



AWAKE

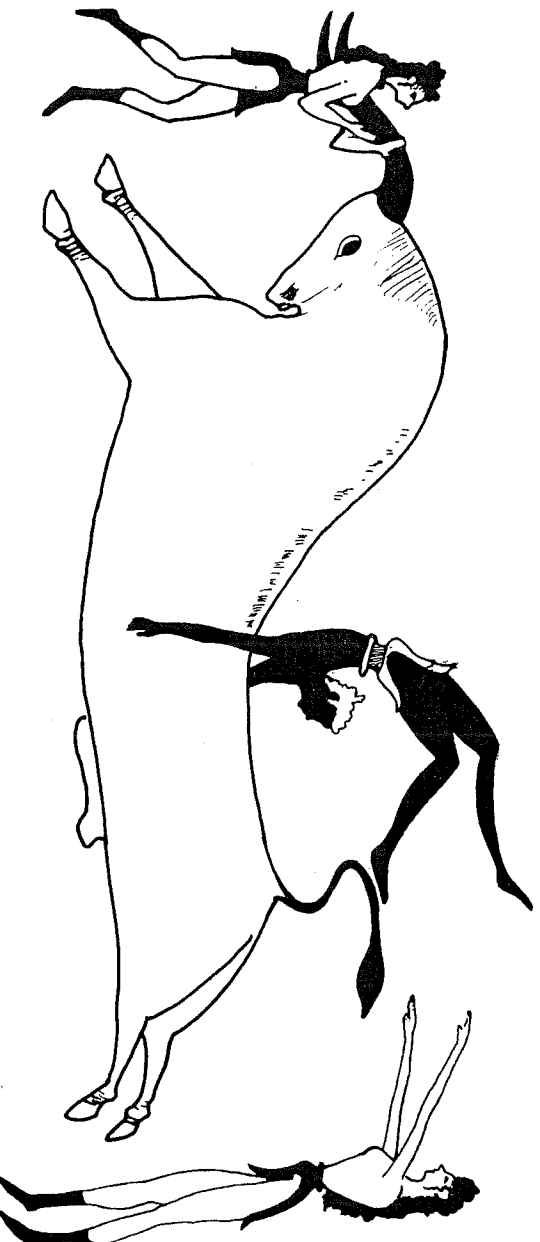


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The famous bull dancers from a fresco at the Palace in Knossos, Crete. Particularly fascinating is the fact that the figure to the left holding the bull by the horns and the figure to the right tossing the acrobat are female—traditionally depicted as white in Cretan art. The central figure—traditionally red in color—is male. Line drawing from the original: Jeff Helwig.



MIND CONTROL MEDIA CONTROL

I think we have to be very careful in assessing the media's effect on feminist thinking and action. Like many women I see, hear and feel the holocaust that is going on against women worldwide. The audio, visual and print media dominates our lives to the point where it controls and manipulates mass human behaviour. There is exploitation, there are conspiracies, there is incredible multi-leveled violation of human life and spirit rampant in today's media. All of this clouds our perception of what is really happening in our lives, in our communities and in the global village.

We have to recognize how much of what we hear, see and read is unreal. It can be total make believe, it is often so one-sided or narrow a viewpoint as to be meaningless. This was irritatingly evident during the gulf war and we have to continually remind ourselves of this in all the daily reporting we absorb. As a culture we have married the media and I feel very strongly that we have to back away from its' influence in order to develop and trust our own perceptions.

We have to collectively refuse to be influenced and victimized by the whole wierd ideology of "POWER OVER". The media gives us the impression that we live engulfed by violence and chaos, we in turn begin to believe this and a self fulfilling prophesy is realized. Instead of seeing the incredible caring and love exchanged amongst the human community we are jaded in our every thought and action by the messages of the media.

If we are to continue to move towards an equal and just society we have to take control over our lives on every possible front. Reducing our dependence on the media to define our reality is a giant leap towards realizing many of the feminist goals.