

HYSON GREEN

DEV TENANTS ASSOC

The map opposite shows the main improvements proposed for the part of New Basford bounded by Northgate, Nottingham Rd., Valley Rd., and Radford Rd. The improvements include the widening of Northgate, Road closures, pavement repairs, and the provision of a play area and tree planting.

WHEN?

Sheila Marshall, a resident of Northgate says 'the proposals will make a great improvement to the area,' and asks 'when are they going to open? When are the Council going to consult with residents about the proposals?'

CONGESTION

Sheila says 'Northgate hasn't been improved since the time of the horse and cart. This road is now used by heavy vehicles and other traffic going to and from the ring road via Wilkinson St. It's also used as a service road for nearby industry, so there is heavy congestion at certain times of the day.' Obviously residents will welcome any improvements, but there's concern about the lack of consultation between the residents directly affected and the council. These residents have heard lots of rumours, and have seen plans of the proposals but have been given no definite dates. They cannot plan for the future.

CONSULTATION

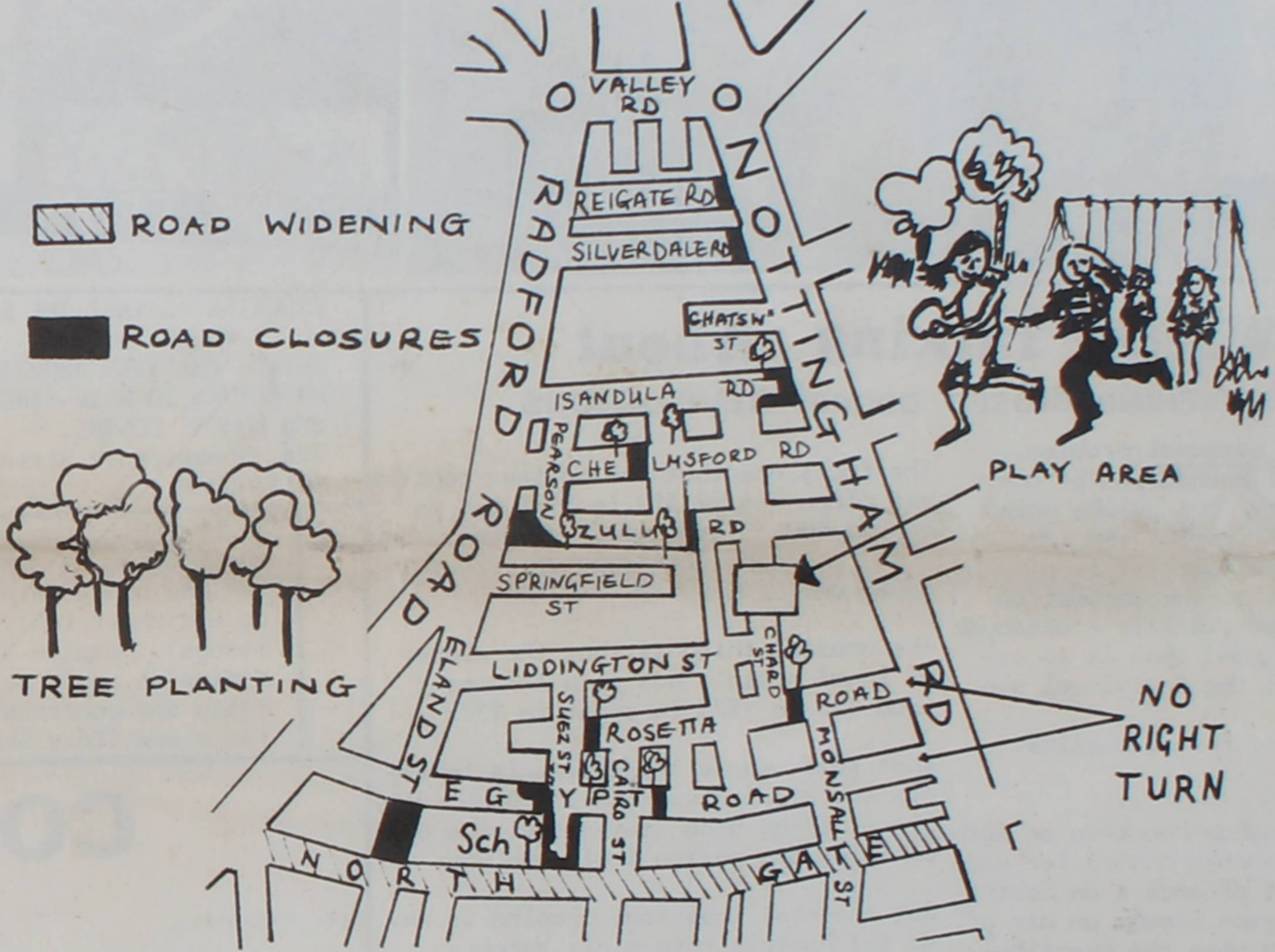
There is also concern about the proposed road closures. Residents ask why Cairo St. has been left open when it's heavy congestion presents a danger to children going to and from Northgate School. They also question the proposals for Egypt St, wondering how they will ease the traffic situation, when not only the school but also two factory entrances open onto the street. Again they fear that discussion is needed to clear up these queries.

