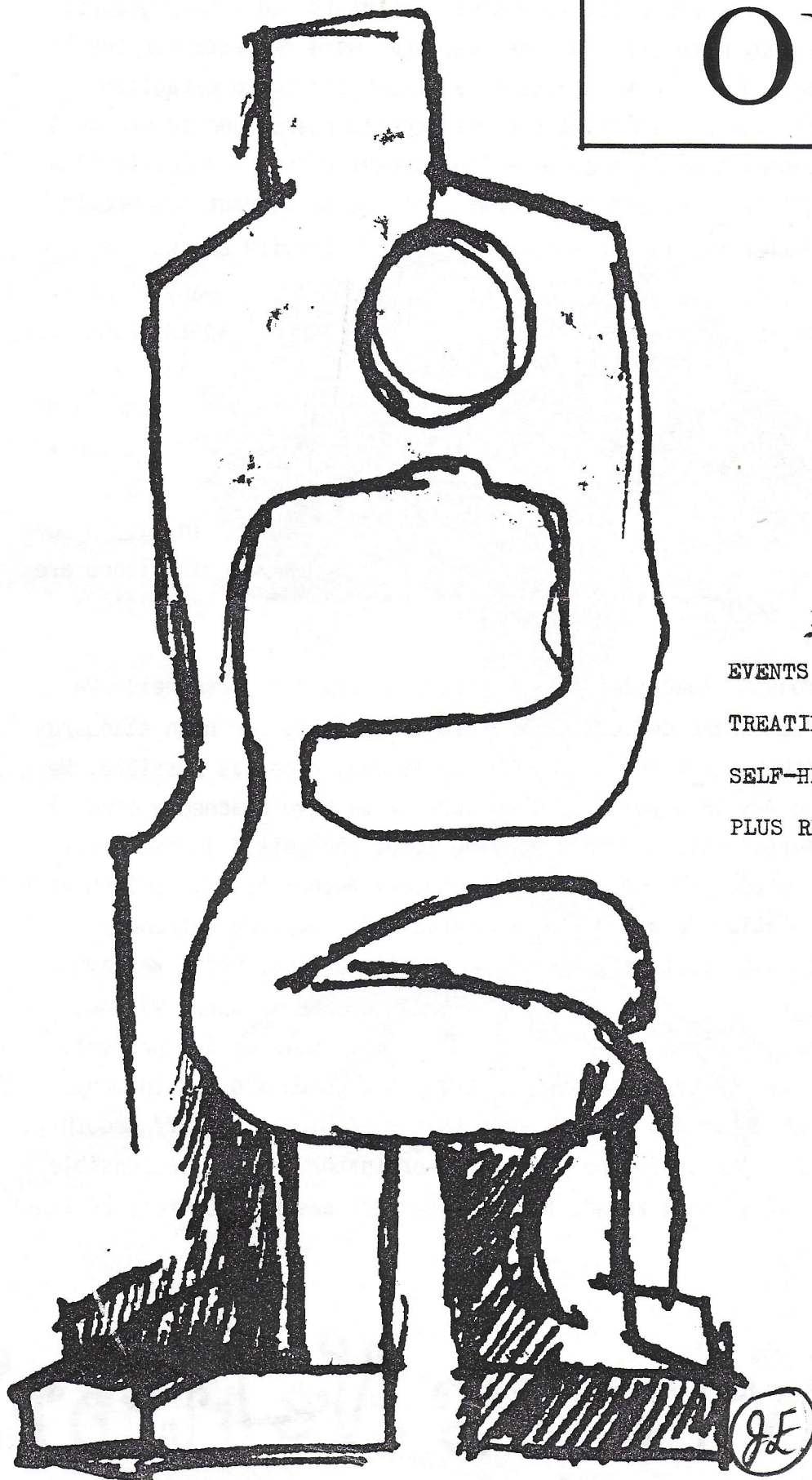


NEWSLETTER OF THE SURVIVORS NETWORK (SUSSEX)  
FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN

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# SPEAK OUT



## INSIDE

EVENTS IN JUNE

TREATING PERPETRATORS

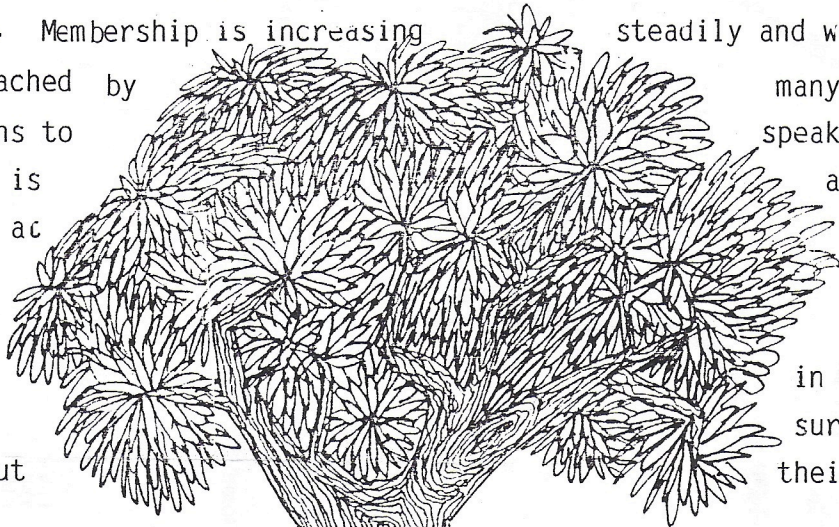
SELF-HELP GROUPS

PLUS REVIEWS AND POETRY

# Taking Root

As you probably are aware the Survivors' Network has been growing very rapidly lately. There are a lot more women asking for self-help groups; we are getting many more calls on the Helpline; more requests for one to one counselling and so on. Alongside this we are trying to establish recruitment policies and training for volunteer workers, and to create a working environment that is accessible to as many women as possible. The Newsletter is flourishing and the Forums continue to attract new people each month. Membership is increasing steadily and we are

being approached by many organisations to speak about our work. There is an Art Exhibition at the Red Herring Gallery in June and a "Speak Out" women talking about



many speak about our an Art the Red Gallery and a in July - some survivors are their lives.-

All of these projects take time and energy money and personnel! We know that many women are dedicated to maintaining our high standards and want to further the work in as many areas as possible. We have come a long way in a year and now we have reached a crucial point in our development. We are beginning to be recognised in the local community (and by the various Statutory Authorities), as a Charity with a good reputation, and capable of tackling extremely sensitive issues with tact and skill (and humour!) We have reached the stage where we need someone to co-ordinate and develop the project. The volume of work is very demanding on those few women who put in many hours per week of their own time to keep things running 'sort of' smoothly. So we are in the process of appointing a co-ordinator to be responsible for some of the many tasks ahead. Her proposed job description runs to about fourteen pages!

