



# SEKHMET



## ISSUE 11: AUGUST 1996

MAGAZINE OF ANARCHA-FEMINIST FEDERATION OF AOTEAROA

revolution

in

everyday

life

it's the way we speak

it's what we say

it's the words we choose

it's what we eat

it's flying the big fuck-you bird

in the faces of beef and dairy lobbyists

who try to sell us health through death

it's reading, listening, hearing, being, emoting

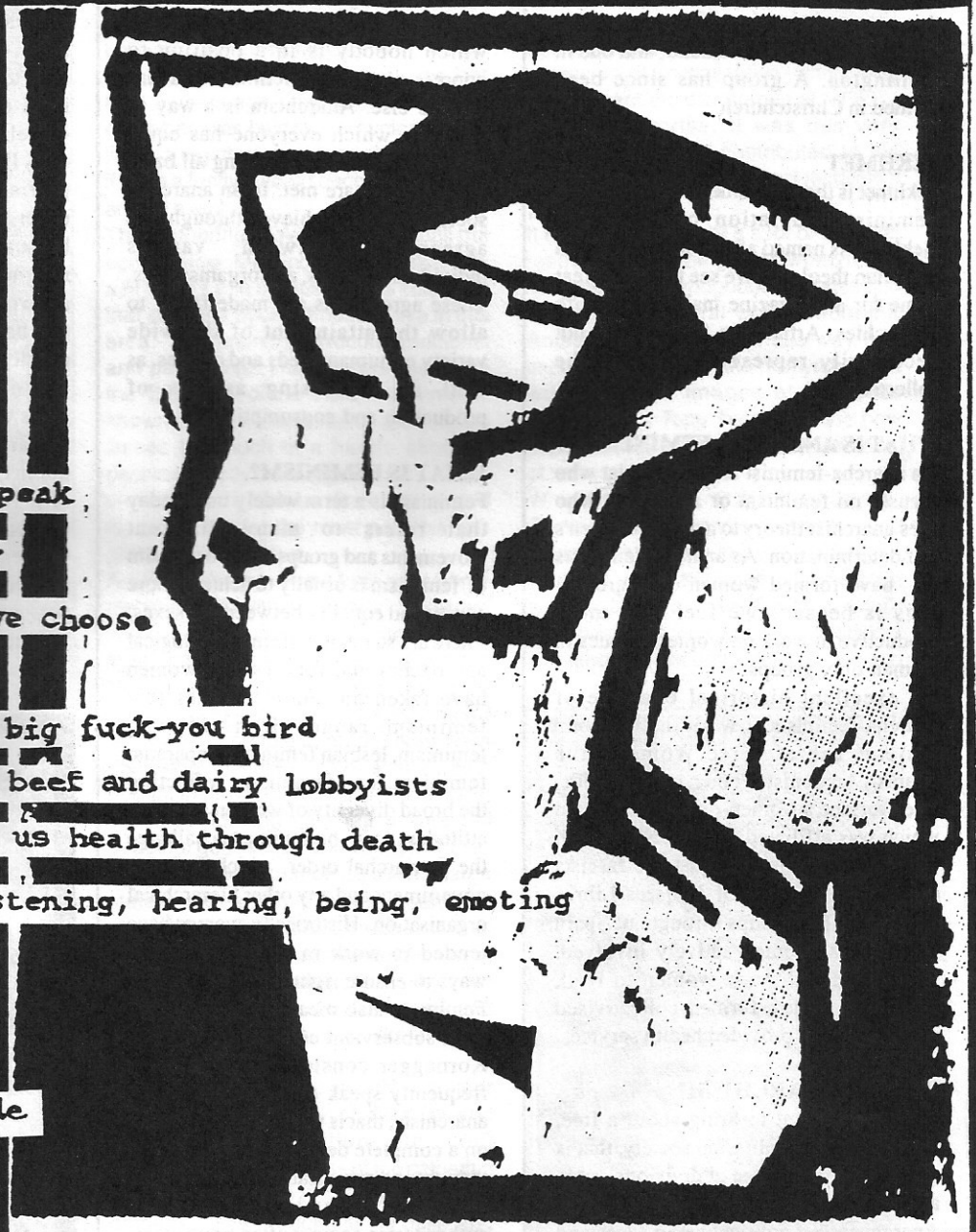
it's doing

action

now

have a riot inside

-karin



INTERNATIONAL RAPE CONFERENCE : BARBIE : RECIPES  
TEEN MAGS: SOUTHERN HAGS: NEWS FROM MIDWEST  
OO POLITICAL PRISONERS: POEMS AND MORE!!!

# ANARCHA-FEMINIST FEDERATION OF AOTEAROA



## BEGINNINGS

At the Anarchist Conference in 1991, anarcha-feminism was discussed. From the discussion two groups were established, one in Auckland, and one in Wellington. A group has since been formed in Christchurch.

## SEKHMET

Sekhmet is the magazine of the Anarcha-Feminist Federation of Aotearoa. 'Sekhmet' is named after a war goddess in Egyptian theology. We see this as a great name for a magazine making war with hierarchies. Articles in Sekhmet do not necessarily represent views of the collective.

## WHAT IS ANARCHA-FEMINISM?

An anarcha-feminist is an anarchist who focuses on feminism or a feminist who uses anarchist theory to achieve women's self determination. As anarcha-feminists we have formed women-only groups. This is because we feel it is more productive to work on women's issues in women only groups.

An excellent historical example of anarcha-feminists at work is the group Mujeres Libres (Free Women), the Spanish Anarchist Women of the 1930s. They formed a women-only organisation which was affiliated to the CNT (which was the main force against the fascists etc.). In the heyday of Mujeres Libres there were 160 groups throughout Spain with 20,000 women actively involved. They taught illiterate women to read, provided creches, formed collectivised restaurants and provided health services.

## WHAT IS ANARCHISM?

Anarchists want to bring about a free, stateless, and equalitarian society, that is a society which is free of divisions, rank, and one which is just and fair. Anarchism is a political set of ideas and beliefs that maintains that society should be arranged without set up power and control structures, so that it is without government or rulers. Anarchism does not mean chaos, disorder,

bombs, murder, and robbery. That's what government is all about. Nor does it mean a return to the Stone Age. Anarchists seek away of social life in which nobody is in a position to oppress or exploit, victimise or abuse anyone else. Anarchism is a way of living in which everyone has equal access to resources, ensuring all basic human needs are met. In an anarchist society, order is achieved through free agreements between various individuals, groups, and organisations. These agreements are made freely to allow the attainment of the wide variety of human needs and desires, as well as organising aspects of production and consumption.

## WHAT IS FEMINISM?

Feminism is a term widely used today that refers to many different movements and groups. The central aim of feminism is usually to achieve more equity and equality between the sexes. There are so many different ideological approaches and focuses that women have taken on feminist issues that feminism ranges from Marxist feminism, lesbian feminism, separatist feminism, eco-feminism, reflecting the broad diversity of women and their attitudes. Anarcha-feminists challenge the patriarchal order, which includes government and any other hierarchical organisation. Historically, women have tended to work in non-hierarchical ways to ensure rights for women.

Feminism also means breaking away from subservient conditioning. Peggy Kornegger considers that "women frequently speak and act as 'intuitive anarchists, that is we approach or verge on a complete denial of all patriarchal thought and organisation. Living within and being conditioned by an authoritarian society often prevents us from making that all important connection between feminism and anarchism." Fighting the patriarchy means fighting all leadership, all patriarchy, all government, and the

very idea of authority itself. Our impulses toward collective work and small leaderless groups have been anarchistic, but in most cases we haven't called them that by name. We need to talk about anarchism and use it as a framework to transform ourselves and the structure of our daily lives in order to 'bring down the patriarchy'. An anarchist understanding is important for women because it springs women out of reformism and stopgap measures into a revolutionary confrontation with the basic nature of authoritarian politics. The equal rights amendment will not transform society; it only gives women the 'right' to plug into a hierarchical economy. Feminism doesn't mean female corporate power or a woman president: it means no corporate power and no presidents. Challenging sexism means challenging all hierarchy - economic, political, and personal. And that means an anarchist feminist revolution.

## sekhmet

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Sekhmet is produced by the Weta collective, an independent, autonomous collective based in Christchurch. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the collective. Contributions of letters, articles and art work are always welcome.



# THE PREMENS JOURNAL RAG

Keeping You Up With The Latest

## THE MIDWESTS JUST DANDY...

### EDITORIAL

Well, welcome to another issue of Sekhmet. We've had alot of feedback from the last issue - mostly good, and alot of people have sent in contributions - so much so that we've decided to increase the number of pages from 16 to 20, in order to fit it all in without cramping everything up. So if any one wants to contribute something to the next issue - PLEASE DO..we've got the space!