On contacting the City Planning and Transport Department, we were told that the City Council does propose to call a meeting to discuss queries, although nothing definite has yet been arranged. The widening of Northgate will probably not take place for at least another five years. Meanwhile, interim traffic controls will be implemented over the next six months. Additional warning signals should be erected within the next few weeks, but planned waiting prohibitions for Northgate will take considerably longer. Apparently this kind of traffic restriction has to go through a lengthy legal procedure before it can be implemented. The department say that this procedure has already been set in motion, and hope the restrictions will come into force before the end of this financial year.

PLAY

Residents in the area can however look forward to a new play area on Chard St. The parks Department say that the scheme has received financial approval and machines should be moving in to start the ground work during October. Play equipment will follow in about three months and grassing should be done by about March next year.

PLANS FOR BASFORD BUT



WHEN ?

NAME MATTERS

Supt. Derek Shentall, of 'Hyson Green' Police sub-division, is sending a letter to Nottingham's Chief Constable to recommend that he changes the name of the division. This came after protests from Hyson Green Tennants Association. The Hyson Green flats form only a tiny part of the division which covers a third of the city, including Broxtow, Bobbers Mill, Carrington and Sherwood. 'But if a crime is committed anywhere in the division, the public think it's the Hyson Green Flats Complex,' explained Robin Robinson from the flats. 'If that were really the case and there were 10,000 crimes in Hyson Green a year which is the sort of thing that gets publicised - that would mean there are about 68 criminals in each flat!'

TRUTH

It undermines the confidence tenants. The national media has milked Hyson Green as an area where they can get sensationalism. It's about time the truth was known.'

The suggestion is that the police sub-division should be numbered or given a letter of the alphabet, like A, B, or C.



THATPAPER

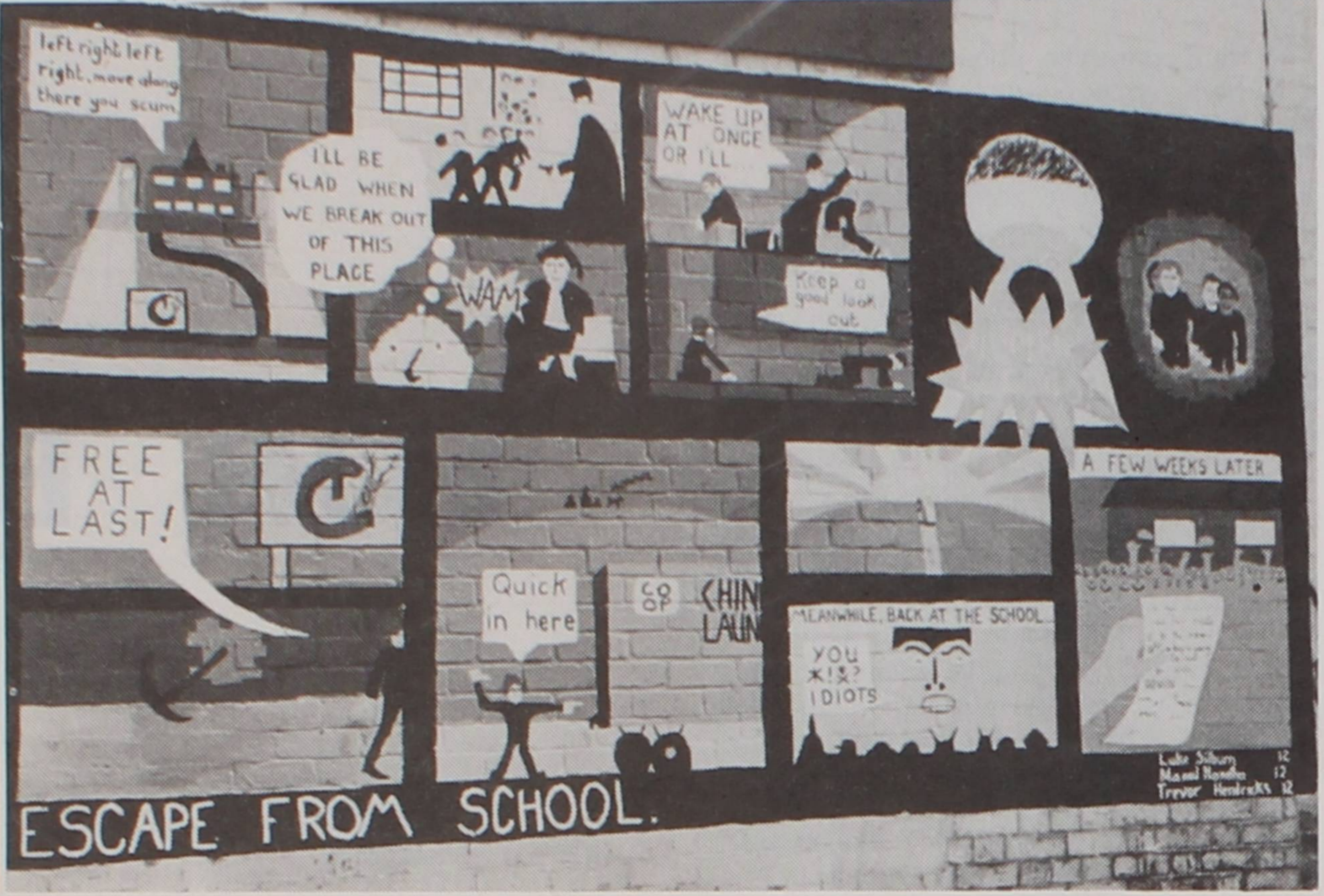
ThatPaper now reaches it's 3rd issue. We've begun to receive more and more information and articles and would like that to continue. Some new features: Comeback; This is a letters column. Worth Talking About; this feature invites individuals to state their own views of things. This issue has one on provision for alcoholics and future Worth Talking Abouts lined up, are on new technology, Council House Sales, organising a tenants or

