



HOT PINK

1984?

HOT 20P

TEENAGE SEXISM



I'm a Sexist adolescent
Boys are all I want, at present
I can hum a soppy song
Male Domination turns me on
Stereotyped into submission
By the sight and sound transmission
Lisping songs by fluffy females
Adverts showing brawny males
Teachers (men) insist on skirts
Pet the arrant little flirts
Only doing what they should
CONFORMITY is always good
Boys must hammer, girls must sew
Into MAN and WIFE they'll grow



SUSIE WAS RIGHT!
STOP'N GROW IS GREAT.
NO MORE HAND-HIDING FOR
ME.... NO MORE BITTEN
NAILS. I'M TOO BUSY
HOLDING HANDS!



OH, I'D
BEEN SO HAPPY IN ALL
MY LIFE

THE
END

I know every female art
How to play the proper part
Make the boys go all protective
All my wiles are SO effective
Can't be happy on my own
NO-ONE wants to be alone
Scheme and plan with all my might
Catch a man to hold me tight
Forget I ever had a mind
Docile, happy, deaf and blind
Get a man and share his bed
That's what all my peer-group said
Maybe this is just a stage
Symptomatic of my age,
But NO it's not a teenage game
Each generation acts the same.

Sarah Hook

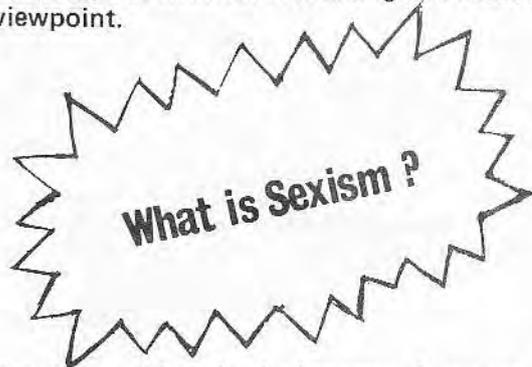




Shocking Pink is a magazine produced by a group of young women who got together over the last year. We all have one thing in common; we are enthusiastic and we know that there is an immediate need for an alternative for us and other young women to read.

We feel that magazines like "Jackie" "Oh Boy" "Blue Jeans" etc don't give a realistic impression of our lives.

We want a magazine that looks at fashion, music, books, make-up, relationships, and all the usual subjects, but from an interesting and realistic viewpoint.



Ever been told to do the housework cos you're a girl, while your brother just does what he wants?

Ever been told not to play football cos you're not strong enough?

Ever been told to be a nurse, not a doctor, a legal secretary, not a solicitor, because that's what women do?

Ever been made to do needlework instead of woodwork so you can darn your boyfriend's socks?

Ever been oppressed because you're a woman?

This is sexism. It is when you are expected to do certain things because you're a woman, and every time it puts you in a worse position than men. If someone tells you to do something because you're a woman, they are being sexist.

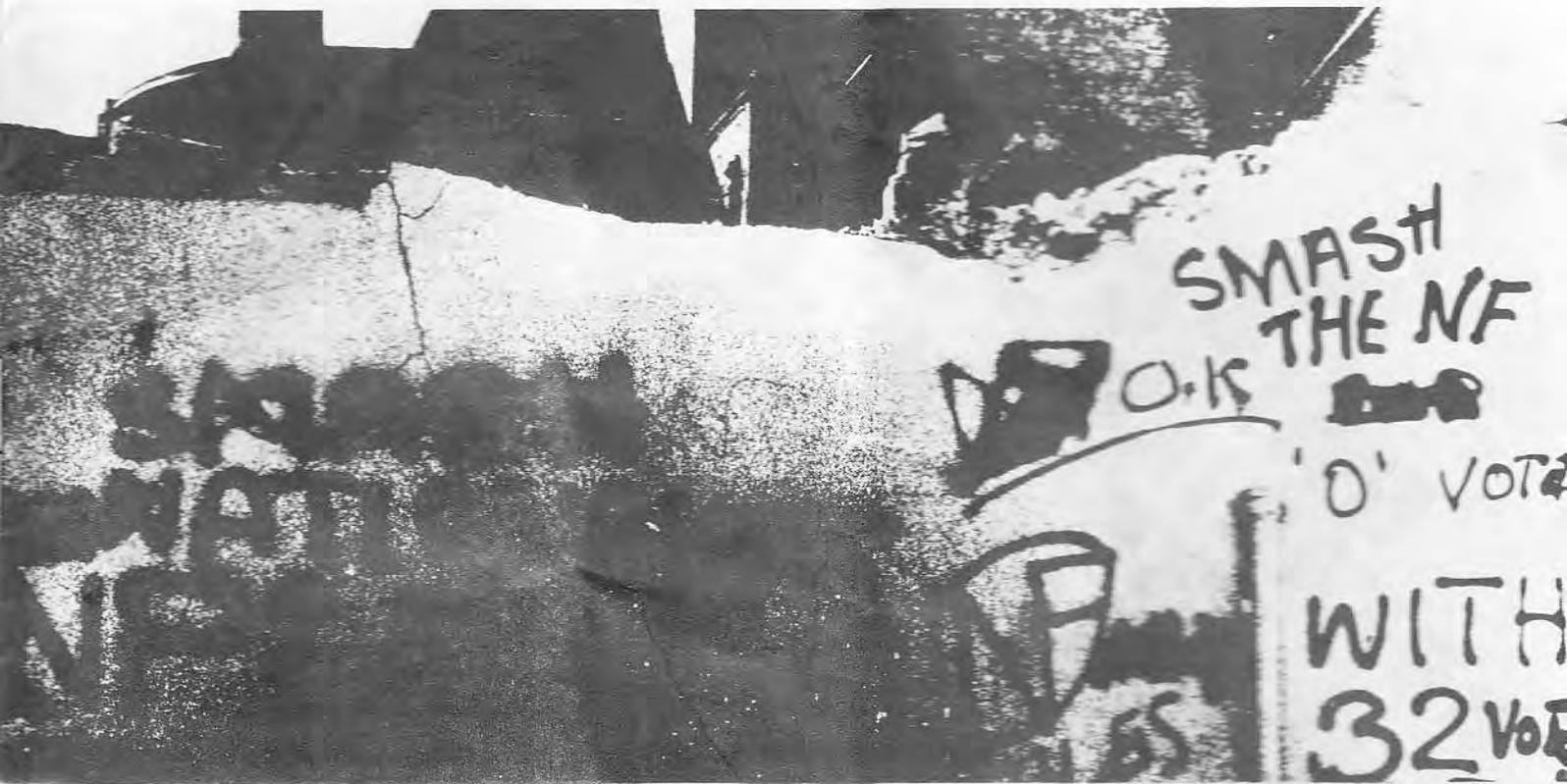
We also need a magazine that looks at issues which really affect us, like contraception, abortion, sexuality, periods, violence against women, racism, all aspects of women's rights, nuclear power and weapons, opportunities in education and at work.

