounter a good, sensitive book written by a man.

But what does it

But what does the Chap himself have to say?
Here's what he wrote to me a while ago:
All his books have

All his books have women as their central characters; he finds men very dull to write about. At first he tried to write the *Child Garden*, male hero but it was

All his books have women as their central characters; he finds men very dull to write about. At first he tried to write the Child Garden with a male hero but it just didn't work.

Originally the book was going to be funny, but Geoff thinks it didn't end out that way. Well, I think it did, at least at the beginning.

...and cut that way. Well I think it did, at least at the beginning. The second part has got a much more sinister feel to it, and in fact it came as quite a shock after the initial lightheartedness. In parts, the book also started out being an AIDS allegory, and about how your behaviour gets changed by a virus. Rolfa, the Polar Bear Person, says, 'Who needs viruses when you've got fear..?' Anyway, it's definitely well worth buying or grabbing a copy of it any way you can.
(Ta Geoff!)

dition.

Don't be self-conscious about blemishes; anyone can have and science to-day does help us to face up to almost any con-

HILLINGDON LESBIAN GROUP
A support group for lesbians and for women who think they might be. 333 Long Meets and for swimming on alternative Fridays at Hillingdon Women's Centre, 333 Long Lane, Hillingdon at 7.30 pm onward (Mer line). Buses: U2 (it is). Further information from Nearest bus stop.

***Information on Incest and Child Sexual Abuse** Dial 852-7432, contact for local groups & other info.

Camden Lesbian Incest Survivors' Group, Camden Lesbian Centre, 071 383 5405



DANCING WITCHIES...

By the time I was seventeen, I was starting to feel very left out. Practically all the girls I knew had started having sex when they were about twelve. And here was me, seventeen and I didn't even know how to do french kissing. I always tried to make myself look as small and inconspicuous as possible whenever the subject of sex came into the conversation, and if I had to talk about it I'd drop hints and pretend I'd had some experience, but you have to be careful telling lies like that; you can easily find yourself being asked to go into detail.

I was a shy, retiring hippy-type, long hair, frayed jeans, led zeppelin records. I'd started working out that british society is a bunch of shit, and political awareness was coming hot on the heels of this discovery. Except, in Cornwall it's difficult to find any centres of political activity if you don't know the right people. I remember how ecstatic I was to find a second-hand copy of Spare Rib in oxfam. I was starting to bore all my drunken druggie freaky friends by waffling on about feminism, socialism, anarchism etc etc, when suddenly a friend of mine at the sixth form decided that I'd get on well with a young chap she knew with long hair, frayed jeans and an unfortunate habit of talking about politics. So she casually introduced us, then started suddenly remembering other urgent appointments she had when we were all about to go for lunch together. So me and 'Mr. X' got thrown together and found that we actually did enjoy each other's company, and would spend hours sitting over a cup of coffee discussing some obscure political idea. And of course we became lovers, much to the delight of all our friends who'd been scheming to get us together, and the disgust of my parents, who thought well she's spent enough time hanging round with long-haired layabouts, surely she could have found herself a nice respectable lad for a boyfriend? I was amazed by his parents (who are divorced.) His dad thought it was hilariously funny that I called him by his surname the first time I met him, and told me to call him ****. Mr 'X's mum was so completely different from my own mum I couldn't believe it. She was marvellous; she didn't care if we slept together, she wasn't shocked if 'Mr. X' got drunk, and—most astonishing of all—she thought the same as I did politically. In fact, I almost think that if it hadn't been for 'Mr. X' and his lovely right-on mum I'd still be wallowing around with half-formulated political ideas that I didn't know how to express. And with a woman like that for a mother, how could you possibly turn out bad?

I think I should add at this point that the idea of having female lovers hadn't even entered my mind, not even as something disgusting to reject. I thought I hated women, and was happy to associate mostly with boys; what I didn't realise was that it wasn't women I hated, but the way we're made to behave—subtle difference. Anyway, a couple of years later me and 'Mr. X' both came away to London to college (different ones, I wouldn't like anyone to get the idea that we romantically did the same course or anything like that). And I met a bisexual woman that lived in the same hall of residence as me, and I finally got the courage to admit to myself that it was quite alright for me to fancy women, and not just talk about people having a right to like whoever they wanted. The more men I was meeting the more I was coming to dislike the breed in general; they disgusted me, revolted me, appalled me...

THIS
IS
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The Only Alternative Left

TREMENDOUS VALUE
B&B ACCOMMODATION

FEMINIST
NON SMOKING
VEGETARIAN
Residents Bar
& walled garden



GUEST HOUSE
MEETING ROOM
LEISURE COURSES
LIVE PERFORMANCE
AT
THE WELL.