Community group. We hope the comments on the feature will fill the comeback page. We'll also carry regular news and information on the District Plan. The other regular feature is Fight For Your Rights, this time concerned with getting repairs done. Sales As the come-back letter explains, some people who want it, don't easily receive ThatPaper. Please write in or phone if you're prepared to sell 5 copies (or more) amongst your friends or workmates.

We have two projects underway. Firstly, the very important Progress Meeting, after our first 4 months. This will take place on Oct. 18th at the Probation Office, Hyson Green. Discussion will include the content and look of previous issues, as well and especially, improvements for future issues. The second project is a one day Newspaper Workshops Conference (20th Oct 10a.m. - 5p.m. Hyson Green Community Centre.) The Conference is aimed at groups producing or about to produce a newsheet. Discussion will be based on the identification of common aims and problems.

On the Centre Pages and page 8 we have detailed the AGA & County Council cuts which must be of great concern to people in the area we serve. Alongside these facts are the views/opinions of some county Councillors and people affected by the cuts. The busy summer holiday produced a lot of playschemes & murals, which we feature.

Deadlines for issue 4 (Oct/Nov)
8th Features
are 10th Oct News
12th Oct Letters



Worth Talking About

"NOTTINGHAM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS" REVELATIONS

"Alcoholism is a national problem, which crosses all boundaries of age, class and locality, but unlike more 'respectable' afflictions remains, to a large extent, hidden. It is also a problem for which no-one appears to wish to take responsibility - although if 'blame' is awarded then it is usually directed at the individual who has succumbed".
Community Services for Alcoholics.

The facts are that the maximum capital per place was £2,500 in 1976 but is now £3,400. The maximum revenue grant also increased from £350 in 1976 to £600 now.

The amazing thing is that the number of local hostels has also increased from two in 1973 to eight in 1979.

What some people are asking is 'where has the grant money gone?' Especially since it has been stated that the alcoholics are paying their own way.

But the most important problem is why do the hostels have a nil success rate?

I'd appreciate any comments.
John Boyd

In a Radio Nottingham Phone-in on 30th August on the proposed Hostel for Alcoholics and first offenders on Scotch-olme Avenue in Hyson Green, an air of 'panic' developed when the question of money was mentioned. Why was this?

Could it be that no-one seems to know the real details of grants from the U.H.S.S. for such projects?

COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR ALCOHOLICS

Report of the F.A.R.E. Working Party at the House of Commons April - October 1978

Joint Chairmen:
Sir George Young, MP
Helene Hayman, MP



CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CORRIE BILL
PHONE: 411475
Defend the 1967 ABORTION ACT - NO RETURN TO BACK-STREET ABORTION
c/o WOMENS CENTRE,
32a, Shakespeare Street,
NOTTINGHAM.

We regret to announce the passing of JIM TURTON. His time with us was short (only 2 issues). Despite JIM's demise we would welcome ideas and contributions for a new Story Series.

fotografix
photography and graphics
john birdsall 782463

Photographs
Roger Suckling
Ph 782463

come back

Dear Friends,

I have been asked by our Committee to contact you about the paper. We were astonished to find that the majority of our Committee did not know that a second edition had been produced. We were surprised that our Committee was not sent a copy as a matter of course. We were also dismayed that, despite my assistant asking you on a number of occasions, you have not so far supplied us with a stock which we are prepared to sell

from our shop. We would be pleased if you could supply us with a complete list of suppliers in the Radford area.

We would also like you to make clear to us the position of the management group.

We wish the paper every success for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Alan Clark,
Secretary,
Radford Phoenix.

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THE DISTRICT PLAN

What is it and does it matter?

The City Planning Department has produced a 'district plan' to cover the whole of Basford, Forest Fields, and Radford (called BFFR) including Hyson Green. The point of the plan is to decide on the way land in the area will be used. Some land is already derelict, either because it always has been or because a building has been cleared. Other land is being cleared all the time as old houses and factories are pulled down.

Priorities

The Council decides what its priorities are, and then tries to match that up with the land available. For example, they know that a large number of people in BFFR is one of the few parts of the city to have building land available, so they say that housing is a second priority. They have a permanent need for land for community facilities (which means anything from a youth club or playground to a police or fire station), so they say that community facilities is third priority.

Information

Now there is a 'Draft Written Statement' of the Basford Forest Fields and Radford plan (copies available by telephoning 48571 free to residents groups). It contains maps, and detailed information about the area and the council's plans for each piece of land.

