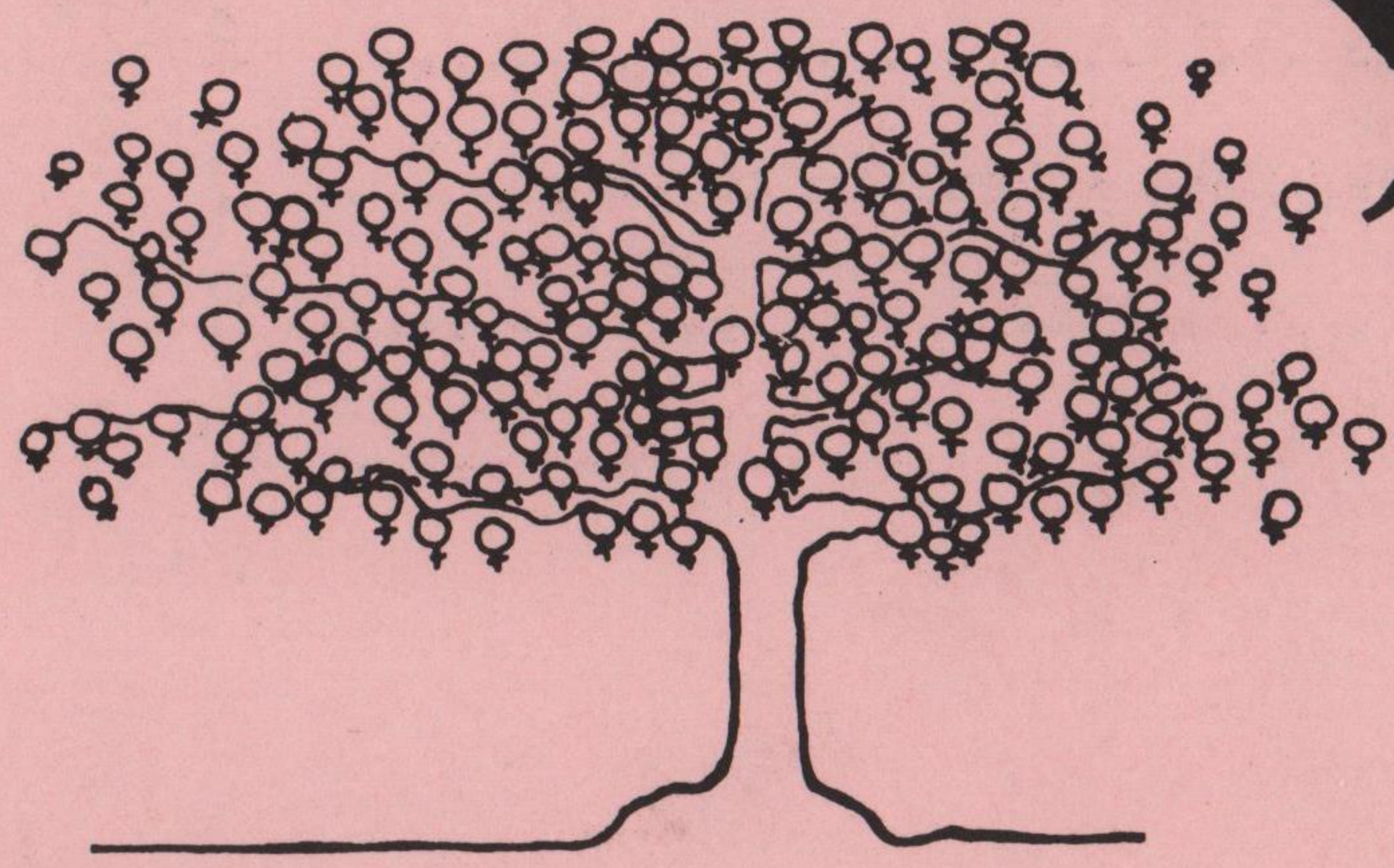


HARRINGLEY WOMEN'S

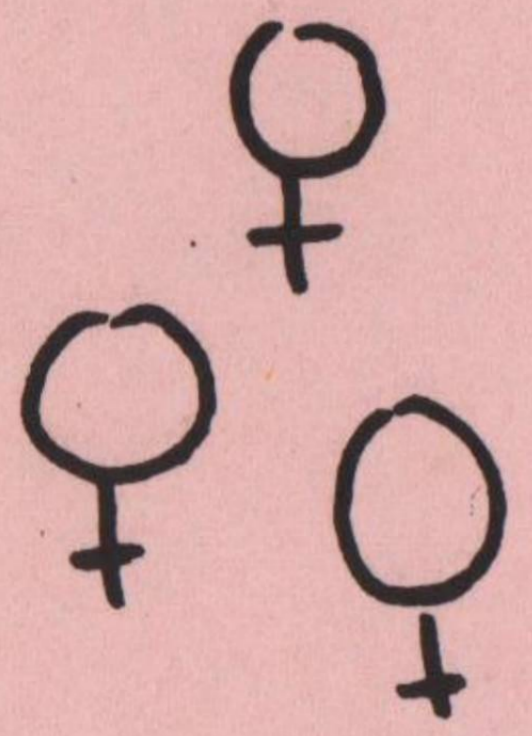
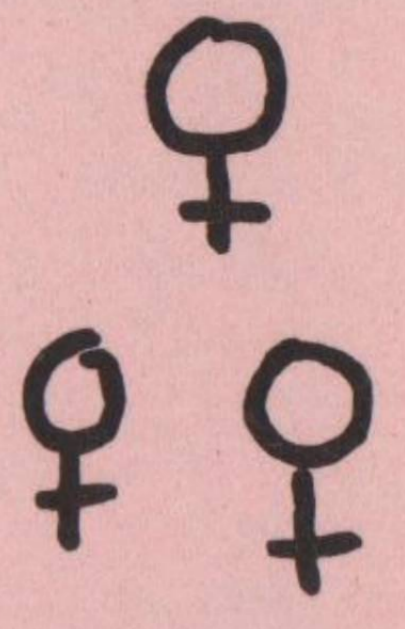


Group

our story from
July 1977 to
March 1979

... and the story continues. There is no stopping us! We're making our own **HISTORY**.....

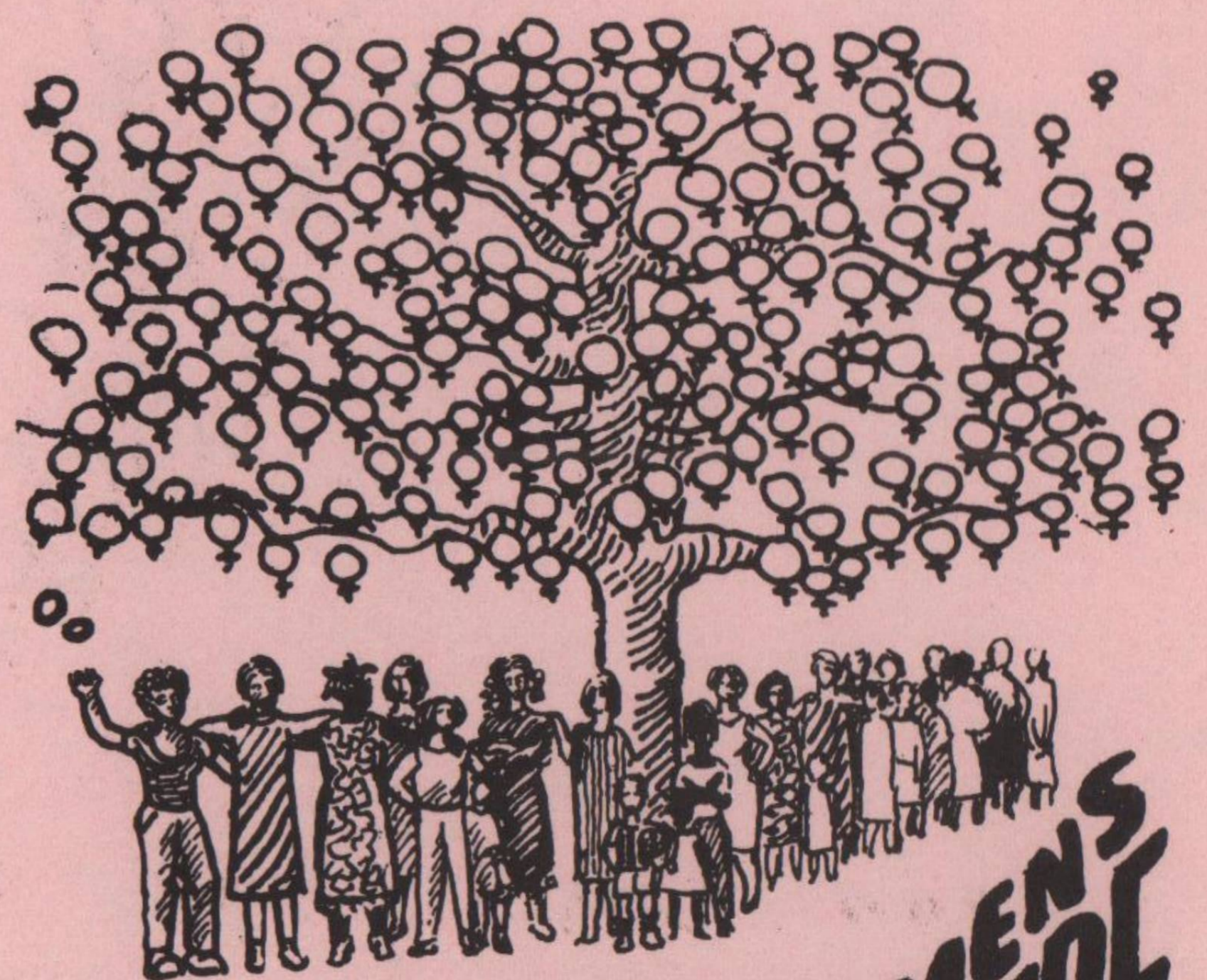
History, herstory, our story of the Haringey ♀ group



Contents

How it all started	1
Meetings	2
Violence, Rape & Reclaim the Night	7
Sexism	9
Value of the Group	13

Have you
filled in
your standing
order for your
Centre
yet?



