

# Shocking Pink

still only  
90p

SULKY & STROPPY

Rock n roll issue

Oh no!  
there's a  
snail!

What  
are  
these  
women  
doing??

semi-literate Viz for girls—Arena mag  
for juvenile—that woman in the Ritz

ISSUE 12 - Bloody hell

# Contents...oh well you'll find out...

Greetings freaky weirdos and all those who picked it up by mistake. Keeping with tradition we're late again—it's the evil exam system—well partly, anyway that's our excuse. We've got wicked things in this issue. Oh yes we are so fantastic. Are you fantastic too?? Write to us and let us know...

## COMPETITION TIME

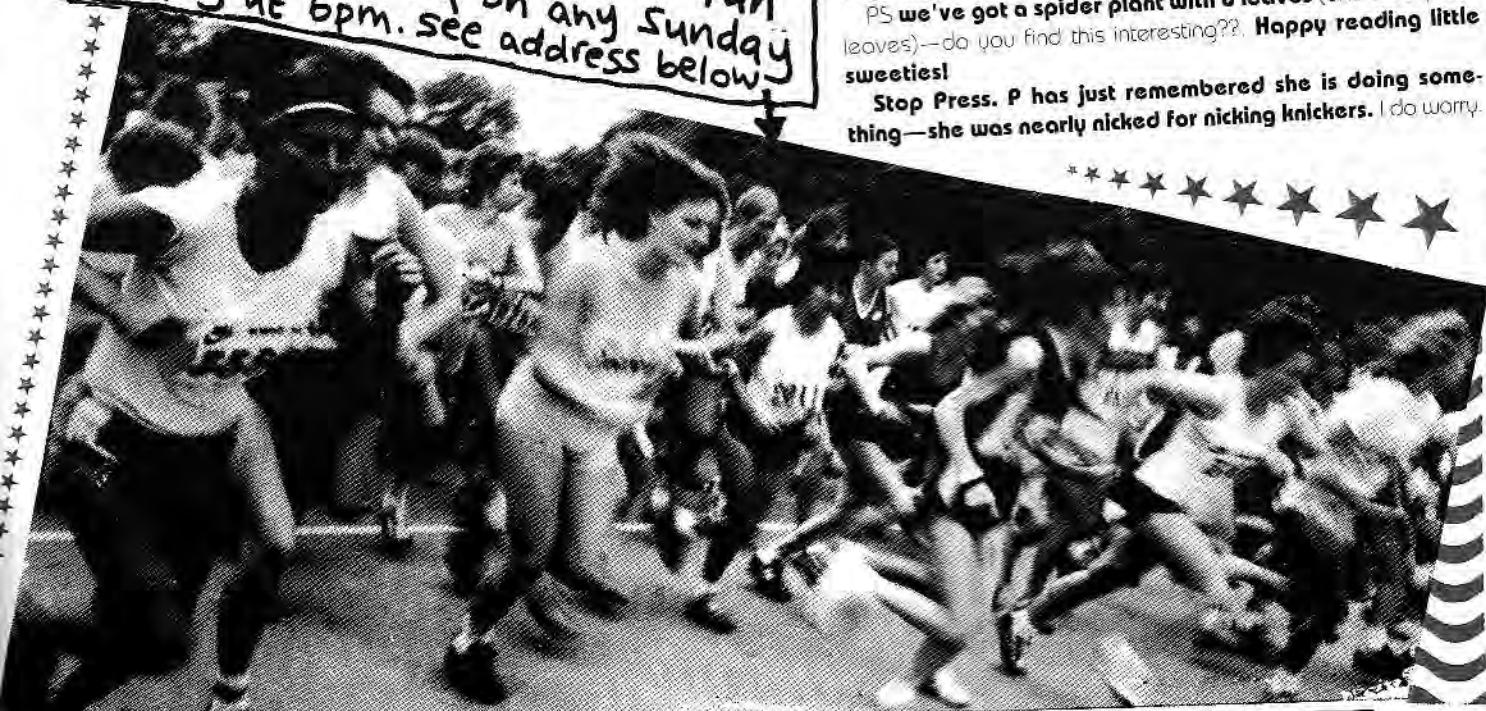
The most fantastic person to write and let us know about it will receive a FABULOUS night out on the town with us lot, some expenses paid. (Ours. Ha ha only joking there.) Women only need apply. Honestly we're not fibbing, this is a real competition. Write to us by 20th September 1991 and claim your free Shocking Pink collective.

**Shocking Pink is radically produced by young women/girls. If you're under 25 you can join in the fun by coming for tea on any Sunday evening at 6pm. See address below**

OK back to the editorial. The exciting news is that wonderful Alix has sent us a £100 donation. We think she's a great example to you all. But don't feel left out, you can always write us a letter (it doesn't cost much to keep in touch). Other news is...Lily the cat is fine except that she's got fleas. We're definitely going to move house (yet again, just round the corner this time) so remember to write to us at the new address (see subs). Collective member Z has started writing a novel and is still rambling on about getting a band together. C.m. Q is going away to college, it's so tragic, we love her so much and she's so fab. C.m. P says she isn't doing anything. C.m. U is off to France soon, but hopefully not for too long. So we need lots of new people to get involved. Collective thingy X is doing rather well with her band and getting lots of gigs. C.m. Y is having lots of soppy phonecalls with a lumpy in France. She says she'd like a job, so if you know of one please write to us. D keeps going off to Cornwall, we hope she's OK. B is as promiscuous as ever (also romantic). J should get involved more, she's well wicked. N has got a fantastic job folding T shirts. Don't say we never tell you anything.

PS we've got a spider plant with 6 leaves (and 2 very little leaves)—do you find this interesting?? Happy reading little sweeties!

Stop Press. P has just remembered she is doing something—she was nearly nicked for nicking knickers. I do worry.



# SUBSCRIBE

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besides which it's a bargain

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Please remember to include a nice letter.

that's 4 issues  
= 1 year



## Wheelchair theft

A woman with no legs stole a £1,300 wheelchair after taking it for a "test-drive" at a mobility roadshow at the Transport and Road Research laboratory in Crowthorne, Berkshire.

pool!

2

we will refresh your parts, all of them

# Wife sues woman for divorce

By NATION Correspondent  
Esther Wambui has filed a divorce suit against her woman husband, Joyce Wanja, over alleged cruelty and negligence.

The suit, filed in a Thika court through Macharia and Njore Advocates on May 15, lists five grounds.

In her plaint, Wambui states that she became Wanja's wife in 1979 after a ceremony in which they were married under Kikuyu customary law. The ceremony was performed at Nguku Village in Murang'a District.

She further states that since "husband" has been cruel to her and has failed to carry out her marital duties, as expected of her.

Wambui's suit does not elaborate on the nature of the alleged cruelty and negligence. It asks the court to dissolve her marriage under Kikuyu customary law.

In her defence, filed on June 6, Wanja denies the charges of cruelty and negligence and demands that Wambui provide strict proof of the allegations.

The defendant asks the court to dismiss the suit with costs.

Wanja states that their marriage at Nguku Village was performed in 1977 and not 1979 as stated by Wambui.

Neither woman has stated her age or the number of children they have. But they say they are adult females living and working for gain at Nguku Village.

The hearing date of the case was not fixed.

**I enclose a newspaper cutout from a Kenyan newspaper (I think The Nation), I took it when I was living and working in Kenya in 1986. Some tribes have indeed the possibility for two women to marry. It's less lesbian or whatever than you think, it's usually done to provide an (elder) woman who appears barren with a younger wife who can have children (sons) for her, to inherit, or something economical. love, Fransje, Amsterdam.**

TOOTH DECAY is fast becoming a disease of the poor, a leading dentist said yesterday. About 80 per cent of decay is in 20 per cent of the population, said Professor Martin Curzon, head of Leeds University's child dental health department.

Thanks to fluoride in toothpaste and drinking water, more frequent visits to the dentist and better oral hygiene, most people experience very little decay. However, about 10 per cent of people do not own a toothbrush

## Bum rap

The Miss Black America Contest has sued Mike Tyson for \$21 million, describing the former world heavyweight boxing champion as a "serial buttocks fondler" - Reuter

### CELEBRITY REVIEW

Dear Jody Foster, would you like to suggest some holiday reading for us? luv, S.P.

Dear S.P.,

I am so flattered to be asked to contribute to your utterly brilliant magazine. All my friends are really jealous. I took the books to the beach with me & I wish they had waterproof covers because I've never been able to get through a book without getting suntan lotion all over it.

Well now, where do I start? Goodness, it is all quite difficult, don't you want to ask me anything about Silence of the... (no-typist) Oh well. Right then, both these books have ggs as their principal characters, though I have to say you'd never guess that from reading the book jackets. What's going on here? Is this a case of 'feminist' publishers getting a bit worried that the 'l' word is commercial death? I see editors all over the land pushing their lady authors kicking & squawking into the closet. Is this forcible 'inning'? But to the books:

WHAT DID SHE WRITE GIRLZ? See p

SHOCKING PINK TRUE-LIFE STORY

Once upon a time there was a witch called Wanda. She was well wicked—when she wanted to be. One day she was, and she went out and nicked a telly from a shop. Running away she tripped over and banged her toe. When Wanda got home she considered, for a minute, buying a telly license—but of course she didn't cos they're fucking expensive. Besides, she had to get some cream for her sore toe. However time went by and the telly ads made her frightened and paranoid about fishing nets. Then, one day there was a loud knock on the door. As Wanda got up to get it, her bad toe nail fell off. "Fucking shitty bollocks" she thought as she picked it up off the floor. "I hope it grows back—nothing's going right today—huh!" Anyway as Wanda opened the door she saw three big nasty men glaring at her with a t.v. detector license van flashing in the background—just like in the ads. In a split second Wanda had flung the door shut in their faces, thinking why the fuck hadn't her automatic supersonic telepathic sense sprung into danger mode warning her? Also, she had to be more careful with her imagination, remembering, 'My magical powers get silly willy overproductive if not used constructively. Oh well, I'll have to do something to get rid of them'. Just then Wanda remembered her toe nail (she'd been squeezing it into the palm of her hand without noticing it, and now it was hurting). She'd banged it the day she'd started going silly about the telly. How could she magic away the telly licence detector men and van? She popped the toe nail into her spice mill and ground it into magical dust—ran back to the door—all in a matter of seconds and flung it into the faces of the men. They sneezed and sneezed themselves away into oblivion and Wanda wiped her hands and wondered if the toe nail would grow back.

# WHY?



- Children need to be loved and wanted?  
... But VIRGINS! They have babies for all the wrong reasons..



## Virgin births service axed

A service offering virgins a chance to have babies by artificial insemination is to be abandoned by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. Operational manager Caroline Phillips said closure of the service had been under consideration before criticism by politicians and church leaders.



QUOTE: What sort of twisted people are they who would deny children to those who want them, and yet impose children on those who dread having them?

PAT STACK

**J**ust after Christmas I started doing voluntary work for the London office of Womens Aid, and more recently I started training to do voluntary work for Women and Girls Network. Here's what these organisations do.

#### \* WOMENS AID \*

Womens Aid is an organisation that offers advice and safe places for Q experiencing domestic violence. In London there are over fifty refuges and the London office is the co-ordinating centre, referring Q on to refuges. I do one day a week working with another volunteer running the advice line. We start by phoning all the refuges asking what space they've got, most are full, but each day there are a few spaces. Q phone up all day, sometimes they ask directly for refuge space, sometimes they don't know what they want and just want to know what options they have.

W.A's definition of domestic violence is not just limited to being physically hurt by a husband or partner, it also encompasses Q who are being mentally tortured, threatened, or for whom life is just becoming unbearable in their own homes. The abuser doesn't have to be a sexual partner, or even live in the same house. If a Q doesn't feel safe in her own home because of the behaviour of another person (husband, lover, sibling, parent) then W.A would consider offering her a safe place to go to. W.A also recognises violence from other Q and is starting to do more to make its services more accessible to Lesbians.

Unfortunately we can't find space for all the Q who contact us each day, but we try to ensure their safety through further advice.

About a year ago I was staying in a squat where a man was making my life unbearable. I wish I'd known of W.A. As existence a couple of weeks in a refuge would have been great while I sorted my head out and looked for somewhere else to live. There is no time limit on how long Q stay, most Q leave when they've been helped to find permanent housing, and in the mean time they receive support from the workers and the other Q in the house.

There are also refuges solely for Afro/caribbean Q, Asian Q or Latin American Q and think there's a Turkish refuge in the planning.

Basically domestic violence can happen to any Q, we can't assume it won't happen to us and even lesbians have violent relationships.

#### \* WOMEN AND GIRLS NETWORK \*

Women and Girls Network is different from W.A., there I'm training to counsel Q & Girls who have or who are experiencing any form of male violence, this includes sexual abuse, rape and domestic violence. Any Q/Girl who has been made to feel uncomfortable by a man or boy. Network runs a phone counselling line and also is building up its face to face work.

## DENTAL DAMS (ORAL SHIELDS)

Various colours and flavours.  
Individually wrapped. Selfservice.  
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Mail Order 6 for £5

The training I'm receiving is a short intensive course with five other Q. Network believes that counselling should be very Q/Girl centred, we are not being trained to fit Q into some psychological category, but are hoping to support Q and give power that has been taken away from them back by showing them they can still have control and make decisions about their lives. To do that effectively we're working through each category of violence, child abuse, rape and domestic.

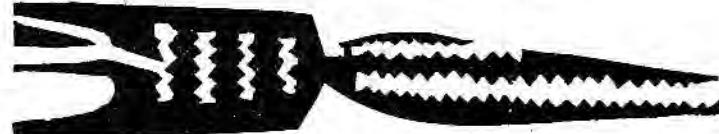
The theories used by the medical profession and psychologists are ideas that permeate our society, and so often the ideas Q unfortunately carry around about their own abuse. Most of the theories are not based on ideas that make Q feel safe, guiltless or powerful over their own lives.

Freudian theory is an outdated and extremely

intense of Q involved, is the support we all get. Obviously it's pretty intense and distressing at times, the first thing we covered was child abuse, and we all have our own experiences and emotions connected with abuse & violence, so it's really important that we're all given individual support sessions, and that we all support each other where ever possible. Not just now as we're training but when we start counselling as well.

I could rant on about male abuse & violence and my own anger about it all for ages, but I won't we all have our own feelings and experiences; I'll just say I hope this will have helped inform some Q and that if any of you want any help & support from W.A or W&G Network here are their nos.

W.A London office 071 251 6537  
W&G Network 071 978 8887



male perspective of Q which is often used when looking at Q, but the most used theory for child abuse is called the dysfunctional theory. I was completely shocked and disgusted to find out that this is used by social workers, Childline and the great Ormond St. hospital when dealing with sexual abuse.

Basically it takes the stance that incest occurs in abnormal family structures (aren't most families abnormal!?) and revolves around 'treating' abuse by every member of the family being made to take some responsibility for the abuse, seeing the mother as the corner stone to all abuse. If the mother is not playing the 'proper' role of mother and wife i.e. she's going to work etc. then the daughter will be seen by the man as the substitute for the mother; this not only extending to cooking and cleaning but to sexual 'needs'. This is the biggest load of crap I've ever heard!, and not only that it is extremely dangerous for the abused girl. As per usual the Q gets the blame, not only is the mother being told that if she'd played her part better it'd never have happened, but the rest of the family are given group therapy in which even the girl must 'take responsibility' for her part in why the abuse happened.



How does this so called therapy give a young girl a safe environment where she can reclaim her own sexuality, her control over her life, and lay the blame firmly where it belongs, with the man!

Many of the issues around child abuse also relate to other forms of male violence, we haven't finished the training yet but this becomes apparent the more we do.

The thing I like about Network, apart from the work it does, its policies and the real cross sec-

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE COMPETITION!!

A] Sarah Thornton:- killed her alcoholic husband, who'd been physically abusing her and threatening to kill her for years. She got a life sentence and recently lost her appeal!

B] Joseph McGrail:- killed his alcoholic partner Marion Kennedy who never hit him or threatened to kill him, the judge told him "this woman would have tried the patience of a saint" as he gave him a three year suspended sentence!

The first 10 readers who correctly spot all the differences between these two cases will win a free trip to Holloway to visit Sarah Thornton.