Meetings

There have been meetings between a number of residents groups to decide on their reaction to the plan. The main argument seems to be that people want industry and jobs in their areas as long as there are jobs - warehousing is no use because too few people are employed and there is too much nuisance caused by vehicles. And as long as industry keeps its nuisance to a reasonable level - dirt, pollution and noise should not take place where there is a

high number of houses close together. And as long as people from the BFFR area get the jobs in the BFFR area - because already more than half the manufacturing jobs in the city are in the BFFR area, but people travel into the area to work in them - clogging the roads with vehicles, causing noise and pollution, and living in quieter areas without so much industry.

Groups

So the tenant and resident groups are trying to negotiate with the council to keep nuisance to a minimum and see that the area which puts up with the nuisance also shares in the benefits of it. We'll have further articles about this in That Paper, but ring us a 787813 to find out the name of your local residents group if you want to get involved.

NO NUDES IS GOOD NEWS

Are you missing a Page 3 type Nude from the pages of That Paper? Here are some of the reasons why.

When That Paper started, our Management Committee stipulated that we should be 'neither racist nor sexist'. At the same time, we hope to be a positive newspaper, promoting those things that encourage a sense of community: we don't wish to get a cheap laugh or a sensational story out of peoples' misfortune or from 'sensitive areas'. We'd rather they were discussed openly and honestly. We'll not copy all the rest of the press and make money this way.

Puritan

What about the charge that this policy is 'Puritan'. That Paper's Editorial Policy certainly isn't puritan - but there is a lot of hypocrisy about. There's nothing wrong with nudity. But feeding sexual fantasies and frustrations - which is what these pictures are all about - is no sign of sexual freedom.

For a start, most of the blokes who love pouring over page 3 pictures would rather be dead than be seen NUDE themselves by millions of people. And they'd go mad if it was their wife or daughter stripping off in front of their mates.

Women

Further, many women rightly object to being seen as sex objects - play things of men. It's a fact that rape is on the increase. It's a fact that there's a lot of violence against women by men in the home. Sexism is like racism. It's a degrading way of seeing people. It treats them as inferior. That Paper will always take a stand against that kind of thing.

But unlike the Sun - which runs titillating stories about rapists alongside its nudes - That Paper will not treat its readers as if they were all dirty old men in raincoats. That Paper isn't here to insult you.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

That Paper spoke to Rajinder Singh Jabbal, who is the first Nottinghamshire Librarian with special responsibilities for ethnic minorities. This recent appointment involves developing and strengthening services to the Asian community but later his responsibilities will include all minorities throughout the county. If you stand near the five specialist stands in the County Library, Angel Row, you will see Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati script showing the way to shelves of books in these languages. There's fiction, history, mythology, culture, religious books as well as the main national Asian language papers. Records are also available - film, religious, classical music and songs - but demand is greater than supply. In fact everything for "Leisure and Pleasure" Reading and Listening.

Alongside Asian language books, the Library Service is stocking up, in ENGLISH, material concerned with Asian culture, religion, yoga, history and so on to enable english speaking readers to benefit from Asian culture.

These services, which are only in their infancy, are available on Angel Row, as well as in Hyson Green, Radford/Lenton, Sneinton, Southern and West Bridgford Libraries with small collections at Sherwood and Top Valley.

For further information, contact R.S. Jabbal (phone 412121) from whom we hope to solicit an Asian script article for the next issue.

GREATER NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY
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GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

In 1976, the City Council purchased around 120 acres of land from British Rail in the Basford area of Nottingham. Parts of the land have already been sold or developed, (housing development at St. Albans Road and proposed industrial development at Messrs. Stag at Haydn Road).

Bridge to go

At present an application is being made for an area of about 30 acres. The proposal includes the demolition of the bridge over Valley Rd., the removal or part removal of four embankments and the filling of cuttings at St. Albans Road and Perry Road.

Petitions

There is also a plan to remove part of the embankment east of Cinderhill Road, but a petition from the residents of 50 properties on Harmston Rise and Heathfield Road is objecting to the proposed works because of likely noise and dirt. A further petition, from residents of 32 properties at Heatherley Drive, objects to the likely disturbance, lack of privacy, uncertainty of proposals for use of the land, undue expenditure and loss of sanctuary to wildlife. Three residents of Heathfield Rd. also object to the location of the proposed treatment plant at the rear of their homes.

Nuisances

The Severn Trent Water Authority has commented that the sites fall within

the Authority's Aquifer Protection Policy and that only inert materials should be used in the cuttings. The Chief Environmental Health Officer is concerned at the potential nuisance likely to be caused by noise and dust in the Arnold Rd., Valley Rd area. The reclamation of the land will inevitably produce adverse conditions for those residents adjacent to the large embankments, particularly between Harmston Rise and Heatherley Drive. The proposed materials treatment plant must also be considered as a source of disturbance. However, the land will provide suitable areas for residential development and will eventually assist the problems that the Department of Technical Services pointed out, namely vandalism, trespass, dumping of refuse and vermin.

Recommendations

It is recommended that work should be carried out between 8 am and 6 pm excepting sundays and Bank Holidays. Measures should be taken at all times during the removal of embankments to avoid nuisance due to wind blown materials. Further discussion is to take place on the removal of the embankment between Arnold Rd. and Valley Rd. A meeting was arranged for September 13th to discuss the proposals and recommendations of the Planning Officers. A report is not as yet available.



