

# BAD NIGHT OUT

## Dancing with the big boys

By Groc

Ring the doorbell of the little red door. Wait for it to be opened, then flash the little red card. "That will do nicely sir," and in you go. Guests are expensive things to have with you though at £2 each.

So this is Nottingham's premier Gay nightclub, the Part Two. Through the doors and you're onto the dance floor, and what's that music... Blue Monday by New Order? Not quite, but it's something remarkably similar. Fondle your way through the crowd to get to the bar, trying not to breathe in too much of the heavily after-shave scented mob. Then be pleasantly surprised that the drinks are all half-price tonight. So you've got your drink, then back through the crowd to look at the dance floor, and at all those flashing disco lights attached to the ceiling, wondering apprehensively if the sheer weight of all of them isn't going to bring the roof down on you. The music has changed, but what is it? Thriller? Frankie? Blue Monday again? It isn't any of these, but it certainly reminds you of them. This is the realm of Hi-NRG music - hot off the conveyer



belt, each track hardly distinguishable from the last. And there's little point in asking for anything different from the DJ, who's heavily protected behind his red painted wire mesh grill, "This is a GAY disco you know!" Fortunately there is one DJ who's happy to try and play something different for you if he has it in stock. But he isn't on the turntables yet.

So if you're not inspired to dance you can amuse yourself by counting just how many neatly clipped moustaches and vests (even string ones) you can see. There are an awful lot of them. Around the dance floor there are plenty of snug little corners you can flake

out in, or huddle with a partner.

To escape the relentless, eardrum-perforating music, you can slip into the Parts Bar with its scaffold-seating, oil-drum tables, decorative corrugated iron wall, and tyres. There "you can chew your finger and stare at the wall" - black and with white air-brushed representations of the over-idealised male. Or sit mesmerised by the two TV monitors hung over the bar playing promo pop videos, and fortunately a wider range of music than there is to be had on the dance floor.

There is another lounge decked out in sinister dark-green and black Habitat furnishings, and wall-to-wall men. Women are a rarity here, one of them, my guest, had mixed feelings about the place. Happy that she knew she didn't have to worry about anyone trying to pick her up here, but felt very much an outsider. My other guest, a heterosexual male felt vaguely threatened, and worried that someone might try to pick him up. Not that he need have worried, the usual approach here is pretty much "Noli Me Tangere". No one picks anyone up. But the atmosphere is still faintly uneasy and oppressive. Back on the dance floor, the shirt and vests are off. The cheap booze has its effect, it sounds like Blue Monday, it isn't, but you dance with the big boys anyway.

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**INSIDE:**  
Police exposed  
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Photos: Mark Salmon

**COËL NOT DOËL**

**BLACK PEOPLE SUPPORT THE MINERS STRUGGLE IS OUR STRUGGLE**

**DEC-JAN 30p No. 9**



Issue 9 of Citywise is here and the Citywise Collective is in a healthier position than we have been for some months. There is still room for improvement, however. In particular, we want to go monthly, but if we are to do that we need more workers to write and research stories, produce the paper, and sell it. Come to our Open Meeting or give us a ring if you are interested.

If you can't make a regular commitment, keep in touch by sending us stories, letters, events information, adverts, or by leaking documents or giving us money.

Never was there a greater need for a radical newspaper in this town as the loony right continues its offensive. Even if you can't help us directly, you can help yourself by stepping up your support for the miners strike. There's plenty of fight left in the miners so keep the money coming in so that they can stay out, and then get down to the power stations and help the miners to turn out the lights. If there isn't one already, start a support group in your neighbourhood. If you do that you will be doing this paper and democracy a favour.

### PHONE MESSAGES

should go direct to Citywise on Nottingham 784218.

### MAIL

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Our advertising rates are very competitive - we reach an estimated 3,000 readers. Please ask for details.

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Can you take a few to sell within your group or at a meeting? Discounts are available.

### OPEN MEETING

The next open meeting will be on Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm at the TGWU offices, 259 Mansfield Rd.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

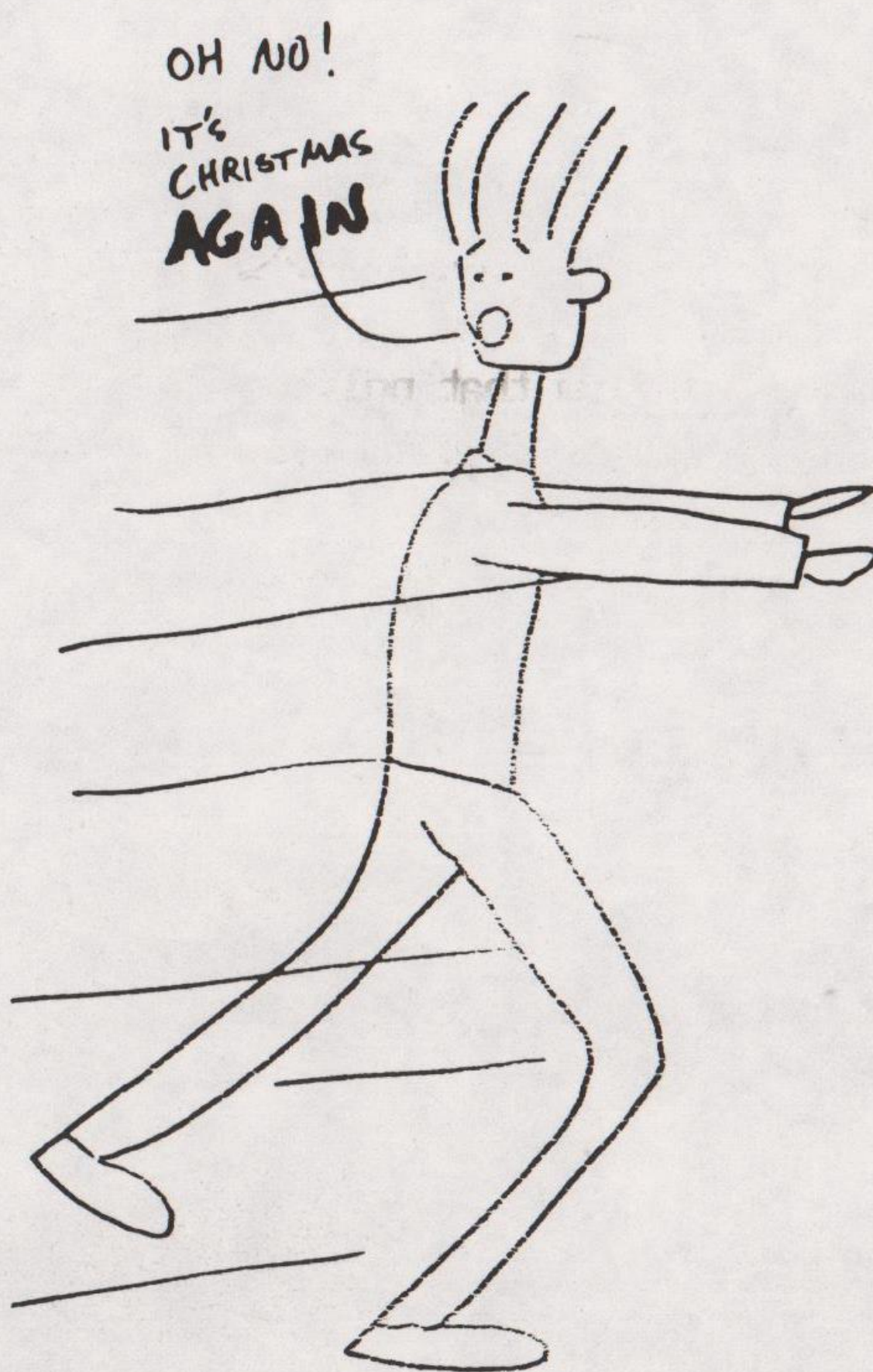
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If you wish to donate regularly, a bankers order is available on request.



Copy and letters for Citywise 10 to our Mushroom address by January 2nd. Please try to type contributions and include a word count.

Published by the Citywise Collective.

## BACKSTREET

Miner's picketing in Derbysnire report that there has been a massive surge back to work of striking cardboard cutouts. Some genius at the NCB, has realised that cardboard cutouts in a bus, behind barred windows, rushing past a TV camera in the early morning gloom, are indistinguishable from real live scabs. A pity for the government that the cut-out miners can't actually mine coal. Still they are probably working on it.

Olga Maitland - leader of "Women and Families for Defence" (pro-bombers) - was recently due to speak at St. Jude's Church in Mapperley Park. This caused some surprise to local CNDers as they had previously been told they couldn't meet there because their cause was "political". Anyway, Lady Olga couldn't make it and pulled out at the last minute. There was time, however, for most of those who had been told of the visit to be alerted - but no-one told CND. So, of the 30 twin-suit and pearls type who did turn up, virtually all were CND "infiltrators" - in disguise to try to crash the meeting and all pretending they didn't know each other in case they were rumbled. We should point out in fairness to Lady Olga that if she does come to speak, the woman with the custard pie in her hand is not necessarily from the Church Women's Guild catering sub-committee.

On the subject of twin suits and pearls, feminists in Grantham (yes there are some) were quite taken aback when the Women's Institute tore down some of their decorations at a hall they jointly double booked during the Grantham Women's Festival. The WI people were of the send them to Russia if they don't like it here sort and surpassed even their own standards by refusing the feminists the use of the same bowls to wash their coffee cups. Were they worried that feminism is infectious? Pity it isn't contagious.

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## Notts strikers out for victory

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S striking miners are determined to stay on strike until the dispute is won. The so-called "Back-to-work" movement has hardly touched the county.

Of the 500 strikers supported by Mansfield Womens Support Group, only 15 have gone back to work, and several of them have rejoined the strike after a couple of shifts. At the Newstead colliery, in one week, one striker went back, but two miners rejoined the strike.

"The strike here is solid", says Brian Walker, of Newstead NUM, who reflects the optimism of many strikers. "The government are dealing in lies. They hope the strike will finish before the lies are exposed." The strikers believe the government is lying about coal stocks, the size of the return to work, and the extent of its balance of payments crisis.

The incessant psychological pressure of debts and unpaid bills and the harassment and obstruction the strikers have faced from local police, politicians, scabs and the DHSS has forged a strong solidarity amongst them.

The strikers know that the consequences of defeat would be disastrous for the county. In South Notts alone, 8 out of the 11 pits would close within a few years. "The striking families are determined to fight for a future, for their communities and their kids", says Maureen from Mansfield Womens Support Group. "It's the miners now, who will be next? If they get away with this it's going to get worse and worse."

The government is desperately trying to show that the strike is cracking. Strikers from all over the county report that working miners from Notts pits are being bussed into striking pits in sur-

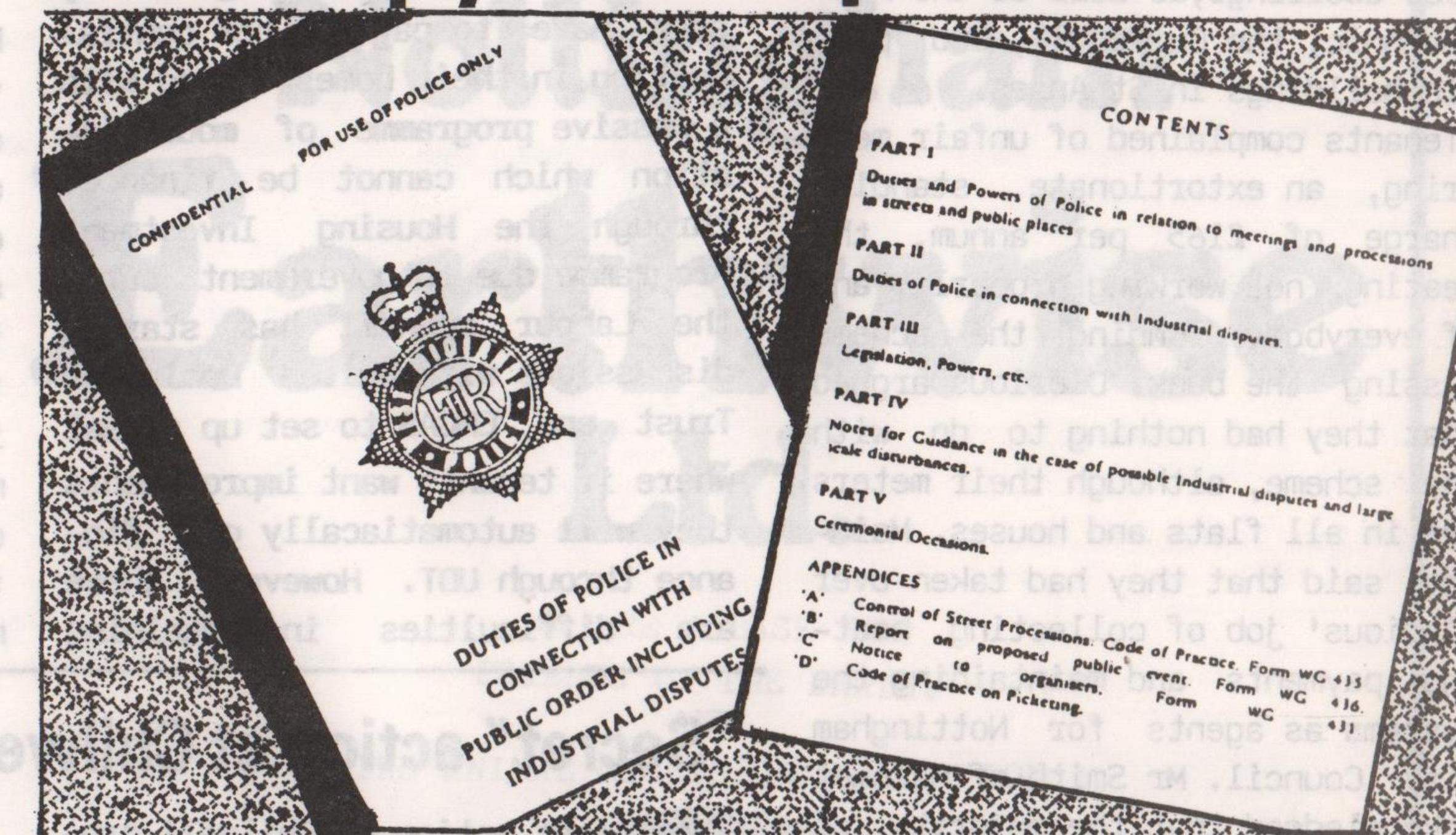
rounding counties to boost numbers crossing picket lines.