# Survivors Network.

# Network Co-ordinator!

CONGRATULATIONS to our new co-ordinator Sal Norris who takes up her post in June. She was among a number of talented women who applied even after reading the proposed job description! Sal joins the Network at a crucial point in its development and we wish her every success with the tasks ahead. Best wishes too to the others shortlisted for interview who showed such enthusiasm for the Network. We hope to see them all at events in the future. Thank you to all those Management Committee members and others who gave up a lot of time to the difficult decision making process.

Sal's job will include some of the following tasks:

To develop a high standard of one to one counselling

To set up and oversee the organisation of self-help groups

To establish outreach work and interagency projects in the wider community

To develop an education/training programme to promote awareness of the long term effects of childhood sexual abuse

To attend appropriate meetings in the Community on behalf of the Network, to liaise with other professionals and report back to the Management Committee and Forums

To attend to various administrative tasks including compiling statistics and updating policy.

and many more!!!!!!

We hope evryone will get chance to meet with Sal soon.

## Congratulations and Welcome

P.S

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE SURVIVORS NETWORK IS STILL A GRASSROOTS ORGANISATION, AND WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT THE VOLUNTARY INPUT FROM WITHIN THE NETWORK (AND OUTSIDE OF IT).

IF YOU FEEL YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME TIME/SKILL etc. AS A ONE-OFF,

OR REGULAR TASK THEN PLEASE CONTACT THE NETWORK: P.O.BOX 188 Btn. BN1 7JW

# *thou shalt not be aware*



the central aim of the exhibition is to present the work of women who have chosen to explore and analyse the subject of sexual abuse in childhood.

it will consist of artworks by a group of women who have made work around the experiences of being sexually abused as a child, and surviving into adult life.

red herring gallery in association with the survivors' network

***3rd - 15th june. red herring gallery.***

open: weekends 10am - 5pm

mon - fri 2pm - 7pm. ADMISSION FREE

wellesley house, 10-14 waterloo place,  
brighton. (nr st peters church)

HANDS OFF is a tape/side artwork which I made in March/April 1990 while on the Fine Art and Critical Studies course at St Martins School of Art in London. The artwork is about many things but particularly about memory, the adult who survives and reading and experiencing the world through the eyes of a child who has been sexually abused.

This an extract from the artwork.

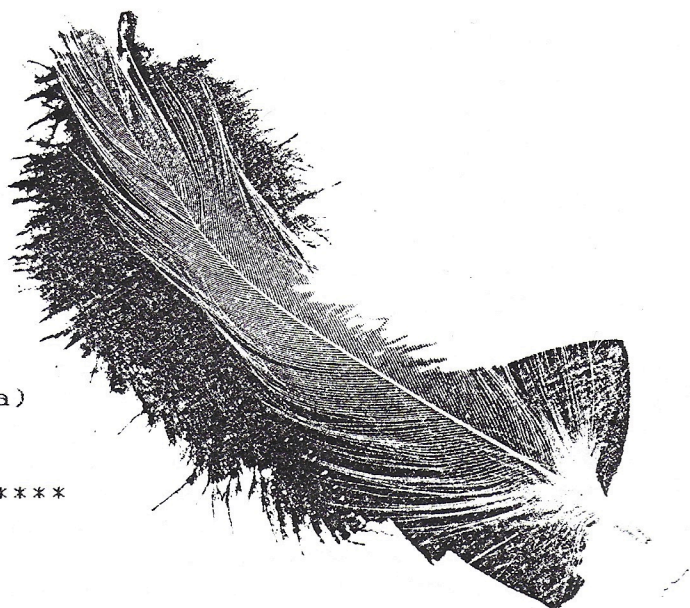
Hands can't hurt you  
Yes they can

Hands can't hurt you  
Yes they can

Hands can't hurt you  
Yes they can

(Claudia)

\*\*\*\*\*



The foot does not have a nose;  
it does not smell out.  
The foot carries you even to the thresholds of your enemies.  
It takes you and deposits you at the very edge  
of a precipice  
and you can watch helplessly as you dangle  
and your hopes for survival are sinking...

from 'Mm'a Lithoto' in SOWETO STORIES, Pandora Press 1989

\*\*\*\*\*

'It is widely accepted by many professionals in the field of child sexual abuse that there are four preconditions for sexual abuse. They are firstly that a potential abuser must have some motivation for abusing a child sexually. That his main sexual arousal is to children for example. Second, that he is able to overcome his own internal inhibitions. His morals, his concern for the child and so on. Third, that he is able to overcome external obstacles to the abuse. In other words, to create or take advantage of the circumstances in which it can take place and fourth he has to overcome the child's resistance to the abuse by threats, bribery and other means.

David Finkelhor 'Source Book on Child Sexual Abuse' Sage 1986

\*\*\*\*\*

I have my hands,  
I have my feet,  
But how do I find  
what lies in between...