This issue has a "careful balance of artistic delights mingled amongst the seriousness of issues such as rape, language as a tool of oppression, teen mags manipulating teenage minds, barbis dolls destroying creativity in children, a little bit of anarchy and smashing the state" Basically - we've thrown in everything we've been given.

While comparing Sekhmet to other mags, I noticed that in the latest Broadsheet, (Issue 210) there was an excellent article on rape as a weapon of war This has been a reclusive topic in the conventional media when in reality it should be brought out into the open and delt with. This article is well researched and written, and I recommend you beg or borrow a copy to read it (pg 30 Broadsheet)!

On a more personal level - the Southern hags have been getting a bit of a reputation down south with our controverial (at least the boys think so) performances and street theatre. And with an action packed summer being booked already, it looks like the rest of NZ will be seeing us soon.....

Anyway. Thanx go to Mog & Emily - who did just heaps!, Cath, Cas, Bev, Ange, Amelia, Gaye, Suraya, Tris, Serra, Sandi and Katipo Collective.

WETA Collective

Living here in the hub of Midwest USA for the last 5 months I really didn't think there'd be much in the way of a womyns scene (one that I was used to) but I was WRONG! And most recently I was in joy of joys to attend the Midwest Womyn's 'Reunion' festival : organised by the Midwest Lesbian Community (MOLC).

The Midwest Womyns festival was last held 3 years ago - this year the festival organised was held like a reunion of past times, a regathering and an initiation to see if such a festival could become again, an annual event.

The Gathering of Womyn was small but appreciative. Meeting all the womyn was a real buzz and heartfelt. I was surprised that so many dykes choose to live in this area - as it is pretty hardcore traditional and patriarchal. This regions known as the 'Bible Belt of the USA'- a commonly known fact. I haven't found the religion issues too much of a hassle although people certainly have opposing and strong views which can be frustrating and isolating. But for the most part this is a pleasant place to live.

Anyway!- Womyn came from quite some distance both within the state of Missouri and outside the state. It was interesting to meet some of the accomplished womyn there - including Diana Rivers, a writer of several womyns/lesbian books which I recommend people to read. There were also several gifted crafts womyn who bought their witchy wares along for sale; including stunning fused glass-ware and beautiful goddesses and womyn figures and pottery. Missouri being such a large state ( you can drive for two hours and stall only see Oak forest!) I found many of the womyn lived in relative isolation from each other again giving rise to why such a gathering is so important to network and relax in the company of like minded womyn.

I had hoped that there would be greater diversity of womyn - of dyke, bi and straight womyn, culture etc... but considering the smallness of the gathering and the lateness of the advertising. The gathering was predominantly dyke and womyn who knew each other well. There were several reasons for the small numbers - interestingly the late advertising of the event was due to an inability to find land, a camp fitted with disabled access to have the festival at, because of obvious

discrimination going on towards MOLC. Eventually a camp was found and after much hassle MOLC was 'allowed' to rent the space. There was a lot of ill feeling and womyn felt restricted knowing that the camp caretakers were unhappy about them being there. This discrimination is due to a mix of local discrimination and beauracratical discrimination - where local government etc disapprove of MOLC - surprise surprise. It was this very discrimination that contributed to the ending of the larger Midwest festivals 3 years ago.

It turns out that there's a lot of womyns festivals happening that womyn are keeping going throughout the states and this region. Several womyn from our Aotearoa have made it this way and impacted on many of the womyn I've met with colourful images of Aotearoa including the Topp Twins and the now separated Spinning Wheel. Arr - the taste of home!

What did we do over the three days? - There were no organised events - you could run a workshop if you wanted to - you set it up once you arrived. One great workshop was a slide show on womyn's body casting. A very moving exploritatory workshop on self body identification and

If you would like to contact us about Sekhmet, subscriptions, articles, advertising or information about Anarcho-Feminism you can contact us at :

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# THE PREMENSJURAL RAG

L E T T E R S

## THE MIDWEST Cont

acceptance through making a plaster mould of your own body - in the support of other womyn and facilitated by a womyn called Shelia Richards. Very moving stuff.

The Kai was great! And a game of bingo one evening (for fundraising) was a hilarious affair, with the beans(counters) being thrown everywhere. There was also a talent guest show - a good opportunity to perform. Later a dance (womyn only music of course!).

Many of the womyn live on several blocks of womyn only land. One of which I will be visiting soon. I liked the way they'd set it up - with womyn having their own houses but all land, resources etc - commonly shared and worked on together.

All in all this was a great weekend and festival. The womyn were interesting and for the most, friendly and welcoming. The womyn were earthy and living in their talents. So for womyn coming over to travel the USA - visit the Midwest; there's some great communities of open hearted womyn waiting for womyn travellers to come their way!

Lots of Aroha.....as always Meg

**GENERATION**

**X**



**207 MANCHESTER ST CHRISTCHURCH**  
**Mail Order PO Box 13-585 CBCH**

**Big Heavy Womyn**  
**I love you all so much**  
**you make me feel so good**  
**of the fat I hate to touch**

**I love the way you have confidence**  
**of all your fat and rolls**  
**of all your out of place features**  
**of your freckles and your moles**

**I thank you for feeling good**  
**putting hang ups on the shelf**  
**and teaching me no matter what**  
**I have to love myself**

**Big Heavy Womyn**  
**I love you all so much**  
**for expressing all your beauty**  
**and for letting others touch**

**mealy bug**

## Death In The Family

Reading the article in the last issue of Sekhmet "Death in the Family", I was stirred into writing this letter.

Just a little over 10 months ago my close friend and ex-partner suicided in my house. This has been a devastating and harrowing experience for me, which I still feel I have a long way to recover from.

The predominant feeling I have from this is a sense of isolation and disassociation from the rest of the human race.

Grief is not a thing we are taught to deal with in this society and I find, even among my peers, an inability to accept and understand the long term effects of grieving. I am constantly expected to be "over it" by now and people become intolerant of my pain. It is not easy to deal with the guilt, anger, fear

and hopelessness caused by this kind of death.

It was good to have it acknowledged how little we know about coping with death. Such a hidden thing has it become that we are not given freedom to grieve. In olden times grieving people wore black or weeds for at least a year. The Maori people have an unveiling of the spirit on the first anniversary. Wailing is allowed, tears are understood and accepted.

Thank you Caz for your article and thank you Phil for constantly reminding me that you can't expect great results from a team in relegation. Grady, have a peaceful flight.

Emily



# SOUTHERN HOGS REPORT

Well well, the SHOGS have been busy!  
 SHOGS did a performance at NO MANS LAND, A benefit gig for the  
 Christchurch Queer♀s Group. A particularly hard-hitting piece was  
 "RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR". It was performed naked with body-  
 paint, with chilling drums & spoken word. There was the hilarious  
 beer-ad pisstake and lots of thrashy punkrock!! GRRR! SHOGS  
 performed the following night at an ANTI-VIVISECTION gig  
 with chick punk band the RARMS. We got an excellent  
 response and a handful of silly males  
 who felt they had been "persecuted" by  
 our show!! We'll show them. We've got  
 a SEXHMET gig coming up, and a  
 North Island tour planned for late  
 September with the RARMS. Watch out for  
 us!! We make SURE performance and  
 punk rock are evenly distributed - we  
 are not a band! Watch out for  
 GIANT TAMPAW swinging! HELP! ♀  
 \* \* \* \* \* - MADMISSY

**Government  
is a Disease...**

**find the cure**

**The Freedom Shop**  
 P.O. Box 9263, Wellington, Aotearoa.  
 272 Cuba St. Ⓜ Ⓢ Ⓜ books,  
 patches, crafts, records.

## CONSUMER GROUP CAMPAIGN AGAINST BARBIE DOLL

The Consumers Association of Penang (CAP), a third world consumer organisation is campaigning against 'Barbie' doll, claims that Barbie promotes inappropriate stereotypes, children playing with Barbie Dolls may develop negative effects in the moulding process of their personalities and Barbie Dolls give children a warped perception of beauty and attractiveness. Lets make no mistake about it, Barbie Dolls are sexist! They place a heavy emphasis on stereotypes and reinforce the desirability of shapely figures, sexy legs and conventional good looks, which are rooted in male 'chauvinism'.

The debate over Barbie raises the question of 'whose aesthetics' - the notion of beauty promoted through the physical features endowed to Barbie (ie hour glass figure, stereotyped racial features and long hair) is a shallow, sexist view of feminine beauty, one which has caused many women's groups to have voiced concern over the possible link between Barbie and anorexia.