HARINGEY ♀ WOMEN'S CENTRE

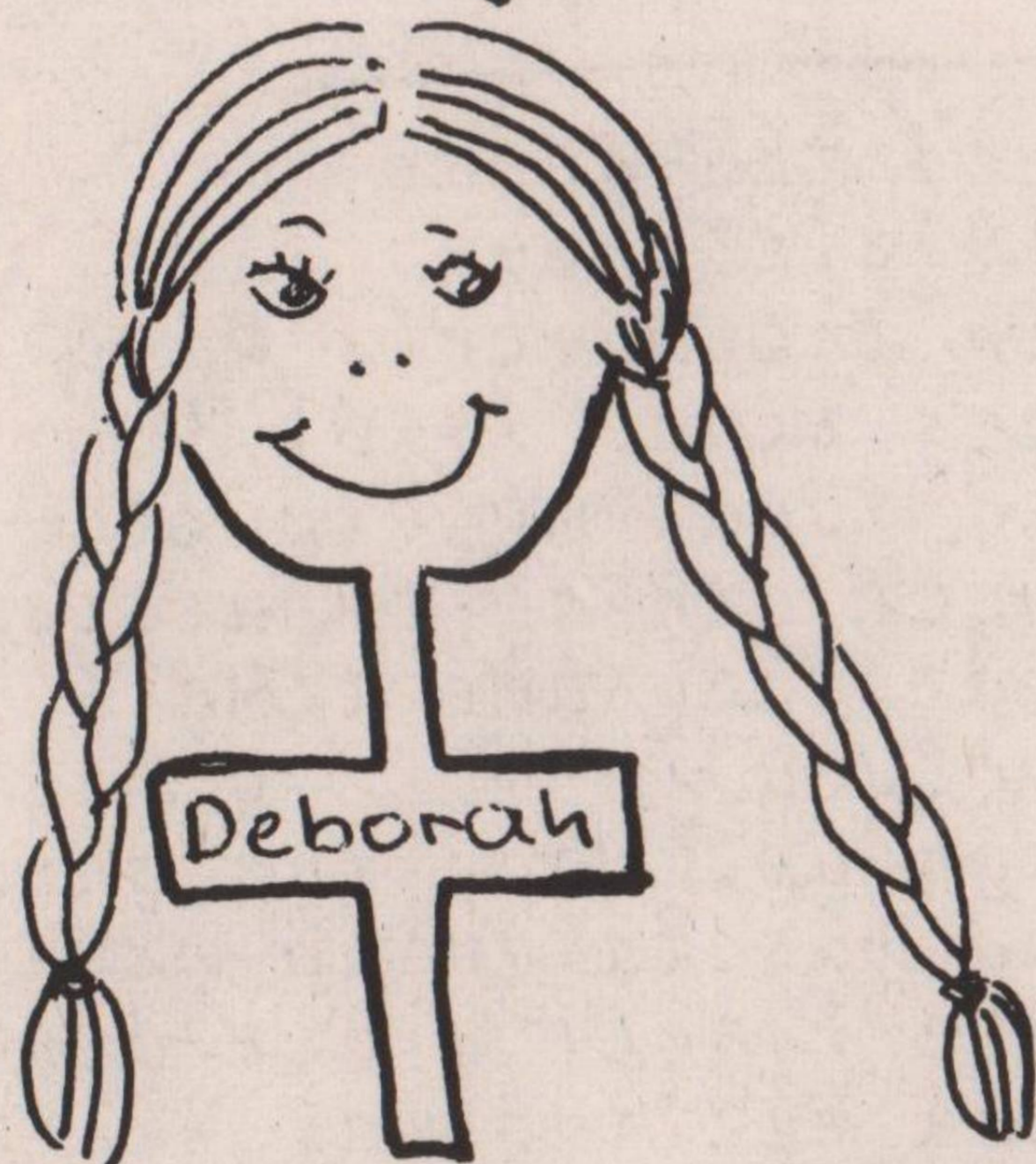
how it all started

A group of local women called a meeting in July 1977 and about forty women attended. During the discussion we tried to find out what we wanted the HARINGEY WOMENS GROUP to do and to be. Obviously, different people wanted different things. In the end, we decided to meet every six weeks.

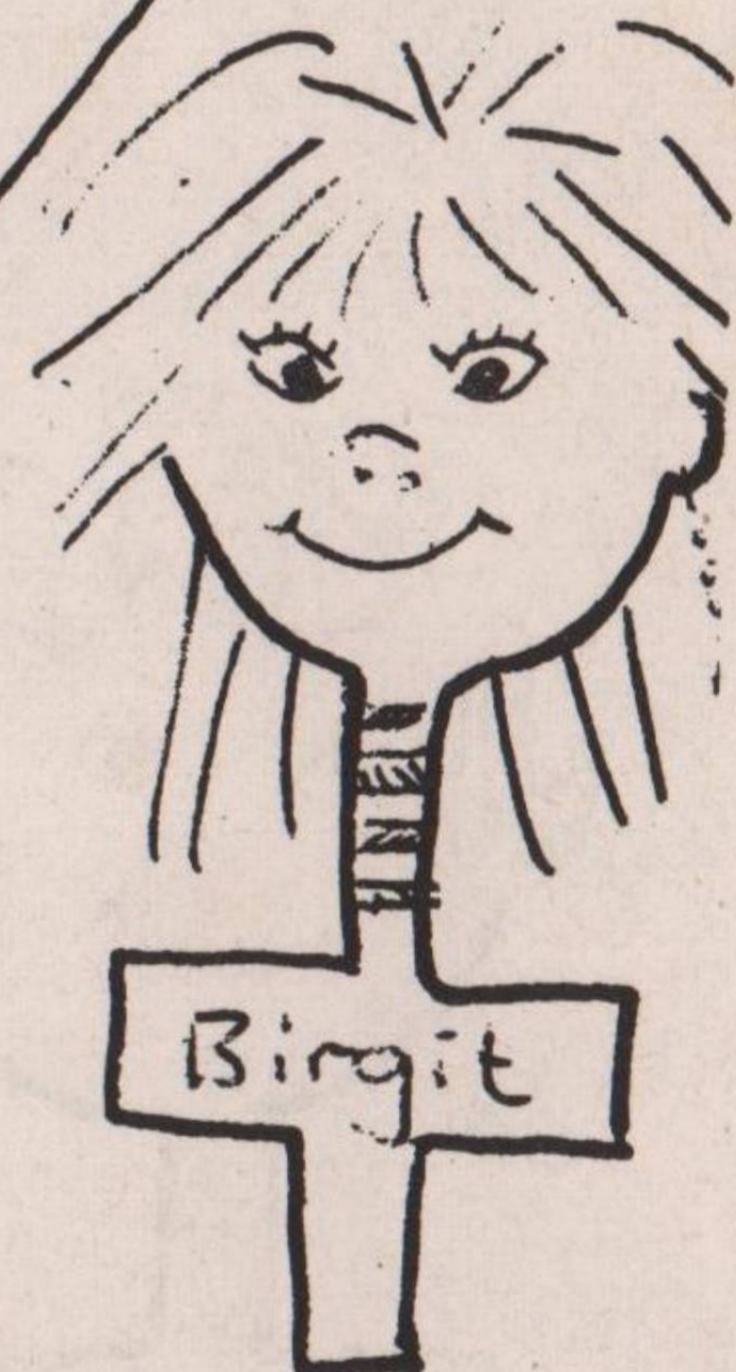
I went to my first meeting just after the B'ham Women's conference. The group gave lots of different opinions from the conference, and I felt really good being able to discuss with other women some of the frustration I felt at B'ham. Also, it was good to meet so many women living close to me.



I found out about the group at a jumble sale and came along to meetings after. Although I found it difficult to say anything at first, that didn't last long! What a relief to meet and get to know women who felt the same way as me, and to be able to try to talk and do things too.



It was a summer's afternoon, and there were about 50 women crowding the meeting room we had hired. I felt rather disillusioned at the end of the meeting because there were so many women from different groups such as Womens' Aid, NAC, and everyone wanted different things from the group - should it be CR or a politically active group, I couldn't see where we were going to go. That was nearly 2 years ago..and I think we've come a long way.



The group's function would be mainly to provide a social event, a place for discussion, and keeping in touch with campaigns and actions of the womens movement. The first job the group tackled was compiling a pamphlet listing all womens groups in our area.

meetings

The first meeting I attended, six months ago, was held in one of the women's houses. I liked the way everyone said 'hello' and the way the meeting was run - without any formality, someone just said 'I will write the minutes'. I was made to feel welcome, without feeling embarrassed.



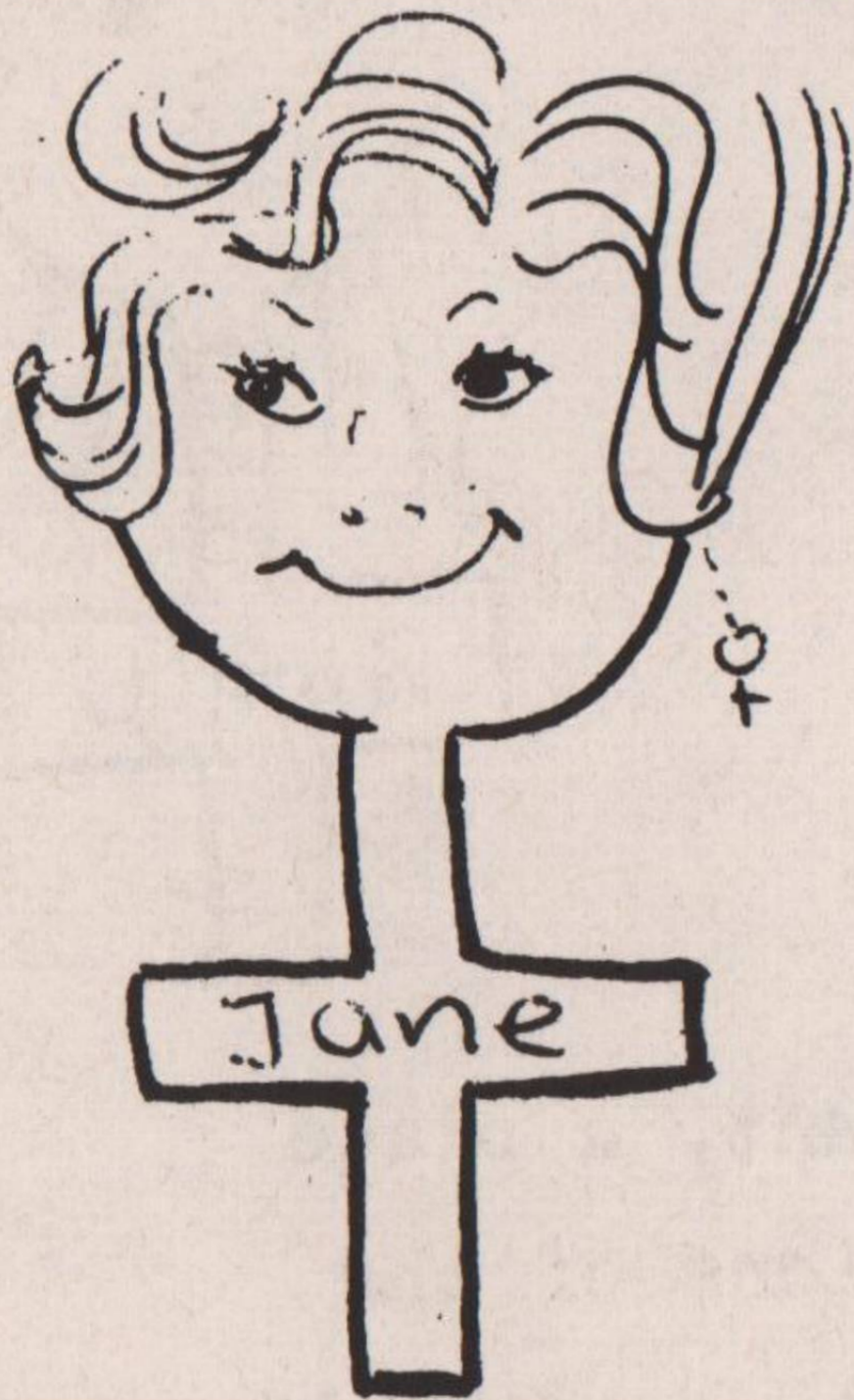
I came away from my first meeting a little heady and rather overawed. I couldn't believe so many feminists lived nearby! It was a large meeting, about 30 women crammed in someone's sitting room. I remember mainly discussing the organisation of a local Reclaim the Night. Having just emerged from a period of feeling rather isolated - it was a marvelous shot in the arm....



The group has been meeting regularly on the first Sunday of each month since 1978. The number of women coming varies from 9 to 24. Over the period the group has existed, we have discussed lots of subjects which are all listed in our scrap-book in greater detail.

We found 4 categories to slot our work into:

- (a) fundraising
- (b) linking ourselves with national campaigns
- (c) social events
- (d) local political events
such as: anti- sexist and racist campaigns



I joined the group in October 1978 (although I've been involved in the Women's Movement in other places since 1975). I think I was confused about my expectations: I wanted to meet other feminists and make friends, and at the same time I also wanted to get involved in more practical activities of the group. When the greater part of the meeting was taken up with planning a jumble sale I felt a bit disappointed. Luckily the meeting was friendly enough for me to be able to say that at the end and found my feelings shared by other women. There was a good discussion about this and I've attended most meetings since then.

