

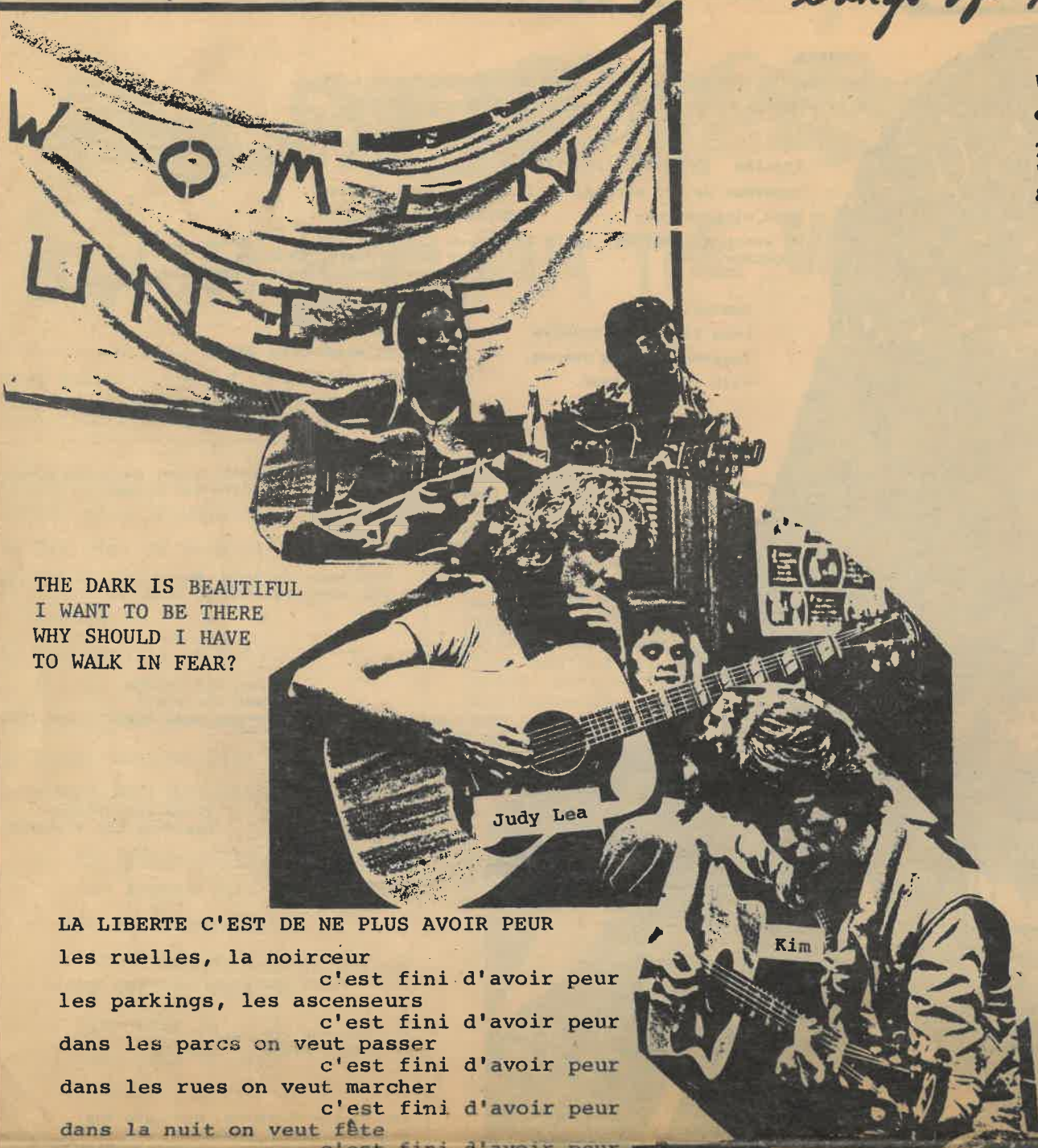
The Rape Relief Files

Songs of Resistance

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

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THE DARK IS BEAUTIFUL
I WANT TO BE THERE
WHY SHOULD I HAVE
TO WALK IN FEAR?