Barbie Dolls have also been found to hinder creativity and the use of imagination in children, as everything about

Barbie is fixed and ready made.

The toy industry studies children's 'play' and cashes in on it. A large percentage of individuality and creativity remains untapped when instead of beginning play from scratch, the aesthetic and creative possibilities are dictated, standardised, packaged and sold. Mattel (makers of Barbie) uses fiction and fantasies researched, designed and scripted by its marketing people to create a 'set personality' for Barbie. Therefore, children are engaged with a particular personality and their creativity is left untapped or wasted away.

Another point raised by CAP, is that the physical contours of Barbie and the type of 'creative' activities she's associated with discourage boys from playing with her. Boys cannot enter the arena of Barbie Dolls, even though the girls may want to include them, thus preventing children from playing healthy non-gender biased games together.

This is an edited version of an article in Third World Resurgence No 63

# FAIRY STORIES &.....

Created by Athena Theodore Adapted by Cas

Imagine that everything you have ever read has used only female pro-nouns - she, her- meaning both women and men. That most of the voices on radio and most of the faces on TV, are women's. When important events are covered, they are about women. Most late night talk shows have women guests and are hosted by women.

Know that women are the leaders, the power centres, the prime movers. Know also that most of the people in prison are women, most of the police are women, and there has never been a women prime minister.

You remember that in your childhood your father was closest to you. He cared for you and the house while your mother was out working. Men can recall being close to their fathers and imitating them. Women can recall loving their fathers, yet wondering what it was like out there for their mothers. The only people they saw in books were

police woman, firewoman, and sportswoman; on TV they were soldiers, detectives and Indian killing cowgirls. Mother, though, was none of those: she wore work clothes and wasn't a violent person.

Men remember how they were relatively free until puberty. They could be tomgirls and play rough sports. Then, at puberty, they were told to 'act like a man', that is be passive, nurturing, obliging, non-sexual. They had to learn 'proper' ways to dress and sit.

When they had medical problems they were placed in stirrups to allow the doctor, a woman, ease of examination. In high school, a boy learned not to do to well in class. If he was bright, he was directed towards 'men's jobs' - nursing, teaching etc. If he was average he was encouraged to go into 'hospitality' or take typing.

Women, too, can recall her youth. Although she was freer than the boys, she was also intimidated by adults more often. Society pressured her to do well and become an 'all round woman'. Sports would hurt, but she was not allowed to complain, or the coach would say 'you act just like a boy'.

In high school other girls formed a gang who bullied her if she showed signs of becoming a sissy, such as enjoying art or hugging another girl. She became fearful of becoming a homosexual and in time became disgusted with them. She learned to look safe, by dressing conservatively and not disagreeing too strongly with other women.

And of course the obvious explanation for women as the ideal: - her genital construction. By design, female genitals are compact and internal, protected by her body. Male genitals are so exposed that he must be protected from attack to assure perpetuation of the race.

Women and men are often mystified with each other. Women does not always understand how man can enjoy children a lot of the time. She appears to have an innate death wish - with a much greater alcoholism rate, and during

adolescence five times as many women die in auto accidents. Her life expectancy is seven years less than a mans due to heart disease and cancer. Yet she will continue to smoke, eat the wrong food and drink in spite of health warnings. Since she has been taught to cut herself off from her body and its feelings, the typical woman will not see a doctor till it is too late.

Like his grandfather - man will put in a 70 hour week around the house. He knows domestic work is very

important and wonders why society fails to see this. Why is woman so uncommunicative, why does she hide out in sullenness and drink. If man rejects woman there is therapy to help him adjust to his own nature. Obviously he is more passive than woman and he has (according to the educated female therapist) a strong desire in sexual relations to be engulfed symbolically by the protective body of the woman.

A healthy man should accept his own nature and not aspire to womanliness, such as independence and aggression, and should avoid sexual relations with other men.





# WISE WOMENS TALES

When dealing with her fertility and childbearing options, a western women today may feel she has more choices available to her than were available to her grandmother, or greatgrandmother. Today a women who finds herself in the position of an unwanted pregnancy may make her own choices between adoption, parenting or abortion (if her doctor 'allows' her to).

But if we go back a bit and talk to some women who still carry the knowledge the church and state and witch burnings tried to destroy, we find that there was once a time when women had a lot more choice than is currently, legally, available to women.

There was once a time where the women was able to retain control of her body, and choose to be in surroundings where she could feel safe, and could make peace with herself, and the child she was asking to leave her body, if that was her choice.

Today, herbs which are able to cause miscarriage are restricted, or banned, and information which women could use to help themselves is withheld from them, "for their own safety". Certainly, inducing a miscarriage is dangerous, haemorrhaging can weaken and kill a women who is unprepared, an incorrect herbal dose could be toxic, it could fail - leading to unwanted pregnancy; the warnings are endless !

It is little publicised that many women experience miscarriage's without even knowing they have done so - it only seems like a heavier period, or worse cramps than normal, unfortunately, this points out how few women today are "in tune" with their own bodies. Perhaps if more women were encouraged to discover themselves and their cycles, unwanted pregnancies would decrease, and women would be more in control of their bodies and what happens to them - but that may put doctors out of work I suppose....

What it comes down to is information. A women with adequate knowledge or the herbs she needs, will be able to safely use herbal emmenagogues (menstrual promoters), uterine contractors and abortifacients without harm - especially in the early stages of pregnancy.

Once she knows that she is pregnant and thinks she wants to not be pregnant, but doesn't want a suction abortion, a woman may consider herbal remedies. Don't think that this is an easy option. A miscarriage can be a traumatic event, and can be fatal for some women. In my experience, women who have successful herbal miscarriages are those that meditate on the issue, they talk to the child within and explain why they are not ready to have a child at present. Imagine the child in front of you - imagine talking to it, hugging it, and saying goodbye. Ask it to come to you again when you are more ready for childbearing. Be at peace with yourself and imagine the child being at peace with leaving. If you find this too disturbing, then re-evaluate wether you truly want to kill this child within you. Inducing a miscarriage when you don't really want to may not work (your subconscious mind and body 'fight back') or you may find yourself with feelings of guilt, sadness and bereavement with can take time to heal - if at all. An unwanted miscarriage, induced or not, is traumatic .

It's amazing what our ancestors knew! For instance, there are herbs which prevent implantation of a fertilised egg by making the endometrium unsuitable for the growth of the embryo. Unfortunately, many of these herbs are difficult to get (surprise surprise ).

Wild Carrot Seed - 1 teaspoonful seeds of Queen Annes Lace (Daucus carota) taken daily starting at the time of ovulation, or immediately after unprotected intercourse, and continuing for up to one week. Be careful commercially bought varieties are not coated in anything nasty !

Rutin - occurs naturally in many plant leaves. Needs to be taken as a tablet dose of at least 500mg daily after unprotected intercourse, until menstruation occurs. Or for several days before and after ovulation.

## Menstrual Promoters.

What always leaps into everybody's mind is Pennyroyal. Pennyroyal in a menstrual promoter, Hedeoma

pulegioides (American pennyroyal) is the most powerful variety. Although pennyroyal does work, there are many women who will testify that it often doesn't. It is taken as an infusion, drunk as hot as possible and preferably drunk while sitting in a hot bath. 20 drops tincture per cup, no more than 4 cups per day and not for more than 5 days (half an ounce pennyroyal oil can cause death !)

Tansey (Tanacetum vulgare) is best taken if you think you might be preggy, drink an infusion of the leaves and flowers every day for a week before you are due, or if already 'late' -10 drops of tincture in warm water every two hours until bleeding starts. This will work even if you are several weeks overdue. Watch out though - women with heavy periods may experience haemorrhaging if they use Tansey.

Ginger Root - Yes, good old ginger !! let them try banning that from our shelves. 1 teaspoon powdered root in a cup with boiling water, drink when it cools a bit, or 1 ounce whole dried

root (grated) in a pint of water. Take no more than 4 cups a day for up to 5 days. If this nauseates you - you have a strong indication you are preggy !  
Marijuana -Just for interest, female flowers in an infusion, tincture or smoked will bring on a late period about 60% of the time if no more than 2 weeks 'late'

Vitamin C - the most effective, safest and easiest available menstrual promoter :This will work up to 3 weeks "late". You need 6 grams (6000 mg)per day. You take 500mg every hour for 12 hours a day for up to six days. This may give you the runs but its worth it. !

Just in case of excessice bleeding or hemmorrhaging once a miscarriage had occured or their period had started, many women drank Nettle tea - which was not only good for halting excessive bleeding, but is a good nourishing tonic as well. !! So it's good to drink regardless of your reasons !