The strikers urge people to intensify their support. They are not going back until they have won. Brian Walker believes "people have

got to get involved in the strike and find out from strikers what is really happening."

For details of how you can give support, see listings pages.

## Police spy role exposed



CITYWISE has been given documents which confirm that police interest in industrial disputes is no longer confined to seeing that laws are not broken. The documents - marked 'confidential - for Police use only' - comprises detailed instructions on 'duties of police in connection with public order including industrial disputes.' The manual is essentially a list of offences with which miners can be charged, and it details how charged people should be processed

However part II of the manual (para 30) says: "In the event of an officer on patrol receiving information that a strike is imminent or in progress ... (he) should discreetly glean as much information as possible, and transmit it to the Sub-Divisional Controller..." This spying role is repeated (in para 99): "...notices seen advertising meetings, processions, strikes or demonstrations

should be reported..."; and (para 98): "Early notification of all important meetings of Communists, Fascists, and other similar organisations to be sent, by telephone in urgent cases, to Special Branch ... Any leaflets, bills etc. advertising a forthcoming march or meeting, coming into the hands of the police, should also be sent to Special Branch..." At meetings, records of speeches are to be made.

The manual lists an incredible number of charges - many serious - that the police have recourse to, and there is the constant underlying theme that strikers are likely to 'intimidate', or give 'provocation'. However para. 31 does give instructions that "the police must remain impartial" - strange then that there are no instructions to spy on factory owners contemplating redundancies, paying illegally low wages, or having unsafe working conditions.



# Tenants attack (heating) system

TENANTS OF the Victoria Centre and the Cheverton court area of St Annes have attacked the Eastcroft heating system which is used throughout their flats.

At a recent public meeting they grilled a panel of National Coal Board, Mainmet and Clorious representatives and local councilors Pink and Borret. The NCB is officially the manager of the system, which is designed to heat some 4500 dwellings, as well as the Polytechnic, the Guildhall, and public buildings in St Annes.

Tenants complained of unfair metering, an extortionate standing charge of £165 per annum, the heating not working properly, and of everybody running the scheme passing the buck. Clorious argued that they had nothing to do with the scheme, although their meters are in all flats and houses. Mainmet said that they had taken over Clorious' job of collecting heating payments and maintaining the systems as agents for Nottingham City Council. Mr Smith of Mainmet acknowledged that the majority of district heating schemes have outdated metering. This is perhaps not surprising as Mainmet and Clorious have been trying to persuade the City Council to buy their new metering system - a snip at £700 each.

An NCB official admitted that huge extra expenses were being passed on to tenants:

The faulty underground mains in St. Annes were constantly being replaced, and he could not guarantee that the new mains would solve all the problems; The cost of underground pipes buried in the Meadows were being passed on to present tenants; The County Council was tipping rubbish rather than burning enough at the incinerator, and this put up costs;

The number of tenants who had opted out of the scheme meant that remaining consumers bore extra capital and running costs.

Tenants felt that the City and County Councils should renegotiate the 60 year contract.

It is clear that all the official bodies involved are faced with difficult choices. The City Council are being asked to provide £3 million of new metering or even a completely new metering system;

## Pay as you freeze

COUNCIL TENANTS in Nottingham may soon have to pay for new central heating in their homes. Faced with a massive programme of modernisation which cannot be financed through the Housing Investment Programme due to government cuts, the Labour council has started discussions with United Dominions Trust and EMGAS to set up a deal where if tenants want improvements they will automatically get finance through UDT. However, there are difficulties in obtaining

## "Secret" action at Chilwell

The latest action at Chilwell organised by Peace Action Network (P.A.N.) codeworded "The Match" was supposed to be secret. The night before it seemed that just about everyone in Nottingham knew about it.

It was quite a relief when we went over the top (so to speak) to find only two Mod plods. Out numbered by about twenty to one they could only manage the old cliché "Who is your leader?"

The Evening Post had certainly got to know about it. Within minutes they had an awful lot of pictures, a shame really as there was only ten lines in the paper. "Peace Gang in Protest." Most of us hadn't thought of ourselves as a gang.

The "Peace Gang" spent over an hour wandering around the base, looking for the American equipment reported to have arrived at the base (unfortunately unsuccessfully). Then with the arrival of police

the County Council to spend more on the incinerator and its rubbish disposal; the NCB could lose a market for coal; and Mainmet, Clorious and Associated Heating Services could lose profitable markets and contracts.

Meanwhile the tenants continue to pay unnecessary charges week after week.

## "competitive interest rates".

Nottingham is not noted for its vigorous campaigns against the government, and introducing private capital in this way could have serious effects for tenants in the city and elsewhere. Firstly, it means that better-off tenants will be first in the queue for new heating, since they can afford the monthly payments. Secondly, if you do it for central heating, why not for all modernisation and improvements.

reinforcements we climbed back over the fence. Apart that is from the nine more stubborn trespassers who had to be dragged into the now familiar Chillwell laundry van and dumped outside the main gate.

By 11 O'clock it was all over, no arrests and coverage on Radio One and Four as well as local radio - and of course ten lines in the Post.



# Arrests at gay march

by Pat Shammon

ON SATURDAY 10th November, 40 lesbians and gay men from Nottingham joined a 1000 strong demonstration in Rugby to show their opposition to Tory-controlled Rugby Council's decision to discriminate against lesbians and gays who wanted to work there.

The walk through the streets of Rugby was short and good-humoured, with the populace looking on bemused as this rather ordinary group of people strolled past with their brightly-coloured banners. Perhaps they expected us to be in drag, molesting everything that moved.

The rally was a great success. Out dykes, gay labour councillors, journalists and Euro MPs all spoke intelligently and humorously about

the bigotry of Rugby council. It was pointed out that throughout Europe there is a progressive move towards equality for gays and lesbians, which the council's action challenges. Many speakers made the connection between lesbian and gay liberation and the Miners strike, and spoke of the need for better education. There were many standing ovations for the speakers.

The police were obviously upset because no-one had tried to chat them up, and forced a confrontation on the march back, arresting 17 people for obstruction and one person for breach of the peace. Three of those arrested were from Nottingham, including Labour councillor Richard McCance. This did little to mar the sense of joy and solidarity felt by those present.

# Green cookers removed

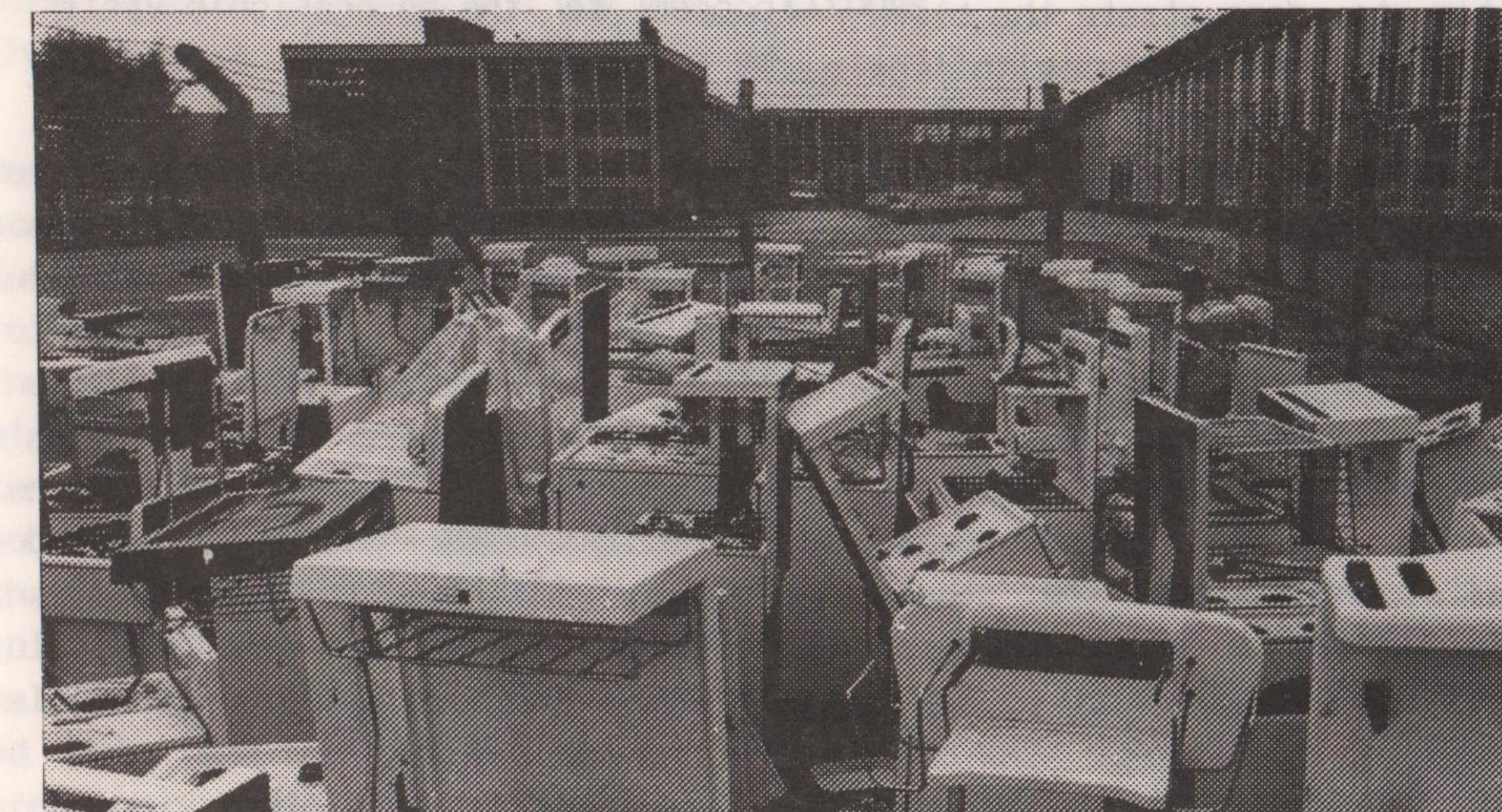


Photo: Rentasnap/John Birdsall

AFTER THE report that the flats at Hyson Green are to be demolished within the next two years because of their dangerously weak structure, comes the news that all the gas cookers are to be removed by the council.

This apparently drastic move follows fears that a gas explosion in any of the flats could bring the whole place crashing down, mainly because the flats are in such a rickety state. The original decision to demolish the flats came after cracks appeared in the ceiling,

lumps of concrete fell from the walls and flooring, and walls were seen to be moving apart from each other. Residents feel that even though the flats are to be knocked down, the council should still make every effort to keep them safe and well looked after while people still live there. It will be a considerable operation to replace the cookers, which number around 200, with electric cooking facilities, and the council has budgeted around £85,000 for the removal and subsequent re-fitting.

\* A group of lesbian and gay trade unionists has just been formed in Nottingham, partly as a result of Rugby's decision. They aim to produce a video on gay rights at work, aimed at trade union groups. Also, they intend to work with other groups locally and throughout the country, to give gay rights a much higher profile. All lesbians and gay men welcome. Contact Keith on Nott'm 583037.

# Playing fields threat

A ROW has erupted over the intended sale by the County Council of part of Sneinton's Jesse Boot School playing field. A sizeable strip of land overlooking Colwick Woods has been offered to Cedric Ford Ltd, a firm of property consultants, for the construction of new housing.

At a public meeting organised by TRACS (Tenants and Residents Association for the Community of Sneinton), local people's opposition to the sale was apparent. The feeling was that Sneinton is already deprived of green areas and recreation facilities. The loss of this land would not only affect pupils at the Jesse Boot school, but also those at Greenwood Junior Greenwood Comprehensive, St. Johns Junior, St. Bernadette's, and the members of the Oliver Hinds Boys Club.

It seems clear that the main reason for the proposed development of this site is not the lack of housing in Sneinton. A local resident pointed out that there are at least 40 derelict properties in the area. The land that the council intend to sell is a prime site for speculative building, with views over Colwick Woods. In fact, Henry Meins Partnership have already submitted a planning application on behalf of Standen Homes.

As someone pointed out at the meeting, the council is being forced into such measures to raise cash because of continuing pressure from central government. What Sneinton people appear to be saying is that they have been squeezed enough already.