WOMENS RESTAURANT
Fridays & Saturday Evenings

39 ST. AUBYNS, HOVE,
SUSSEX, BN3 2TH.
BRIGHTON (0273) 24739

what you do
with your tongue
is up to you.

Wiggling it about acrobatically
and twirling it round and round
is probably a bit too
messy.

you'll dribble
all down your
chin.

Except 'Mr. X', who was still the same lovely person he always had been, who'd helped me to feel like person we've been lovers for six and a bit years. And now liking him, just because **most** men are a bunch of shits? How can I suddenly think "oh right, today I'll go off 'Mr. X' because he's a man"? Mr 'X' is 'Mr. X', and no matter how embarrassing it gets when I'm with my dykey friends and I have to admit I'm the odd one out because I've got a male lover, I'm going to stick up for him and myself and chose him to be lovers with me, not because he's a man, but because he's 'Mr. X'.

100 ways to avoid paying poll tax

I. Live in a fire engine.

S.P. intrepid reporters brave the deeper regions of rural Britain to discover Sarah, her fireengine Jezebel and her dog, Pablo (a boy, but we'll let him off ... he's still an S.P. reader). She's parked her Jezebel in a friendly farmer's orchard in outer Essex. And ther she spends her time among the apple trees.

S.P. Why live in a fire engine?

S. I like driving big vehicles and besides it's one of the only (legal) ways of not paying the poll tax, that is after being declared N.F.A. (of no fixed abode)

We are now sat inside the sitting room of Jezebel, the 'converted' fire engine. Upstairs is a double bed reached by a ladder, downstairs is a kitchen corner, wood burning stove and nice, green velvet curtains. (umm, umm!) Despite the hurricane storm raging outside, the burning stoves warming our toes.

S.P. Do people give you funny looks when you drive it?

S. I've only driven it once and it was dark then. That was from where I bought it, to my present abode. But on the way, we stopped at a garage, but Jezebel's roof was too high to get in and so when I tried to get out, Jezebel broke down and blocked the whole garage. So I got funny looks then—Most people think women should be scared to drive big cars. Have you noticed that it's always men who drive the cars even when men and women are both in the car, and it's men who own the cars. Anyway I'm only 5 ft and I love driving my fire engine. It's really easy to drive and because it's converted to a house I don't need a HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle) license.

S.P. What was your last means of transport pre-Jezebel?

S. I used to have a Robin Reliant (one of those fibre glass 3 wheelers you know!)

S.P. Did you live in that?

S. No, but I slept in it once with my dog.

S.P. Had you had any experience of driving lorries before?

S. Yes, I drove a friends big yellow truck once, but having no experience shouldn't put you off.

S.P. What job do you do?