FUCK OFF PATRIARCHY



# RECORD REVIEWS

this page is dedicated to all the cool ♀ bands and ♀ singers!! I get pretty sick of boys bands and all the wank about how hardcore they are. **GIRLS MUSIC RULZ!**

**DIRT/MANKIND SPLIT 7"**

A FUCKEN COOL 7" PACKED WITH AWESOME ♀ LYRICS!! ONE ENGLISH, ONE U.S. BAND - PUNK AS FUCK ♀ VOCALS OVER NONSTOP MUSIC. AN ESSENTIAL ITEM IN YOUR RECORD COLLECTION. TRY FREEDOM SHOP, P.O. BOX 9263 - TE ARO, WGTN.



**WITCHKNOT = SUCK 7"**

FASCINATING MUSIC FROM ALL - ♀ BRITISH PUNK OFF WITH VIOLIN & CELLO!! A WICKED SOUND. FOLD-OUT COVER HAS HILARIOUS EXCEPT FROM THE MALLEUS MAEFICARUM ABOUT WITCHES COLLECTING PENISES IN BIRD'S NESTS?? VERY WORTHWILE. TRY THE FREEDOM SHOP.

**SANDRA BELL - ANGEL 7" SINGLE**

MELODIC, GRUNTY GUITAR & STRONG VOCALS FROM DUMEDIN SINGER/SONGWRITER. CATCHY, PRETTY COOL, MORE SOFT-TONE THAN THE ABOVE. IT TALKS ABOUT MALE OPPRESSION. POETIC. SIDE 2'S MY FAVOURITE. TRY YOUR RECORD STORE FOR THIS

**C.U.N.T - 12" CUNT**



WHAT A TITLE. PALMERSTON NORTH'S FUCK-CORE 2-PIECE COMPOSED OF CLAIRE (FROITHEAD ON DRUMS/VOCALS AND DAVE (LONG) ON GUITAR. NOT BACKGROUND MUSIC, IT EATS YOU UP + SPITS YOU OUT. EMOTIVE. VERY STRONG. CONTAINS THE CLASSIC "MENSTRUAL CYCLE". COMES IN AWESOME SILVER D.I.Y. COVER. "YOU CAN CALL YOURSELF A FEMINIST IF YOU LIKE, BUT I JUST THINK YOU'RE TOO FUCKING CONSERVATIVE" I LOVE IT. AVAILABLE FROM YELLOW BIKE RECORDS, P.O. BOX 566 PALMERSTON NORTH FOR \$20. CHECK OUT THEIR OTHER STUFF, TOO.



**DOG TOOTH VIOLET - CLITORIS 7"**

THE COVER FOR THIS IS WICKEDLY TOTALY HAND-PAINTED IN COLOUR! I'M IMPRESSED THIS NOW-DEFUNCT PALMERSTON NORTH BAND OF ♀ ARE PUNKY-SPUNKY-FUNKY ROCK. YOU'LL LOVE THEM. BOTH SIDES ARE LOVELY. A SHAME THERE'S NO MORE!! \$6 FROM SPOTTY DOG RECORDS C/- YELLOW BIKE.

**BIKINI KILL - REJECT ALL AMERICAN LP**

THIS LOUD MOUTHED ♀ BAND FROM U.S.A. ARE MY FAVOURITE BUT I WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED WITH THIS, THEIR LATEST ALBUM, WELL-PRODUCED & GLOSSY. YOU SHOULD STILL LISTEN TO THIS BAND, THOUGH! THEY'VE GOT A LOT TO SAY ABOUT GIRLS WHO DON'T NEED BOYS. INCLUDES ALL-COLOUR PHOTO - SPREAD (YAY!) "I AIN'T GOT NO CANDY FOR YOU" AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL RECORD STORE. ★★★★★ SEE YOU NEXT TIME, ★ MAD MISSY SUPPORT !!





THE SUITS = COT ALBUM

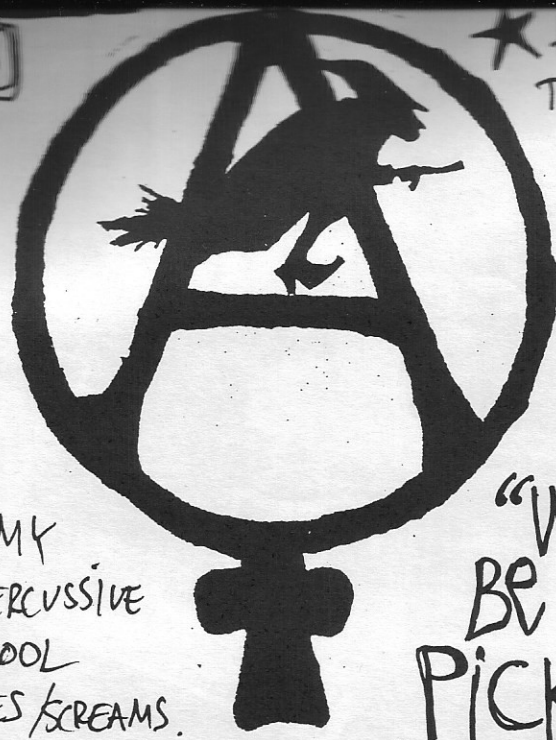
IF YOU'RE INTO DUB & REGGAE, HERES THE ONLY ALL-F DUB BAND, THE SUITS!! THEY FORMED IN THE MIDST OF THE LATE SEVENTIES PUNK MAYHEM, AND PUT THIS ALBUM OUT IN 1979. AN OLDIE, BUT A FUCKEN GOODIE. ONE OF MY FAVOURITES. VARIED, PERCUSSIVE DOBBY MUSIC WITH COOL DUAL F VOCALS / NOISES / SCREAMS. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND IT SECOND-HAND, I'VE SEEN IT A FEW TIMES. THE VOCALIST ALSO SINGS FOR THE NEW-AGE STEPPERS.

SPITBOY - RASANA 7"

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN SPITBOY ON THEIR NZ. TOUR LAST YEAR. ONE OF THE BEST ALL-F PUNK BANDS EVER!! UNFORTUNATELY NOW SPLIT UP, SPITBOY PLAY FAST, TIGHT, MELODIC MUSIC WITH STRONG, OPEN DUAL VOCALS. THE COVER FOR THIS 7" INCLUDES AWESOME ARTWORK AND POETRY BY ALL THE BAND MEMBERS. WICKED!! TWO FAST COOL NUMBERS "BLUE" IS GREAT!! AND AN ACOUSTIC GUITAR / VOCAL PIECE "ALL GROWN UP" - STIRRING & BEAUTIFUL.

WRITE TO:

EBULLITION. PO BOX 680



★ HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THE COMPLETE LACK OF F BANDS PLAYING GIGS, PUTTING OUT RECORDS, PERFORMING AND BEING HEARD??

AS FATAL JELLYSPACE (F) SAID IN AN INTERVIEW;

"WOMEN SHOULD BE FEARLESS & PICK UP AN INSTRUMENT!!"

I THINK THIS IS REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE I SEE SO MANY F WHO ARE TOO AFRAID TO SING, TO PLAY, TO PERFORM. YET IT

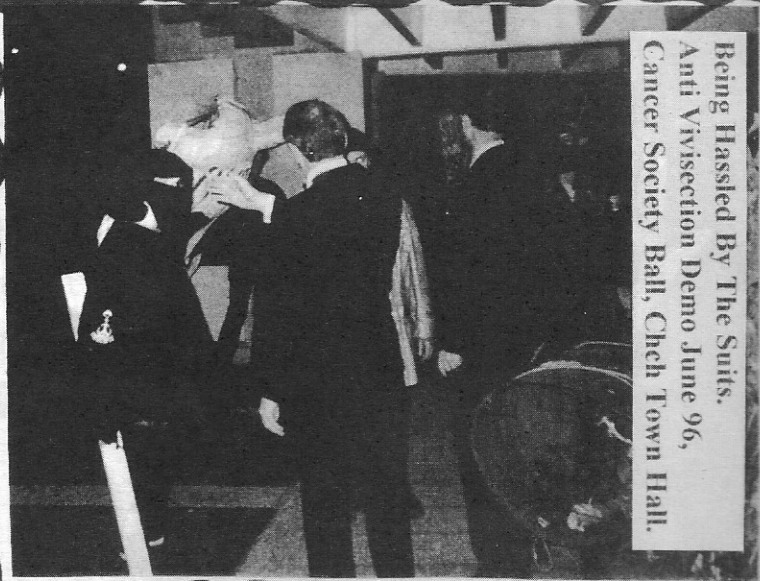
IS ESSENTIAL FOR US TO BE HEARD! MUSIC IS A HUGE INFLUENCE ON PEOPLE, AND IT IS A POWERFUL WAY TO START MAKING CHANGES IN PEOPLES' BIGOTED, SEXIST, FUCKED VIEWS!! SO GET OUT THERE AND PERFORM! PLAY!