WHAT A DAY OUT !!

## SARAH WE CARE ABOUT YOU !!

If you care about Sarah then write to the Home Secretary (it's her only hope, do it!!)

**no, I can't believe it, it's....another amazing shocking pink scoop...**

# rita lynch interviewed

**Rita Lynch** is a brilliant new lesbian rock-singer/songwriter (she played at Pride 29th June) whose debut album '**Call me your Girlfriend**' (Moles Records OO5, distributed by Revolver) came out in May of this year. Rita lives in Bristol but is originally from London. Her earliest musical influences are from her Irish parents, so as a child she listened to the foot-tapping music of Irish jigs & reels. From then on she progressed to Bob Dylan, after which Punk Rock exploded & this has been a huge influence on her. Bands like X-Ray Specs, Polystyrene, Iggy Pop, & her main heroine Patti Smith, not to mention Sinead O'Connor! Rita

has been song writing since she was 25 (she is now 29) before that she formed an all women band called 'Rita & the Piss Artists' (in which she played bass) who she now describes as 'terrible—they seemed to get pissed rather alot & make loads of noise on stage. Rita's current band are ace musicians and the album is completely live so it is raw, passionate, & unpredictable—we absolutely love it! S.P managed to secure an interview with Rita who was in a slightly anxious frame of mind 2 hours before her performance at Venus Rising.

**S.P** Have you ever read or heard of S.P?

**R.L** I've read it once—ages ago—cos my girlfriend used to read it quite alot—cos it's for younger age range isn't it? & she was a lot younger than me—so she used to read it & have it around—Well it's brilliant it's there!

**S.P** What is it like being a woman & a lesbian in the music biz?

**R.L** For some reason I've always found it hasn't been a problem it's been a problem that I'm a woman yeah—you tend to get looked down upon & treated with less respect. When I first started doing it—the blokes would just stand there like, & think I was a girlie—it's taken a while to get things back (feedback), & even now just before I play people think—oh yeah - you know—they're usually a bit surprised by me!

**S.P** Your band is quite a traditional set up in a way i.e woman front-person & male musicians.

**R.L** Yeah I know, but I haven't really had any problems being a lesbian—I think it's because I don't hide it, I'm quite out about it—also because I don't look like a typical—what mainstream society think of as a dyke which has been to my advantage really. I did a lot more when I first started—before I got my extensions put in—false hair.

**S.P** Ha ha ha ha—how about getting gigs & stuff though?

**R.L** How d'you mean?

**S.P** D'you think being out & a woman has affected getting gigs?

**R.L** As a lesbian no—but as a woman in general this is a problem.

**S.P** They don't think you've got the pulling power?

**R.L** Yeah—Also when you're not very well known people don't wanna know you—because at the time I started there was quite a lot of women that they liked to label "singer/songwriters" like Tracey Chapman & Tinita Tikaram.

**S.P** Per-lease not Tinita!

**R.L** (much laughter & frantic agreement) So it seemed like I was doing that sorta thing.

**S.P** When did you come out?

**R.L** When I was 25, when I fell in love with someone at the time.

**S.P** Do you think being a woman & a lesbian has affected your musical progress (do you expect to get mainstream recognition)?

**R.L** What d'you mean—being a woman or being a lesbian? Yeah, I think it could be a problem cause I've had quite a lot of press with the gay magazines.

**S.P** Yeah you might get sorta marginalised.

**R.L** Yeah because I haven't had much press with the mainstream cos it's much harder to get.

**S.P** We're surprised you haven't had any mainstream reviews.

**R.L** At the moment everyone rides on the band-wagon. I don't fit into anything, even with the band I don't fit into the mainstream—either the dance scene or the Manchester scene, which is like what everyone's into now—Rock'n'Roll is like a dirty word. Even though it's not quite Rock'n'Roll, it's a little bit too out on its own for them to get their heads round it when you do something different.

**S.P** Then it's great because you get recognition for being out on your own, but it's just getting there in the first place. Have you ever worked with women musicians & have there been any problems working with men?

**R.L** Well I've had problems working with women, I don't really count Rita & the Piss Artists—Well I do in a way because I was playing bass & I was writing all the songs even though they were crap—We did 'Wild Thing' for a quarter of an hour once!

**S.P & R.L laugh alot.**

**R.L** But I arranged them, but I found that with women like you tend to get a lot of female competition, I think it's because in so many areas women are so powerless, when they've got the chance, some women tend to trip out on it a little bit too much. They want to grab it all, & they're not hearing it as a whole—I had this singer who just tried to grab the mike—then we tried to have 12 singers in Rita & the Piss Artists, one of them would grab the mike & not let the other one near it—and god it was shameful...& I'd be on stage going oh no! oh no! speeding away.

**S.P piss themselves.**

**R.L** But I've found that since I've been writing my own material—Then I did try & form a band with this bloke & it was a problem, he wanted to take over too much so I didn't do anymore with him. Since I've got a manager I've had more respect—I suppose cos that's what really counts—respect & recognition.

**S.P** Were you happy with the finished product of your album?

**R.L** I'm happy & I'm unhappy—it's a funny feeling—You do it & you hear it over & over again & in every part you think—I could've done that better—& because it was a live album, it's not anything anyone else would notice but I notice it. At least it's got the rawness in it captured & that's what I wanted.

**S.P** We only bought it last Thursday & we already know all the songs off by heart—it's been the only record on the turntable since then!

**R.L** Oh really (laughs) brilliant.

**S.P** Where do your songs come from, how far have your own experiences inspired your songs?

**R.L** Totally.

**S.P** So they're very personal?

**R.L** Yeah—that's all I can write about—I'm not very good about thinking about what's going on in S.Africa etc because I've never been there & probably never will. They are political but it's more personal politics which is a way in which I think changes can be made, coz I used to be in an anarchist group & go on 'Stop the City' marches & all those sorts of things & I thought I could change the world & you realize after you've been arrested for the 10th time (laughs) that you're not going to change the world that way.

**S.P** Each song's like a narrative?

**R.L** Yeah I've got quite a lot to say (everyone laughs) When you reach the age that I am now you do find that when you're given the chance, you just wanna say it & say it for each time you've had to hold back in your life

**S.P** Has the explicit sexual language or lesbian connotations in your songs ever received a negative response from a straight crowd?

**R.L** As far as I know it never has—I think a lot of people don't realize—can't quite handle—maybe the image doesn't quite reflect what is being said, & then maybe they get a bit confused with it. Which is what I want—because I'd like everyone, even blokes to be able to relate to it. & so far they can which is really good, I want everyone to like it, & straight blokes as well you know? Older people, younger people... to get through to as many people as possible, using my own experiences because I don't think people are that different, & what I've been through—everyone's gone through at some point, or will.

**S.P** You seem aware of the predatory nature of some men towards women in your songs is this something you feel strongly about?

**R.L** Yeah—the first is directed at men—totally—yeah well it was directed at I man in particular, originally when I first started writing it, & then it took off completely into all men! & I suppose using 'The brothel is open' & language of prostitution because sometimes you do get to feel like you're pushed into feeling like you're a prostitute because that's the only way you can cope with things—and it's almost like selling & people wanting to get something—Or you sell & then you can touch or you can't touch & everyone knows, or most women know, what it's like to be sold—maybe if not sex for money then other things.

**S.P** Yeah you're made to feel like a prostitute in subtle ways being exploited aswell—not just you're body—

**R.L** No, not your body... well for your body—but more importantly for your soul—affecting your spirituality, making you feel like you're nothing.

**S.P** In 'Rock 'n' Roll Lifestyle' we think you say "they rape us in drag now"; What do you mean?

**R.L** Yeah somebody asked me this—my drummer actually—I suppose it's quite a poetical way of saying; not to be raped physically but emotionally, to have people steal from you, to plunder you, exploit you—you never know who your enemy is—your enemy comes in many different disguises & to be raped in drag—I've always felt like—

**S.P** The woman is in drag or the rapist?

**R.L** The rapist is in drag—so if they're disguised you never know where it's coming from.

**S.P** We're a bit confused about the song 'Silver & Gold' could you do us a favour & tell us what it's about?

**R.L** It's a bit of a complicated one—not really like any of the other songs—it's more just like words—it's when I was going through a really weird time—a lot of bad things happening in my life—problems with prostitution actually & pimps & junkies—and one day I was rehearsing & 'Silver & Gold' just came out & I suppose like the chorus—"dress her up in silver/ did you dress her up in gold/ All your lovely children/ Will they love you when you're old?" It's like—people put this on you—they colour you like this... they say this is what you are, it's their own thing & they're putting it on you. I live in St Pauls (where the riots happened) & it's very much about the violence happening in that area & I couldn't put it in a very explicit way cos I was too confused about it—so it came out as 'Silver & Gold'.

**S.P** Do you mind me asking this—have you ever been a prostitute?

**R.L** No—I've had a lot to do with prostitutes—like friends & I've lived in houses that I didn't want to live in that there was a lot of prostitution in & heroin taking, but it all goes together anyway—getting hassled for the same things & you do—you just feel like you are.

**S.P** How did you feel performing at Pride, not only singing to so many people but also having dykes in the audience projecting what they want on to you?

**R.L** That's more the issue—projecting—I haven't really felt that before, because I've never had such a big audience that were gay—y'know? I think it's sad actually, because there are so few women out about being a lesbian because what does it really matter? I can't see the big deal myself—I just cannot—& I think it's sad that maybe I'm the only one around that's being open about it. But I love it aswell & then I get quite frightened about it—I think I can't live up to it & people think I'm going to be like this & I'm not - & I get so scared & shy.

**S.P** It has its attractions - people looking up to you in that way, but they don't know you do they?

**R.L** No they don't & in a way it's quite lonely because nobody really knows me—but that happens to any artist, any performer, it's quite frightening—I love it it's brilliant & I hope I can live up to the expectations.

**S.P** At the end of the day it doesn't matter—cos the music stands on its own.

**R.L** Yeah in a way you become irrelevant because you become so important that you're beyond all that. You feed off them & they feed off you, it's a two way thing because you need the crowd as much as they need you.

**S.P** You may become the only English lesbian icon in the music biz, how does that possibility feel?

**R.L** I'd love to be the only icon—that'd be lovely.

**S.P** Hopefully you'll be an encouragement to other women.

**R.L** That's what I'd like & maybe not to be so frightened cos what's there to be frightened about? Maybe I haven't experienced anything really bad yet. I remember when I first did an interview in Bristol & I said—& I got the magazine afterwards & it said 'I am a lesbian' & I thought did he have to write that, Oh my God! Everyone knows & maybe people are gonna beat me up—because I've had one bit of hassle when I was with a girlfriend—these women beat us up for it—but it hasn't happened yet—I've got a dog (lot's of laughter)—He's violent!

I just think more women should do it (perform)—it's always been alright for men, it's always been gay men who are recognised more than gay women—it's accepted so much more

**S.P** It's not as if Boy George is exactly a threatening figure!

**R.L** I think women are more threatening because they're child bearers as well, and it disturbs totally, society's view of the nuclear family. We need more angry young women expressing what they feel

**S.P** Were you pissed off at being cut short at Pride?

**R.L** Yes !!!

**S.P** We were really pissed off!!!

**R.L** It's the first time in my life—no ones ever really cut me short before—I do understand they were uptight about their time schedule

**S.P** Yeah they could have cut Michelle Collins a bit (Sindy from Eastenders)

**R.L** They could have used a bit more discretion—if I was going down like a pile of shit then I'd understand it—but it was the best response I'd ever had in my fucking life Y'know, and I saw the banner—Rita Lynch Fan Club—And I thought oh god! I've died & gone to heaven.. (hysterical laughter)

**S.P** Who left the lipstick marks on you at Pride?

**R.L** My best friend—she came up to me & covered me in—(too much laughter can't hear her answer)

**S.P** Any advice for other women/lesbians wanting to get somewhere in music?

**R.L** To do it, keep at it & don't let the bastards grind you down! (loads of laughter)

★ two hours later S.P returned to the Fridge to see Rita perform an astounding acoustic set!(if she'd given much more she'd have exploded!)

## SULKY & STROPY

### Moaning on about... SABBING

I've been hunt sabbing a few times and it's great to be able to feel you're doing something direct and active to help animals, and to stop rich gits having "fun". But what really pisses me off is the sexism that wimmin experience on hunt sabs.

The nature of sabbing is macho posturing, balaclavas, sticks, and lots of shouting and aggression. The men are all really pushy and engage in combat-style action to inflate their egos—going sabbing once a week is the nearest they'll get to joining the army and enables them to live out their para-military fantasies once a week. The wimmin rarely get to do the map-reading, horn-blowing, deciding where to go etc.

On one of the sabs I went on two of the male sabs decided it'd be dead hard and macho to chuck everyone in the river after the hunt had packed up. They did it as well, and no-one escaped (except me cause I ran off—the idea of being picked up by two big blokes and forcibly thrown into a cold, murky river from a high bridge when I can hardly swim doesn't thrill me in the least). Then they decided they were going to see who could piss the furthest.

That's another thing—going for a pee can be a big problem for wimmin on sabs...men can relieve themselves just about anywhere (front gardens seems to be a fave with most male sabs), but wimmin can't. Male sabs are usually the ones who are driving the landrover and because they can just jump out at any time and piss on the roadside usually won't stop long enough for wimmin sabs to go!! This may sound like a ridiculously trivial point to make, but believe me, it's bloody uncomfortable trying to run across fields, leap over fences and keep up with the other sabs with a full bladder!! (can't you just tell that it was me that wrote the "bogs for women" article in issue 9!).

As a fully-fledged man-hater I find being around men fucking stressful and very less than pleasant anyway, so even if they didn't act like macho pricks I suppose they'd still piss me off. And the few wimmin that do go sabbing come with their boyfriends. What we need is a wimmin-only sab group! I heard that some wimmin tried to set one up in Brighton a while back but it never got off the ground—shame...

It's fucking pathetic that men who are into animal rights don't give a shit about wimmin's rights. Sabbing's not just sexist at the local level either—the (national) Hunt Sabs Assoc. has in the past tried to amend their Constitution to stop wimmin-only meetings and wimmin-only sabs. The HSA is also heavily dominated by men (no surprises there).



Cartoons by Women  
Calendar 1992  
2-colour wire bound £5.95

Cartoon Christmas cards  
Set of 10 £4.00

Ceasefire  
Women cartoonists  
anti-war comic £2.30

FREE CATALOGUE

**CATH TATE**  
Cards

PO Box 647 SP  
London SW2 4JX

We've just been sent a copy of a new mag written by wimmin called **GIRL FRENZY**—articles and strips and no make-up tips". Some of the things in it are quite good—like the "why I don't read comics" article and the "sexist shit of the month" column. But there's also some very dodgy stuff—such as an article on Madonna is and a really spooky one on sex and sexism in comics, in which several wimmin give their views on various portrayals of nudity and sex involving wimmin. Fair enough, you might think, but some of the views that the wimmin expressed were a bit disturbing to say the least (eg. "rape scenes aren't necessarily sexist"—whaaaaat!!!). The best thing about Girl Frenzy is the 3-page article on Valerie Solanas, who wrote the SCUM Manifesto, a fab, radical, man-hating insight into our patriarchal society. But one thing that really irritated me about the article is the writer's denunciation of Solanas as a mad extremist. What the fuck is wrong with wanting to rush out and destroy the entire male sex, and what's wrong with being a separatist/extremist? Solanas knew what she was talking about and I think the fabtest and grooviest thing about the Manifesto is its angry, militant and uncompromising stance.

Alright, so maybe I'm a **miserable bastard** who enjoys slagging things off—Girl Frenzy is worth getting, if only for the fascinating summary of the SCUM Manifesto. It costs 90p and is available from **Girl Frenzy, BM Senior, London WC1N 3XX**.

P.O. Box 1473  
OLYMPIA, WA.  
98507

9/1/91  
JERMS U.S.A.

Some other zines written  
by wimmin...

**NOT YOUR BITCH** (c/o Gipsy X, 1072 Dayton Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104, USA. cost 50 cents) This is great—it's fairly scruffy-looking (a compliment, honest—the one thing I don't like about SP is its posh-looking glossy cover!), and its got lots of groovy artwork and interesting feminist articles. I'd tell you exactly what's in it but there's not much point as we've only got one of the back issues.