★★★★ Where's the Action? ★★★★★

7:84

THEATRE COMPANY

BITTER APPLES
NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE
OCT 2-6 and 15-20

Radford Boulevard Housing Action Area is one year old this month. The Radford Phoenix Group, the tenants' association for the area, recently held a public meeting to see what has happened so far. About fifty people came to the meeting. The main question asked by the Phoenix Group was: "Where is the action?"

asks Radford Phoenix



HOUSING ACTION AREA

Housing Action Areas were introduced by the Government in 1974 as a way of improving small areas of bad housing. They last for five years, during which time 75% grants are available to owners to put in bathrooms and modern kitchens, and do all the other improvements necessary to make the houses last for another 30 years. There are 12 Housing Action Areas in Nottingham, Radford Boulevard being the largest with about 500 properties. The meeting began with members of the Phoenix Group using slides to show what has happened in the first year of the Housing Action Area. They showed slides of the Council's Housing Action Area Office and Sutton Housing Trust's show-house, both on Radford Boulevard. (Sutton Housing Trust is the housing association invited by the City Council to build the new houses in the Salisbury St. area and Radford West, and to buy and improve houses in the Housing Action Area.) The commentary on the slides pointed out that very few houses have been improved so far. Only eight houses have had improvement works completed and another 19 currently have work in progress. Most of the work so far has been done by private landlords and owner-occupiers but not always to a satisfactory standard. The slides highlighted some of the problems of the area. Shops are closing down. Cars parking from local factories block the streets. Many houses are in urgent need of repair.



tenants and residents and the Phoenix Group to make the Housing Action Area work. Mr. Arthur Oscroft, the Director of Housing, explained why Housing Action Areas usually get off to a slow start. (Housing Action Areas are officially declared before any preparatory work is done.) He also expressed disappointment at the number of people who had come to the meeting. And he outlined some of the things the Council will be doing: more publicity, giving 90% grants in cases of need, selling 15 Council houses to Sutton Trust, discussing environmental works with Phoenix. Mr. Oscroft also mentioned a report going to the City's Policy

and Finance Committee on speeding up the improvement programme in Nottingham. Mr. Martin Rowbottom from Sutton Trust said that Sutton had bought three houses so far. (Sutton aim to buy and improve about 200 houses in the Housing Action area.) But he said there were another 60 houses in the pipeline and he claimed that anyone looking over their show-house would see the high standard of work they achieve. He also mentioned that work should start on their new houses on Salisbury Street by the end of the year and in Radford West in the middle of next year. The rest of the meeting was taken up with questions to a panel consisting of City Councillors and representatives of the Housing Department and Sutton Trust. A great variety of problems were raised and comments made.

PROBLEMS

A shopkeeper said his takings were rock-bottom but he was still having to pay £200 rates. John Carroll, his local Councillor, suggested that he should appeal to the Valuation Officer to have his rates reduced. Someone else asked about the Council powers to get improvements done when a landlord is unwilling or unable to do the work. The Council replied that if they are told of a landlord who won't improve, then they'll take action. Often the best solution will be for the landlord to sell to the Sutton Trust. Other questions were asked by a lady who said that as a Council tenant she can't get repairs done, and by someone else who said she has had her rent put up £2 but had no improvement work done. There were also complaints about rubbish and parking problems. Councillors and Council Officers repeatedly said that if they are told about problems then they'll get something done. The Phoenix Group is holding a follow-up meeting to make sure these promises are kept, and that the problems raised at the meeting are dealt with. The meeting gave Radford people a chance to put their views to the Council and Sutton Trust. The Phoenix Group is now determined to get more action in the second year of the Housing Action Area.

Further information from Roger Smith: 708641 (home), 401437 (work).

This promises to be an interesting play for thoughtful local people: written by John McGrath, with music by Mark Brown, Bitter Apples tells the story of Mary, a shy and imaginative sixteen year old Liverpool girl whose life is radically altered when three local poets move into her world. It is 1968. The poets leave for London, fame and fortune. Mary is left behind with her new horizons. Ten years later, one of the poets returns to Liverpool to look for a job, and Mary - and his son.

Special concessions are available for parties of 15 or over (tenants groups and the like). Phone 44361.

Two Weekly Benefit

A new national scheme for paying and claiming unemployment benefit every two weeks, which began on the tenth of September, has been greeted by storms of protest. Although it will cut down travel time for claimants and halve visits to the Post Office, claimants That Paper spoke to in Basford and Balloon Wood were very worried about its effects. One told us she'd rather be broke two days a week than four days a fortnight. "The benefit simply isn't enough to live on," she said.

Staff are worried too, since it is officially recognised that it will mean a loss in jobs. This loss will be managed through not replacing those who leave.

Visit by P.M.

Mrs. Thatcher is addressing Tory trade unionists in Nottingham, at their annual conference at the Sherwood Rooms, on November 9th, later this year.

In addition to Mrs. Thatcher, the platform speakers are to include both the Employment Secretary and Industry Secretary.