The Princess of the Day Award goes to Auntie Em -



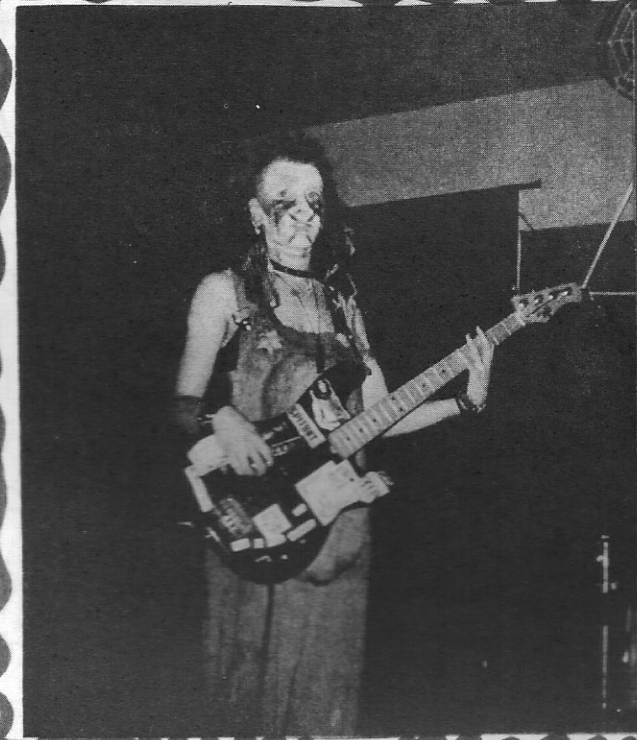
Anti Vivisection Demo March 96,  
Cancer Society Fashion Parade,  
Hotel Grand Chancellor Chch.



Being Hassled By The Suits,  
Anti Vivisection Demo June 96,  
Cancer Society Ball, Chch Town Hall.

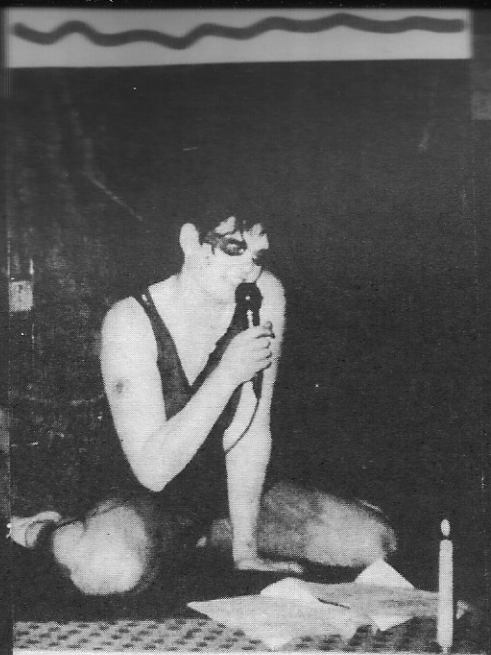
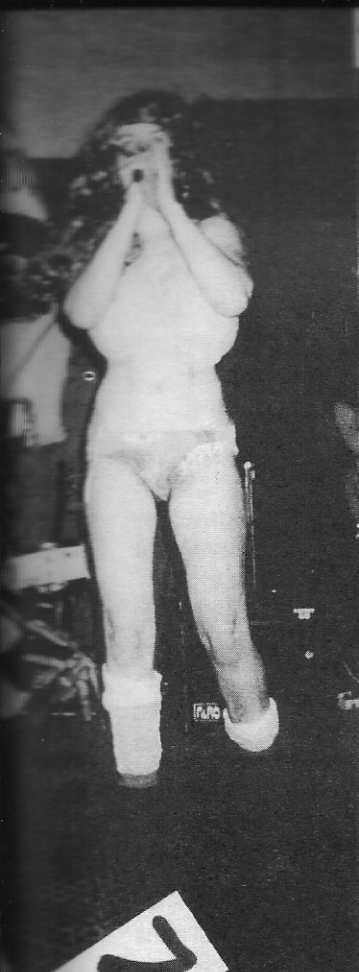


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VIVISECTION





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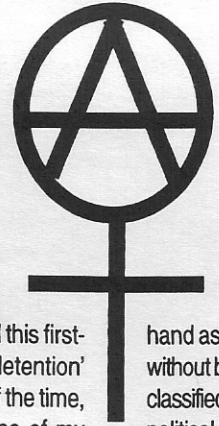
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*'The Performing Hags' - The After Demo Gig  
Anti-Vivisection Demo, Cancer Society Ball '96*



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# Dykes And Fags Want To Know cont.....



We continue with part two of our three part interview with lesbian political prisoners Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn and Susan Rosenberg. They are three North American anti-imperialists currently being held in U.S. prisons because of their political beliefs and activities with the armed clandestine movements resisting the U.S. government and its policies. This issue interviews Laura Whitehorn, the final interview with Linda Evans will be in the issue #12 of *Sehmet*. This interview took place sometime in 1991.

Laura Whitehorn - "I grew up during the era of the rise and victory of national liberation struggles, so my own hatred of oppression, injustice, racism, and sexism could be channelled into a productive direction: revolutionary anti-imperialism. I've been involved in struggles for human rights for a little more than 20 years - from the Civil Rights Movement to supporting the Black Panther Party, the Black Power Movement and the New Afrikan Independence Movement, to fighting the KKK and organised white supremacy, supporting the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, to struggling for the liberation of women and full democratic rights for gay people. In Boston, I helped Black families to defend their homes against racist attack during the 'anti-busing' offensive, and I helped to found the Boston/Cambridge women's school. In New York, I worked to expose illegal FBI counterintelligence (COINTELPRO) and was a member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee and the Madame Binh Graphics Collective. A visit to Viet Nam in 1975 in an anti-imperialist women's delegation confirmed my belief that socialist revolution lays the basis to fulfil human needs and creativity - including achieving peace and justice. Over the past 20 years, the intransigence, corruption and aggression of the u.s. government has made sustained militant resistance necessary. I've struggled to be part of that, because justice is worth fighting for and the real terrorism of u.s. imperialism needs to be defeated. I've been involved in clandestine resistance because the government uses the full force of repression to destroy developing opposition. Since my

arrest in 1985, I've experienced this first-prisoner: held in 'preventive detention' solitary confinement for much of the time, special handling' prisoner, because of my because I'm determined to live by them and fight for them."

hand as a political without bail, kept in classified as a 'special handling' prisoner, because of my political ideals and

Laura, Linda, and Susan (along with codefendants Alan Berkman, Marilyn Buck and Tim Blunk) were indicted in May 1988 for conspiring to "influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the United States government." The indictment alleged that the Resistance Conspiracy defendants were part of a network of underground groups responsible for a series of bombings of u.s. government and military targets from 1983 to 1985. After over 2 years of legal and political resistance, the 6 forced the government to negotiate a deal which dismissed all the charges against Susan Rosenberg, Tim Blunk and Alan Berkman. Laura, Linda and Marilyn pleaded guilty to the bombing of the u.s. capital in protest of the invasion of Grenada in 1985. Marilyn Buck was sentenced to an additional 10 years on top of a 70-year sentence. Linda Evans got an additional 5 years. She is now serving a total of 40 years. Laura was sentenced to 20 years. Susan Rosenberg and Tim Blunk were already serving 58-year sentences for earlier charges of possession of explosives, weapons and false I.D. Alan Berkman was released in June 1992

## **QUISIP: Did you do it? Did the government misrepresent what you did? If so, how?**

Laura: Yes, I did it! I did (do) resist racism, sexism, imperialism with every fibre of my queer being, and I believe we need to fight for justice. The government's "version" of what I/we did is a complete lie, though, in that they call resistance a crime. It's sort of like the way Jesse Helms calls us "sick" - he's as sick as you can get. On the morality meter he doesn't even make the needle move. Same way the U.S. government, a genocidal system, calls acts of revolutionary struggle "terrorist violence", and their system of law, "justice".

