Shocking Pink

Issue 10!

Inside
Amazing star interview with Storme Webber
Lots about periods
Are you an alien? Try our fun-packed quiz
Make-up tips

Plus: how to keep your houseplant interested, what the Queen keeps in her handbag, veganism for beginners.

free
Why not subscribe to Shocking Pink? That way you’ll be sure to get it, and quickly to boot - or buy a gift sub for a friend, it’s the perfect present...

Send a cheque or P.O. or International Money Order to:
Shocking Pink, 136 Mayall Road, London SE24 0PH.

Britain. Tel: 071 274 3150.

Donations accepted!
It costs: £3.50 Scotland, Wales, England & N. Ireland), £7 institutions, £5 S. Ireland, Europe
£7 USA, Canada, India, Africa, Australia, etc.

for 4 issues!

Dear Friend,
As you may have heard, York Lesbian Line is currently having problems over a display which we mounted in a public exhibition, parts of which are alleged to have contravened "Section 28". We write to ask for your support in our continuing dispute over this allegation.

The Line was invited by the organisers of the International Women's Week celebrations in York to mount a display in York Public Library. This display was part of a larger exhibition publicising the activities of women's groups & organisations in the area. Our display consisted of pictures, photos and written material—the Lesbian Custody Charter, a Pink Paper article on coming out, and part of a New Internationalist feature on homosexuality. It was removed on the grounds that, in the opinion of the County Solicitor, display of these items in the library was a contradiction of the Local Government Act 1888.

Line members have held meetings with the Chief Librarian to discuss the matter, but, despite our solicitor's written opinion that the material in question did not contravene the section, the Librarian stands by the original decision.

We are not willing to let the matter rest and are continuing our campaign to have this decision reversed. As there has been no case brought before the Courts under the Section, and therefore no legal precedent has been set, our next step will be to gather information about similar displays which have been shown in other parts of the country and which have not fallen foul of the Section; we hope in this way to gather enough evidence to convince our local authority that material of this nature may legally be displayed.

Please send us details of any such display or event that you know of in your (or any other) area. Even the smallest piece of information you can supply will help us build a convincing case against what we feel was a gross over-reaction by the County Solicitor and an effective act of discrimination against our organisation and ourselves as Lesbians.

Donations, payable to York Women's Phoonlye, gratefully received. Thankyou for your support, we hope to be hearing from you soon.

with best wishes,

from York Lesbian Line Collective.

Here's the new edition of wonderful Shocking Pink T-shirts—bargain price of £6!!! Very beautiful & the ideal xmas present for any grandma. Sorry you can't really see them—they're a bit hard to draw small. They are: 1. SP patterns, pics, writing, with a squiggly border, 2. collection of fab SP covers & drawings, 3. 'Coming Out' cartoon of something escaping from a box.

PS8Colours: black print on: bright pink, white, turquoise, mid-blue, dark green, burgundy, grey. Sizes: M, L, XL. We've run out of some, so please give about 3 options. Coming Out in white & grey only. So give us the money!! If you get one & decide it's horrible or just doesn't do a thing for your complexion, send it back & we'll refund you.

TAPES of SP now available for women with sight disabilities—exciting or wor? Just send same money as for printed version & state which issue you'd like to start with (available from issue 9).
Hello dear readers!

Welcome to fun-packed issue 10 of SP! Isn't it amazing?? Issue 10! Well we're amazed. It's our birthday - 3 years since the 1st Shocking Pink 2. Where's the pressees then? especially for poor suffering Shockers now doing their A levels & too dedicated to SP to stop & get proper grades. Hope you like it! Write us a letter then! Bye!!!

PS In case you don't know yet, Shocking Pink is a magazine for & by young women dedicated to the overthrow of society as we know it, since we've decided it's not good enough. Please send us cartoons, photostories, articles, newspaper cuttings, money, postcards, household tips, sandwiches, loveletters, your best tapes, sweets money, dental dams, new underwear not used please, money, carpet, holiday snaps, holidays, & anything else you think we might need.

READ MY LIPS

from Joy Division in the usa - people of colour organising on AIDS issues
Dear S.P.

Perhaps if you gave a little less space to private jokes (what's all this sensible shoes business?) (but that's the only one that wasn't an in-joke ed.) and more space to rude jokes you could steal some readers from that nasty little rag "Visi".

Us up here in Liverpool wish you to come and flirt with you all in your office way down there in London, actually we will if you give us the butteries and a free snug for the rap carried away there. Anyway here's a rude joke. I'm blushing now so I can't tell it. Hope you haven't paid your poll tax.

Love Karen Grant
Brookside Close
Liverdulph.

P.S. Print this and I'll stop doing a moony voice on Brookside.

DRESSING DOWN
Why, when there are so many delightful, feminine and stylish clothes for the young - I've just been looking at your fashion pages - do so many of our charming young people go about looking like tramps? There are many expensive boarding schools around where I live. Presumably the girls there aren't short of money - yet we see them in the streets wearing drab, black or green usually too long for them, and 'drageu' skirts and clumpy shoes: an off-duty image that sometimes doesn't even look clean. Come on, young ladies, get a bit of colour into your lives and BLOOM!

ES, Malem
I went for my first check-up smear a few months ago, just to be sure. It didn't hurt at all and the only really uncomfortable thing was lying on my back with my legs wide apart with a doctor having a good look! but no, this is what everyone thinks of and is scared of, but honestly it really isn't that bad. The doctor and the assisting nurse tried to make the situation as least embarrassing or upsetting as possible, being trained specially to be considerate. The speculum (what they put into the vagina so that they can see inside and take the actual smear) was a bit uncomfortable but not too much cos it was plastic and not a cold metal one, which aren't used that much nowadays. (I think your best chance of not getting a metal one is to go to a special S.T.D. clinic or a Well-womans clinic instead of your local G.P. That's also probably better if you don't like your doctor or you want some kind of anonymity). Anyway, I went home and felt quite pleased with myself for going eventually!

I forgot about it until six weeks later, when I got the results. It was such a shock—I had had an abnormal smear result. I had not expected it at all because I'm a young lesbian and have never slept with boys. I think there is probably very inaccurate information about lesbians and their risk-category (concerning sex-related conditions) because so many don't come out at the clinics mainly because the staff just take it for granted that you're straight, and then of course fear of being treated differently-badly. I hadn't told them until I had to go back after the irregular smear and then the doctor—a man, really apologised and said that they hadn't been getting complaints from lesbians! That was nice also cos it showed that I wasn't the only lesbian which had been diagnosed. Anyway, so I went for a colposcopy which is basically a more in-depth look at your cervix, with another smear.

The doctor explained to me that to have an "abnormal" smear is actually quite common (one quarter of all smears) and not worth worrying about because it just means that the smear didn't give a satisfactory answer. Only 3% or less show obvious dysplasia—that is, development of abnormal cells. Some women who have had irregular smears and dysplasia diagnosed choose not to have any treatment like radiotherapy (lasers) or chemotherapy (drug treatment) and go for homeopathy instead, because this unnatural treatment can sometimes be seen as over the top, especially because irregular cells can go back to normal. It takes years to develop into definite cancer, if it does.

Cervical cancer is totally preventable, yet 2000 women die from it every year. Nine out of every ten have never had the smear which could have saved their lives.

It's free and easy so go for it!

Anyway the NHS wouldn't be able to afford it if every woman went for the regular smears that she is entitled to. So actually they don't want women to go—that's why women aren't given enough information on it. So you should go and take advantage of your rights!

I've just found a bit about a wonderful American band called the Yeastie Girlz in an old issue of Maximum Rocknroll (an American punk / hardcore magazine) — they're all dykes and they describe their music as "vaginacore acapella rap". I don't know if they're still going or not but if they are maybe we'll be able to have an interview with them in the next issue.

The Yeastie Girlz were formed as a result of a conversation about yeast infections at a gig. They started writing songs like 'Yeast Power' and 'Get your hands off my body' with the intention of trying to break down the taboos that surround a lot of things that women are embarrassed about like periods and vaginas and stuff. So when they do gigs they're really into throwing wet tampons at the audience and talking about yeast infections, and at one of their gigs they had a massive fabric vagina as the door - great stuff!!! We hope to be able to bring you more information on them next issue.
**ARE YOU AN ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE?**

Do you ever feel a bit weird? Do you ever lie in bed at night wondering why you've never quite fitted in, and whether you in fact dropped from an asteroid with a secret mission to fulfill that you've somehow forgotten? Do you ever wish that deep-throats hadn't gone out of fashion? Answer the following questions as honestly as you can, note down your answers and the truth will be revealed...

1. **Do you feel you are different from other people?**
   - a. Yes, but I think it's just an adolescent phase.
   - b. Yes, but the feeling passes.
   - c. Yes, I think I might be an alien from Outer Space.
   - d. Yes, but I'm a pop star so it's natural.

2. **Do shop assistants...**
   - a. Stare.
   - b. Try to ignore you/look really pissed off.
   - c. Look unusually happy.
   - d. Star 2 inches above your head as if an antennae?

3. **When you step out in your latest outfit do:**
   - a. Small children follow you, throwing discarded objects from other people's garages, gardens & bins at you?
   - b. Your friends ignore you if anyone is looking?
   - c. People flock to ask you where you bought things from, strange men offer you flowers.
   - d. Men shout at you and harass you.