(a) Fundraising

e.g. Jumble Sales
Benefit Bop/Disco
Party

FUN - Raising BOP & Booze - up

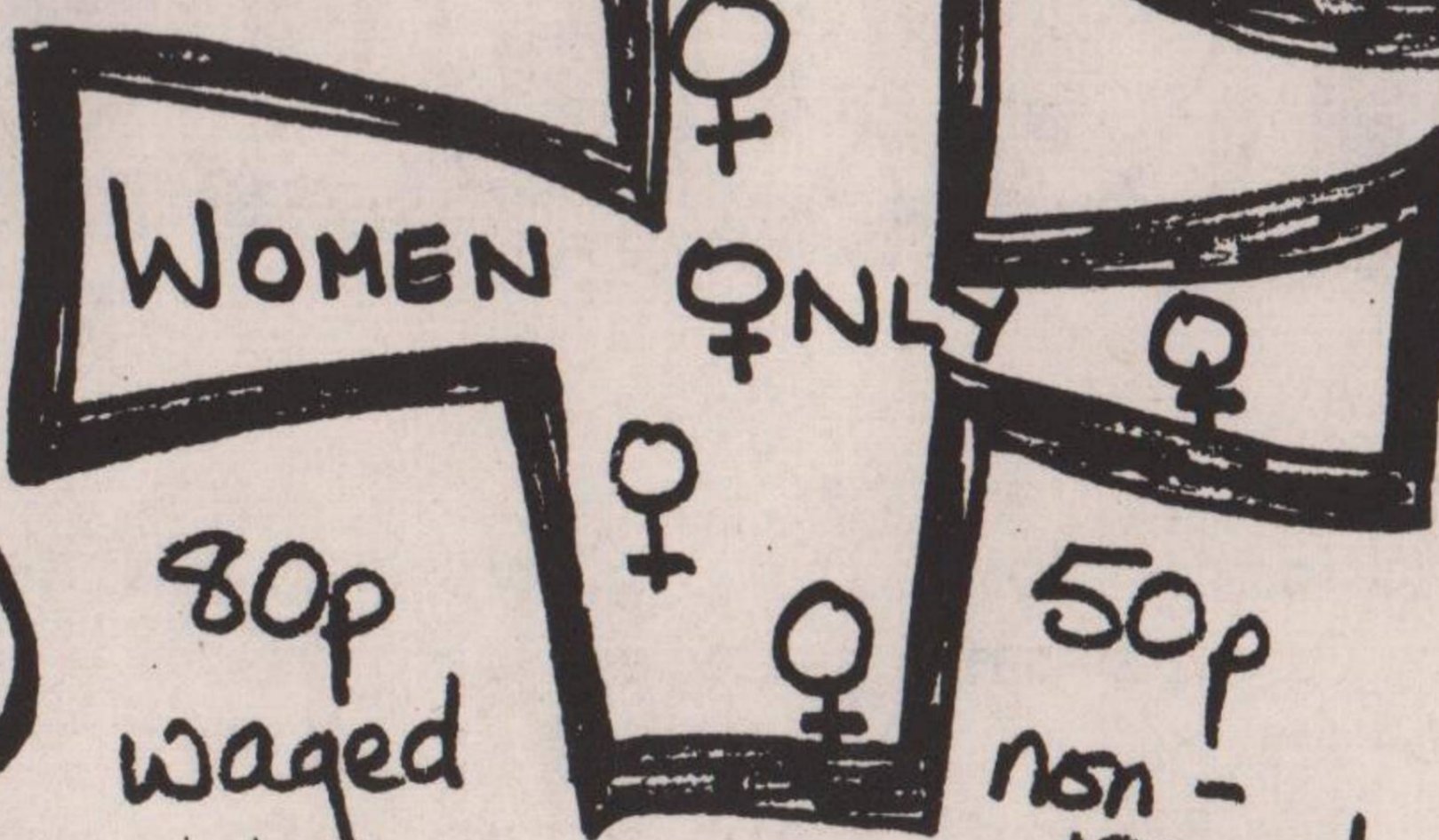
Haringey
Womens Group
celebrates its existence

on Saturday
15/7/78 * 8pm
at Tottenham
Community
Project
628 High Rd.

