

# MY EYE

N°1



25p

# PROLOGUE

8 South Avenue  
Oldfield Pk.  
BATH  
BAR 3PY

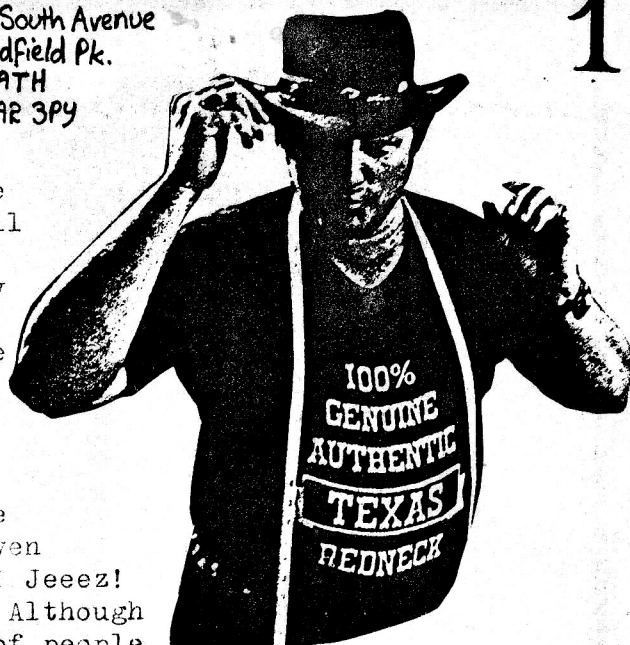
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Hullo everyone- Welcome to issue 1 of **MY EYE** zine. Hopefully it won't be the last; so any comments/criticism/praise will be very welcome.

I'd just like to take this opportunity to have a quick moan: Unfortunately the people I'm moaning ABOUT probably won't be reading this zine! At gigs I sell alot of zines for people, and it's something I quite enjoy doing. However, recently when I've been selling zines on the door, I'll say 'D'you want to buy a zine?' and people will just stride past ignoring me! I've even been told to 'Fuck off' quite a few times! Jeeez! I mean, 'No thanks' would be o.k, y'know? Although to be honest I find sickening the number of people who say 'Sorry-I haven't got the money' and then you see them later completely pissed, and still buying pints at the bar. Another irritation is the boy and girlfriend that come in together, and you ask the girl if she wants to buy a zine, and she turns expectantly to her boyfriend as if to say 'Do you want to dear?' Haven't you wimmin got your own bloody brains? Can't you even buy a zine by yourself? Or are you just so thick you wouldn't be able to read it? So much for the spirit of independance and creativity! I know this has all been said before, but I feel that zines are the most creative, communicative, and positive things in the scene. They should be supported at all costs- I know at times I honestly haven't had the money to buy zines; but most folk spend £3- £5 on booze when they go to gigs, and surely 20p of that isn't too much to ask?

Right, that's enough grumbling. I've only got one band-interview in this first issue- this is due to lack of space, and also I think it's pretty stupid to place priority on bands, when other individuals have just as important/interesting things to say. Still, depending on demand there might be more next time (then again, there might not!)

And now for the dreaded 'THANKS AND HULLOS' list! -  
THANKS go to Shrapnel, Natalie (Way hay hay!), Indra, Spud, Alan, and Stevie Smith (R.I.P) for their contributions to this mag, and HULLOS go to everyone I know in Bath, especially everyone at 8 South Av, Karen (Leeds), Tania, Nut (Incesties), Anthony, Patrick (Atavistic) and Chris (Earth cries mi-fa-mi), Anthony (Tirade), Nick (Activate), Jo (N.Humberside), Adam (Go!), Trev, Bazzy, my parents, Pete and Cath, Cathy 'What a nice pear' Latimer, Hammy, Vic (Entity) and young Jamie, Vlad (Clock), Gibby (Got them Parade Gardens blues!), Alice (Australia), Amy, Max in Texas, Martin (Mottenpöst), Pieter in Poland, Nicky (Brighton), Slag, Alison & Cai, Matthew, Claaarkie, Mandy (Be gentle with that arresting officer!), Mark (hope you're out of nick by the time you read this), John (V.O.S), Fraser, David, Sezzy, Shona, Val (Ireland), Sue (cheers for the good work at the Longacre) and anyone else I've forgotten. Special thanks go to Wid and Eggy for love, friendship, and help with gigs!



**REVIEW**

## 'Between the Eyes'- Ralph Steadman

This is an excellent book; barely affordable at £10.95, but well worth the money. It's packed out with Steadman's amazing artwork along with his notes about the cartoons. Most of us are probably familiar with Steadman's perceptive artwork; he's done alot against animal exploiters and multi-nationals. It's interesting to see how his work develops during the 27 years covered in this book. Buy it if you can afford it. The best stuff in it (in my view) is the more obscure work, using cut and distorted images from magazines. Well wierd!

## 'Beauty Secrets'- Wendy Chapkis

This is another costly book; £5.95, but again well worth that. It's a collection of articles/interviews by wimmin who, for various reasons, don't conform to the way wimmin are 'supposed to look'- telling of their experiences. i.e. fat wimmin, hairy wimmin, handicapped wimmin, wimmin who've had mastectomies, and wimmin that dress 'wierd! The book also deals with the politics of appearance, and this is particularly interesting when related to North/South World politics. It's a facinating book, and it contains some beautiful photos. Cheers Wid!



# SHRAPNEL



SHRAPNEL is a Welsh band consisting of positive, funny, caring and friendly people, who play extremely groovy tunes! This interview took place at the Longacre hall, following the Bath punks picnic; just before the start of the gig Eggy and I put on which SHRAPNEL were headlining.

**ME-** Why do you reckon that after all these years you still haven't recorded an L.P?

**STU-** 'Cause nobody's asked us to, basically! And lack of cash as well.

**ME-** Your most recent songs are quite, um- 'skanky'- a crossover between hardcore and ska, almost. Do you see yourselves as continuing in that direction?

**STU-** I dunno... It's whatever takes our fancy really! We don't plan out what our songs are going to sound like; we just get ideas and play them.

**STEVE-** It depends what we're into at the time. Someone'll come up with something and we'll work on that- we don't say 'oh lets do a skanky number!' I'm not into reggae anyway!

**ME-** It's been well over 10 years now since the scene started; yet we're still getting violence at gigs. Why do you think this is, and what can be done to stop it?

**STU-** A lot of it's to do with the individuals that go to gigs- a lot of people get drunk. Some just want to have a good time, but some cause trouble, and fight with people.

**STEVE-** It's a lot to do with the over-consumption of alcohol, definately.

**ME-** So what d'you think should be done to stop it?

**STU-** People should get together and stop it. If you see a fight at a gig, all get round and say 'look, we don't want this happening,' and then physically stop it.

**STEVE-** Gigs have been continually abused by people- I'm sick of this pacifist thing- y'know; 'mellow out- let them enjoy themselves'... Sad to say, we've got to physically stop the trouble-makers.

**ME-** Why d'you reckon you're so popular in Bath?!

**STU-** They haven't any sense here, that's why!

**STEVE-** Are we popular anywhere?!

**ME-** What do you think of punks picnics? Some people are claiming they are just time-wasting piss-ups: What do you think?

**STU-** Well, they're a good idea to get people together, without any other particular reason but to have a good time, talk to each other, sell things, or whatever. I think it's a good idea.

**STEVE-** I can't see any difference between punks picnics and gigs, actually. I don't think gigs are as 'rad' as some people like to think.

**STU-** A lot of so-called 'alternative' gigs are just the same as going to the pub really. People just go to get pissed.

**STEVE-** Well, there's a bit more to it, (a gig), and more sincere people around; but it's not very different... I mean, I don't go to a gig to hear pearls of wisdom anymore- it's just entertainment.

**ME-** Why do you think that in most areas of the hardcore/punk scene wimmin are in the minority? I've noticed that quite a lot in Wales, especially.

**STEVE-** I suppose it depends how far you want to analyse things: I mean, everything is male dominated anyway...

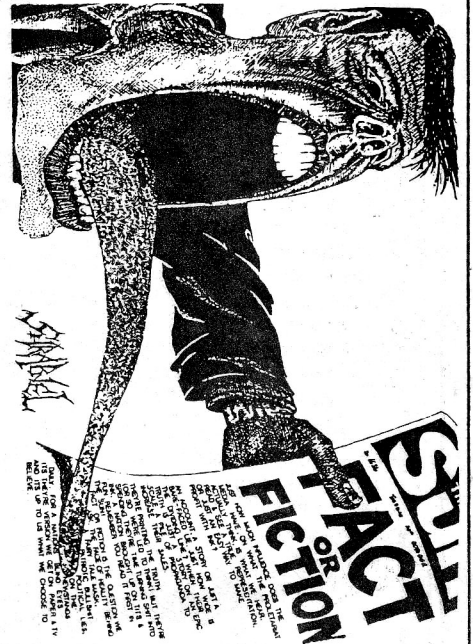
**STU-** I'm not sure why there aren't so many wimmin at gigs... Perhaps they feel alienated towards the 'macho' side of the scene. (Here we are interrupted by Gean 'Wierd beard/mentality Hitchcock' the perfect example of 'the macho side of the scene', who tries to add his crap two-pennies worth; which I won't bother recording..)