4. **Do your family...**
   - a. Irritate you.
   - b. Discour you & suddenly move away when you're at school one day leaving your possessions in a shoe box with the neighbours.
   - c. Have any signed photos of you around the house, let you go out when you want, give you more pocket money than all your friends & appear pleased when you come out to them?
   - d. Try to ingratiate themselves with your friends, tell crap jokes & generally behave so strangely that you secretly believe they're aliens?

5. **Do dogs:**
   - a. Attack you.
   - b. Ignore you.
   - c. Shake and cower, putting their tails between their legs.
   - d. Try to have it off with you when you're menstruating.

6. **If you fancy someone, do you:**
   - a. Panic when they're around, get debilitating spots, never do anything about it?
   - b. Chat to them casually, become friends, begin a mutually satisfying sex life.
   - c. Eventually, after boring your friends, go on a date with them, try chatting them up & they're so passed a girl wouldn't speak to you and end up sobbing on a (bored) friend's shoulder.
   - d. Emirater.

7. **Do you find social interaction:**
   - a. Simulating, you really enjoy meeting new people & finding out different situations.
   - b. Bit difficult. No one ever laughs at your jokes.
   - c. Too much, you feel as if you don't know anyone at parties. You'd prefer to be alone.
   - d. Don't know. Even your friends only talk to you when they want to buy drugs.

8. **Do local govt officials:**
   - a. Persecute you.
   - b. Recognise in full your rights as a human being and valid citizen.
   - c. Sometimes send you the police you never applied for. You return the pan and are sent double the amount.
   - d. Try to psychologically destroy you & eradicate all evidence that you ever existed.

9. **When you walk down the street...**
   - a. Buildings are holes when you've never applied for.
   - b. You're in a mutually satisfying sex life & pursue a lasting, fair, and happy relationship with 2 cats, many mutual friends & all.
   - c. Eventually, after boring your friends for months, try chatting them up at a party when you're so passed a girl wouldn't speak to you and end up sobbing on a (bored) friend's shoulder.
   - d. Emirater.

10. **Do men:**
    - a. Persecute you.
    - b. Recognise in full your rights as a human being and valid citizen.
    - c. Perormie you with flowers and French meals.
    - d. Get to know you in pleasant, low-key ways and form lasting friendships with no sexual pressure?

---

**SCORE (Don't cheat now!):**

1. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
2. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
3. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
4. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
5. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
6. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
7. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
8. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
9. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2
10. a) 3 b) 6 c) 5 d) 2

---

**RESULT**

You are a...
As a lesbian, I think we should not oppress bisexuals because they’re in the same position as not fitting exactly into society. They want to be accepted just as we do, so need support not another group oppressing them.

I feel the same way. Everyone should have the right (in a lovely egalitarian society) to determine their own sexuality. Oppression by certain members of the gay community is no different then oppression by certain members of the straight community.

Yeah, I agree. Blah blah. I’m bisexual too & got pissed off with the sort of people who take "bisexual" to mean "gay-really-but-just-afraid-of-committing-yourself". What infuriates me most is comments along the lines of "She’s bisexual even though she’s got a boyfriend". Why the fuck can’t everybody just leave each other alone?
It was four o'clock on a Friday and we were late for an interview with Storme Webber! A black American lesbian poet, singer and visual artist (but you knew that of course!)

SP: When did you start writing poetry?
S: (in a deep, husky voice) Well I think I started writing poetry and stories as soon as I could write, so from a long time ago. And my first sort of serious poem was sort of a feminist poem, that I wrote when I was eleven. You know—the same was the dishes in the kitchen and the woman's soul—it was quite horrible and glorified... It was a start. Yeah, and when I was I guess about 17 or 18 I wrote something that I really liked, which is a piece that I perform now and I sort of felt like “yeah! so I guess since that time I’ve taken it really seriously.

SP: Did you always kind of know that you were a lesbian then? Did that come through the same...
S: Well it’s interesting because my mother’s a lesbian and so I was fortunate in that I grew up in a lesbian and gay environment and I accepted that as the norm, but at a certain point when I was approaching puberty, when you become aware how other people feel, and your peers, I realised that it wasn’t accepted as the norm—in fact it was quite the reverse. And so I had troubles living with my mother, because of her personal problems and I left my mother when I was 11 years old—I went into foster care. And at that time I really had a rebellious feeling, about her and a determination that I would not be like her, so I got kind of reactionary, in the sense that “I’ll never be a lesbian” but even still I have to confess that I had lesbian feelings at that time. I was just denying that, but then when I was 16 I came out.

SP: And was that quite difficult?
S: No, not really, umm...

SP: You were still in the foster home then?
S: Yeah, but my foster mother was a lesbian. (laughs) It was an alternative sort of social service agency, and so my foster sisters were coming out at the same time and so there was a lot of support in that sense. But I still didn’t want to be the same sort of lesbian that I saw my mother as, just because there was a lot of oppression, there was not really the feminist connection with lesbianism. It was really based in the bars and based in, you know, people really having to struggle through a lot of things, having to survive. And it was to do with physical violence a lot—and so I didn’t want to have that sort of life, and so I read a lot—failed to have that sort of framework for myself—you know, I then came out.

SP: Was it your decision to leave your mum?
S: Yes.

SP: So she didn’t force you out or anything?
S: No—not consciously! (laughs) She didn’t mean to.

SP: Do you get on with her now?
S: Yeah we do—we still have our struggles, but there’s been a lot of progress. And my first publication was last year, in Serious Pleasure (Sheba Press) and I sent her a copy when I’d first gotten it and she’s very shy about telling me her real feelings—but I met a lesbian friend of hers, and she said, “well your mother came out to me by showing me this book!” (more laughs) And she said, "Storme got this for me!” You know ...!

SP: That’s really nice!
S: So she never said that to me, but I was really tickled by that! (pink?)

SP: So was she a little bit scandalised, you know—by the ‘train’ (see Serious Pleasure) but still in the end she had to say that she got this from me. So I don’t think in her heart that she was that scandalised. (big smile on Storme’s face!)

SP: All the poetry of yours that I know, is in Serious Pleasure and from your show the other day—Desire’s Night Out, so is most of your poetry then about lesbian sexuality and sex?
S: No I wouldn’t say so. I would say that I have a large body of work—no pun intended! In that, in that...(she breaks out into laughter!) and I can’t remember!!! (more laughs) she says that she’s being silly because a friend of hers is sitting with us—hmm!

SP: (calming down) No, I’ve worked a lot in other areas, like I’ve done another area of writing that has to do with my family and growing up in a lesbian, working class environment in the sixties, and a lot of political stuff dealing with living in New York and the racism in the states, and writings to do with spirituality. So it’s just an area which I find the most accessible. So I began with that and right now presenting it and also sequences develop, you know like in other areas of writing.

SP: Do you think there’s much difference between being a lesbian in America and being a lesbian here?
S: I’m sure there are differences... I guess in a sense people over here think that—it’s kind of interesting, because over here people tend to think that there are more developed groups there and the movement’s been going on longer there. Which in one sense may be true, but I myself have been quite impressed by the organisations and the groups that are here. Like there’s nothing equivalent to Shocking Pink in the states. You know, even in terms of resources for young girls. I did a reading at the Lewisham young women’s centre and I was so impressed and it really made me feel for those of us who grew up in the states, because young girls are basically thrown to the wolves!! You know there is no sort of support system whatsoever for young girls, and ever so much more for young boys. And so I think if there’s a little bit more of something over there, then there’s also a little bit more resources and development over here too.

SP: I know a woman who got put into a mental hospital because she was a lesbian.
S: Yeah, I’ve heard those stories, and I’m sure they still go on because there’s always a great big difference between being in a city, for instance, and being somewhere in a back-water town, where you have to be more hidden and if your parents have complete control over you and you really have nowhere else to go, they can have you committed, which is the way that they like.

SP: So, is your poetry just what you want to express and it comes out that way, or do you think that there is a definite need for lesbians to be more open about sex?
S: Well, I just think that in general there is a need in the way that this world has been built up for everyone to try to be more in contact with the real parts of themselves, and erotica—well—there’s just like the show the other night. There was nothing in that show that I feel could make anyone feel any sort of disgust.

SP: I know—it was brilliant! And there was really a warm feeling in the room. Everything was just laughing at the funny bits and just being really friendly. It was nice.
S: So in general I guess that’s what I hope for, with my work in that field. And also it’s just that there’s been a lot of furor over S/M and me personally, I’m not into S/M—there’s been a lot of extremism on both sides, and so when something is presented as lesbian sexuality, at certain times it gets taken over by the S/M viewpoint. I mean Quim is a great example, because if you just looked at Quim as a deviation of lesbian sexuality you would feel that it is definitely very S/M, and I don’t think that that is necessarily a real reflection. So by doing this work which does not separate sensation from emotion, basically, it’s a statement, to attempt to express more of a fullness of our sexuality.
S: I think looking out onto ourselves? Are we interested in being women? And poetry, I've written poetry, about it—saying this is terrible, this lesbian pornography. You know, 'women can be violent to other women as well.'

S: Unfortunately that is true though.

SP: What did it say though?

SP: It was just basically saying that women are not separate. This has a voyeristic element, but there was not any dirty feeling to it, it was really a joyful feeling, and a feeling of celebration—and not a feeling of exploitation. All the women on the stage were presenting their own visions of sexuality, defined and controlled by themselves.