Shocking Pink is a magazine written for and by young women. We hope it's what you want. Please send us your comments and ideas for the next issue.

Thanks. Hope you enjoy it.

Humourless Manhaters!





Marching Against The NF

Almost every shop window is boarded up. The reason for this is that the National Front are going to be marching through the streets of Southwark and violence is predicted.

Every two minutes or so there are rallies of Police vans heading for the destination of the NF marchers.

At about 11 o'clock I set off with my sister to join a gathering of Anti-Nazi supporters who were assembling a few minutes away from the NF gathering. It is our duty as black women to show some opposition to the march. It was disappointing to see that only a few black people turned up.

Along the way the only noticeable thing was the number of policemen lining the streets. Overhead a helicopter flies, viewing the scene, looking for troublemakers. I have been to various Anti-NF demonstrations and the overhead helicopter is something that is always present.

The opposition had a low turn out, but it was roughly the same for the NF, as we saw a few minutes later.

We were now at the spot where the NF supporters were gathered. The opposition are still waiting a few minutes away for the NF to march by.

Back with the NF, many people who were not standing behind flags and banners looked as though they were NF sympathisers. A woman in dark glasses looking suspicious carries a placard saying "I was mugged by courtesy of David ...". A man shouts in my ear "National Front News!" and another one takes a picture of my Anti-Nazi badge, saying he had never seen one before. I take off my badge, I have no need to wear it, as it is obvious why I am there.

The march gets on the way, but they have fooled the opposition, it is to take a different route, and they are not likely to be interrupted. My intention was to have a long, hard stare at the NF supporters to see what type of people

gave their support. I noticed that young people (some looking no older than 8 or 9) made up the majority of the supporters. This (to me) showed that the NF's campaign in schools is working effectively and that they will go to any lengths to get support. It was ironic though that many of them skinhead boys and girls wore two-tone badges that had groups like The Specials on them.

The marchers began chanting "The National Front is a white man's front" "Immigration No, Repatriation Yes". A few scattered opposers began to shout at them "Nazis" "Scum!" but the police were quick to intervene and to tell them to keep it down.

Along the way the police stop, and cordoned off anyone who was not supporting the march, whilst heavily shielding the NF. It took some time getting through to where the NF had stopped for a brief spell before being dispersed.

It was quite frightening being on the streets with large numbers of angry-looking skinheads roaming around with nothing to do, but the police presence made me feel a bit safer, even though I am not their greatest fan.

Back towards the main street there was a crowd of Anti-NF shouting, but the police had surrounded them and they could go no further.

A group of people went to the bus stop to confront two NF-ers carrying a flag; it was a victory to see them crawling away. The police move in and separate the group; this time, I was not pleased by their presence.

The papers reported on the low support received by the NF, but I think that their support is more widely spread than is realised, and they should never be pushed out of people's minds.

Natalie, Age 18



RAINCOATS BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER



VICKI, INGRID, ANA, GINA.

IN LOVE
*Can't do a thing today.
 Can't see anyway.
 Haven't eaten all day.
 In love is so tough on
 my emotions.*

The Raincoats create their own unique musical imagery. Obviously music affects people in different ways but no matter if the impact is immediate or gradual it is very powerful. It's not the kind of force that's created by deafening guitars and screaming vocalists, more the solidarity of a structure based on a mesh of ideas which weave together to form an inseparable whole. Ana described their approach to songwriting:

'It's like a building. We might start off with a pebble and one of us will bring a grain of sand or a stone and we all work to fit it in.'

VICKI: 'It's an evolving process, that's why it's so slow. We piece it together bit by bit. Each person has written the initial idea for a song, so each song has the identity of different people.'

This openness of style is reflected in their stage presentation or lack of it. They don't put on a 'show' or treat it with the usual respect reserved only for funerals and football matches, as if it were holy ground. It's just a part of life.

GINA: 'We don't have any patter to cover up the gaps.'

It's very flexible, not aiming at perfection, far less predictable. Perfection can be different things at different times according to your mood. Obviously the old nerves creep in sometimes.

ANA: 'The last minute rush can make you feel a bit, sort of... sick.'

They're very lucky though because Shirley, their close friend who works for Rough Trade, would always be there to give them a bowl or some Alka-Seltzer. She has in fact been working closely with the Raincoats for a long time, almost a fifth member of the band. She travels everywhere with them and ensures the smooth running of all their activities. It's really refreshing to see a professional relationship which is never mercenary or exploitative.

They record with Rough Trade and prefer the flexibility of a small non-commercially orientated label where they can keep control and be involved in all aspects of their music, from studio production to choosing when and where they gig.

ANA: 'It's important for us to remain true to ourselves, and we just don't think it would be possible with a big company. I would rather take a part-time job and work this way.'

At the moment politics in music is fashionable so the industry can make money by 'selling socialism'. Of course there is a danger that the current influx of women in 'rock' could work ultimately against women if it is seen purely as a fad.

'Women bands are now being taken seriously, the social structure has changed to allow women more freedom in what they do. Women are now in a position to create what they want to create. Music is like a microcosm, it reflects life.'

This may be true for the women's bands at Rough Trade, but the commercial music industry is another matter. The

ADVENTURES CLOSE TO HOME
*Passion that shouts and red with anger
 I found myself through alleys of mystery
 I went up and down like a demented train.
 Don't take it personal
 I choose my own fate
 I follow love I follow hate.*



AT FIRST, REHEAR
 GAIN CONFIDENCE



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY

D.I.Y.

If you want to form your own band, or learn an instrument, or just get together with other young women your area who are interested in music, then look out for the next issue because we'll be compiling a list of girls music workshops throughout the country. There's always someone who'll show you how to play if you want to learn, or you can just go along and have a bash at whatever instrument you choose. We'll also give you information on prices and where to contact people who can help. It's not difficult to make your own music.



business is run and controlled by men who are very sexist, very chauvinist, and treat women in general as good for a fuck and not much else, so why should they suddenly take women's bands seriously, unless they're a good financial proposition.

As for why the Raincoats choose to play in an all women band, they say it's more something they stumbled on almost (not quite) by accident. The original line-up included two men, but when they were replaced by Palmolive in '78 they found they really wanted to explore the possibilities of creating something new by using only women. In the past music has been totally male dominated and any creative inclination shown by a woman was certainly frowned upon and probably stifled.

'Women's music is different from men's, maybe because as women we have gone through similar experiences and find it easier to relate to each other. Every structure is valid, all male, mixed, all female, but we wanted to find what would come out of this, it was something new and exciting for us'

GINA and Ana were at art college together, Vicki joined after seeing their ad in a shop, and they met Ingrid, who's only been with them a few months, in the smoky depths of the Electric Ballroom. Palmolive, their previous drummer, left to grow in other non-musical directions. They all stress that the most important thing is to find something you're happy doing and be involved.