LA LIBERTE C'EST DE NE PLUS AVOIR PEUR
les ruelles, la noirceur
c'est fini d'avoir peur
les parkings, les ascenseurs
c'est fini d'avoir peur
dans les parcs on veut passer
c'est fini d'avoir peur
dans les rues on veut marcher
c'est fini d'avoir peur
dans la nuit on veut fête
c'est fini d'avoir peur
dans les bars on veut sortir
c'est fini d'avoir peur
on est tannées de s'faire achaler
on veut pu s'faire violer
toutes ensemble, vivons la nuit.

FIGHT BACK

By day I live in terror, by night I live
in fright
For as long as I can remember, A lady don't
go out alone at night
No, a lady don't go out alone at night
But I can't accept the verdict
I don't believe that a woman should pay
Even tho' nowadays a woman
Can't even go out in the middle of the day,
Can't even go out in the middle of the day

Chorus:
And so we've got to fight back, in large
numbers, fight back
I can't make it alone,
Fight back, in large numbers
Together we can make a safe home,
together we can make a safe home

Women all around the world, every colour,
religion or race
One thing we got in common, We can all be
battered and raped
We can all be battered and raped

Chorus:
Some got an easy answer, buy a lock and
live in a cage
But my fear is turning to anger, and my
anger is turning to rage
And I won't live my life in a cage

Chorus:
By day I live in terror, by night I live
in fright
For as long as I can remember, A lady
don't go out alone at night
Fight Back,
A lady don't go out alone at night,
Fight Back
A lady don't go out alone at night
FIGHT BACK

HOLLY NEAR (1977)

Written for the funeral demo against
violence against women, Los Angeles



Take Back the Night

We are the victims of this circumstance
If we don't stop being victims we don't
stand a chance
We got to stand up for what is right
We won't go down without a fight
We got to take control of our lives

Change is a thing that always takes so
much time
But it's gonna take forever if we don't
start trying
We must believe in our power to be
As strong as the bond between you & me
We got to take control of our lives

Chorus:
We're going to take it, Take Back The
Night
We're going to walk in the darkness,
arm in arm & shed a little light
we are shining, growing stronger
Right before our eyes
And together we'll take it,
Take Back the Night

We've been silent witness' too long
Now we're gonna show the world we're
not gonna stay calm
We're gonna shout our rage to the sky
And look our brothers right in the eye
We got to take control of our lives

Chorus:
We're going to take it, Take Back The
Night
We're going to walk in the darkness
Arm in arm and shed a little light
We are shining, growing stronger
Right before our eyes
And Together we'll Take it,
Take Back the Night
Take Back the Night
Take Back the Night

JUDY LEA (1980)