**STEVE-** I think we've lost thread of the question now.

**ME-** Well, say, in Bath there are loads of wimmin at gigs and getting in to it; but when I was at the NEGAZIONE gig in Cardiff there was me and my mate (femal) on the dance floor, and no other wimmin at all..

**STU-** There are quite a few wimmin involved with things in Swansea, but I don't think the wimmin who are involved there are really into the type of music which was on that night. There have been gigs in Swansea which have been really well attended by both sexes.

**STEVE-** I sometimes wonder why both male and femals go to gigs; because



Shrapnel Symbol Of Freedom  
They are wrong Against our wall - Anoth  
COVER ART BY RUSS J.  
OTHER ART BY MARTIN



Extra special thanx to: Karl WOW,  
Rat & John Russ J. Slug, and both bands  
who without their help this record  
would not of been possible Cheers!

Hand in Hand Records  
5018 Derwenog ave, Glyncoch,  
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 3y  
South Wales, U.K.



I certainly get offended by certain fucking things I see: The stereotyped bullshit from people- it's exactly the same kind you get at the pub, some of the crap you get from people...

**STU-** You get that anywhere though, don't you?

**STEVE-** Yeah, but from people who're supposed to know better it's pretty disheartening, isn't it?

**ME-** Well right-sometimes I feel I might as well be at a pub or club; 'cause although I meet better people, I still get groped on the dance floor, or whatever...

**STEVE-** Yeah right- so do I!

**STU-** Wish I did!(Laughter)

**ME-** Gean'll do it for you, Stu! (Laughter)

**STEVE-** That's our credibility down the drain!

**STU-** Yeah, last time we played here, Merlin offered me a can if I got my prick out on stage! (Here Gean cuts in with remarks about magnifying glasses, etc.)

**STEVE-** Quickly- next question please!

**ME-** Have you got anything you want to publicize?

**STEVE-** Aw, that was too short! I was just getting into it!

**ME-** Well, you can think of a question if you like.

**GEAN-** (Butting in again) Why does the singer wear such a poxy little vest?!

**STU-** I don't wear it any more, actually!

**STEVE-** He's a hippy, that's why. I'm the only band member who isn't a hippy, by the way! Um... anything to add?

**STU-** There's a split single with TOXIC EPHEX coming out in about 6 weeks time on 'Words of Warning' records- Hello Karl, you ugly bastard! Oh- our guitarist has just popped in- would he like to say a word?

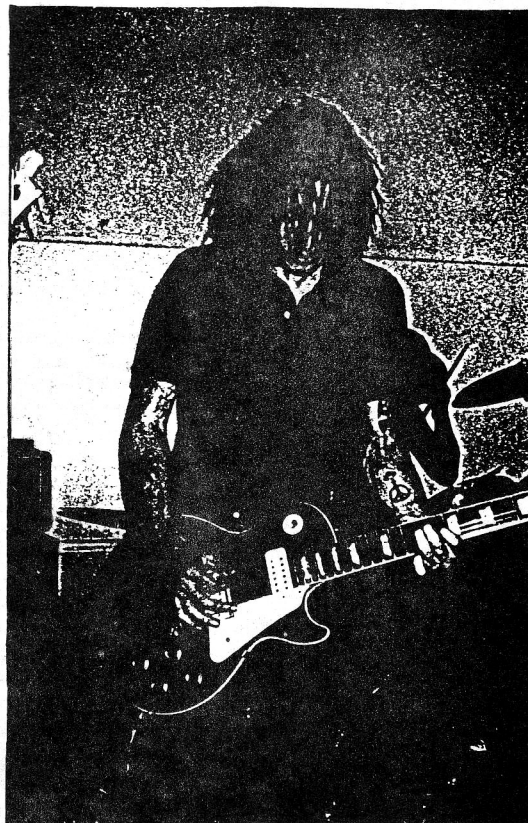
**PAUL-** We're doing a tour with CHRIST ON PARADE in October, between the 8th and the 20th.

**STEVE-** Why are there so many thrash bands around? We're all meant to be into individualism; but the moment you try to be individual you get knocked for it!

Et voila- the end of the interview! Check SHRAPNEL out (if you haven't already) because, as well as playing great music, they're also one of the few bands left who are prepared to headline gigs for their travel costs only!



Above left: Paul and Stu getting into it at the Longacre - Below left: Steve and Paul (note Steve's fag- what a dude, eh kids?!) Right: Paul yet again! Photos on the left were taken by Wid (mine photocopied too dark.) Sorry to Jeff (drummer) for not getting any photos of you- it wasn't a deliberate thing, honestly! I deserve slapped wrists- It's very sad the way drummers are always getting the rough end of the stick! (Cue violins!)





# MORE ON THE BIRDS & THE BEES

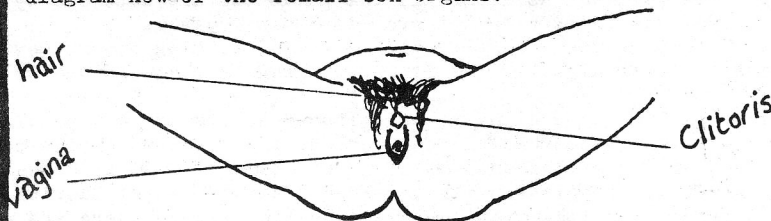
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At school in 'sex education' we are taught, basically, about the male and female reproductive system. Most of us are not taught more than that. Now, from the female point of view that's O.K. because, let's face it, the cock is a pretty obvious thing isn't it? It's also far simpler than the female sexual organs, because there's only one thing to think about. However, because men are only taught that the penis enters the vagina and then 9 months later a baby pops out, they suffer an extreme set-back: This is ALL many blokes know about female sexual organs. Many males also suffer immense insecurity and self-consciousness because of this ignorance—so much stigma is placed on the 'male sex drive', and nobody really hears what females need/enjoy, as they are taught to be pure, and quiet about sexual matters. Therefore, because of this lack of understanding and communication between sexes, men create their own myths about what females like/need—i.e., the myth of 'the bigger cock the better.' This myth is also linked to the issue of male power in hetero-sexual sex—men often see their cocks in the same way they see their muscles; the bigger the more POWERFUL.

Many men don't even know where the vagina IS on their first sexual encounter (anyone remember that awkward fumbling?!) And even less how to turn the female on; whereas it'd be pretty hard for a female to get it wrong with a bloke, wouldn't it?

Now for some facts—One third of women are totally dissatisfied with their hetero-sexual sex lives, (N.I. 1986), and 80% of women find that their male partners can't arouse them properly. Now for what I see as the crux of the issue—3/4 (75%) of women cannot orgasm by penetration alone. 1/3 of women fake orgasm regularly to please their partners. If you are a heterosexual male reading this—do you know if your partner orgasms during sex?

Often men are not even taught that females have a clitoris as well as a vagina, and even if they are they may well not realise it has anything to do with sex. This has drastic connotations for heterosexual sex when 75% of women don't come by 'cock in cunt' alone. Men have to be taught how to stimulate clitoral orgasm, otherwise they just won't know. And as they are not taught in school, then females must teach them. This may well be embarrassing, but it's the only way. I have heard men (supposed 'goers' of course) refer to women's vaginas as 'clits'! Mad! So I'm doing a diagram now of the female sex organs:



Apologies for the bad drawing! Anyway, if you're male and you feel you don't know enough about the clitoris and how it works, ask your girlfriend to show you. This article is not trying to ridicule male ignorance or anything like that—If anything I am ridiculing the inadequacy of average hetero' sex life, caused by our pathetic inhibitions and embarrassment in talking to each other about sex. COMMUNICATE TO LIBERATE! (Or in this case, to improve your sex-life! ©)

## '1 IN 10'

DO YOU FEEL ISOLATED IN THE HETERO-SEXUAL DOMINATED ALTERNATIVE MOVEMENT? Well, I've wanted to get gay and lesbian punk/anarchists/whatever to write to each other — We DO exist, we aren't invisible. Please write if you are gay: It is as much your network as it is mine. I will make up sheets of people who want to write to fellow gays (photocopied/printed) to pass around so we can write to each other. Write with a stamp (I.R.C) to '1 IN 10', Gibby, 25/7 Glencunnie Drive, Darnley, GLASGOW, G53 7HH, SCOTLAND. (Confidentiality ensured in letters to me.

*'1 in 10' '1 in 10' '1 in 10' '1 in 10' '1 in 10' '1 in 10'*



# GARLIC

## ARTICLE BY NATALIEEE!

Well, I suppose after reading Becky's piece on sex and orgasms this could be rather un-exciting, but I promise I'll do my best to mention a few bottoms or something a bit later on!