INGRID: 'You should find the thing that you want to do, not necessarily the obvious artistic type things, but the job you like doing, something you're interested in.'

ANA: 'And put your own personal energy into everything you do, whatever it is.'

For them being in a band is a means of self-expression.

GINA: 'Some people view it as a job or career, they want to sign to a big record company, want to have a nice car, nice flat. It's just something we do, we don't really make much money at it.'

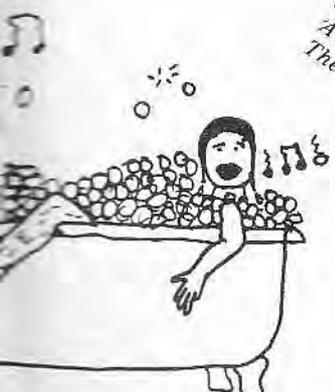
ANA: 'You learn a lot from each other, you think aloud as well which is different to thinking on your own. If you're thinking aloud you sometimes find that more ideas come, even if you're doing most of the talking, just the fact that you're actually talking about it makes you more clear. The other person responds and you can develop things.'

GINA: 'There's an awful lot of feedback and over a period of time you begin to build up some sort of understanding. We've been playing for over two years and we've had a lot of ups and downs but I feel now it's been really, really good for me.'

ANA: 'I think I've developed much more in myself, as a person with the band, than I would have done if I was on my own, but there's always the bit that's you and not the others. Everybody is so different it's like your fingerprint.'

ILONA

OFF DUTY TRIP
*Just a couple in the park
 pounding out those games in the dar-
 Those who walk past her screams
 are only reminded of love's young dreams
 A scuffle in his arms can only prove
 The strength of his charms.*



IN THE BATH TO

MAKE YOUR OWN ROW

MUSIC IS FOR EVERYONE

MUSIC

This letter was written by Ann Marie, a 15 year old woman from Belfast. Since writing this to us Ann Marie was shot in the head by a British Soldier's plastic bullet, while fighting a bonfire in her back yard on the night of the Internment Anniversary. On her way to hospital the van Ann Marie was travelling in was shot at again several times.

She went into a coma and doctors rated her chances of walking and talking again as nil. But true to spirit Ann Marie is fighting back and is beginning to learn to walk and talk again.

Letter from Belfast

'Today while we are sitting comfortably with our doors closed to the rest of the world, spare a thought for the women and men lying in the British hell holes run by the British government to protect British Interests.

Women in Armagh have not changed any of their clothes or washed for five months now. They have been convicted by a non-jury Diplock court.

Why are the British Government sending their troops over to Ireland? What is the reason why Ireland and the Irish people cannot live in peace with each other without Britain?

Young women and men are lying in cells 23 hours a day. They are not allowed their right to have political status by British troops in Irish jails run by the British Government. They have no personal belongings because the troops have taken them away.

Women about 18 years of age are going through hell in Ireland, their own country, because of these British Troops. They are protesting now but we, the people of Ireland are not doing anything for these women and we are on the outside and they are in the jail. They are doing more than us and they are locked in jail. You would think that the people of the world were locked in their homes 24 hours a day.

So please don't sit behind the closed doors, come out on the streets to prove to these women and men you do care about what happens to them and also our country.'



For over 400 years Britain has had what is called an 'Irish Problem'. It has been the downfall of British Prime Ministers, cost the lives of thousands of people and has become an International embarrassment to the British, especially in the case of the political prisoners in H Block and Armagh.

But what is this 'Irish Problem'?
Answer: It is none other than Britain and its Army of occupation that is Ireland's problem.

The Irish are fighting their war for independence from the British, which is why they see their acts as political and not criminal.



THE DEMANDS OF THE WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ARMAGH JAIL ARE:

1. The right not to do prison work.
 2. The right to free association with each other.
 3. One visit and one parcel every week.
 4. Recreational and Educational facilities.
 5. The right to proper medical care.
- The men in H Block add one more demand:
That their protest for political status should not hinder their right to have their sentences reduced for good behaviour.

INTERMENT: The re-introduction of British Troops to Ireland with special powers, including imprisonment without trial.

DIPLOCK COURTS: These courts have no jury. Unlike in England, where you are presumed to be innocent until proved guilty by the court, in the Diplock Courts you are guilty until you have proved your innocence. Forced confessions can be used, with no other evidence having to be provided.

smile
there,
her at
and
and
gets
boy
you're
but
bet!
goes
to the
ants!

THE DISCO DAZZLER

THE WAY SHE BEHAVES WITH BOYS

They just flock round, provided she's not too outrageous or extreme, which might frighten them off. You can get the haughty, stuck-up dazzlers — these ones can sometimes have difficulty getting a boy, 'cos the poor blokes are frightened of being laughed at. But Miss Average Dazzler is the one all the boys are after. She's always smiling, she looks gorgeous and has obviously made an effort. So doesn't she deserve her pick of the boys? Dazzler's not frightened of boys. When she's dancing, if he asks a question and she can't hear, she'll lean forward and get closer.

She tries to be friendly and outgoing, smiles when asked to dance, and she joins people's company. She'll

MAKE-UP: Face made for disco

HAIR: Different style, usual

She's smiling. She's enjoying herself!

CLOTHES: The boob-tube and pants are bright and look good, definitely not drab.



FROM JACKIE MAG.

GRAB YOURSELF A HUNK

The aim of every young girl aged between eight and twenty is to grab themselves a guy. Why is this? The answer is simple: they are told that this is how the normal, average young lady behaves. Unfortunately, no one has yet told them that there is no such thing as a normal young lady.

The first signs of the Miss Average syndrome begin when the girl in question starts to spend several hours at a time in front of the mirror, combing her hair and trying to catch her image out by jerking erratically and clicking her fingers at odd moments to the music on her radio. Then the usual symptoms follow — the avid collection of certain magazines which shall remain nameless, a nervous giggling when any one of the male sex over twelve is present. This syndrome

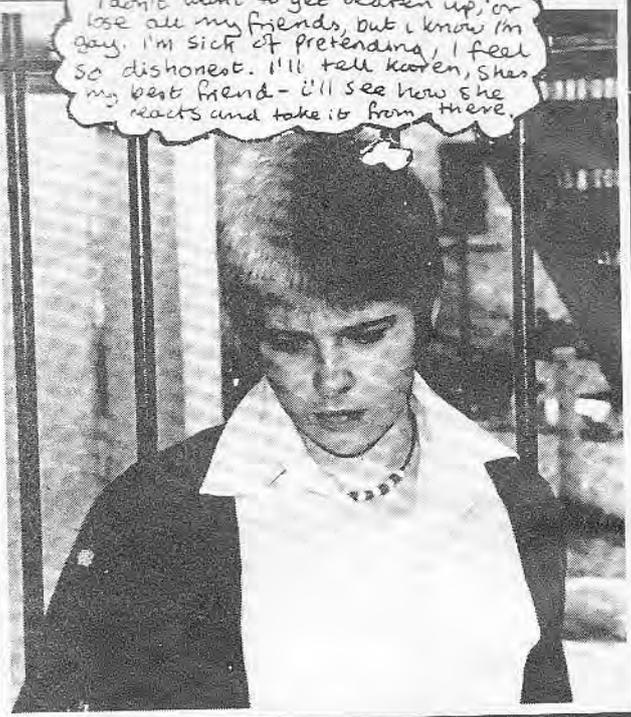
progresses to a nervous fever until the girl may spend up to two hours in front of the mirror every day, making herself up to go out to the shops.