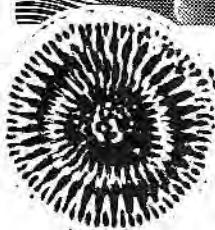
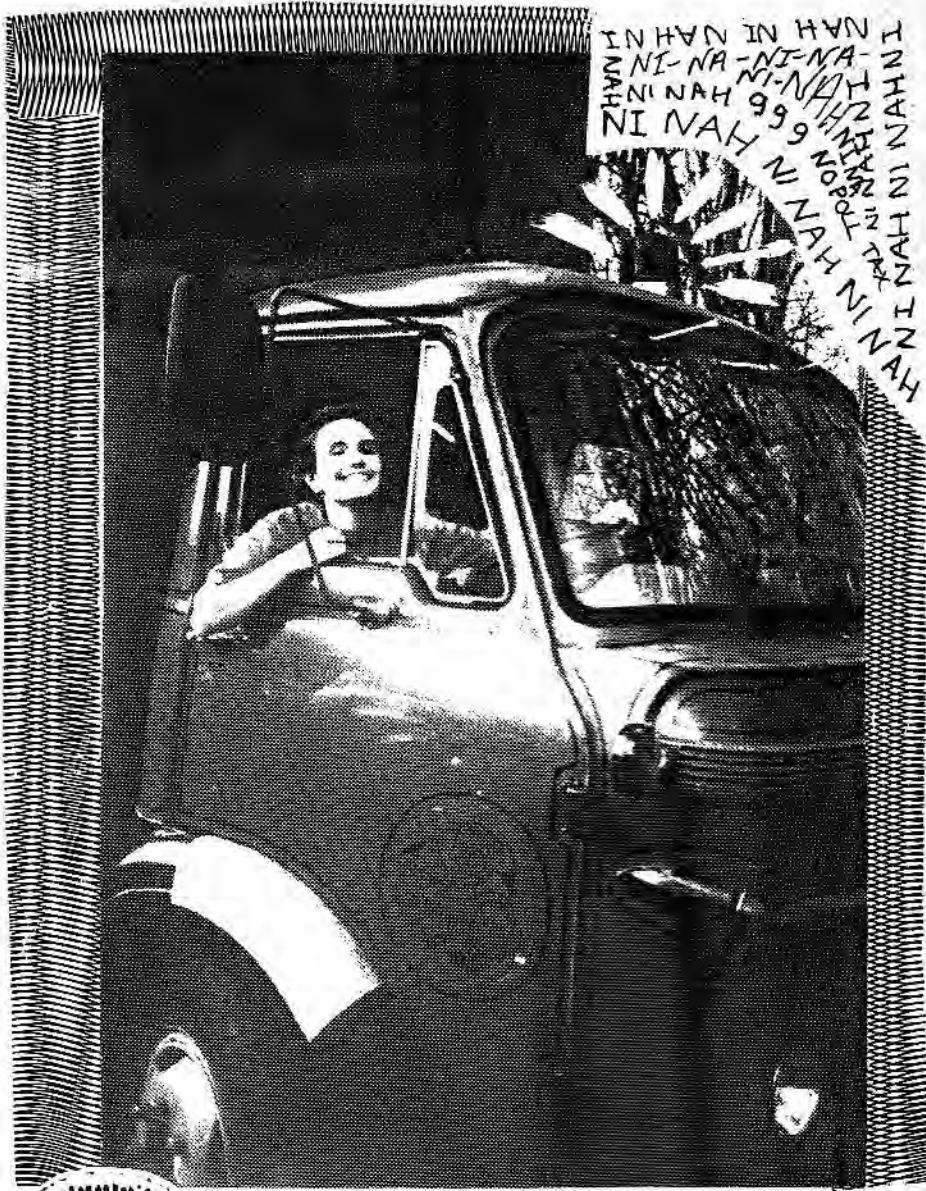
S. I'm a librarian, like Hilary in Neighbours.

S.P. What do the other librarians think of where you live?

S. Odd but very nice. One of them reads S.P.

S.P. Do the other librarians pay the Poll Tax?

S. Some do, some don't. Maybe if we stocked S.p. less would pay. By the way, did you know that all the menial librarians are women and all the executive manager type librarians are men (typical, eh?)



S.P. Who would you most like to spend the day with?

S. I don't know. But my favourite T.V. programme is Prisoner Cell Block H. This is why I only drove the fire engine once 'cause I have to use the lorry battery for the telly and prisoner is on twice a week which doesn't leave much time to drive.

Oh, I just remembered I do have an idol, it's Mini the Minx. And my friend, Sue, (also in the lorry) her heroine's Tank Girl.

S.P. What's your fav past time?

S. I like looking after my geraniums and playing with Pablo, my dog.

S.P. Have you got any further info for our readers?

S. Yes If you want to drive a big lorry, normally you need a HGV license. Training for which costs £500—but I've heard about a women's HGV Training course in Nottingham which is for free. So go for it!

So there you are, all you aspiring truckers S.P. brings it to you again, with a little help from Sarah, of course, well she's certainly a good role model—Hmmm maybe I'll sell my bicycle.



I'M IN A SULK BECAUSE I HAVNT GOT A FIRE-ENGINE

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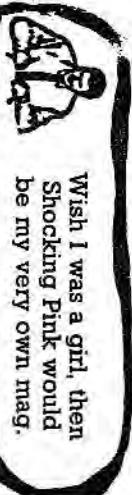
An orange sporting fashionable
falsies.

a pot-plant on
a diet.

Star of the
future.

GIRLS WHO LOVE BOYS

* can a teenage girl tell if she's straight?



Sometimes there's more to love than girl meets girl. It's often forgotten,

but many people are actually "straight". This means that they fancy people of the opposite sex. Many heterosexuals

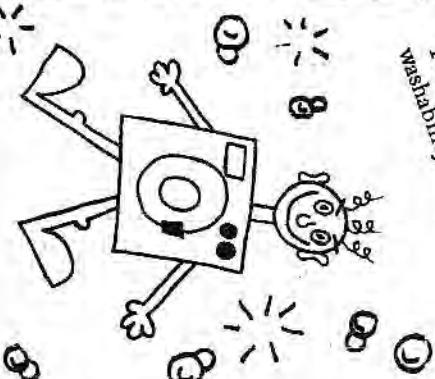


Large Pineapple

Lesbian's court victory

Mrs Justice Booth ruled in the High Court that a man who in August won temporary custody of his seven-year-old daughter must hand the child back to her mother, who is living with her female lover. The Court of Appeal had previously overturned a county court ruling giving custody to the mother.