SP: And it was organised by women.

S: Exactly, specifically black women. So I see no connection whatsoever with pornography with what I’m doing. Also the fact that it’s a women only audience.

SP: Yeah, I saw a little thing in the Guardian about how lesbian erotica is pornography and my dad was going on about it—saying ‘this is terrible, this lesbian pornography.’ You know, ‘women can be violent to other women as well.’

S: I understand.

SP: So, I didn’t go to college for 3 years, but basically I was studying black history, some women’s studies—I was fortunate to study with Angela Davis in San Francisco City, and work with her a bit. But no, I’ve never studied writing. I’ve taken some courses in performance and drama, but never studied voice—I just found my way around.

S: Can you express yourself for fear of this, or is it more important that we are able to share amongst each other? And to feel stronger in our feelings and see the beauty of our feelings, because that’s basically what we’re doing is trying to do. It’s not something separate from everyday—it’s just translating a common feeling, when it works, people say ‘yeah that’s how I feel.’ And I guess pornography, to me, would be something that has elements of exploitation, domination, of the woman not being in control, like the story in Quin, the Nun—where a woman is raped, tied onto a table, by other women and then killed, and the child, there is sexual abuse in that story, and to me that would be pornography and I guess I would say this is because I found it disgusting. I don’t know if it is a definition of pornography, I’m not interested in re-creating the same power relations that this white male patriarchal society has constructed in as the ways we must obey. I don’t think that we as human beings are so developed that we can re-enact things like that in private and then come out into the world and seriously work for change, and seriously not keep continuing to behave in that manner towards other people. And I have heard of women raping other women, in SM clubs, a woman with a knife, and something to someone’s throat raping her, and I don’t see that as any part of my liberation, or anything that I wish to struggle for...
When a woman thinks alone she thinks evil, for the woman was made from the crooked rib which is bent in the contrary direction from the man. Woman conspired constantly against spiritual good. Her very name, 'fe-mina' means 'absence of faith.' She is insatiable lust by nature. Because of this she consorts even with devils. It is for this reason that women are especially prone to the crime of witchcraft from which men have been preserved by the maleness of Christ.

From 'Malleus Maleficarum', a 15th C. Dominican Inquisitors Manual.

A woman who stabbed her husband 17 times after enduring years of drunken violence was put on probation for three years yesterday by an Old Bailey judge.

Colleen Simmonds, 36, who had been married for 17 years, admitted wounding with intent.

The court was told that she and her three children had suffered "appalling abuse." She finally cracked under the pressures last March and stabbed her husband with a kitchen knife after he threatened to stab her during a drunken row. Police found her dazed and standing over him in the kitchen.

Mrs Simmonds later discovered she had had her first period for seven months, and doctors said that she was in urgent need of hormone treatment.

Heather Hallett QC, for the defence, said: "She had been provoked beyond endurance. Her physical condition affected her mentally to make her become aggressive, which was totally out of character."

Doctors were unable to operate on her husband John, 39, a parks gardener, until the next day because he was so drunk. They removed his spleen, and he has since made a full recovery.

So maybe there is some good in it.

ASHA
Advice, support and temporary accommodation for Asian women with children and Young Women suffering from violence or threat of violence.
27 Santley St, London SW4 7QF.
0777 5901 or 274 8854 (ansaphone).

WOMEN'S MOTOR MECHANICS WORKSHOP LTD
WMW Ltd is a women only training centre which provides training in motor mechanics to City & Guilds. We have the following vacancies:
EMPLOYMENT & FURTHER TRAINING WORKER
To be responsible for the security of work placement and further training for trainees who complete the course. The successful candidate will
- have a knowledge of the motor trade or non-traditional areas of work for women
- have administrative and organizational skills
- have the ability to teach technology
- have communication skills to carry out wide lessons at all levels
- have the ability to monitor and identify the employment needs of women
Salary £63 414.49 p.a.
Application forms and job descriptions from: WMW Ltd, Bag 48, 1-3 Brixton Road, London SW9 626, 071 582 2574. Closing date for applications: Nov 22.
Object: Women's Motor Mechanics Workshop Ltd is an Equal Opportunities employer and we encourage applications from all sections of the community.
HERE'S ONE FOR ALL THOSE SOPPY LESBIANS OUT THERE...

IT WAS A WARM SUNDAY EVENING...

WHETHER YOU COULD BORROW SOME REAL MEN'S COFFEE...

SIT DOWN, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, I WON'T BE A SEC.

THANKS!

3 HOURS LATER...

LATER STILL...

"YOU GET A RICHER SMOOTHER TASTE WITH PINKIES HERBAL TEA!"

It is important that this instinct should be encouraged and developed.

McDonald's fined

McDonald's, the hamburger chain, was fined £300,000 yesterday after a used sticking plaster was found under a Big Mac triple decker burger bought in Leeds. The company, which denied selling unfit food, was ordered to pay £500 costs.

GENNA Disabled & Able-bodied Lesbians - Contact: BN Box 5700, WC1V 6XX
a shocking pinker went to Romania - this is her account, including a genuine amazing SP EXCLUSIVE on what the drug co. Wellcome is doing there (the story Duncan Campbell refused to touch!).

Coming to terms with London, again is much harder than I ever thought possible, although I only spent two months there. I found myself becoming involved with the country in a heavenly spiritual way.

I knew that there was nothing in terms of stuff for women, organisations, books, support, that there is in this country, but I wasn't prepared for the situation that I found. Under Ceacescu women were part of a baby producing machine plan to increase the population x amount of millions. Women's menstrual cycles were monitored by the state, from their work places, making sure that they never missed having children. Abortion of course was illegal. Romanians have a high population of orphans, a result of imposed baby drive. On poverty ridden women already crippled, not just by the basic inequalities women's expenditure but by the rule of a maniac dictator bent on stamping out all freedom life and hope.

Carrying on the vicious chain, the large amount of orphans babies and children have the AIDS virus, from unsterilised needles and infected blood products. The state didn't care, they still don't. At one orphanage I visited in Moldavia, where the children were all mentally and physically handicapped - the director showed us a cardboard box filled with Communist papers. This she said was the only thing that Ceacescu had sent them in terms of aid, I didn't know how to feel it was more than numb.

There is a little hope, from two Bucharest doctors who are in the late stages of developing a drug for AIDS, called Redinhid with an improvement rate of 100 points better than existing drugs, it's all, very exciting. By xmas the results of a set of trials with the drug should be out. What WELCOME, the drug company manufacturing AZT, are doing in third world countries, and other poor countries is disgusting. They are using children as guinea pigs for trials of their drugs that are still in the early stages of development, and are highly toxic, with many side effects. Western standards would not allow such a drug in it's infancy to be tested on children, orphan babies and children from poor countries, though are easy prey from corrupt governments and drug companies.

Well, while I was there I met a wonderful woman, Monica Mirescu a civil engineer who lives in Oradea, spoke to me of the oppressive regime women have had to live under, making time to think and analyse their situation a privilege in a world where the finding of basic foods and goods is a daily struggle.

If you would like to donate women's books, money, or have any interest in the situation for women in Eastern Europe atall, please write to Shocking Pink C.O, Berenice.

Why not get down to the...

Wild Women's Cafe?
It's every Sunday

afternoon from 3 - 7
9pm - cheap vegan food - kids welcome
44 Vauxhall Grove, Vauxhall
They call it a tube. It's really good, I've been there.

MY first moment of real danger here was when I stumbled, nearly fell, but managed to get back up, but not without a few bruises and grazes. I tried to ignore the fact that I was on a plane and not a train, not a plane that would take me where I was going. I wasn't sure if I'd even make it, but I was pleased to see my plane was still on the ground.

Wellcome's company are not the only company that our orphans we are not treated like our women, touch them and they attack you.

Feminine Touch... a leggy young Russian
ABORTION IN THE NEW GERMANY

Almost the last issue surrounding unification (NOT RE-unification) was about abortion and threatened to split the government. East German abortion laws are more liberal, in West Germany abortion is legal only if a panel of "medical experts" decide there are medical or pathological indications in favour of it. The Social Democrats are in favour of West German women taking advantage of East German abortion on demand, but the conservative FDP (Chancellor Kohl's party) were in favour of "punishing" such women. In the end the FDP gave in and will accept a compromise where the 5 East German states are allowed to retain their laws for a transitional period of one year. NEWS FLASH apparently it hasn't been decided yet & E. German women are protesting in the streets against being subjected to repressive W. German abortion laws. Up to now E. German law has allowed abortion on demand up to 12 weeks.

INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY LIE

Women scientists working in Geneva have recently isolated a gland at the base of the brain which is responsible for the widely noted tendency to fall asleep in the middle of books without pictures.

The women claim that the gland dates back to our earliest evolutionary stages. They believe that it was formed as a necessary part of our strategy for cognitive reasoning. Its continuation into the present day is a bit of a mystery but one working theory is that it works as a primitive survival mechanism, preventing the vulnerable from being bored to death at an early stage of development.

Our reporter adds; In a quick office survey, conducted in response to this article, it was discovered that 9/10 staff found Marx better than Ovaltine, Valerian and even getting very pissed.

It was also discovered that 9/10 staff members found sleeping more fun than working, drinking, eating and even cycling. Fancy!

MAD MAXINE IN TESTICOS

I was feeling itchy.
Then Maxine came up.