Garlic, mmmm; my favourite subject. Although usually associated (depending on your taste for the stuff) with either beautiful food or 'Bonk in a bucket breath', garlic has a surprising amount of folklore, and historical and religious belief behind it. Apart from the well-known tale that it protects young virgins from the wrath of vampires, this allium (member of the Onion Clan!) is often regarded as being linked with the devil. This is especially true in parts of India, where strict Hindus abhor the use of it. In the Gita, the sacred book of (Hare) Krishna Consciousness, garlic is described as one of the 'putrid, decomposed and unclean' foods, which if consumed cause 'pain, distress and disease.' This was also the belief of Chinese Buddhism, where the Priesthood were forbidden to eat it.

However, garlic was favoured by the Ancient Egyptians, who thought it induced strength; and so fed the slaves who built the pyramids upon it. This was also true of the Romans, who gave it to their soldiers before battles.

The Romans also considered garlic to be an aphrodisiac and gorged on it at their orgiastic banquets. The Roman writer Pliny advises us that garlic 'beaten up with fresh coriander and taken in pure wine' brings forth the most satisfying results! The Ancient Jews also believed in the arousing quality of the allium! Rabbis recommended their synagogues to eat it on Fridays to 'Enliven the marriage bed'! However, the effectiveness of garlic as an aphrodisiac is effected by the stench it leaves on your breath, which lots of folk find a huge 'turn off'. So to assure it's maximum effects, both prospective lovers must devour it in abundance! (Though seemingly, fresh parsley quells the smells!)

The ancient Jews also viewed garlic as a magic root, and used it as a charm against the Plague. Many other medicinal uses for it have been practised since then. Centuries ago garlic was thought to cure the bite of mad dogs, snakes, and other venomous creatures. Also it was said to combat the side effects of drinking rancid water and poisonous herbs or berries. It was even believed to make depressed folk cheerful.

A peasant cure for threadworms was to stick a clove of garlic up your bum every night for two weeks! It seems that this remedy may have had some logic to it, as herbalists of today recommend taking garlic in a slightly more comfortable fashion; as seemingly the parasites are repelled by it- so for those of you out there with bot problems: Here goes...

-Cover 3 to 4 cloves of garlic with a cup of boiling water. Cover it, and let it stand over night. Drink it first thing in the morning- Delicious!

Nowadays garlic is becoming re-established as a major and popular herbal remedy: With the invention of odourless and tasteless garlic pearls, even those who wretch at the thought of it can benefit from it's healing qualities. Leading herbalists, like the French herbal expert Maurice Mességué, believe that 'wherever there are healthy people there are garlic eaters.' They say that if it is eaten regularly garlic reduces blood pressure, purifies it, stimulates circulation, makes the vessels suppler, and reduces cholesterol in the body, so reducing the likelihood of heart problems. As garlic contains a natural antibiotic and has expectorant qualities (makes ya gob out thick green floaters!) It is effective in preventing colds and flu, even treating mild tonsillitis, soothing asthma and angina, and also preventing constipation and the dropsy (which I'm informed is watery fluid in the body- not an embarrassing male, alcohol induced sexual problem!) and also acts as a tonic. Lastly it is a natural antiseptic- garlic heals spots, cuts, and pimples - what more could we ask for? Who needs Oxylo now!

Anyway, even though garlic is easy to buy, it is extraordinarily easy to grow; so bung yer Paul Rutherford head on, and get planting- Between Nov and March bury the cloves, pointy end up, an inch down and 6 inches apart in a dry, sunny area. Keep the patch weeded, and if necessary support the stems and leaves with sticks and strings. In July/August when the stems and leaves lose their greenness and topple over, dig them up and dry them out. So there ya go- the instant answer to eternal life- Eat garlic or die!



NATALIE - THE WOMUN HERSELF!



# INTRODUCTION

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The reason for my doing this project was for two reasons- Firstly because I'd heard many rumours about the split between Yellow Gate and the others; and secondly because I wanted to see what the scenes' view of feminism/seperatism/sexism really is. (So please write and tell me your response to these interviews). The interviews are all very different; much of the Greenham interviews are dedicated to the rift and goings on at Greenham, whereas Alan hasn't been to Greenham, so the whole of his interview is on the subject of feminism. Also, the Greenham interviews were taped live, whereas Alan's was a postal interview. I wrote to Alan ('Axe of Freedom') asking him to do the interview because I'd heard he was very anti Greenham, and therefore it would make it more interesting to have his opinions included. Both Spud and Indra I found to be really nice people, so it seems a real pity that the two sides don't have anything to do with each other. It must be said that none of the opinions in these interviews are MY views!

I think a few definitions are in order-

FEMINIST- Someone who wants equality between men and wimmin.

SEPERATIST- Someone who has gotten so fed up with the 'oppressors' for one reason or another that they choose to live only with their own racial/sexual group.

CONVOY- The Cruise missile convoy, which comes out of Greenham for secret manouv-ers on Salisbury Plain.

When Eggy and I turned up at Yellow Gate we were somewhat nervous, however, we were warmly welcomed and given cups of tea by Spud, Abigail and Janet. I had heard Yellow Gate were a bunch of militant seperatists; so when a man and a woman pulled up in a car and hopped out I cringed for the bloke- but no, it was fine: They were both given cups of tea, and we all had a good chat! So that dispelled one of the rumour immediately! (During the day I saw three blokes at the camp; all being chatted to by the wimmin.

Only half an hour after our arrival at Yellow Gate, Abi and Janet were arrested for throwing paint over an M.O.D truck as it left the gate- This happens EVERY time an army truck leaves the site. So only Spud was left to do our interview! The wimmin DON'T just sit around making daisy-chains all day- actions and break-ins are happening constantly. Every day wimmin face court and prison sentences. They also have to contend with the vigilantes that often come round and intimidate them at night: On Woad Gate I met a woman of 65-75 whom I was told later had just come out of hospital because she'd suffered broken ribs when some vigilantes had beaten her up.

Anyway, if you decide to visit Greenham, try to take some wood along, because the wimmin are always short of it. On to the first interview... →

## REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

'The Color Purple'-Alice Walker.

This novel will probably sound nauseatingly 'right on' when I describe it; but in fact it's not like that at all. Celie, a black girl, is raped by her step-father; and when she has their child he takes it from her. He then marries her off to a violent man who just needs a wife to tidy his place up. However, Celie comes into contact with other wimmin; and as she gradually regains her confidence she realises her life isn't yet over, and she doesn't have to take the shit. It is an extremely moving, honest book, written in diary form, detailing the way in which Celie comes to accept and enjoy her gender, colour, and sexual orientation. A book about real people.

'Gaining Ground'- Joan Barfoot.

This novel is about a woman who leads a 'normal' life (ie gets married and has kids,) until one day she just flips; and deserts her family to go and live in a forest hut, miles and miles away from 'civilization.' A well written book, but I didn't enjoy it much as I had ethical problems with it - Her family had done nothing wrong; so I didn't think they deserved to be deserted. I mean, it would have seemed bad if her husband had done it instead; so why should SHE get away with it? An interesting read, anyway!

'Malcolm X- The man and his Ideas'- George Breitman.

This booklet (available at most alternative bookshops) starts off very well, with a brief history of Malcolm X's background, and then on to the beliefs of the militant black leader. The 1st half is brilliant; but towards the end George Breitman seems more intent on proving that Malcolm X was a Socialist (which Malcolm X never said he was) than telling us about Malcolm's beliefs.

'The Socialized Penis'-Jack Litewka'  
(Available from MASS, c/o Box 25, 52 Call Lane, LEEDS)

I had expected this booklet to be rather cliched and obvious; but I was pleasantly surprised- It was very interesting, and often even humorous. It is basically Litewka trying to define how his (and other mens') sexuality has been influenced by socialization and conditioning. I found especially interesting the explanation for so many heterosexual men fantasizing about lesbians, and the reasons Litewka put forward for so many hetero men hating gay men. Litewka is not your typical guilty white male lefty; he decided to look closely at his sexuality because he was genuinely interested and concerned about what outside influences were doing to him and his sex-life. Cheers for sending it, Gibby!

# YELLOW GATE

## INTERVIEW WITH SPUD

ME- Can you tell us, basically, what the Wilmet Brown thing was all about?

SPUD- To me it isn't the conflict of Wilmet Brown; it was the conflict that she was a black woman. Um- first of all we start off at the Moscow conference; 'Peace by the Year 2000'. There was a Greenham Womans' workshop- there were Greenham women who'd been living on the common there, Camden women's support group, and a number of other support groups. Everyone was going to have a chance to stand up and say something about themselves and their connections with Greenham. But as soon as Wilmet Brown got up, and began to make connections between black and white women working together in the peace movement, and racism, women got up and walked out. When you consider how many chances there are for a black woman to speak at an international conference, especially making connections between the black movement and the peace movement, and for some woman to get up and walk out without even listening to her, is racist.