Soon after the girl decides that she must find a hang out where she can meet boys, as suggested by one of her favourite nameless magazines, she picks on the disco. The disco is the most active abomination since the mafia controlled speakeasys. They are generally run by 'do-gooders' of the local community who hire themselves a D.J., advertise in the local paper and make themselves a tidy profit, better than any church bazaar, for the new village hall by charging a 'small' entrance fee. For this small fee, the girl enters the disco to the sound of pulsating music and gyrating multi-coloured lights. In her disco dazzling

boob-tube the girl joins the crowd of boogieing adolescents already grinding their hips and shaking as much or as little as possible. Anyone standing around the room not dancing is referred to as a 'wall flower'. The 'wall flowers' spend their time hoping that they will not have to make fools of themselves. But don't think for a moment that these girls do not want a boy of their very own. They need to prove themselves as much as their friends.

This nervous fever is due to the lack of interesting light reading available to this group. The only magazines which do fill this gap in the market are written by adults. Is this why teenagers are forced to react to boys in this way?

What am I going to do? I don't want to get beaten up, or lose all my friends, but I know I'm gay. I'm sick of pretending, I feel so dishonest. I'll tell Karen, she's my best friend - I'll see how she reacts and take it from there.



So, the next day...

Are you sure Mitch? Maybe it's just a phase you're going through?

Course I'm sure. I want to come out at school, but I'm not sure how to go about it.



Some of the boys decided to show everyone...

You lezzie! you make me sick!

Huh! All my so-called friends are ignoring me now. I spose they're scared, in-cuse they get called "dent" too.

It soon went all round the school. At first no-one seemed to care, but after a while.....



I think I'm a lesbian too, Mitch. It's been a lot of help knowing I can talk to you. I'm really glad you had the courage to come out.



Oh no! Not another one....

Well - P I wonder how I'd feel 100 times better if I'd stayed in and guilty and ashamed myself.



So, after a couple of days...



no... I know! I'll get my right ear pierced! Everyone at school seems to think that means you're gay.



ugh! look at her ear! oy, mitchell, are you bent?

I'm a lesbian, yes, if that's what you mean.



though they were...

feeling a bit "queer" today mitch?



What are you trying to prove, Steve? What a big boy you are? trying to impress the other girls? forget it! they think you're pathetic - and no wonder!

Mitchell was right. gradually, people began to talk to her again, and she even had some nice surprises.....



while if I'd thought things out more and I'd...



I know I'm going to come up against a lot of ignorance and prejudice, but I'm glad I came out, and I'm glad I'm a lesbian - for the first time in ages I feel really happy.

Not the end....

EENIE MEENIE MINEY MO CATCH A. . . .

I was asked to write something about racism in schools – I thought this would be quite hard to do as racism is not just ‘racism in schools’. Its not that simple. The best place I decided to begin was at Junior school.

At Junior school, racism was not prominent to me. This was probably because I was so young and not aware of being black and what it meant. Racism mainly occurred in the form of school literature – things like little black children called “Sambo” and images that took the form of black people called “Gollywog”. Things for me at that age were pretty clouded because I enjoyed school, and at the age of eight, black and white children were less struck by colour differences. While writing this, something I remember of Junior school feels quite painful now and as I remember it did then. It was when a teacher had to pick a team and started chanting “eny, meany, miney, moe, catch a nigger by his toe, if he screams then let him go, eny meany, miney, moe.” I looked at him in disgust and vowed never to speak to him again, and I didn’t much either.

Well anyway, of course you begin to age, and you can’t get your enlarged bodies into Wendy houses any more. So the educational system decides to move you to a larger Wendy house in the form of domestic science rooms. But unknown to us happy tomboyish girls, your whole world which revolved around playing football, marbles and penny-up-the-wall, with the boys, stops! You can’t be a pilot anymore, because you’re ‘black’ and a ‘woman’. The labelling process begins. You’re streamed into ‘O’ levels or CSE’s or whether you’re allowed to do woodwork and metalwork, or cookery and needlework. The steady build up of the educational system reinforcing the status-quo! and the role in society ‘they’ want you to perform.

Its a fact that while black girls visit the career officers to decide what subjects to pursue, we are persuaded (shoved) into domestic science and social science CSE’s! (Is this a conspiracy of adult society to have more black tea ladies and low paid typists, and are encouraged to continue with athletics,

winning on ‘behalf’ of the schools – where does the winners cup go?).

Then the girls go home after five years (well at weekends as well) and parents ask, “Why didn’t you do this, why didn’t you do that – you had the same opportunities as the rest?” bla, bla, bla, “You’ll have to go to college then!”

Parents sometimes fail to realise that at school we’re being continually patronised about our attitudes attitudes, the way we speak and our lack of progress. (Yes! young women we’re to blame for the position we’re got ourselves into – it sounds like pre and post Conservative manifesto material).

Teachers often, if not always, fail themselves to see the educational system, even society in its true light. For instance, 1) our attitude – don’t we come from different cultures? Attitudes are different. Have teachers or the educational structures ever stopped to look at our culture and realise that we’re fed up with 400 years of domination and oppression from the ‘ruling class’ values and culture. Why should we become uniform in attitude – well I mean they put us in uniform dress – but that’s not enough, they also also want us to have uniform attitudes. 2) Our language – yes! it would be nice to speak and write the Queen’s english, wouldn’t it? Just because a teacher fails to understand what we are saying, that makes us ignorant, rude, etc., etc., etc. But when we are being thrown into domestic science, its hard to speak Queen’s english to cakes and pies – even typewriters don’t respond well. Or when in class you’re asked to read, and you read with your West Indian, African or Asian accent, reading rubbish about the ‘white civilising the blacks’, rather than ‘white capitalists infesting the colonies to rob them of their wealth and exploit cheap labour’.

If we react against this demoralisation, we’re put in disruptive units. There are classrooms which do not facilitate pupils with any education and are labelled ESN (Educationally Sub-normal). Also we’re left in there for very long periods.

Who the Hell wants more education in the form of college, but anyway, then we leave with no ‘real’

qualifications, negative self-images, and like me with identity complexes. I went to a secondary school which was all girls, only about 3% of which were black. Some of my friends were brainwashed into thinking that everything is equal for the 'good black student'. So after leaving school qualified, all they got from employers was "you're very highly qualified" (for a black woman they mean). Then the final stab in the back cliché, "have you any experience?"