CHECK OUT

I think I'll be taking this lot for free.

NOT A BARGAIN

You've gotta have a dream.

Stonehenge stormed
About 500 people climbed over a perimeter fence to celebrate the autumn equinox at Stonehenge yesterday, two hours before English Heritage was due to admit them.
OUTsage Lesbian/gay direct action group. Office at the London LCE centre, meets there Thursdays 7.30.
69, Overtone at, London W1 671 071 490 7153

Welcome to the world of illegal sweet end.

WAKE UP TO THE FACTS, NOT NESCAFE.

Join the
BOYCOTT

Cut out
NESCAFE

Money in this world is power.

And the more power you have, the more you can do.

But without power, you're nothing.

So now you can send all that money you'll be saving by boycotting Nescafe (and other evil multinational companies) to your MP.

Hate this article? Send us your comments: Outrage 69, Overtone at, London W1 671 071 490 7153.

(We are not responsible for any damage or injury caused by following this advice.)

View our new campaign over at our website: www.outrage.org.uk

Join the Outrage Facebook group and keep up to date with our latest news and events.

Outrage
STAND UP TO THE facts, NOT OUTVOTE.

More high-pressure sales techniques being practised in the developing world: The deaths in Nigeria of 108 children from a parasiticide syrup mixed with a poisonous base have been blamed on pharmaceutical manufacturers dumping inferior products in Third World markets.

Criminal: McDonald's are members of the London Group. They're claiming the criminal damage wrong with overcharging and dumping baby Nescafe coffee (including 15% of money for future mass marketing and down through lack of evidence.

Michael Spencer
UK World Trade

Don't Buy Marlboro or Nescafe!
Get into shape with Sp's Boyfit Diet

A brick in the hand is worth 2 in the wall.*

The Director of a multinational firm at work earning 1,000,000 of £50cets.

*from Pink Brick

Baby Milk Action (BMAC) 6 Regent Terrace, Cambridge, CB2 1A 

Gay Sweatshop: an epic comedy by Bryony Lavery 

KITCHEN MATTERS

An epic comedy by Bryony Lavery

KITCHEN MATTERS
Keeping Secrets

Barbara just couldn't keep a secret.

I think I'll blow my money on some new albums to cheer myself up.

Why not get a bikini or sunglasses instead? You'll need them when you go to Spain.

Why did you have to go and say that? You knew it was supposed to be a secret.

I'm sorry, Lynn, but I just couldn't resist it.

Sorry, Fay, I should have known not to tell Barbara. It's like broadcasting it on the radio!

Whoop! Cop that!

Yeah! I think he's so sexy.

Such a creep trying to talk about boys like the others.

Mike Webster. He's absolutely gorgeous.

You might think it being seen and not heard was a Victorian idea — but it didn't end then...
Sexual abuse is any sort of sexual activity (incl. flashing, touching, penetration, masturbation, etc) by a member of your family or an adult/older person using their position of power to get away with it, i.e. your young age, trust, fear, their lies or whatever. It’s NEVER the fault of the child in any way—that’s no exaggeration. It’s incredibly common—it happens to 1 in 5 girls, maybe more, also to boys. It happens in all social classes, rich or poor.

If it has happened to you, you’re not alone. There is help. Here are some numbers you could contact for advice/support or just to talk to someone. Sorry we could only cover London, there are lots of groups outside London, contact them through a rape crisis centre (there are usually in the phone book) or women’s centre (try finding this through local town hall), or try asking some of the numbers below for a group near you.

**Adolescent Counselling Service** Hackney: 081 960-4016, female & male survivors; may start women’s self-help group, pass on support groups for partners.

**The Albany** Deptford: 081 692-6269 ask for Helen.

**Aslan Incest Survivors Self Help Group** 071 363-9721 survivors group Tues 7-9pm, women aged 16-22 years, any woman welcome to ring for advice.

**Brixton Sexual Abuse Survivors Group** 071 363-1363, Frid 7.30-9.30pm, informal group.

**Camden Lesbian Incest Survivors Group,** Camden Lesbian Centre, 071 9505.

**Childline** 0800 1111, free phone advice & help for children & young people who are having been experiencing any form of abuse.

**Information on Incest and Child Sexual Abuse** 081 836-7492, contact for local groups & other info.

**eSIS (Incest Survivors in Strength)** 071 326 1363/071 326 0939/081 670 0968, know about groups, counseling, etc.

**Kennington Sexual Abuse Survivors Group** 021 326 1363, Mon 7.30-9.30pm, 12 step programme.

**Lambeth Women & Children’s Health Project** 071 797-7151, speak to Pat, support group for mothers of sexually abused children, can refer mothers to support groups etc. Advice on how to help. To book, ring 071 797-7151.

**London Youth Advice Centre** 071 267 4792.

**Mays Project** London SW6, 071 731-4907. 16/17 year olds.

**North London Line** Lesbian & gay youth project 071 607 8940 (6pm weekdays, 1-1 counselling for young lesbians 16-25.

**Rape Crisis Centre** 071 837 1600, 24 hour phone line.

**Southall Black Sisters** 081 843 0578, Black women’s centre.

**Southwark Rape Crisis Group** 071 639 1106, Wed 7.30pm, opening survivors groups.

**Teenage Information Network** 071 403 2444.

**Women & Girls Network** phone line 071 978 6667.

Quite a bit, isn’t there? This isn’t all good luck.

A STAGGERING 10,000 desperate young girls rang Dither Damsel’s Childline charity’s EVERY DAY—but only 1,300 were taken through, it was revealed yesterday.

Executive director Valerie Howarth and the helpline had advised 9,000 children and 10,000 adults since it was launched by TV star Esther Rantzen four years ago.

She told a London conference on incest that the worst abuse was the biggest problem, among young girls who ran the switchboards.
The FBI have warned record companies and shops that they could be busted for producing and selling obscene lyrics - and all fingers point to the black rap market.

Subtly is not the stuff of black rap. Song titles and lyrics from 2 Live Crew records include: Dick Almighty and I will f-k the bitches all shapes and sizes. (I need not go on).

There remains a close relationship between exaggerated black sexuality and the desire to be conscious.

Writer Henry Louis Gates argues: "In the face of racist stereotypes about black sexuality, you can do one of two things: You can disavow (deny) them or explode them with exaggeration."

As a rapper Ice T says: "The way to hold the attention of a bunch of guys is not to say rap is about politics but to talk about a girl with big tittles."

Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy always assert the black experience but a lot of their material is about exaggerated black sexuality. Yet only the prudes amongst us are offended.

Just as we can't afford to argue with a romantic vision of Africa in the face of an unfair diet of African tragedy and failure, so it is with sex.

PREGNANT WOMAN GETS 2 YEARS IN JAIL

Another example of fab British justice. A 16-year-old woman who was 7½ months pregnant at the time has been sentenced by Judge Hopkin to 2 years in Styal prison - a punishment out of all proportion to the crime.

The woman was convicted as an accomplice to a robbery in which 2 male friends asked her to proposition a man in a nightclub. The man went outside and her 2 friends attacked him and stole £30, but there is no evidence to show that she knew they were going to do this. She initially told police that while this was going on she kicked him, but she later retracted this confession in court. Although she received none of the money, the court still found her guilty of robbery.

Styal prison has a mother & baby unit, but babies are not allowed to stay beyond 9 months, so this means that the young woman's baby will probably end up in care.

It is totally disgusting that she should be given a sentence like this for a relatively minor crime which was a first offence. Now she will have to go through the birth away from friends and family and after all that will probably not be able to keep the baby. The judge obviously picked her out for especially harsh treatment because she was a woman supposedly associated with a violent crime. It's sick.
AN ARSON attack on a Birmingham mosque named after Iraq's President Saddam Hussein caused damage estimated at £2,000, police said yesterday.

Four men were seen by police running from the building after its rear entrance was doused with petrol and set alight on Saturday night. One was described as a skinhead, wearing a "British Bulldog" T-shirt.

OIL WARS

Well it is, isn't it? Imperialist nations like the US, Britain, the 'West' as they call it, have had a good thing going with world trade: they get whatever raw materials they like from "Third World" countries and pay roughly whatever they like for them. But it isn't quite the same with oil. Energy is so desperately needed that countries producing oil are in a much stronger position, so that imperialist countries can't call the tune as they'd like to, especially since in the 70s OPEC (organisation of oil producing countries) stopped oil producers competing against each other so much.

Upshot is that now the US & co are wading in there trying to control oil producing areas, and if possible they'll leave their troops behind as a future police force. It's also cue for a whole load of anti-arab racism in the media—"irrational", 'barbaric', etc.

Of course the 'West' started it. They're the ones who tried to control the area with their divide and rule plans, creating countries and setting up regimes. What Thatcher, Bush & co are doing has got nothing to do with the rights and wrongs of invading countries—after all, they should know about that, and what about Israel's Occupied Territories? they weren't exactly up in arms about that. They should all get out now before they do something really silly.

Relax, Unwind, Be Yourself at

Rubys

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
**PERFECTLY DUBIOUS BY NAIRO**

1) How many types of these ciders do you recognise?

   Strongbow (easy)
   Old English
   Autumn Gales
   Copperhead (vinocider)
   Muddy Dow (pissheadcider)
   1080 (one up from pissheadcider)
   Diamond White (an almost cider but who knows the difference after 10 pints anyway)
   Thunderbird (not a cider at all but who knows the difference after 10 pints of Diamond White?)