**LANA'S WORLD** (How Do You Spell it Productions, PO Box 3633, Eugene OR 97403 -\$1). This is basically a dyke/feminist comix zine—great especially if you're not into reading long boring articles (cause there aren't any at all in this—it's 100% cartoons).

**Fanny** is a brand new comic written and drawn entirely by wimmin. The 1st (called CEASEFIRE) is on the subject of wimmin against war, and a lot of the strips are based on the recent Gulf War. Most of it's really good—well worth getting hold of—and it's written by some of the best wimmin cartoonists too. Most comix are written by men and are really sexist so it's great to see wimmin cartoonists getting together to work on something like this.

We've also been given a copy of **The Football Pink**—the fanzine for lesbian and gay soccer fans everywhere. Well not they're on issue 4 now. You can read it...but for £5 for the next 5 issues, £4 for the next 4 etc. Send cheques made payable to Dave Ansell to: The Football Pink, 529 Charles Barry Crescent, Huime, Manches- ter M15 5DL.

ACE PUNK FANZINE. WRITTEN BY WIMMIN. THEY TRY TO FEARLESS BANDS WITH AT LEAST 1/2 IN, + ALL FREE, BUT, DON'T KNOW ABOUT POSTAGE.

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There's nothing so welcoming  
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home.

ELECTRONIC tapping in Britain has reached record levels with an estimated 35,000 lines being tapped in a year and increasing numbers of telephone engineers engaged in tapping.

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a women's newsjournal

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ZIP



JOHN MAJOR  
MUST DIE!

A JOHN Major lookalike was clobbered in the street by a handbag-waving woman protesting at the poll tax.

Despite his pleas, grey-suited Patrick James was repeatedly whacked on the head. His attacker, a woman in her late 60s, screamed at him: "You can stick up the poll tax up you know where." She kept up the hand-bagging until he fled. Jobs agency boss Patrick, 45, said he was given the pasting as he was shopping in London's Regent Street.

He added: "At first I thought she was coming up to say hello - but she kept hitting me."

"She refused to believe I wasn't the Prime Minister, even when I took my glasses off to show her. "She carried on screaming and shouting and using language unbefitting of her age. I needed to beat a hasty retreat."



BAT WOMEN  
REUNION



## Girls give the cold shoulder to contest

A BEAUTY queen title faces the axe for good because no one wants to win it.

Traditionally, a youngster has reigned over the biggest day of the year at Lindfield, its annual Village Day.

Organisers were forced to drop the Miss Lindfield competition because so few girls showed interest in entering.

Since the decision there has been little demand for it to be brought back, the contest is unlikely to be held again.

Show bosses are non-committal about whether it will ever return, but say it will not be run for the event in June. Newcomer Gwen Jackson said: "I really don't know if it will be held again."

## DIRTY WEEKEND — Helen Zahavi (Macmillan, £13.99).

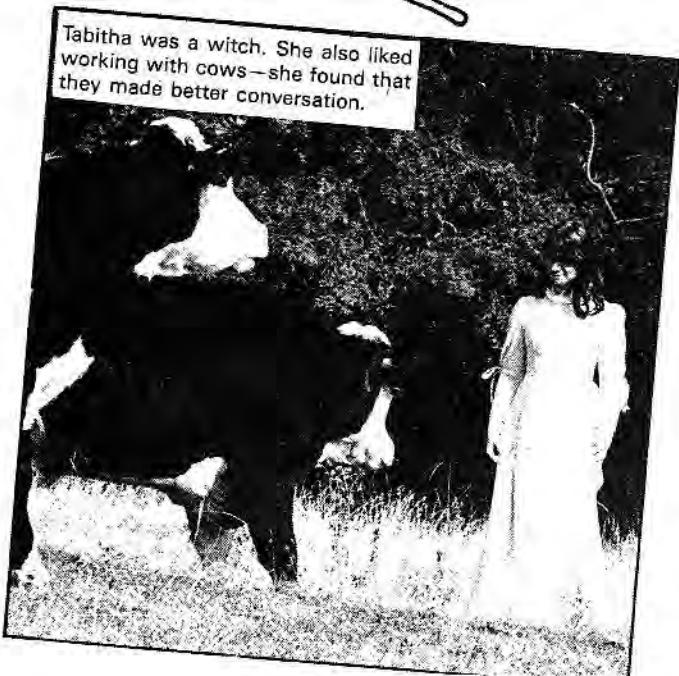
The title of this makes it sound like it's a bloody Jackie Collins novel or something, but in fact it's a fucking amazing book about a woman called Bella who is sick and tired of being terrified and sexually harassed by men and suddenly decides she's had enough and spends an amazing weekend killing the men that make her afraid. I'm amazed that Macmillan have published something as anti-men as this, but they obviously don't want wimmin to buy it or they would have published it in paperback as well. I mean, how many women can afford to spend £13.99 on a book? So order it from your local library. There were a couple of dodgy things about the book, though. Bella gets herself into some really horrible experiences with the men she intends to kill, in order to do the 'evil' deed, and she seems to go quite far (too far?) into really dangerous and traumatic situations before she kills them. But this may have been the author feeling that to fully justify killing the men they have to do really awful things to Bella. Also, the author seemed to really emphasise Bella's weakness in relation to the men she killed, but then again, I suppose that in reality, that is how most women really feel in relation to men.

Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project has opened a new helpline on 071-837 5364. Open every Thursday from 7-10pm for all black lesbians and gays. New volunteers also required (Training provided) Call 081-885 3543.





# Boine of The Wand





...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU—I'M REALLY A WOMAN—I STARTED TO DRESS & ACT AS A MAN BECAUSE I GOT TREATED WITH MORE RESPECT.

...and then they kissed.



It was Frederick Fungus-Bottom, Tabitha's boss.

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE RUN OFF TO IS IT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU TWO PERVERTS. I'M NOT FOOLDED BY YOUR DISGUISE. I SHALL MAKE YOU SUFFER...

Oh dear...



Alone, Lorrie let down her hair and was Lorna, undisguised.

WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT FUNGUS—BOTTOM?

DON'T WORRY LORNA, I'VE GOT AN IDEA

HAVE YOU FED THE CAT?

Tabitha worked hard to magic a spell over Fungus-Bottom.

OH IF ONLY I'D LISTENED TO MY GRANNY WHEN SHE WAS GOING ON ABOUT SPELLING. AND I THOUGHT SHE WAS A BORING OLD BAT THESE SPELLS ARE SO HARD TO READ.

However, the effect was too subtle and she knew Lorna wouldn't be satisfied. She wanted blood.

WELL WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT GIRL!

**"God will not punish you for what you have done."**

They had to take further action, before he did, before he realised his new alien characteristics (unremovable deely-boopers)



THE END

ACQUDES CHIRAC, the Gaullois leader, used images of gremlins to launch his party's new offensive against the French centre, to go further than Jean-Marie Le Pen in moves to expel immigrants, reserve jobs for native people and take foreign workers.



EVERY  
MONTH

ORDER YOUR COPY OF **NO BOY MONTHLY** NOW

CROYDON LESBIAN SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP  
meets at the Women's Centre, 13 Woodside Green, South Norwood every Thursday evening from 8.30pm. For more information contact Lorna on 081-665 7469 or Alison and Sarah on 081-680 1683.

\* GERLZ \*

World's 'oldest eel' dies after 49 years at museum

*Letter from the U.S.A.*

"Are you familiar with "Sassy"? It's this magazine published by the conglomerate that does Ms and Mother Jones - it's a liberal (but commercial) magazine for young women. It's pretty amazing, but not as much so as it could be. I've heard that the first few issues were more extreme - discussing abortion, for instance - but they ran into problems finding advertisers, because conservative groups organise boycotts of companies that advertise in publications they don't like or TV shows they find too liberal—for instance, TV drama or comedy shows that attempt to introduce positive queer characters. So anyway, Sassy had to tone down a bit." Pretty yucky eh?"

PUPILS at City Technology Colleges will attract up to £185 a head more in public funds than those at neighbouring local authority schools, government figures indicated yesterday.

**dangerous abortion pill**

**Abortion support**  
Four out of five people support a woman's right to have an abortion on demand in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, a Harris poll revealed yesterday.

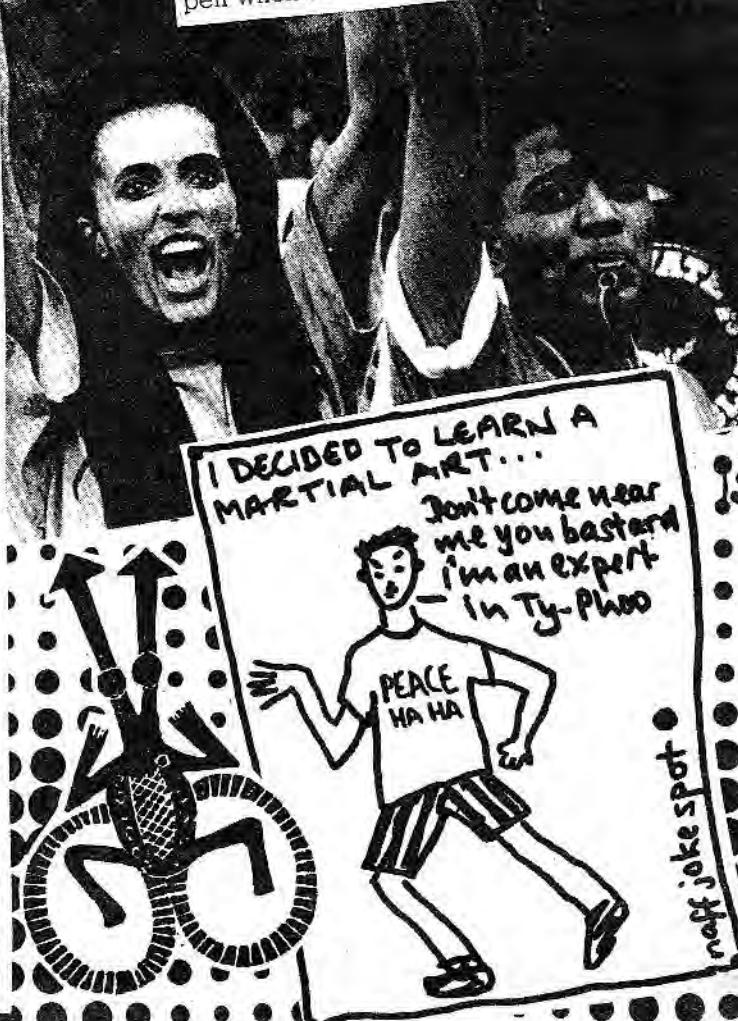
RU486, the abortion pill, has now been given a licence to be supplied in Britain. You can get it in a hospital or a clinic. Well lucky us says I. RU486 is totally dangerous and inadequately tested (see SP11 for full details!). One woman has already died in France as a result of using it. So the bastard pharmaceutical company Roussel will make a packet by making out to women that it's safer and simpler than a conventional abortion, which it isn't. RU486 can be used up to 9 weeks into the pregnancy—it would be much safer to have an abortion by suction, which is the method used up to 12 weeks.

And while I'm on the subject of unsafe drugs, did anyone know how dangerous the "morning after pill" is? (-used to prevent a pregnancy up to 3 days after unprotected intercourse). I've just heard of a friend of a friend who became sterile after using it and was made so ill (permanently exhausted + other effects I can't remember) that she lost her job. Well no one told me that could happen when I took it.

### LIFE IN SCHOOL

### BOYS CORNER

©1983 BY MATT GROENING



# THE MIRACLE OF MUCUS

A little while ago I found out about cervical mucus and I tell you I was impressed. What a fanstastic thing it is. There's this general idea that female sexuality is a passive receptive thing (yuck yick don't think about it) and men come along with their active dicks and sperm and your sexual parts don't really do a lot except wait around to get pregnant.

Well leaving aside the many other amazing and wonderful elements of women's sexuality or whatever you call it (oh how wonderful it is, lovely lovely), cervical mucus is a marvel. During your menstrual cycle it changes and does different things. There are 2 main types:

1. up to and during ovulation (when you produce an egg) cervical mucus is wet and slippery. Scientists have been rather alarmed to discover that the vagina is a very hostile environment for sperm - it's acidic and kills them off pretty quickly (as you can imagine I'm not at all alarmed by this, quite relieved really). But at crucial times cervical mucus guides and nourishes sperm on their swimmy journey, making little channels for it to go along. Once again you will notice that sperm are not so amazingly athletic as is often suggested—they would be nowhere without mucus. Mucus is also cleverly selective, weeding out defective sperm.

2. after ovulation and up to your period your mucus becomes hostile to sperm, since you don't want that sort of thing hanging around then. It becomes thick, sticky and drier, so that sperm finds it hard to get anywhere and cannot survive long, and it even makes a plug in the cervix so no sperm can get in.

Crafty eh? If you find this as exciting as I do you can even have a feel around your cervix (at the top of your vagina) and see what kind of mucus you're producing at the moment. Here are some pictures of it.

1. Thick, sticky, opaque mucus just after your period.

2. Mucus that's getting thin and stretchy—it can be stretched for a couple of centimetres without breaking.

lovely

Wet & gooey

3. A bit further on in your cycle—mucus is now getting stretchy and also more transparent—ovulation approaching.

Can you see these??

I ❤ mucus  
See E

So isn't it wonderful? If you get very skillful at recognising these and other signs you can use them as a method of contraception, judging when you are fertile (oh no that word again) and not, but there's a lot to it so I won't go into it all. OK, bye then!

good!

# Trouble & Strife

The radical feminist magazine

## Issue 21 Summer 1991

- Women abusers: the feminist response
- Tanzania: bride wealth and women's poverty
- Wilful neglect: women and Aids
- 'Virgin births' exposed
- Why Laura Palmer died

Subs for one year (3 issues):  
 Britain & N. Ireland ..... £7.50  
 Supporting Sub ..... £60  
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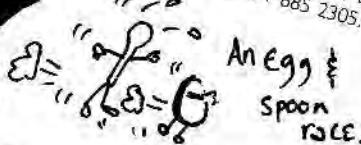
"A formidable feminist magazine—  
 not for the faint-hearted." The  
 Guardian

Trouble and Strife, PO Box 8, Diss,  
 Norfolk, UK IP22 3XG

**LONDON IRISH WOMEN'S CENTRE,**  
 59 Stoke Newington Church Street, London  
 N16 0AR (tel: 071-249 7318). The Centre is  
 open Tues, Wed and Thurs between 10-1 pm  
 and 2-5 pm, and they run a few courses,  
 workshops as well as welfare and counselling  
 sessions.

**STONEWALL HOUSING ASSOCIA-**  
 tion runs a housing advice surgery for Les-  
 bians and Gay Men on THE FIRST TUESDAY  
 OF EVERY MONTH at THE LONDON  
 FRIEND, 86 CALEDONIAN ROAD, LON-  
 DON, NI. All enquiries: 081 885 2305.

## CRAP JOKE



In November, the Derby Community Arts  
 Centre is putting on a "Celebrating Wimmin"  
 festival. They're looking for **wimmin's**  
**theatre groups** to come and perform.  
 Wherever you live, whatever sort of theatre  
 you perform, Derby Community Arts Centre  
 wants to hear from you. So get in touch with:  
 Bev Llewellyn, 33 Empress Road, Derby,  
 DE3 6TD...if you can help.

The **LONDON RAPE CRISIS CENTRE**  
 is looking for Volunteer Women Counsellors,  
 as well as women who could offer time to do  
 other tasks associated with the running of the  
 Center. Training will be provided. Applicants  
 should apply in writing/on tape/by phone for  
 an application form and be prepared to be in-  
 terviewed. Applications particularly welcome  
 from Black/Jewish/Irish women, lesbians and  
 women with disabilities. Access Code available,  
 LRCC, PO Box 69, London WC1X 9Nj, tel  
 071 278 3956 (24 hour ansaphone).

## Lots of listings

The recently formed **Holloway Young Les-  
 bian Group** meets each Wednesday  
 7pm-10pm for young women between 16-25  
 years. The group runs primarily to provide in-  
 formal peer support through social activities.  
 New members always welcome. For more in-  
 fo ring 071-700 4658.