ME- Can you tell me what it was Wilmet said that offended them?

SPUD- They weren't even there to listen to what offended.

ME- But presumably they must've walked out for a reason?

SPUD- They just didn't want to listen. I mean, that was the start of it- a symptom of the way they were thinking. They didn't want to make connections between black women and white women in the peace movement: It really didn't bother them ... They were there to get rid of Cruise missiles, or whatever, but the same thing that produces nuclear weapons produces racism: You can't get rid of one without the other. That was the start of it; and then coming back, there was a silence- nobody wanted to try and tackle this thing- that women weren't making the connection with the black movement; and one of the reasons is that when they try to stand up and talk about it, nobody listens to them! When they got back here (I wasn't at the conference) there was a wall of silence- nobody wanted to talk about it. So we had two camp meetings to try and discuss it, because Greenham is supposed to be anti-racist; so here was a challenge- a woman claims she's been racially attacked: How're we gonna deal with it? Well, the woman who'd been racially attacked turned up, but the woman who'd done the attack, or refused to listen, didn't turn up. The meeting was a total farce; nobody wanted to listen at all. We had another meeting to try and discuss it- that was even worse. Nobody wanted to listen to Wilmet speaking; they shouted her down- literally shouted this black woman down. I went to both meetings not knowing what was going on: After those meetings I was convinced that 1, the racism had happened, and 2, that this camp was not going to take on racism. Giving lip-service isn't good enough- we have to work it out with black women who're prepared to work with us. (At this point the visiting woman and bloke who've been sitting with us get up to leave.) Oh, 'bye! Where did I get to? Well, I'd like to bring in an analogy which helped ME understand it: If a man is sexist to a woman or reduces her confidence in some way, and she says 'that was sexist', and he, being male, may not be able to recognise that act. But he should at least listen to her. If he stands back and says 'me sexist? No way!' And goes off, he's got this whole network of men to say 'You're not being sexist to this woman: You don't have to listen to her.' And it's the same thing that happened in the peace movement: A woman stands up and says 'This was racist- you refused to listen to me or the connections I was trying to make: How can we move forward if you don't listen?' And these other women say 'This wasn't racist,' y'know.

They came back and they used the media. I mean, we've had attacks like 'Yellow Gate's been taken over by the black mafia'- that article was written based on information given by a woman who calls herself a 'peace worker'-she worked at Cruise Watch. We've had 'Wilmet Brown's a C.I.A agent,' 'Yellow Gate are C.I.A agents,'- This is in the



press. If you're in the peace movement, you ought to recognise the biases against us, and take responsibility for what we actually SAY to the press: They can tear us apart! These wimmin, regardless of the consequences, were feeding the racism of the press, knowing they were doing so, and that in itself is racist.

ME- So you accuse the other gates of being racist in that they won't challenge what has happened?

SPUD- We're all racist. It wasn't just the racism at the Moscow conference, it was the racism which happened at the two meetings afterwards- the refusal to work through it, which caused the split. When Wilmett sat there she wasn't saying 'You have to support me or else', which is what wimmin SAY she was saying; she was saying 'look, this is what happened; will you work with me through it?' Not necessarily 'work with the Kings Cross Wimmins Centre'; not necessarily 'join my cause' or anything like that; but 'will you work through what happened, so that if another black womun's here it won't happen again. What happened has become totally distorted now- The meetings were taped, and thank God they were; because ever since then I've heard so many, um, wild variations of story-things like 'Oh, Rebecca won't be our star! therefore we're cutting her out of the peace movement'-That never happened at the meeting- never!

ME- That was all quite a while ago, wasn't it? (Spud nods) From what I've seen there's quite a few new wimmin, and there's actually few wimmin here now that were around then- there are different wimmin on the other gates now, so do you think you can get on with them? It just seems that all this happened a long time ago; and maybe it's nothing to do with the people on the other gates now?

SPUD- No, because they're still in the network which is supported by these other wimmin; they're not challenging the wimmin. They haven't taken this racism thing up at all. Since then they've tried to cut our post off, letters have been circulating trying to divert money and contributions AWAY from us to the other gates...If the other wimmin accepted that there was a racist incident, and admitted that what happened afterwards was disgusting- the media thing, and the funds being cut off...I mean, they circulated this piece of paper around the Labour Party wimmins section saying how disgusting Yellow Gate was! We've never done that...We went to N.Ireland for this conference, and the wimmins' press over THERE had got this paper saying 'Yellow Gate have been taken over by the C.I.A!' They sent it everywhere! And unless these wimmin will actually say 'that was wrong' and 'we'll take responsibility for what's been done in our name'-because it IS still being done in their name; whether they're new wimmin or not. Even if these wimmin are saying 'well, that doesn't concern us because it happened before we came here', they still have to take responsibility; as it's being done in their name.

ME- Do you think it's right to call Greenham a 'peace camp' when this is going on?

SPUD- Yes, because it's non-violent. Yes.

ME- But I mean...

SPUD- I mean I don't ever...I mean, they (the other gates) refuse to call us Greenham wimmin...they don't accept us as part of the wimmins' peace camp...but I still see THEM as Greenham wimmin; because what they do in the name of Greenham still affects me, and what I do in the name of Greenham still affects them.

ME- It all seems a bit, erm, funny to me...like, those two wimmin walked up there (just past us) and you just don't speak to them...I dunno- how long could this go on? Do you know what I mean?

SPUD- I've never seen those wimmin before...they never came up to us- they just, like, came out of that gate, watched two wimmin get arrested; they were inside the base when those vehicles were coming out- they could have stopped those vehicles before they got outside the blinking gates!

ME- So what would you like to see happen now with the other wimmin- would you like another meeting now, or would you like this situation to go on, or do you have a different solution?

SPUD- Well, since the- well, we call it the 'seperation' now; since THEN, the wimmin here at Yellow Gate actually know why we're here; we've been totally committed to this gate

...like, just now I knew I could'nt get arrested- those two had to get arrested, and I must stay on the gate. When we take action we have to realise that a prison sentence is coming up. Because WE- I don't know about the other gates, but I seriously doubt it- we're still taking action, and we've still got court cases and prison sentences to do, at this gate. We're working well: When the convoy has come out we've done some very good actions; just the 6 or 7 wimmin here. Last (Cruise) convoy we stopped it right at it's main gate- right in front of the base commander, the R.A.F commander, the 200 police outside: We stopped it right at that gate, because one of the wimmin actually stood on top of the convoy- like, got inside, hid on the convoy, waited 'til it got here and then stood up and stopped it. Before the seperation there were hardly any wimmin here for the convoy anyway, apart from the wimmin living at this gate. I mean, one or two wimmin from Blue Gate used to come round, but that was all. Cruise Watch (who get £10,000 from C.N.D) never give us lifts to Salisbury Plane when the convoy's out.

ME- So you think it actually works better as two seperate camps?

SPUD- WE'VE worked better. We realise we never really had the support there anyway. We were always working, and we'd have these wimmin coming up saying 'Yes we support you', but then they'd go away again, leaving us to face the convoy, and to get to Salisbury Plane when the convoy is out. The only wimmin or support group who offered to take us to Salisbury Plane was the Kings Cross wimmins centre. They really supported us.

ME- I'd like to ask you a question on the male/femal separation aspect. We've just seen that bloke come up with his partner, and you chatted with him- I've been to Yellow Gate before WITH men, and some of the wimmin (different ones to those here now) moved their stuff so that they wouldn't be near the men. We hear that men are allowed to come here and are welcome in the daytime (though not at night because of the rapes)-would you endorse that?

SPUD- Well, the rapes are a big part of it, but it's not the only reason why men aren't here...We have to respect wimmins' space, and if some wimmin don't want to be with men that's fine. Although there is this thing about autonomy and seperation; like, I don't, and I think I can safely say that Yellow Gate don't want to make ourselves seperate from certain mens' struggles; for instance Viraj Mendis in Manchester- we have sent a letter to him saying we support him, and hopefully a few of us are going to visit him in a couple of weeks time. We support mens' struggles against racism and immigration. But we believe in wimmins' autonomy- I only want to work and make decisions with wimmin; although that doesn't mean our two groups can't work together for the same cause. But wimmin have to have their own space and their own autonomy, because, well, take the Aldermaston march. It was a mixed march, organised by wimmin; but how many wimmin did you hear give talks about it? How many wimmin were interviewed about it? Who got the credit for it? Men.

ME- There'll be men reading this zine- would you say that if men want to come here to support you and to state their protest and opposition to this cruise missile base, would you welcome them?

SPUD- Well, for a start it depends how they come! It's wimmin only actions her; in 7 years at this gate we've worked to make it a womuns' space, and to make sure actions are wimmin only, because I think wimmin work better together, and because I think generally men are more violent than wimmin. I don't think they're naturally more violent; but they've been brought up to be violent. But they are welcome to come and support us, and talk to us. Money is always very welcome! (Laughter) I talk to men here.