EMPTY HOUSES

Pictures of several empty houses were shown. One was a fully improved council house that has been empty since before Christmas. In response to the slides, Councillor Mrs. Betty Higgins, Chairman of the City's Housing Committee, said that Housing Action Areas are about action not speeches. She said she was glad the City was keeping part of Radford and she appealed for co-operation between City Council, Sutton Trust,

Family First Housing

Reprive for Basford Farm

Basford Farm will remain open for at least a year. This scheme, aided by Job Creation money, and based in New Basford, aims to bring a bit of the countryside into the city. It will eventually provide a flower garden for the elderly, an Adventure Playground for local children and put some of its brick-filled soil under cultivation. Complaints about the Farm looking unsightly have been dealt with by a change in organisation. Most of the animals have had to go, except the newly born litter of rabbits, who were too new to this world to move. Fortunately, despite earlier fears, there have been no jobs lost.

Since 1977, Family First Trust have been buying up and renovating houses in the Waterloo Promenade Conservation area.

The first phase of the project involving 12 houses is now nearing completion. Ten of the houses have been converted into flats, the other two into a home for single men.

Unlike the Trust's other housing schemes, they are not concentrating solely on accommodation for one parent families. They are offering permanent accommodation to families, single people and the elderly, 50% of which will be nominated from the City's housing list.

Included in the project is a Family Centre, situated on Waterloo Road. It will be a base from which Family



First can provide a structure through which the community can develop and express itself.

In the future Family First intend to acquire a further six houses on Waterloo Road, which will provide more flats and traditional 'landlady' type accommodation.

Tenancies on Waterloo Crescent differ from those in other Family First Trust Housing in that future tenants will sign an agreement similar to the City Council Tenancy Agreement. The flats here are intended for those living in the Waterloo Crescent vicinity who are in poor or overcrowded housing. Family First say.. 'the project is an attempt to provide decent, fairly priced rented accommodation in a 'non-paternalistic' way.

Playschemes: the ups and downs

ACTIVITIES

Throughout the Summer Holidays the parks, streets and tenants halls echoed with the sounds of children playing. Those on the Play Scheme we talked to - Hyson Green, Old Basford Cauntion Avenue Flats. New Basford- went on trips to parks such as Woolaton, and Vernon Parks, to places of interest like Ribber Castle, Matlock, Nottingham Castle and the Fire Station. Beechdale Baths received a lot of visits as did the Highfields Boating Lake, Paddling Pool and Lido. Several Schemes had Clean Up Campaigns, removing litter and rammel from round about and, of course, Murals now brighted up many a blank wall, after the creative energies of the children this summer.



Left: Mural Painted by Kids
Below: "I'm a Nightmare."



FRICITION

The schemes were not without friction. Disagreement arose about the organisation of most of the schemes and some bad feeling developed about whether to let kids 'go Mad' or to be 'more strict'. This is hardly surprising. There were few paid workers and some might say that the money made available for the schemes by the state was a pittance to occupy so many hundreds of energetic children. They might otherwise have been vandalising thousands of pounds of state property.



Top Left: Meridian Playscheme
Left: Playscheme Disco
Below: Arcourt Street Party

ARCOURT STREET PARTY

Pictured here are some tenants and children from the Arcourt St. area of Hyson Green. They recently organised a street party to celebrate the completion of a mural they have been painting with the help of the Community Artists. Chris, a resident from the area, said 'being involved in painting the mural had kept the kids out of trouble. Often, during the long summer holidays we have problems with kids smashing windows and being a nuisance'.



She further commented that organising the party had pulled tenants together as several people had pooled resources to provide food and music. At the party there was also a Fancy Dress Competition and Procession. One of the winners is pictured here; "I'm a nightmare".

People from the area are now thinking of staging further activities. At present they are organising a jumble sale to raise funds for Hyson Green's next Festival.

KIDS THOUGHTS

But lets leave the last words with the kids themselves That Paper;
"what would you have been doing if you weren't here?" (New Basford Play Scheme)
Children; "Getting on our Mum's nerves".
"Bored to tears".
"Getting runover".
"I wish it was more than two weeks".

Saint

Pauls

Family Centre

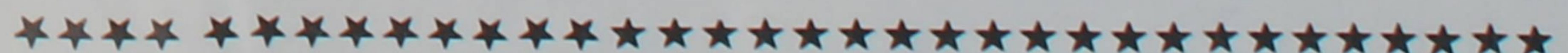


Pictured here are some workers from Community Industries Ltd., hard at on the St. Pauls Family Centre, Forest Fields. Fields. When completed the Family Centre (which used to be known as St. Simons) will be available for much greater use by the church and local community. A new internal lounge is being created. Access and kitchen facilities are being improved. When it is finished, it will be open to much greater use than previously. Already meeting a need is the Mothers and Toddlers Group. Some 30 or so Mums appear every Thursday morning (in the term time) for coffee and a chat. Christianity is there if you want to talk about it - but it is not pushed. God cares for you. So do we as well. It's as simple as that. More information from the Rev. Charles Hall. The Vicarage, Russell Road, Forest Fields. to whom our thanks for this article.

NOTTINGHAM
COMMUNITY
ARTS & CRAFTS
CENTRE

GREGORY BOULEVARD,
HYSON GREEN,
NOTTINGHAM NG7 6BE
Tel: 782463

Looking for early Christmas presents? Nottingham Community Arts & Crafts Centre are holding a craft fair during the 5-7 October to co-incide with Goose Fair. There will be plenty of stalls selling craft products. Other attractions include a grand raffle. First prize a Week in Amsterdam. Day & evening classes for beginners and experienced, adults & kids, in various interesting Crafts Why not call in and enrol? Adults 25p and kids 15p per session. Also a Saturday various craft activities for kids and adults together.