**Women's Sports Foundation**, Wesley  
 House, 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 5AU.

**Hackney Lesbian and Gay Outreach Pro-  
 ject**...23 Hackney Grove, E8...Tues 7-10.  
 Phone 081-986 5222 for info or just turn up.

**Southwark Lesbian Line**... Thurs 7.30-10  
 and Tues 2-4... 071-703 3849

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SEXUALLY HAR-  
 RASSED AT WORK? Did you know what to  
 do or who to contact for advice? **WOMEN  
 AGAINST SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**  
 (242 Pentonville Road, London N1  
 9UN...tel: 071-833 0222) provides advice for  
 people who have been sexually harassed at  
 work and training for employers, unions and  
 other organisations about sexual harassment.

**Make friends at SPECTRUM** for Lesbian,  
 Gay and Bisexual young people in the East End.  
 Every Tuesday 7pm-9pm. Facilities: snooker,  
 pool, table tennis, video, arts and crafts, trips,  
 photography, shop. Enquiries: Tel Martin or  
 Jennifer on 081 981 5017, Tuesdays between  
 6.30 & 9.30pm.

**Irish Lesbian Network**, c/o 59 Stoke New-  
 ington Church St, London N16 0AR, 071 249  
 7318.

Hey! I'm  
 getting  
 harassed by  
 my signing on  
 officer, I thought it only happened if  
 you worked. Doesn't seem fair really

well there you are, your life in safe hands

# Bog off Benetton!

**B**enetton's yucky advertising campaign is all set again to offend and patronise potential customers (if you would be willing to cash out on expensive and boring clothes). The campaign meant to depict "racial harmony and tolerance" is usually annoying at the very least, but the new Autumn campaign is blatantly racist, involving a picture of two children—a sweet-smiling angelic blond and a sullen-looking black child with devils horns. Eurggh.

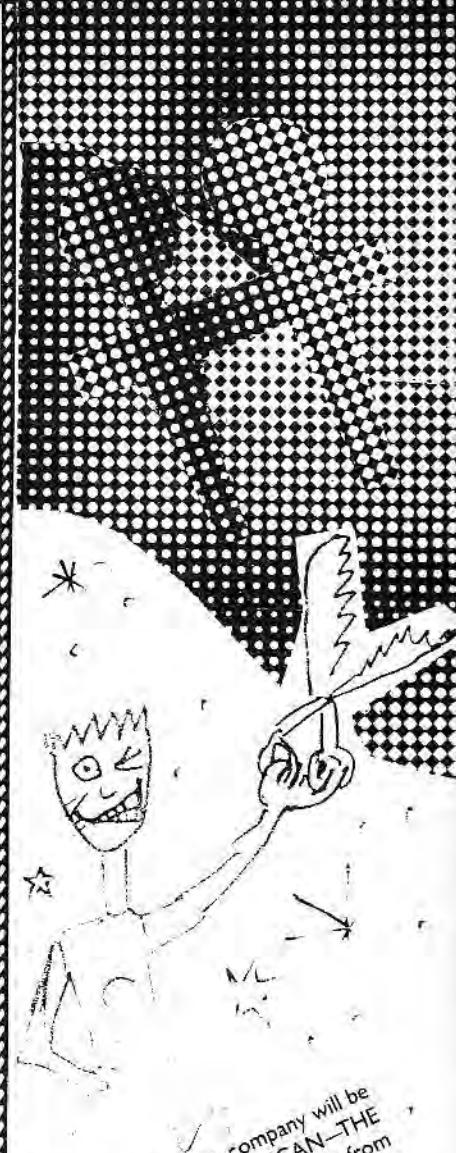
This is not unusual for them. The 1989 campaign used the image of a black woman breast feeding a white baby—however, this was withdrawn in the United States due to outrage from the black community. Anyway, their campaign generally leaves me cold because they always picture carefully arranged sets of young, pretty people from diverse ethnic backgrounds who are "United Colors of Benetton"—as the campaign boasts. It gives such a creepy simplistic view of how people are to be united. Oh yes, of course if we were all "pretty" and class-less and rich and Westernised (wearing Benetton clothes) then the whole world would skip forever happy... this totally ignores the real reason for racism and oppression which is not because of different appearances, but power.



Spine-chillingly yucky.

Anyway people, there is something you can do to stop this shit. As the response to the 1989 campaign proved, they can be forced to withdraw the advertisement if you just write a short, straight-forward letter to the Commission for Racial Equality at Elliot House, Allington Street, London SW1 or the Advertising Standards Authority at Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1. Yeah! go for it.

P.S. If you may by any chance even consider buying their gear Don't. Not at least until they change their advertising campaign.



FOURSIGHT, the women's theatre company will be performing PINK SMOKE IN THE VATICAN—THE MYSTERY OF POPE JOAN around the country from Sept 19th-Dec 8th. Joan disguised as a man, became the the only woman pope ever, and using simple striking images, poetry and song, Foursight will bring to life the extraordinary adventures of this female pope. Ring Foursight Theatre on 0902-714257 for more details.

lots of interesting people come to copyart!

Why  
don't  
you?

come and make your own posters, or learn how to create your own designs on our apple mac computers

phone for a leaflet 071 833 4417

## NHS plan teenage smear test ban

The NHS has got a stupid plan: they will advise doctors not to give smear tests to 16 to 19 year olds. This is being said in guidelines published by the NHS working party on cervical cytology (so now ya know). It says teenage women should not have smear tests because it is more efficient to concentrate resources on older women.

What a load of shit—any women who are sexually active need to have smear tests, no matter how old, and we need information saying that this is the case. They're just trying to cut costs in the most stupid and dangerous way, ignoring the needs of young women. So give em hell—go and get a smear test now!

# EURO-PRIDE EURO-CRAP

Veena had just found out about the plans for EuroPride 1992.



Later, at work, Veena had a rant



Let the committee know how you feel:  
Lesbian & Gay Pride Organizing Committee  
B.M. Pride, London WC1N 3XX

\* They plan to raise £250,000 from Pride products, events, etc. for their "EuroPride 1992", so don't give them your cash

If you want to contact someone sensible there's the Black Lesbian & Gay Centre Project, BM Box 4390, London WC1N 3XX

## \* NEWS \*

It's coming up to election time so surprise surprise the government is pulling out that old vote-winner: racism. John Major has been coming out with some wildly racist speeches for the EEC, and the government have also decided to make it even harder for refugees coming to Britain.

Among other things the fine for airlines bringing refugees without valid documents will go up from 1000 to 2000, so many refugees won't get here in the first place.

But the worst thing as far as I can tell is that you will no longer be able to get legal aid for ANY immigration cases. This includes people seeking asylum who want to appeal against a decision, or people facing deportation, etc etc. Evil or what. So only wealthy refugees (are there many of these I wonder?) will get half a chance. But the latest is that the organisation which is supposed to go along with this had just refused to!



Our shitty government are doing bastard things to young people's social security rights. Since Sept 1988 most unemployed 16-17 year olds have been unable to claim Income Support. You've either got to stay in full-time education or get a job or a YTS place. The govt. gave a guarantee that every 16 and 17 year old eligible to join would be able to start in a suitable place within 3-4 months of leaving school. But in practice this is utter bollox — many 16 and 17-year olds don't find suitable training places (and dissatisfaction with training available contributes to as many as two-thirds of young people leaving YTS early). Some young people don't manage to find places at all and even they aren't given any Income Support. The situation is fucking impossible for those who are discriminated against on grounds of race, disability, homelessness or pregnancy.

16 and 17-year-olds who do get paid Income Support are paid about 7 a week less than 18-24 year olds, and 18-24 year olds get nearly 8 a week less than those over 25. How the fuck can this be justified? The lower payments to young people are based on the assumption that young people are still likely to be living at home with their parents. For starters, this isn't always the case and it enforces dependency on parents, which isn't fair on young people, who have a right to be financially independent, nor is it fair on parents, who may be struggling even to keep themselves. It may also be a cause of friction and a contributing factor to rising homelessness.

Youthaid estimate that in Oct 1990 at least 55,600 unemployed 16 and 17-year-olds (out of a total of 78,600) were without a job, YTS place or any benefit at all. And the DSS has basically done sod all about this, only introducing a few procedural safeguards to give the impression that they are doing something about the problem, when in reality they aren't. COALITION ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL SECURITY believes that Income Support should be paid to young people if they can't find work or a suitable training place.

The lower rates are also supposed to reflect the lower earnings expectations of young people. In fact, benefit levels are so bloody low they bear no relation whatsoever to average earnings. COYPSS argues that 16 and 17-year-olds should get the same rate of Income Support as 18-24 year olds. Unemployed 16 and 17-year-olds can claim benefit at the 18-24 year old rate for a limited period, but only if they have an officially accepted reason for living independently. And young people are being urged to return home if their parents agree, regardless of the young person's feelings.

INFO TAKEN FROM A LEAFLET PRODUCED BY COYPSS, c/o Mr William Children's Legal Centre, 20 Compton Terrace, LONDON NW 2UN. (071-359 6251).

## HOW TO PUT AN END TO SEXISM IN 3 EASY STAGES

1.

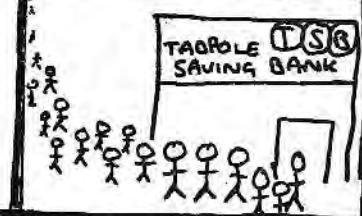
### GET ELECTED AS PRIME MINISTER.

HELLO!

I'M THE NEW PRIME MINISTER



### 2. INTRODUCE COMPULSORY SPERM DONATION FOR ALL MEN



### 3. ONCE YOU'VE COLLECTED THE SPERM AND POPPED IT IN THE FREEZER FOR SAFE KEEPING.....



Question authority

Collective member Q here... I'm moving to Manchester at the end of September, so if any of you wild wimmin living anywhere near there are interested in getting in touch with me so that we can have a fab and groovy time when I get up there. Excuse me, I'm a bit tipsy.

Hello. Does anyone want to be in a band with me? I can play the guitar quite basically & I've got a fuzzbox I get on well with. As usual I can't remember what music I like... um... Big Black, the Fall, 1st Pixies, Butthole Surfers, Dead Kennedys, Alice Donut, Subhumans, Jesus & Mary Chain... well, and that sort of thing. Generally. Basically I'd like to do something fast & loud. I'd hoped to get an all-women band but it doesn't have to be really. So don't be shy now—write to me, Katy, at Shocking She-Pink—no skill or experience needed. mmm...music \*

The Iranian gay group in exile, Homan, based in Stockholm, estimates that seventy gays were executed in Iran in the last decade. These were a group who attempted to set up a gay organisation and the stoning of a gay couple in a public square in 1984. The group were condemned to death by being thrown into a stone wall or being stoned to death by being stoned to death.

Angry at the catcalls and jokes poked at them by the Corleonesi because of their "wickedly provocative" mini-skirts, the sisters marched into the main square one evening.



THE WEST END'S FIRST LESBIAN & GAY COFFEE SHOP

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## BABES IN TOYLAND—THE NEW L.P.

Perhaps the only disappointing aspect of "TO MOTHER" by **BABES IN TOYLAND** is that you pay almost £1 per track, but, having said that, it's quality that's important, not quantity, and this IS good stuff. Babes in Toyland throw tradition and convention out of the window; no pathetic, wimpy songs about boy meets girl, rather an explosion of anger about the harsh realities of love, expressed to a tee in "Primus", a song which also spares us the words indicative of gender that piss me off so much.

My favourite track? Very hard to say! Each one, although essentially angry, loud and raw as Punk should be, brings with it a different emotion. It's the kind of music that takes you far beyond the squeaky clean, manufactured vocal tones and imagination of mainstream artists and plunges you into a world of violence, obscurity, humour, fear, and obscenity (can you picture Kylie singing "So she charmed herself into a toilet and fucked herself golds holy"!); the lyrics being from the opening track "Catatonic" about a sugar plum fairy who's name is Mary!). The final track, "The Quiet Room" may shock and surprise you at first—it's an uplifting, thought provoking instrumental very reminiscent of "King Volcano" by Bauhaus. But perhaps "The Quiet Room" is best saved till last. Like the calm after the storm to stop you from dashing out and killing someone.

## INSIDE OUT

**INSIDE OUT** also have a new LP out (**SHE'S LOST HER HEAD**), and I'm listening to it right now, so I've got no excuse for not reviewing it really. So, here goes, the first song (Controlled) starts off with a really long instrumental bit, and even that's pretty good. Basically, **SHE'S LOST HER HEAD** is fast, furious and noisy (and fab!) with loud cascading rhythms and sounds in the background, but they still manage to sound fairly melodic, with their frantic tunefulish singing, such as on **SHARE MY MISERY** and **CESSPOOL OF FATE**, which are both completely wonderful... o's voices are so much better than men's... Nearly all the tracks on this are great, though one or two (like **NUMB**) seem to have a vaguely heavy-metallish sound, which I can't say I'm that into.

A couple of issues back I mentioned a fab "vaginacore" band called the **YEASTIE GIRLZ**. Well it seems they split a while back, but you can get hold of tapes of them live and their **OVARY ACTION EP** (all on one tape) from Sue, 78 Hillside Road, London N15 2NB. Also, I think I was wrong about them being dykes (sorry!), but nevertheless they are strong feminists.

**SEND £1 + S.A.E.**

**POISON GIRLS** are a mixed punk band, but worth mentioning as they're headed by an ace o—**VI SUBVERSA**. Many years ago she appeared at the launch party of SP, and I've seen dyke symbols and labryses on their album covers. Vi is the person with the most influence within the band, and she writes all the lyrics about wimmin, war, abortion, mental illness. But the best thing about the Poison Girls is the fastness and angriness of their music. They've done several LPs, like **HEX**, **CHAPPAQUIDICK BRIDGE** and **TOTAL EXPOSURE**, and also **WHERE'S THE PLEASURE**, but that's crap.

THIS IS POUT...



FAST & LOUD  
PAGE...  
MUSIC TO UPSET YER  
NEIGHBOUR WITH!

**POUT**—four o's from Newcastle. Their promo blurb describes their music as "fiery guitar clashes against rhythmic bass to produce a seductively rhythmic noise, whilst powerful voices swoop and harmonise over the top" (whaat?!). Their stuff isn't really punk, some of their stuff is melodic, but with fairly noisy-ish guitars in the background (yes i know i'm crap at describing music, but it's fucking difficult), while other songs are almost verging on bland poppy crap, but then again if you're into poppy stuff, you'd probably think they were great. As yet they've not released any records, but they've been playing lots of gigs in Newcastle and further afield. And one of them says her fave programme is "Out". They'll probably be touring with Sofahead soon, so why not go and see them if they do a gig near you.

One thing that strikes me about all these bands is that, with very few exceptions, none of them seem to be into feminism, let alone man-hating. It'd be fucking ace to hear wimmin-only punk bands coming out with feminist lyrics. But sadly it seems that all the singers/bands into feminism are either country and western or folk. Fire Party, Inside Out ("we're not feminists, but we think it'd be cool if men and women could live together equally") and Babes in Toyland (say their songs aren't anti-men, rather about their "problems with men") all stress that they're not into feminism, although it seems like they do have some feminist ideas. Frightwig say they're into o's rights but say they don't hate men, and don't like groups which promote separation. Even the Yeastie Girlz, who are real radical feminists emphasise that they're not man-haters or dykes, although on "You Suck" they are extremely uncomplimentary about having sex with men but it seems that all may not be lost. SP has just heard about a band called **FIFTH COLUMN**, from Canada I think, whose music is described as "dyke-core"... sounds hopeful! More on FC next ish with any luck. It looks like this'll become a regular column (until I run out of things to write about anyway, which knowing me I'll be next week), so if anyone knows of any more all-o' punk/HC/alternative bands, why not write to SP and tell us all about them.

CALAMITY JANE

CALAMITY JANE—grungy Babes in Toyland/Sonic Youth/SubPop type stuff. They've got a new LP coming out in October, so we'll be reviewing that next issue.

NOW SHOWING  
FEMINIST  
HERSTORY

QUEEN VICTORIA  
WAS A LESBIAN!  
PASS IT ON...

Page 20



The Mother Machine by Gena Corea, publ by  
Womens Press, 1988.

This is one of those brilliant books you read which you don't forget and which permanently affects how you look at things afterwards.