(Claudia)

\*\*\*\*\*

# **BBC** RADIO SHOW

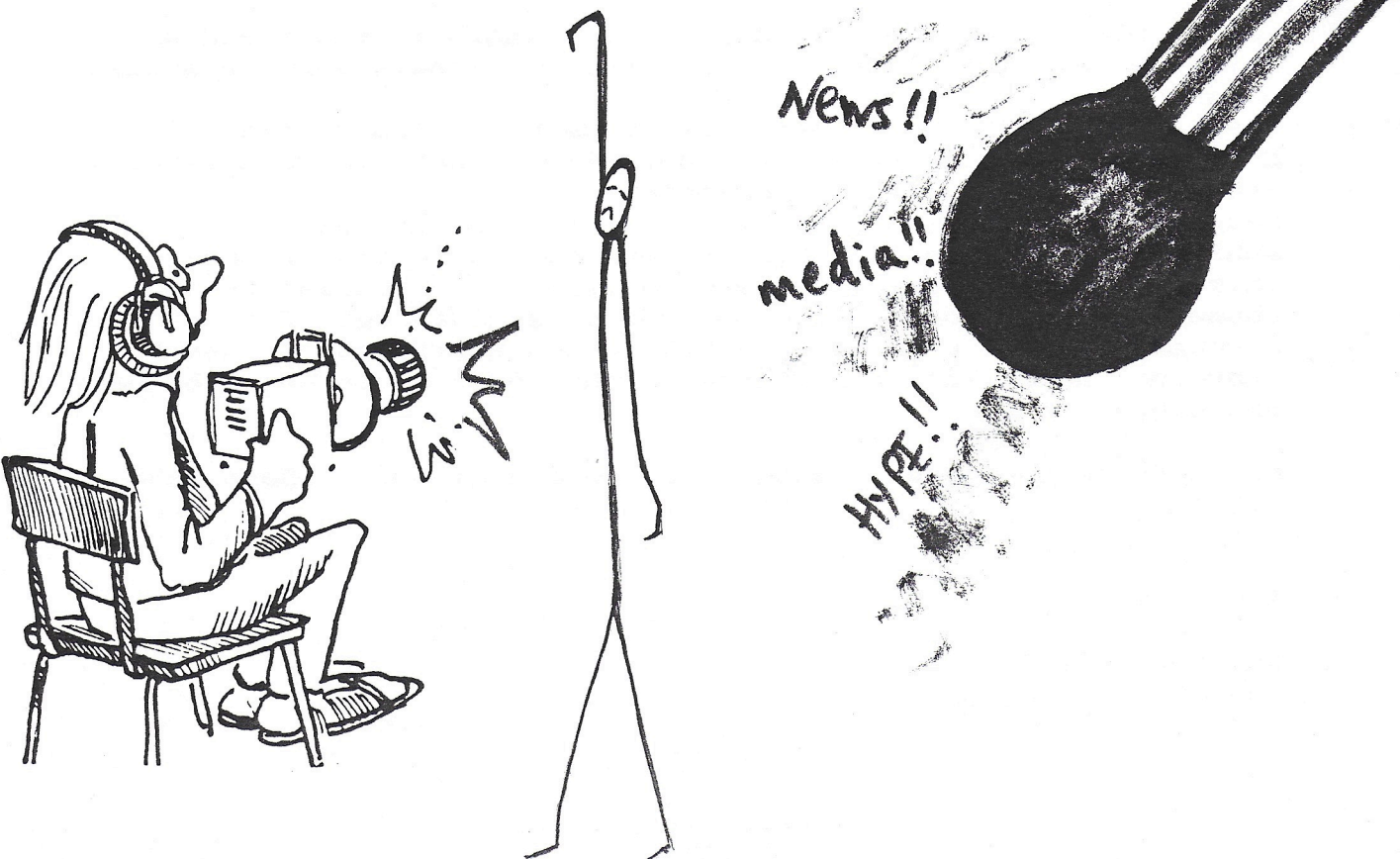
At the April Survivors Network Forum there was a visitor who came along uninvited. A reporter from Radio Sussex appeared unannounced and sat down with a flurry, telling everyone to take no notice of her but if anyone would like to be interviewed and tell their story to the media she'd be happy to record it.

Immediately the room felt unsafe. People got uncomfortable. Some thought it was worth using the opportunity to ask for help for the network through the media, others thought she should be ejected immediately.

Two members of the Management Committee handled the situation brilliantly and persuaded the journalist to leave, tape recorder and all without taking down a word. We gave her some of our literature and said bye bye.

The incident raises many questions about publicity and the nature of the sensitivity needed when dealing with the media. Why did this reporter think she could just waltz in and demand interviews with people? Why did she arrive unannounced? While we need to raise awareness about the network through the local press, how do we control the information and the form it will take finally when communicated to people outside the network? Is it possible to have really tight control of what is published or broadcast about the Survivors Network? Who should speak to the press about the Network? Should we bother with publicity through the local press at all? Perhaps networking through other distribution systems works better eg. health centres, women's centres and contact groups etc.

These questions and others related to them need to be asked and debated over time through the Network so we can all feel safe and assured that the confidentiality we all need is protected and our rights to privacy are secured.





**BBC**  
S O U T H & E A S T

**BBC RADIO SUSSEX**  
MARLBOROUGH PLACE  
BRIGHTON  
EAST SUSSEX BN1 1TU  
TELEPHONE: 0273 680231  
FAX: 0273 571754

26th April 1991

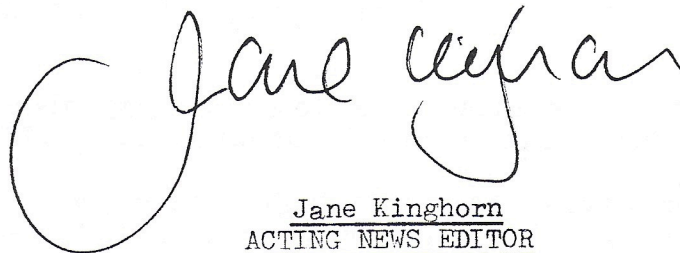
The Survivors Network,  
Box 188,  
BRIGHTON BN1 7JW,  
Sussex.