ME- Do you think men and wimmin are basically the same, but both have been subjected to different socialization?

SPUD- Erm, I'm not sure... I think the socialization has gone SO deep that you can't say where that ends and the nature begins. Thinking logically I think it IS socialization, and I think that boy children, and men who are willing to work at it, CAN become non-violent, and can take on alot of the work that wimmin are doing; but



there's alot of prejudice and power over wimmin that men have, and they can abuse it without knowing it. Before we can say 'Yes, we're equal', we've got to reclaim alot of that power; and the only way I can see of doing that is wimmin's autonomy.



Above: A message at Yellow Gate, held still by Eggy (who makes it look like a mushroom!)

Below: (From left to right) Janet, Abl, and Spud. Sorry about the quality folks!



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# RECORD REVIEWS

## OPERATION IVY - 'Hectic' E.P

For all you folks out there who've still got your trilbies and Harrington jackets hidden away in your bedroom cupboards; this is the record for you! Those heady days of 2-Tone are back! This is a BRILLIANT record: I can't tell you how good it is! The music is hardcore/ska, and the blend is perfect. Suspiciously English sounding vocals from an American band, and lots of Bad Manner-ish 'Giddy-up giddy-up giddy-ups' in the background! Definately a touch of Specials thrown in there too. Good lyrics as well. Available from LOOKOUT RECORDS, P.O Box 1000, Laytonville, CA. 95454, USA

## PRINCE - 'Lovesexy' L.P

This L.P is impossible to sum up- another master-piece by the pouting poseur. A couple of the songs on side 2 let the L.P down a little- rather lame; especially his token smoochy number! However, the rest makes up for those a million times over: Excellent musicianship, ranging from hardcore-funk, to screeching guitar solos, to boppy dance beats, to abstract orchestral bits. Well wierd, well hard, well catchy, and well arty! I got my copy for £4.99, so it was no more expensive than most h.c releases.

## PUBLIC ENEMY- 'It takes a nation of millions to hold us back' L.P

Yow! This album is so bloody hard it hurts! I didn't think anything could exceed their first L.P; but they're back- they're even better, and their message is even stronger: 'Y- You're rather hostile!' 'I've a right to be hostile maaan; ma people being persecuted!' This is extreme political hardcore hip-hop ('She watch Channel Zero?' is backed by a Slayer riff.) The message is loud and clear- DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE!

## BAD BEACH- 'Cut it Off' L.P

This album begins with a slightly bewildering track (Cut it off- part 1) which sounds more like The Housemartins than anything else! However, just as you're beginning to wonder whether you really should have taken the gamble on this record, it breaks into 'Wideys' County', and you feel reassured once more. The Bad Beach sound is hard to define... definately a touch of Black Flag thrown in there... And a touch of every other sound imaginable! The l.p is sometimes fairly slow and rocky, sometimes fast, sometimes 'grungey', and sometimes totally obscure! A very impressive album- not for the narrow-minded!

# BLUE GATE

## INTERVIEW WITH INDRA

**ME-** Can you tell us briefly what happened at the Moscow conference, with Wilmet Brown, and then on?

**INDRA-** During the Greenham workshop, (I must say that I was not there at the time of the incident,) one woman apparently asked Wilmet Brown to 'shut up' when she was talking; because she wanted the subject of Greenham. At the same time there were so many stories going round I couldn't say that's definitely right, as I wasn't there. Moscow is really used as an event that clinched the situation which started before... At Moscow I was sharing a room with some woman from Yellow Gate, and I was aware of some consternation, but it wasn't blown up like it is now... it's like, suddenly 2 weeks AFTER Moscow it was a huge issue- everything was being hung on that particular event; but at the TIME nobody seemed to be treating it with that much importance.

**ME-** Do you know why the woman who walked out on Wilmet Brown did so? What was it that offended them?

**INDRA-** I walked out of the workshop; but I mean, 'walk out' are fairly slanted words anyway: There was a Nicaraguan Solidarity workshop going on in the next hall, and I spent half my time in each workshop. So, therefore, I could be classed as having 'walked out' of the Greenham workshop, although I came back- to and from. I was asked to speak and I didn't. I was slightly perturbed by some of the other women from camp who were talking; their attitude- especially in reference to women who didn't live at camp but have been involved in the camp; they were being described in a way in a way as if they were SERVICING women at camp, and I felt uncomfortable about that; which is why I didn't participate much in the workshop.

**ME-** (Bewildered) So... What we've heard is that a bunch of women deliberately walked out whilst Wilmet was speaking...

**INDRA-** Some women from Camden LEFT the workshop; but whether they left because they wanted to go to something else, or whether they walked out because of Wilmet Brown, I don't know. It's like- events are looked upon and judged in a particular way to suit a particular line of argument. I really object to that, because often women aren't given a chance to put their side of the argument, like, 'I left because I wanted to go to the Nicaraguan Solidarity workshop, which was a lot more interesting.' (Laughter)

**ME-** Presumably you have experience of Wilmet Brown- do you find her an objectionable person?

**INDRA-** No! I mean, before this all started I thought Kings Cross were an amazing, dynamic group (although I'd heard slightly worrying things about their past behaviour)... She's a highly intelligent woman, and she's a VERY good speaker... but I find the tactics of 'Wages for Housework' and their priorities extremely mixed up. I really object to the way they work and behave, and the way they see themselves as an entity above all others. They're not into cooperation; although Wilmet Brown talks a lot about cooperation between black and white people, especially in the Peace Movement- there's no cooperation: It has to be on THEIR terms.

**ME-** Are they an all- black group?

**INDRA-** No; there are a few black women in the group. They do, admittedly, do some useful work, and the Womans Centre does advice work and stuff for women. But it's no bigger than it was 10 years ago, and it's the same people at the top of the group- the same hierarchy but different workers (or volunteers, as they call them.)

**ME-** What would you say about the meetings which took place here after the initial incident at Moscow?

**INDRA-** Well, I wasn't at the first meeting at Green Gate, because the convoy was out, and I was on Salisbury plane. But I spoke to a lot of different women about it when I got back. A lot of women had thought 'Good- a meeting about racism'- obviously something a lot of women were interested in, which is why so many women turned up. But what it turned out to be, from what the women I've spoken to have said, was basically 'Wages for Housework' having a forum to attack individual women, particularly Rebecca Johnson, on things THEY saw as wrong about them. It wasn't about racism; it was about whether you would unquestioningly support the LEADERSHIP of particular women from Yellow Gate and Wages for Housework. 3 particular women from Yellow Gate were billed as leaders of the camp: All this was prepared beforehand and just sprung on the women at camp. Women were TOLD- they didn't even get a chance to ask questions! Many women just sat there, just SO astounded... there was, like, a chair, and it was all SO tightly organized (which is how 'Wages for Housework' work.) Women were actually too FRIGHTENED to say anything. I could almost feel what the meeting was like when I came back,



because of the state wimmin were in; especially wimmin who'd been heavily picked on, like Rebecca. It was like a court prosecution, or something! It was really malicious.

ME- So what was all this about Rebecca?

INDRA- Well, Rebecca's now vice- chair at C.N.D- she wasn't at the time. Now, Yellow Gate have this thing about wimmin who've lived here a long time, but they pick and choose their wimmin who've lived here a long time! 'Wages for Housework' actually said 'We see Rebecca as a 'star', but we don't want her as a star- WE make the stars; we control the stars.' Basically they wanted to dispose Rebecca, whom they saw as a 'star', and replace her with one they were aligned with. We don't see Rebecca as a 'star'. She has some particular qualities- everyone has different qualities and aptitudes. They were building Rebecca up, and then saying 'This is wrong, because we don't like you', basically. 'You don't tow our line, so we don't want you here.'

ME- So when you talk about 'stars' you are saying that they were trying to set up a kind of leadership thing at Greenham?

INDRA- They were, certainly. They said it. They actually SAID 'We want you to follow the leadership of Catrina, Sarah Hipperson, and Beth.'

ME- And the rest of the wimmin oppose that?

INDRA- We've always opposed hierarchy here. It happens to a certain degree, sometimes; but to actually say 'We are going to be your leaders'... for me that seemed like throwing personal responsibility out of the window. I was really close friends with Sarah Hipperson. She'd always talked alot about personal responsibility, and when I first came to camp I really listened to her alot. To say to somebody 'We are right, We are perfect'(which is basically what they said- 'We've all dealt with our racism, so now you follow us, and if you agree with us, you've dealt with your racism too- you're perfect too': To me that stinks. We have to work through things in our own ways. To say what they were saying seemed crazy to me, and not based on any real truth...

ME- Do you think Greenham can be called a 'peace camp' when you have a blatant rift between Yellow Gate and the others?