## Killer dust lobby

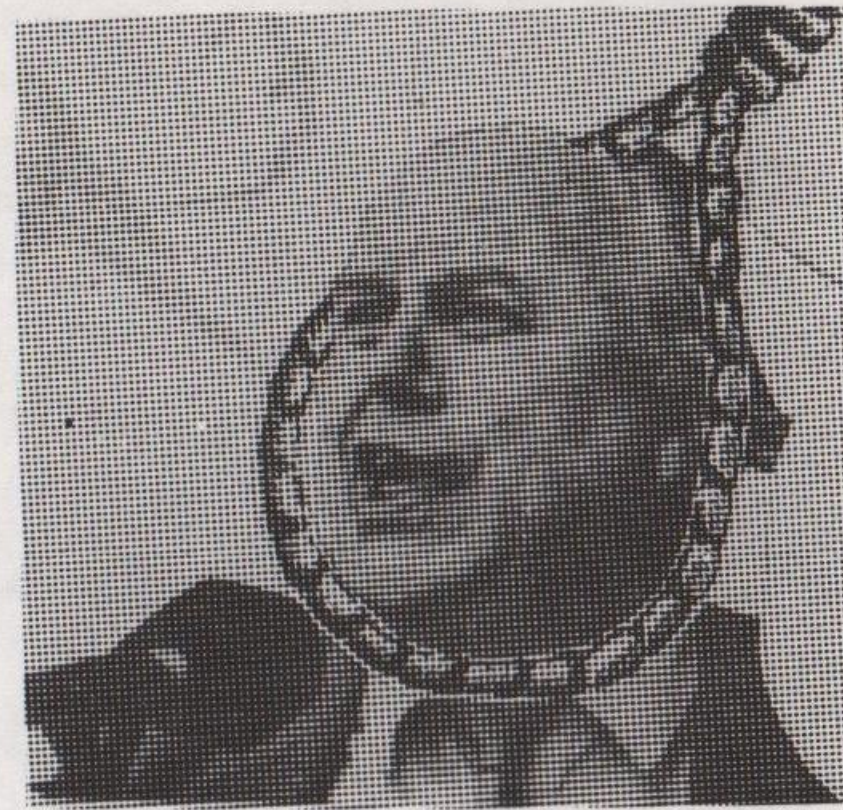
## Solidarity grows

MANY NUM supporters in Nottingham have noted the enormous financial contribution of Asian and Afro-Caribbean people to strike collections. This solidarity was taken a stage further on 25th November when the Black Delegation to the Mining Communities visited Nottingham.

The Black Delegation is an umbrella organisation for a number of black groups in London which have been supporting the strike. 70 people including Asians, Afro-Caribbeans and Chinese came to Nottingham to address meetings of striking miners, support groups and local black organisations, and to picket Gedling colliery where 300 black miners are working.

Suresh Grover and Bobby Chan, two delegation members, explained the objectives of the visit. These are firstly to demonstrate the black community's solidarity with the NUM and in particular with black miners who are on strike. Secondly to help set up a black people's miners support group in Nottingham. They believe that the depth of support in black communities stems from black workers' experience of trade union struggles and harassment by the State. Black people know that the struggle for their political rights and the miners' fight are closely related.

The delegation wanted also to emphasise the importance of separate organisation of black people in the Labour Movement. Such organisation not only serves the strug-



gles of black people but those of the whole working class. They noted the role of women, organised in the mining communities as the backbone of the strike.

As an example of the scale of support from the black community, Suresh pointed to Southall Miners Support Group, which organises street collections three days a week, door to door collections every day, two benefits per week, regular public meetings, and power station picketing. Several black organisations in Nottingham responded to the delegation's visit by agreeing to set up a strike support group in Nottingham.

Delegation members also believe that in the future miners will give support to the black community. The strikers are experiencing the sort of police operations that black people have suffered, as many of them now recognise. At the moment a strike of Asian women in Birmingham is being helped financially and on the picket lines by striking miners.

Working class solidarity is at the heart of the delegation's message to Nottingham. A victory for the miners is a victory for us all.

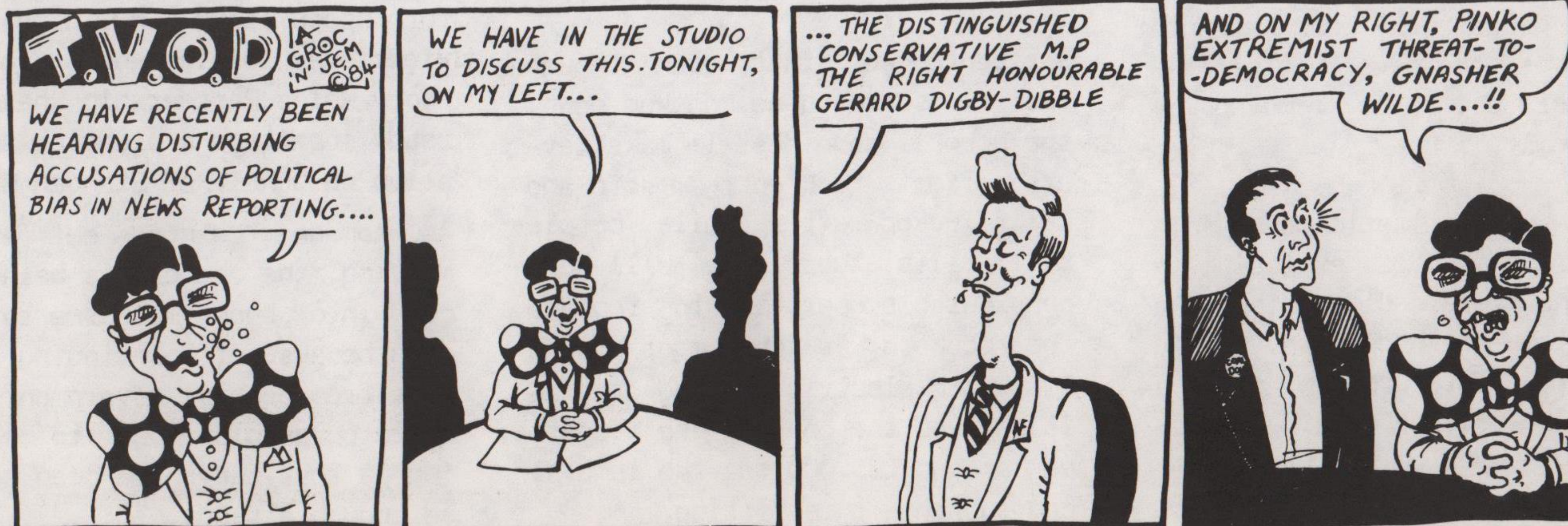


Photo: Philip Wolmuth

TWO DELEGATES from the Nottingham Asbestos Campaign were in London on October 24th to lobby MPs about the dangers of asbestos.

The lobby, which also included a delegate from Nottingham Trades Council, and representatives of 16 other campaigns from all over the country, was organised by the Peoples Asbestos Action Campaign (PAAC). 17 MPs met them at the House of Commons, and many more have indicated interest.

PAAC is trying to get asbestos banned outright, but is also campaigning for tighter controls on its removal from existing buildings; proper compensation for victims of this dangerous material; and proper finance for local authorities to remove asbestos.



## Out in the cold

By Nigel Lee & Jem Woolley

NOTTINGHAM Night Shelter closed on 31st August because the funds were not available for adequate staffing. It provided emergency accommodation for up to 23 men and 4 women who have nowhere else to go. Many are now sleeping rough as winter approaches. The Authorities have so far failed to come up with the cash needed to re-open the shelter on a properly funded basis

CHAR, the campaign for the single homeless, were already preparing a report on the shelter before it closed. It paints a pretty grim picture of conditions in the shelter. CHAR is concerned that the shelter should re-open before people die on the streets this winter. But they don't want to see it re-opened until it is properly funded with adequate staffing and a commitment to decent premises. (Until it closed, the shelter was run by one full-time paid worker and a team of 8 volunteers, of which two would usually be present on any one night.

One CHAR member who helped compile the report gave the following description of conditions when the shelter was open:

"...The building itself is quite imposing from the outside... Heavy doors bar the way and it's a question of ringing the bell and waiting for someone to answer. Men sit slumped against the wall outside, there's obviously no room at the shelter tonight. As you go through the door, the first impression is of stone floors and a stone staircase disappearing up to the upper levels. The smell is a familiar institutional one: stale vegetables, disinfectant and urine. You turn to the left, and straight ahead is the dormitory, past that is the main living area. The constant blare of the television tells you where this is... The light is harsh and the furniture in the room is comprised of form-

ica-top tables and a multitude of broken chairs of all shapes and sizes lining the walls. It was supertime when I arrived and some of the men were sitting at a large table in the middle of the room eating their dinner. The rest sit in groups on the sidelines while some individuals constantly wander up and down on the bare floors, partly out of necessity as there are clearly not enough chairs to go round.



Photo: Rentasnap/John Birdsall

Food is served from a small kitchen just off the main living area and it's here the workers seem to spend most of their time, at least when dinner is being served. Next to the kitchen is the women's dormitory, a small, sad, square room with no natural light... The overall impression is one of despair, even though many would rather be in here than spending a cold night outside.

After the meal, while the television continues to blare out, most people retire to the dormitories and talk in small groups lying on the beds. There are no cupboards, no closets, nowhere to have anything of your own. People tell me that no towels are provided, and in any case there is only one shower and two sinks for all 27

residents. What price dignity here?"

Some users of the Night Shelter are also quoted in the report: "The Night Shelter was good for a roof, but there's such an odd mix in here, it's really hard to live here. I wouldn't like my own place because I've always been lonely. I want somewhere better than this, though. This place is absolutely disgusting."

"The standard of the beds here is disgusting. There's no sheets, no blankets, just a mattress. The Police told me I'd catch a disease here and said to go to a doctor. He sent me for a chest X-ray. He said to get the hell out of here."

CHAR recommends that the shelter should not re-open until all involved parties, i.e. the City Council, Social Services, Notts Area Health Authority, the DHSS, Nottingham Help the Homeless Association, and workers and users of the Shelter agree to an adequate, long term strategy for its funding, staffing and management. This should include:

- (i) Adequate and secure long-term revenue funding;
- (ii) A commitment to new premises that meet health and safety standards and have adequate facilities;
- (iii) A minimum of six full-time staff, and the provision of day-time support and referral work;
- (iv) Plans to ensure a range of 'move-on' accommodation;
- (v) An advisory group to help manage the shelter, consisting of the above organisations and other relevant groups, e.g. Single Homeless Working Party, Hostel Liaison group, CHAR, SHELTER, and representatives of ethnic minority groups.

At the time of writing, a meeting has not yet taken place, and Nottingham's homeless face a desperate, and for some, deadly winter. 'Out In The Cold' is available from CHAR, c/o 32 Waterloo Road,



## Ideologically sound system

NOTTINGHAM has lately seen an upturn in the number of fund-raising socials being held. "Bob and Marco's" disco has been a common sight at these events. Now they have come up with an interesting scheme.

They write: "It has become apparent that if the show is to go on, something better has to be organised... So, we are sinking some money into some decent equipment, and will be putting on a disco at the Italian Community Centre on Sherwood rise every second Saturday of the month, starting in January '85.

"Any worthy organisation wishing

to raise funds can use us on the basis of a 50/50 split of the door-money, out of which we will cover the cost of the room, and provide hand-bills that can be over-printed. Hopefully, a regular audience can be built up, so that the burden of frantically organising a one-off event can be lightened.

"We will continue to do benefits for striking miners at no cost on other weekends, for as long as it takes to achieve victory. Organisations wanting to take advantage of our services can ring us on 700708 (Tories need not bother applying)."

## Notts nature (un)fair

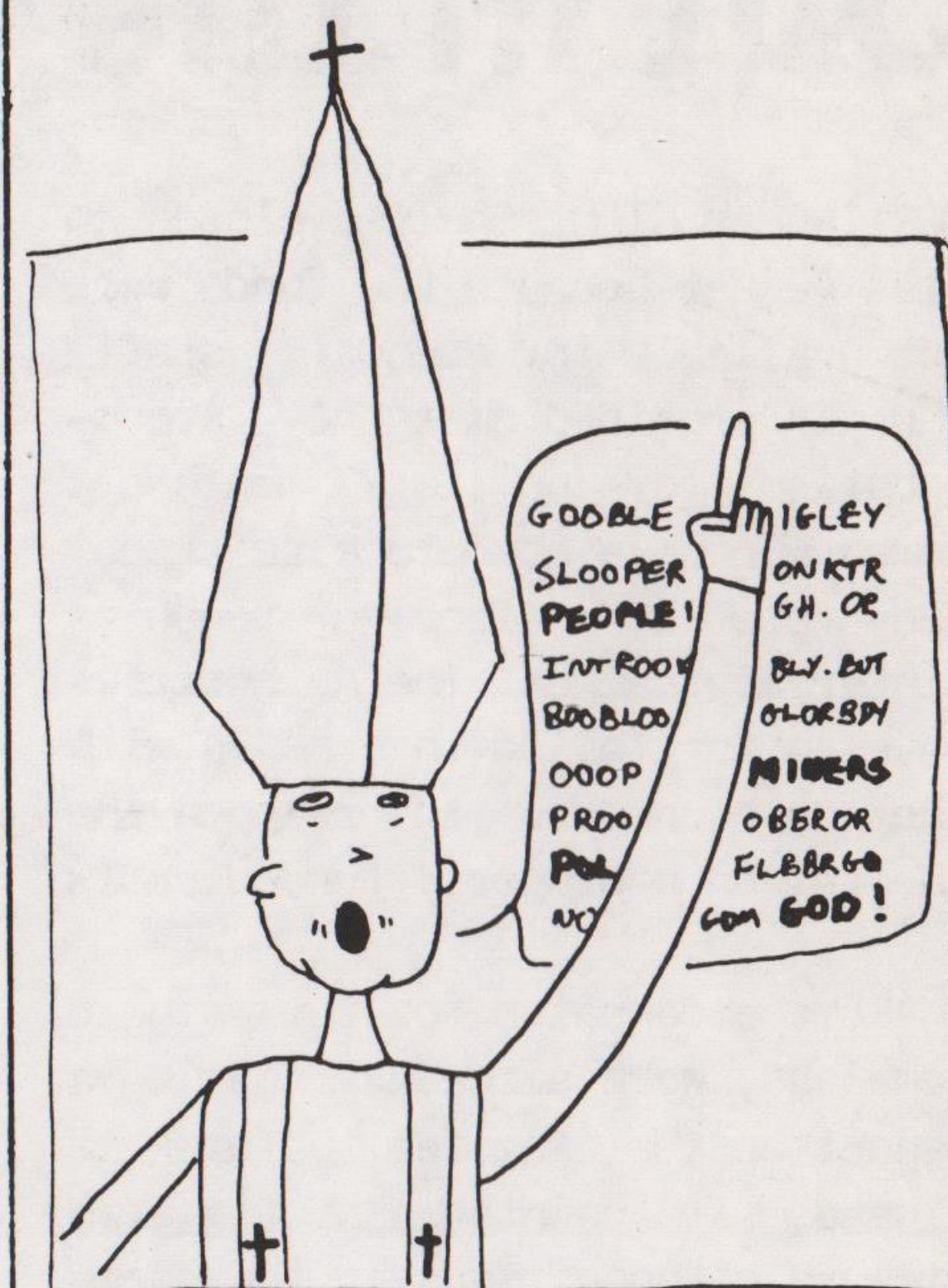
By Ross Bradshaw

IN OCTOBER, Nottingham hosted a major 'nature fair' at the Co-op education centre, organised by the Notts Trust for Nature conservation. This two-day event, costing 25p for the privilege of a five minute walk-round, fell safely within the description of a minor ecological disaster.