Dear Madam,

I am writing to express our regret for any unintentional distress we may have caused your organisation. We had received your newsletter which spoke of the anniversary of the Survivors Network and we were very keen to promote your cause. We sent our reporter to you in the hope of speaking to a representative from your co-operative about the work you do. It was never our intention to try to talk to someone who had been abused, we fully appreciate the confidentiality which surrounds your network. When a colleague of mine spoke to one of your members earlier today, he was asked if we could mention a meeting being held at the Brighthelm Centre, this we have done.

We will continue to give you what support we can.

Yours faithfully,



Jane Kinghorn  
ACTING NEWS EDITOR

Whoopie! One for us ... any ideas  
about how to use some free air play?  
which I think the B.B.C. owe us.

## HOW SHOULD WE TREAT PERPETRATORS?

I wonder if I anticipated your answer?

You may not know that locally there is a Risk Assessment and Group Treatment programme available to some men and adolescents who sexually abuse children. Interestingly it has been running since the Survivors' Network started in spring 1990. It is a multi-agency project supported by The Children's Society, Probation, Social Services and Health. The work is designed to serve as a possible alternative to custody, providing a confrontative response to offending, and monitoring behaviour over some time. Treatment is expected to be mandated by courts rather than entered into on a voluntary basis. Some men may be referred on leaving prison. Where the abuse has been within the family the Treatment programme aims to involve the whole family, an approach which has proved significant in the U.S.A.

It is felt that prison sentences are not the most effective way of tackling addictive behaviour such as sexual abuse. Not all offenders are considered suitable for Treatment of this kind, and those who are suitable are expected to be involved in a long term commitment to bring about control of their behaviour - (not a cure!) . In the States the majority of perpetrators on similar programmes go on to reoffend.

The people currently attempting this work in Sussex have an unenviable task, and many people think they are wasting their time and money. (Yes they have some money) But consider the following statistics:

In East Sussex 350 sex offenders abused over two thousand children.

Ninety men were referred to the Treatment programme in the fourteen months since it started.

Eight men who are part of the programme offended against 217 victims.

It appears that the sooner we do something about these abusers the better. (Suggestions on a postcard.....?)

The men themselves often believe they are doing no harm ..merely acting out their fantasies. Many abdicate responsibility implying the child was to blame:- "if only she had told", "she gave me the green light because she didn't tell me to stop", and so on. An interesting distortion of power differential. The men learn quickly how to control and silence a child sometimes using violence, but also more subtle techniques. When they enter the treatment programme they are forced to acknowledge their offending cycle. Perhaps you can recognise this pattern?

It is said that the men start with

cont. →



poor self-image....self-fulfilling rejection....anger....sexual proccupation....fantasies....masturbation reinforcing content of fantasies....repeated fantasy....targetting/grooming of victim....acting fantasy....guilt/shame fear of discovery....promise never to repeat....guilt recedes, but poor self image returns....and so the cycle starts again.....!!

It is worrying to see that the negative aspects of this cycle are those experienced also by the victim. Are they transferred in the process of abuse?

How does your abuser fit this picture? Is there anything you feel we should be doing as a Network to try to prevent sexual abuse of children? (Vigilante groups and castration have been suggested). If you would like to contribute to this discussion please contact the Network. We are interested in naming abusers in these pages, describing how they offended, what happened to them subsequently, what you would like to happen now.

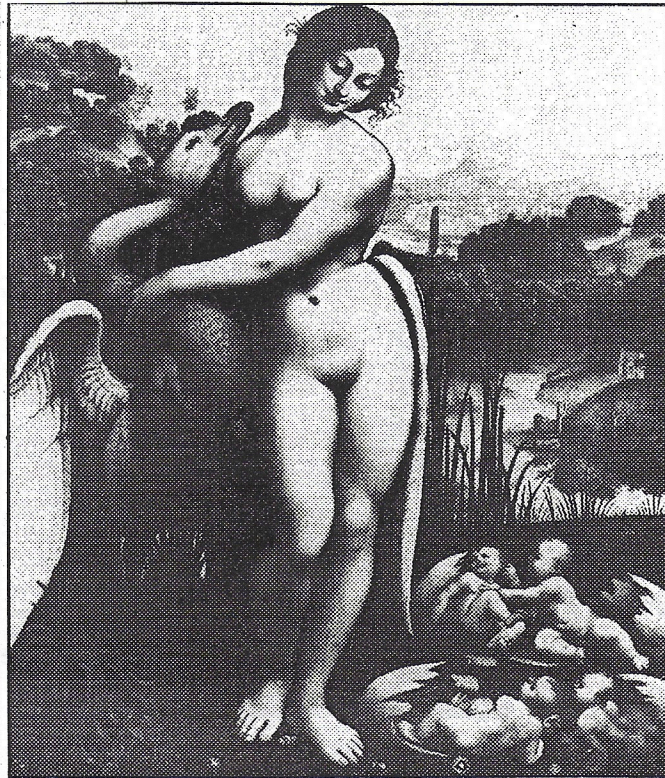
If this makes you angry tell us about it.

.....

small ad.

does anyone know how to make voodoo dolls?

.....



Illicit sex in the classical manner . . . Zeus assumes the form of a swan to impregnate his mortal daughter Leda



## Resources

There are lots of newspaper cuttings and interesting articles on this subject of perpetrators, in the library resource file....

## LIVE'S

Mountains of sand  
Illuminate my child.  
Sometimes like an oasis.  
Giving life and the rich  
Palm green of love.  
Sometimes running. rubbing  
Smooth dots of grain. Around the dirty pots.  
To filter away the grime.  
Every particle catching another  
Stubborn spot of grease.

---

I see me cross legged.  
In the heat. under shade.  
Brown hands cultivating the desert  
And my children.  
Sometimes i am cast alone.  
Into the wilderness of me and sand?  
It's pure and hot.  
Other villagers say prayers  
And keep their distance  
From this ungodly plain  
What sends me to the  
Indomitable kingdom of sun?  
Theres no glory here. only  
A few survivors and  
The bony remains  
Of the past.  
I cast my bones out  
To the planes  
And shake the sand  
to the wind  
Making symbols on the land  
Casting magic to the sky.