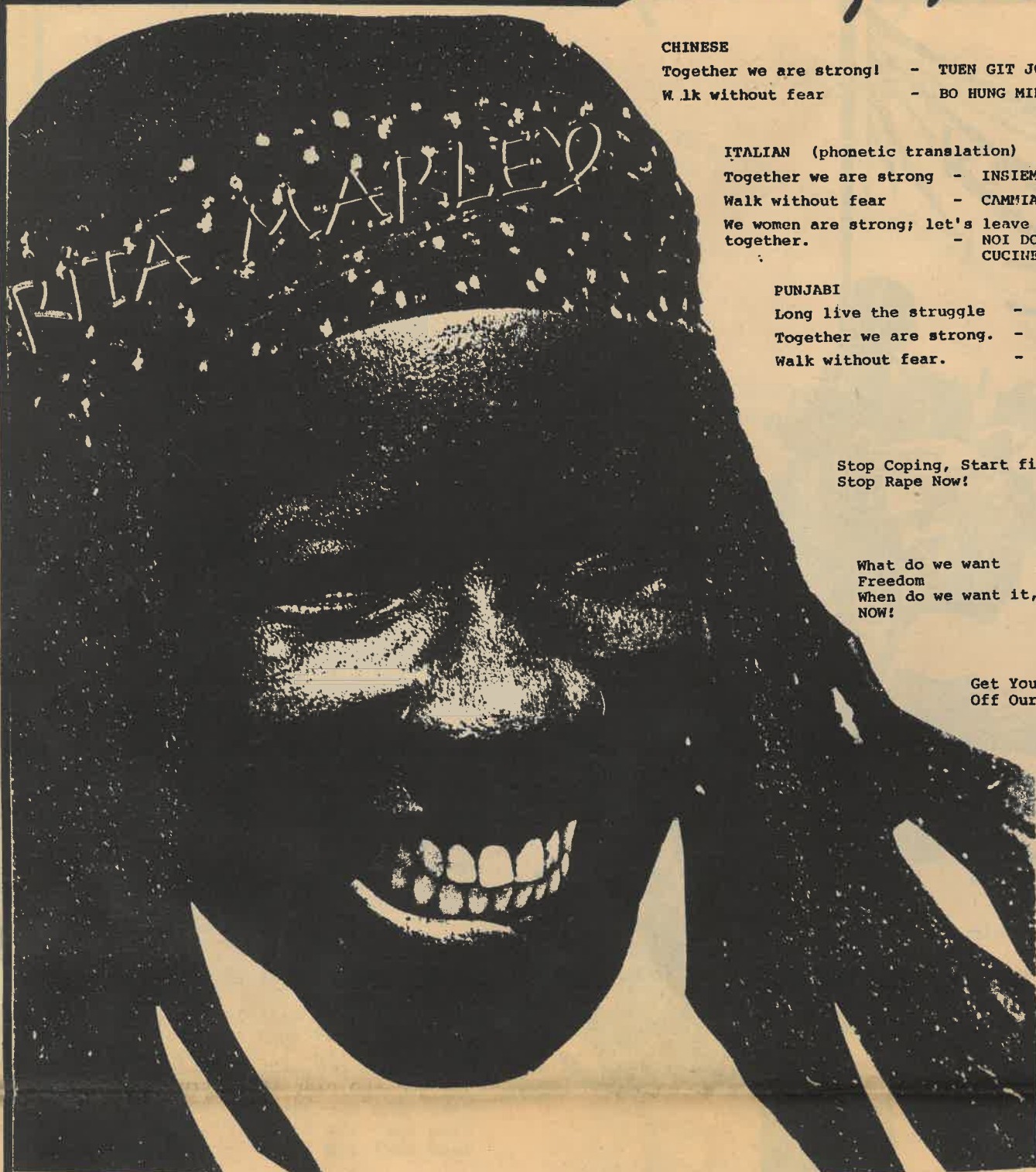
Written for August 2, 1980 Take Back
the Night march, Vancouver, B.C.

we are the victims of this circumstance if we don't stop being victims
we don't stand a chance we got to stand up for what is
right we won't go down without a fight we gotta take control of
ourselves
Chorus:
times we're gonna take it take back the night we're going to
walk in the darkness: arm in arm and shed a little light we are shining
growing stronger right before our eyes together we'll take it take back the night



The Rape Relief Files

Songs of Resistance



CHINESE

Together we are strong! - TUEN GIT JOUT SEE LIC LEUNG.
Walk without fear - BO HUNG MIN YUE HUN GUE.

ITALIAN (phonetic translation)

Together we are strong - INSIEMI SIAMO FORTI!
Walk without fear - CAMMIANO SENZA PAURA!
We women are strong; let's leave our kitchens and let's walk together. - NOI DONNE SIAMO FORTE, LASCIAMO LE CUCINE E CAMMINIAMO LE NOSTRE STRADE.

PUNJABI

Long live the struggle - JIN DA BAD
Together we are strong. - IKATHE ASI MARGE-BOOT HAAN!
Walk without fear. - NIDAR HOKE CHALO!

Stop Coping, Start fighting
Stop Rape Now!