Few of the many genuine nature organisations in the county were represented, and it was good that

they kept away rather than associate with those who either wish to preserve the countryside for its exploitation, or those minor profiteers who wish to exploit peoples genuine nostalgia for unspoilt nature by selling expensive trinkets whose manufacture has no relation to either a rational use of land or of natural resources.

Prominent among the exhibitors was an anglers association - however popular angling may be dead fish



are about as appropriate to nature conservation as bulldozers are to preserving ancient buildings. More prominent, however, were the grossly commercial stalls specialising in expensive (craftsperson-made) chess-sets at a price no agricultural labourer could have afforded, and silver trinkets for up to £100 and more. One wonders how the poor silver miners feel about the rape and spoliation of their countryside for the adornment of our rich. Most sickening of all was the seller of cigarette cards - clearly a specialist concern akin to philately. While the third world cries out for food, the multi-nationals abuse the land to export cancer to the west (and back again as status-giving western cigarettes), with the give away collectors item as an art form.

A few stuffed animals were on display, for reasons unclear. Finally a man offering a 10p competition to do with picking out eggs, thought it a joke that all his eggs were battery... one felt that somewhere along the line the wrong animals had been shot and stuffed. I was too angry to complain or demand my money back. But who are this Notts Trust for Nature Conservation, and how dare they lay claims to our heritage and rightful inheritance?

## Park residents revolting?

RESIDENTS of Nottingham's Park estate are not usually associated with vigorous campaigning battles - except at election time when many windows turn blue with Conservative party publicity. All the more surprising, then, is the recent appearance of a number of posters boldly proclaiming: "NPRA SAY NO TO ADOPTION". Not quite in the same league as "Frankie says ...", but intriguing all the same.

The NPRA is the Nottingham Park Residents Association, not the most radical of community groups, but well organised (the annual cocktail party being a good example). At present the Park is a private estate. It was previously owned by the Oxford University Chest (OUC), who in the 1950's sold off all their freeholds, leaving themselves with responsibility for the management and maintenance of the Park's roads, lighting and sewers. (In November 1983 the OUC passed on responsibility for the sewers to the Severn-Trent Water Authority, and paid them "a considerable sum" for this). The OUC receives 15% of the Park's rates in order to maintain the lights and roads.

For various reasons the OUC find it difficult to meet their obligations. The high cost of recent schemes such as the rebuilding of the Ropewalk, means that they are not putting enough money into road repairs and marking, or into the historic but inadequate gas lighting system.

For some years now the OUC have been trying to get Notts County Council to take over these responsibilities, but the Council have insisted that the roads and lighting must conform to a certain minimum standard before they will 'adopt' them. OUC decided to canvass residents' views and instructed their agents, Chestertons, to carry out a postal ballot on the issue of adoption.

It is this adoption that the NPRA are resisting. They argue that it would lead to the possible introduction of buses, lorries, through traffic and non-resident parking; and they want to preserve the present gas lighting. John Hallam, the NPRA chairman, writes in the latest residents' newsletter: "The issue is whether we wish to keep the Park as a private estate...or allow it to become just another inner city area, with little to distinguish it from the remainder" In one ingenious phrase he even accuses the OUC of taking a 'Scargillian stance'!

However, many Park dwellers are in favour of adoption by the council. They argue that the Park would be a safer place to walk in at night if it were better lit, and that the roads in their present cond-

## Unity at University

ON THE 26th of October the new coal minister, David Hunt, was due to speak at the University about Government plans for the future of the coal industry. The meeting was closed to non-students, thus angering local miners who felt that if Hunt and his student fans were going to have a cosy chat about the future of their jobs and communities, then they should be allowed in to. For the Tories, of course, this was far too great a threat to Freedom and Democracy, and they refused to let us in.

As a picket of about two hundred people gathered outside the lecture hall, the Conservatives guarded the doors to stop locals getting in. They were also laughably asking miners for their union cards, ("N.U.S. or N.U.M." we wondered.) So eventually we realised we'd have to force our way in. Closing ranks we moved towards the doors, and after a certain amount of pushing and shoving the doors gave way and so did the Tories. Triumphant, we streamed into the

ition are dangerous. They also feel that if the County Council were responsible they would be more accountable than Oxford University, and that work that the OUC are unable to carry out would be done as a matter of course.

The NPRA have put forward a plan to take over control of the roads and lighting itself by forming a limited company. However, a spokesperson for OUC's agents Chesterton's told Citywise that this would not remove the liability of OUC towards residents because of conditions imposed when the freeholds were sold. They see this option as a non-starter. He stressed that the OUC would like to see an agreement that took into consideration the views of all parties.

In this case it is difficult to see how the condition of the Parks roads and lighting could be improved at all if adoption does not take place.

lecture hall, and to loud cheers and singing we set up the Cotgrave striking miners banner on the stage. We then took our seats in the hall and waited for Hunt to appear.

Unfortunately, the cowardly Hunt refused to come out, the thought of having to face the people whose communities he wants to destroy was obviously far too frightening for him. So undeterred, we asked a miner to speak instead, who consequently gave the Tories a right earful. Central T.V. and our "friends" the Evening Post were there too, and predictably they managed to distort what took place. On the evening news and in the Post, they clearly implied that we wanted to stop Hunt speaking. This was untrue. All the miners wanted was to argue their case with Hunt and show that they couldn't be kept out of the meeting. Realistically though, I suppose we should expect little from the capitalist lackey running-dogs of the media.



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## BACKSTREET

Having recently converted their oil-fired furnaces to coal, the university authorities were panic-stricken at the thought of at the prospect of a NACODS strike. Fencing off the social sciences car park, they prepared to stockpile coal for the winter. A day or two and one lorry-load of coal later, the NACODS strike was averted, leaving the university with an all-but empty car park, adorned with a big black heap serving as a memento to their willingness to use scab coal. The idea that it's the same government that cuts education spending as the one that closes pits is obviously a difficult concept for the university to grasp.

Some students do seem to be getting an education, though. It's good to see that 'Bias', the University student newspaper is showing some support for striking miners. A recent leading article urged imprisoned striker Frank Hamilton to "keep on fighting". Frank, of Cotgrave colliery was put away for owing the county council £4. In prior issues of 'Bias' local news and politics have been conspicuous by their absence.

It would appear that there are some highly principled scabs (is there a contradiction there somewhere?) in the NUR. A bit lacking in the grey matter perhaps, but highly principled.

Take the handlers at the Trent Valley power stations. They receive a basic wage of about £78 for

a five day week. If, however, they refused to move scab coal and got themselves sent home, they would get a total of £16 a day from various union funds—that's £80 a week solidarity incentive. If that seems hard to understand, wait for our beginners guide to flexible rostering.

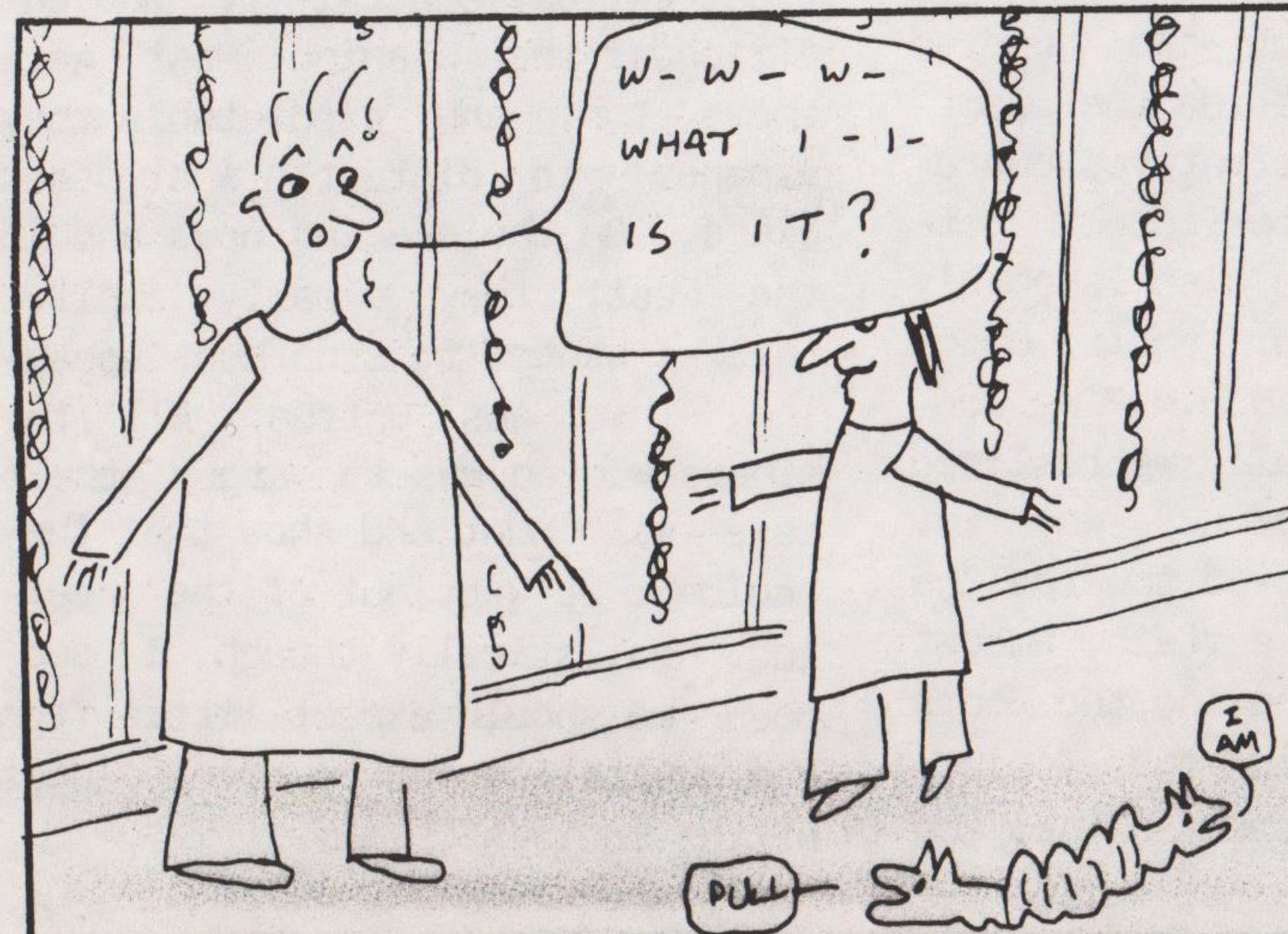
During the recent series of Stop The City demonstrations, one Nottingham woman had considerable cause for embarrassment. Up in Birmingham, she had hidden her superglue in her boot in case of being searched by the police (who now routinely frisk punks at such events). Unfortunately for her, the tube burst... and superglue is, well, superglue...

At 7.30pm the doors of the University Portland Building were opened to admit the queue of evening dress clad guests to the annual medical students ball. This year the theme was: 'Days of the Raj', and the building was bedecked accordingly with pictures and models of colonial India. In glamorising an era noted for its pain, suffering, and exploitation (amongst other unpleasanties), it appeared to have escaped the notice of the learned organisers that racism was implied. Bearing this in mind, a curious choice of main attraction was Clint Eastwood and General Saint, a reeggae band. To the consternation of the medics, the band arrived five hours late and played, by their high standards, a

perfunctory set in front of a much undeserving crowd. Could it be that they were tipped off about the nature of the event. To conclude a thoroughly disgusting evening, the arranged fireworks display was cancelled by the university authorities. The unlucky students are now left with £300 worth of pyrotechnics for which they have little use. If anybody has any suggestions of what they can do with their fireworks, please send them on a postcard to: The President, Nottingham University Medical Society.

GO INTO the Golden Fleece on Mansfield Road and you may well see a lot of worried-looking people. Cause for this concern is that the Fleece has been earmarked for possible demolition in a new city-council plan. The idea is to widen Peel Street to allow traffic better access and speed it on its way up to Canning Circus. Nice if you're a car, not so good if you happen to be a regular of the pub. However, 'Friends of the Fleece' are starting a campaign to Save It. You can get in touch with them c/o the pub. At Citywise we're waiting for the appearance of the first 'I've been Fleeced' badges...

Nottingham Police seem to be less on the ball. A group of women got into Chilwell at Halloween and held a party - complete with bonfire and fireworks. Not a single M.O.D. or civilian policeperson appeared. Maybe they were all off looking for miners.



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## Democratic Group:

# Against the status quo

By Pete Ramsey

IN THE last issue of Citywise we reported on the split in the Pakistani community in Nottingham between Councillor Aslam and his opponents in the Democratic Group. Citywise has talked with Democratic Group supporters and one of its leaders, Hassan Ahmed, and here we present their view of the split and its implications for the Labour left.

In Nottingham's Pakistani community the primary political institution is the Pakistan Friends League. The League's ruling body is the Council. Both these bodies have, for many years, been dominated by Labour County Councillor Mohammed Aslam. Inside the Labour Party he has been the voice of the Pakistani community. Inside the Pakistani community he has been the voice of the Labour Party.