For summer days aim at
washability in your clothes.



find it hard to "come out" and tell people about their sexuality. So what's it like to fancy a boy? How does it happen? Do they still like girls? What



ALICE IN WASTELAND

a new film on environmental issues, from the makers of
Out to Lunch and *Give us a Smile*

- Ideal for groups, colleges, schools, campaigns
- 16 minutes, full colour animation
- on film or video

Book now for International Women's Day!

Leeds Animation Workshop (A Women's Collective)
45 Bayswater Row, Leeds LS8 5LF, West Yorkshire
Tel: 0532 484997

WRITE OR PHONE
FOR FREE
CATALOGUE



GET UP! GET OUT! GET EVEN!

Demo against Clause 25, Paragraph 16 & Operation Spanner

Feb 16 1991

(On the occasion of the inauguration of the new 'SHOCKING PINK' banner, and very brightly pink it looked too in the sunshine.)

At the rally speakers spoke and amongst other things...

The stand of the national paper, *The Voice*, was declaimed and a report given on attempts made to enlighten the editor and request space in the paper for a reply from the Community. (*The Voice*, 'Britain's Best Black Newspaper', has been having a good go at promoting homophobia and trying to tell Black people they shouldn't be lesbian or gay).

The Australian-born lesbian mother gave a report on the Home Office's refusal to acknowledge her right, on 'compassionate' grounds, to remain in the country of her choice with her lesbian lover of 7 years, and only granted a stay on the extradition order when the gay donor of her child intervened, not as the donor, but as the child's father. OUTRAGE is to hold action on her behalf in the next couple of weeks.

Alice In Wasteland
by Leeds Animation

Workshop

This is an ecology-warning video made by the ♀'s collective. • Unlike a lot of ecology stuff it makes clear that capitalist food control is to blame for the situation of global pollution, toxic waste & Northern hemisphere gluttony while the South starves. Alice is made of waste-paper & bits of animation - it's not too heavy, but not too simplistic.

Section 25 is part of the new Sexual Offences Bill - basically, it gives stronger sentences to acts that are already seen as offences in the law. Lesbians still aren't recognised - so it's mainly about male sexual behaviour. As far as gay men go, it goes on about soliciting, procuring & gross indecency etc. It'll let the police carry on chucking men in prison for cottaging & let them raid gay clubs. While I'm not sure male sexual behaviour (straight or gay) is not open to question, this statute sees no difference between sexual abuse of children, consensual sex between men & prostitution (male + female). Such fucked up notions about sexuality can't distinguish between non-establishment sex & violent abuse of power. As a response to pressure, a few changes are being offered - but the basic framework remains the same.



SHEBA

New from Sheba this Spring...

Ghost Pains

by Jane Severance £5.99

A sensitive exploration of the struggles of two American girls growing up with an alcoholic mother.

The Sophie Horowitz Story

by Sarah Schulman £5.99

Wonderfully funny first novel by the author of 'After Delores'.

Plus special Sarah Schulman offer to Shocking Pink readers...

People in Trouble

+
The Sophie Horowitz Story
for only £11.99 post free!

Send cheques to Sheba mentioning Shocking Pink with your order

10A Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN Tel. 071-254 1590



Shakti London: South Asian Lesbian and Gay Network. Meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month 3-6pm at London Friend, 86 Caledonian Rd, N1 (tube Kings Cross). Full disabled access. There's a Bhangra disco for lesbians & gay men on the 3rd Friday of the month at LLGC, 67-69 Cowcross St, EC1 from 10pm. Produce bi-monthly newsletter. There are other Shakti groups forming around the country. For more info: 081 993 9001.

VERY GOOD,
COMPLICATED, SAD,
BUT HILARIOUSLY GREAT!

Ha! She phoned me - I'M STUCK!! SHE IS IN GOD'S ACTING CLASS

This weeks LISTEN WITH MOTHER storystory ★★★

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I shall begin...

Once upon a time ... god and his Mum used to get on really well. She was a Lesbian and a really nice Woman. god turned into a bit of a brat because he got teased at school about his silly name (his Mum was a crap speller and had wanted to call him Gordon). Then one day when he was masturbating to his new ZZ Top album his Mum came in without knocking and told him to tidy his room. They had a massive row and from that day on they never got on properly again.