WHAT SHOULD

What Do They Think ?

Cllr Borrett.

Cllr Borrett, Chairman of the Social Services Committee wished to make three main points:

Firstly, she explained that nobody enjoyed making cuts, especially a Committee like Social Services. She added that, in fact, they were aware of the need for growth. However, although cuts in services are to be detested, she pointed out that it would be arrogant not to admit that there is some room for tightening up since not every penny the Committee spends pays for a direct service.

Secondly, she felt that without wanting to compare with other Social Services Departments, Nottinghamshire's cuts have been done with as much sensitivity as possible. Old people's homes have not been closed. No social workers in the field have been cut, she explained, since it is desirable for preventative work to be done. Thirdly, Cllr Borrett mentioned that following the announcement of the budget reductions, the only lobby, so far, has been in connection with the nursery proposals. She confirmed that, while it must be reported that a recent Task Force Report suggested the closure of West Bridgford nursery on the grounds of it being unnecessary, she as Chairman of Social Services has made very genuine steps to consult the people concerned and has already had a very useful discussion with the mothers. She stressed her interest in listening to people and hopes to see what can be done.

Cllr Wright.

Cllr Wright, leader of the County Council, said 'the reduction of public spending plans are inevitable and urgent, but even the reduction now being made in the country as a whole may still leave the Public Sector taking a larger share of the shrinking national income than last year. For us in the county, as for the country at large, it is a case of Hobson's Choice.'

A NURSERY BE LIKE ?

In August, ThatPaper spoke to one of the organisers of the Nursery Nurses Action GROUP. They have been campaigning for a community controlled day nursery, free from the restrictions that Social Services impose.

We asked, "In what way would this nursery be different?" "We'd want it to be totally different for a start, free of the red tape that Social Services wraps around us. We'd encourage as much participation by the parents as possible in decisions about the running of the nursery and hope that others from the community feel free to come in and be part of the whole thing."

ThatPaper "What do you consider to be the advantages of the nurseries, generally?" "Well, the children benefit enormously. Initially, some are frightened but soon learn to get along with other kids. They learn conderation to others. In a day nursery you can provide a wealth of toys, parents, books which few families can afford at home. And so often, a child who has been to a good, caring nursery has a lot more confidence at age 5 than one who has been by himself or herself at home with mum." "For the mothers, having the possibility of choosing whether to take children to a nursery or not can solve a lot of problems. Some mothers I know, who have been at home day after day become so nervous they don't even have confidence to go out to the shops. You can get closeted with the kids and take your anxiety out on the kids. A nursery especially a good one which you can yourself get involved with, often eases this pressure."

There's a lot of nonsense talked about mothers whose children are in nurseries being 'inadequate'. A child should have the right to a well provided nursery and mothers should have the right to the freedom that affords. Including going out to the work. The extra money which many mothers get from a paid job is often very necessary."

ThatPaper "Money. Now that's a point how would your community nursery be financed?"

"Money and premises have been a big problem. We've campaigned and petitioned and protested but without much success. It seems that 'mothers haven't got any muscle' a public meeting in St. Annes we only got a handful of people."