Recently, influential members of the Pakistani Friends League Council, who are also Labour Party members, have come out in opposition to Councillor Aslam's leadership. The leading opponents include Mohammed Riassat, Mohammed Ibrahim, Hassan Ahmed, and Kalid Sharif. The roots of the split lie in the many political disputes in the Friends League Council over recent years.

One major dispute was over changing the Pakistan Centre's constitution to allow women and youth to be represented on the Council. Aslam opposed this, but the Council approved the change. Other sharp disagreements included the organisation of a demonstration against the visit of the Pakistani Ambassador to Nottingham, (Pakistan is ruled by a brutal military dictatorship with generous US support), from which Aslam eventually withdrew, and the setting up of a welfare rights office at the Pakistan Centre which Aslam opposed.

### Pressure group

In all of these disputes Aslam's opponents were acting as an informal pressure group whilst acknowledging his leadership. However, this situation changed as a result of disputes culminating in violence over the organisation of the visit to Nottingham of Benazir Bhutto (the leader of Pakistan's main opposition party, the Pakistan Peoples Party). Several of Aslam's opponents in the previous conflicts were appointed by the Council to organise the visit. This decision was supported by Aslam and reaffirmed by a subsequent Council meeting. Hassan in particular had personal contacts with the leadership of the Pakistani opposition and so was a logical choice.

However, Aslam's supporters called a public meeting at short notice to attempt to reverse the Council's decision. The meeting was held at the Pakistan Centre. When the visit organisers attempted to question the meeting's authority they were threatened and a chair was thrown before they were forced to leave. The situation at the Pakistan Centre was so tense that the reception for Benazir Bhutto had to be moved from there to the Commodore Hotel. In the end the visit passed off successfully.

However, the attempted manipulation of the Friends League and the violence against them convinced Council members like Ibrahim, Riassat and Hassan to publicly oppose Aslam's domination of the Friends League. They stood for re-election to the Council in this year's elections but lost their seats on the Pakistani Centre's committee. Following the election they formed the Democratic Group as a more formal political organisation.

### New problems

Underlying these disputes are fundamental disagreements over policy and priorities for the future of both the Pakistani community and its relationship to the Labour Party.

The Democratic Group believes that the Pakistani community's problems have changed since the 60s and 70s. Then, the problems of immigration and establishing a life in Britain were dominant concerns. Now, a younger generation, born in Britain, face discrimination in housing, education and employment, racial attacks and police harassment.

These problems require political solutions and the Democratic Group believes that Pakistani organisations must mount political campaigns and encourage political activity within the community.

The old leadership of the Friends League have shown themselves to be unwilling to campaign on these issues. Despite his protestations of concern, under Aslam's leadership the Friends League has taken no initiatives on housing, education, racial attacks etc. since this year's council elections. As Hassan puts it "All they want to do is maintain the status quo".

The same goes for the Labour Party where for years, most Pakistani members have been little more than a "block vote" in certain wards, only the community leaders being really active. Full participation of Pakistanis in the Labour Party is regarded as essential by the Democratic Group if they are to begin to address the community's problems.

The Democratic Group is working to encourage Pakistanis, particularly women and young people to join the Labour Party and many of their supporters have already done so. Moreover, they challenge the Labour Party and particularly the left to support their efforts. They want the Labour Party to start a recruitment campaign in the Pakistani community, on the basis of support not only for the community in tackling its particular problems, but also raising support for the miners and CND. The Democratic Group believes black sections would get widespread support and participation. In undertaking this campaign the Labour Party should approach all the representatives of the Pakistani community to see how they respond. If Councillor Aslam is sincere in his support for the Labour Party, he should respond positively to such a campaign.

The positive approach of the Democratic Group to the community's problems is gaining them increasing support. Recently their candidate was elected as youth representative on the Pakistan Friends League Council. Despite the split, the Democratic Group supports Councillor Aslam's reselection as a County Council candidate and does not wish to oust him from the Pakistan Friends League. They do want to mobilise the Pakistani community.

The message from the Democratic Group and its supporters to the Labour left is clear: "Don't patronise us, support us".

## Women's rights row

IN THE last issue of Citywise, Councillor Mohammed Aslam was quoted, both defending his actions, and making accusations against the Democratic Group in the Pakistan Friends League.

In particular Aslam accused the Democratic Group of secretly recruiting women to vote in Friends League elections, and of not genuinely supporting women's rights, just using their votes. As evidence for this latter claim he said that no women from the families of the Democratic Group's leaders registered to vote. Aslam declared that he was in support of positive discrimination for women.

Speaking for the Democratic Group, Hassan Ahmed rejects all these charges. It was the leaders of the Democratic Group who originally got the Pakistan Centre's constitution changed to include women's representation, the Friends League has never barred women. They have always openly supported women's voting rights, he says, and furthermore, several women from opposition leaders' families did indeed register, as electoral records can prove.

Hassan says the Democratic Group will do what it can to encourage further political participation by Pakistani women. "There is no Muslim or Pakistani tradition of suppression of women's political rights" and he points out that Pakistan's most popular political figure is a woman, Benazir Bhutto. "Only the fundamentalists and the old leadership do not want women to come forward".

He goes on to challenge Councillor Aslam to prove his claimed support for positive discrimination for women by issuing a leaflet in Urdu and English explaining his position and encouraging women to participate in the Pakistan Friends League, Pakistan Centre and Labour Party.

The Labour Party must bear some of the responsibility for the inactivity of Pakistanis in the Party. They have always relied on a few individuals to speak on behalf of the Pakistani community and never approached it directly. Hassan is worried that "even today the left don't want to be troubled by developments in the Pakistani community". The community is changing, young people are increasingly concerned to tackle the community's problems. "They want to see if the left is going to stand on their side or just pay lip service and support the old leadership. They don't want to be taken for granted by the Labour Party or anyone else".

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# The big heat

**NOTTINGHAM Heating Project** began in December '83. We are a voluntary Projects Programme funded by MSC, originally for one year, but now until December '85. There are three workers on the project and we are managed by a Steering Committee comprised mainly of the user groups of the project.

## AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The basic aim of the project is to increase the awareness of fuel poverty. This is an issue that has been ignored for long enough and it is time that the full extent of this problem is recognised. Rising fuel prices, cuts in income, and unemployment make it impossible for thousands of people to keep their homes warm in winter. In the nine years up to 1983 fuel prices rose as follows:

GAS.....	274%	ELECTRICITY..	392%
COAL.....	359%	OIL.....	523%

In the same period earnings rose by only 246%, and the retail price index by 233%. In 1982, 122,626 people were disconnected for non-payment of fuel bills, and there is now official recognition that 2.5 million households (12% of the population) are affected by fuel poverty.

In Nottingham, a recent take-up campaign by the County Council's Welfare Rights Service showed:

- a strong emphasis on claims coming from the elderly and the disabled;
- additional requirements for heating were requested by almost 50% of the claimants;
- 41% wanted a single payment towards fuel bills.

## WHAT DOES NHP DO?

The project offers itself as a resource to local community groups, tenants' associations etc., who have collective problems concerned with some aspect of heating. This may be a faulty heating system, inadequate heating, badly designed homes that are hard to heat. Our work splits into two major areas, each of which are interlinked:

### 1... TECHNICAL SURVEYS

We have equipment available to carry out temperature surveys in people's homes. The aim of these is to help groups gain technical evidence which they can use to further their campaign for warmer homes. If a group wants to do a survey, we spend some time discussing their aims, help them get volunteers to participate in the survey and show them how to use the equipment. The survey is done by the tenants for a two or three week period. After this, work begins on processing all the data gathered and writing up a report. These final reports will contain a detailed look at the heating conditions

## Nottingham Heating Project

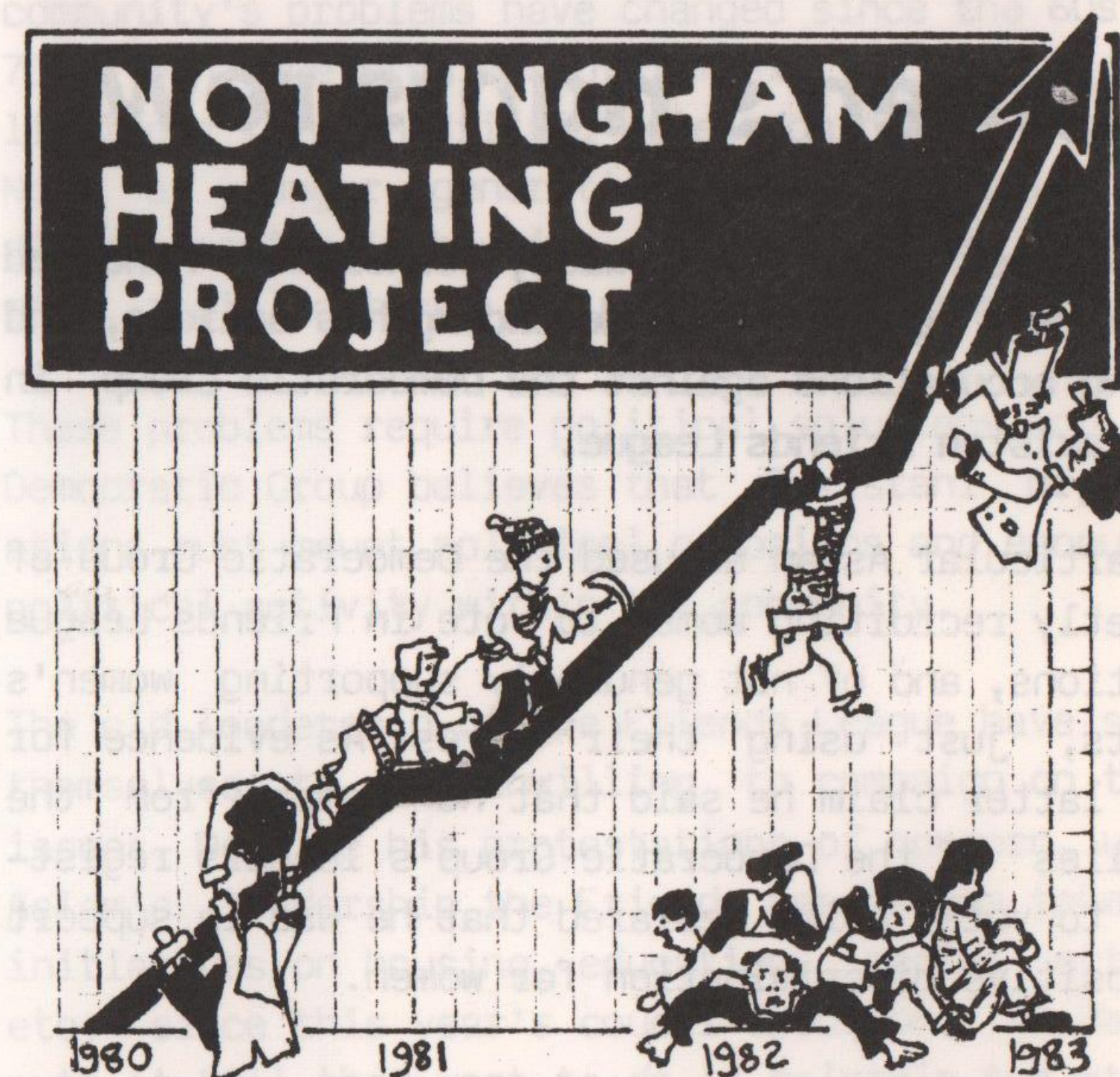
and costs of the tenants' homes.

The reports will provide the group with factual evidence about the problems facing the tenants and back-up for their demands and campaigns for warm homes at a reasonable cost. This winter, NHP will be involved in temperature surveys with groups in five different areas of the city.

### 2... FUEL BENEFITS & WELFARE RIGHTS

This is the other area of work within the project. We have designed a very basic training course around heating benefits, but covering basic welfare rights also. The course is aimed at groups of ordinary people who want to do welfare rights advice in their own local areas on a voluntary basis. As well as basic training on advice, NHP also helps the group with other aspects of running advice surgeries, such as recruiting new members, advertising for volunteers, leafletting the estate, etc. Once the group is on its own feet, NHP can still provide support for particular campaigns that they might want to run, e.g. a housing benefits take-up campaign.

The project is also planning a series of workshops for the future on all aspects of heating problems. In particular, workshops on "hard to heat" additions designed around specific house types, e.g. pre-1919 systems-built housing, traditional built, and modern housing.



### ENERGY COSTS OUTSTRIP INFLATION

- 1980 122,000 electricity & 42,000 gas consumers are cut off.
- 1981 800 families cut off each day.
- 1983 3/4 million people can't afford to heat their homes and 1 in 7 are in serious arrears with essential bills.

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# 10 years of gay switchboard



IN 1985 Nottingham Gay Switchboard celebrates its 10th birthday. In its first decade the service has developed from a one session per week gay advice evening with a solitary worker, to a well advertised, efficiently run thrice weekly counselling service with 15 operators.

As well as their files on gay meeting places and organisations, the Switchboard operators can give advice to family and friends of gay people and offer assistance with legal, medical and religious problems. They are usually able to help with accomodation, and operate a social support group on Thursday nights where newcomers can meet other gays in a relaxed atmosphere. For many callers, the Switchboard is their first contact with another gay person, the first step to ending their isolation and coming to terms with gayness.

The fully trained operators work the Switchboard on a rota system with each volunteer serving once every 2 and a third weeks. By 1985 they hope to extend their coverage to 4 nights per week but to achieve this ambition they need to stabilise their financial position.

It costs around £600 per year to run the Switchboard for telephne rental, a low rent on their rooms in 31a Mansfield Rd, stationary and postage for replies to written enquiries, and most expensive of all, paid advertising in local media such as the P\*\*t, Trader, CHAD and Long Eaton Gazette. This paid advertising costs almost £300 per year, but as 57% of the 1659 callers to the Switchboard identified these papers as their source this is obviously essential expenditure. After all, a week-long round the clock service would be useless if no-one knew the telephone number.