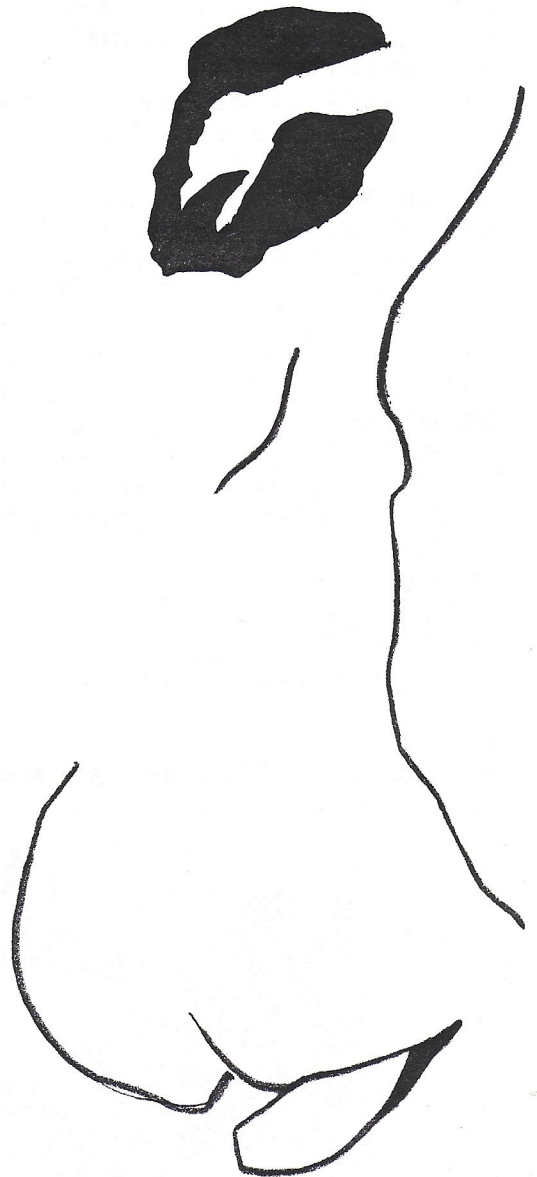
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A thousand years may change.  
But relentless is this deep  
And strange landscape.  
Where patterns out of sand.  
Bake curves.  
And time  
Traces tracks.  
Lying still for centuaries.

LOUISE. S.

# Poetry...

---



Talk talk for hours  
then leave me alone  
it's like in a prison  
the door clicks shut  
like welded iron and  
I can go out  
but it will be  
an extension of  
this iron held vision.

TERTIA

# Poetry...Poetry...Poetry

## EXCERPTS FROM KATH'S POEMS

They don't want to know me  
They think I am mad  
I can't tell the truth  
Cause that's just as bad

Sudden memories of those years  
Bring to me now the pain and fears  
But in the group I am aware  
Similar experiences we all share

Sometimes in others I can see  
A mirror image that once was me  
Suddenly I long to shout  
Don't keep that secret let it out

## OBSCURITY

My weary ideals are fading  
My degenerate mind falls beneath you  
Wearing the sale price smile  
That you bought as a last resort

Raking a cavernous mind  
You find only an odd, rancid thought  
Abandoned by this headstrong woman  
In the years before her decline

Now I stand alone  
Lost in a dull, shallow cadivare,  
Desperate for sense to be made  
Of your myriad lies

J. E. Boreham

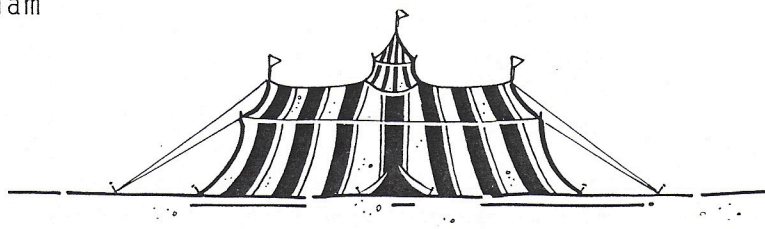
## DREAMS

It's a dream,  
A bubble,  
Hidden conciousness,  
Blue plastic ballon,  
Space filled.  
A moment, a life time  
Unseen.

It's a dream,  
Darkness,  
Fear and darkness,  
Strangers, unwanted familiars.  
Dry sore on my,  
What the hell does it mean?

It's a dream,  
Cold,  
Cold water,  
Deep and moving,  
A river,  
I am floating,  
Now continuous stream.

LOUISE .S.



Sing the Songs  
of Creation.



SURVIVORS NETWORK

# Speak **OUT!**

*Are you in the "Caring Professions"...  
and how much do you really care?*

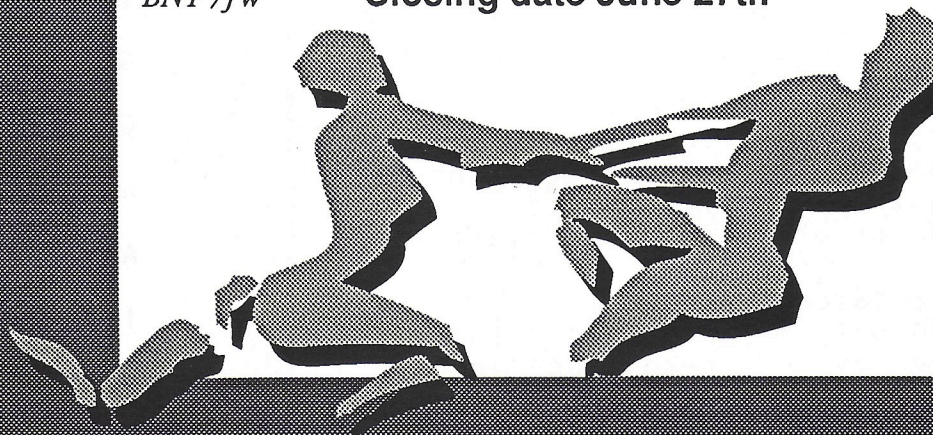
**STUDY DAY. JULY 5th**

*For the first time a group of adult women survivors  
talk about the long term effects of their childhood  
experiences of sexual abuse...how it influences  
everyday life, their partners, their children...*

*If you work with women and children this study  
day will provide a new perspective for you to help  
them.*

*For application forms write to:  
Survivors Network  
Box 188  
Brighton  
BN1 7JW*

**Closing date June 27th**



'Sexual abuse is the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children or adolescents in sexual activities they do not truly comprehend. To which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate the sexual taboos of family roles.'