It's about reproductive technology—artificial insemination, "test tube babies", surrogate mothers (women paid to have a baby for someone else) & so on. This stuff is generally made out to be progress and science and for helping unlucky people who can't have children. This is a total lie. It's medical scientists doing dangerous sometimes deadly experiments on women to see how far they can get in controlling (women's) reproduction. They do it using techniques from vivisection and cattle breeding.

These bastard experimenters want to make perfect babies (white, no disabilities, and maybe soon you can choose a boy) for the right people (middle/upper class married couples, dykes and single women fuck off). If you think that sounds fascist, it is. Poor women are exploited for the raw material for these experiments and their bodies are rented to breed babies for rich western couples. Now a Black or "third world" woman can be implanted with an embryo to carry the child of a white couple. Progress or what.

Corea also points out brilliantly/terrifyingly the background for these efforts of science—for thousands of years patriarchy has resented the fact that women have children. First they denied women's importance in reproduction—either spiritually or biologically, now doctors control pregnancy and birth. With this history they will inevitably try to work on this technology until they can put women roughly in the position of a herd of cows, saying who is good stock, who will breed, who won't.

## "ISMS"—WHO NEEDS 'EM!!

Running through the list of "isms"; racism, sexism, ablebodiedism, commercialism etc.; I stumble upon heterosexism. Now that's something you don't hear an awful lot about—people don't hit the headlines because they've been subjected to heterosexism. But seeing as this is a heterosexist society, I'm not really surprised.

Heterosexuality is often thought of as being the superior sexuality, just as men are, or at least, were, thought of as being the "superior" sex. Heterosexuality is assumed to be natural, rather than acquired, behaviour and so, supposedly cannot be challenged or changed in any way. However, the assumption that men were "naturally" more scientifically-minded, better at sport, and born leaders has been challenged by women, who discovered that men were pushed into their positions by a sexist society, so surely the superiority of heterosexuality can be challenged in a similar way.

There is no getting away from the fact that this is a heterosexist society. Everything around us is geared towards heterosexuality, so the reason why the majority of men and women choose it as their preferred form of sexuality probably has more to do with persuasion, co-ercion and the threat of ostracisation than with its superiority as a form of sexuality. Having to fight for your sexual identity, whether that's homosexuality, bisexuality, or celibacy, means that you're strong and truly believe in what and who you are. We've made a start at conquering sexism and racism, now it's time to tackle heterosexism and put an end to all this discriminatory crap. (Change the 'i' to an 'a' and you get the best ending—orgasm!!!).

Another in our continuing series: Helpful hints & suggestions for the Pride Committee (that they can then ignore & throw in the bin).

I've noticed that a lot of our brothers in the continuing struggle against our shared oppression are tearful about the existence of a ♀ only tent at Pride. (This is because ♀ believe that non-designated spaces get overrun by the bestialized space invaders.) But boys will be boys & there have been heard many mutterings. So SP says, let the dear, sweaty things have their own tent & then they can hump & grunt & sweat & grind & bump into one another & knock over each other's drinks & not apologise & wank on loudly about fish & shout right-wing comments & dress up in rubber & leather or dress up in tits all luvverly boys together, by themselves, in their own enclosure & they can leave off hanging around outside the ♀'s tent. And with most of the gynophobes out of the way, maybe the rest of the place will be a nice place for a lass to stomp around in.



But Mum, I want to have a baby with Gregory.

What??

You know there was a time when men and women had sex and babies together. And what a disaster!

First you tell me you're straight, and now you want a baby with a bloke! Jesus Christ! What next?

Didn't you listen in your history lessons?

...after all the advances we have made!

Men are unreliable and unhygienic

Darling, penises are for pissing!

Worry...

...Accidental pregnancies

Unwanted babies...

Back street abortions,

Violence, higher incidence of sexual abuse..

- DESPITE SCIENTIFIC AND SEXUAL ADVANCEMENT AND THE LOGIC OF VIRGIN BIRTHS THERE WERE ALWAYS THE ODD FEW - BRINGING UNTOLD WORRIES TO THEIR MOTHERS, AND DOCTORS SURGERIES..... SOME GIRLS (ADMITTEDLY THE EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE ONES) STILL STUBBORNLY THOUGHT MEN COULD BE FATHERS ....

DOCTOR

No, I can't let you go ahead with this

...not if there's a man involved

Fathers cause enormous problems.

What were you thinking of?

It's just not fair to bring a child into the world like that

-Who you have sex with is one thing.. but having intercourse, or babies! with men? It's selfish and irresponsible..

It's for your own good..

Rules aren't made for no reason you know. They don't come out of thin air. Didn't you study history?

It's just not morally justifiable. We have to think of the child's welfare first and foremost. I'm sorry, Glenda.

Yerh. I suppose you're right. Silly of me.

121.

**Young Black Lesbian Group** at Lewisham Project meets the last Weds of every month 7-10pm, 308 Brownhill Rd, Lewisham.

For further details: 081 698 6675.

**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 Bangra 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.

here is now a group of **Asian Lesbians Outside Asia** (ALOA) which can be contacted C/o the Pink Paper, 13 Hercules St, London N7.

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 081 695 1543.

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### INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, NOVEMBER 25th.

In 1981, at the first conference of Latin American and Caribbean feminists, in Bogota, Colombia, November 25th was declared the International Day to End Violence Against Women. This day was chosen to commemorate the deaths of the Mirabal sisters who were brutally tortured and murdered, in the Dominican Republic on this date in 1960.

A group has been formed in London to organise an event, to demonstrate solidarity with women and girls all over the world around this date. Because 25th November falls on a Monday, we are organising an event for Saturday 23rd. We are planning a march, a commemorative action, a speak out, group singing and a circle dance and to end the day with a disco/cabaret.

If you would like to join the group, and/or have ideas, resources, skills to contribute to the event, come to our next planning meeting, at 7pm, on 17th July, or 24th July (these meetings will be ongoing until the date of the event) at the Meeting Room, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London, EC1. (Old Street tube.)

For further information or requests for creche facilities ring: Anne—071 607 9389 or Maureen—081 889 7668.

The venue is fully wheelchair accessible. For more detailed information ring the above numbers.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

I'm mixed race being half-Asian and half-European and I've always been brought up by my white mother. This has never been a problem and we're good friends, but recently I've been thinking a lot more about my Asian-ness. This is because my Thai grandmother made a 2nd appearance in my life! I found myself drawn to her, wanting to develop a friendship with her, despite not liking her personality very much. I had to ask myself why was I making concessions in my personality and making a special effort to get to know her and have her like me. It wouldn't seem fair to my mother's family because they're not English either but they've still kept in touch with us. It soon became obvious to me that my especial interest in getting to know her was partly because she is so different to me and also partly the reason as to how I am—well, my appearances at least. It seemed important for my self-identity as a mixed race person to know her, because here in Britain that part of me is always noticed or made a point of (even if it isn't outright racism). For example, I am always being asked by curious and usually friendly people in the supermarket, cafe, bus or wherever "where are you from?"

They don't mean Peckham, but want to know my family history. I can understand their interest (because I'm interested in other people's backgrounds also) but sometimes I get really pissed off with it all because it always points out how different I appear to others and enforces my feeling of not fitting-in. And so this is the sad reason that I haven't felt such a need for positive knowledge of my Finnish background, of which I am quite ignorant of also. It's terrible that society is so preoccupied with appearances. And so from really early on I've always felt confused and concerned about my identity because of being mixed race. It's weird because the Asian-ness that a white person would see in me is as alien to me as to her/him. I may still have some white prejudices and stereotypical ideas, but I'm not fully "white"—as always made a point of. And then I don't have any back-up or positive feelings about my being half-Thai because I don't know any other Thai people to relate to. Sometimes there's nothing to feel good about being half-Asian. Especially when I see how shit my father and his family is. One experience of mine shows how deeply rooted subtle racism is. I remember years ago at Primary School crying because a boy had been calling me racist names. The teacher trying to comfort me could only think of one positive thing to say—that it's pretty white women wear black eye make-up to make their eyes slanty and dark?? I remember declaring that I would NEVER wear ANY make-up to emphasise my eyes when I was older then. The whole statement is awful in retrospect because first she generalised in an awful white Western attitude about the appearances of all women being "pretty" wouldn't and didn't help me feel proud enough to ignore that boy's jibes. I didn't want to be pretty if I had to put up with abusive taunts, and anyway I obviously wasn't pretty to him! Anyway over the years I've grown to like my appearance more and being mixed-race. (I wear eye make-up when I want to!) I think it's lovely when I see more and more little kids who are of loads of different mixed races and the divisions lesson between different cultural groups. I think "yeh! there are more of us!" and that will make it easier for every other one of us."

**Las Divinas:** Latinamerican Lesbian Group meets 4th Friday of every month at Camden Lesbian Centre (address above) 7pm. Or contact c/o Latinamerican Women's Rights Service, tel: 081 694 8176



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It is common knowledge that women djs are very few and far between. I find this terribly disturbing as women need symbols to look up to and admire in this field.

Deejaying on the whole (clubwise) has only in the last ten years become a recognised, accepted occupation.

As is the case with most forms of work including the music industry, it is mainly dominated by men. Becoming an accepted thought after female dj is hard. One not only has to strive to be good individually but almost has to prove herself to be on the same par as her male counterparts or even that much better.

Deejaying is a musical art form that when perfected evokes pure euphoria to the ears and soul.

There's no denying that the club dj scene is very hard to break and at the end of the day other than the obvious skill needed, a charming personality, contacts and the ability to move a crowd, come in a very close second. If you're not that bit pushy you can forget about it.

But women djs have come an eminently long way, in terms of finally being recognised names, though still very much in the minority in comparison to men. It has been a long hard slog for most if not all. The number of women only clubs or mixed gay nights with women djs featuring can easily be counted ie Venus Rising, Magnetic Psycho Pomp, Asia, Desire.

The likes of Vicki Edwards, Maxine, Vikki, T Slamma, Smokin Jo, Ritu, Danielle & Rochelle are the BIG club names. Partywise there's Yvonne (aka the defunct Sistermatic), Niks (salsa, reaggae dj), Benji and Michelle.

Deejaying on the whole is by no means a fly by night experience. For those who decide to take it on board it's a lot of hard work, motivation, time, energy but above all hours of practice to perfect the art.

I've read many an article both in UK and US publications and the emphasis on women djs is to a great degree non-existent. I ask myself why a thousand times over and find it really disconcerting.

To gain popularity, recognition and basically widen their horizons, lesbian djs find the need to cross over from the women's scene. Also it's a case of the availability of more work on the straight scene. And in a lot of senses less control on what is played ie within the women's club scene the music tends to be a lot more commercial and from the minute the music becomes too alternative most women club goers can't get their heads round it, making it difficult for the dj to break too many new songs at a time. Thus stagnating the club scene causing monotony and repetition.

But the mainstream djs continue to "strut their stuff" regardless. Some have given up their daytime jobs for a career in deejaying, others works the decks every so often. So according to Vicki Edwards 'I don't see daylight...'

# FEMALE VINYL INVASION

By DJ Mazz, a London based DJ  
(so sorry it's all about London)



Vicki will have been deejaying 8 years come this autumn. She appreciates good dance music and rare groove, she doesn't like to specialize in any particular type of music though. Her prime motivation to keep going is the buzz she gets off the people, the whole atmosphere created. Other than that she is an avid music collector which is the case with most established djs. Djs collections are phenomenal due to the need to purchase and keep up to date with happening tunes also the accessibility of free promo copies.

She does like the Techno stuff coming out of Belgium, Germany, Holland but confesses that too much of this causes loss in melody and a natural flow of energy. She feels people need to hear music they can relate to, ie something affecting their lives. Her secret is working in crescendos ie taking the crowd continually high and low building up to a climax.

She can be caught at different clubs most days of the week and Venus Rising (1st Wed of the month).

Laury aka DJ T Slamma has been deejaying 3 years, better known for her debut with the memorable Tantrum club and Kyo. Laury sees deejaying as an active hobby in her life, photography being her first love. Her preference in music varies but top comes soul, rare groove, hip-hop, 70s. According to her "whatever people want (within reason), whatever makes them happy". She does one off private parties for Passenger clothes store and gets off on the party mood but insists that there is a much better sound to be had at clubs, quality wise, plus the bonus of a regular crowd. Laury likes to innovate within her playing time. She has done several one off benefits and is a regular feature for Gay Pride women's tent.

Maxine and Vikki aka Heds and their own mixed gay nights at the same venue, Magnetic Psycho Pomp. Their style of music seems to be getting harder and harder. Maxine has been deejaying at least 5 years and enjoys doing the club scene for similar reasons as most club djs, ie quality of sound, control over what she plays, the buzz off the crowd. She has been quoted as saying "women in general want to take a back seat because they can't be bothered to have to almost fight to get recognised... If I'd been born a guy I'd probably be quite rich by now" (Free magazine 91).

Leaving the direct club scene, other djs blending the sounds are Yvonne better known for her days with Lorna doing the S. London women's centre. Her dj outfit was namely called Sistermatic. Yvonne's music roots lie in reggae, soul, hip-hop, rare-groove, garage, some dance, quite a cross range really. She prefers parties because she finds they allow her more control over what she plays and she feels more geared to this type of work. She also highlighted in the Pride 91 women's tent.

Alternatively you have djs like Angie from the defunct Pussies Galore and Chain Reactions and whose now a regular Bell dj doing mainly indie and hard house.

Dj Niks is a S London based dj, whose been deejaying on and off for 8 years. Niks concentrates solely on Latin American, jazz, soul, rare-groove, reggae. She prefers clubs because usually they're set up properly providing a decent sound, the benefit of being paid satisfactorily. Niks had done a lot of women only parties and mixed gay benefits.

The aforementioned djs have adopted their own individual styles of working the decks and the crowd. Mixing skills are definitely in the forefront now. Beat mixing (BPM) in particular stops in the flow of play is definite no no unless there is a compere used in between each track as is the case with Sister Culcha.

Mixing is blending the tracks together so the synch (segre). This creates a constant flow and can be used to carry the crowd through different highs and lows throughout a session almost like the Mexican wave.

All in all what all the djs have in common is a love for music that enhances their lives so much they want to share it with you out there, giving and gaining that ultimate buzz.

# ADVICE COLUMN

(much good may it do you)

**Dear Aunty SP,**

**Help!** I am torn between two loves—Cas wot works down in the local record emporium, and Martina who is now a sexy single (purl!).

My subtle hints—the purchasing of ALL of kd lang's albums (in record, tape and CD) (was it worth it?) have so far been to no avail.

Does she even know I exist?

How can I persuade her to notice me?  
And where do you buy tickets for Wimbledon?  
Yours, a lurv-lorn Venus Fly-trap. X  
(She's sent us a pic to go with it.)

**Dear Venus,** I don't know what to say. I'm crap at things like that.

Another SPer has more advice: Dear Venus, go for both of them. Leap over the counter and give Cas a lovely slurpy kiss, and give Martina a slurpy a kiss too, when you next see her. Then all go out and get pissed together and have a luvy time.

Oh my, what fine advice. Venus and her friend have also sent us some of their poetry. Well personally I've got an aversion to poetry, so I don't really like to encourage that sort of thing, but I suppose this one's quite amusing...

## Ode to kd lang

OK! kd lang  
Let me give your guitar a twang!

Don't know about this one though:

## Ode to a Chemistry Teacher

If you're such a free radical  
Bond with me

Well I suppose these are just about OK. So dear readers, please send in your odes to our Ode Column next issue. Then you can express your frustrated love thingies which will be nice and (un?)healthy for you, and also write about other things you like and dislike, because I know you do.

Someone else in the office says she likes poetry. O how interesting.

hello have you been to see *Thelma & Louise* yet? well if not just get along there because you'll love it—everyone I know did + it puts you in a great mood afterwards too. strong women and all that. lots of laughs. a few silly bits, but then it's Hollywood, but basically lovely.

**Pink Brick**—gay anarchist thingy, um newsheet? well there's so much in it you know. They're SP's friends. get the latest one by sending a SAE to:  
121 Railton Rd, London SE24. bless  
their little anarchic hearts.

**I** love rock music. Nothing else has ever moved me as much, or in quite the same way. Jefferson Airplane, Bob Dylan, the Doors, Hawkwind...Listening to music makes words like orgasmic and ecstatic seem dull and insipid, inferior states of being. Sex & Drugs & Rock n Roll—the music comes at the end like a climax.