All funds are raised by the group itself. Until 1983 the majority of their revenue came from the sale of the original Gay News, but since the change in the nature of that newspaper, sales have de-

creased dramatically. Gay Times/ Him is now the biggest circulation magazine, but it is much harder to sell than its predecessor. What's more, it is a monthly, rather than fortnightly publication. The net result of all these developments was the loss of one third of the Switchboard's income.

Although Nottingham Gay Switchboard indirectly gives the pubs and clubs a lot of business, they receive mixed support in return. Part 2 has recently begun to donate half of their cloakroom takings to the Switchboard and sells copies of Gay Times/ Him of their behalf. Gatsby's, on the other hand, won't allow the co-ordinator to sell magazines in the pub. Finally, they receive occasional donations from grateful callers - and on four occasions have been given £100 from the University Karnival Appeal

Perhaps the greatest limitaion of the Switchboard at the moment is that there are no female operators. Only one in ten of the callers are women, but it is likely that many of the 187 silent calls in 1983 were from women who hung up when they heard a man's voice at the other end of the line. There is, however, a Lesbian Line in Nottingham every Monday. It's run by 5 women on a pleasantly informal basis. They not only answer enquiries, but are also willing to meet women for a casual chat if they so desire.

SPRING 1985

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For further information please ring FRANK WALIER on Nottm 475162 during office hours or just drop into the Centre.



# Gay campaigns

By June Thomas

IT'S RELATIVELY easy to uncover information about gay pubs or discos - a call to the Gay Switchboard is all that it takes to find out the names and addresses of gay venues. The national gay press, such as Gay Times/Him provide comprehensive listings, including four social centres and a gay bookshop in Nottingham. This is all very well if it's information on the social scene that you require, but where should you look if you're interested in getting involved in political activity - fighting for gay rights? What groups cater for those gay people who are more concerned with campaigning than cruising, who like to balance their diet of Hi NRG with a little Tom Robinson?

Until a couple of years ago CHE (Campaign for Homosexual equality) was at the forefront of gay political activity. CHE is somewhat becalmed at the moment, however. Their decision to separate campaigning from all other activities is usually blamed for the group's decline. Many people were willing to do some political work if it was mixed with equal proportions of socialising, but few were interested purely in campaigning. The Switchboards and other telephone counselling services are now independent, although almost all were founded by CHE activists. Even so the campaign is not totally defunct, and there is hope that it will re-emerge as more people

feel drawn to bigger, semi-political, non-party aligned groups.

The Labour Campaign for Gay Rights is perhaps Nottingham's most active organisation. Despite the name it isn't intentionally an exclusively male group although in practice there has been little lesbian involvement. LCGR supported Labour Movement Lesbians - a recently organised group with branches in London and Manchester - and with the latter organised a fringe meeting at this years Labour Party conference, which was attended by more than 250 people. If you want to know more about the Campaign's activities in Nottingham, call Chris Richardson on 780124.

As well as the lesbian involvement in organisations such as Women for Peace or the Rape Crisis Collective, there is a Lesbian Group which meets weekly in a city centre pub. This is a new meeting time and venue - drop in at the women's centre or call the Lesbian Line for details (see listings). Nottingham University Gaysoc meets every other Thursday at the Narrowboat pub in the city centre. Although they are a University based organisation, they don't meet on campus because some members feel awkward attending meetings on University premises. Students from other colleges or schools are welcome to attend. At present Gaysoc don't have any speakers lined up but they expect to receive a visit from the NUS executive member concerned with gay rights before the NUS elections. For more information on the group call Gayline.

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...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...THURSDAY...



# Red Dawn: CIA goes to Hollywood

By Phil Gorski

It is not the too distant future. From the Red East the invading armies have inevitably launched their long planned attack. Hordes of Godless Communists descend by parachute onto the cherished homelands of peace loving America, the remorseless expansion of Bolshevik tyranny has reached its logical conclusion - an all out surprise assault upon the last stronghold of Truth, Freedom and ninety-seven channel T.V. Nothing now stands between the murderous architects of world communism and their evil plans for the total, permanent and utterly merciless enslavement of the entire human race. Nothing, that is, except the Wolverines; a gutsy bunch of clean-shaven, all-American, God-fearing, law-abiding youngsters, born and bred in the US of A. Willing, if needs be to die fighting for the defence of democracy, justice and twenty-four hour fast food. We salute you Wolverines - Give 'em hell!

Yes, it is as bad as all that, but it's not so funny. In fact it's positively sinister. This is Hollywood meets the moral majority heralding the return of the kind of mind boggling big screen propaganda not witnessed since the McCarthyite days of "I married a Communist" and "Reefer Madness". All the stereotypes are there. America is portrayed as the land of plenty, a peaceful place where everyone lives in spacious, Walton type homes and goes to church on Sundays. The violence turns schoolkids into men, real men who go wild with there guns while shouting "shit!" and "Jeezus Christ!" The invading soldiers are all smelly, unshaven sadists, who kill for the fun of it, and the women are frightened and helpless, dependent upon their menfolk for protection from the commies (who incidentally are also rapists). It's all complete fabrication.

As if all that wasn't bad enough,

this presentation of a mythical America is combined with a political message that is about as subtle as a punch in the face. The film begins with communist parachutists gunning down a classroom of schoolkids, after which the survivors are locked up in hastily erected prison camps and bombarded with a version of communist propaganda so unlikely that it could only have been written by a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

And so it goes on. While the Ruskies move from one town to the next, killing, raping and pillaging with ruthless efficiency, removing all the food from the shops and hanging up red flags outside McDonalds, the redneck Wolverines hide out in the mountains and build up their muscles for the

## Cable TV: picture this

By Phil Gorski

CABLE TV has hit Nottingham. Those of you lucky enough to be Rediffusion customers may forget your cares and worries and eagerly subscribe to your extra four channels. Bored housewives, factory workers, the unemployed and the elderly - the answer to your problems is here. Just open the letter you find on your doormat and read.

"Dear customer, Because you are a Rediffusion customer, I'd like you to be one of the first in the area to hear some exciting news. Very soon you'll be in a position to enjoy four extra channels on your T.V. set!!"

Our society, as I'm sure you realise, is in a state of worsening economic crisis. In this country and throughout the West, acute unemployment fuels the growing polarisation of society. Our own government clamps down on public spending because "we cannot afford it" and people must scramble for inadequate public services because of "the need to economise." Our only hope, we are told, is that of an efficient and competitive private industry will "generate wea-

coming liberation of the stars and stripes.

There were moments in this film when I didn't know whether to laugh, scream or stand up and denounce the film-makers. This film is so inflammatory that it must have been designed in order to start World War three. It was certainly made to help Reagan back into office. It was a massive box office earner and audiences reportedly cheered every time a Russian was shot. One consolation; when I went to see it there was only ten people in the audience. However if I were you I wouldn't go unless you can get in free, because the money paid is probably tied up in bundles and flown straight to Reagan's front door.

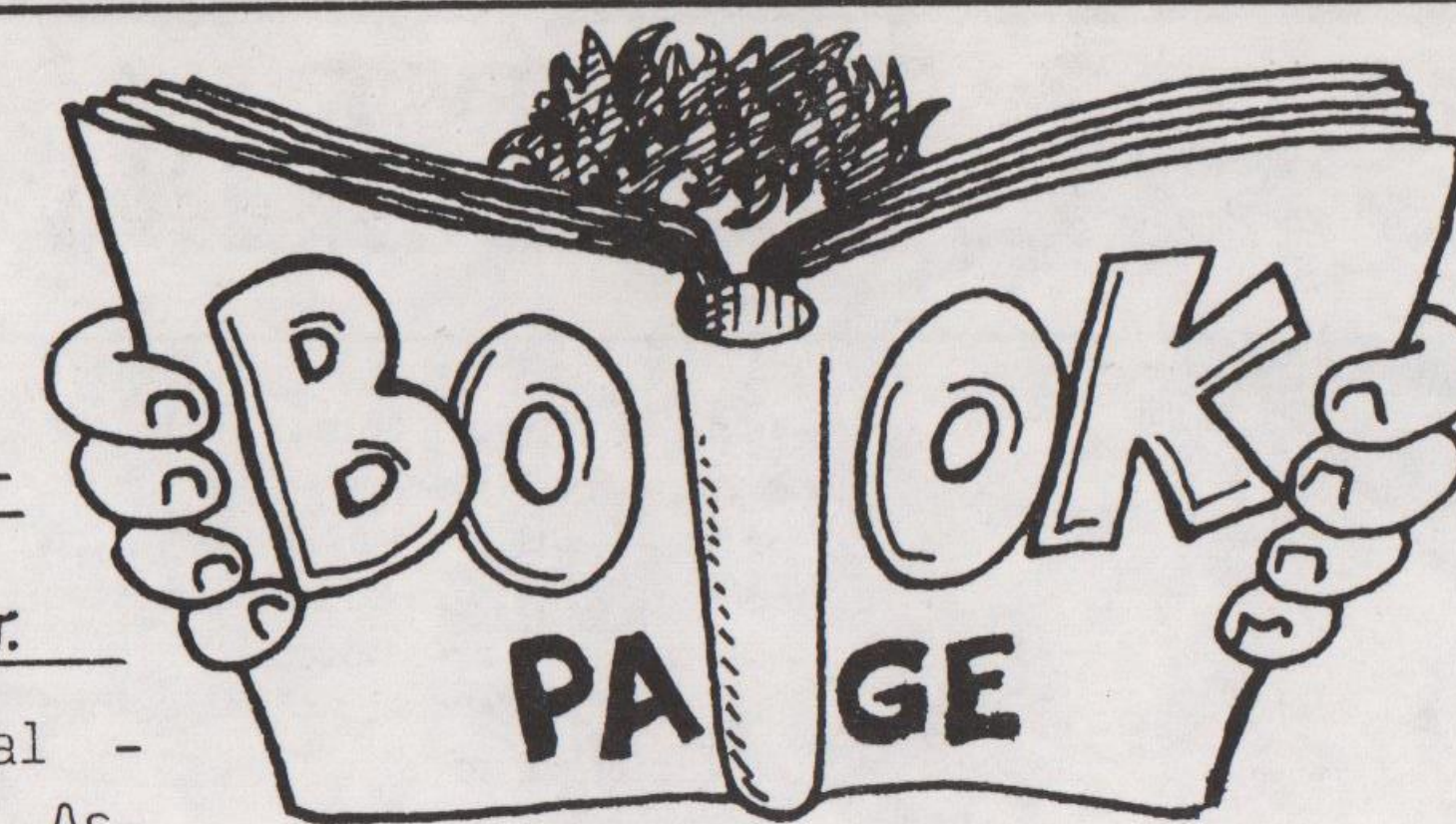
lth" and take over the role of public provider from the state. So much for monetarist theory. The reality is rather different. (This is where cable T.V. makes its reappearance.) Cable T.V. is a small but significant example of the bizarre way in which capitalism works. The theory goes that if a certain need arises, then in a free market economy it is a private industry that can provide for that need. Realistically, capital is only interested in financing a particular service if it can make a profit out of it. When the only operating criteria are "can it make a profit" it becomes irrelevant whether or not the product is socially useful. Hence we have a position where, for instance, "uneconomic" pits are closed regardless of social cost, nuclear weapons are a profitable industry, American farmers are paid to burn their crops rather than sell at a loss, and in this country the unemployed receive letters that offer to pump more bland, mind-destroying drivel into their homes via cable T.V.!! I'm so glad I live in the free west.

## BACKSTREET CONT.

An unhesitating and full denial - that was councillor Mohammed Aslam's response to to criticisms that he had cited Islamic tradition and the Koran as reason why women shouldn't go out and vote in the Pakistani centre elections. Aslam ridiculed the idea that his commitment to equal opportunities should be called into question. Aslam has further claimed that the Democratic group was trounced in the Pakistani Friends League elections - though our understanding is that they got about 40% of the votes. If the latest mutterings are to be believed, Aslam is now mobilising Pakistani opinion against proposals to tackle prejudice against lesbians and gay men through study courses.

More on our friends in blue... it seems that they still can't get it into their heads that people are collecting legally at St. Peter's Church. Recently, women from the miners support group were given ten minutes to pack up by two bobbies. When the women replied that they had a licence, they were told that they now had nine and a half minutes! The collectors stayed put, and the police - who had presumably radio'd in for instructions, could only hang around trying to look threatening.

Rock City's wavering fortunes suffered yet another setback over a recent rock concert. The March Violets were scheduled to play there on Tuesday November 13th (unlucky for some). However the tickets actually said Wednesday 14th. Those who turned up a day late had to content themselves with money back, and some have since reported difficulty in getting any refund. Are circumstances so difficult for poor George Akins that he can't afford to honour his debts?



By Sue Langford

THE TIN POT FOREIGN GENERAL AND THE OLD IRON WOMAN - Raymond Briggs (Hamish Hamilton, £2.50).

The Tin Pot Foreign General and the Old Iron Woman - old hag, old bag, old woman - if it's not bad enough being a woman, then being an old woman allows for further abuse. However, it is enough for Raymond Briggs that this insidious fascist politician is a woman. It is his her womanhood that he attacks with all the ammunition of woman hating that pervades society's attitudes.

Humiliating women to devalue their sense of worth, dignity, feelings, politics etc. is nothing new, e.g. strip searches such as those carried out in Ireland and Greenham Common. Raymond Briggs strips Margaret Thatcher save for suspender belt, stockings and high heels. She's depicted as some sort of demented sex object as are women everywhere who don't conform to the accepted male view of how a woman should be. He seeks to attack the war-mongering patriotism of her, but in order to do this he attacks the politician as woman and only succeeds in denegrating her sexuality. He defiles her breasts - they are the huge balloons of sexist cartoons, nipped by blazing cannon. If you don't like the woman's politics, apparently there is every justification for showing her as a whore. And what of the Tin Pot Foreign General? His sexuality does not figure at all - no such treatment for that much revered and respected organ!