For his 'O'Level Geography project (this was a long time ago before GCSEs were invented) god had to create the world. But he spent so much time masturbating to crap sexist music that he almost forgot and had to do it the night before it was meant to be handed in. So it turned out bloody crap. And he was instill such a bad mood with his Mum that he deliberately didn't put in any good bits for Wimmin, especially Lesbians.

MORAL:Never leave your homework till the last minute.





Manipulation of the whole clitoris

is conducted thrice daily.

Why not be a tradeswoman?

There are interesting and well-paid jobs going in carpentry, electrics, painting & decorating and all the other manual trades. It isn't all easy, 'coz men want to hang on to these jobs, but there are Women's Training Centres to get you started, and technical colleges and training centres also offer training specially for women.

SONIA'S STORY
WHEN I TOLD MY FRIENDS
MY PLAN... THEY JUST GIGGLED!



Write, call London Women and Manual Trades for more information; we can tell you where to get training, along with the inside story on Sonia, Angie and Jo.
LONDON WAMT, 52-4 Featherstone St.,
London EC1Y 8RT
(01) 251 9192

Guess who I saw on the telly programme "Give Us A Clue" the other day? Yes, you've guessed it (or maybe not). Vile Timmy "Slimeball" Mallett. And can you believe it—HE BROUGHT HIS MALLET WITH HIM!! A revolting foam hammer with a face on it and a disgusting tuft of something on the top. The only good thing about it was that it was a pukey shade of violent pink. (Maybe he's a secret S.P. reader...?) He had to mime the title of a song called "If the Man in the Moon was a Loon," or something; he jumped around a lot wildly flailing his arms and his hat fell off which was quite entertaining, it's always nice to see celebrities embarrassing themselves. Besides which it wasn't a very nice hat anyway.

And at the end of the programme, in a sudden excess of enthusiasm, he sprang up and affectionately whacked his fellow contestants over the head with his hammer—personally, I was impressed by his mature attitude, but they all looked like they wished they were somewhere else. Bet they won't be inviting him back. (Well, would you...?)

Wearing your kohl on the inside of your eyes for the last three years has been making your eyes look even smaller!

SHOCKING PANK PRESENTS

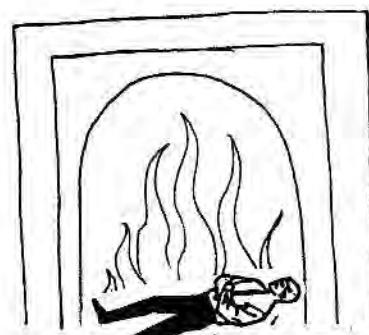
THE MOST UNWELCOME RETURN OF ALICE THE MAN-EATING PINK



You could also try a body scrub. Rub it gently over dry, pimply areas and it too will buff off those dead skin cells.

I beg your pardon.
I thought you were a lump
of anthracite/coal/coke/
firewood/nutty slack.

ALL THE LAST ONE
DID WAS NUDGE HER
IN THE BUS QUEUE.
CRUNCH.



*lots of interesting people come to
copyart!*

Why
don't
you?

come and make your own posters and leaflets
using our photocopiers, or learn how to create
your own designs on our apple mac computers.
phone for a leaflet 071 833 4417

Women in a War Zone, 20 years of resistance, ed. Chrissie McAuley. This is such a good book. It's only little, but it has a whole load about what women have done in the struggle in the north of Ireland, with lots of photos. It's described by different women who've been involved in different things, so that makes it interesting. Reading Janet Donnelly's description of a raid by the army on her house is incredible, what a nightmare. It's published by Republican Publications, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, or 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast.

We've just been sent a leaflet called **Stop Bullying** by Kidscape. It's partly aimed at parents, partly at children, and contains useful practical ideas about what to do if you're being bullied. To get a copy contact: Kidscape, World Trade Centre, Europe House, London E1 9AA

Book: Surviving Sexual Abuse, published by Attic Press I haven't read this but there's a review of it in Women's News, and they're dead good. The book is about how to survive sexual abuse, and has lots of accounts of what has happened to adult survivors of sexual abuse, how they've coped etc. It's nice to know how other people deal with it, so it sounds like it could be good why not check it out?

Nottingham Black Lesbian Group meets at Nottingham Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St, Nottingham NG5 1LP, tel 0602 411475

Leicester Black Lesbian and Gay Group: sup-
port/socials/meetings. Details c/o Michael Wood
Centre, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE, tel 0533
559995



© Mairi Drumm, Vice-President of Sinn Fein who was assassinated in hospital by loyalists in October 1976

GREAT BULLSHITTERS OF THE WORLD. PART ONE.

trace?
what's a
digital
tampon?