★ And yet...These bands, this music: it's all just as male-orientated as everything else. It's rare to see women doing anything except singing, looking pretty. Quite often they'll only be there because they're the lover of someone in the band. Chicks, birds, "come on baby..". People spent so much energy trying to change things in the sixties and the seventies, but the values of patriarchal society still hold true. Women are still expected to look nice and put on make up. Sexist shit abounds in the lyrics which are all about how great men are, and women are great too as long as they stay in their place, ie the bedroom.

★ But nevertheless I can't stop myself liking this music. I was telling someone once how much I hated rap, and she says "Well, you'd like so-and-so, she writes some really good feminist lyrics." Well fine, good for her, good luck to her. But just because her music's right on, I can't make myself like the form it takes. I think people that like the trendy music are strange, because they say they like something then when the next fad comes along they like that instead. Got the trendy clothes, got to have the trendy records to go with it all.

★ And politics? I think the politicos'll never get it together long enough to bring about revolution and tear down society as it so richly deserves. They're so busy squabbling and bickering about minor points of dogma that they don't realise that every second that passes is another second for authority to increase its stranglehold. The grey people in control must find it all very entertaining, watching us fighting each other instead of them, snuffing over their gilt dinner services and their reams and reams of files and forms.

★ It comes down to a choice between my music and my politics. Music makes me high, politics makes me embarrassed. Politics may well be the road to Revolution, but music leads straight to Paradise. I love rock music.

\*\*\*\*\*  
don't worry we've expelled her from the collective now

**B**ATTERED wives are being denied grant aid from the Government's cash-limited social fund, under local guidance which says they do not have sufficient priority.

Other groups being refused grants include drug or alcohol abusers, ex-offenders, homeless people, families under "exceptional stress", and youngsters leaving local authority care.

The guidance has been issued in the South Tees social security district, including Middlesbrough. However, it can be taken to reflect the general pressures on the social fund, and is unlikely to be unique.

## Do The Write Thing

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## YET MORE ABOUT SPONGES!

We seem to have had a lot about sponges in SP lately. Just in case you have the great misfortune not to have read the last couple of issues—tough shit! no, only joking. We're talking here about sea-sponges, that you can buy from chemists and (as a last resort because they're horrendously expensive) in the Body Shop and usually in similar places. You dampen it slightly and use it instead of a tampon, with the added advantage that just one sponge lasts several periods.

Anyway, having brought you up to date here's what I want to say. I think it's all very well people making what they like to call environmentally friendly tampons, but even using them must involve a hell of a lot of waste. All that cotton wool you're using up, all that packaging. And also, on a more practical level, I bet there aren't many women who always have enough tampons in the house when they need them. Come on, admit it, can you honestly swear that you've never had to spend a night with bog-paper stuffed down your knickers? The beauty of a sponge is that it's always there for you, and you don't have any last-minute panic before the shop shuts wondering if your tampons are going to last. It's a bit inconvenient; last thing at night you really don't feel like standing at the sink rinsing your sponge out for what always feels like hours. And I've also found that mine usually needs changing more often than a tampon would. But it

**THIS IS A BAT,  
NOT A SPONGE.  
DON'T TRY PUTTING  
ONE UP YOUR CUNT—  
THEY'RE A BIT TOO  
WRIGGLY AND NOT  
VERY ABSORBENT.**

might be that it's not big enough; just in case you're interested, it's about 1½–2 times as wide as a li-let, and about the same length. (In Boots they called it a "cosmetic sponge".) So far it's lasted me four periods and it's still going strong. So, for an initial outlay of £1.50, you get at least four periods' worth of sanitary protection. Cheaper by far than tampons or towels.

As far as getting it out goes, I've tied a piece of cotton round the end that I put in first. If you pull it quite tight and wrap it round the sponge a few times before you tie a knot, it shouldn't come off. But if it does, it's fairly easy to get the sponge out again, as long as you relax and don't start panicking.

**Two more things:** Don't be tempted to smell it as you're dangling it by the tap. It smells like a mixture of farts and rotting seaweed, even though it looks really interesting with all that slime and blood on it.

And I think it's probably not vegetarian, since it's made out of a little sea-creature. (It could be some sort of sea vegetable but I don't think so.) So you'll have to use your own conscience about that. I'm a vegetarian and had ethical worries about it, but in the end I decided I'd rather use up just one or two of something a year than waste loads of plants and trees and things. Besides which, I wouldn't mind betting that some of these tampon manufacturers aren't exactly principled.

So that's my piece on sponges, I thought you'd like it.

Would you like to hear one of my songs?

THIS IS A BAT  
AS WELL.

HERE'S A GORGEOUS JOKE.  
\*What do you call two burglars?\*  
A PAIR OF KNICKERS!!

WELL...? WERE YOU COUNTED!

**M**ORE than a million people failed to be counted by the census in April as many apparently went to ground for fear of being forced to pay poll tax, preliminary results of the 10-yearly survey showed yesterday. As a result, the population of England and Wales is shown wrongly to have fallen during the 1980s and that of Scotland is put at its lowest since 1931.

On Saturday last a disturbance happened in the butter-market at Ashby-de-la-zouch; occasioned by a farmer asking two-pence per pound extraordinary for butter; when an old woman clapping one hand in the nape of his neck, with the other rubbed a pound of butter all over his face. (*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 18 October, 1766)

**YIPPEE!!**  
I'M MADLY GLAD  
TO BE A WOMAN!

**STOP THE ARMS FAIR**—ceremony and a sit-down blockade! At Whale Island, Portsmouth, 8am-noon, Monday Sept 2nd.

**WINNIN'S PEACE CAMP**, Whale Island Way Beach, Portsmouth...6pm Sat 31 Aug-4th Sept...Contact Sian 0703 551094.

ARE YOU A FAIRY TAILOR & FRIEND?

# HISTORY OF THE WORLD PART 1

## IRELAND

### Some Important Dates from Irish History

How the invaders got there:-  
**1169:** Normans on their world tour invade Ireland after England  
**1603:** England has gone Protestant to achieve more power for the monarch. Elizabeth I sends the troops in to Ireland & begins a campaign of genocide. The Irish remain Catholic in opposition to the Protestant invaders. Religion does not have much to do with this. (so don't get fooled when people say this is a religious war.)

**1609:** Plantation of Ulster: Land is confiscated from the Irish & given to English & Scottish settlers (their descendants are today Protestant.) In 1649 Cromwell goes in with genocide & deportation of Irish people to the W. Indies. The Irish are persecuted, language suppressed, 1692 sees recognition of the fact the Irish are mostly Catholic, with legislation to deny Catholics social and political power - including the right to vote - this is only repealed in the 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act

**BUT** Ireland has a strong history of Prot. & R.C. Working-class uniting against economic oppression by the Imperialists eg 1798: United Irishmen Rising, 1848: Young Irishmen rising, 1867: Fenian Rising (from which comes Sinn Fein) 1913: General Strike. Obviously, because the privileged class is imported & protestant - the resisting class is primarily Irish & catholic.

**1800 ACT OF UNION** Government passes from Ireland to England  
**1845 GREAT FAMINE** the potato crop fails & the Irish starve. Land is owned mainly by rich English absent landlords, who keep rents high & keep land growing cash crops - not food  
**1916 EASTER RISING** - Civil Disobedience in Dublin & disaffection with English rule.

3 women from Sinn Fein will be visiting London from Sept 11th-14th, meeting community groups and publicising the 1992 Women's Delegation to Belfast. If you are interested in meeting them, contact Theresa McCann on 0634-713830 to find out the times and the venues and further details.

**BENEFIT FOR IRISH WOMEN IN PRISON** on Fri 13th Sept 7pm-midnight at the Old White Horse pub, 261 Brixton Rd, London SW9. Nearest tubes: Brixton/Oval. Music by the Staffordshire Miners' Wives and live Latin and Irish music, speakers from Sinn Fein Prisoners of War and Women's Departments, and the Transfer Campaign, and lots of jumble! Ring 081-674 7346 for details, or if YOU've got jumble to give (we can collect it from anywhere in London).

**1918 FIRST GENERAL ELECTION HELD**!!! unsurprisingly, 80% of the Irish vote for Sinn Fein, ruled illegal by English

**1919** Tired with all this pissin about, the Irish declare their own parliament & the I.R.A. their national army. G.B. doesn't like this, so in go the troops again. I.R.A. resist bravely.

**1921:** In a move of political expediency, the English government performs the PARTITION of Ireland - an act of cowardice - dividing Ireland into 26 counties of the Free State (South) & 6 occupied counties (North) - a half measure which will ensure trouble for the next 70 years. In the Free State a civil war starts between Republicans & right-wing, English-backed Free State forces. The Free State wins, ensuring a conservative, non-socialist Southern Ireland with little allegiance to the North. In 1935 they sign the Anglo-Irish Agreement: They send political prisoners to face English (in-)justice & in return get... piss-all really.

**1967 CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT BEGINS** - Northern Irish Civil Rights Association campaigns for such things as "one man, one vote", equal representation, housing, etc.

**1968** Marches take place - including the infamous Derry March where marchers were battered & maimed by English soldiers & 'B' specials (fore-runners of the R.U.C - supposedly non-partisan police force). The privileged class in N. Ireland don't like people asking for their rights & begin to attack those asking - primarily Catholics - eventually, troops are sent in in August - to supposedly protect the Catholics. Eventually the troops side with the privileged & start killing civilians. **1970** There's a break with Sinn Fein & the Provisional I.R.A. set up to protect the people. They have massive public support.

**1971: Internment**: ie. gathering Irish civilians off the streets & interrogating etc. for possession of an Irish accent.

**1972: Bloody Sunday**: 13 unarmed civilians killed by English troops. The (protestant-run) parliament (Stormont) falls & DIRECT RULE from England is set up.

**1974: Prevention of Terrorism Act** - enabling a person to be held for up to 7 days without being charged, deportation from England etc. Condemned by European Court of Human Rights

**1976:** Officially there is no war in Ireland so the special category for political prisoners in the 6 counties is abolished. The BLANKET PROTEST begins & then in 1981 THE HUNGER STRIKE: By October, 10 men have died & the government (in England) do nothing. Massive local & international sympathy for the hunger strikers.

**1982: Shoot to kill policy** initiated. ie. If they're Irish, they're guilty, so shoot to kill. Uncovered by the Stalker Inquiry much later

**1988: The Gibraltar Shootings** + October: Broadcasting Ban - preventing Sinn Fein speakers from appearing WITH their voices on radio & TV.

**1990: Guildford 4 + Birmingham RELEASEd!!!** showing that British Justice is basically "Innocent until proven Irish". The struggle continues...

### contact

#### addresses:

unbelievably, but sadly true - we've lost them so here's a general guide:

**Publications:** Troops Out Magazine & An Phoblacht

Troops Out Movement

write/phone: PO Box 353 London NW5 609 1743

& they can put you in touch with Women & Ireland... & anyone else I guess.  
(shambling apology)

#### organizations

Troops Out Movement  
write/phone: PO Box 353 London NW5 609 1743

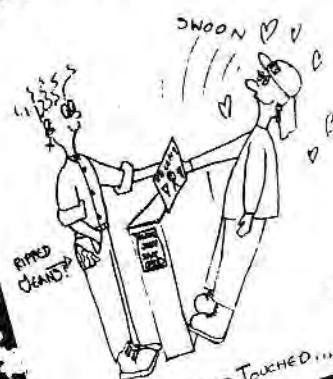
## THE TIGER IN THE TIGER PIT

Janet Turner Hospital  
If you've ever had a family (and I don't mean given birth to one) then you should read this book! The stories very simple it's about a family reunion, or attempt at one, that sounds extremely boring, but it isn't. It's about the complexities of families, the lies, misunderstandings, misconceptions and the ways in which they fuck you up. It's beautifully written, pretty compulsive reading and even more important the copy I read had a lovely front cover!

STOP PRESS

IT HAS BEEN NOTED RECENTLY THAT CERTAIN ♀ IN S LONDON (E.G. SOME OF US!) HAVE FLY POSTED 'WANTED' SIGNS AROUND BRIXTON REGARDING A MAN WHO WAS PHYSICALLY VIOLENT TO A ♀. THE POSTER CARRIED A RATHER LARGE PHOTO OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED BASTARD.

I think this is a good, effective thing to do. Are there any other ♀ in London interested in organising groups of fly posting ♀; we could fly post other stuff ie draw attention to the Sarah Thornton case; I did hear of some ♀ Fly posting notices for men to stay in after dark printed on Police headed paper! Any ♀ interested contact Eliza G. S.P.



WHEN a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun, knife, and tear-gas canister broke into her house and began roughing up her husband and son, Hildur Holst, aged 60, picked up her guitar and "smacked him on the head with it". Then she grabbed the stunned man in a choke-hold so that her family could tie him up, and call the police.

REVIEW OF CURIOUS WINE BY KATHERINE V. FORREST, Silver Moon Books.

Well, I couldn't even manage to read this book to be able to review it, even though I tried several times. I even tried starting halfway through, in the hope that it might liven up a bit, but no luck. If you like crap, read this book, otherwise I shouldn't bother. It's hackneyed and clichéd, and even the bits about people in bed together make you squirm with embarrassment for the author's crappily unimaginative style. The other two books in the SMB series (An Emergence of Green and Lessons in Murder) are fairly readable, badly written, tedious, brainless and completely resistable. I wouldn't pay 5p for it at a jumble sale, let alone the cover price of 5.99.

I agree this book is like a lesbian Mills & Boon! — and why does Ms K.V. Forrest always write about 2 straight womyn going to bed & having amazing sex straight off?!! Hen dream for what?

Relax, Unwind, Be Yourself at

## RUBY'S

The fun and friendly Lesbian & Gay Centre for Herts & Essex

2 Wych Elm, Harlow, Essex. Tel: 0279 451677

Women Only Night  
"OUT ON TUESDAY"

Run by women for women Every Week  
Featuring on the first Tuesday of every month  
"Stepping Out" THE Women's Disco

Also open, (mixed sessions) on Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings and Sunday Lunchtimes  
(Saturdays are weekly mixed disco)

Regular Cabaret Nights, Licensed Bar

HARLOW LESBIAN AND GAY

SWITCHBOARD

0279 639637

SUNDAY NIGHTS ALWAYS STAFFED BY WOMEN

## Campaign against Child Prostitution

When we hear about child sexual abuse we usually think of this as going on within the family where adult men take advantage of their position of power to abuse children. But there are also global economic power relations which allow men from rich imperialist countries to sexually abuse children in the so-called third world.

Sex tourism is booming business and child prostitution is the latest tourist attraction. The 4 countries with the highest rate of child prostitution are Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Taiwan. To get an idea of the enormous numbers: in Thailand alone there are 800,000 child sex workers. They are young children aged 5 to 12, mostly boys in Sri Lanka, boys and girls in the other countries. Usually by the age of 13 they are suffering from AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. This + their experiences leaves them with no real future at all. Thailand has the highest suicide rate among children in the world.

Poverty makes their families send them to work on the beaches or the streets, or sell them to bars or brothels. The governments of these countries do nothing to stop it because they are dependent on foreign currency from tourists.

It is mostly white men who are abusing children in Asia, the largest number coming from Germany. Porn videos help create the idea & travel agencies promote child sex in package holidays.

Anyway, there are campaigns going on to fight this imperialist child sexual abuse. The international campaign End Child Prostitution was started in May 1990 and held a conference in Chiangmai, Thailand. And in May 1991 the Campaign Against Child Prostitution was started in Germany aiming among other things to prosecute child abusers, raise awareness & boycott travel agents which promote packaged sex holidays. The first successful prosecution was of a man in Norway who was convicted and received a prison sentence for child abuse in Thailand.

OK now I'm going to look for some contact addresses in case you feel like Getting Active. Thanks to wonderful Womens News for all this info.



What's a youth treatment centre and how do you get put in one? The TV news says it's for children who are "seriously disturbed" or who have committed violent crimes. In other words you don't have to have been convicted of anything, so I don't like to imagine who decides to lock you up in one.

Deborah Cox (age 17) has complained about her mistreatment at St Charles youth treatment centre in Essex. She has made 7 serious complaints including:

- ★ being injected with sedative drugs against her will and being forced about 12 times.