If it is felt that the black and white drawings are "poignant" and "bring home the realities of war",

I only wish I could draw - I would draw all the women who have been "mutilated", "killed" and "burnt" precisely because of the blatant woman hatred Raymond Briggs unconsciously (one hopes) displays.

A suitable Christmas gift for my daughters?

**LIVE BILLY BRAGG**  
**REDSKINS**  
**THREE JOHNS**  
**MINER'S**

**MINERS ON STRIKE**  
1984  
NORTH NOTTS · NUM SOUTH

**BENEFIT**  
**AT THE PORTLAND LEISURE CENTRE**  
THE MEADOWS  
**23<sup>rd</sup> DEC**  
**£3.50 WAGED** **£3.00 UNWAGED**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SELECT DISC and the NUM STRIKE CENTRE 218 MANSFIELD RD**



## CITYWISE

season of "Friday nights at the Centre" with an Indian evening on Dec. 7th - music and, of course, food will be served.

### SECRET ACTION

Newark STC - Dec 13th. Nudge, nudge Boys in blue etc. etc.

### ANARCHISM

Every Friday Nottingham Anarchist Group meets, starting 8pm at the Nottingham Community Arts and Crafts Centre. The Midlands Regional Anarchist conference being planned for early '85 is a major current item and on Dec. 15th there may be a local action as part of a national anarchist day of action on prisons. Ring Chris on 582506/624742.

### XMAS FAIR

Sat Dec 15th, 11am to 4pm at March Warehouse, Brightmore St. (off Goosegate). Lots of different stalls. Donations in advance of books, records, bric-a-brac...to Nottingham CND office, 14-18 St. Mary's Gate or Ouroboros Wholefood Shop on Mansfield rd. For collection ring 472802 or 333155. Organised by Rainbow Centre.

### ANIMAL LIBERATION

The local veggies will be campaigning in the streets all round Xmas with leaflets against the turkey-kill and giving a fine vegetarian/vegan alternative recipe. Contact Patrick for details - the main days will be on 8th and 15th Dec., from 10am at Marks and Sparks, St. Peter's gate. Veggies have a chance to laugh at themselves at the Midland Arts group on 11th and 12th Dec. when Leda Theatre Collective performs "A Fistful of Lentils" - a comedy by veggies for all those who have tried to unfathom the mysterious Tofu burger. The Animal Rights Confederation has ordered the greenpeace anti-fur billboard with the lower half of a woman dragging a fur coat with blood pouring from it. The message is: "It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat. But only one to wear it." The ARC, at 182 Mansfield Rd. is seeking donations to keep the billboard up

- some feminists think that the hoarding exploits women. Watch out for it - and let us know what you think. The ARC are also organising - as part of a national day of action - a demonstration against the fur trade in Nottingham. The event (meet at St. Peter's Gate, 10.30 on Sat 8th December) will be picketing of local fur shops to draw attention to the suffering caused by fashion factory fur farming and the trapping of wild animals. Normal ARC monthly meeting in December has been brought forward to 7.30, 16th December at the Narrow Boat.

### WASTE PAPER

There is again somewhere to dump waste paper for re-cycling. Earthwise, 182 Mansfield Rd. (it's the one next to the Real Ale Shop, with the quite unforgettable painted shop frontage) is collecting newspapers - and while you're there will sell you recycled stationery, cruelty free cosmetics and badges, t-shirts and campaign material of an ecological nature.

### DISARMAMENT

Dec 8th. Midlands regional NVDA meeting. 10.30 am, Queens Walk Community Centre, Queens Drive, Meadows. Discussion about mass action at Molesworth / Alconbury. Creche available. Bring food to share.  
Dec 11th. Chilwell 3 at court. Jeremy Deacon, Jasper Singh and Colin Sutton at Shire Hall for a criminal damage charge from June at Chilwell. Please support. 10am. Shire Hall Magistrates court.  
Dec 12th. Chilwell 3. See above. Refuse Cruise - anniversary of Cruise's arrival in Britain. Demo and civil disobedience by student CND. More details: contact Poly group or Nottingham CND.  
Dec 15th. Non-stop Saturday Bop - 2pm till you drop. Disco organised by Raleigh St. group at the Generous Briton, Alfreton Rd. Tickets 50p/£1. Available NCND or Mushroom.  
Dec 15th. "Stop Cruise at Molesworth" meeting. 7.30pm NCND office, Unit B, 14-18 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham.

## BOOK AND BRIC-A-BRAC SALE

### IN AID OF

## THE RAINBOW CENTRE

**SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER**  
**11 am - 4 pm**

### AT

**MARCH WAREHOUSE**  
**11 BRIGHTMOOR STREET**  
**(OFF GOOSE GATE) HOCKLEY**

**BOOKS, CLOTHES, FOOD,**  
**DRINKS AND LOTS MORE!**

**AVAILABLE NOW**  
**PEACE GREETING CARDS,**  
**CALENDARS, NOTELETS,**  
**BADGES ETC.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**& CATALOGUE TEL. 474573**

Dec 17th. Peace Action Network meeting. 7.30pm, NCND office.  
Dec 17th. Nottingham CND Christmas stall at Listergate. Volunteers still needed. Contact NCND. Till 22nd.  
Jan 6th. Nottingham CND members meeting. 7.30 pm. Friends Meeting House, Clarendon St. Jan 7th. Peace Action Network meeting. 7.30 pm. NCND office.

### RAPE CRISIS

If you have been sexually assaulted, need help, advice or someone to talk to phone Nottingham 410440 Monday to Friday. 11am to 5pm. Free and confidential. Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre.

### GAY INFORMATION

Nottingham Gay Switchboard - 7-10pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday. 411454  
Lesbian Line - 8-10pm, Monday only 410652.  
Friend (gay counselling service) - 7-10pm, Tuesday only. 476474.  
Gayline (university based) - 8-12pm Monday only. 580421.

### PREGNANCY TESTING

Tuesday 6-8pm and Saturday 10-12 noon. Quick on the spot pregnancy testing at the Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare St. Tel 411475. Confidential advice and information available for women, by women.

### LISTEN! WRITE! SPEAK!

Is the title of a series of events organised by the Nottingham Community Arts Centre, Gregory Blvd (Tel 782463). The series concludes with; Sat 8th Dec. 2-6pm. Workshop with Nigel Gray, novelist, on "The Rules of Writing and How to Break Them". Thurs 13th Dec 2-6pm. Poetry workshop with Liz Lockhead. Both events at the centre. Creche available, ring for details. Bookings necessary and costs £1.50 (£1 UB40) for each event.

### ANTI-APARTHEID

Anti-Apartheid supporters have for many years been sending, each Christmas, cards to prisoners of apartheid and their families. This small action is much appreciated by the recipients and shows the South African government that people in Britain won't forget the Apartheid prisoners. The local AA group are selling cards and giving prisoners' names each Saturday up to Christmas from their stall on St. Peter's Gate.

### MINERS ON STRIKE

Trades Council Picket: Nottingham Trades Council organises a weekly picket in support of Notts Miners' pickets. If you want to show solidarity with the strikers, meet Thursdays 8pm outside 118 Mansfield Rd. Bring own transport if possible.  
Women's Support Group stall - St. Peter's Gate: Every Saturday extra help is needed on the women's stall. If you can help phone Nottingham 784870.

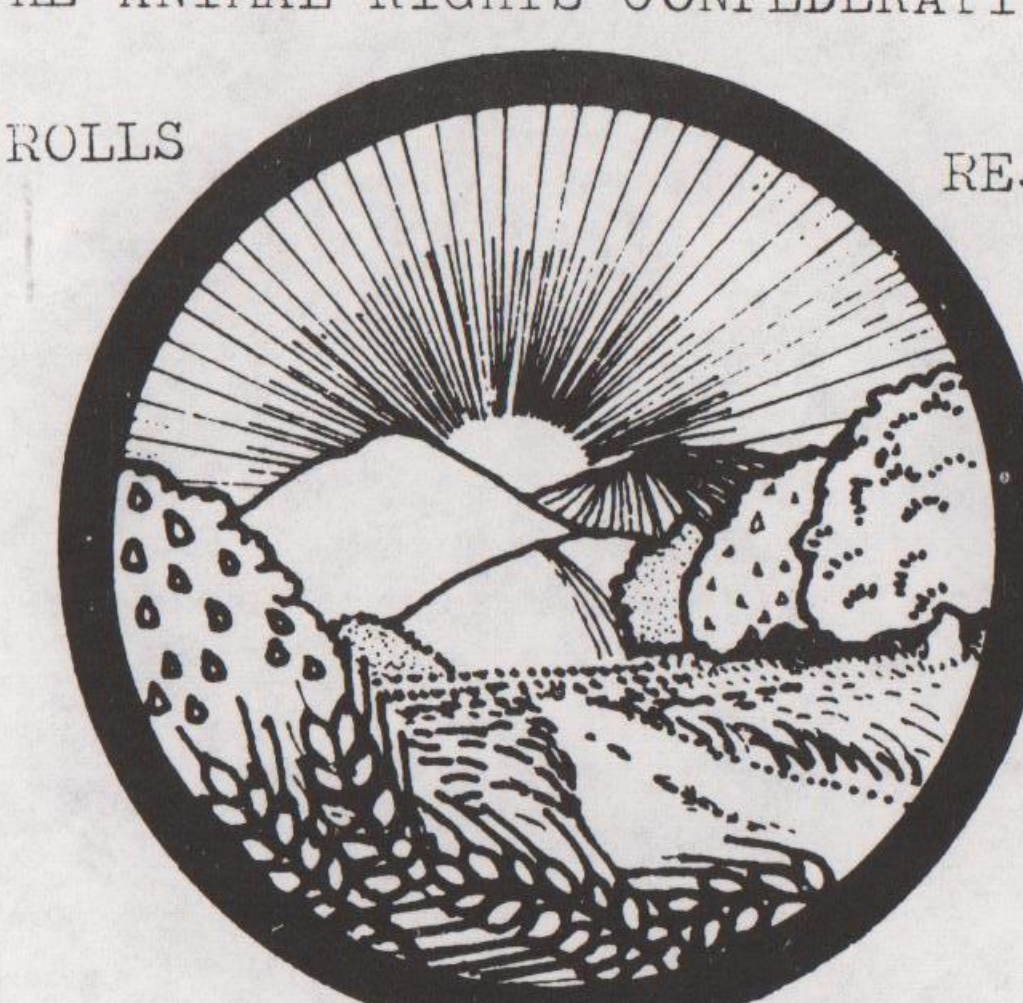
Dec 6th: Jumble and Christmas Bazaar. Sixways Community Centre, Denton Green, Broxtowe. 1pm. Proceeds to strikers children's Christmas Appeal.  
Dec 7th: Christmas Social organised by Notts Women's Support Group. Festival Hall, Kirkby in Ashfield. 8pm, 50p.  
Dec 15th: Forest Fields Miners Support Group Disco. Italian Community Centre, Sherwood Rise. 7.30pm. £1.50/50p.  
Dec 23rd: Billy Bragg/ Redskins/ 3 Johns - Miners Benefit at Portland

Leisure Centre, Meadows. Tickets £3.50/£3. From Selectadisc and Strike Centre.  
Forest Fields Miners Support Group meets every Wednesday at 8pm at the Neighbourhood Centre, Wiverton Rd.  
If you can give support in other ways or want more information on the above contact either: South Notts NUM Strike Centre, 218 Mansfield Rd, tel 606215, or Notts Women's Support Group, NUPE, 6 Sherwood Rise. Tel 603522 ext 29.

# Nottingham Earthwise Ltd.

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AND  
THE ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFEDERATION

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&  
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION  
**182, Mansfield Rd., Nottingham.**  
Tel. Nottm. (0602) 582561  
THE SHOP IS RUN ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS  
VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED.



# LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LIS

## VENUES

**Boulevard Hotel**, Radford Boulevard  
Racford

**Carlton Folk Club**, Duke of Cambridge,  
Woodborough Rd.

**Co-operative Arts Theatre**, George  
St. 476096

**Film Theatre**, Broad St., 476095

**The Garage**, St. Marys Gate, Lace-  
market

**Hardy's Wine Bar**, King St.

**Hearty Goodfellow**, Maid Marion Way

**Jaycees Bar**, Heathcoate St.

**Lyrics Wine Bar**, Maid Marion Way

**Marcus Garvey Centre**, Lenton Boul-  
evard, Lenton

**Midland Group**, Carlton St., Hock-  
ley, 586100

**Narrow Boat**, Canal St.

**Nottingham Playhouse**, Wellington  
Circus 419419

**Old Maltcross**, St. James St.

**Rock City**, Talbot St. 412544

**Running Horse**, Alfreton Rd., Cann-  
ing Circus

**Russells Wine Bar**, Shakespeare St.

**Vino's**, Victoria St.

## THEATRE/ PERFORMANCE

LOTS OF pantomimes around at the  
moment (can't imagine why). How-  
ever, 1982 Theatre Co. (Midland  
Group, December 5th & 6th) could  
well be a refreshing look at porn-  
ography, especially as it affects  
gays. (They're an all-male gay  
group).

Spotz changes to Thursday nights  
for December. On 20th December  
there will be a special Xmas revue  
with a late bar.

### DECEMBER

MON 3rd - SAT 15th - Robinson  
Crusoe - Co-op Arts Centre- £1.90/  
£1.40

TUE 4th - 7.30pm - Nottingham  
Writers Workshop Xmas Show (writ-  
ing, ranting, and live music) -  
Basement Bar, The Fox, Upper Parli-  
ament St. - £1

TUE 4th - 7.30pm - National Thea-  
tre - Clarendon College

WED 5th/THU 6th - 7.30pm - 1982  
Theatre Co. in "Pornography" -  
Midland Group - £2/£1.50

THU 6th - 7.30pm - Spotz featuring  
Adrian Henri, Berks & Berlin, Re-  
moval Mime, Nasty Habits - Boul-  
evard Hotel - £1.50/£1

THU 6th-5th JAN - "Jack & The  
Beanstalk" - Nottm Playhouse -  
£4.75/£2.75 children.