## **QUISIP: Audre Lorde says the master's tools (violence) will never dismantle the master's house (the state). How do you react to this?**

Laura: I don't think "violence" is just one thing, so I don't think it's necessarily "the master's tool". If revolutionaries were as vicious and careless of humanity and innocent human lives as the U.S. government is, then I think we'd be doing wrong. But when oppressed people fight for freedom, using "violent" means among others, I think we should support them. Would you have condemned African slaves in the U.S. for killing their slave masters, or for using violence in a struggle for freedom? To me, the issue is how do we fight effectively - and hu-

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manely - for liberation. As we build the struggle, we have to be very self-critical, very self-conscious about how we struggle as well as what we struggle for. But I think we also need to fight to win - and I think that means engaging in a fight for power. For the past 5+ years, I've witnessed close up the violence - slow, brutal, heartless of genocide against African American women. To refuse to fight to change that (and I don't believe we can fight for power completely "non-violently") would, I think, be to accept the violence of the state in the name of rejecting the violence of revolutionary struggle.

**QUISP: Why is it important to support political as opposed to non-political prisoners? Shouldn't we be concerned about all prisoners?**

Laura: I think we should be concerned about all prisoners, and I don't think it's ever been us political prisoners who have promoted any irresolvable contradiction between us and the rest of the prisoners in the U.S. But within that, I think there is a particular need for progressive movements to defend political prisoners, because it's a part of fighting for the movements we come from. If you are fighting racism and homophobia, and there are people serving long sentences in prison for fighting those things, I think you advance the goals by supporting the prisoners. I also think that support for political prisoners helps expose how repressive and

unjust the whole system is. That can also be an avenue to supporting all prisoners. Support for political prisoners is a concrete act of resistance to the control the government keeps over all our minds: it fights the isolation and silencing of political prisoners and POWs. It asserts the legitimacy of resistance. And in my experience it is a major way that people outside become aware of the purpose and nature of the prison system as a whole.

**QUISP: How does being a lesbian fit in with your work?**

Laura: The same way it fits into my life - it is a basic, crucial part of my character, my outlook on things, my personality. Because I'm a lesbian, the fight against homophobia and sexism take on particular importance. But really I think my lesbianism helps me care about the oppression of others by the imperialist system. So I think my lesbianism makes me a better anti-imperialist - it makes me fight all the

# Savage State

not for the feeble minded

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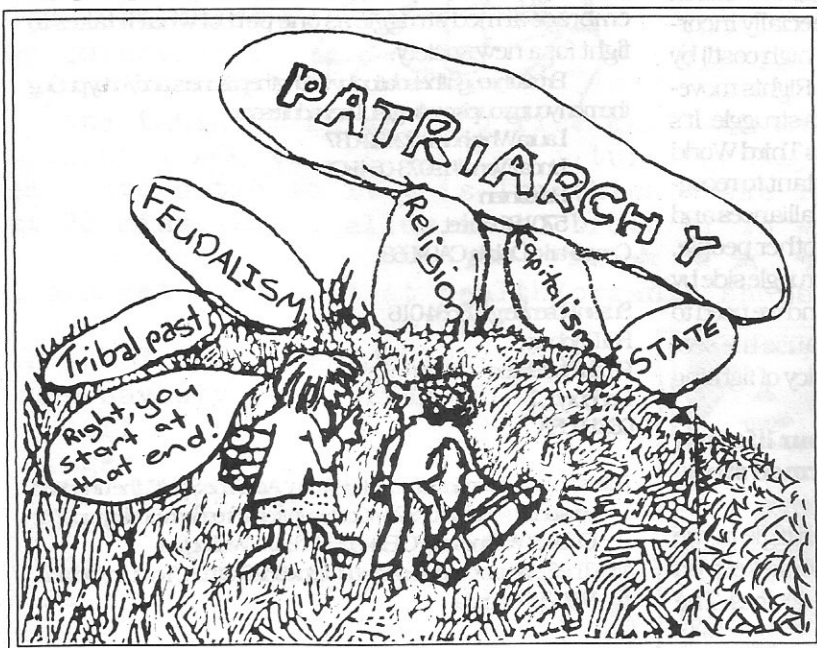
harder. Being a lesbian in prison is often very hard, but being "out" gives me a lot of strength. I have to say that I am very proud when I hear or read about the struggles queers are waging out there.

**QUISP: How have you struggled with sexism and heterosexism in the groups with which you have worked?**

Laura: Mostly by confronting people when I think they are being sexist or heterosexist, and by fighting for women's liberation and lesbian and gay liberation to be included not just as words but as real goals. The saddest times for me have been those times when I was in groups where we didn't do this. I think it's very important for people to be able to struggle for a variety of goals without setting up a hierarchy or exclusive list. I will continue to join groups whose main program is, for example, anti-racism or support for Palestine or Puerto Rico, because those things are just as necessary for my liberation as women's and lesbian liberation are. And I won't demand that my liberation be made a part of every agenda. But I won't ever deny my identity, my right to be respected, and the urgency and legitimacy of lesbian, gay and women's liberation, either.

**QUISP: What is the connection between the primarily white middle class gay rights movement and the struggles of other oppressed people? How do we envision a gay movement that encompasses other struggles?**

Laura: I believe that any struggle of "primarily white middle class" people has the danger of being irrelevant to real social change unless it allies itself with the struggles of op-



# AOTEAROA'S INSTITUTIONALISED

## HOMOPHOBIA: GAY MARRIAGES DENIED

In April three lesbian couples went to Auckland's High court to fight for their right to marry; to have the same rights as heterosexuals. Unfortunately institutionalised homophobia still reigns supreme - the judge ruled against the women, showing up the Human Rights Bill to be the ineffectual piece to ass wipe that it really is! Seriously now did we think for a minute that equal rights for all extends to lesbians! Anyway they're not getting off that easily, this case will go to the court of appeal next and on to parliament if necessary. Meanwhile the legal costs are up to \$20,000 and expected to rise even further. Doug Graham has once again made his homophobia public saying "while I am the minister of justice no such legislation will go through". What a fuckwit.

Ang

### **continued.....**

pressed people. This country has a great track record for buying off sectors that have privilege. Once that happens, not only do things stay the same, they get worse. But even more than that, I feel that we cannot be full human beings unless we fight for all the oppressed. Otherwise, our struggle is just as individualist and racist as the dominant society. In that case, we'll never win anything worth fighting for. I think the queer movement needs to talk to other movements and communities, in order to work out common strategies and figure out how to support one another. I think we need to talk to groups in the national liberation struggles in order to figure out how to set our agenda and strategy - like what demands can we raise in the fights about AIDS that can help other communities fighting AIDS? It's a struggle, not necessarily an easy process, but it's crucial. It's also true that our movement has already adopted lessons from other movements - often without even realising or recognising it. We've especially incorporated strategic concepts developed (at a high cost!) by the Black Liberation struggle from the Civil Rights movement to the Black Power and human rights struggle. It's no accident that Stonewall's leadership was Third World gay men and lesbians. So I think it's important to recognise that whenever we pose the question of alliances and coalitions, we don't need to "encompass" other people, we need to ally with them, learn from, and struggle side by side with them. We need to support them. And we need to fight for them as well as for ourselves, because the second we accept divisions or ignore the urgency of fighting racism, we lose.

**QUISP: What was going on in your life that led you to participate in or support armed struggle?**

Laura: I began supporting armed struggle in the late 60's, when I realised the government would keep on killing Third World people if left to its own devices. The

murder of Fred Hampton (chairman of the Illinois BPP) by the Chicago pigs and FBI was a turning point, not only because it was an assassination, not only because the state tried to cover it up, but also because it made me understand that the U.S. would never agree to "give" oppressed nations their human rights. That's why the government had to kill Fred, and Malcolm X, and so many other leaders. I'd hated the injustice of this society for years, but it was in the 60's, when I supported the Vietnamese, Native American struggles, the Black struggle, Puerto Rico and saw those nations waging struggles for freedom that included armed struggle - that I started to see that there could be a struggle to win. Once I began supporting Third World nations' right to use armed struggle to win self-determination, it made sense to me that I should be willing to use many forms of struggle to fight, too. Mostly, I think that it's my vision of what a wonderful thing it would be to live in a just, humane, creative world that motivates me to embrace armed struggle as one part of what it takes to fight for a new society.

Breakthrough the isolation by writing the prisoners, and/or by putting them on your group's mailing list. Their addresses:

Laura Whitehorn #22432-037

Linda Evans #19973-054 FCI

Pleasanton

5701 8th Street,

Camp Parks Dublin, CA 94568

Susan Rosenberg #06684-016

FCI Danbury

Pembroke Station

Danbury, CT

06811 USA

This is an edited version of an article from "Arm The Spirit", the unedited version is available for \$2 + 40c stamp from Freedom Bookshop, 272 Cuba St Wellington, PO Box 9263, Te Aro, Wellington.

Arm The Spirit can be contacted at PO Box 6326, Stn. A., Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1P7 Canada



# Dale Spender's "Nattering on the Net: Women, Power and Cyberspace"

"A very distorted view of the world is created when one social group, with one set of experiences, pronounces how it will be for all. This is the Dark Ages, not enlightenment."