Quoted by Ruth and Henry Kempe, the American paediatricians who first described the 'battered baby syndrome' in the 1960s.

**SELF-HELP SELF-HELP SELF-HELP SELF-HELP SELF-HELP SELF**

Since the Birthday Celebrations and increased publicity about the Network we have received a large number of requests about self-help groups. There are now four groups running and some women waiting for a day-time group to start.

When we first decided to organise self-help groups it was with the intention of supporting women to help themselves to examine the consequences of childhood sexual abuse. It was considered that each group should try to use a facilitator for a limited period and then go on to meet without a leader. The Management Committee approved the idea of funding a facilitator for each of four groups at the flat rate of £150, to be divided however the group decided with the person employed. Obviously the groups could consider funding the facilitator themselves beyond the amount given by the Survivors' Network.

Each group is made up of between five and eight members who have all paid a subscription to the Network. Often they enjoy a free venue and refreshments, and are insured by the Survivors' Network according to the requirements of the organisations providing venues.

Recently the Network Management Committee met to consider funding again, and it was decided that we cannot afford to continue to fund groups indefinitely, but that we should consider providing £150 to pay the facilitator for any new group.

We appreciate that funding is a problem especially for those women who are unwaged, so the Network is preparing a list of grant making bodies who may be able to help each group. The Forum on June 27th will examine the problems in starting groups and securing funds.

Please come along and make sure your views are heard. The Network Management Committee is made up of women like you, and who are willing to help put your ideas into practice. If you think you might be able to help the Committee in this or any other way we should be pleased to hear from you.

Meanwhile if you want to join a new group please contact **Carole Shaw at Box 188, Brighton BN1 7JW.**

We are interested in helping groups for partners (male or female), and workers with survivors. We also hold names and contact numbers for a proposed men's group.

... ITS FOR YOU !!!!!!

THE BODY SHOP.

ARE YOU AWARE THE BODY SHOP NOW HAVE A NEW OUT REACH COMMUNITY SERVICE TO EXPLORE AND EXPAND? THEY ARE LOOKING ESPECIALLY AT WOMEN'S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME TO PROMOTE THEIR RANGE OF PRODUCTS. THEY ARE FULLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED IN DEMONSTRATING THEIR PRODUCTS. THEY SPECIALIZE IN DEMONSTRATING PARTICULAR TYPES OF MASSAGE WITH ESSENTIAL OILS THROUGH THE PRACTISE OF AROMA THERAPY. THEY DO NOT BRING 'SALES TALK' OR ORDER BOOKS. THESE VISITS ARE PURELY EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENTIAL.

WE PROPOSE TO INVITE THEM TO COME TO A FORUM EVENING AND DISCUSS/DEMONSTRATE THEIR RANGE OF PRODUCTS BUT IN PARTICULAR, THE EXTENT OF THEIR VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE E.G. VISITING (REGULARLY) SELF HELP GROUPS COULD BE ONE AVENUE OF EXPLORATION AS I UNDERSTAND THEY ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ON EVENING ENGAGEMENTS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS PROPOSED INVITATION AND WOULD WELCOME YOUR RESPONSE TO THE BODY SHOP ENQUIRY AND THEIR ALL-WOMEN TEAM OF DEMONSTRATORS.

MAUREEN IVERMEE.

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## FORUMS

FORUMS ARE HELD ON EVERY LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

AT

251, PRESTON ROAD, BRIGHTON.

7pm → 9pm

Coffee  
+  
Tea free

the forums are informal get-togethers for survivors of child sexual abuse, and women who support us. Proposed topics and issues to be looked at in the next few months are always welcome. Here are some suggestions.

JUNE 27<sup>th</sup> : FUNDRAISING FOR SELF-HELP GROUPS + NETWORK

JULY 25<sup>th</sup> : CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SURVIVORS NETWORK  
i.e. groans, complaints, throwing the s---t!!!

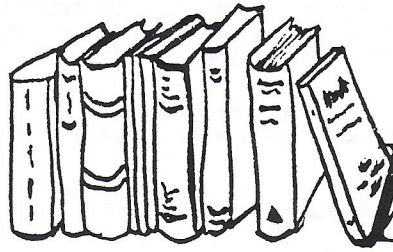
AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup> : RAPE CRISIS - talk + discussion.