THU 6th - 7.30pm - National Thea-  
tre Co. - Trent Poly - £1

FRI 7th - 2.30pm - National Thea-  
tre - Clarendon College

TUE 11th/WED 12th - 7.30pm - Leda  
Theatre in "A Fistful of Lentils"  
- Midland Group - £1.50/£1

THU 13th - 7.30pm - Spotz featur-  
ing The Devil Fish Horn Club, Liz  
Lockhead, Jazz'n'Blues - Boulevard  
Hotel - £1.50/£1

THU 13th-SAT 15th - 7.30pm - Hesi-  
tate and Demonstrate in "So, No  
More Songs of Love" - Midland  
Group - £2/£1.50

TUE 18th/WED 19th - 7.30pm- Kitsch  
Productions in "To Walk Below" -  
Midland Group - £1

THU 20th - 8.30pm - Xmas Cabaret -  
Midland Group - £2.25/£1.75

THU 20th - 7.30pm - Spotz featur-  
ing Performer Arts Collective in  
"On The Blink", a Xmas revue -  
Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

### JANUARY

MON 7th-SAT 12th - "The Corn is  
Green" by Emylyn Williams - Co-op  
Arts Theatre - £1.60

THU 10th - FEB 2nd - "Reluctant  
Heroes" by Colin Morris - Play-  
house - £4.50/£3.50/£2.50

FRI 18th/SAT 19th - 7.30pm - Inti-  
mate Strangers present "Rendez-  
vous" - Midland Group - £2/£1.50

MON 21st - SAT 26th - Youth Thea-  
tre Production - Co-op Arts Thea-  
tre - £1.60

THU 31st/FRI 1st FEB - 7.30pm -  
Burnt Bridges in "The Time of  
Their Lives" - Midland Group -  
£2/£1.50

## MUSIC

Hey Hey its the **Redskins, Three  
Johns, and Billy Bragg** (Portland  
Leisure Centre, Dec 23rd). Three  
of the best, playing a pre-Xmas  
benefit for the miners. A good  
start to anybody's Xmas!

### ROCK

#### DECEMBER

MON 3rd - Alien Sex Fiend - The  
Garage - £3 WED 5th - Kim Wilde  
- Rock City

WED 5th - Animals of Leisure - Old  
Malt Cross - Free

THU 6th - Sid Presley Experience -  
The Garage - £3

THU 6th - English Electric - Rus-  
sells - Free

WED 12th - UFO - Rock City

WED 12th - Night Shift - Old Malt  
Cross - Free

THU 13th - The Milkshakes & The  
Prisoners - The Garage - £3

THU 13th/FRI 14th - Lindisfarne -  
Royal Concert Hall

SUN 16th - Northern Soul All-Dayer  
- Rock City

WED 19th - Dealer - Old Malt Cross  
- Free

WED 19th - The Cult - Rock City

THU 20th - Nik Kershaw - Royal  
Concert Hall

SUN 23rd - Reggae/Funk all nighter  
- Palais - £5

SUN 23rd - Redskins, Three Johns,  
Billy Bragg - Miners Benefit -  
Portland Leisure Centre, The Mead-  
ows, £3.50, £3 SUN 30th - Victor  
Romero Evans, Janet Kay, Carrol  
Thompson - Palaais - £5

### JANUARY

WED 2nd - Urban Desolation - Old  
Malt Cross - Free

WED 9th - Mad Badger - Old Malt  
Cross - Free

WED 16th - Pure Kiss - Old Malt  
Cross - free

WED 23rd - The Old Contemptibles -  
Old Malt Cross - Free

WED 30th - Esprit de Corps - Old  
Malt Cross - Free

### FOLK

#### DECEMBER

SUN 2nd - Andy Irvine - Co-op Folk  
Club - Boulevard Hotel

MON 3rd - Beelzebub - Narrowboat  
Folk Club

MON 3rd - Colin Staples - Glad-  
stone

SUN 9th - Jim Couza - Co-op Folk  
Club

MON 10th - Cilla Fisher and Art  
Tresize - Narrowboat

MON 3rd - Fieldwork - Gladstone

SUN 16th - Xmas Party - Co-op Folk  
Club

MON 17th - Xmas Night - Narrowboat

#### REGULAR NIGHTS

MONDAYS - Narrow Boat, Canal St.

WEDNESDAYS - The Gladstone, Loscoe  
Rd., Carrington

THURSDAYS - Apollo, Bulwell (Coun-  
try)

SATURDAYS - Robin Hood Folk Club,  
Beech Tree Lodge, Beeston

SUNDAYS - Co-op Folk Club, Boul-  
evard Hotel

### JAZZ/BLUES/IMPROVISED

WED 5th - Nightflight - Vino's - £1

EVERY TUESDAY - Improvised Music  
Collective - Newhouse, St. James  
St.

RUNNING HORSE - (Canning Circus)

FRIDAYS - Running Horse Blues Band

SATURDAYS - Brief Encounter (R&B)

SUN LUNCH - Johnny Johnstone Quin-  
tet

SUN EVE - Running Horse Blues Band

SUN EVE - Running Horse Blues Band

SUN EVE - Running Horse Blues Band

SUN EVE - Running Horse Blues Band

SUN EVE - Running Horse Blues Band

# INGS - LISTINGS - LISTING

FRI 7th - 6 & 8pm - Repo Man  
(Uncert, A. Cox, USA 1984, 92m) -  
Midland Group

FRI 7th - SUN 9th - And The Ship  
Sails On (PG, F. Fellini, It/Fr  
1983, 132m) - Film Theatre

SAT 8th - 6 & 8pm - Crackers  
(Uncert, L.Malle, USA 1983, 92m) -  
Midland Group

TUE 11th - 7pm - Kameradschaft -  
(Uncert, G.Pabst, Germ.1931, 92m)  
- Midland Group

WED 12th - 7pm - Blade Runner (PG,  
R.Scott, USA 1982, 117m) - Midland  
Group

THU 13th-SAT 15th - 7pm (also 2pm  
Thursday) - The Ballad of Narayama  
(18,S.Imamura, Japan 1983, 130m) -  
Midland Group

FRI 14th - SUN 16th - Strangers  
Kiss (15, M.Chapman, USA 1983,  
94m) - Film Theatre

SAT 15th - 3pm - Films by Maya  
Deren - Midland Group

TUE 18th - 7pm - Nottm Video  
Project screenings - Midland Group

WED 19th/THU 20th - 7pm (also 2pm  
Thursday) - Killers Kiss & The  
Killing (2 Films by Stanley Kub-  
rick, USA 1955/6) - Midland Group

FRI 21st/SAT 22nd - 7pm - Christ-  
ine (18, J. Carpenter, USA 1983,  
110m) & Strange Invaders (PG,  
M.Loughlin USA 1983, 93m) - Mid-  
land Group

### JANUARY

WED 2nd - 7pm - Cutters Way (18,  
I.Passer, USA 1980, 99m) - Midland  
Group

THU 3rd-SAT 5th - 6 & 8pm (also 2pm  
Thursday) - Where The Buffalo Roam  
- (18, A.Linson, USA 1980, 99m) -  
Midland Group

TUE 8th/WED 9th - 7pm - A Star is  
Born (PG, G.Cukor, USA 1954, 175m)  
- Midland Group

THU 10th-SAT 12th - 6 & 8pm (Also  
2pm Thursday) - Variety - (18,  
B.Gordon, USA 1983) - Midland  
Group

TUE 15th-SAT 19th - (Tue/Wed 6pm,  
Thur 2,6 & 8pm, Fri/Sat 6 & 8pm) -  
Stranger Than Paradise (15,J.Jar-  
musch, WG/USA 1981, 90m) - Midland  
Group

TUE 15th - 8pm - Video Project  
screenings

WED 16th - 8pm - Surrealist Traces  
(1) - a series of classic surrealist  
films - first of 3 - Midland  
Group

TUE 22nd - 7pm - Body Heat (18,  
L.Kasdan, USA 1981, 113m) - Mid-  
land Group

WED 23rd - 8pm - Surrealist Traces  
(2) - Midland Group

THU 24th-SAT 26th - 7pm (&2pm  
Thursday) - Andrei Rublev (PG,  
A.Tarkovsky, USSR 1966, 180m) -  
Midland Group

TUE 20th - 7pm - Solaris (PG,  
A.Tarkovsky, USSR 1972, 165m) -  
Midland Group

WED 30th - 7pm - Surrealist Traces  
(3)

THU 31st - 2,6 & 8pm - (his is  
Spinal Tap (15, R.Reiner, USA 1983  
82m) - Midland Group

### EXHIBITIONS

All free unless stated

Until JAN 4th - Members Exhibition  
- Society of Artists, Friar Lane

Until JAN 5th - Biskupin, Poland's  
Iron Age Village - University Art  
Gallery, Portland Building

Until JAN 6th - Square People -  
local paintings by Neil Matthews -  
Castle Museum

DEC 1st - 24th - Pandora's Box -  
(all-woman show) - Midland Group

DEC 3rd - "China Its Art &  
Culture - Trent Poly, Bonington  
Lecture Theatre

DEC 8th onwards - Local Artists -  
Castle Museum

JAN 5th - FEB 23rd - New Perspect-  
ives on the Nude - Photos - Mid-  
land Group

JAN 1th - Feb 23rd - Kate White-  
ford - Rites of Passage - Paint-  
ings & Drawings - Midland Group

## WORKSHOPS/ TALKS

### DECEMBER

SAT 8th - 2pm - Pandora's Box  
exhibition discussion - Midland  
Group - Free

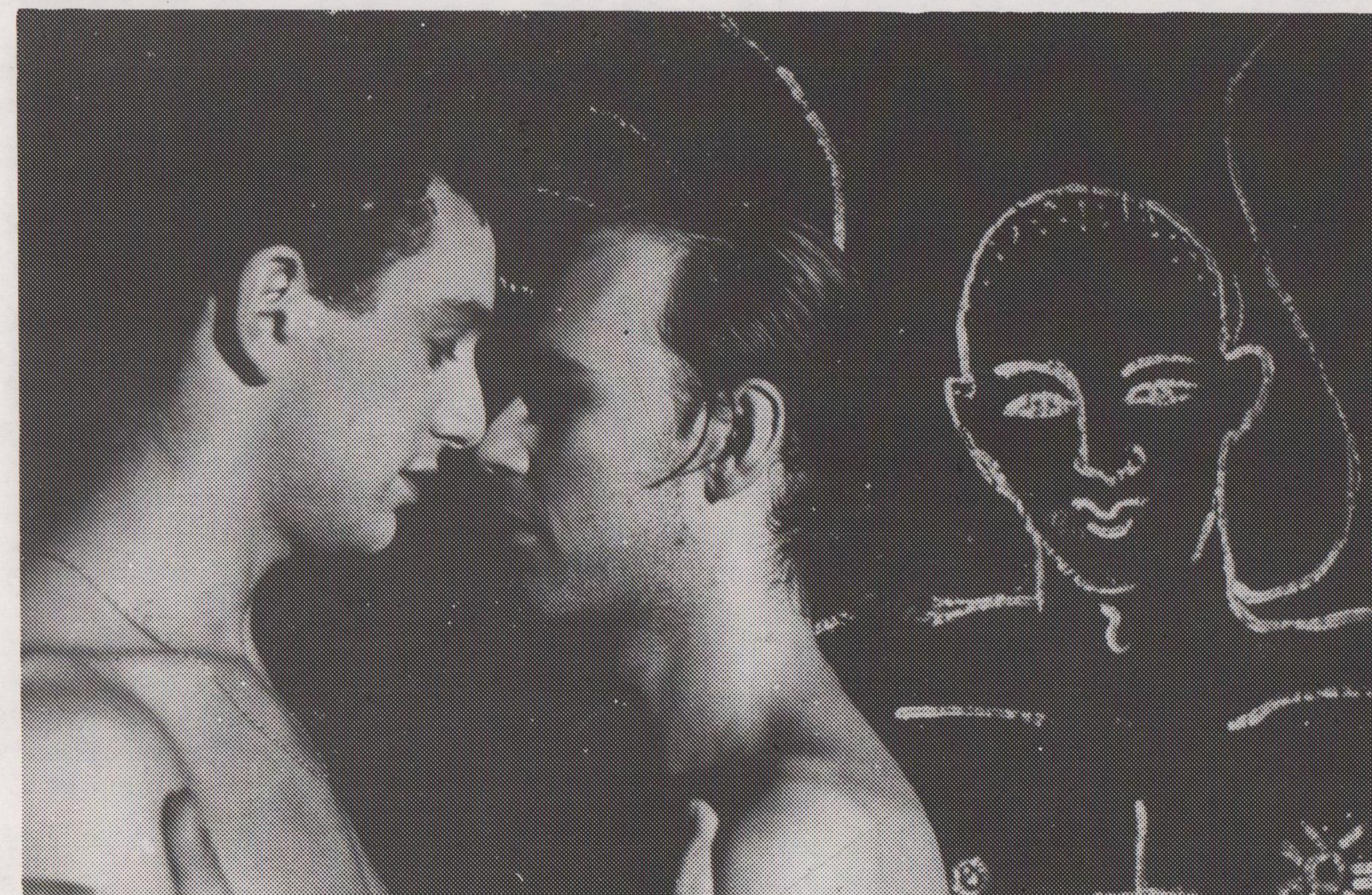
SAT 8th/SUN 9th - 10am - Contemp-  
orary dance workshop - Midland  
Group - £4 w/end; £2.50 day

### JANUARY

SAT 19th - 10am - Super 8 Film  
Workshop - Midland Group- £3/£2.50

23rd JAN - 27th FEB - Every Wed-  
nesday - Breaking and Popping Cour-  
se - Midland Group for details

THUR 24th - Tunisian Music Work-  
shop - Midland Group - £1/50p



1982 Theatre Co.

# DECEMBER

# - JANUARY -