Well... you know
what a digital
watch is, mags...
blah blah... bleeps...
blah multifunction.
blah... stopwatch...

Onyx (what a lovely name) group for Black lesbians meets 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month 6.30pm at London Friend (address above), tel 071 837 2783. Full disabled access.

Birmingham Black Lesbian and Gay Group meets 1st and 3rd Thurs., tel: Friend 021 622 7351

Birmingham Black Lesbian Group c/o Birmingham Women's Advice and Information Centre, Devonshire House, High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B12 0LP, tel 021 773 6952



PROBLEMS? Write to Marje Proops, 33 Holborn, London EC1P 1DQ

SOUND ADVICE FROM
Marje... THE "WORLD'S
GREATEST ADVICE
COLUMNIST"

dear
down women however
firmly they proclaim
their desire to remain
unmarried, really want
to be wives.

Girls who aren't
married do feel a cer-
tain instability, even if
they refuse to admit it.

You will argue with
this proposition, and I
can't offer any hard evi-
dence, but my gut feel-
ing tells me that this is
the case.

Shocking Pink
SHAPE FOR CONFIDENCE.
FOR COMFORT FOR YOU

Spread the Word, not the Virus
On 2nd March 7 lesbians (4 of them members of
the North London Line young lesbians group) at-
tended an afternoon session about HIV. The focus
of the afternoon was young lesbians, HIV and AIDS.
It sounds like it was very useful and positive,
generally getting the point across that it's not who
you are, it's what you do.

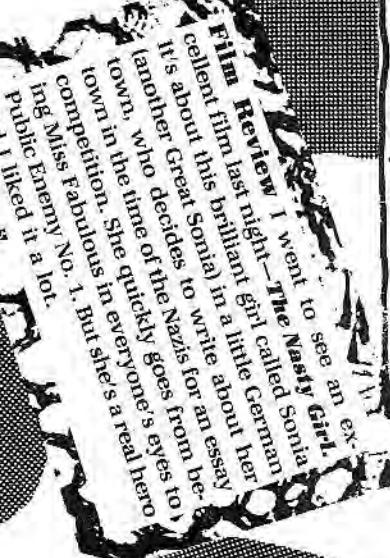
There will be a young lesbian and HIV awareness
meeting at North London Line, on 13 May (even-
ing). For more info contact Maureen, Georgina or
Sarah: 071 607 8346 or Jackie: 071 251 2689.

Film Review—Hidden Agenda
directed by Ken Loach

No one else seems to like this film very much. Right-OFF Channel 4 had a very surprising little item about how it's just too crass for a film maker to go meddling in politics like this. Strange really, since if it was about S Africa I'm sure they'd be well into it...

Hidden Agenda is about the British shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland and other evil-doings of the secret services, as plotted by the British government. It's true that there isn't all that much about every day life for ordinary people in the 6 counties (N Ireland), but maybe that would have been difficult for a US director. It's much more in the style of a political thriller, and I think that's fair enough since what the British govt has done in Ireland is pretty good material for that. Most of the plot is based on fact, and that gave it an extra impact for me.

I was just really impressed that a director had the courage to make a film about real events for a change, on a non-cosy political subject. I hope a lot of people see it and realise that these shocking, horrific events actually happened and are still happening.



GENNA
Disabled & Able-
bodied lesbians - Contract:
BN Box 5700, WC1V EXX

Just read this really good fanzine called **Rock Against Sexism** from the USA. It's got loads of good stuff like interviews & articles to do with women & music. I especially liked where are all the punk dykes? Well yes, where? Also a good article on rap. Altogether fab. Don't know how much money you're supposed to send, try \$3 or write and ask: PO Box 390643, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.

PINK BRICK is a free
newsletter -Lesbian & Gay
class war available from:
Box 5, 121 Railton Road,
London SE 24. Send SAE.

WOMEN'S NEWS

"Lovely"—S.P.

Are you interested in finding out about Irish women?

Do you have an interest in Irish women's issues?

Would you like to find out more?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes then can you afford not to subscribe to Women's News?

The largest feminist magazine published bi-monthly in Ireland. Women's News has been published in Belfast for 6 years. We carry info on the state of the movement in Ireland and worldwide, on current affairs of interest to women, analytical articles, cartoons, creative writing, events, news. We have numerous contributors from Ireland and elsewhere.