This is not a book about computers. I doubt I would have read it if it was. It describes society and the inequalities that are being transferred to a strange but potent mist of a world, created in our own generation. Maybe you've never used a computer, and perhaps you never wish to either, but the opportunities for women here in cyberspace are difficult to pass up: freedom, possible...probable anarchy. This book challenges us to claim our own space before it is colonised by predominantly white men.

Spender outlines basic feminist premises: that men have for a long time controlled, and controlled what is perceived as, truth, knowledge and communication - examples - Christianity, "universities" and grammar. "Our" language is imbued with their fucked principles. A Woman's word was, and is still, not acknowledged. All rather mournful facts. Except on the

Internet, nobody has total power. There is no one voice of authority telling us 'right' or 'wrong' as in present schooling; no publisher stating that our manuscript isn't "market driven"; no panel deciding whether the information we transmit is politically correct or moral.

Or course, freedom is exploited by fuckwits too - corporate interests 'on-line' (available) and the seedier sides to life...the much-hyped cyber-pornography. And it is true that porn, intense and immanently participatory, is there. But we have our defences and actions against these kinds of behaviour in the Real World, and we need only courage and motivation to deal with them in the context of the Internet. (There was a site called All Men Must Die by an American woman that used the ol' public 'outing' to expose dickheads and had a Dickhead of the Week voting poll!)

We haven't yet fully assessed the nature of the change we are going through as computers become more important in our lives. They are a human construction with all the same fallibilities. The Internet is claimed to be inherently anarchic and

equitable yet it is not so presently. The most recent figures suggest that 80% of Internet users are men. And that is not even considering "people of colour", "the poor", "the Third World" etc.

Yet dismissing the medium itself, with all its multi-media revolutions, because of some of its content is to starve oneself. (The same way that women have been starved of education and information in the past.) The amount of free, exciting information is mind-boggling. I have waited years for the public library to order a book specifically of interest to me, yet I can find it instantly, at minimal cost on the 'Net, store it, copy it and send it to my friends.

Through the Internet women are engaging their skills as web-weavers and 'gossipers'; overcoming phobias and stereotypes that "girls aren't technical"; and challenging macho culture on-line. The numbers are increasing. In order to make the Internet appealing to us, we must create spaces that interest us. Unless we want a television-like world of virtual crap, it is vital for us to envision, participate...create! Truth is created by communities of people, not one single doctrine. Allow the colonisation of the computer world by white men and thus ensure the alienation, ignorance and invisibility of women, again, in the very near future.

TRIS

## RECIPES

Yummy, decadent. vegan food!!



- \*TASTY SHEETFLAKE\*
- one t tahini
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup rice malt
- one cup wholemeal flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch...

- \*TOFU CASHEW CREME\*
- half cup of cashews
- half cup of water
- 3T rice malt or maltexo
- 500g silken tofu...

BLEND cashews & water & rice malt until smooth. ADD tofu and blend. vanilla or lemon juice, too.

CREAM the tahini & marge, add rice malt and mix. Sift the flour with the cornstarch & add to the tahini mixture, gently mixing it with your hands. Press into a tin so it t is 1cm thick. Bake in a 180 deg. oven for about 20 mins. Don't allow it to brown or it will dry out. YUM.

\*You can get rice malt at health/organic shops, it's a good honey alternative)

- \*TASTY YEAST FLAKE FLAVOURING MIX\*
- One cup savoury yeast flakes
- one T salt
- 1/2 t ginger
- one t of; black pepper
- marjoram
- tarragon
- paprika
- rosemary
- Two Tsp of: sage
- celery seed, thyme
- garlic ndr, onion ndr

© BLEND/MIX!! ©

# Animal

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# Teen Mags - Making Millions by Manipulating the Vulnerable

I recently spent a week looking after my 14 yr old cousin during the school holidays. She is a "teen at risk" and the idea of her coming to stay with me in my house truck paradise was that maybe she'd get a taste of something different. Plant a seed so to speak.

It was a difficult week. I was constantly shocked at the depth of her conditioning. She was racist, homophobic and continually debasing herself for being a woman. I was surprised, as I know her parents to be open minded, caring people. The experience set me to thinking, once again, about social conditioning (brainwashing), how fucked it all is, how deep it runs, and how early it starts. Anyway, a few weeks later, I read an article on Teen Magazines, and with my soft hearted fucked over cousin in mind I decided to write this.

My cousin is a perfect victim for the Teen mag marketers ; white, poor, not thin, vain and insecure. At an age where all she wants is to fit in and be accepted, she's just trying to find her place in the world. And it's Teen mags that are setting the codes and rules of appearance and behaviour for my cousin and her peers.

Teen Mags make millions by assuming girls need improving, telling them how to make themselves prettier, cooler, thinner, better, with articles such as: \* Model Hair - how to get it (yours isn't good enough) \*Your Looks - what they say about you (after all looks are all that matter) \*Mega Makeovers - go from so-so to super sexy \*Cool Ways to Look Hot \* 4 things a guy needs on a date (Pander to him girls, if you lose him your a loser) \*Get a Guy Guide - where to find him.

Magazines like Seventeen and YM (Young and Modern) make 2 million in subscriptions a year pushing this shit,, while others like Teen and Sassy have readership's of 800,000 to 1.3 million.

So just what are the messages of teen mags.

It's a catch 22 : ugliness is next to nothingness and a girl with insufficient interest in boys is a "desert island". Yet one who is too sexy is also in trouble - take Sassy's April '95 issue which warns girls to watch who they flirt with because men can't distinguish between harmless flirting and a full on pass. According to Sassy, while a girl is flirting "there's always a chance men are wondering what you look like without your clothes on". This is justifying

## WICKED

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- \* re-incarnation of Bent Edge
- \* designer clothes from recycled fabrics
- \* remodelled rarities
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- \* anarchist and anarcho-feminist zines

the behaviour of grown men, who "get a little carried away" and harass and assault young women. Using this logic, assaulted girl's 'should have known' they were dealing with potential psychopath's.

Another example of this is YM's July '95 issue. On an agony page a girl writes that she was invited to a party by her boyfriend. It turned out to be him and two of his friends. They got her drunk and she, quote, "ended up having sex with them all". She writes "how could I be so stupid ...I feel so dirty".

YM wonder's the same thing, replying "Wake up and face the facts, you made a pretty big mistake".

This girl is chastised for underage drinking and not asserting herself, it is not mentioned that these boys have raped her and that she should seek professional and legal help.

YM promotes boy catching tactics with articles such as 'get a guy guide', then acts surprised and judgemental when the tactics work ! Girls are bombarded with messages about the thrill of boy catching and being sexy, without the corresponding skills in self esteem, self assertion and defence.

This attitude is typical, horrific and unforgivable.

When it comes to body image, Teen Mags offer yet another catch 22. Girls are encouraged to love their bodies, no matter what they look like, while bombarding them with fashion spreads featuring only stick thin, flawless faced, white (usually blonde) models. Occasionally offering a token light skinned black girl, who is just as thin and European looking as the white models

When confronted by this, Caroline Miller, editor in chief of 17, says, "there's a traditional expectation that African Americans don't sell magazines". Poor excuse for racism if you ask me, and failing to address the invisibility of Asian and other ethnic models

Articles encouraging girls to love themselves as they are, are followed by articles such as the seven day diet and how to eat low fat.

The sum of this is this :

Be pretty, but not so pretty that you intimidate boys, threaten other girls or attract teachers, bosses, fathers or rapists.

Be smart, but not so smart that you intimidate boys.

Be athletic, but not so athletic that you intimidate boys or lead them to believe you are aggressive, asexual, or (gasp) a lesbian or bisexual.

Be happy about yourself, but not if you are fat, ugly, poor. Gay, disabled, antisocial, or can't at least pass as white. Above all, don't intimidate boys.

Teen Magazines glorify boy focused looks, based on obsession, reinforcing every negative, patriarchal stereotype that has ever been used to justify women's second class status. Get em while their young and teach them their place.

Information rewritten from : "Teen Mags - how to get a guy, drop 20 pounds, and lose your self esteem" Anastasia Higgenbottom, published by Ms Magazine April 1996





## Ten Years Progress : International Conference on Rape

“Rape is a crime intended to humiliate, debase, over-power and control. It is a violation that, with a few exceptions, rages against women” Helena Kennedy QC

The conference “Ten Years Progress” held 27th to 30th March gathered together victims of rape, members of the legal profession, police, councillors, doctors and those working with offenders to discuss recent research conducted by the Institute of Criminology in the Dept of Law at Victoria University on two projects - one on women’s experience’s of disclosing rape, and secondly, the evaluation of the success of the 1986 law reforms, which were intended to make reporting rape and the subsequent legal trials easier for victims of rape.