♀ 1 year old
today ♀

80p
waged

50p
non-
waged

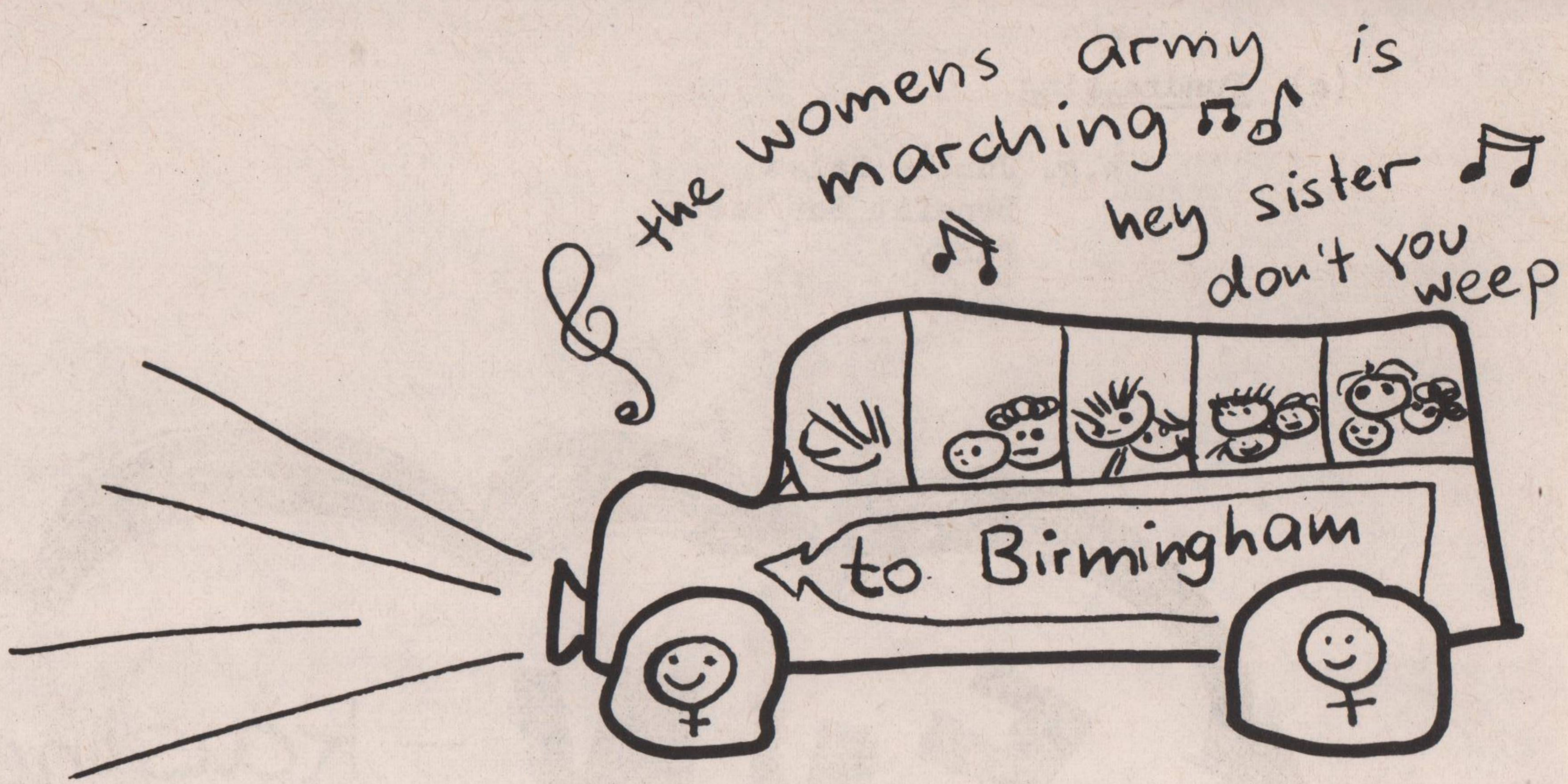


It was FUN

See enclosed bankers order forms

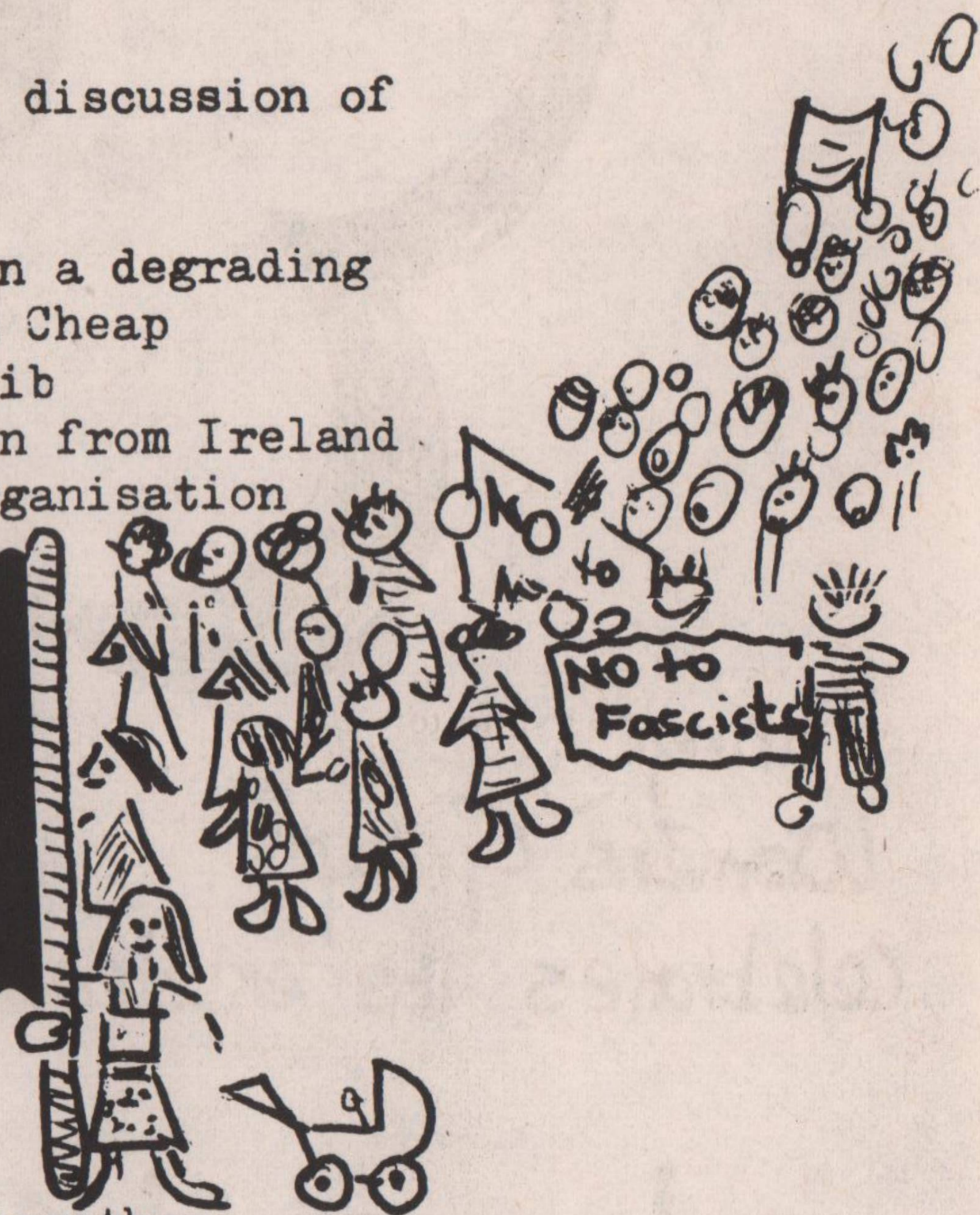
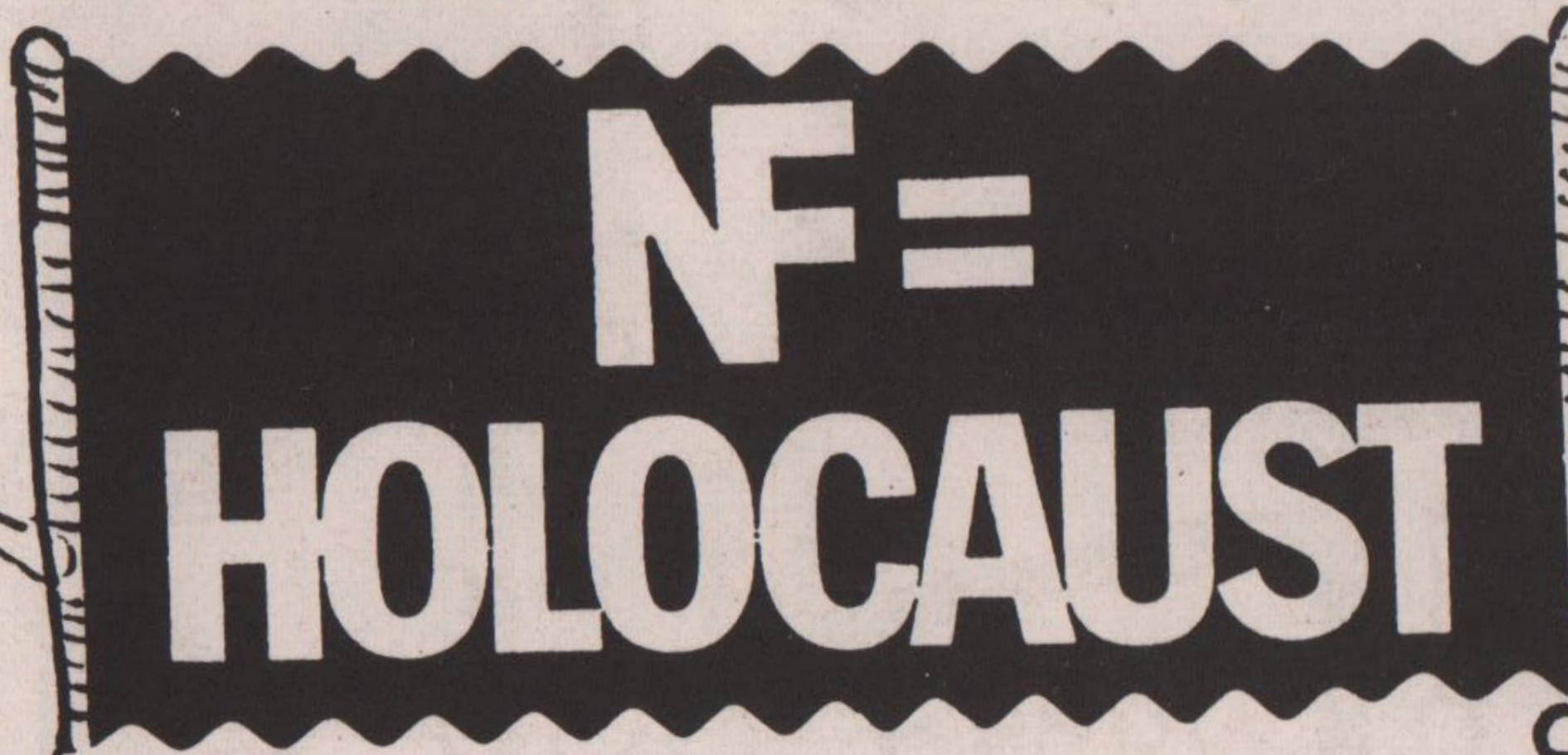


but fun
was all we
raised
no money!



(b) Linking ourselves with national womens liberation activities

Reclaim the night campaign
 Going to the national conference and discussion of it at group level
 Anti- Nazi League support
 Against images which portray women in a degrading way, e.g. Juicy & Fruity & Fresh & Cheap
 Controversy over cartoons in Spare Rib
 Organising abortion support for women from Ireland
 SWAPO - South West Africa Peoples Organisation

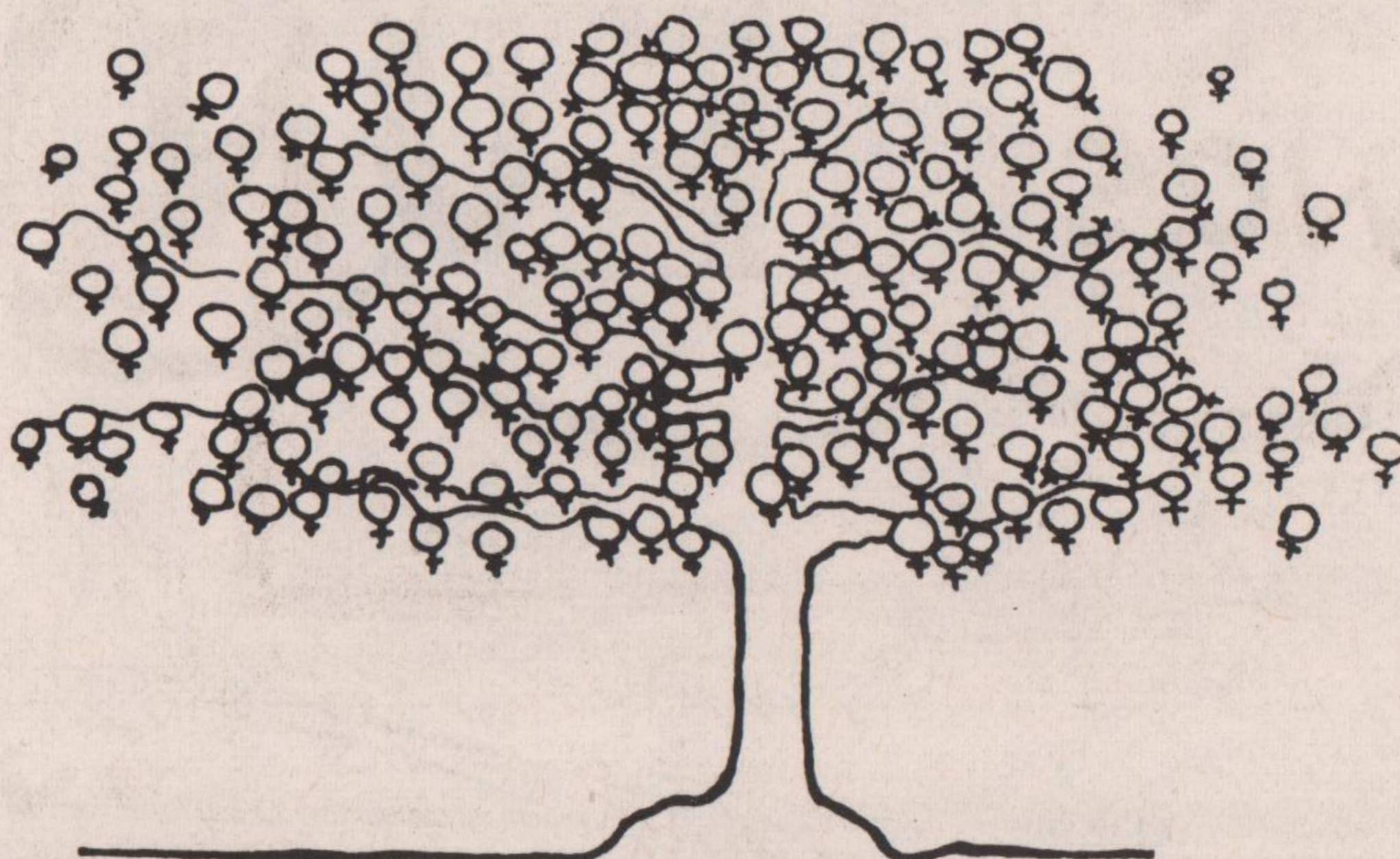


(c) Social Events

e.g. Going to films, plays and dances together
 Organising parties

..... and many other things too numerous to mention.

Haringey group has been fertile ground for lots of fruitful joyful friendships
 and fruitful



A regular newsletter is being produced by Haringey Women's Centre. If you want to be kept in touch with women's events in the area, make sure your name is on the mailing list.

(d) Local political events

Our two reclaim the night marches
Our pamphlet about local O groups (copies still available)
Fighting sexism through + and in the local press
Women's Centre project.

Police treat battered woman 'like criminal'

14.7.78
Hornsey Journal

A TOTTENHAM woman who was attacked by her ex-husband with a chopper claims she was treated like a criminal by St Ann's Road police.

She was taken to the Prince of Wales hospital with cuts on her neck, back and mouth and a severed tendon in her left wrist. Then police took her to the police station and locked her in a cell.

By **Sue Landau**

after some discussion we wrote and sent this letter

HORNSEY JOURNAL FRIDAY JULY 21 1978 — FIFTEEN

She claims they:

REFUSED her permission to telephone her solicitor the next morning.

LEFT her with dried blood still on her body, and,

MADE her children remain in the house with a violent man.

Now Tottenham police have said they will investigate her allegations of mistreatment.

The woman, who does not wish to be named for fear of further attacks, is divorced from her husband, but he still lives in her house because the property has not yet been settled between them.

"He has been threatening me he will never leave the house," she told me. "He has sworn so much that if I ever get the house he will come and kill me."

"I never believed he could use a knife on me. I was cutting up meat and he tried to take the knife. I said 'You can take it'. He aimed it straight at my throat.

"As I turned over he was cutting all over my shoulder. I was running away to the stove and took the boiling pot and threw it at him."

After she was treated in hospital police took her to St Ann's Road police station.

"I thought they were taking

me home to get some clean clothes," she said. "I said, 'Is this the right place for me to be in pain?' The police said, 'If you haven't done anything you wouldn't be here'. I said 'I haven't done anything against the law'.

"I was asking for my pain killers. They said they were not going to give me any. I did not know people could be so wicked.

"The CID came to see me the next day in the afternoon. They said their hands were tied. They were very helpful. They got social services to put me in a hostel.

"I feel very bitter. I did not believe a human being could do it. He was let loose while I was kept in and treated like a criminal when I have never been in trouble."

Tottenham Community Law Centre, who are looking into the case, believe the police have a duty to prosecute the husband.

"In refusing to prosecute they are ignoring the right of women to protection from assault. You have no right to assault a wife any more than you are allowed to assault a neighbour."

Chief Superintendent Simms of Tottenham police told the Journal: "She was kept in the station to investigate serious allegations against her and because no other accommodation could be found for her that night."

we tried to make contact with the woman mentioned...