INDRA- Yes. I think they're two separate camps, actually; but yes, because the work still goes on. Positive things HAVE come out of this: Wimmin round the North side have become alot closer. The first 6 months were hell; it was very difficult- lots of wimmin who'd been involved in camp for a long time were coming round here in tears, and constantly there'd be some new thing we'd done wrong- some new issue or incident: At one point there was a constant barrage of attacks and accusations. We tried to talk and deal with it, and all our time was spent trying to help wimmin who were desperately, desperately unhappy. I lived at Yellow Gate for a year, and was very close to some of the wimmin on the Gate; now I and other wimmin are in the same position- those old friends wouldn't even look at us in the street. When I came back from Moscow things were fine between me and Yellow Gate. I spoke to Janie Hume from the Morning Star about the trip- every woman on camp, including Yellow Gate, have always spoken to Janie. She wrote rather a weak piece in the Morning Star, although they'd also done quite a political piece about the Moscow conference. The Morning Star is a Communist newspaper, but we've always spoken to Janie in the past. Anyway, Sarah said to me 'Did you talk to the Morning Star?' And I said 'Yes'. At that time I still thought she was a close friend of mine, but the next thing I heard she says 'I've cut the thread', and I'm never spoken to again. Once, in an eviction I went up and said 'I've put your stuff in the van, Sarah' and the next thing we were having a blazing row- she was telling me that I didn't respect her enough, that I was corrupt, evil, working with the wrong people: Awhole shpeil! I found it incredible that someone you've known for a long time could suddenly switch without even giving you time to listen to you! It flawed me! And it opened my eyes to my eyes to the fact that wimmin were just not being given a chance. You either crawled to them and said 'You're wonderful and every-one else is evil', or you're on the other side, and you're corrupt!

ME- Do you think you could be reconciled with the other wimmin?

INDRA- We tried keeping the channels of communication open for a long time, but people were treated with alot of suspicion... I would hope there is a solution to this; but I'm not doing it on their terms. There's no way I'm going to say 'You're right'... I just think of all the wimmin they've attacked in most unbelievable ways, for things that didn't even happen, half the time!

ME- Can you tell me what abuse does go on between the separate groups?

INDRA- Wimmin have had abuse thrown at them... At one time they were saying we couldn't use the stand pipe to get water... I went round one night because a woman called Carol who used to live at Yellow (she now lives at Orange) had called for assistance on the C.B- she said they were trying to make sure she was saying what she should be on the C.B. Carol has ALWAYS done the C.B. I ended up having a huge argument with Sarah Hipperson: She was saying the most incredible things, and there was no way I could just stand and take it... But I cried for about 3 hours afterwards! (Here Cath reminds Indra of various other incidents of conflict) Well, there have been particular instances in the past, for example: Wimmin have taken post round to Yellow Gate or the Sanctuary,

and have been shouted at for taking the post round- then when wimmin HAVEN'T taken the post round, Yellow Gate come round and find it delayed and go absolutely mad- it's basically a no win situation. Greenham has always been about any womun being allowed to the camp so long as she's non-violent, but Yellow Gate have no qualms about asking a womun to leave if they don't think she's towing the line! There's this whole thing about 'You're only a real Greenham womun if you've lived at camp for years'- Greenham has always been about ANY womun, however long she's been here, or if she's never been to Greenham. Camp couldn't have survived without our supporters; but Yellow Gate claim we could. That's a terrible mistake to make, really.

**ME-** Men are supposed to be welcome to come and support here, so long as they come peacefully and only stay for the day- would you agree with that?

**INDRA-** Yes- men are welcome to visit and talk within daylight hours, and that's what happens. Some wimmin may not talk to them, but that's the individual womun's choice! We've had alot of men support us over the years; bringing wood, Trade Unions supporting us... To go on to the wimmin only thing, I've always believed that wimmin, or any oppressed group, have the right to organize autonomously from the oppressors. It's important that wimmin should have a space. I'm not a seperatist, and would not choose to be, although I live at a wimmin's camp- I live here because I think there's a special strength in wimmin, and alot of wimmin have found strength by coming here and within a womun's space. I've got alot out of it. But at the same time I don't think that this is a seperatist camp- although there are some seperatist wimmin here. It's all linked with politics for me- You've got East/West politics; but in fact I see it as North controlling South. I can see WHY wimmin choose seperatism, but I feel that that way of life is really not taking responsibility for what's happening in other countries- we're working for change - we've got to change everything, and that includes 50% of the world's population, which is men.

**ME-** So do you think seperatism is avoiding issues?

**INDRA-** Yes, although at the same time I can see why some wimmin want to live away from men. But we have to CHANGE things.

**ME-** I can see why some wimmin are driven to seperatism; but I see it as evading, rather than challenging the issue. For instance, if you think men dominate you then you should challenge them, and force them to recognise you, rather than let them get away with it.

**INDRA-** For some wimmin, though, it's actually a matter of survival, and I understand that; but it's not a long term solution.. I suppose it's also a question of what wimmin want. Really you should talk to a seperatist about this.

**ME-** Do you think that men and wimmin start out the same, but become different because of socialization?

**INDRA-** I think there's definately a difference... I couldn't tell you what the difference is though... It's alot to do with conditioning, but I think there's a bit more to it than that.

**ME-** So which characteristics would you say are different?

**INDRA-** I think there's often an emotional stagnancy in men... No- that's not quite what I meant... I think men rely much too heavily on wimmin WHEN IT SUITS THEM, though they're all too ready to refuse to listen when wimmin want to be listened to... Sometimes I find 'right-on' men more aggravating than completely straight men- they're often so patronizing!..

**ME-** I think some men feel guilty about being male, and therefore sometimes go overboard on their 'sympathy with wimmin' bit- they like to think they understand wimmin, to ease their guilt.

**INDRA-** Yes, they pretend to understand wimmin, and they don't... Really I think they've got to get their acts together AS MEN. They've got to start opening up: Taking on men, dealing with men; because so often you get wimmin dealing with men and challenging men. Of course wimmin should do this, but I'd like to see more men doing it too- doing it because they've thought it through, rather than because it's the thing to do.

**ME-** The thing is; I see some men trying to deal with their attitudes towards wimmin and each other, but then they come to certain situations... for instace, at the Clause 28 demo in London, a womun was walking behind me and my boyfriend singing 'Awomun needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle!' Which was sexist- I mean, I thought 'How ignorant- you're doing to men what's been done to you in the past, and hurting men here.' I think it's harder for men to sort themselves out anyway; they're in a position of power at the moment, and they've got to stand down, whereas wimmin are climbing up... It's in our interest to change; but not necessarily in theirs. Therefore I think wimmin like that make men who are trying to combat their sexism feel rejected, and so resentful, which is destructive to the cause.

**INDRA-** (Pause) I sympathise with what you're saying, but I can also understand why that womun was singing that song- I mean, she was a dyke, and most of your life you're told you need and rely on men, and that they're an all-important part of your life. It was empowering for her to realise that she DOESN'T rely on men. Men have to realise that they're not indispensible. On the other hand maybe that attitude could be destructive, as you can sometimes get bad feeling between lesbians and heterosexual wimmin; and if we're gonna get anywhere we've got to get out of our boxes and link up.





ME- Yeah but it seems to me that, as a non-violent struggle (which presumably we're aiming for) people shouldn't have violence done against them mentally... You know the band PUBLIC ENEMY? (Indra nods) Well, it seems to me that I probably get the same feelings from them about their attitudes to whites, as men get from wimmin like the one on that demo. Like, I'm trying my best not to be racist and to work for racial equality, yet they reject me because I'm white; and I'm forced to feel guilty about something I can't help- And I guess that's how blokes feel about seperatists.

INDRA- I'd like to here more men saying what they think about this, actually- I mean, I don't get much of that feeling from the men I know; sometimes they feel a bit pissed off, but then that's something that has to be worked through, and I must learn not to put other people down. (At this point, ironically, an American squaddie stands up in the back of a moving truck, throwing up his fist in a phallic manner, yelling 'Bitches!') Oh, look at that!

ME- (Laughter) Mmmm- A very male 'show of strength' there!

INDRA- It's very difficult (Indra turns to Lisa who's sitting next to her) What do YOU think?

LISA- Um- What was the question? (Laughter) It's really... Complicated!

ME- Well, blokes are going to be reading the zine: Would you say that if men are not knowing what to think about it, and are having difficulty with their feelings, would you welcome them to come down and talk to you about it?

INDRA- I'd certainly talk to them about it, although some wimmin might not want to... In some ways I'd rather them talk to other men about it, because so often men don't talk to their male friends about it; they go and talk to thier wimmin friends- that's always been the case in the peer-groups I grew up with, and I think men have really got to work on that.