# SCOSAC TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY

73 St Charles Square London W10 6EJ Tel: 081 960 6376/969 4808 Fax: 081 960 1464

## TOPIC BASED TRAINING WORKSHOPS 1991 PROGRAMME

<p><b>CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: INVESTIGATION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A model for practice which empowers parents and children to take control of their lives and relationships</li> <li>● 1 day</li> <li>● 12 March 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND HIV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working with children who are HIV positive where the route of transmission seen sexual abuse</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 5 &amp; 6 June 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ascertaining their wishes and feelings</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 1 &amp; 2 October 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>COUNSELLING WOMEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A model for short term, focused intervention</li> <li>● 1 day (Women Only)</li> <li>● 9 April 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>BLACK IDENTITY AND THE EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 10 &amp; 11 June 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>CREATIVE, THERAPEUTIC GROUPWORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Techniques and Skills</li> <li>● 2 days (Women Only)</li> <li>● 8 &amp; 9 October 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ascertaining their wishes and feelings</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 30 April &amp; 1 May 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>CONSULTANCY IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE WORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 day</li> <li>● 17 June 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>CREATIVE THERAPY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Non verbal techniques and ideas for helping women and children come to terms with emotions engendered by child sexual abuse</li> <li>● 2 days (Women Only)</li> <li>● 15 &amp; 16 October 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>EFFECTIVENESS IN THE FACE OF BURNOUT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Caring for carers</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 7 &amp; 8 May 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSING SUSPICION WHILE EMPOWERING THE MOTHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 day</li> <li>● 1 July 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>INTERPRETING AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developing an understanding of interpreting and skills in the use of interpreters</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 28 &amp; 29 October 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORKING WITH ADOLESCENT PERPETRATORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 13 &amp; 20 May 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>COUNSELLING WOMEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A model for short term, focused, empowering work.</li> <li>● 2 days (Women Only)</li> <li>● 2 &amp; 3 July 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOSTERING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 5 &amp; 6 November 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigative and therapeutic ideas</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 14 and 21 May 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 9 &amp; 10 July 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>CHILD ABUSE: MEDICAL INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 days</li> <li>● 12, 19 &amp; 26 November 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHAIRING CASE CONFERENCES ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE WITH PARENTS FULLY PARTICIPATING IN THE PROCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 days</li> <li>● 15, 22 &amp; 23 May 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>YOUNG LESBIANS; SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL ABUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 day (Women Only)</li> <li>● 15 July 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRAINING TRAINERS IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE WORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 3 &amp; 4 December 1991</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHILD PROTECTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working with the strengths of Black families</li> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 3 &amp; 4 June 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUPWORK AS A METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 16 &amp; 17 July 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>A FEMINIST APPROACH TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY WOMEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 day (Women Only)</li> <li>● 10 December 1991</li> </ul>
	<p><b>COUNSELLING WOMEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A model for short term, focused, empowering work</li> <li>● 2 days (Women Only)</li> <li>● 24 &amp; 25 September 1991</li> </ul>	<p><b>DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SELF-HELP GROUPS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 days</li> <li>● 22 &amp; 23 April 1991</li> </ul>



# REVIEWS

SEX IN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE

by DR. PETER RUTTER

In a recent talk at the Brighthelm centre, on the sexual exploitation of women by men in power, Dr. Peter Rutter invited women to that inner "voice" or "gut reaction" which warns us all that all is not what it should be in a therapeutic or otherwise unequal power relationship. My own "inner voice" told me that I did not trust Dr Rutter and upon reading as much of his book as I could stomach I heeded that voice even more than before.

Here is the sensitive Dr Rutter explaining how he became aware of the "highly charged" atmosphere which first opened his eyes to the powerful sexual tensions that exist between a therapist and client, on an unconscious level, and which suddenly exploded into consciousness on a dark, rainy night in an empty office block. I have quoted this episode in length as an example of Dr Rutter's tendency to insult his readers sensibilities.

"Mia was a tall dark haired woman of twenty five whose coloured clothes and quick pace masked her severe chronic depression. Her quest for happiness persisted despite the fact that life had dealt her almost nothing but deprivation and loss... After drifting into street life and drug abuse inner late teens, Mia was trying to put her life together. She was off drugs and working as a receptionist for a plastic surgeon. and developing an interest in psychology."

Does Dr Rutter need to refer to "Mia's" hair colour, "brightly coloured clothes and quick pace"? For the scene that follows, which is the apotheosis of a masculine conception of Woman as victim and seductress perhaps he does, like many a third rate romantic novelist.

"Mia made her way to the patients chair. but she did not stay there. As she spoke. tearfully recounting a humiliating rejection she had suffered the day before with a man she had been dating, she gradually slid off the chair onto the floor and sat cross legged in front of me.. The sexual posturing in her behaviour grew more intense as she pleadingly looked up at me, wondering through her tears whether men would always use her and throw her away. In her desperate need for comfort, Mia began to bury her head in my lap."

Is Dr Rutter recounting an episode with a woman here or a pet cat? Is this episode at all necessary to his general thesis upon the abuse of women by men in power? For Dr Rutter's purpose it is:

"Mia was the last person on my schedule. It had long become dark outside and as we sat in my warm office listening to the cold rain outside, I knew that we were the only ones left in the office building. Nothing in my training had prepared me for this.(?!). As Mia moved closer to me, I was frozen, neither encouraging her nor stopping her. I was overcome by an intoxicating mixture of the timeless freedom and timeless danger, that men feel when a forbidden woman's sexuality becomes available to them. ... the detached professional, was trying to understand what was going on inside Mia and searched for a way to help her; ...