Then if you get a job, its probably second best. If you were like me, a 'bad student', then the next step was the dole office - since there are so many black women on the dole queue of all ages.

That's just as bad, as you have to be trodden on, chewed up and spat out before we get our £16.35 a week. This ultimately numbs your ambitions, self-expectations and self-recognition.

This society has a knack (conspiracy) to provide useless diversions - its alot easier to go and play with the space-invaders than to read 'real' books about black women. We are not so much dropped as

kicked into societal traps. Lots of black girls get pregnant, not so much because of a lack of knowledge about contraception I think, but because of a lack of trust of necessary agencies. Or it might provide their 'independence' from parents, as they can get their own flats - What about bills however! 2 am feedings? Continual shit to clean. And obligation? Black men as well as black women get picked up on the police rules called 'SUS', where the innocent are guilty and the guilty doubly guilty.

We fight at school for equal education and non-sexist education. We fight at work against discrimination of sex, wages and race. We fight in the dole offices for our share of nothing. I'm fed up of us black women propping up our black men, to help them prop up this society, while continually getting kicked in the face. My patience is running out and so is this society's time.

A young black woman South London

SCHOOL

'YUK'
'NASTY TEACHERS'
'HORRIBLE'
'BORING'

Yes, All True But Look....
A FEMINIST FREE SCHOOL

Your life between the ages of 5 and 16 doesn't have to be miserable, boring and competitive. Schools don't have to be a place where you go to be told how to behave, what to think, what to do, where to go, when to go there, what to wear and so on.

Perhaps you thought your brain was a two way communication channel and that it could do more than listen attentively and spew back information on demand. Perhaps you wanted to form your own ideas, or at least have the chance.

As in all aspects of life, at school boys get a much better deal than girls. Not only do they have more choices, and opportunities, but they are encouraged to achieve more, expected to do well, and serious questions are asked when things 'go wrong'. After all he'll have a wife and

children to support one day. He has responsibility, he's important, a part of the fabric of society. Where as a girl is really quite incidental and unimportant. It's important that she should learn her place, be polite, conduct and present herself in a proper manner, always smile etc. Girls may be allowed (by whom? why has it taken so long?) to do woodwork, but its not taken seriously and certainly not considered as a career. Having feminist workers and a single-sex environment, the Free School would encourage young women to do, or be what they want, and take away the very real stereotype sex-role pressures that are put on them at ordinary schools. The Free School believe that it is vital for girls to have a space of their own, and understand what it is to be a woman in our society.

The emphasis will be on experience, rather than theory. You would be able to learn practical skills like plumbing, carpentry,

building and shoe making, and go out into jobs with women who already work in these fields. There would be no teacher/pupil/power relationships. If you are interested in something you will be encouraged and helped to pursue that interest. The aim is to create an atmosphere of co-operation not competition, somewhere to learn and share experience (or inexperience).

As regards external exams, although on principle the Free School are against all forms of grading or assessing, they do realise that there are reasons why you might need 'O' or 'A' levels, and would provide the facilities for who ever wished to sit them.

At the moment they have regular meetings and are looking for a building. If you are interested in the idea and would like to know more, then contact Cloud, through A Woman's Place, 48 William IV St, London W11 01 836 6081

LLONA

MENARCHE

Before I started my periods, I was worried, although everything had been explained to me, and I had read books on it. I imagined walking down the High Street and a gush of blood coming through my knickers, even though I had been told it wouldn't happen like that. I also went through a stage of feeling very noticeable, as if people looked at me and thought she hasn't started yet.

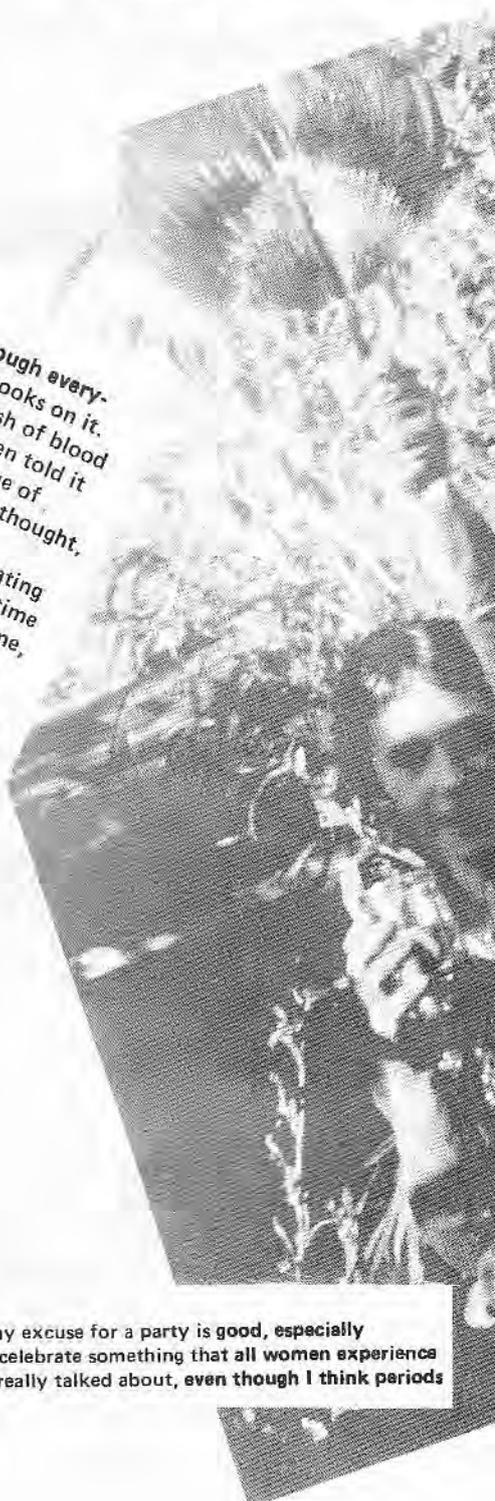
A first period should be a time of celebration: celebrating a step into womanhood. But for a lot of women this is a time of worry and anxiety. Women often feel unclean at this time, and so unlovable.

When I first heard about having a Menarche Party for me starting my periods, it frightened me, mainly because I wasn't sure what it would be like, and if I had to do anything special. I was to have a joint party, with one of my friends.

The day of the party was fine and sunny. It seemed to greet me with a sureness, which I might tell you, I certainly did not feel. When I woke up I felt pangs of nervousness, and shyness. But this I had to get over. My friend and her mother arrived just after two. We then opened our presents, which must all be red, significantly. I was given several presents: a red pencil case, a red choker with a lady-bird pendant on it, and a red photo-album, to put the pictures of the day into, plus a pair of washing-up gloves — a symbol of my step into womanhood!

When we had opened our presents, we began to prepare a barbecue, which we ate in the garden. Everyone who came was female, and in so being, could join in with full emotion and understanding. When the barbecue was finished, we sang songs, mainly feminist, some of which were written by my sister and friend.