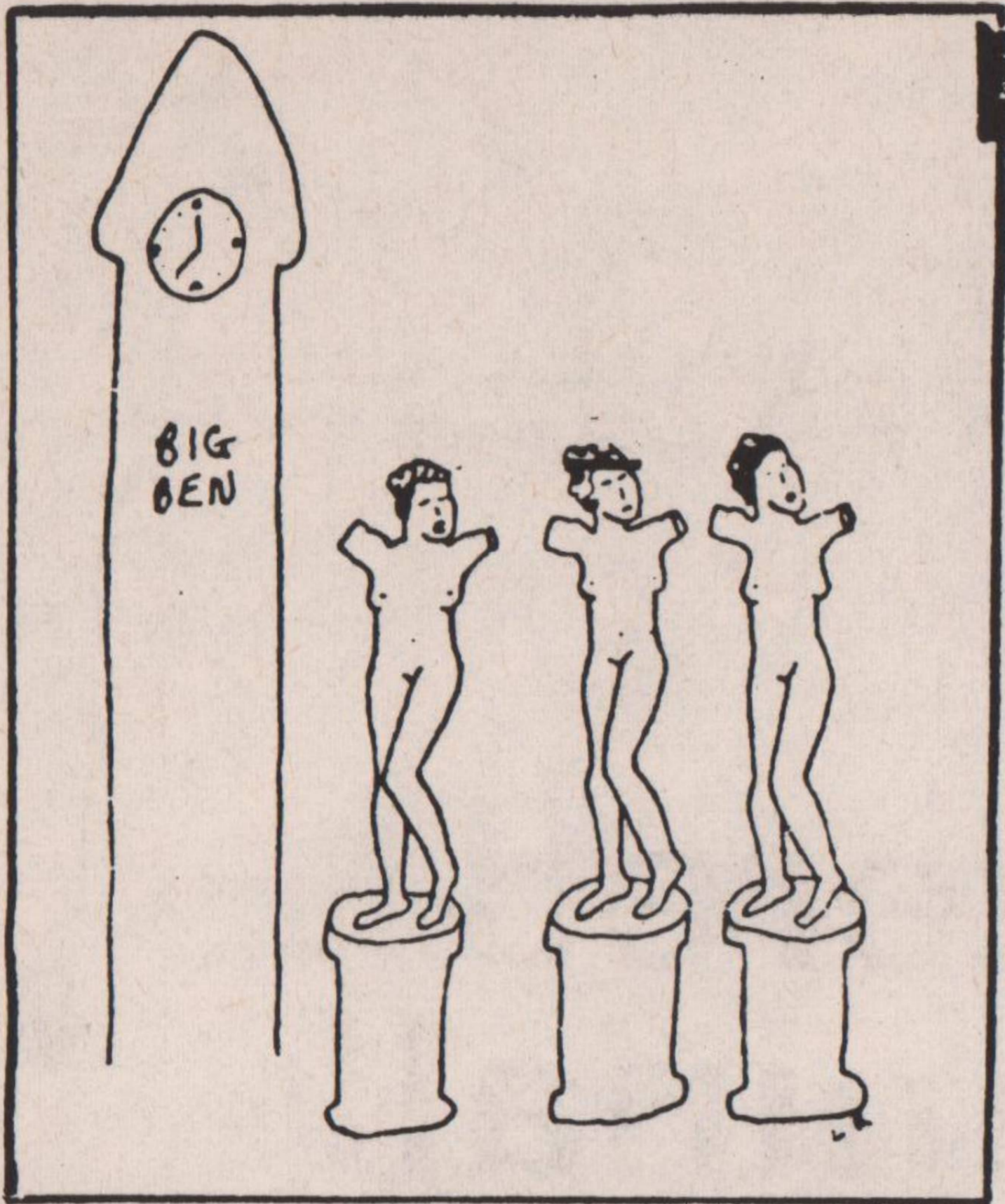


The second class citizens

WE, the Haringey Women's group society in which women and children are oppressed and would like to express our dismay and disgust at the way one of our sisters was treated by the St Ann's Road Police following the savage attack made on her by her ex-husband. One wonders whose interests the police are protecting. This incident demonstrates that it is certainly not ours.

Not only did she spend a whole night in prison when really she was in need of sympathetic support and proper medical care but her children were left in the house with a violent and unpredictable man. Initially, we found this whole incident incredible but on second thoughts it is symptomatic of a Women's Group

— Anne Greenwood, D A Choong, Carol Propper, Lynne F Darnell, Rosalind Parkinson, Birgit Voss, Amille Kuhrt, Natasha Kuhrt, Hilary Buck, Julie Blake, Claire Wyatt, Astrid Armstrong, Margaret Walsh, Deana Jeffrys, Rebecca Jones Haringey Women's Group



"armless? We're a high risk male rape fantasy!"

"A unilateral decision"
my change in method of
contraception.

he says.

"The pill poisons my precious body,
as well you know, lover.
you read the Guardian,
too.

I did not consult you,
that's true.

I informed you
in due course.
Your response was
to withdraw
the expression of our
affection."

"I shall stop sleeping with you ..."
your solution.

Sex as a weapon
a means of power
of one over the other,
oh brother.

I agree that we share
the activity which
necessitates
my contraception.
BUT
consultation
about an issue
where we don't share
the same interests
is silly ...

All right,
so I don't trust you.

You have my interests at heart?
Like John Bull
at the times when my sisters
fought for the vote?

My interests
my darling
are in your mind
if at all
forgive me my scorn

all else is pretentious
and I sincerely doubt
your imagination
to feel my situation.

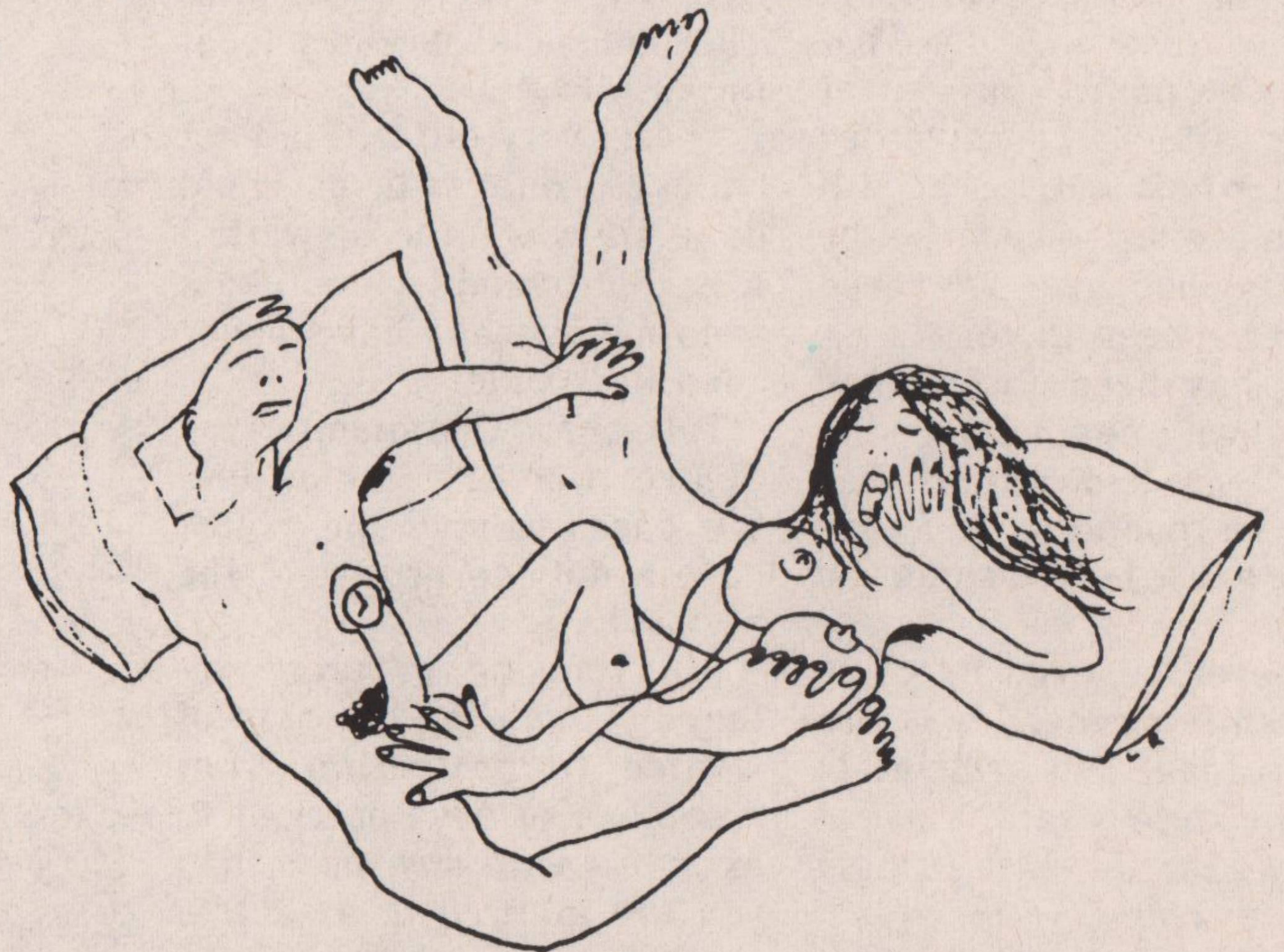
Rest assured
and just for a change
respect our difference
don't make me a case
to be 'understood'.

Understanding me
would be
hypocritical,
my love,

as I am a woman
and you are a
man.

AMEN

Ah Men!!



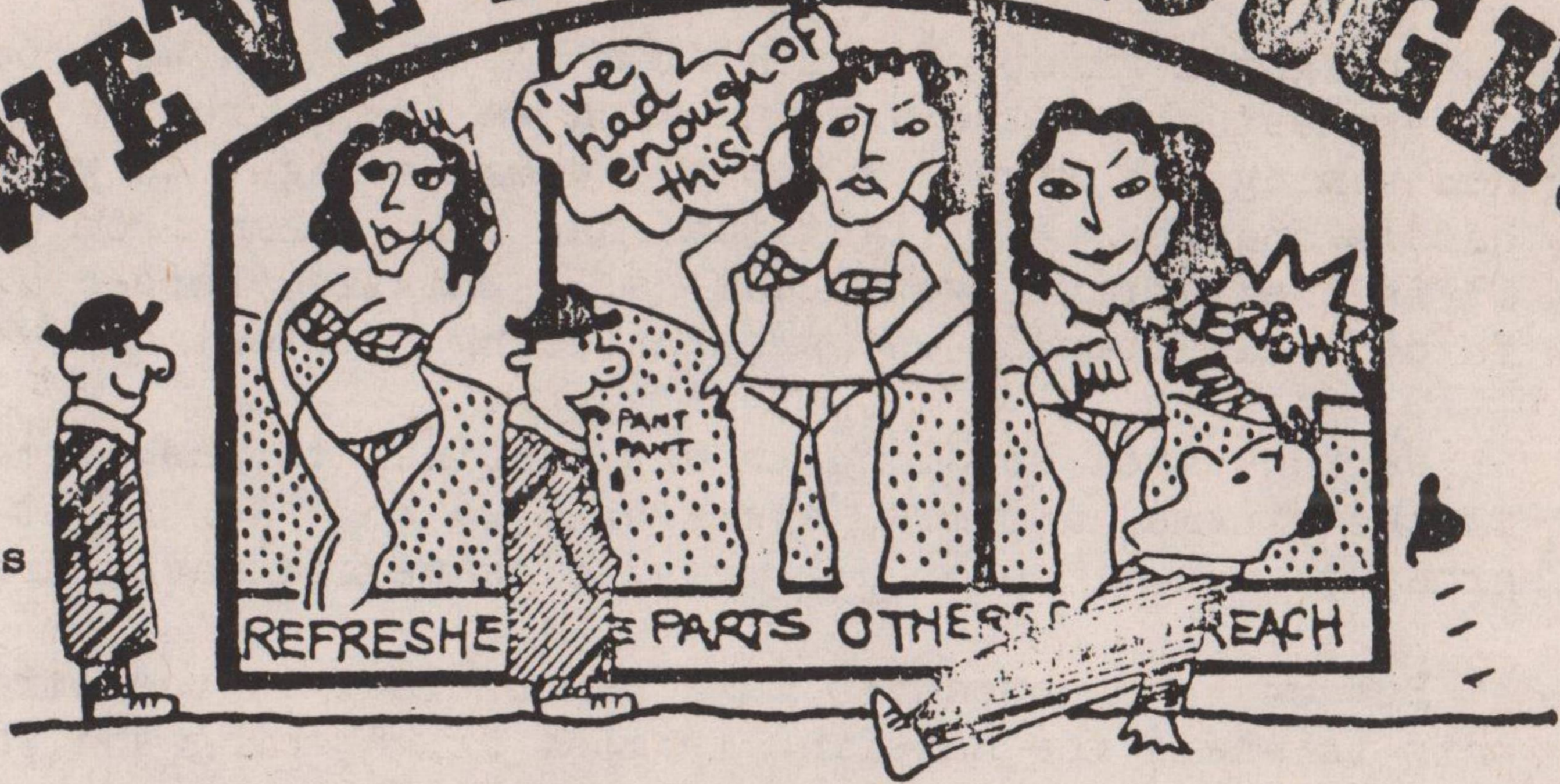
"At the next stroke it will be 8 inches and 20 seconds precisely....."