- ★ being held in isolation for 7 weeks around Dec 1990 in a freezing cold room with no furniture, no books, no night clothes, not enough bedclothes. She says "I was very cold, lonely and frightened; I thought I was going mad."

- ★ being forced to take part in group meetings where you have to talk about private and sensitive matters, eg sexual experiences, family problems, in front of other young people including sex offenders. (Personally I find this a particularly disgusting and abusive attempt at control).

She has also complained about lack of contact allowed with anyone outside and not being allowed to make a complaint while she was at St Charles or see her records or reviews.

Youth treatment centres are run by the government and not subject to any laws or regulations, although because of a previous complaint St Charles now has to comply with Department of Health guidelines on solitary confinement.

Because of Deborah Cox's complaints there has been an inquiry into St Charles. But a few reforms to one place are bloody useless. The problem is that once you're in an institution labelled with anything to do with mental health (whether youth or adult) they can do what they like to you.

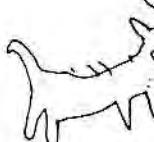
### DOUBLE STANDARDS OR WHAT?



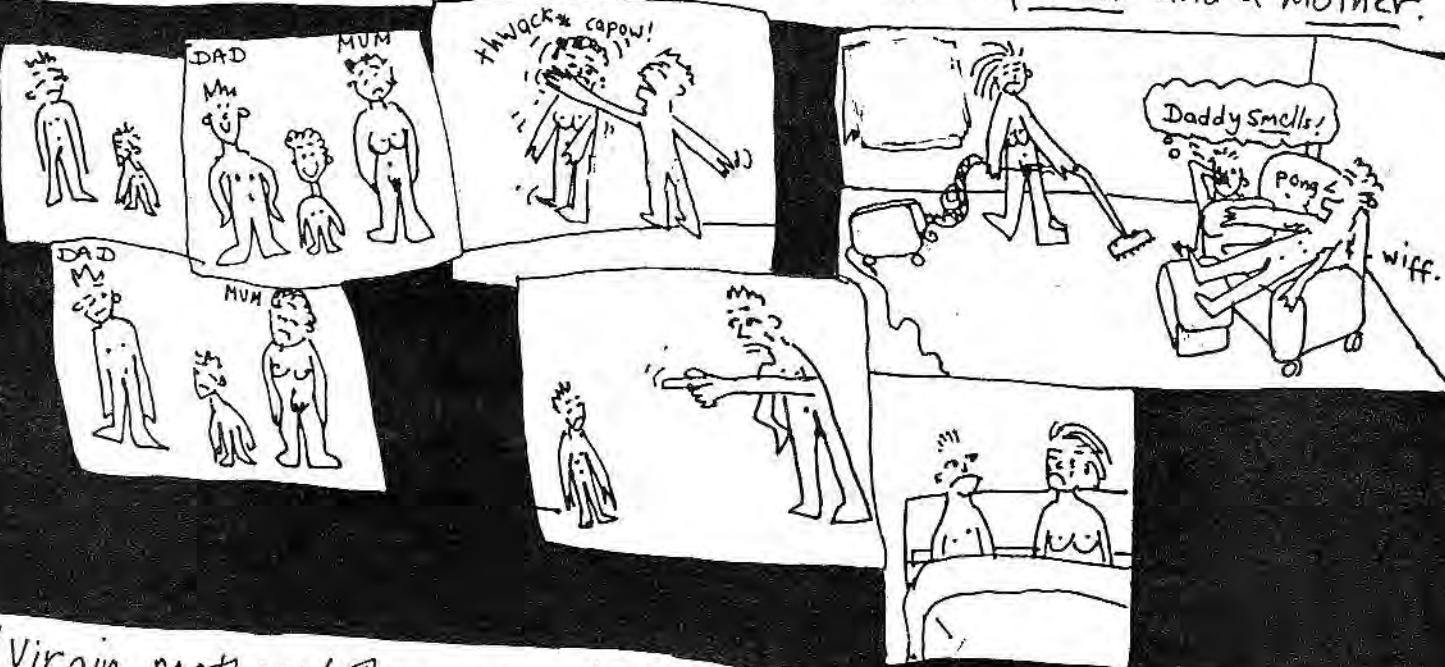
Whatever you do  
don't come out  
to your Doctor

...But he knows  
I'm a dyke

No! I mean don't  
come out as a  
virgin.



'A child needs healthy positive role models; a father and a Mother.'



'Virgin mothers! They are unbalanced and very selfish. It'll only end in tears and disaster.'



'They just want the child because they are lonely, need something to love.'

'It's an accessory.'



## HEARTBREAK ON THE HIGH SIERRA & ROTARY SPOKES, by Fiona Cooper.

I first came across Rotary Spokes while I was browsing through a bookshop, the way you do. It's all about this woman mechanic who rolls cigarettes one-handed & has a bike & falls in lurv with a woman & scandalises all her neighbours. I thought it was brilliant, also funny which is less common. So when I found out that old FC had written another novel I was all raring to go. Maybe because I read Heartbreak on the High Sierra when I was in bed with a cold, maybe because the novelty value wasn't there second time around, I didn't think this one was quite as good. The plot is promising; it's a sort-of-western with lots of dead cool women in it, but (perhaps not unusually for our hypocritical "green" age) without the usual emphasis on Indians-as-villains. Although needless to say the North American Indian presence is really only token.

Anyway, even if Heartbreak on the High Sierra isn't as good as Rotary Spokes, it's probably a lot better than most things you could find to read; a nice undemanding book to read in the bath or on a journey. & I might have enjoyed it more if I wasn't ill when I read it.

A Japanese girl, aged 10, who became a grand champion in children's sumo wrestling, has been barred from competing in the national championships in Tokyo. The ban is based on the belief that women bring bad luck to wrestlers. — Reuter.

Young Womens Housing Project has housing vacancies for black lesbians aged 16-21 in need of support. 071-738-3048.

Reuter in Bern June  
T HOUSANDS of Swiss women abandoned their homes and workplaces yesterday and went on strike for equality.

Crowds of women thronged the narrow streets of the federal capital with banners saying: "We can't live on praise alone. Give us equal opportunities" and "Give mum the same pension as dad."

The Swiss Trade Union Federation, which organised the strike, estimated that about 500,000 women participated. Women stormed a Zurich department store to give female assistants a break, bringing business to a halt. And in the centre of Bern four men set up an emergency open-air ironing service.

# Reviews

## Book review

### The Challenge Road—Amrit Wilson

Earthscan Publications

**S**ome people would have believed that socialism is dead. Some other people would have us believe that if we ever want socialism to happen properly, we'll have to forget about being women, dedicate our lives to our brothers and one day when the revolution comes everything will be alright. Thankfully there are also some people who know that both of those statements are **bollocks**. Quite a lot of them seem to be living in Eritrea and they've been working on this revolution that just succeeded in freeing the nation—this April in case you were on another planet and missed it.

In *The Challenge Road*, Amrit Wilson talks to a lot of women who've been involved in the Eritrean people's struggle for liberation. Imagine—a book about a successful revolution with women in the middle of it that isn't a sci-fi novel but is actually happening right now. And then imagine it being written by a woman and not by someone with a straggly beard and open-toed sandals.

Eritrea was colonized twice over. First by European powers the Italians and then the British, and then the United Nations made it into part of Ethiopia because that way it was easier for the USA to keep control of the whole area. Under Haile Selassie, Ethiopia was basically a puppet state of the US. Then after him came President Mengistu who told everyone he was a socialist which meant that lefty people in the west didn't want to know about what his army was doing in Eritrea.

In all of this, on top of being colonized, women's place in society was traditional—ie a lot of work and no social recognition but repression. But this book is largely women telling their own stories. They tell us what it was like, and all them who speak out are conscious of their history—as women and as colonized people and as fighters.

They talk about how men have written women out of the history of their struggle. And how colonialism brought about prostitution for women. And how the British tried their tactics of divide-and-rule between Christians and Muslims.

Reading this as an Asian woman living here, it brought home so clearly the nature of British imperialism and the way that the British state only succeeds by keeping everyone separate who could only gain by coming together as a real, concrete threat to the establishment that is oppressing us all. They've done this with whole nation states, as in South Asia where they carved up India into a huge Hindu-majority land-mass in the middle of two smaller Muslim-majority states, and they did this in Ireland where they kept the Catholic Republicans down to a minority in a silly artificial Ulster which is an imperialist convenient creation.

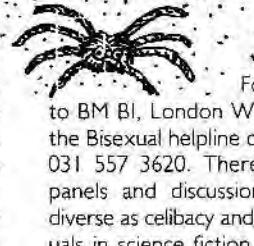
What's really inspiring is recognising yes, these histories of oppression are similar in different parts of the world so therefore, doesn't it follow that some of the steps that women in Eritrea took to put that to rights might also apply elsewhere?

Some of the steps they took involved demanding to be part of the revolution in an active way and not being stuck at home cooking and working and looking after people while the men made all the important decisions about their lives.

All the way through *The Challenge Road* there are stories of women learning and teaching through their experience, transforming their oppression into strength, building a real and thorough revolution together, one that starts with the realities of their own lives—their relation to the men in their villages, the work they do, what they're not allowed to do—and continues with their own empowerment and the liberation of their nation. You've just got to read this book and find out how. There are obviously still things that women are fighting for within the struggle for freedom, but they've got a lot further down the Challenge Road than most people's movements just about anywhere else in the world. And they did it all and taught the men how, too. (I think she liked it.)

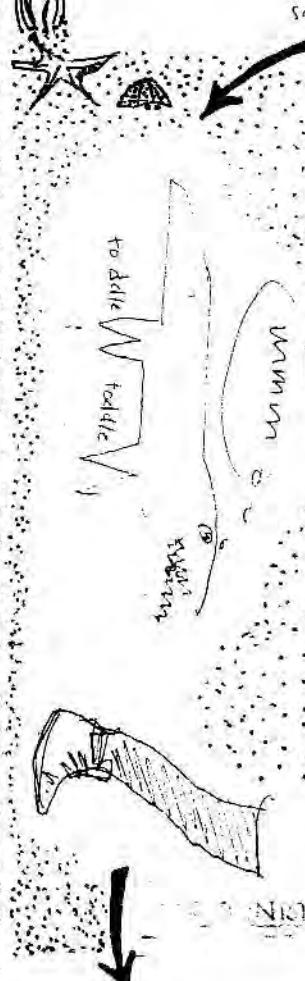
**NINTH NATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE**—University of London Union, Malet St., London WC1, Thurs Sept 19th–Sun Sept 22nd 1991. It's described as a conference for all Bisexuals, their Allies and those interested in sexuality, and will be hosted by the London Bisexual Group.

Let's get  
together



For further info write to BM Bl, London WC1 3XX or phone the Bisexual helpline on 081 569 7500 or 031 557 3620. There'll be workshops, panels and discussions on subjects as diverse as celibacy and "outing", to bisexuals in science fiction.

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Urban owl goes for a walk

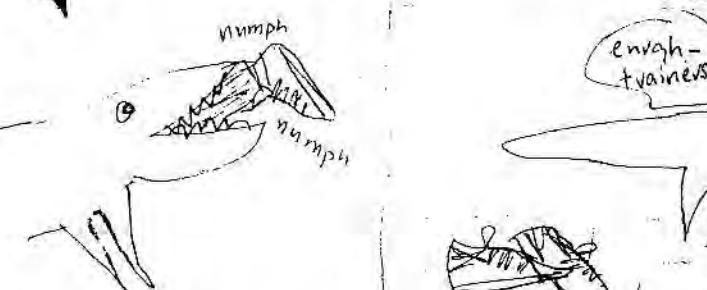
WW Saunter

**LESBIAN AND GAY EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS (LAGER)**, a unique project that exists to expose and challenge all forms of discrimination that Lesbians and gay men experience at work, is appealing for donations. LAGER's funding has been cut, while its work has expanded due to the growth in public hysteria connected with AIDS. They're also asking organisations to affiliate to them. Their address is...LAGER, St. Margaret's house, 21 Old Ford Road, London E2 9PL (Dykes—081 983 0694... general—081 983 0696).



**FEMINIST LIBRARY RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE** (5 Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7XW) needs more volunteers to catalogue books. Whether you can't find a book from the catalogue in your public library or are a trained librarian, if you have a bit of time and are willing to learn to catalogue, you can ensure that the newest feminist books are still new when they get on the shelves. For info and access details phone 071 928 7789 during the library's opening hours: Tues 11-8, Sat and Sun 2-5.

4th Biennial of ♀ Cartoonists  
write to: Legere Donna  
Via Ticchioni 38/1  
44100 Ferrara  
Italy or call 051-355783



**Zami, by Audre Lorde, publ. by Sheba**

Sheba have just reprinted this—very sensible of them because it's fab. Audre Lorde tells her story of growing up a black dyke in the USA from when she's a small girl to her life and loves as a young woman, as a not-fitting-in part of the mostly white New York dyke scene, plus a trip to Mexico. She's so brilliant—she writes with such careful honesty, I don't think she ever puts anything easy or clichéd. It's an inspiring piece of survival plus. Especially no dyke of colour should miss it.

Never get on either side  
out of the front cover of City Limits  
we'll never make the front cover of City Limits  
with us

### More about Paragraph 16 :

\* Well, I just clapped my hands with glee when para 16 of "The Children's Act 1989 : Guidance & Regulations" was dropped. Out went "equal opportunities have no place in fostering" & in went "the interests of the child must be paramount" Hurrah! , o.k. there were still some doubts about the questioning of lifestyles, but, Yes this was a victory for direct action & complaining & pressure by us & at a time of more, not less institutional queer bashing.

How wrong was I? O.K. we may have a statutory right in the law books, but ultimately that means fuck all if we're still stuck in a shit homophobic world with a Tory press giving out biased [non-] information to a big & largely ignorant, purposely semi-educated electorate.

No sooner is para 16 repealed than the stories in the press appeared. The Sunday Times, The Sunday Mirror & The South London Press were falling over themselves to outrage & shock their readers first with the exclusive "news" that Wandsworth + Southwark councils had fostered 15 + an 18 year old boy with gay male couples.

All the regular crap was there : the 2 boys "claimed" to be homosexual, "child experts" commented that it was probably just a phase (fuck off - patronizing shit-heads) etc etc = how can the rights of children be "paramount" when their/our words are not taken seriously? The gay couples were demonised by hints of child molestation - this is our nation's ravaging concern but how fuck-headed can they be - get it right : 96% of child-molesters are "straight" men & it's about power, nothing else.

\* & so it goes - not much new - also the spectacle of the M.P.s & councillors falling over themselves to denounce the decision - obviously expecting their dear voters to be as simplistic, bigoted & ignorant as our "education system" intended us all to be. Pathetic bastards I haven't forgotten how scared Southw-

### Child Support Bill

Oh no oh no evil and more evil. Lone parents, ie mostly women, if they're on benefits will have to say who the father of their children is. Then they will have to get maintenance from them. It's totally terrible. Most lone mothers, whether divorced etc or whether they never lived with the father, don't want to have these links. They will be put at risk of violence and interference from men.

Also any lone parent who refuses to cooperate with the Department of Social Security in giving details of the other parent will be fined - this is probably going to be 20% of benefit for 6 months (£7.93) followed by 10% for a year. It's just terrible - I don't know how they can talk about taking money off benefit, since it isn't enough to live on as it is.

It's all very scary and horrible indeed. The government wants to save money, but it's picked a very nasty anti-woman way of doing it, trying to make us dependent on men.

Councils got over on Irish Festival when The South London Press ran one of their reactionary gobshite articles on it. One minute an festival - next minute, no festival. May you be slowly dismembered in hell for that one, Southwark & S.L.P.

\* But anyway, the Scousey thing is, it has worked! These decisions were, technically, legal. But now, William Waldegrave, the Health Secretary, is investigating the case in Southwark, where the 15 year old is fostered. Southwark were also going to foster some kids with some QCs but now that looks in doubt.