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Women's Groups/			
Supporting Sub	10.00	12.00	
Institutions	20.00	22.00	25.00

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

A boy phoned us and asked us to put this ad. in **Shocking Pink**. He needs help from muslim girls with an A level project he's doing about whether their upbringing has had any effect on their educational results or any other major part of their life:

PLEASE WOULD YOU WRITE TO ME ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES OR ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT IF YOUR ROLE WITHIN A RELIGIOUS FAMILY HAS AFFECTED YOUR EDUCATION IN ANY WAY.

WRITE TO:

Zahid Ali
53 Deeplish Road
Rochdale
Greater Manchester
OL11 1PQ

He seemed quite genuine on the phone and not some maniac like you get sometimes. Though personally I don't see why males have to go sticking their noses into girls' business all the time. (Note the completely gratuitous nasty comment, poor thing's only trying to get his exams done after all.)

Have you subscribed yet, then?

BRISTOL LESBIAN WRITERS WORKSHOP is a fairly new group for beginners and for more experienced writers. Share ideas and work in a supportive, workshop environment. Meets fortnightly at the Women's Centre under Greenleaf Bookcase (82 Colston St.). All lesbians welcome, of whatever writing experience. In addition to their workshops they plan to do some public readings. Contact the Women's Centre (0272 293575), Lesbian Line, or Lucy on 0272 559396.

More wisdom from the wonderful rulers of this country...Mr "Justice" Harman (senior judge) says there are only 3 kinds of women: "wives, whores and mistresses". Yep, we're in safe hands there.



SHOCKING WOMEN

Where your clothes are concerned may I please stress the importance of shaking? And I mean by shaking a routine shake in time you take off a garment.

Along? Friendy...so why not go where are all really nice + bit boring the minimum + even tho' the work's a

ple of times (I'm too lazy to go more often oh dear..)

Another SPER writes...
I've been to help out at the Feminist Library a cou-



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AND THIS ONE?
PAGE
ANOTHER WOMAN

COMPLACENCY
WOMEN SAY NO TO MALE VIOLENCE

Book Review—Mercy by Andrea Dworkin. Like blood out of a stone we finally managed to get a review copy of this. Well I won't make out it's easy reading; it's a long catalogue of all the sexual violence she's experienced in her life: what happened and exactly what it was like for her. But don't panic, don't stop reading, because the ending is brilliant—the responses she suggests. It's really inspiring and made me want to work & fight & do revolutionary things. I think she's fantastic, I'm so proud of her for writing about this. She says she wants to write about 'a buried truth, an unnamed reality, things that happened but are denied': you couldn't have a better plan.

By the way, it's out in hardback for £13.99—good joke, but at least now you can look out for the paperback.

HARVEY MILNES is planning to start a newsletter that will act as an information exchange and support forum for and by female and male survivors of childhood sexual abuse. If any survivors would like to help with this project in any way, either administrative, with ideas, or as a potential subscriber/contributor, please contact him (enclosing SAE). c/o Survivors, PO Box 2470, LONDON NW1. *****

SHOCKING POWER
London Lesbian and Gay Black Group meet Fridays 8pm at Brixton Village, Brixton Hill, SW2.

**LOOK! AN EXCITING SERIOUS LETTER!
IT'S ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE
TECHNOLOGY**

Dear SP, just to add to the "well, I just don't trust the bastards" comment at the bottom of page 21, issue 10. It's so true that (mainly male) doctors are "using and abusing women to provide the eggs and embryos for their research...and the results are quite likely used against us". A childless woman is often recommended In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) (ie. test tube method) even though other methods, such as micro-surgery, are more successful in producing a healthy baby (IVF is only 5% successful), and take less time.

During IVF, a woman is given drugs to make her "super-ovulate". She produces up to 20 or so eggs which are then fertilized and 3 of 4 embryos are put back in. With

the woman's permission, the rest are used for research; if she does not give this permission, she is not prioritized in the IVF treatment queue, or is sometimes refused a second go. Eggs can also be collected during sterilization: if a woman agrees to this she often jumps the NHS waiting list, or her sterilization may be free if she goes private. What happens to these embryos? (Mainly male) doctors are currently testing the "abortion drug" (RU486) and a new "abortion vaccine" on them, amongst other things. These drugs are both aimed primarily at the third world, and will often be used without the full understanding of the woman concerned. (In a Hong Kong detention camp 1/3 of the pregnant women were given RU486 and told they would have healthier babies; they all aborted).

So basically, childless women misguidedly undergo a prolonged highly unsuccessful treatment (IVF) to produce embryos for research that is then used to control their sisters' fertility in the third world.

It sucks.

SP is wonderful. Sorry if I talk too much!