**SCORE:** 1 point for each one recognised.

2) Which of these spirits are very enjoyable when consumed & can lead to a general feeling pleased with oneself?

   Vodka
   Vodka & Tia Maria
   Tia Maria & Coke
   Pernoddddd
   Whiskey
   Gin & Tonic
   Shnaps
   Bluehills

**SCORE:** 10 points for Vodka, Vodka & Tia Maria & Coke & Bluebells,
Lose 200 points for any of the others ticked.

**CONCLUSION:**

1) No Points: You are a crap drinker & no friend of mine!
2) Less than no points: Slightly better, at least you're consistently crap.
3) Absolutely no points within a 12 mile radius: Ah, a testotaller, Nevermind, call me when you've graduated to smilling at yourself in the mirror each day.
4) LOADS & bucketfuls of bloody points: Congratulations! You Qualify for participation in my next all dayer. Get the bottles lined up & the sleeping bags out & the video in.

**Q: WHAT IS THE WORLDS FASTEST CAR CALLED?**

A: JATHINKYSAURUS
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!

For this reason we have to be prepared to give up sole responsibility for childbearing.

Technologically the human race has progressed far enough to research taking childbearing away from women. BUT: a) with society as patriarchal as it is, this technology cannot be trusted in the hands of men; and b) at the moment the money spent on this research would be better spent on directly improving the lives of women.

We are in a catch 22 situation — we have to give up this responsibility because it oppresses us, but in doing so we will give up the one thing for which we are valued. THINK ABOUT IT.

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
(01) 251 9192
When I first started my periods, I said to my mum, "Isn't it exciting?" She replied, in an aren't-you-incredibly-stupid sort of voice, "Well you won't think that after you've had a few of them." But I've never really hated it, and sometimes I still get excited when I know I'm about to start bleeding. The thing is, we're not really even given a chance to enjoy something which is such a big part of women's lives. We're not allowed to talk about it — even adverts for tampons and towels don't usually mention periods, and just allude to it hoping we'll realise what they're talking about. "Carefree gives you freshness and cleanliness every day": what the fuck is that supposed to mean? It's only because we recognise the brand name that we can make any sense of it at all. And above all we mustn't embarrass men by saying anything about our messy bodily habits. My dad once asked my mum to ask me to take my tampons out of the bathroom cabinet, presumably because he didn't like looking at them. But I can just imagine the look on his face if I'd asked him to take his moustache out of the bathroom; he'd think I was being very unreasonable. I don't particularly like staring at cot-ton buds or earwax softener when I'm cleaning my teeth, but I don't complain. Given the indoctrination that women are subjected to as soon as they're born ("Don't put little Sophie in that blue cardigan, it's so manly!") I can't help thinking that we should re-examine this whole periods-are-a-curse thing. Imagine you're a man (VUK). You've got a load of women who are nothing but nuisances, wanting to do the same work as you and have the same rights as you. What's the best way of keeping them under your thumb so they stay quiet and produce a baby for you every year? Physical violence is okay, but it's not perfect: the women would resent it and always be on the lookout for an opportunity to get back at you. The ideal thing to do is to make them take part in their own oppression: take away their confidence and self-respect and what have you got left? Fuck all. Okay, so far so good. But how do you take away a strong woman's self respect? Easily: make her so ashamed of something that's a beautiful part of her life that she becomes too embarrassed to even talk about it. Make her feel it's something filthy and disgusting — you can even tell her it's a punishment that her sex must bear because of the sins of their mothers. If a woman hates this part of her life, how can she love herself? How can she respect a body that regularly does something she's been taught to believe is dirty and unclean? And perhaps most importantly, men instantly become superior because they don't do this thing. They start off with an advantage, and once they've got their right foot in the door they're going to make sure they use it.

We must reclaim our menstruation. Paint pictures with your blood, send used tampons to men you don't like, proudly advertise your periods. It's a pity Shocking Pink doesn't do its "Hi! I've got my period" T-shirts any more. Or what about "Hi, I'm expecting my period in a week", or "Hi, I finished my period eleven days ago".

And I'd like to add that, although I tried not to, this article might have hurt or offended some people who don't have periods, because of amenorrhea or other problems. Well, I didn't mean to and really apologise if I did.
Dear Shocking Pink Girls,

Here’s a few details on that superb alternative to tampons — THE NATURAL SPONGE or CORAL REEF DWELLER to its friends.

It all began (my experience that is), with a rather personal operation. I was forbidden to use tampons immediately afterwards and was forced to resort to sanitary towels (and yes, “life stood still for me” one week out of four!). Also, I found s.t.’s were causing mega-irritation of my parts, even the environment-sensitive ones (towels, not parts!).

Then “Our Bodies - Ourselves”, that mega-manual, came to my aid with the mention of sponges (a distant memory of the first ever edition of S.P. mentioning them too!), so I popped into the local chemist and purchased a nice little number (2-towels, not parts)!

The first time I used it just shoved it in, then realised that getting it out again was a little tricky (somewhat like removing a cap which has got vacuum-packed up there). So, I got wise, and wound some cotton sewing thread (any colour you fancy) around one end, very tightly and it acts like a conventional tampon.

Oh yeah. It is easier to insert when slightly dampened. To clean, during the period I rinse in boiling hot, (or as near as from the tap), water and then under cold before re-inserting (otherwise you’d burn your bits off), and at the end of each period (or during if it’s smelly!) I rinse in hot water cider vinegar or white wine vinegar. There’s no need to sterilise, as tampons aren’t sterilised. I find each sponge lasts 213 periods, (a matter of personal preference but at £1.50 a time it’s not financially crippling.) And sponges are cheap in Greece so get your pals to bring some back from their hols!

As for embarrassment in public loos; if there is paper available you can (and I have) just whip it out, squeeze out the blood between two roll and re-insert - a bit messy, but works if you’re desperate! Hope this is helpful to you.

PS The sponges from a certain “Natural Beauty Shop” are hard, rough and overpriced! Local chemists are best.

PPS I have really heavy periods and I’ve never flooded using a sponge. Also, smaller sponges are better for the lighter days, easier to insert & cut.

A fan thinks the last issue of [SP] was great, and says:

I enjoyed your piece on Tampax. I’ve always hated the bastards for putting all those bleaches in them but when an “environmentally friendly” sign appeared on the packet it was just a laugh. How can a product be environmentally friendly when it isn’t even fancy!

I’ve stopped buying Tampax now in protest and thought you’d like to know about Natracare. They don’t use bleaches of whiteners, the only thing that bothers me is that they’re still bright white. I get them from Greece and men (0435 833457), who do a mail order service free. They cost £1.88 for 20.

We’ll try and ﬁnd out more from them; if you’ve got any helpful experiences with or comments about periods, please tell us.

Oh - and good luck to all you those who’ve had a miscarriage. You’re in my thoughts always.

X

A LITTLE BIT MORE ON SPONGES

I began using them 2 periods ago when I realised that bits of Lilette were being left behind when I extracted them - yuk, the last straw. My best friend told me to buy a small natural sponge from Boots’ body shelves (less than £2) & put it up into 4 bits of various sizes for light/heavy days. Which was good advice cheaper than buying those tiny ones. I don’t mind pulling them out by hand so I haven’t bothered sewing in threads but it is a bit messier. (The small of fresh blood is amazing! I’m discovering vampire tendencies...) Anyway, in public loos I just squeeze them out down the toilet & wipe my hands on the paper, but it’s best to carry Kleenex or even those ‘Wet-ones’ things because the supply of bogroll can never be relied on. When possible I rinse them under a cold tap (hot water ‘fixes’ blood stains so I think they just stay yellow with cold). I’m glad to know about the vinegar cos I was wondering about disinfecting & no one knew. Sponges soaked in vinegar used to be a method of birth-control... but I wouldn’t recommend it, in case you were considering...

Don’t let VPL (visible panty line) ruin the line of stretch clothes.

Instead:

(a) Wear a Sponge
(b) big-string
(c) chastity belt.

answers on a postcard please
This was written by the mum of one of the collective members.

She (the mum) is sixty-one now, so when she started her periods it was at the end of the second world war. Tampons were much less widely available than they are now, and there were no stick-on towels. So this is what it was like...

I never thought that I would EVER have a period; for such a long time I'd been eagerly looking forward to being a real woman. Was that a faint spot of blood on my knickers? Was there an ache in the bottom of my stomach? Was that backache I had the other day any sign? But I got to the age of sixteen with nothing at all, and my mother was about to see a specialist about it when IT happened!

Oh, the elation and the agony, and I certainly suffered with it over the years: at times it was so bad that I had to take an occasional day off work. I never really suffered from PMT, except perhaps a touch of melancholy the night before; more often than not I'd feel energetic and wound up for a couple of days beforehand.

There were no tampons in my day. We made our own pads, held up by a piece of string or elastic. The pads were made from a firm cotton square with two opposite corners folded in and sewn down. Before it was folded the square was about the size of an LP record. Once you'd done all this folding and sewing, you had to measure a piece of elastic around your waist, pass it through loops on each end of the pad and then fasten at the side. This was the forerunner of the manufactured sanitary towels with belts, but the later models have little plastic chips to hold the loops of the towels. In my day, if you found you didn't have any elastic in the house, you had to use string; this was very uncomfortable because, not being stretchy, the string would tighten as you bent down and cut into you.