With you sister
 I walk and I laugh
 and I talk as we walk
 on the same side of the road
 sharing our sight
 bearing our plight
 ready to fight
 for our right
 to walk
 the road
 at night

we walk off the main road
 with the glittering shop fronts
 glitter and glamour
 our shops may well be bare
 barren and bare
 not much to see
 apart from solidified
 bloodstains

We build houses of scabs
 and find the sun in it.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!



DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- 25% of reported violent crime is wife assault -
- 50% of rape victims know their attackers personally -
- The law permits men to rape their wives -

AS WOMEN, WHATEVER OUR AGE, COLOUR OR OCCUPATION, WE ARE EXPECTED TO PUT UP WITH ANYTHING FROM HARASSMENT ON THE STREET TO VIOLENT ATTACKS IN OUR OWN HOMES.

How many times have you had sex when you didn't really want to?
 How safe do you feel walking alone at night?
 Do you feel insulted by adverts that use women's bodies to sell things?
 Are you worried if you haven't got a meal ready on time?

ALL THESE THINGS CAN'T BE PUT DOWN TO THE NASTINESS OF INDIVIDUAL MEN - THEY TELL US MORE ABOUT THE POSITION THAT ALL WOMEN FIND THEMSELVES IN.

**VIOLENCE,
 RAPE, &
 RECLAIM THE
 NIGHT**

Women march to 'reclaim the night'

A HUNDRED women walked through Finsbury Park on Saturday to "Reclaim the night".

Their message was: "We want the right to walk through the streets at any time of day or night without being hassled by men."

"It's to say to men, what do you think you are doing? Why are you constantly bothering women?" said a

spokeswoman. "We walk off the tube or get off the bus and we get hassled all the time with kerb crawlers and guys who come up to us and ask if we want to do business."

"It's also to show women that they are not alone, it

doesn't just happen to them. We chose Finsbury Park because of the buses and trains - women who live in North London have to go through there. Some women don't have the choice as they work unsocial hours, like



SOME NATIONAL CONTACTS:

National Women's Aid Federation (also for local refuges for battered women) 01-837-9316
 Rape Crisis Centre (London) 01-340-6913
 Rights of Women 01-278-6349

Tonight a group of women from North London will be gathering in Haringey to protest about the way in which we are harrassed by men in the streets. Reclaiming the Night is about a woman's right to walk at night free from hassle and fear - a right that has been taken from us by the men who think it is their privilege to cat-call, whistle, kerb-crawl, insult us, or to force their company on us by offering "protection".

We know that hassling is not confined to the streets - it goes on in pubs, in the cinema, at work, everywhere we go. Nor is it limited to any particular group of men. Men of all ages, classes and races are guilty of hassling women.

But we have chosen to make our protest in the street, and at night, because this is where the hassling is most frightening and where the ultimate threat of rape seems most real.

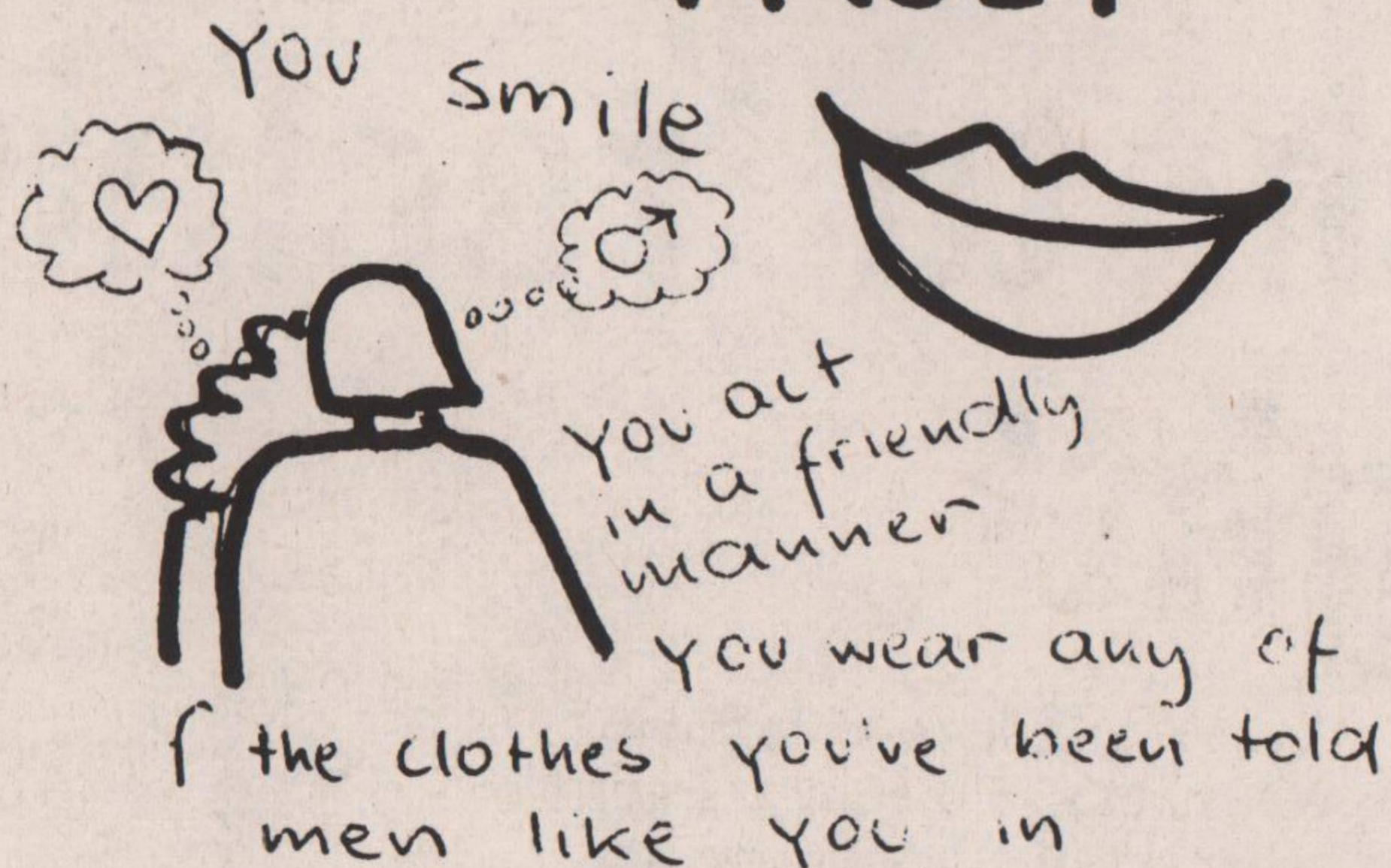
The area in which we have chosen to walk is one where there are a lot of hassles. There are several reasons for this:

1. It is a main connecting point for busses, trains and tubes in North London and there are plenty of long, dark passages and badly-lit bus stops. Many women out alone at night - either because they are forced to work in lousy evening jobs or because they have chosen to go out unaccompanied by men - pass through this area.
2. There are lots of gaming clubs, night clubs and restaurants which draw men looking for something to do. Hassling women has always been a favourite way for men to exert their power and liven up a dull weekend!

**SO YOU DON'T
LIKE BEING
RAPED ??**

Well according to British LAW

**IT IS YOUR OWN
FAULT**



H.M. Government recommended sensible wear for Women

Hassling women in the streets, and the constant fear of rape which is with every woman who walks alone at night, is one of the most important ways men have of controlling us, of keeping us cooped up at home, allowed out only when they choose to accompany and "protect" us.

We are sick of this situation. By walking together we want to show our strength, to make clear that we will no longer be intimidated. By supporting each other we will be able to defy men's attempts to frighten us off the streets and to go out where and when we please.

WOMEN! WALK TOGETHER WITHOUT FEAR

RECLAIM THE NIGHT

Remember girls.....

**RAPE
IS CAUSED BY
WOMEN**

THIS DEGRADES WOMEN

Is there life after marriage?