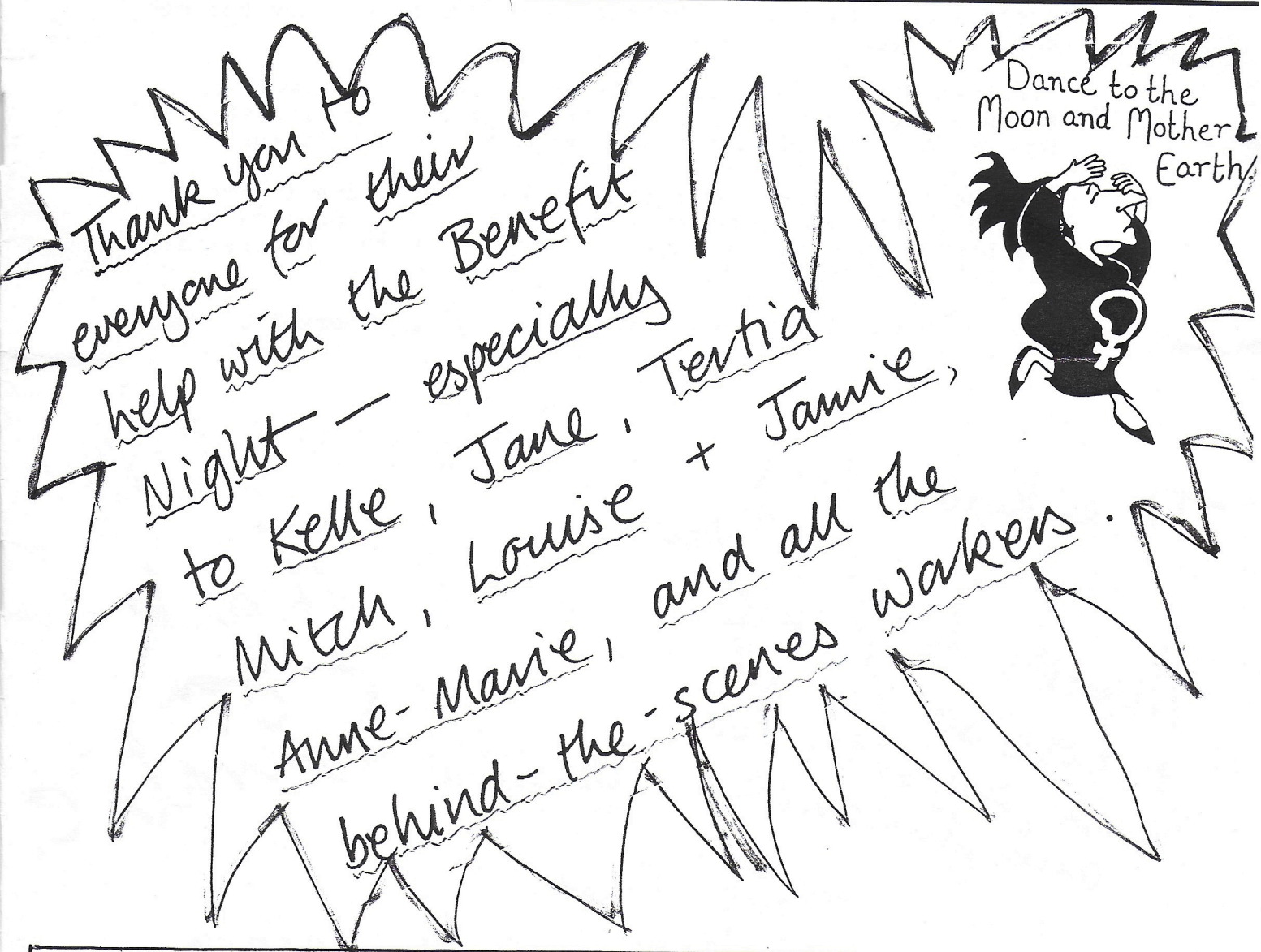
deep "woundedness".

"I made a choice in that moment. one which my more opportunistic side has at times regretted: I asked Mia to return to her chair. She did so without hesitation....

This is by no means the only offensive passage in Dr Rutter's book. Throughout his rather simplistic, naive and patriarchal analysis of the roles which exist between women clients and male authority figures his words always convey a stereotype of women which is very obviously a projection of his male mind. The most offensive passages can be removed from the body of the text and their absence makes no difference to the sense of his argument.

This convinces me of one thing: that he knows all the ingredients of a best seller and does not scruple to use them in what purports to be a serious and sensitive book exploring and condemning sexual exploitation. My "inner voice" told me that something was not quite sincere about Dr Rutter as I walked home from his talk. He had refused to answer some very important questions and, after reading his book it seemed quite obvious why.

LIZ.

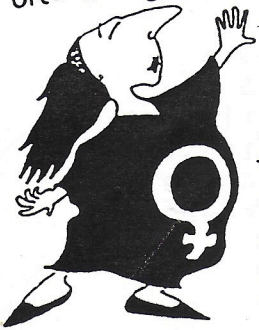


#### SURVIVORS' STORIES WANTED

BASPCAN - British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect is considering publishing a collection of stories by survivors about their abuse. Many survivors feel their story may help others. All details such as names and places would be changed to protect the anonymity of those contributing and the publication would include an introduction and some editorial comments.

If you are interested, write to Jane Jenkins, BASPCAN, 10 Priory Street, York, YO1 1EZ, telephone: (0904) 613605.

Celebrate  
the Body Beautiful.



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

To Tertia and Jane for all their efforts to get things right on the Birthday Awareness Day at the Brighthelm Centre. Lots of good wishes and hugs from the Management Committee. xxxxxxxx

Thank you also to all the stallholders and those women performing and holding workshops. The day was an enormous success in terms of expanding awareness generally and informing survivors about our services. We have had many calls since from women wanting to join self-help groups and attend meetings, and various people in the 'caring professions' have made contact to find out how they too can help survivors.

Although there was a very serious side to the day lots of women found they could enjoy being part of groups and had fun trying out dance, massage, yoga and face painting.

We hope to see everyone again in the near future in groups, at the forum (May 30th and June 27th at 251, Preston Road. Brighton), and at the Art Exhibition at the Red Herring Gallery June 3rd to 15th.

Thank you to all those who made the day so memorable.

Thankyou Tina  
+ Vera

Thankyou Check it With  
Charlie!

thanks to Jamie  
& Louise for all  
their support + help  
and guidance.

Thankyou!  
everyone

Thank  
you  
Sarah C.

Thanks Teresa,  
for Ramos

Val + Anne  
your help was vital  
+ necessary,  
Thanks!

Maureen





Many lives.  
 how many others lives have you lived.  
 I've lived my granny's life-  
 my dad's my mum's my siblings lives  
 my children's even- my imagined babies  
 is my little girl who I've still not found.

Aunty, friend, strangers. You're my imagined life.  
 I am your imaginary psyche by proxy.



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'Any child below the age of consent may be deemed to have been sexually abused when a sexually mature person has by design or neglect of their usual societal or specific responsibilities in relation to the child engaged or permitted the engagement of that child in any activity of a sexual nature which is intended to lead to the sexual gratification of the sexually mature person. This definition pertains whether or not this activity involves explicit coercion by any means, whether or not it involves genital or physical contact, whether or not initiated by the child and whether or not there is discernable, harmful outcome in the short term.'

A definition created by the Standing Committee on Sexually Abused Children, a charitable organisation founded in 1983.

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SURVIVORS NETWORK (SUSSEX)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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TELEPHONE.....

OCCUPATION.....

I should like to apply for membership of the Survivors' Network, and receive information about meetings and projects. I enclose a cheque for £15 (payable to the Survivors' Network).

signed.....

*concessions only £5!*



Teabreak