As the towels were used, the day's supply would be wrapped in newspaper then later rinsed through and boiled in a special old saucepan. You had to be careful about hygiene too, with bloodstained cloth hung around you; there were a lot of old wives' tales. You mustn't sun or take a bath. You mustn't get your hands and feet cold. You mustn't wash your hair, unless you can dry it straight away (no hairdryers around in those days!). You mustn't sit on anything cold, or even on a wooden chair without a cushion. You mustn't have any cold drinks or ice-cream. You mustn't make cakes or pastry until after the second day. You mustn't strain yourself by walking too far or by lifting heavy weights, but on the other hand you mustn't sit around too much either. You mustn't have any sex—absolutely none at all.

Well, I tried all the modern things as they came on the market, but could never get on with tampons; they caused a separate ache around my navel. After having my first baby I didn't have quite as much pain, and after the second there was hardly anything—just a bit of backache and a faint ache in my loins. I didn't stop my periods until I was about 36, although I missed a period here and there in my fifties. Hot flashes came much later, and I'm still getting the odd flush six years afterwards! Apart from that, the only other symptom of menopause that I had was high blood pressure, and I'm glad to say that I've recently been able to stop the tablets that I was taking for that. We've come a long way since my teenage days!

**PERIOD SPELL**

Everyone knows that when you've got a period it's the fault of the nearest bloke and they therefore deserve to suffer for it. But SP has discovered an ancient witches spell (of course suppressed by centuries of patriarchal wickedness) which will transfer your period onto a bloke of your choice (lots of blood and lots of pain). Here is the spell.

**Periods are nice, periods are fun, Periods should be shared by everyone. Being a boy is no excuse Coz periods are on the loose!**

**PMT in the kitchen, trying to cook your bloody chicken. Your moans and nagging make me MAD-OK boy, I feel BAD!**

**Drops of semen and a pint of green snot-Add the blood from your knifed cock. Boil it up, but it needs texture; Chopped-up bollocks complete the mixture. A dose of this once a week and then you'll have your monthly leak!**

**HM Government Health Warning: To be taken with a LARGE pinch of salt.**
There have been 21 incidents in the IRA's latest campaign in Britain to date. The latest attack was a bomb at a British military base in Northern Ireland that killed two soldiers and injured several others. The British government has vowed to continue its campaign against the IRA, but some politicians have called for a ceasefire. The IRA's leader, Martin McGuinness, has said that the group will continue its campaign until all political prisoners are released. The situation remains volatile, with both sides claiming victory in recent battles. The conflict in Northern Ireland has been ongoing for decades, and there is little hope of a resolution in the near future.
Book Review Moll Cutpurse & The Fires of Bride both by Ellen Galford

Does reading lesbian fiction plunge you into deep depression, so that by the time you get to the end of the book you just want to hide in a corner and the idea of FANCYING anyone is completely out of the question... Well here are 2 books that actually make you feel like it's a good plan fancying women, in fact you could well think it's the cleverest thing you've done in ages. Moll Cutpurse—her true story is about a WICKED woman living in Shakespearean times who gets up to all sorts of dodgy exploits & adventures. And The Fires of Bride is about raunchy goings-on among women in the outer Scottish isles of somewhere, with a bit about medieval runes thrown in. They've been out for a while now, but I loved them both and think they're guaranteed to cheer anyone up who wants a break from The Dead Serious Stuff. Apparently it's set in Arthur's Seat. It's a really interesting & funny book & it's quite satirical & political as well, which is nice.

SISTERWRITE

WINTER READINGS

Friday 16th November 7pm
Caroline Natzlter
reading from her new collection of lesbian feminist stories Waterways by Only Women Press

Monday 26th November 7pm
Marilyn Hacker
reading from her new book The Hangglider's Daughter by Only Women Press

Saturday 1st December 7pm
International AIDS Day
readings to be held at Sisterwrite with special guest celebrities

£1 waged, 50p unwaged
refreshments available

tel: 071 226 9782, open Mon-Sat 10-7pm
level wheelchair access: tube: Highbury
GRAPEVINE BOOKSHOP
'Too much of a good thing can be wonderful' Mae West
Grapevine bookshop, radical booksellers to East Anglia.
Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LJ. 0223 618088.
It's the only place in Cambridge to sell SHOCKING PINK and it also sells Books, Records, Badges etc.

Book Review: To do something Beautiful by Rohini
I think this is the best new book I've read this year. It's about the lives of lots of different people, mainly women, in Bombay, mostly in the shanties who are living in various industrial towns, who get drawn together in various industries to work at factories and so on. It looks at the women today's struggles and their experiences. It is very much from the women's point of view, which is very much what the women's point of view, which is very much what they think about... it's a very honest, very intimate account of the women's experience of life in Bombay... But the reason I liked it best was that Rohini was brilliant at looking at lots of different people, not just 1 or 2 main characters, and it's a short book but really vivid picture of their lives and how they see things and get inside their head, before going on to talk about someone else... it seems very understanding of people and very un-self-centred.

Central Books
has an interesting selection of second hand books by and about women.
Open 10.00-6.00 (5.00 on Saturdays).
37 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.
Nearest tube: Chancery Lane.

PINK SPOT
Why do women think verbal sex? because prayer too?

LIVESTRO BOOKS

SOCIALISM, FEMINISM, ANTI-RACISM
For all your reading needs come to Bookmarks, London's premier socialist bookshop. And if you can't make it in person, for our Books for Socialists and Trade Union Bookservice mailorder lists.

BOOKMARKS (SP)
265 Seven Sisters Road
London N4 2DE
Tel: (081) 802 6145

Sonia Malhi has been living in this country for the last seven years. The British govt now wish to send her back to India and refuse to take account of her circumstances and the hardship she will suffer. They say she cannot appeal against the decision because of a law they passed in 1988.
Sonia first came to England in 1983. She got married in 1986. She was married because of her husband's violence. The following year, her parents in India died so now she has no-one to return to.
The Home office insist Sonia must go back. They say that they reached their decision after fully considering her case but in fact they haven't even bothered to interview her.
Before 1988 Sonia could have appealed to an 'Adjudicator' who would have looked into the whole case and particularly the compassionate circumstances. They could prevent the H.O. deporting her. The 1988 Immigration Act removed this right of appeal & independent enquiry.
Without right of appeal, Sonia must now apply to the courts to rule on a technically, i.e. whether the H.O. acted unlawfully in making a decision to deport her without interviewing her—but the court will have no power to hear Sonia's case as a whole to decide whether she should be deported.

What You Can Do
1 Write to the Home Secretary, Queen Anne's Gate, London, asking him to stop the deportation.
2 Write to your MP asking him/her to take up the case with the Home Secretary and parliament.
3 If you are involved with an organisation, get them to write to the Home Secretary.
4 Send a donation.
The campaign holds regular meetings (to which everyone is invited). To find out about the next meeting phone (021) 561 4518 or (021) 564 4900, c/o 101 Ville Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 19.

(Booklet taken from pamphlet sent to us by the West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign. They are also organising a petition.)
INDEPENDANT LIVING ALTERNATIVES

PROMOTES INDEPENDANCE FOR PEOPLE DISABLED

We urgently need full-time volunteers to provide physical support in return for £50 per week + free accommodation

contact:
Tracey Jannaway,
Independent Living Alternatives,
Fulton House, Fulton Road,
Empire Way,
Wembley, Middx.
Tel: 081 902 8998 ex. 270

THE WOMEN'S THEATRE GROUP

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT HERODS
by Lisa Evans
Tel. WTG: 071 251 0202 for details

A play about human rights

INDEPENDANT LIVING
ALTERNATIVES

Mixing cabaret, cinematic role-playing, cheesy lip synching, cross-dressing, mock-soppy reverie, and thinly veiled hostility

New York’s

SPLIT BRITCHES’

ANNIVERSARY WALTZ

is a witty homage to the pleasures and problems of long-term love.

Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver play a lesbian couple celebrating their 10th anniversary

AT

THE DRILL HALL ARTS CENTRE
16 Chenies St, London WC1

December 4—22 Tuesday to Saturday at 8pm
071 637 8270

WOMEN FORCED TO HAVE HOSPITAL BIRTHS

Yes, it’s those bloody NHS reforms again. GPs have to send women to have their babies wherever the local authority has placed a contract, so women have even less choice about where to give birth. This also means that home delivery units are being closed down due to (the usual) lack of money, so there is less opportunity for women to choose to give birth at home. Five years ago there were 120 of these units, now there are only 66 in Britain. The argument that hospital births are safer is unfounded as there is no proof that the drop in perinatal deaths is linked to the drop in the number of home births.
PETROL bombers have attacked a firm of bullfitters employed to seize property from poll tax defaulters.

The company's offices were badly damaged by a Molotov cocktail hurled through a window. A spokesman for Medgane, of Northampton, which is employed by 200 councils and was featured on TV, said the firm had been threatened by anti-poll tax protesters.

THE Metropolitan police are to pay £2,000,000 in compensation for damage caused during the Trafalgar Square poll tax riots.

The settlement would be the biggest single payment for damages made by the police as a result of the 31 March riot.

The claimants are builders Higgins and Hill, whose £57 million Grand Buildings in the corner of Trafalgar Square and the Strand was extensively damaged when 300 rioters scaled scaffolding and set light to site buildings.