Keep up the good work -

Yours,

Ruby Leppard,

Physics Dept, Exeter university.

PS my theory: women's "apparatus" is "inside" whilst men's is "outside" the body so as its a lot easier to find when you want to give it a good kick.

Manhood is sliced off by jealous girls!

SAUCY lads visiting the sin city of Bangkok were warned yesterday: Take care of your manhood.

They could end up losing their tackle - slashed off in the night by a jealous woman.

The sex capital of the Far East has acquired a nasty reputation for the number of castrations executed by scorned lovers.

Hospital records reveal that last year at least 100 men had their penises cut off while they slept.

The figure could even be as high as 1,000. Many operations to sew them back on were described as hernias - to spare embarrassment.

Bangkok's hospitals have now become so expert with microsurgery they are now offering their knowledge around the world.

Doctors revealed how:

A jealous wife kept her husband's penis and put it through a meat grinder. She then served it to him in soup.

Other wives and mistresses flushed the parts down the lavatory or hurled them into Bangkok's canals.

A Thai soldier who received the unkindest cut found a willing donor - a homosexual having a sex-change operation.

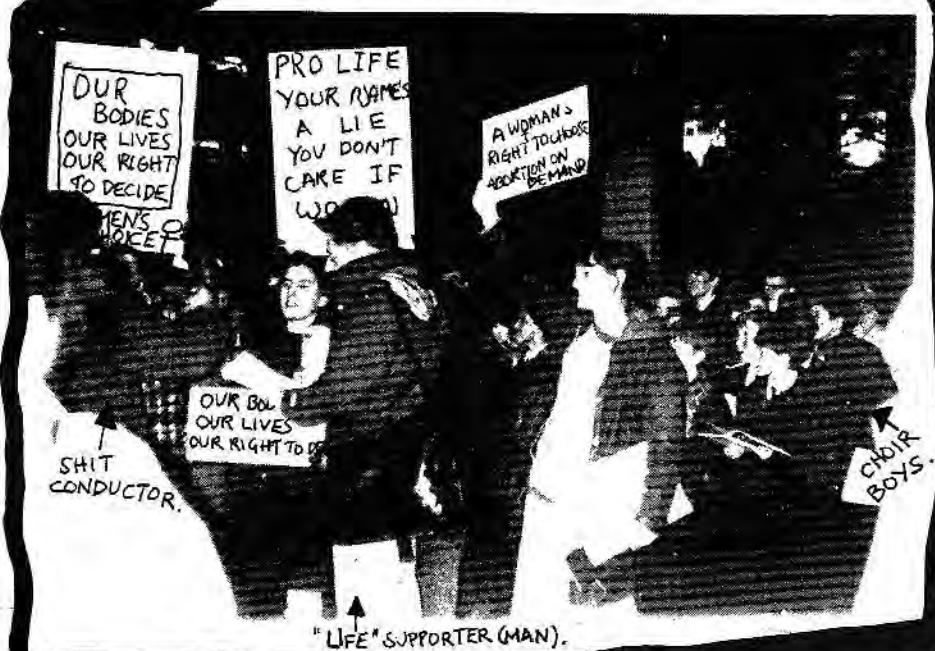
And a policeman who remarried after getting a new part later went back - for a vasectomy.

One doctor advises anyone falling victim: "Just bring it to us on ice within six hours."



Last December Life (the anti-abortion bigots) held a session of carol singing and 'prayers for the unborn' in Leicester Square, to raise funds for their offensive campaigns. Anyway, we got to hear about it before hand so lots of lovely women went down to tell them what WE thought. We'd expected about 15 of them I think, but there was a whole boys school choir, complete with a right obnoxious idiot conductor, none of whom of course is ever going to get pregnant and have to face the consequences, and most of whom no doubt have had, or will at some time (some of the boys were only about 10 or 11) have sex without worrying about whether the woman will get pregnant. (There were only about 5 women with the lifers)

Well, we held up banners and yelled about it being our decision what we did with our bodies and lives. We did a pretty good job of drowning them out, & a crowd gathered round to watch, some of them shouted support to us. All this was too much for the conductor, who forgot that he was supposed to be against violence, and for the 'sanctity of life', and started violently shoving women out of the way who stood in front of him. He also offered some advice "If women kept their legs shut and their knickers on, they wouldn't get pregnant". He got hit a couple of times as a thank-you for this helpful advice, but unfortunately, before we'd had a chance to do the 'bangkok chop' on him, the cops arrived and forced us all to leave the area, or we'd all get nicked.





Only
you'll
know
what
they're
really
for.

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