When the party was over, I felt relief, but I also felt a new joy and warmth, because I shared a special time in my life with people I enjoyed being with. I will encourage my own daughters to have a menarche party, because although I am moody sometimes, and get pains in my vagina and a backache I now feel 'normal' when my period comes. I no longer worry about my periods or let it rule my life in any way. I've kept all my presents I had for this celebration and will keep them forever. All except the washing up gloves — "coz they are all worn out".



I think any excuse for a party is good, especially when it's to celebrate something that all women experience but is never really talked about, even though I think periods are a drag.

MENARCHE IN THE UK!

HE

READ -

'I thought the idea of having a menarche party was good because it's not the pain or inconvenience that is so difficult at first, its the fact that periods are socially un-acceptable to talk about or to show any signs of the fact that you are having one.'

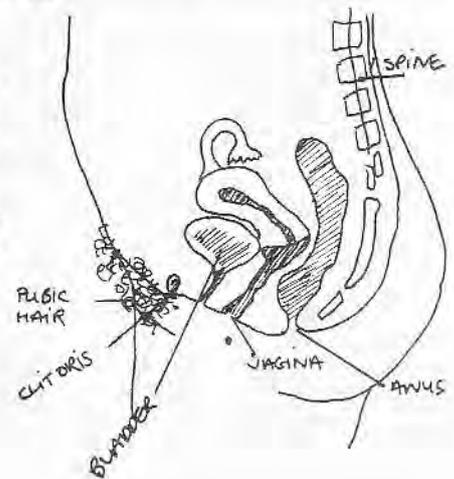
In some families periods are kept so secret that some young women don't know what is happening to them when they start their first period...'I didn't know what was happening the first time, I thought I was dying when I saw the blood.'



Allegations have been flying about that Tampax put synthetic fibres in their tampons to make you bleed more and therefore use more tampons. Nothing has been proved but several women have written to Tampax and haven't been able to get a straight answer. Surely a company that makes a product that we put inside our bodies should tell us whats in it.

Why should tampons companies that are run by men have a 32 Million pound business in Britain and make huge profits from women's periods? An alternative to manufactured tampons that some women use is the small natural make-up sponge. (Not a synthetic one). Choose one with small holes in it because it absorbs better. Tie a piece of Dental Floss around it, dampen it and push it up your vagina. Rinse it out in water when it gets full and at the end of your period soak it in water overnight to make it clean for the next time. A sponge is not always convenience, but used on the lighter days of your period or on days when you are at home it can save you money.

Deodorised Tampons are completely pointless because menstrual blood doesn't smell unless it comes in contact with the air, and are dangerous because they have sharp teeth that could scratch you inside and start an infection.



Cindy

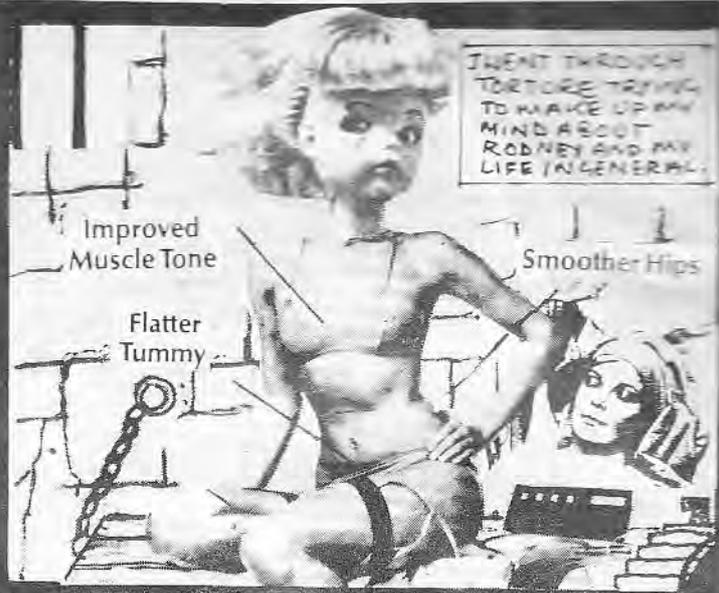
WAS EVERYTHING A YOUNG WOMAN SHOULD BE. CARE-FREE, BEAUTIFUL ETC... SHE LEAD A LIFE OF LUXURY BUT AFTER A FEW YEARS DOUBTS BEGAN TO CREEP IN.

TALKING OF CREEPS!



CINDY! DARLING! MARRY ME!

I'M SO CONFUSED! HE'S GOT MONEY, LOOKS...

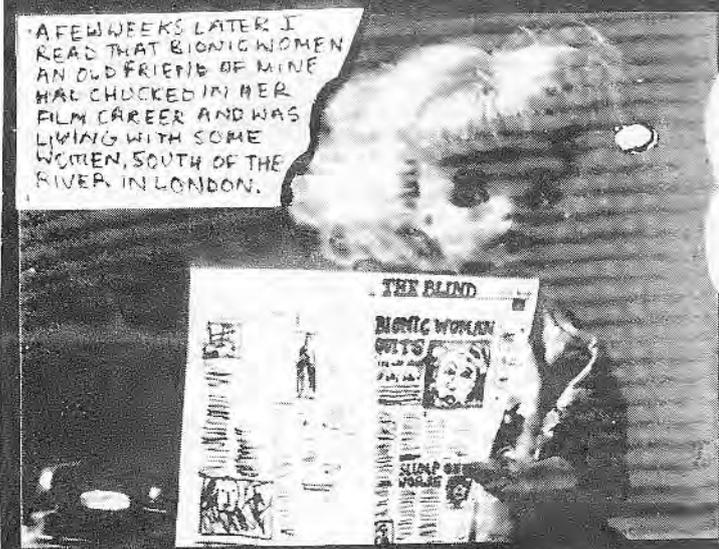


I WENT THROUGH TORTURE TRYING TO MAKE UP MY MIND ABOUT ROBNEY AND MY LIFE IN GENERAL.

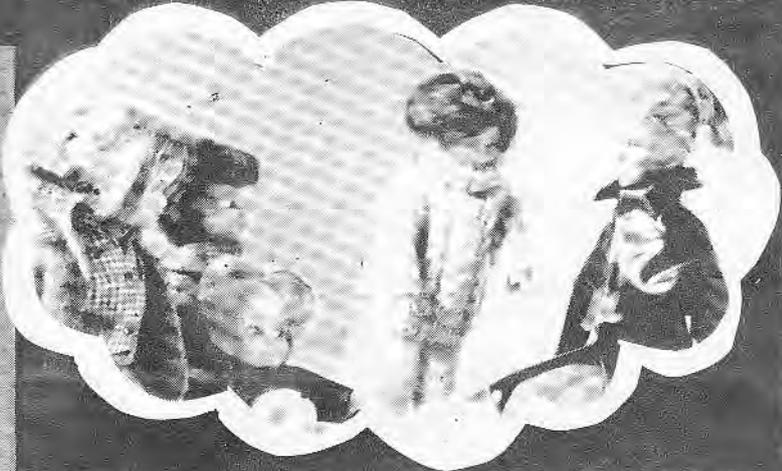
Improved Muscle Tone

Smoother Hips

Flatter Tummy



A FEW WEEKS LATER I READ THAT BIONIC WOMEN AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE HAD CHUCKED IN HER FILM CAREER AND WAS LIVING WITH SOME WOMEN, SOUTH OF THE RIVER, IN LONDON.