Incest, Rape, Battered Women
We Have Had Enough

What do we want
Freedom
When do we want it,
NOW!

What ever we wear, Where ever we go,
Yes means Yes and No means No

Get Your Laws
Off Our Bodies

Not the church
not the state
Women must control our fate

Demanding our rights
And winning the fight
Freedom in daylight
And safety at night

Break the Silence
Denounce the Violence

The fear of women divided
Will become the power of women united

The streets are ours
We have a right to be safe

Out of the Kitchens, and into the
Streets, Women Unite Now

I SHALL BE RELEASED

They say everything can be replaced
Yet every distance is not near
So I remember every face
Of every man who put me here

I see my light come shining
From the West unto the East
Any day now, any day now
I shall be released

They say every one needs protection
They say that every one must fall
Yet I swear I see my reflection
Some place so high above this wall

(CHORUS)

Standing next to me in this lonely crowd
Is a man who swears he's not to blame
All day long I hear him shout so loud
Crying out that he was framed

(CHORUS)

Good-Bye Red Hot

Last summer women started to organize
To shut Red Hot Video down
The films they sell teach that it's
alright
To rape and push women around

Chorus:
Good-bye, Red Hot, good-bye
Good-bye, Red Hot
Good-bye Red Hot, good-bye Red Hot
We've come to shut you down

Some women decided to take action
Called themselves Wimmin's Fire Brigade
They bombed three Red Hot outlets
Now, three down and eleven afraid

Chorus:
We tried many times to tell them
Alan Williams and the law
They finally seized a few tapes
But our battle is far from done

Chorus:
We've come to tell you, Stoveman
That we will not be stopped
Until you're out of business
And all of your sales have dropped

Chorus:
Now, Red Hot's only part of the problem
There are many more stories alike
We're tired of profits off our bodies
And we've only begun to fight!

Chorus:

Kim Nightingale (1983)
- sung to the tune of Good Night Irene

First there's two
Then there's four
Soon there'll be a thousand more
Angry women in the street

CARRY IT ON

There's a woman by my side walking
There's a voice inside me talking
There's a word that's needing saying

Carry it on Carry it on
Carry it on Carry it on

All our mother's sang before us
All our children sing the chorus
Come on women, lift your voices

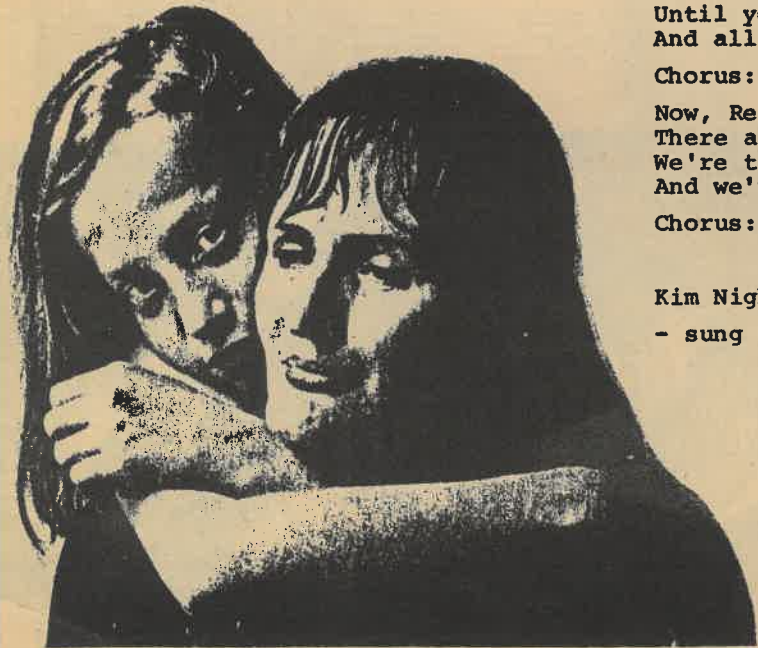
Carry it on Carry it on
Carry it on Carry it on

If you can't fight any longer
Take your sister's hand and be stronger
Every victory's gonna bring another