It was found that women’s concerns about the responsiveness of the police and legal system were similar to those in the earlier study - “for example, one of the things that women reported most often was that once they had taken their case into the system they were treated like a pawn in that system. They didn’t have enough control beyond what happened at that point.....and obviously since rape is very much to do with issues of power and control, the women felt very strongly about this dis-empowerment.” Jan Jordan, Researcher and senior lecturer at the Institute of Criminology, “women (were) feeling that they were raped by the man, then ‘re-raped, re-victimised by the justice system - too many women are still saying that this is their experience”

One problem area that was identified is that it is assumed that the training given to police officers in order to interview offenders will be the same as the skills required to interview victims. It is not surprising then, that victims often feel likethey are the offender

from the way that they are questioned.

Also, there are very real issues concerning the misconceptions held by society (and police officers)about rape - there is a lot of suspicion about women who make rape complaints, there is the belief that it is an easy thing for a woman to do.

Also discussed at the conference were the borderline situations of rape where the perpetrator and sometimes even the victim did not realise that what had happened was rape, for example, a party situation where the victim hasn’t been able to give her consent because she was too drunk to be able to do that.

It was clear that the justice system recognises that the system is presently inappropriate - the Chief Justice remarked that if one of his family members had been assaulted that he would have a lot of difficulty encouraging them to take their case to court; and that the Ministry of Health needed to begin to see rape and sexual assault as a health problem and begin to allocate real resources to helping the victims. “If you had any other illness where 25% of patients suffered such a long term impact, it would be taken very seriously indeed” Dr Juliette Broadmore. Many of those attending believed that much education of the public was required to raise awareness that the danger is not “stranger rape” but “acquaintance rape”, and that a comprehensive programme both in the media and in schools was required on the issue of consent.

(Information on this conference taken from an interview on Women On Air, Plains FM, CHCH, April 1996, and from the CHCH Press19.3.96)

# SLUM-DWELLERS TAKE POSITIVE ACTION

By Johanna Son - **\*\*Off the Net\*\***

*Slum-dwellers across Asia are fed up with waiting for governments to provide them with basic services, and have taken the initiative in the matter.*

Tired of making do with their run-down houses, slum-dwellers in India took matters into their own hands and proceeded to build the houses they have long wanted.

Residents of a slum community in the city of Pune in western India designed their own small but airy brick houses, bought cheaper materials and then constructed them with residents and neighbours pitching in.

In Bombay, a city with the world's biggest slum, citizens fed up with filthy, broken latrines built and maintained by the local government designed community toilet blocks that are cleaner, more functional and cheaper to build.

Residents began using these community-managed toilets much more frequently, not the least because the separation of men's and women's toilets prevented harassment of women. The new toilets were built in common areas, forcing residents to keep them clean. 'Communities are now trying to look at what was the solution they wanted for themselves, without trying to wait for the state to allot them anything,' says Sheela Patel of the Bombay-based Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centre (SPARC).

Maurice Leonhardt of the Asian Coalition of Housing Rights (ACHR) says these community efforts show that the urban poor can overcome the 'psychological barrier' of helplessness.

For instance, slum-dwellers in Orangi, a squatter area of one million people in the Pakistani city of Karachi, had enough of waiting for the government to provide basic services and laid their own network of sewage pipes and put toilets in every house.

Orangi residents also put up schools, hospitals, clinics and maternity homes in their community. 'It's perfectly natural for people to have an interest in improving their own possession's' Leonhardt says.

The benefits are even greater when urban poor communities are allowed to continue staying on the land or

given some form of land security or ownership rights.

Adds Leonhardt: 'Once they have got security, it just sparks them off to improve their situation. You will find that people will plant trees, paint their houses, take pride in their community once the threat of eviction is gone.'

Unfortunately, activists say that not all national or local governments realise that evicting squatters cannot work for the long term in cities whose physical and social resources trail behind with fast-expanding urbanisation.

One-third of Asian cities like Manila, Bombay or Dhaka are made up of the desperately poor. They are part of the 'invisible' informal sector that powers many industries but are not seen in official figures, seldom included in urban planning, or given basic services. In the Philippines, people ranging from cab drivers and domestic helpers to policemen live in slum areas because they need to live reasonably close to their workplaces.

Patel says the sheer magnitude of slums in Asia's cities shows that governments need to realise that traditional tactics like eviction are not solving the problem.

Squatting, for example, remains a crime in countries like the Philippines. 'If nine-tenths of the things you do every day are illegal, then there's something wrong with the law. It's not something wrong with you. There are so many people facing this problem that they no longer feel they are criminal in doing that,' says Patel.

'Nobody living in the informal settlements in Bombay thinks there's something wrong with them; they feel there's something wrong with the city,' Patel adds.

But the point is that laws have often become inadequate to address realities, like the poor encroaching on land and living in informal settlements. As poor communities take more control over their destiny, the governments' role also needs to change (yeah, get rid of them ! ED).

Instead of viewing itself as the provider of free housing, government should be more of a facilitator, working with

local communities, resolving conflicts, and ensuring equity, say activists.

(better still, abolish government and become an anarchist state ! ED)

'After all, governments have never been able to provide free housing. They're not doing it and they never will,' says Kenneth Fernandes of ACHR.

In recent years, Bombay's government has allowed (! ED) slum-dwellers to upgrade their dwellings following certain rules. India's National Slum-Dwellers Federation and the Mahila Milan ('Women Together') in Bombay have worked with Bombay officials to design the urban poor's participation in sanitation projects and the building of toilet blocks in other slum settlements.

Whether it is community action in the form of building their own houses or blocking expressway projects as in Bangkok, these partnerships have strengthened the bargaining positions of the urban poor (you mean they have one ?! ED).

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Ed's note : It's good to see that these people are doing things for themselves rather than relying on and being controlled by their governments.

It would be even better if they would just realise that they don't need their government at all - they have already proved that they can provide for themselves through community cooperation and motivation what the government has been unable and unwilling to provide for them.

It seems such a small step for them to take to realise that an anarchist state *really can* work !!





## SAVED

I'VE GIVEN UP NOW.  
SHOWING OFF TO  
JESUS.  
IN A FORE-MEMORY  
THE WORDS TO THE  
SONGS  
LIVE .....  
LIKE IT WAS  
YESTERDAY.

THEY WERE NICE  
WORDS  
I MIGHT  
BE SAVED  
I MIGHT BE  
TRULY  
MAKING COMPROMISES  
MEETING IDEALS  
FEELING LIES

IN TRUTH  
I DON'T LOVE  
SO OFTEN THAT I  
MAKE LOVE

LEARNED  
I TELL YOU  
I FOUND GOD IN ME  
AND' JESUS  
IN MY BED  
SHE HAS  
HORNS,  
BREASTS,  
CLOVEN  
FOOT,  
HAIRY  
LEGS.

BY SURAYA SINGH



## THINKING ABOUT GOING ON HOLIDAY WITH LOTS OF RADICAL ANARCHO-FEMINISTS ??

WELL, PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY...  
First Annual Anarcho-Feminist Holiday  
23 - 26 November 1996  
Middle of Nowhere  
Cost :yet to be determined but as  
cheap as we can make it  
Children welcome  
Agenda : Relax !!  
Contact WETA to register your interest  
PO box 22-302 High St CHCH  
or : sandi@ch.planet.gen.nz

### LETTERS CONTINUED.....

Naughty girl or Victim ?

I recently spent a sunny autumn day wandering around central Christchurch and the longer I spent in town the more disturbed I became.

Everywhere I looked I saw young waif like rave (I presume) girls adorned in small mini's and small, logo t-shirts. This in itself is not too bad until you consider what was printed on these baby blue and hot pink T's. Words like 'Naughty Girl', 'Junkie', 'Hussy' and 'Easy' just to name a few. What is this image that is being packaged, marketed and sold to the next generation of women.

I'm thin, I'm weak, I'm a victim, use me. Its not cutie rebellious. It's not 'alternative'. It's sick, and disturbing, not only that this degrading shit is being pushed by mass media, but that it's being snapped up by the next generation.

There has to be something wrong when looking like a fucked over anorexic, junkie victim is the fashion.

Maybe I'll make myself a new T-shirt.....

Filthy Old Bitch

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you've enjoyed reading this magazine, why not subscribe? For \$10, you can get the next four issues. Send well concealed cash or make a cheque out to WETA at PO BOX 22-301 High St Christchurch

# ORIFACE VS. PENISHEAD