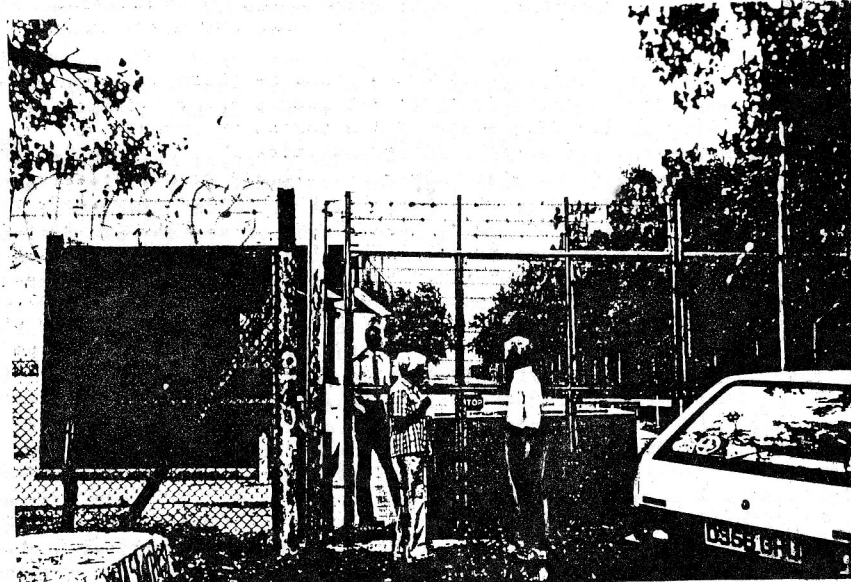
ME- Yeah, because that breaks down the stereotype of 'Men not being allowed to show emotion ever'.

INDRA- Unless they're in bed!



Above: (From left to right) Lisa (The Gal with the Geeetar) Cath, and Indra. Sorry to all of you for making you look like that- I didn't mean it, honest! Especially Cath-dough head, or what?! She's very good-looking in real life readers!

Below: Mum and Joan talking to a 'MOD plod' at Blue Gate. (If you can make it out!)



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# AN OUTSIDE VIEW

## INTERVIEW WITH ALAN

**ME-** Why do you think feminism is wrong- you say you are NOT against wimmins' rights, but you DON'T believe in feminism: Isn't that a contradiction? Feminism means 'equal rights for men and wimmin... are you not getting feminism mixed up with Seperatism?

**ALAN-** I don't believe in feminism because even the actual term suggests some form of sectionisation to me. I don't believe in any sort of seperatism because I think it's counter-productive, naive and pointless; it's totally unworkable and is a thorn in the side of people who are genuinely working for their own liberation and the liberation of others. For example, I heard somewhere that there were groups of hunt sabs which were exclusively for women; I don't know if this is entirely true, but if it is it's the sort of counter-productive rubbish that I'd like to see totally eradicated (and the sooner the better) because I personally believe that it doesn't really matter what sex a person is- surely the main objective is to save the animal that's being hunted and so often killed. Some feminists may argue that they don't like 'male power' (whatever that is - it sounds as though they are perpetuating the stereo-type that women are somehow weaker than men) out on sabs, but if you really believe in animal liberation, and are prepared to use violence and weaponry to achieve this objective, then the hunt and the authorities aren't going to be particularly interested in what sex is carrying it out. Put it this way, if you were walking down the street (one man in a crowd of women or one woman in a crowd of men) in pre-Ww2 Germany, and a couple of Brownshirts were kicking in a Jew would you NOT intervene because the group of people were 'male dominated'? Or would you help another HUMAN BEING who was in trouble, and do you think the person would really care who his/her rescuers were? Or perhaps she/he would say while getting battered 'Fuck off- I don't want to be helped by a load of men!' Back to your question, I see feminism as a bit like pacifism; both are ideologies, but don't offer concrete solutions to what's happening in reality. Much as I'd like to see it happen I don't think sexism and violence will ever be totally eradicated unless mankind is prepared to step up a rung in the ladder of mental evolution which (going by past history) is unlikely for thousands of years (if ever anyone can guarantee that humans are capable of changing then I'd like to hear from them!) I don't believe in feminism/seperatism but believe in womens' rights because if women/men are equal then why do I need feminism to prove it? Women should have the right to walk the streets dressing whatever way they please without getting raped. Those rights have to be fought for comunally, and it won't be achieved by a bunch of fascist extremists who camp outside an airforce base. Sexism won't be combatted by a bunch of female bigotts who think that if enough of them sit in a field thinking sexism will automatically disappear then it will... How naive, stupid, inconsiderate and selfish. I think it comes down to people's inability to see beyond the other sexes bodies (this is especially relevant to the anarchist, feminist, and punk movements.) We ALL see each other as a prick/balls... tits/cunt first and foremost, and individuality takes second place. How many people out there can honestly say that when they've met a person from the opposite sex for the first time within the anarchist/punk scenes that the thought of getting sexually/emotionally aquainted isn't on their minds. People can be so inhibited sometimes. True equality comes from the acceptance of each other, not trains of thought that keep people apart.

**ME-** But the Feminist movement isn't just Greenham Common- there are thousands and thousands of feminists, many within our own scene, who're working for equality between men and wimmin; because at the moment we haven't got it. Obviously when we HAVE we won't need feminism any more.

**ALAN-** The feminist movement is rife with counter-productiveness; it's ideas on sexual equality are unworkable because they fail to admit that a large part of the psychology to blame for what they call 'male violence' goes beyond the gender conflict which they think is THE integral root of sexism. Seperatism is offensive to liberty, as it seperates people- it's a witless cop-out as it runs away from the problem of sexism rather than actually confronting it. Seperatists think that, by seperating themselves from society then sexism will be eradicated... I'd argue that their pathetic, cowardly, naive liberalism is not too dissimilar to the 'I'm alright Jack' attitude that the society they supposedly hate is built upon. Sexism is real in working class ghettos- although that's something that these anarcho-feminists know nothing about in their 'privilege'. All this complete and utter drivel about men being the most 'violent species' must be seen for the right-wing racism (sexism? - Becky) it is. I suppose the womens' brigades in the world's armies, police forces and women politicians are interested in womens' liberation? No, they are interested in power and priveledge. They (along with their male counter-parts) play equal roles in holding up the State's oppression on the innocent people of the world who (throughout the ages) have been starved, beaten and exterminated without provocation. If you believe that women and men are equal, then why should you need feminism to prove it? Women should have the right to walk about without



being attacked, harrassed or raped; but that's right for all human beings, be they male or female. Most feminists would deny that sexuality isn't linked to capitalism, but liberty must inevitably be tied to capitalism as it's economics suppress so many people. Plus if equality between men and women is to come about without the abolition of capitalism, then what's the point if the enivitable goal is to follow the 'I'm alright Jack attitude' that is inherent within this society... to breed women Generals, womenfascists, Business women. That is what the State (compromising of men and women) want's to produce and does produce. Our war isn't a gender war; it's a class war with the liberation of EVERYTHING we should be working for.

**ME-** I've heard you want to 'assert your male right to protest' at Greenham... Did you know that men CAN protest there: They're just not allowed to stay at night? (This was because there was violence and rapes by men before they were kicked out and 'Greenham became a wimmins' camp. There have also been rapes and violence at Molesworth and Menswith non-seperated peace camps.)

**ALAN-** In the past I have been tempted to get a few men together and practise our perfectly justified right to protest against weapons that could totally destroy this planet and all human, animal and plant life; it's ridiculous that men who're anti-nuclear don't just have to take on the British police and U.S army; but also hordes of violent feminists too. I'm not particually interested in going to Greenham Common or any peace camp, because I think they're the height of irrelevance. Any change will come about by people taking control of their lives in urban areas; NOT by involving yourself in some self-indulgent existencilist shit miles away from the areas where the real problems exist. As for the rapes which have taken place at various peace camps; well, isn't that just showing that rape has to be confronted and combatted, not rejected. The Molesworth rapes broke the complacency of the peace movement- I think it was inevitable actually. Without wishing to be nasty or disrespectful to any of the people who were actually raped, I'd say to the complacent of the peace movement (i.e most people involved with it) that your dream is OVER and welcome to the REAL world. Rape exists in nearly every working class community in Britain; wome are afraid to go out alone unless accompanied by one or more persons- this is the sort of situation that has been with us since the dawn of time. Rapists are a couple of bad apples in a non-perfect barrel. The streets will only become safe when people work communally to do so. Rape within relationships is harder to detect, but it has come to the point where experiences have to be shared to the extent that a trust has to be formed between people involved in anti-rape groups- easier said than done, but rape cannot be minimalised by running away from it.

**ME-** The thing is, ALL wimmin live in constant fear of rape or sexual abuse- it makes no difference what class you come from. NO womun can walk safely alone at night, because rape and abuse happens EVERYWHERE, and in ALL areas of society.