Carry it on (4)

We can stand and fight together
Sexist violence won't kee us silent
Every woman's gonna bring another

Organize (4)





TBTN Songs in French -- we learned them from the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre women.

air: Isabeau

les femmes se promènent
dans les rues de la nuit
dans les rues de la nuit
sur le bord de l'île
dans les rues de la nuit
sur le bord de l'eau
sur le bord du ruisseau
Les femmes sont en fête dans.....
Les femmes sont solidaires.....

air: Révolution

les femmes sont ben tannées
de se faire achaler
les femmes sont écoeurées
de se fair agresser
sans peur la nuit
sans peur le jour
vivons la nuit
vivons le jour
marchons tout' ensemble
solidarité !

air: Vivè la compagnie

Marcher dans la rue la nuit
toi et moi ma mie
même aux ptites heures passé minuit
sans avoir peur de lui
vivè, vivè, vivè la vie
vive, vive, vive l'amour
vive la nuit, vive le jour
sans avoir peur de lui

There is a lot of wonderful women's music around now, widely available and commercially produced. You may easily recognise some of the songs and faces on these pages. If not, look in your local music store for the work of Holly Near, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Rita Marley, Cris Williamson, Ronnie Gilbert from the U.S.; Frankie Armstrong from England and Judy Small from 'Down Under' have made the North American folk fest circuit.

Great Canadians include Heather Bishop, from the Priories, Rita McNeill from 'down East', Arlene Mantle from Toronto and Lillian Allan, feminist, and one of several 'dub' poets, based in T.O.

But don't wait for someone to produce a record -- if you need a song for an action you're planning, write your own. These pages have several examples of good local songs which Vancouver women have written. Write new words to a popular tune, or make up your own!

MI CAANT BELIEVE IT

I woz walking down de road
de ode day
a reach de intasocshan
of floor an bay

I site some yout man
pon de line
lookin really keel
an really fine

Ah tek one step forward
no step backward
I see wats appennin
dey said its a ustlin
I see but why de bustlin
an dey said its ah prosti
prosti
prostitushan prostitushan

Fifty dollar byde our
attaward yuh tek ah shows
back pon de line
an yuh feelin really fine

An yuh fi really check it out
really really check it out
an yuh fi really check it out.

Ninety eight per cent
of de youts of today
drap out a school
cause dem coudnt find noh way
fi live up to de standard of society
so many drap out fi face up reality
reality
reality
reality

an yuh fi really check it out
really really check it out
see one day dey shal defeat de shistym
yout unemployment
its a yout exploitin.

Chants:

We gotta stop/ all violence against women/
in fear/ ain't the way to be livin'
It isn't sex/ that makes men rape/ its just
a case/ of woman hate
There ain't no-o-o excuse/ for woman abuse



Women Unite
Demand the Right
To Walk On The Streets
Day or Night

Rape won't stop, until
Men stop raping



Still Ain't Satisfied

Well they've got women on T.V.
And I still ain't satisfied
Cause co-optations all I see
And I still ain't satisfied
They call me Ms., they sell me
blue jeans
Call it women's lib, they make it
sound obscene

Chorus:

And I still ain't
Oh, they lied, and I still ain't
Oh, they lied, and I still ain't
Oh, they lied, and I still ain't
satisfied

Well, they've got women prison guards
And I still ain't satisfied
With so many still behind bars
And I still ain't satisfied
I don't plead guilt, don't want no
bum deal
I don't want crumbs, I want the whole
meal

Chorus:

They liberalized abortion
And I still ain't satisfied
Cause it still costs a fortune
And I still ain't satisfied
I'm thinking about, controlling my own
womb
And no reform is gonna change my tune

Chorus:

They give out pennies here and there
And I still ain't satisfied
To set up centres for childcare
And I still ain't satisfied
And while we work, every day for slave
wages
They brainwash our kids, at tender ages

Chorus:

They say there must be some mistake
And I still ain't satisfied
Cause every minute a woman's raped
And I still ain't satisfied
They say "too bad", and give us a
street light
They put us down, when we learn how to
fight

Chorus

Bonnie Lockhart

- last verse by Rape Relief

Bridget Evans

There's a woman in Great Britain,
Bridget Evans is her name
And she's out on Greenham Common and
things will never be the same
And this is not just Bridget's fight,
there's women by the score
By the hundred, by the thousand,
and there'll be ten thousand more

Chorus:

And they're fighting for their families,
they're fighting for their friends
And they won't stop, no they won't stop
till this nuclear madness ends

And Bridget's left her husband and her
kids at home in Wales
And she hears what people say of her,
that she's gone off the rails
And she says that men have left their
wives and marched off to their wars
And how can her fight for humankind be
any lesser cause

Chorus:

And Bridget's been to prison for they
say she breached the peace
When she sat inside a sentry box and
sang to the police
And her song is growing louder as it
echoes off the sun
That Bridget won't leave Greenham
till the battle has been won

Chorus:

There's a woman in Great Britain, Bridget
Evans is her name
And she's out on Greenham Common and
things will never be the same

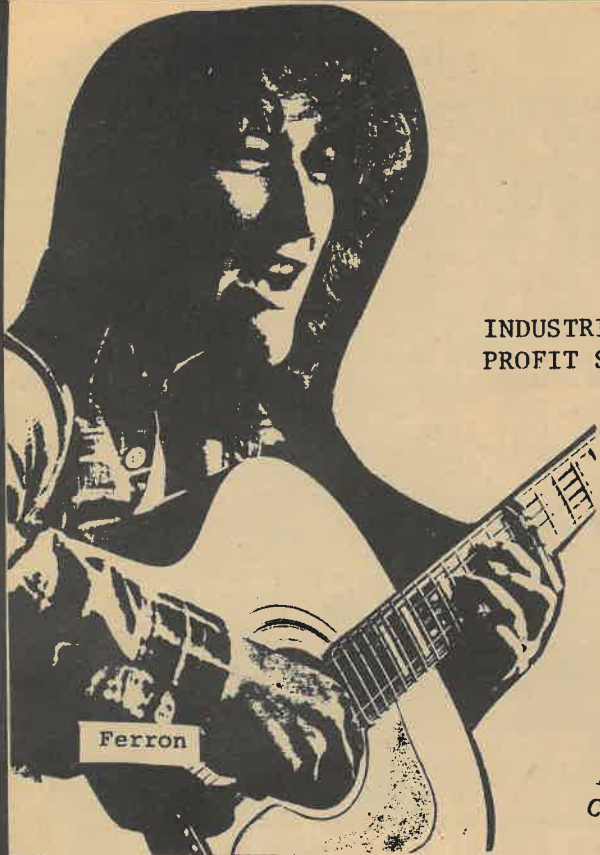
Judy Small

- (For the Greenham Common Women)



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FEMME, QUAND TU ENTENDS UNE FEMME CRIER
NE LA LAISSE PAS SEULE
SOLIDARITE!

INDUSTRIE PORNO
PROFIT SUR NOTRE DOS!

FINI DE TOUJOURS SE TAIRE
LA VIEW PRIVEE EST POLITIQUE!

DANS LES MAISONS AU TRAVAIL
SUR LA RUE PARTOUT OPPRIMES
PARTOUT VIOLEES
C'EST TOUTES ENSEMBLE QU'IL FAUT LUTTER!

LA RUE LA NUIT
LES FEMMES SANS PEUR!

TESTIMONY

There's God like, and warlike, and strong
like only some show
There's sad like, and mad like and had
like we all know

Chorus:
But by my life be I spirit, and by my
heart be I woman
And by my eyes be I open,
And by my hands be I whole

They say slowly, brings the least shock,
but no matter how slow I walk
There are traces, empty spaces, and doors
and doors of locks

Chorus:
You young ones, you're the next ones,
and I hope you choose it well
Though you try hard, you may fall prey,
to the jaded jewel

Chorus:
There are waters, hidden from us, in the
maze we find them still
We take you to them, you take your young
ones, may they take their own in turn.