Ruts were destroyed, masonry damaged and important paperwork and computer records destroyed.

Scotland Yard has already paid out about £500,000 to other claimants for damage arising from the riots under a clause in the 1838 Riot Damages Act which compels the police to reimburse for damage caused "by persons riotously or tumultuously assembled together," when the police have been unable to contain the riot.

The media have been heavily involved with the police in trying to get Trafalgar Square defendants convicted. After the riots the tabloids acted as bulletin boards for the Metropolitan Police, regardless of whether 'wanted' pictures and press releases they were given and appealing for their enemies as 'the Mohican puppy', 'the biker', and 'the girl'. Video tapes and photos of the riots were seized by the police for use against the defendants in court. Yet the defendants in court. Yet the police and the Crown Prosecution Service tried to stop the defendants being allowed to see the evidence that was to be used against them. However, these attempts were unsuccessful because of a lot of pressure from the solicitors representing defendants.

A group called the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign has been set up to provide support for all defendants, and to expose the trial of the trial of all defendants. They have started to demonstrate and run a political campaign of 'the Mirror building a political and accountable police force against the 'rogues' gallery' of alleged rioters and police, well as pickets of Pentonville and Brixton Prisons to support those who were already on trial in the 31 March incident. The TSDC has organised the Poll Tax Demo on 20th October. The TSDC can be contacted by phone or letter. Panther House, 39 Mt Pleasant, London W11 0AP (0171-320 0859)

THE SOUTH LONDON WOMENS CENTRE

has moved to new permanent premises at...

ARCHES 302-304 BARRINGTON ROAD
BRIXTON LONDON SW9

Tel: 01-274 7215

OPEN- MONDAY-FRIDAY
10-30 TO 5-30pm for
ADVICE, INFORMATION, WORKSHOPS,
PREGNANCY TESTS, CLASSES,
MEETING SPACE FOR HIRE,
CONTACT: NURSE, JACIE, DVD OR HITTA FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND NEWSLETTER.

If I'm asked to talk about my diet again I'm just going to start humming.
In an argument about feminism, my dad said to me once, "The only people who call themselves Ms. are spinsters who don't want anyone to know they're not married."

Well, I call myself Ms. because I don't see why people SHOULD know if I'm married. Frankly, it's nothing to do with them and I don't want to be branded like a pig at a market with my marital availability. And it makes me sick when I see otherwise sensible women getting married and suddenly losing their identity along with their name- some even go so far as to take their husband's first name as well. "Oh, I'm Mrs. Joe Blogg now," says a woman who only the day before had been called Eileen Smith. I always think "Princess Michael of Kent" isn't the sort of name that princesses get given in fairy tales.

But of course when you think about it, it doesn't make a lot of difference whose name you take, because they're all men's. Some women say that we should use our mothers' names- but their last name is probably only their father's, and so on and so on. And is this patriarchal system unique to Britain? If only it was. Here are some examples out of the Guardian of what they do in other countries.

In BELGIUM women usually keep their own name if they get married. Children are given the father's name if the parents are married, but can't be given the father's name if the parents aren't married.

In DENMARK all women keep their own name unless they sign a declaration saying they don't want to. Children are given either parent's name, but it's usually the father's.

In FRANCE many women keep their own names, but a child must be given its own name unless the mother goes to the town hall before the child is born and the town hall declare that they want to have her declared. This can lead to people getting married for the sake of it.

In ICELAND names, and children are given the first name of their father. Gunnar Olafsson's daughter would be called Mary Gunnarsdottir.

In GERMANY most married women take their husband's name. But some men take their wife's name. Children are usually given the father's name, or both in a double-barrelled version.

In GREECE women keep their own names. Children are given the father's name.

In HOLLAND women keep their own name. It's illegal for a child to be given its mother's name unless she's not married and the father won't admit the child's his.

In ITALY women keep their own names and often give them to their children. In PORTUGAL if a woman gets married she keeps her own name, which is already a combination of her mother's and father's, and joins it to her husband's. Children are given the last two names of each parent so they have four in all, but they are usually known by the last two names of the father.

In SPAIN a married woman keeps her own two family names, the first her own family's father's and the second her mother's. Children are given the first name of each parent, so the mother's mother's name is lost.

I think people should invent completely new last names for their children that've got nothing at all to do with either of the parents or even their most distant relatives. Just think how nice it'd be if children were called things like Gloria Buttercup or John Dandelion...

P.S. Sorry it's only European countries—result of us having information from only European papers!
As a born-again Christian, I support my fellow Christians. We worship God, help each other. Where in the Bible does it say that God receives two men? Is it not clear that Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will? God's word is clear. We do not need to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

The neglect of the Bible, which is the holy book of God, is very sad. We have to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

There is no type of lifestyle that God has not made it possible for two men to be together. We cannot believe our ears. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

Grooming for girls takes a whole new aspect in this decade. It is not just about how you dress, it is about how you act. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

As a born-again Christian, I support my fellow Christians. We worship God, help each other. Where in the Bible does it say that God receives two men? Is it not clear that Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will? God's word is clear. We do not need to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

The neglect of the Bible, which is the holy book of God, is very sad. We have to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

There is no type of lifestyle that God has not made it possible for two men to be together. We cannot believe our ears. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

Grooming for girls takes a whole new aspect in this decade. It is not just about how you dress, it is about how you act. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

As a born-again Christian, I support my fellow Christians. We worship God, help each other. Where in the Bible does it say that God receives two men? Is it not clear that Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will? God's word is clear. We do not need to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

The neglect of the Bible, which is the holy book of God, is very sad. We have to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

There is no type of lifestyle that God has not made it possible for two men to be together. We cannot believe our ears. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

Grooming for girls takes a whole new aspect in this decade. It is not just about how you dress, it is about how you act. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

As a born-again Christian, I support my fellow Christians. We worship God, help each other. Where in the Bible does it say that God receives two men? Is it not clear that Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will? God's word is clear. We do not need to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

The neglect of the Bible, which is the holy book of God, is very sad. We have to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

There is no type of lifestyle that God has not made it possible for two men to be together. We cannot believe our ears. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

Grooming for girls takes a whole new aspect in this decade. It is not just about how you dress, it is about how you act. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

As a born-again Christian, I support my fellow Christians. We worship God, help each other. Where in the Bible does it say that God receives two men? Is it not clear that Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will? God's word is clear. We do not need to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

The neglect of the Bible, which is the holy book of God, is very sad. We have to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

There is no type of lifestyle that God has not made it possible for two men to be together. We cannot believe our ears. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

Grooming for girls takes a whole new aspect in this decade. It is not just about how you dress, it is about how you act. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

As a born-again Christian, I support my fellow Christians. We worship God, help each other. Where in the Bible does it say that God receives two men? Is it not clear that Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will? God's word is clear. We do not need to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

The neglect of the Bible, which is the holy book of God, is very sad. We have to hear from another Christian who would argue against us. We would argue for what we believe. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.

There is no type of lifestyle that God has not made it possible for two men to be together. We cannot believe our ears. Where in the Bible does it say there are two men? Romans 1:27-28 is a clear description of God's will.
Doesn't it make you angry when, as a woman, you have to queue for bloody ages in public loos while men are in and out in no time? Once or twice when there's been a long queue I've thought, "rod it, I'll use the Men's but then I've been subjected to snide comments from men insisting they must be in front of me. And men's toilets are always bloody disgusting anyway (a bit like men in general, really). Because women are socialised to sit down on the toilet when they pee, they take longer than men, who are expected to pee standing up (which is far superior as we all know). Periods and pregnancy also give women greater need of toilets - the fact that women menstruate means that they often need urgent access to toilets, and hormonal change and increased pressure on the bladder also affects toilet use. According to a survey carried out by Cornell University in the USA, men spend an average of 45 seconds using a public toilet while women take an average of 80 seconds (how did they find out??). However, because architects and planners are almost always male, the fact that women need more toilets than men is never recognised.

For a long time there weren't any public loos for women at all, and it was only through the Ladies' Sanitary Association's campaigns for women's 'restrooms' that the principle of having a Ladies' as well as a Gentlemen's toilet was firmly established (this was at the turn of the last century).
veganism

Some tips for those wonderful people that will now IMMEDIATELY become loving, peaceful and COMPLETE vegans after reading this wonderful article.

When I first became vegan, I didn't realise the things that were involved. Why would they put bits of dead animals in bread and cakes and those lovely plain chocolates? But they did! You'll find that dead animals are in everything you like most and are about to miss! But don't despair; the rewards are great.

Things you need to look for:
- *E*n—400's the worst. They can be made from crushed beetles, the urine of a pregnant mare, etc. etc.
- Gelatine (I've been told gelatin is vegan)
- Lactose and lactate compounds e.g. calcium lactate, Glycerin—Both of these are only vegan if stated "from vegetable origin". This is only a general idea/guide.
- There are lots of additives & preservatives like these, or their chemical names that the meat-pushers use to confuse us.

Drugs: Most people tend to forget alcoholic drinks—lots of them are non-vegan and don't state ingredients such as bull's blood or fish extracts, and tobacco, whether in a straight cigarette not, is tested on beagles.

I could go on and on—but if you can't go the whole hog (?), then do it bit by bit, or go as far as you can (very bit helps).