**ALAN-** Again, class is a factor that's often ignored by the perverse act: Rape. I don't particually care if some rich bitch gets raped; in fact I wish them all the mental and physical hell possible- why should I have sympathy for someone who, as a result of their wealth, perpetuates the misery of others. I'm not saying that rape is a weapon of class struggle activism; most definately it is NOT. It's doubly difficult for working class women in every aspect of their lives to totally escape the threat of rape; like working class gay people- where can they hide? The act of rape is a mental and physical perversion by people who've deviated mentally at birth, and it has to be contained and combatted wherever possible. I'm not sure what the solution is wholly, considering that alot of rapes take place within relationships- I think situations like that are the most difficult to determine, as women obviously aren't going to broadcast the fact they've been raped due to emotional blackmail, for example. The Molesworth rapes broke the complacency of the peace movement- to not even consider that rape can occur in a place where their only protection against anything that they try to put to the back of their minds is communal mind-wanking, just goes to show how naive the people at these peace camps are. Rape won't be combatted by running away from it- working class women have no-where to run, which is something these 'people' (and I use the term loosely) at the Quaker hippie peace camps fail to understand due to the pampered, complacent lives they've lead. In their fictitious gender war, seperatist-feminists and guilt-ridden male leftists (including anarchists) claim that 'All men are potential rapists': Another superficial statement of 'scratching the surface' rhetoric- Well, try telling that to the father of a 13 year old girl who's been raped, and he'd probably tear your head off! It's a known fact that most rapists have themselves been raped; therefore you could say that rape CAN go in a continuous circle, and what's more worrying, a circle which I feel could not be broken without violence or the threat of violence... Anyway, following the logic that rape/sexual assault breeds rape/sexual assault, for every man to be a potential rapist then they would all have had to have been raped /sexually assaulted themselves; and I can't see it somehow. 'Men are no more potential rapists than women are submissive tarts'- CRASS.

**ME-** Don't you think that some mens' paranoia about feminism is just based on insecurity; blokes feeling threatened? Shouldn't men be looking at themselves, and their attitudes?

**ALAN-** I believe that some men feel insecure, but I know others don't. Look at people closely- what are we? A combination of flesh, matter and tissue... You and I are fundamentally the same, both have a brain which is just as capable of being as intelligent or stupid as each others': It's just as potentially humane or reactionary as mine. The only thing that seperates us physically is our sex: You were born a woman and I was born a man. Did you ask to be born a woman? Did I ask to be born a man? We're just as capable of being loving, or intolerant, or

reactionary, or stubborn. You were conditioned to be a 'typical' woman, and I was conditioned to be a 'typical' male. Did you ask to be conditioned? Did I ask to be conditioned? No, we didn't have much say in the matter, did we? I don't know whether or not you feel any guilt for being a woman; but I most certainly do NOT merely because I've got a penis. Why should I? Are the people who commit acts of rape against women doing so because their sex dictates it, or because they've got individual mental problems? I'm told by feminists that I am a 'potential rapist', a 'macho wanker', 'scum', merely because my mind/brain/spirit is inside a male body. How can people be responsible for that initial spark of conditioning that was put there externally? You see, I don't believe that anyone can totally decondition themselves; so these traits that exist within both men and women mean that long-term change is currently MOST unlikely.

ME- I agree that we're all different individuals; but unfortunately (as you point out) our conditioning socializes us into male/female roles. It is an unfortunate fact that wimmin physically CAN'T rape men. Also that men are conditioned to believe that they NEED sex ALL THE TIME to be REAL men, (i.e. the myth of the uncontrollable 'male sex urge!') They are also taught that they have the right to judge and pass comments on wimmin's bodies, grope them, etc. and more extremely, to rape them. So it seems to me that the sexual abuse of wimmin IS a gender problem; although it's also an individual problem, as obviously not all men are like that.

ALAN- Society perpetuates many myths and images; to say that most men have an uncontrollable 'sex urge' that needs 'satisfying all the time' is what people would like you to think. The truth is that men are just as wary and nervous about sex as alot of women... The only difference is that men are taught to hide that aspect of their personalities- the control process affects both sexes in slightly different ways, but the results are the same: To keep people apart, nice and safe, when we need each other to beat THEM. I don't particularly feel the need to have continious sex; obviously there's a sex drive in me just as there is within every human being, but I don't necessarily feel 'less of a man' because I don't have sex. Male communal peacockery of their sexual exploits is just a facade; it's a superficial mask, and it's as laughable as it's unbelievable. Individually, men are actually wary to say anything to women- perhaps I'm generalising, and you have to take into account individual people and their reactions too. I don't think the conditioning process will ever be totally eradicated within peoples' personalities; as human psychology in it's present state won't allow it. Most people of either sex hide behind one mask or another to try to hide their inadequacies, which distort their views on the whole relationship between the genders- Men behind images... Women by becoming politically motivated and taking an interest in feminism. On a more practical level, NO-ONE should have to suffer a violation of their bodies for ANY reason, although I don't think that (due to the restrictions of present human psychology) it can be totally eradicated... People in general have a general ignorance of their minds and bodies.

# Axe Of Freedom

## SOME GOOD ZINES

'ZAP' (September '88)- This is an incredibly professional magazine; big, glossy, with screned photos, etc. This issue has interviews with Christ on Parade, Active Minds, Ewings, and LWS, and a big article on Nicaragua, plus news, reviews, cartoons, and more. The only snag is that it's all in German! Well worth getting, anyway. Available from M.Arndt, Schützenstr.6, 6650 Homburg (W.Germany)

'Headrot' (No.4) This isn't actually out yet, but if you send off at the end of November onwards you should be OK. This issue features a MASSIVE live interview with the Instigators, a story, the usual means (including an article on seperatism,) and an interesting project interviewing 'alternative' parents to see how the arrival of their kids has affected their beliefs. Available from 103 Purlewent Drive, Weston, Bath, BA1 4BE

'Clock'(No.3) This zine is good because it's totally different from anything you're likely to have seen before. It contains articles on snuff films, and pornography amongst others, as well as psychadelic cartoons, artwork, and other strange things! Available- Vlad, 31 Nelson Rd, Worthing, W Sussex, BN12 6EG.

'Activate'(No.1) Apart from the poor printing quality this is a good zine. Contains interviews with Concrete Sox, Cowboy Killers, Cerebral Fix, Decadence Within, Anihilated, and also Lord Crucifier (whom I suspect are a complete bunch of wankers!) Also reviews, and articles on LYNX and Page 3. Available from- Nick, 54 Carleton Rd, Pontefract, W Yorks, WF8 3NF.

'QQRYQ'(No.7) This is a Polish zine, and is thus written in Polish; but it has a piece in English at the end, explaining what the zine is all about. It contains interviews with Ol Polloi, U.O.M, The Corpse, Attila the Stockbroker, etc, plus articles. Available- unknown: Sorry!



# THE LOSER

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I once saw a boy with a wasp on his lip. He'd been eating an ice-cream, and it was all smeared around his mouth. The wasp was enjoying the sticky mess on his lower lip. The boy was standing perfectly still; Frozen, as he'd obviously been instructed to do in the past. He stood like that for three whole minutes, aware of nothing; nothing but this wasp, whilst the whole of time stood frozen around him. Then suddenly he let out a desperate shriek and jumped into the air, batting at the wasp wildly with his hands. He just couldn't take it anymore.

And once I was sitting in a bar near a group of people: Three blokes and a girl. One of the blokes was taunting the girl, saying that wimmin are only good for one thing. One of the others was laughing, the third was embarrassed for the girl, and was staring into his drink. The girl ignored this bloke for over five minutes; though I could see from her rising colour that it was getting to her. Then suddenly, without any warning, she lunged at the bloke and grabbed him by the bollocks through his thin cotton trousers. She twisted until he was down on his knees and yelling. Then she let him go, and marched out of the pub. She just couldn't take it anymore.

And me? I can't take it anymore. I feel bad about myself. Why do I? I feel bad about myself because my boyfriend tells me I'm an ugly cow, and that he's only with me 'cause he can't find anyone else. And I know he's right because I'm too short, have a squidgy nose, and my skin is blotchy.

I feel bad about myself because I still dote on my boyfriend, even when he hits me.

I feel bad about myself because I don't fight back when he hits me: I should grab the bread-knife; but I couldn't bear to hurt him.

I feel bad about myself because I know I'm thick: I did badly at school, and now the best job I can get is stacking tins on shelves at the local supermarket. A boring, useless job for a boring, useless person.

I feel bad about myself because I haven't got the self-confidence to find an escape.

Yesterday I saw a caged monkey in a pet shop window. It was sitting in the corner at the back of it's cell, with it's hands over it's face. People outside were laughing at it. I thought the monkey looked like me.

I feel bad about myself because I can't commit suicide: I'm too afraid of death.



Nobody heard him, the dead man,  
But still he lay moaning:  
I was much further out than you thought  
And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking  
And now he's dead  
It must have been too cold for him his heart gave way,  
They said.

Oh, no no no, it was too cold always  
(Still the dead one lay moaning)  
I was much too far out all my life  
And not waving but drowning.

— Stevie Smith

*Not Waving  
but Drowning*



B. Francis