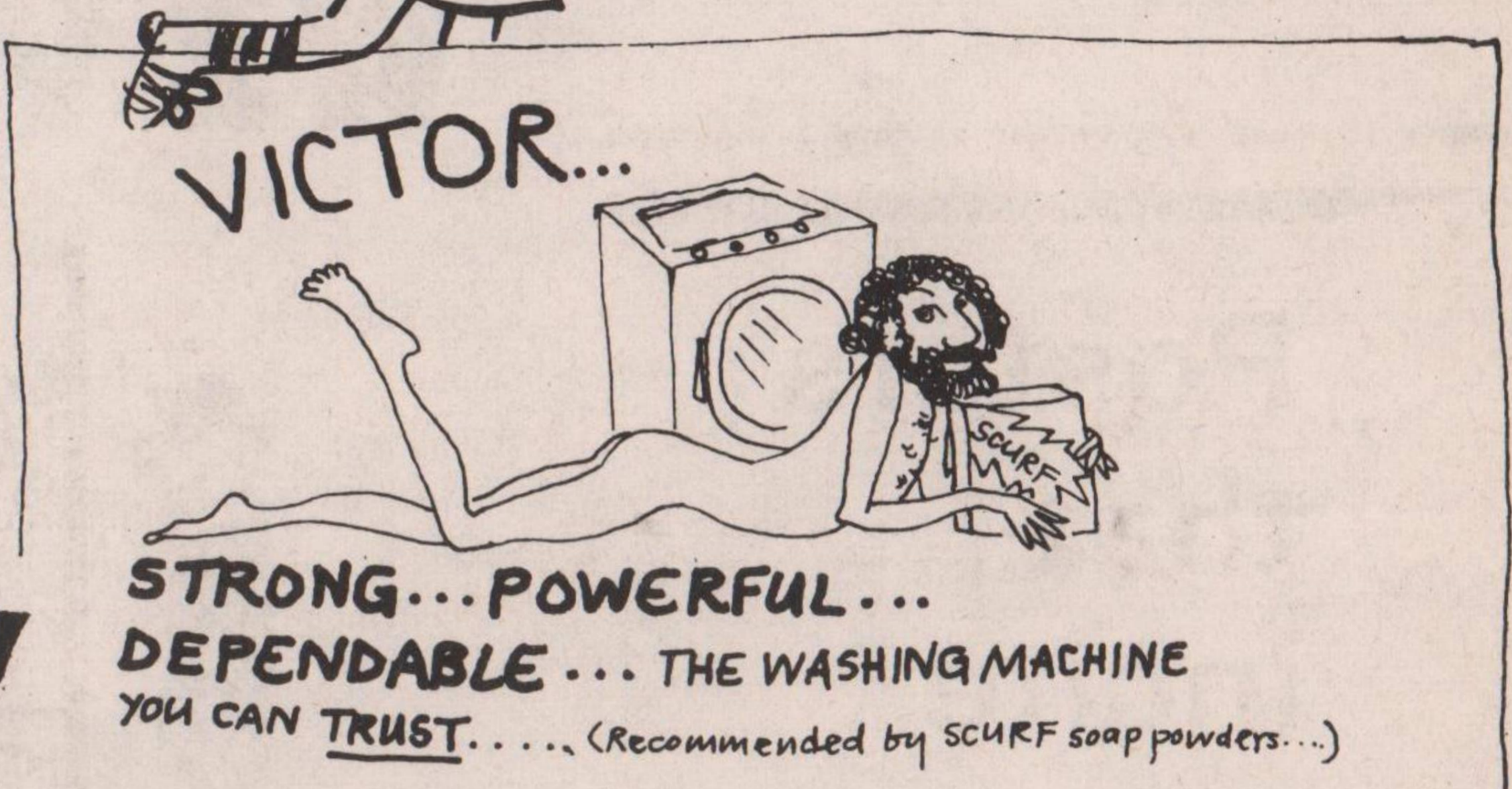
why be a wife

never go anywhere without your stickers

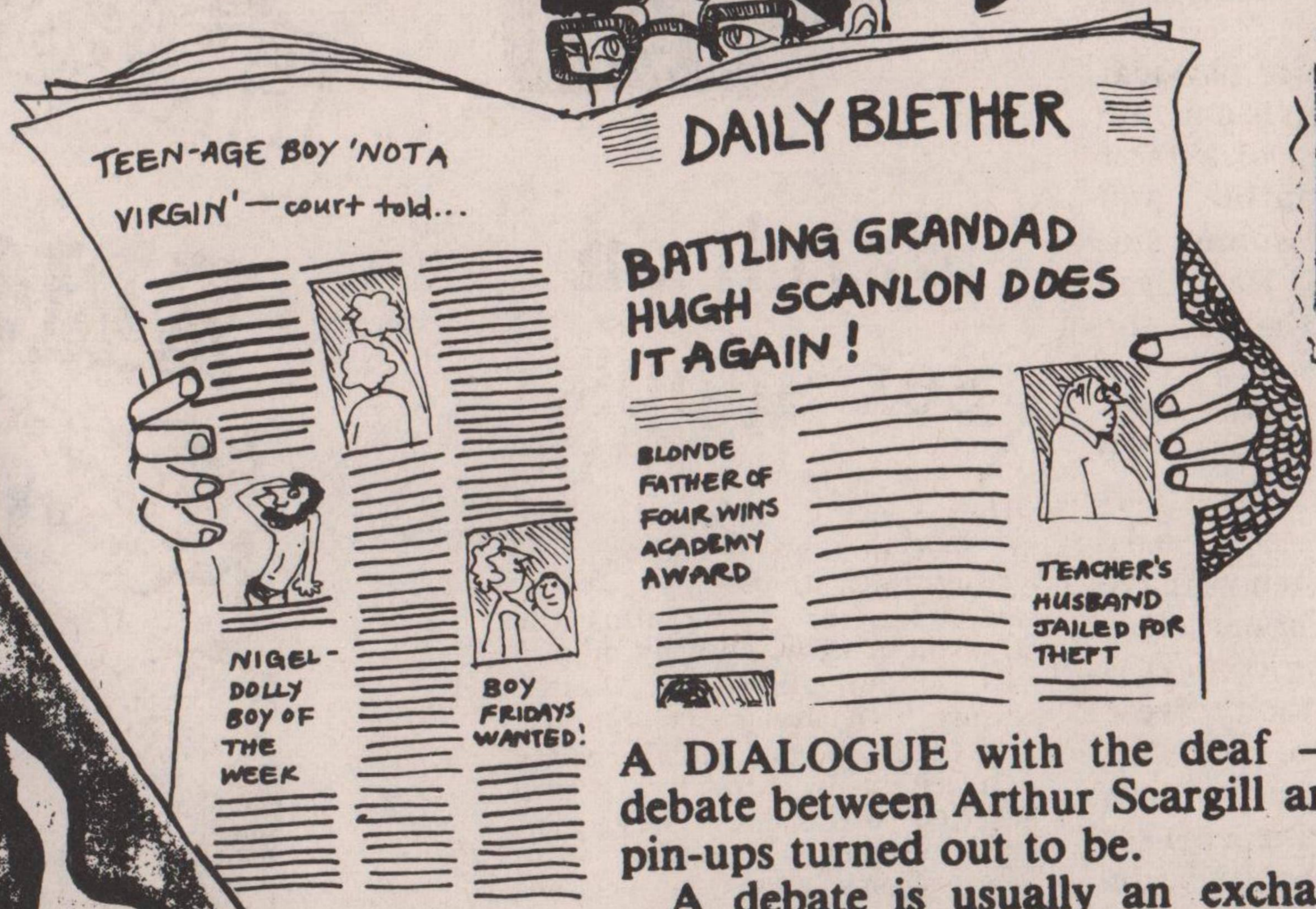


SEXISM

degrading say women



Cartoons by Jo Nesbitt



Pin-ups are a fact of life, he said, part of modern-day living. In the same way that many working-class people vote Tory and make racist jokes, replied Anna Coote.

A DIALOGUE with the deaf — that's what the debate between Arthur Scargill and Anna Coote on pin-ups turned out to be.

A debate is usually an exchange of ideas, but Arthur Scargill came with a set of prejudices and judging from his closing remarks he left with them totally intact.

By Pat Masters

WHAT YOUR RIGHT ARM'S FOR

IMAGES of WOMEN

~9~

'Rape' posters spark court demo

By FRED SANSON

IS LONDON TRANSPORT guilty of displaying pornographic posters on the tube? And do those posters encourage rape?

HORNSEY JOURNAL FRIDAY MAY 26 1978 — NINETEEN

Posters that incite

DOES THIS poster incite rape? You asked in May 12th's Journal at the end of the article about the demonstration of women outside Clerkenwell County Court.

The act of rape ie physical assault on a woman is only the final manifestation of acts of violence, degradation and humiliation which women suffer in our society. Rape is a logical continuation if the female figure is used as a consumer commodity. Who compensates us for all the "criminal damage" done to us physically and psychologically when we have to look at images of ourselves in such a revolting context. I ask you: Juicy fruity fresh and cheap!!

Where is the court of law where we can bring charges against the criminals who incite others to sexist acts, and ultimately rape? -- Sue, Rumney, Peggy Gosling, Birgitt Voss, A W Greenwood, Claire Wyatt, Clare Smith, Linda Waller, Babs Segal, Joan Neary, Yvonne Reynolds, Haringey Women's Group,

WE'VE



HAD

March on sex shops

By a Staff Reporter

Hundreds of women in Britain marched on sex shops and pornographic bookshops at the weekend to protest against the harassment of women by men.

In London about 400 women, gathered in Leicester Square, some dressed as Dracula, some with flaming torches, and marched on Soho. They plastered stickers on blue film memas, sex shops, and shops selling sex magazines between Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus, and let off stink bombs.

The protest, organised by Women's Liberation, was part of a continuing campaign aimed at giving women the right to walk alone or with other women without being harassed or needing male protectors.

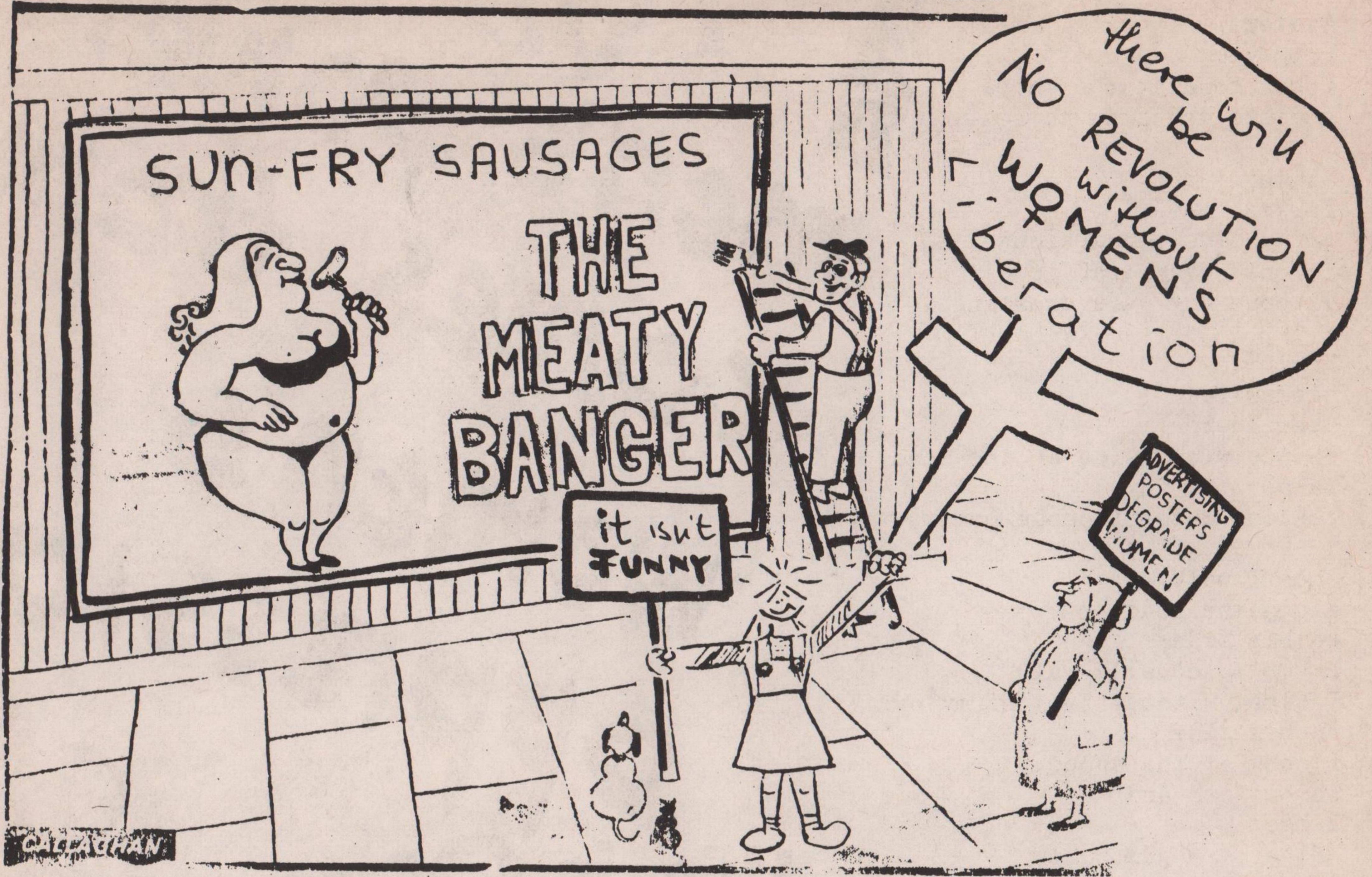


JUICY, FRUITY, FRESH & CHEAP

ENOUGH!



The women sprayed red paint with an aerosol through a stencil to brand the posters with the words "This Violates Women."



"I think this poster degrades the sausage . . ."



ANGRY WITH London Transport: women demonstrating

Sister
with you
I walk on the same
side of the road

Sister
with you
I can look at the shops
and see the same things.

Sister
forgive me
my suicidal excursions
across heavy traffic
without any safe crossings.