A bit on what you CAN eat: Consider a balanced diet. (A pound of lentils on each shoulder-arm—hand tip). You need iron found in dark green veg. VIt. A (carrots), B12—production of this is aided by yeast products, eg bread, vegemite & it's also available on prescription. Calcium (spinach, Soya Milk With Added Calcium, a bit in water.) A good balance of beans, nuts and FRESH veg. Important which symptoms mean which missing nutrient.

Recommended reading: Vegan Shopper's Guide, S for Additives. Ok, that's it. I have to go to sleep.

Green bloody green. Why am I green? Because all this talk of green is making me sick.

Environmental destruction is the mass terror of our time and at least one reason for this has to be because it's true and it's happening. Another reason might be because we're going into a world economic disaster—this is the ruling class needs to divert our thoughts in a direction they think they can handle, a mass fear for grim times.

But why and just why does anyone think it's happening? Because we've all been a bit careless with the washing up liquid? Please! Green is the new guilt for advertisers to sell things with. "Oh Mrs. Housewife, you naughty naughty you still using the wicked old dye?" It's like Jesus, you'd think it was something we're used to. But since we're used to it, even though you said we shouldn't (never mind getting into how chocolate is sold to us). But of course all those Environment Death Products were only like that because the producers produced and sold them that way. It's not the fault of individual consumers. So it's not amazing that the disaster caused by capitalism has been turned around into another sales ploy!

And if I see one more woman smiling at me from the TV screen saying “and now I can do my bit for the planet too” I think I will really puke. The last time anyone said "you do your bit" it must have been World War 2 propaganda posters. Sounds all very nationalistic to me, and that's why La Thatcher can use a bit of it too. It makes the apocryphal into a matter of individual conscience, a case of if we all, well, "do our bit", and it's great! All the politics of what should be one of the greatest criticisms of world capitalism—imperialism yet have just vanished. The so-called first world countries can busy themselves trying to clean up their patch, while the rest of the world carries on being poisoned and starved as usual, and maybe nobody much in this "first world" will ask how it happened.

Capitalism is a system of exploitation. Its driving motive is profits, and you only make a profit by exploiting someone or something along the way. The first thing (in some ways) anyone noticed was that the working class got exploited, then women and Black people. People have also pointed out that they were getting abused by this system, and now we can see that capitalism also exploits the environment. It treats it like an everlasting free resource and an everlasting free waste tip. BECAUSE IT CAN. We have to make sure it can't; by constantly trying to prevent it along the way, and ultimately by overthrowing the whole system for good.

The South West London Young Lesbian Group is open to young women up to the age of 25. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 7:30pm to 10pm. Activities include watching videos, badge-making, tazing around, going out, etc. For more details phone Amy on 011 899 5384. Good luck.
Dear SP, thanks for sending a copy of Shocking Pink with me being interviewed by you, I really enjoy it. I hope everything is all right with all of you at the staff of Shocking Pink. Of course I'm still prepared to be your correspondent in Namibia but unfort-unately there is really not a lot happening and which I can be shocking to publish, but I'll keep in touch.

I mean from a political point of view there is not a lot happening in politics which is shocking, maybe not happening in politics which is shocking, maybe this time I can move out to our neighbours in South Africa where a well known church priest and president of the South African council of churches was having an affair with a white married woman while himself is married. Isn't it shocking if a church priest is manipulating women with his position as a leader in the church and among the black oppressed ones in South Africa.

It was a pleasure to be interviewed by you any how I'll try to be always in touch, I hope to come and study next year in Britain. Forgive my handwriting.

Jafet Rosalia

Rapist jailed for 12 years

A MAN who claimed there was something wrong with his mind and that he could not follow his trial was yesterday sentenced to an effective 12 years' imprisonment after being convicted on two charges of rape and one of assault in the Windhoek High Court.

Jafet Ameb, 28, was accused of raping two seven-year-old girls at Grootfontein on the night of August 31 last year. He also allegedly assaulted the other girl on the same day and at the same place. He allegedly misled the girls by promising them sweets.

When the trial started on Tuesday Ameb claimed he could not follow his trial as he was being arrested and he thought "something was wrong in his mind". He alleged he had suffered from head problems since 1988 after allegedly being badly assaulted by police members.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM ROSALIA!

Dear Shocking Pink, As I promised that I will be some sort of a correspondent I'll try to fulfill my promise. Namibia is an independent country with a lot of problems, most of my reports will be from a political point of view but not shocking; I need some money to travel places to meet young girls which I believe will fit in SP because of the age thinking I make girls think I'm young and thinking about young girls and women.

My stories might not be useful because of the points I made. Please if so let me know to stop.

The Namibian is an independent newspaper and edited by a dynamic young woman called Gwen Lister. The reports I have sent get them in the Namibian. The pictures are about women as the most uneducated oppressed ones all over the world and in Namibia. The minister mentioned is also a woman who creates jobs for them to be independent, isn't it nice? Brickmaking is made to believe is man's job and the woman just prove them wrong.

Hope to hear from you.

Rosalia, Namibian Correspondent for Shocking Pink
Defence Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty

In the wake of the police attack on the people of Kanesatake, the Mohawk people need assistance in protecting their sovereign territory. Quebec Provincial Police laying siege to the community refuse to allow food to be carried in. They clearly fear that such aid will enable the Mohawks to carry on the defence of their lands.

As people who believe in sovereignty and self-government for First Nations, one thing we must do now is to send material aid to help the Mohawks to buy food, medical supplies, fuel, etc. Even when the blockades are lifted, funds will still be needed to help rebuild and further the struggle for aboriginal title to the Kanesatake lands.

With this in mind, an ad-hoc committee of solidarity activists in Toronto has put together a defence fund to provide immediate assistance. The money is being saved in a special Bread & Roses Credit Union account, and relayed to the Mohawk people through activists with the Leonard Pelletier Canadian Defence Committee.

Your immediate contribution is essential. Funds can be sent individually or through organisations.

Support the First Nations struggle for sovereignty in this emergency situation.

Send donations to: Defence Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty, c/o Bread & Roses Credit Union, 348 Danforth Ave, Suit 211, Toronto, Ontairo, M4K 1N8; Canada.

Dear Shocking Pink II

Hello y'all. I've heard about your project from Alison who used to work on it a few years now, so I'm finally writing you to send you a copy of my project's publication, Youth Lib Zine. I'm also sending you a flyer you might want to reproduce in SP, appealing for financial aid to the Mohawk people.

The Mohawk nation, a part of the Iroquois Confederacy, is a sovereign nation whose territory includes part of what is commonly referred to as Canada and the United States. The Mohawk have been engaged in the armed defense of their territory for over a week now, ever since they moved to protect their sacred site which was about to be turned into a golf course illegally. They have set up barricades to protect themselves from what seems to be an imminent invasion, and have now occupied Mercier bridge going into Montreal, threatening to blow it up if Mohawk lives are lost.

If you could please reprint the flyer in your zine it would probably do some good.

Thanks,
K.

PINK-ERVIEW

We decided that it was time S.P. interviewed someone really famous, but we couldn't get anyone so we had a chat with the queen instead.

S.P.: Who's in yer 'audy?
Queenie: Dog biscuits, packet of B&B (they're smoother than Canol), Bloodsports Weekly and I can't go anywhere without my sunglasses.

S.P.: Do you think of Margaret Thatcher?
Queen: Oh, that nasty loud woman who keeps coming round... Everyone says I've got to be nice to her, but she's always going on at me... don't know WHAT she's sitting about. Once she even tried to stop me going on holiday. I never like to have her alone with the cutlery... and her husband drinks like a fish, you know, not that I blame him. I'm sorry, have you seen my glasses?

S.P.: Did you think of the Poll Tax Riots?
Queenie: What riot?... Anyway, how do you know this Thatcher woman?
Feminist Library are at 5 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1. Tel: 071 928 7789. Open 11-8pm Tues, Wed, Thurs, 12-5pm Sat-Sun. They offer journals from all over the world, a cozy room and kettle! Fiction, non-fiction, magazines, information, advice, research, a newsletter, readings.

They've got a reading on Sat 7th November at 3pm by Liz Whitelaw on her book 'A Biography of Cicely Hamilton' - who was a playwright/novelist in the early 20th century feminist movement.

Pink Pig Trucks! - there was a riot the other day.

This is from a scale-smashing rally in Berkeley, USA - good innit? The women smashed up cans of Slim Fast diet powder, diet coke, & bathroom scales. I think we should have a go at that here!

Peckham Black Women's Centre has a new lesbian worker!! Phone for details of group meeting - all Black QGs welcome - eat, drink, chat, discussions, Weds & Fri 10-5.30pm. 69 Bellenden Rd, SE15 5BH, 071-358 7486.

Bringing Asian Women Together - an Asian worker has recently joined the Peckham Black Women's Centre & is keen to establish links with all Asian, Oriental & Middle Eastern women in Southwark. We provide advice, workshops, courses, information: housing, welfare rights, immigration, pregnancy testing, education/training courses. Please feel free to drop in & we will do our best to help you. Address as above, opening times Mon-Thurs 10-5.30pm. All Asian & African Caribbean women welcome irrespective of sexuality, class, disability or age.

Sapphire Sisters - a social & support group for young lesbians. Meets 6.30-10pm every Saturday in Wavenhamton. For more info phone Deborah (0902) 34 3045. They say they're "a very skint but hardworking group of girls." A sound very nice.