AT FIRST I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT, AND THEN AS A NIGGLING JEALOUSY CREEPT IN, I REALISED HOW MUCH I ENVIED HER.



I TRIED TO CARRY ON WITH MY LIFE AS IT HAD BEEN BUT...

my life has no meaning... this is all lies!!



DOES CINDY FIND HER IN TIME?

BUY THE NEXT ISSUE AND SEE!!

I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE! I THREW DOWN MY SADDLE AND STARTED OUT ON MY DESPERATE JOURNEY TO FIND BIONIC WOMEN AND A NEW LIFE!!

Fury over bid to make sex under 16 legal

About a year ago a report by the National Council for One Parent Families came out, calling for the abolition of the Age of Consent laws for heterosexuals. This led to some wild reporting in the press.

You probably know that under these laws it is illegal for a man to have intercourse with a woman if she is under sixteen years of age.

Maybe a few of you are thinking that this law protects young women, for example from rape. In fact there are very few prosecutions under this law and when they do happen they are against young people who have *both* consented.

I talked to some women, all of whom are under sixteen, about what they thought about the laws.

I don't think that it is a good idea. Why?

Everyone should be able to do what they want to.

Have you ever slept with a boy?

No.

Is it the law that's stopped you.

No, I just don't want to do it.

You think it should be lowered to 12.

Why not get rid of it altogether?

If it was any lower people would get forced into it.

Why?

Cause men are men.

Why 12?

Cause you know what you want at that age.

'Why age consent law is out-dated'

I think this is ridiculous and am against the age of consent laws for both heterosexuals and homosexuals, because I believe that all people who give their consent to sex, both young and old should have the right to determine their own sex lives.

At the moment, if a woman under sixteen decides to enter into a sexual relationship, it means she can be placed in care on the grounds that she is in 'moral danger', to herself because of her, wait for it, 'abnormal sexual appetite'.

It is only the man who can be prosecuted, not the woman, as the law says that whether she wanted sex or not is irrelevant. We as women are not taken seriously. When these laws were thought up, our sexual desires were ignored, in fact it was thought that we didn't have any. An example of this is that there is no age of consent for lesbians as Queen Victoria didn't think it was possible for women to have fulfilling sexual relationships together.

A STORM of protest last night greeted a Government - financed report calling for the age of sexual consent, at present 16, to be abolished.

It's stupid, no one takes any notice anyway, if they want to sleep with people they will do it regardless of the law.

Have you slept with a boy?

Yes.

Are you taking any precautions?

No.

Why not?

Cause I don't want to go to the doctor as he'd tell my Mum.

It's alright but people should be allowed to do what they want, they shouldn't get prosecuted.

Do you think that the law would stop you?

Probably, but I don't want to sleep with anyone yet anyway.

If the laws were abolished, would it make any difference?

No, people do it when they want, but I think that when they do they should be able to get contraception.

Sense not sensation

These laws are a result of a society which punishes consenting young people, while turning a blind eye to a lot of cases of rape and violence.

We as young women get the worst of it all round. Some doctors won't give contraception to women under sixteen years, and a lot of young women are frightened to go and obtain contraception, or to tell a doctor they are pregnant in case the doctor tells their parents.

The report was bitterly attacked last night by Mrs Mary Whitehouse.

She said: "The one message children will receive from this report is that sex is okay. This can only lead to greater promiscuity among the young with consequent rises in venereal disease and cervical cancer."

I believe that all women should have the right to abortion on demand, free contraception, and we should be able to get info on these things at any age.

I'm not saying that we should all be having sex before we are sixteen. What I am saying however, is that at the moment the law decides when we should have sex, *not us*; the law says when we should get contraception, *not us*; the law says whether we can have an abortion, *not us*.

We should not have our sexual relationships made illegal and should not be punished for them. We must have the right to determine our own sex lives.

Sex under 16 storm

SCRAP THE 'YOUNG LOVE' LAWS

Posing on the Cheap



Spots, Pimples even acne can be visibly improved in five days. £2.99

With these clothes all your relationships will be happy and radiant. £22.99

With this you will become desirable £5.

I want to get out and do something for myself, get some job satisfaction as well!

Confidence comes with the neatest Ewe!!

Once you have done this and that to your face, which could take 3 hours, you will look as if you don't have to try!

Girls of today are happy go-lucky and can achieve what they want - in these clothes! T-Shirt £5.99

Will you look this good when you're washing his clothes, cooking his meals and having his BABIES!!!!

If you buy this product you will be lovable. If you can't buy it you will not be loved. Shoes £15.00

You are an object to be looked at -- and ultimately taken by a man! Bangles £0p each



KAYE, boots 25p jumble sale
pyjama trousers 5p JMS
top 10p JS
ANGELA, court shoes found at home
white socks 10p charity shop
belt 5p JS
cardigan 50p charity shop
skirt 10p JS
shirt 10p JS



SHEBA, beaded cardigan 50p JS
dress 10p JS
tights 10p JS
old school shoes from stock cupboard.
BECKY, dinner jacket 20p JS
white shirt 10p charity shop
check shirt 20p JS
socks and stockings 10p JS
boots 50p JS



JILL, white skirt jumble sale 9p
jeans 10p JS, taken in
boots £3 secondhand shop

SOPHIE, flashers mac 50p jumble sale
ski trousers 10p JS
granny boots 10p charity shop

The way you dress is an important aspect of your character. Looking good can give personal satisfaction, but don't be manipulated into thinking being 'Fashionable' is important. The 'marvellous' thing about fashion and why it was created by the clothes manufacturers is that it always changes, so do your clothes and their profits increase. Last year a bright spark thought up blue lipstick. Great! The sort of idea that makes millionaires. Nobody would have blue lipstick, so con (women) into thinking they must wear it or they are unfashionable (obscene word) and then sell it at an extortionate price!

Manufacturers don't care what you look like, only that they can sell their products. They do this through a barrage of heavy advertising that persuades you that you'll look stunning. Five months after peasant flounces and frills were beauty incarnate straight skirts are all you should be seen in. In other words you should be wearing what they make, not what suits you.

Everything on this page is from Jumble Sales, Charity shops and found rummaging around at home in drawers. They just picked clothes that appealed to them, so there is no reason why you should want to wear the same things, I just hope they illustrate how little you need to spend.

? QUIZ ?