In Wandsworth, the bastards have ~~launched~~ an enquiry, but only 'cos they're sell-out, scared shitheads & have said: "WE CERTAINLY DO NOT RECRUIT GAY FOSTER PARENTS" & WHAT'S MORE HAVE REVERSED AN EARLIER DECISION AGREEING THAT FOSTERING WITH LESBIANS & GAY MEN IS O.K. & HAVE ISSUED A SECRET MEMO SAYING IN FUTURE ALL SUCH DECISIONS MUST GO TO THE

HEAD OF THE DSS. You illegit, homophobic, cowardly scumbags!

\* & the absolute insult is that Southwark tried to get these press stories stopped - rightly "because you can't trust the press not to destroy people's lives" & it was overruled with the papers claiming freedom of information & the public right to know. Know what? This crap isn't INFORMATION & it's an insult to pretend it's supposed to be.

\* & the double-think involved: all this fuss about 2 gay men fostering & how "unnatural" it is when the courts are happy to take kids from dykes in 96% of custody cases, & when the courts in America are swooning against "mom" mothers in surrogacy cases.

**'OUTING' RICH, WHITE,  
WHO CARES? I DON'T.  
FAMOUS AND POWERFUL MEN  
FELICITY FLIPPANT**

The ALBERT KENNY DY MEMORIAL TRUST was set up in Manchester a year ago to help young dykes and gay men in care, by Cath Hall, who was concerned about the fact that every provision for Lesbians and gays in care has been taken away, and that they aren't having their needs met by social services. AKT has been growing rapidly and has already placed 7 Lesbian and gay 16-18 year olds with lesbian and gay carers. Most placements have proved highly successful. AKT is working with Manchester Social Services, as well as with Wigan and Birmingham, and has been approached by many other councils throughout the country for more info. The London branch of AKT was launched at this year's Pride, and other branches are planned for Bradford, Birmingham and Edinburgh. AKT also operates as a co-ordinating and screening point for Lesbian and gay carers. Women and men, single or in couples, approach the Trust wanting to become carers.

The Trust relies entirely on voluntary donations, so they've set up a special group, FRIENDS OF THE AKT, to co-ordinate the fundraising. For more info about either group, or to make a donation (payable to AKT) write to 23 New Mount St, Manchester M60.

young &  
Fostering &  
Care

## ASHA

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

27 Santley St, London SW4 7QF.  
0171 737 5901 274  
8854 (ansaphone).

## Dear Shocking Pink,

Have you seen or heard this great quote, which is a response to the current trend amongst women of the higher classes, who now consider it comfortable to call themselves feminists after they have qualified it by explaining they are POST FEMINISTS, and not anything to do with one of those bra burning lot (which I am).

This is the quote: "Post Feminists are women who have kept their bras and burnt their brains!"

Womens liberation as I knew it is proven to be very much alive, or returning to it. By the way, young things, I am 50 years old!! but really 15 at heart.

Greetings, Julia. Past, present and permanently a feminist without a bra.

\*\* Here's a deliriously witty joke sent in by Heather SP is brilliant! Here goes:

Lesbian Strength

## Dear Shocking Pink,

Many thanks for the first installment of my subscription (issue 11). I LOVED!! the magazine RADICAL really is the only way to describe it...oh, as well as brilliant, angry, hysterical, topsy turvy, lovely, lovely...black and white and pink...and um...papery.

Best wishes, Sam.

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Three white South African youths who beat a black man to death have been sentenced to 1,200 hours of community service at an animal charity.

A Johannesburg Supreme Court judge on Tuesday sentenced the youths, aged 15, 16 and 17, to five years' imprisonment, but suspended the term on condition they did community service at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg.

**PLAYING OUT** is a week-long lesbian and gay theatre event for Liverpool, presenting two plays with all lesbian and gay performers. THE COMPANY by Jaden Twist is an intriguing story about a lesbian who goes to work in an insurance company, and it's all about things not being what they seem. Mon 9, Wed 11 and Fri 13 Sept 1991 at Unity Theatre. AS TIME GOES BY by Noel Grieg and Drew Griffiths is a "vibrant 100 year retrospective of male homo-history and oppression". Tues 10 and Thurs 12 Sept, Unity Theatre. Sat 14 Sept at Jody's Club. Tickets for both shows are available from the Box Office, Unity Theatre, Hope Place, Liverpool on 051-709 4988. 3.50 waged/2.50 unwaged.

I'm not sure if I like this at all - it's fucking getting me fucked off - all this shit, everywhere, I moved down my throat.

I'm going to do something about it....

## Child Labour

About 2 million young people between the ages of 10 and 16 are working in Britain, mostly in illegal and exploitative jobs says a new report by the National Child Employment Study.

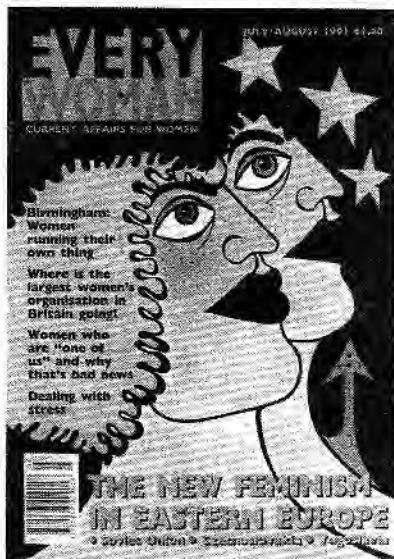
The report was done in Birmingham (now Britain's largest city education authority). It found that...

- ★ 43% of children between 10 and 16 have a job
- ★ 74% are employed illegally—a quarter are under 13 and so should not be working at all, many are doing work prohibited for children, many more are working illegal hours
- ★ 35% have been involved in an accident, eg dangerous machinery, assault
- ★ 24% earn less than £1 an hour—one even got 7p an hour

Most of these are not paper rounds (the typical image of a young person's job)—½ of jobs are shopwork, factory work or cleaning. Because we live in such a shithole of a country young people are being exploited to do adult jobs for a lot less money than an adult would get. For example: an 11 year-old was cleaning a pub/off licence for 55p an hour, and a 12 year-old was getting 44p an hour for an 18 hour week in a sweet shop.

This right-wing government encourages 'enterprise', otherwise known as 'as much exploitation as you can get away with'. It has abolished a minimum wage for people under 18 and never enforced any child labour law—eg laws preventing children from doing the most dangerous jobs. Most of the law is totally outdated anyway.

Maybe better laws would improve things, I'm not sure. Most of all young people need to get together and keep each other informed, to try to resist the worst of bad pay, dangerous work and long hours. Find out what other people are being paid and if you're getting much less—complain, or, if you can, pack it in and get a better job.



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- New books, the arts, Zoe Fairbairns on new feminist writing
- Women's health, relationships, interviews, humour, short story.

Everywoman: £1.40 monthly from good newsagents and bookshops. Order a regular copy from your local newsagent, or subscribe for a year and get a free book of your choice.

Choose from: *Pornography and Sexual Violence: Evidence of the Links*, edited and published by Everywoman. The only book on this subject, with testimony from sexual assault victims and therapists working with sex offenders (normally £5.50). *Men Only: An Investigation into Men's Organisations*, by Barbara Rogers. Covers working men's clubs, sports clubs, Rotary, Freemasons, City livery companies, private boys' schools etc. (Pandora: normally £5.95).

I wish to subscribe for one year and enclose a cheque for: £25 (trade union branch/other organisation)/£16.80 (individual) payable to Everywoman. My free book choice is:

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Return to: Everywoman Sales, FREPOST, London N1 8BR

Elmey—someone get her a hand—it's driving me crazy

Sigh... I want to get Slimey

If you're sick of trendy music and want to read about some real bands who can actually play their instruments (even though they're probably mostly men), get hold of a copy of the **Organ**: shinier than *Smash Hits*, more merry than *Melody Maker*, and with a **FULL** colour cover. 40-odd pages, 70p from PO Box 790, London, E17 5RF.

**M**ORE than one million voters have disappeared from the electoral register since the election register was conceived, an official analysis showed yesterday.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSE** owners in Greater Manchester have been warned by police to be on the alert for arsonists, after weekend attacks by the Animal Liberation Front on seven refrigerated meat transporters, writes *Erlend Clouston*. The fires caused an estimated £100,000 damage. Four lorries outside an abattoir at Royton

were gutted by incendiary devices yesterday. Two were burned out nearby; a third survived when a fire bomb failed to go off. Firemen tackled a meat transporter fire at Heywood. The ALF which admitted the attacks has made weekly attacks on shops and fast food outlets in the region over the past two years. 8.7.91

**B**RITAIN'S first black television channel, Star Television, was yesterday awarded a 10-year licence to broadcast on cable from November.

The company, which is backed by the publishers of the *Voice*, Britain's largest selling black newspaper, plans to launch the 24-hour service next Easter.

It will consist largely of music videos and imported US programmes aimed at a black audience. But Star hopes to set up its own production company to make a small number of programmes in Britain.

Val McCalla, chairman of Voice Communications Group, said the channel would offer "everything from hard core rap to Whitney Houston. We are committed to a new generation of black artists and programme makers."

The Race Relations Act has largely failed to achieve its aims of reducing discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity in employment, government-funded research reveals

## HAPPY! !



## 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, by Angie and Jo.

**LONDON WAMT**, 52/54 Featherstone St., London EC1Y 8RT  
071 251 9192

WHAT ARE THESE?

8.7.91

A  
L  
I  
C  
E  
THE MAN-EATING PIG

SCRUMPTIOUS!  
CAN'T WAIT

DRONE  
DRONE  
BORING

PLURP!

MORAL: Always look on top of your filing cabinet

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN, Wesley House, 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 5AU (071-405 4801).

God I'm  
sexy

MS-CELLANEOUS  
OR NOT?

But Aitchison, whose long white locks are as famous as his paintings, urged caution. Recently he paid £40 in place off Pont Street, dried by hand, making his hair dried. "I had to rush home and damp it down with water," he recalls, putting the others off any thoughts of haircuts.

Employers in Honduras have found an effective way of avoiding giving female employees maternity leave. According to Honduran trade unions, some 15 and 20 workers a year have been forcibly sterilised.

Hello readers, do you find this  
gruesome/offensive?

## JODY'S REVIEWS

Gaudi Afternoon (Barbara Wilson, Virago 4.99) is the sort of book I might have given that nice ♀ at university who took my ♀'s Studies course. It's a clever literary 'romp' through magic realism\*, gender, transexuality, Barcelona & much more, all done in a clever, literary, romping & liberal way. A generous humanitarian spirit prevails (as indeed it did in her book set around s.m.\* providing you didn't object to Andrea Dworkin being nobbled). Buy it for the english teacher in your life, or better still order it at the library.

The Sophie Horowitz Story (Sarah Schulman, Sheba 5.99) is utterly fab & brill. I'm completely infatuated—I saw her in The Pyramid in NY & I wanted to buy her a drink but I thought she'd just laugh at me so I went & hid in the loo. I'm so pathetic. (Please get on with this—typist.) Anyway, everyone I know has borrowed my copies of her previous books -int'l'd like them back sometime & I think it's time they bought their own. Despite the blurb the publishers sent asserting that this was a book full of local colour about "street scum" (seriously!), I think there are plenty of us who will really relate to this. There's loads of jokes about working for shit pay or no pay in toilet jobs or right-on o's things & about oos working for men including or not including sex & there's a sort of mystery plot & there's loads about food & this is more about being a jewish oo than her other books & she's just so cool with delusions of Lou Reed-dom & I could just go on forever... & sex.

Dear SP, I'm writing to tell you my experience of date-rape and what it made me think about. Being raped by your boyfriend is not unusual, it's just something that's not talked about very much. It's also really hard to call it "rape" when it means calling your boyfriend a "rapist". The important thing to remember is that if you have not been asked and **YOU HAVE NOT SAID YES** to sex - it is rape. Three years ago I woke up one morning to find the guy I was going out with fucking me. At the time I screamed and pushed him away, calling him names and telling him what a bastard he was. But immediately afterwards I put the whole incident to the back of my mind. It wasn't until recently, just after I'd turned 20, that I remembered what had happened and started to call it rape. The first thing I felt that was awful/that I had let it happen, had pushed it to the back of my mind and hadn't dealt with it at the time. But I can't regret that because time has passed. The second thing that went through my mind was to question my sexuality; two years ago I came out as a lesbian after years of calling myself bisexual. I thought about it and worked out that in fact my sexuality has nothing to do with the rape. For a while I did screw around/as a way to attack men (who all, incidentally, looked like my ex-boyfriend), but I wasn't happy. And as a bisexual woman I had had good relationships with men and women. Objectifying my sexuality meant looking at what kind of relationship/sex-life really satisfied me and when I came out it was because I realized that a lesbian relationship/identity is what I'm happiest with (also because women are utterly fantastic and the Goddesses best creation after dolphins). Objectifying my sexuality also meant realizing that dealing with the incident of rape is separate from finding what kind of sexuality I'm happiest with. I don't need to question my lesbian identity/in truth I knew I was gay the whole time I called myself bisexual. I also don't need to question my sex-life with my lover/if I'm passive in bed, it's **PURELY** because I **CHOOSE** to be; I could equally choose not to be, it's just the way we enjoy sex. The most important thing is to be able to talk about any kind of rape and not put up with it just because the guy is your boyfriend/husband. If you don't consent, it's rape. It's time boys learnt this: tell them.

# "Drug-crazed vicar ate my goldfish"

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YES! It's another  
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bargain



Girls! Just wrap your peepers round this splendidorous exclusive Shocking Pink T-shirt. (o goddess what are they talking about?) Fab, innit? And for only £5 (what, only £5???) including post, packing and I don't know what else, **YOU** could be the proud owner of this groovy garment! Lovingly hand-crafted by genuine Shocking Pinkers from half-way decent quality cotton, it's available in 2 colours and 4 sizes. Mind-blowingly bright pink print on black or white, sizes S, M, L, XL (except there's no large in black—it's a long story). All sizes are on the large side anyway. Guaranteed to make you nearly as elegant as me. Bloody hell. What more can I say, get your £££ in the post. Best give 1st and 2nd choice. Bye.



**T-SHIRT OFFER!**

-with this t-shirt you wouldn't want to!!

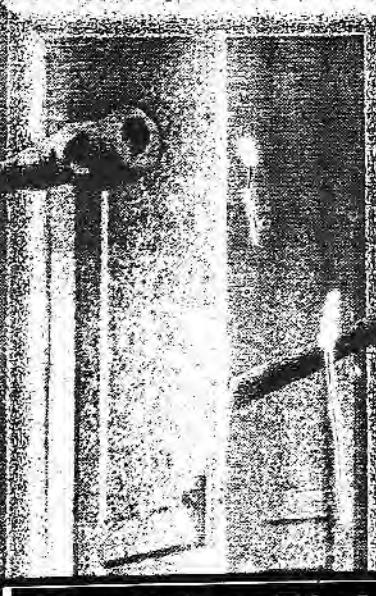
it says: Shocking Pink—girls at our grooviest

Fucking hell it's Summertime again...I was on the beach the other week (first time in nearly six years!), and it was bloody hot and I really wanted to be able to take my T-shirt off...but I couldn't

#### NEWSFLASH

Did you know that the boys in the Dutch army wear hairnets as part of their uniform? Well fancy that.

real pink tanks in  
Czechoslovakia!



## Shocking Pink Crystals Offer

Here it is at last—your chance to get you very own Shocking Pink crystal!! Bright pink and set in pure silver so as not to disrupt its beneficial vibes, the SP crystal has been organically cultured in the Brazilian rainforest and gathered by authentic tribal peoples. The SP crystal will bring peace and harmony into your life. It will enhance your self-worth and give you focus to achieve your goals. Others will begin to respect you and stop giving you a hard time. Tell it your troubles and put it under your pillow at night. Soon you will be rich.

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TRANSPORT HELL IS GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS have come into the possession of the S.P. revealers to further those who have, indeed, been mystified by the complete misery of London function. According to secret papers smuggled from the government, for all those incompetent, quacky, & general that its primary function is not transportation can now be confirmed. According to secret papers smuggled from the

department of transport, the London underground is in fact a large, missile silo. The plans, sent to us anonymously, outline a war-time strategy involving secret tunnel extensions to the Victoria line, extending missiles will be launched to targets in Russia. The report, 'Top Secret', absolutely, to anybody & at all, also details plans to be lagged to overground as a series of experiments in psychological warfare.

To Brixton  
To Brighton

To Russia