Chorus:

FERRON
Written for the first Canadian rape
crisis centre film against rape --
This Film is About Rape.

CIRCLE 'ROUND THE MOON (WE'RE TAKING BACK THE NIGHT)

Oh you'd better watch out
you better not fight
The streets of the city won't be empty
tonight

Cause the women of the town
are stepping out tonight
We're going to laugh sing and shout
We're taking back the night
Freedom, freedom Mama, sister daughter
friend, Grandma and lover
We're all tired of fear
and being locked up at night

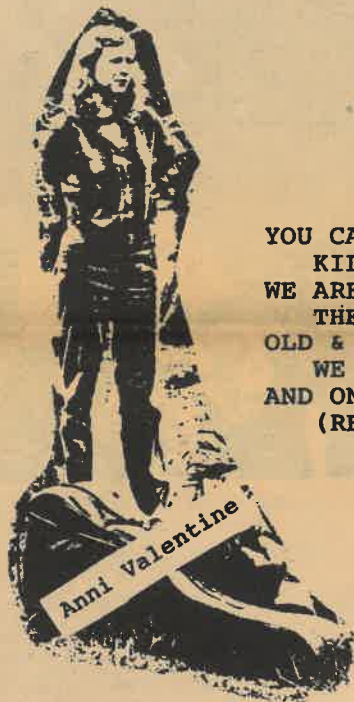
One, two, three and more
fifty and one thousand
half the population

Chorus
You cut our funds
try to break our unity
but you won't stop us now
we'll fight back
for what we need

Chorus
Porn is the theory
Rape is the practice
No more advertising violence
We want a safe world

Chorus
We're joining hands
like a circle round the moon
taking control of our bodies
our lives and our fun

ANNI VALENTINE



YOU CAN'T
KILL OUR SPIRIT
WE ARE LIKE
THE MOUNTAINS
OLD & STRONG
WE GO ON
AND ON & ON
(REPEAT)

LA PEUR PARALYSE
L'ACTION DELIVRE!

RECLAIM THE NIGHT

Though Eve was made from Adam's Rib
Nine months he lay within her crib;
How can a man of woman born
Thereafter use her sex with scorn?
For though we bear the human race,
To us is given second place
And some men place us lower still
By using us against our will.

CHORUS:
Reclaim the night and win the day
We want the right that should be our own
A freedom women have seldom known
The right to live, the right to walk along
Without fear

If we choose to walk alone
For us there is no safety zone
If we're attacked we bear the blame
They say that we began the game
And though you prove your injury
The judge may set the rapist free
Therefore the victim is to blame
Call it nature, but rape's the name

A husband has his lawful rights
Can take his wife when're he likes
The court uphold, time after time
That rape in marriage is no crime
The choice is hers and hers alone
Submit or lose your kids and home
When love becomes a legal claim
Call it duty, but rape's the name

And if a man should rape a child
It's not because his spirit's wild
Our system gives the prize to all
Who trample on the weak and small
When fathers rape, they surely know
Their kids have nowhere else to go
Try to forget, don't ask us to
Forgive them they know what they do

When exploitation is the norm
Rape is found in many forms
Lower wages, meaner tasks
Poorer schooling, second class
We serve our own, and like the men
We serve employers, it follows then
That body's rape is nothing new
But just a servant's final due

We've raised our voices in the past
And this time will not be the last
Our body's gift is ours to give
Not payment for the right to live
Since we've outgrown the status quo
We claim the right to answer No
If without consent he stakes a claim
Call it rape For rape's the name

PEGGY SEEGER

Verse Reclaim the Night Peggy Seeger

Though Eve was made from Adam's Rib nine months he lay within her crib
How can a man of woman born thereafter use her sex with scorn
For though we bear the human race to us is given second place
And some men place us lower still by using us against our will
Re-claim the night and win the day we want the right that should be our own
A freedom women have seldom known the right to live the right to walk along