Have you ever thought of what you would do if you should come across a certain situation? This quiz is designed to find out what your reactions would be. You don't have to take any notice of the conclusions, but maybe think why you think you would react in this way.



1. You are walking along the street with a boy when he is attacked by another two boys. Would you:
 - (a) Scream for help
 - (b) Faint from shock
 - (c) Jump in and help him to defend himself
 - (d) Stand aside and watch, you like to see a good fight anytime
2. It is late at night and you are waiting at the bus stop alone when a few boys start to chat you up. Would you:
 - (a) Talk to them half heartedly and then jump on the next bus that comes along, even if it isn't the one you wanted
 - (b) Tell them that you have no wish to hold a conversation
 - (c) Talk back to them, thinking this is your big chance
 - (d) Smile at them shyly
3. You are wandering lost in the middle of the countryside when you come across a lonely looking cottage. Would you:
 - (a) Walk past, you are too frightened to try to get help
 - (b) Stand far off and shout to see if anyone is at home
 - (c) Walk up to it but first check that everything is alright before you make any noise
 - (d) Boldly walk up to it and bang heavily on the door
4. The headmaster at your school has told you that you cannot do metal work and should do home economics instead. Would you:
 - (a) Plead with him and hope he will change his mind
 - (b) Make something of it by getting other girls to join you and force him to change his mind
 - (c) Listen to him - after all you will get practice for when you cook your future husband's dinner
 - (d) Threaten him with court action

5. You are hitch-hiking with a friend when a car stops to give you a lift. You don't like the look of the two men in the car. Do you:
 - (a) Accept, but strike up a conversation about the black belt you have in karate and how you have just taken up judo ...
 - (b) Find out where they are going first and then say that you are heading in a totally different direction
 - (c) Accept the lift, you can always defend yourself should you need to
 - (d) Say that you don't accept lifts from men
6. You turn up at the new local disco wearing trousers, but you are told that girls are not allowed in wearing trousers. Do you:
 - (a) Hang around hoping that they will make special allowance for you
 - (b) Go away and come back posing as a boy - you will do anything to get into this disco
 - (c) Run home and change
 - (d) Tell them what you think of their rule



7. You are asked what you think of John Travolta. Do you say:
 - (a) He should take dancing lessons from the Muppets
 - (b) He is handsome, beautiful, goodlooking, pretty ...
 - (c) He is the best dancer since Fred Astaire
 - (d) You never think of him

Mostly ...
A's Usually you listen to other people, but you can sometimes surprise yourself by being quite firm.
B's John Travolta will get you nowhere! Try and stand up more for what you want.
C's You seem quite brave - when one of us gets famous you can be our bodyguard.
D's You appear to like a good laugh most of the time, but can be more serious when you need to be.
E's You don't take it too seriously at all.



How to form a Young Womens Group

IN SCHOOL

This is quite difficult, because it is likely that you don't have the right to meet without a teacher present or to advertise meetings. (It would be worth fighting on this issue through an NUSS group as well). Find out if the 6th form have a women's group; at least they have space of their own to meet in. Contact a feminist or otherwise sympathetic teacher and ask her to arrange a meeting place for a discussion group during the lunch break or after school. She may have to be present at your first meetings but point out firmly to her that you require her support and advice, but not her domination of the group. Advertising of meetings may at first have to be done by word of mouth. Besides telling your friends, ask the teacher to pass the word on to any interested women in her class.

Ideas for starting discussion could be the right to wear trousers in school, the proportion of girls/boys on some courses, the sexism of teachers/textbooks or syllabuses, the quality of sex instruction given to school (do you get contraceptive advice?). You could invite speakers, show films, play tapes; you'll probably need a teacher to do the official booking for you until you establish the right to do these things yourselves. (One good film to show would be "Taught to be Girls!", contact Marie Peacock, 168 Keir Hardie House, Hornsey Lane Estate, London N19)

LOCAL AREA

Contact the women's centre for a place to meet and for names of other interested young women in the area. There may be a youth club nearby with a girls only night, or with young women who

would be interested in meeting. If women's centres of youth clubs don't work as venues, what about tenants' association/community/neighbourhood centres who have free or cheap meeting rooms?

Possible starting points for discussion could be the lack of leisure facilities for young women in the area, the difficulty of getting useful information on health/sexuality/employment. Advertise in local shops and papers and remember you can always advertise in the magazine, and it's free. GOOD LUCK. PLEASE INFORM US ON HOW YOU GET ON, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD, AND WRITE UP YOUR EXPERIENCES FOR AN ARTICLE IN THE MAGAZINE.

USEFUL CONTACTS

National Abortion Campaign, 374 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1 (01 278 0153)
OWAAD. (Young African and Asian Women's Groups) 10 Cambridge Terrace Mews, London N1.
AWAZ. Asian Womens Movement, c/o 13, Nicol Rd, London NW10
Brook Advisory Centres. Contraception and Pregnancy Advice. Local Clinics 01 580 2991
Lesbian Link (phone counselling and information) 01- 837 8602
Lesbian Link (phone counselling and information) 061-236 6205
Rock Against Sexism c/o Room 265, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1
Anti Nuclear Campaign 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1.

National Union of School Students, c/o National Union of Students, 3 Endsleigh St, London WC1H 0DU (01-387 1277)

ALL IDEAS AND ARTICLES
SEND TO: SHOCKING PINK
40 4, ESSEX ROAD.
LONDON W3.

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RAPE

Rape Crisis Centres
Birmingham 24 hour line — B'ham 233 2122; office no. B'ham 233 2655
Dublin 8pm — 8 am nightly — Dublin 601 470
Edinburgh Wed, Thurs, Fri, 6-10pm — Edin. 5569437
Glasgow Mon, Wed, Fri 7-10pm — Glas 331 2811
Leeds Wed 7-9pm, Sun 2-8pm — Leeds 40058
Liverpool Fri 6-8pm — L'pool 709 1938
London 24 hour line — London 340 6145; office no. London 340 6913
Manchester Tues 2-5pm; Thurs 7-9pm; Sat 2-5pm — Manchester 228 3602
Newcastle 10am-10pm Mon — Fri, 6.30-10pm weekends — Newcastle 29858
Nottingham Mon-Fri 11am-5pm — Nott 410440
Sheffield write to PO Box 34, Sheffield 1 for number
South Wales Wed 8-10pm, Sun 4-7pm — Cardiff 374 051

♥ Thanks from us to: A Woman's Place, Woman's Arts Alliance, The Cockpit gallery, Jo Spence, Susan Hemmings, Lucy Whitman, Bet Lynch, Val Carpenter, Liz, Lorie Epstein, and all the women who have given us support.

☀ Fuck off from us to: the family-loving members of the Telacre Social Club, top Brass at Jackie, Interaction, the curly-haired cleaner at the Cockpit.....

Sympathy to Bethan - we did it our way.
thanks to pencil graphics.

we spit on them.