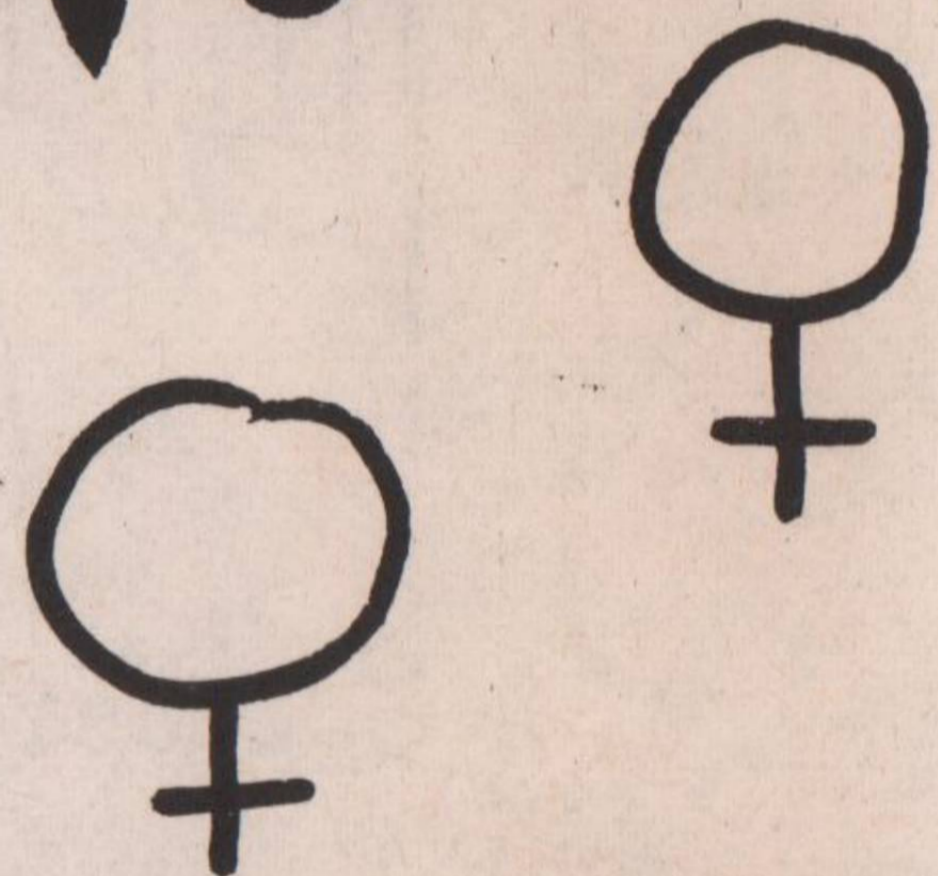
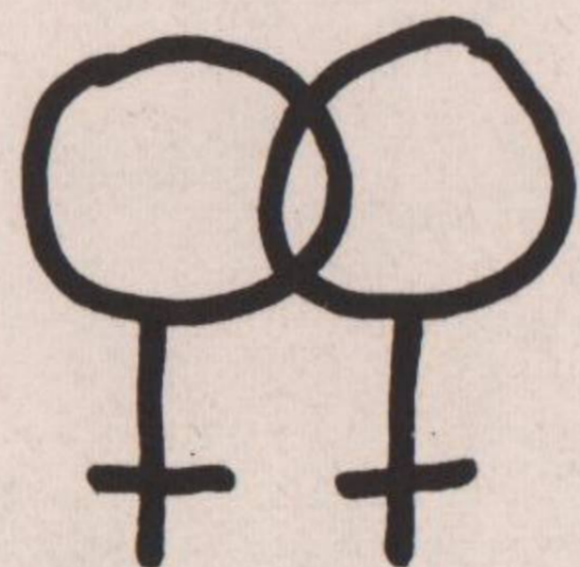
Sister
his smile
over there
on the wrong side of the road
makes me a fly
seeking out poisonous honey.

When I walk
along the road
on his side
I don't actually walk
I float without feet of my own
on his side
I look at the shops
on his arm and
I see
Mothercare jumpsuits
where he
sees a
thesis
on the decline and fall
of bureaucratic organisations
centralistic manipulation
obscure exploitation
workers democratisation
alienation
reification

We look at the same window
but see different things
sad
so
sad

**Y
BA
WIFE**

DEER spare
Rib
men's power
comes from
women's
oppression
this is OFFENSIVE
to WOMEN



Two weeks late?
Free pregnancy testing-
by women-for women
Bring early morning urine sample
(in well-rinsed bottle) to:
Holloway Neighbourhood Group
17 Lorraine Road N.7.
Tuesdays 6-8 Saturdays 10-12
Archway Women's Health Group.

Value of the Group

- all women can come to meetings
- a good place for discussions of issues
- finding support
- learning to organise
- making friends
- remaining in touch with the:

WOMENS LIBERATION MOVEMENT

AFTER

BEFORE



What's that?

a new dance?

- having fun on a Sunday afternoon
- trying to establish a communication network (telephone tree and mailing list)

DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU - I'M IN ADVERTISING - WHAT ARE YOU?

OH....ME...I'M ONLY A HOUSEWIFE I'M AFRAID...

PLEASED TO MEET YOU - I'M THE DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT. WHAT ARE YOU?

OH - I'M A FULLY PROFESSIONAL HOUSEWIFE. GRADE B - THREE CHILDREN - 4 BEDS - NO HELP CATEGORY. JUST BEEN PROMOTED FROM B3 - £4000 A YEAR NOW



Ray Fishwick's illustrations give some bite to the topics discussed in Peter Moss's 'Work and Leisure'. Should housewives be paid a wage?

Haringey Women's Group

THE WOMEN of the Haringey Women's Group have been together for over a year now. We meet about once a month, on a Sunday afternoon. Our next meeting will be on the August 13 and the one after that on the September 3. The group is open to all women. We are always pleased to see a new face.

What do we do during our meetings, you may want to know. It is mainly a social occasion and we discuss over a cup of tea issues concerned with the quality of life for all of us but in particular, of course, for women. We consider ourselves to be part of the women's liberation movement and hence support its demands:

The Womens Liberation Movement asserts a woman's right to define her own sexuality and demands:

- 1 Equal pay for equal work
- 2 Equal opportunities and equal education
- 3 Free contraception and abortion on demand
- 4 Free community controlled child care
- 5 Legal and financial independence for women
- 6 An end to discrimination against lesbians.
- 7 Freedom for all women from intimidation by the threat or use of violence or sexual coercion, regardless of marital status. An end to the laws, assumptions and institutions that perpetuate male dominance and men's aggressions towards women.

Main business at the moment is the organisation of a big jumble sale which will take place in Crouch End at the Edison Centre, probably at the end of September. Naturally, we would be very grateful for any contributions towards this sale. Contact us and we'll collect anything. This is your chance to sort out your possessions and part with what you haven't used during the past six months.

We are also discussing the project of a Women's Centre. An Urban Aid Grant application was successful and we now have the funds to start a Women's Centre in Haringey. This is rather exciting and we could do with more dedicated women on the Women's Centre support group.

Haringey Women's Group

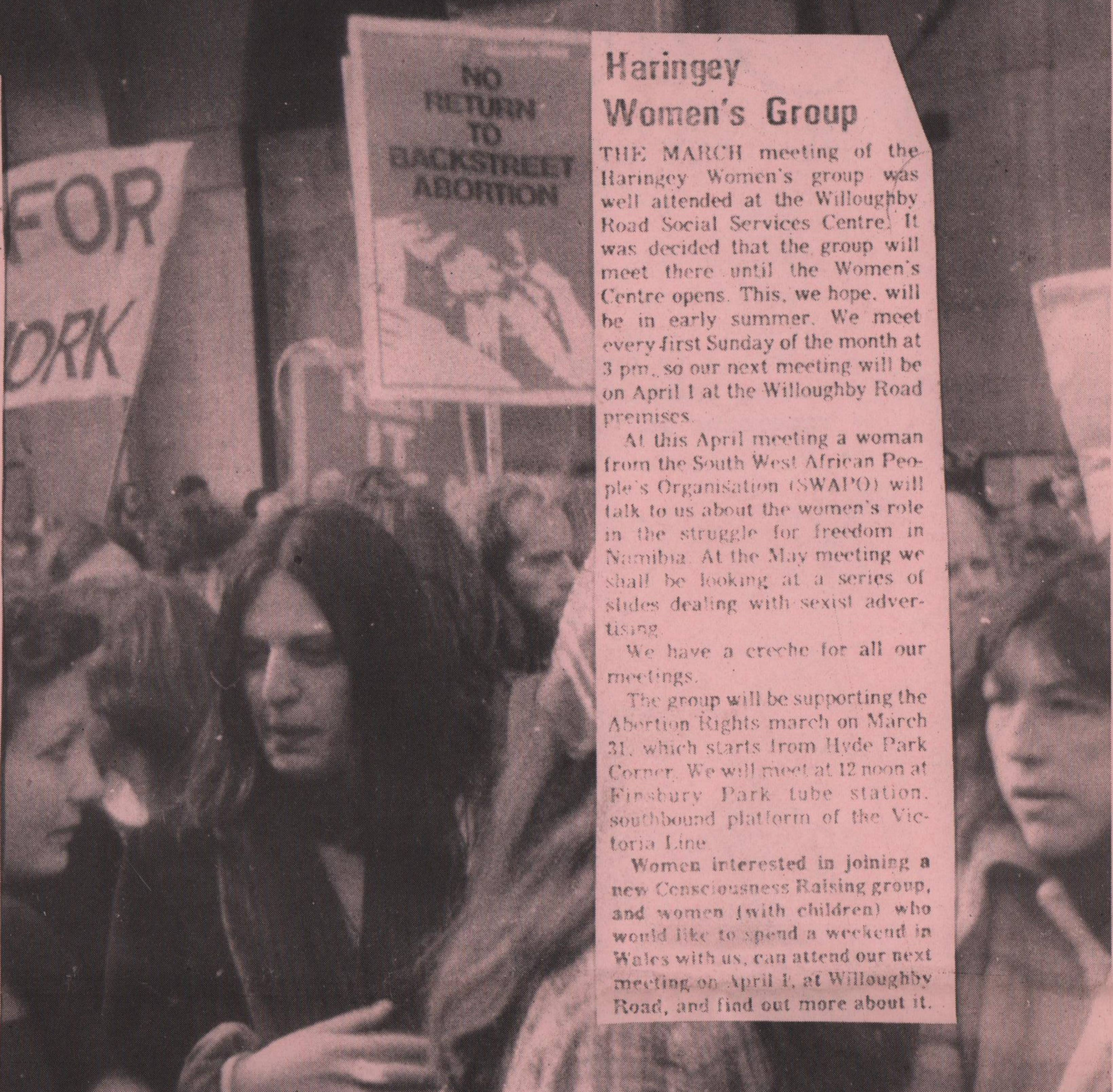
THE MARCH meeting of the Haringey Women's group was well attended at the Willoughby Road Social Services Centre. It was decided that the group will meet there until the Women's Centre opens. This, we hope, will be in early summer. We meet every first Sunday of the month at 3 pm, so our next meeting will be on April 1 at the Willoughby Road premises.

At this April meeting a woman from the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) will talk to us about the women's role in the struggle for freedom in Namibia. At the May meeting we shall be looking at a series of slides dealing with sexist advertising.

We have a creche for all our meetings.

The group will be supporting the Abortion Rights march on March 31, which starts from Hyde Park Corner. We will meet at 12 noon at Finsbury Park tube station, southbound platform of the Victoria Line.

Women interested in joining a new Consciousness Raising group, and women (with children) who would like to spend a weekend in Wales with us, can attend our next meeting on April 1, at Willoughby Road, and find out more about it.



Produced and published by
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London N4