NWAG c/o 123, Rossington Road, Sneinton, Nottingham

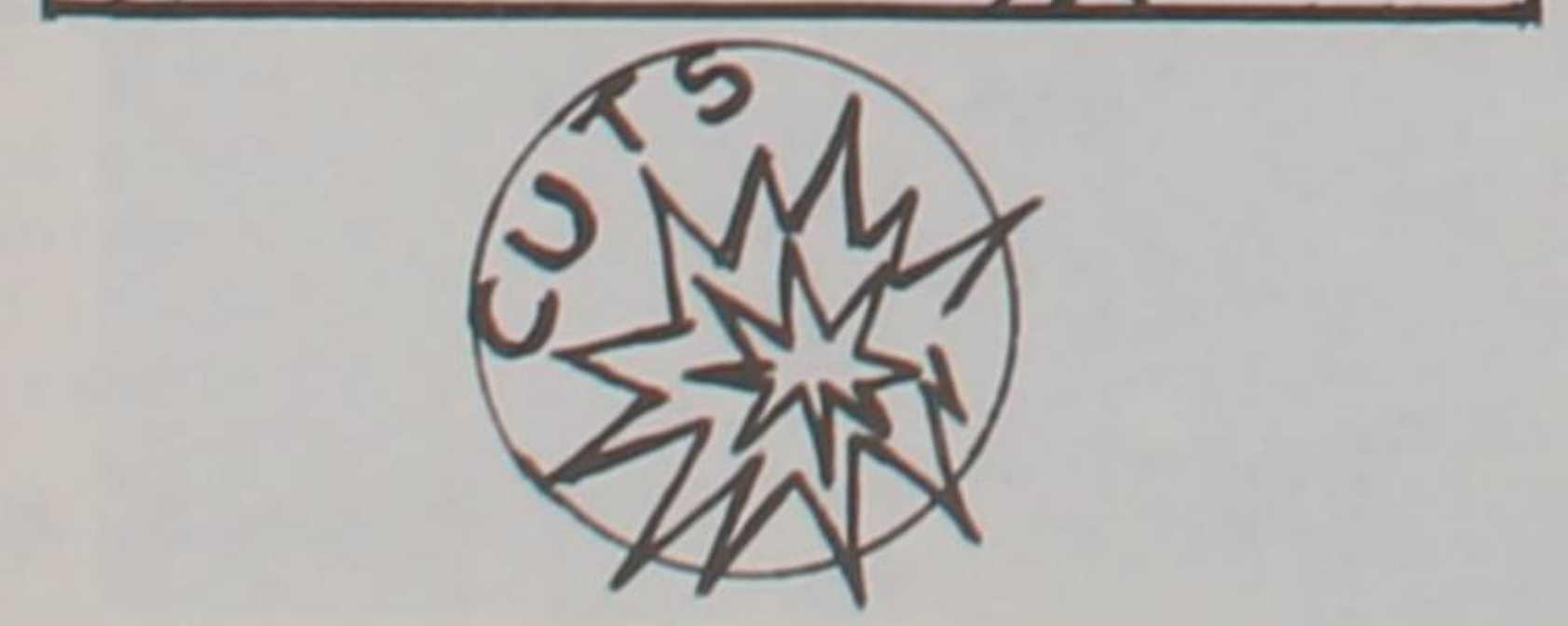
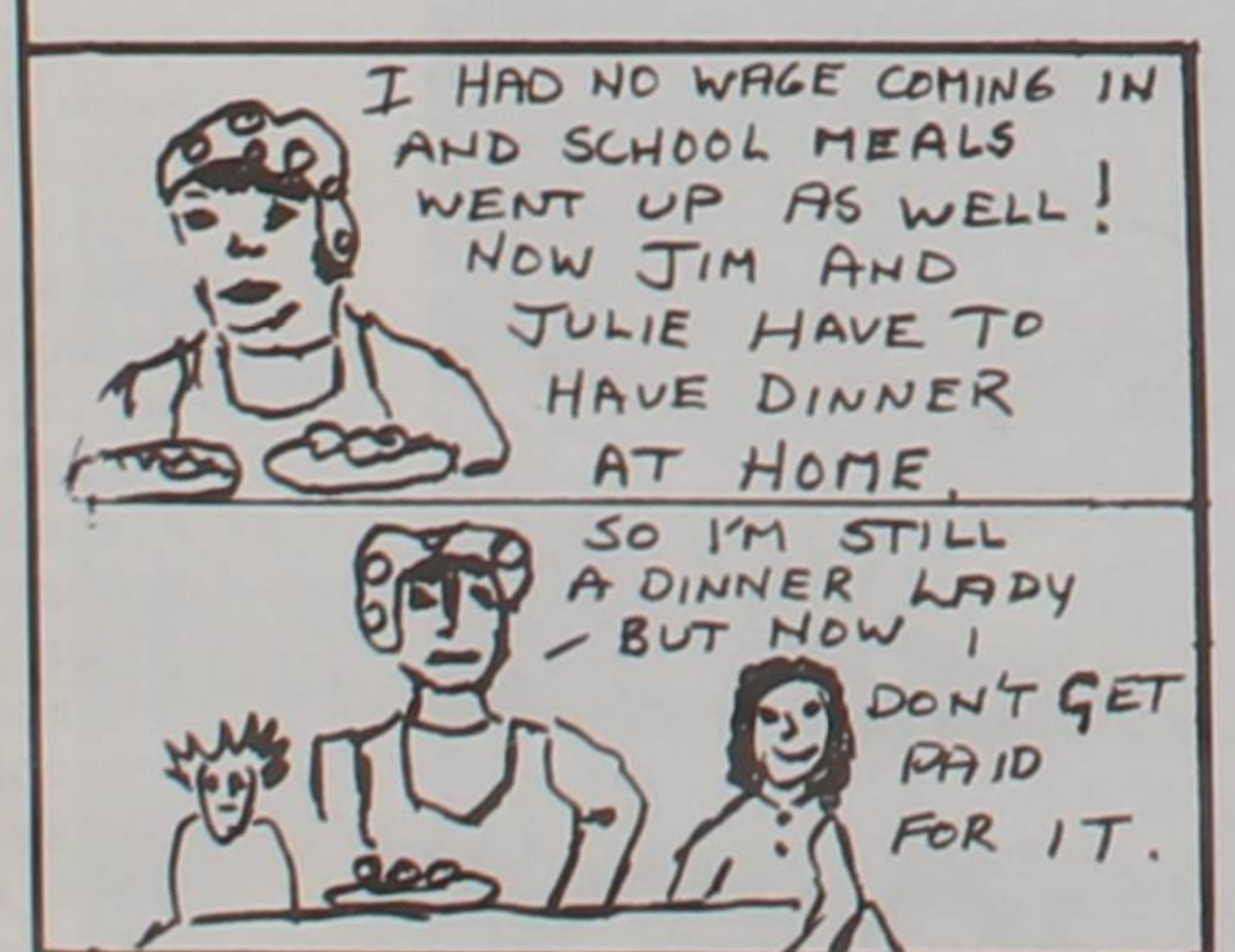
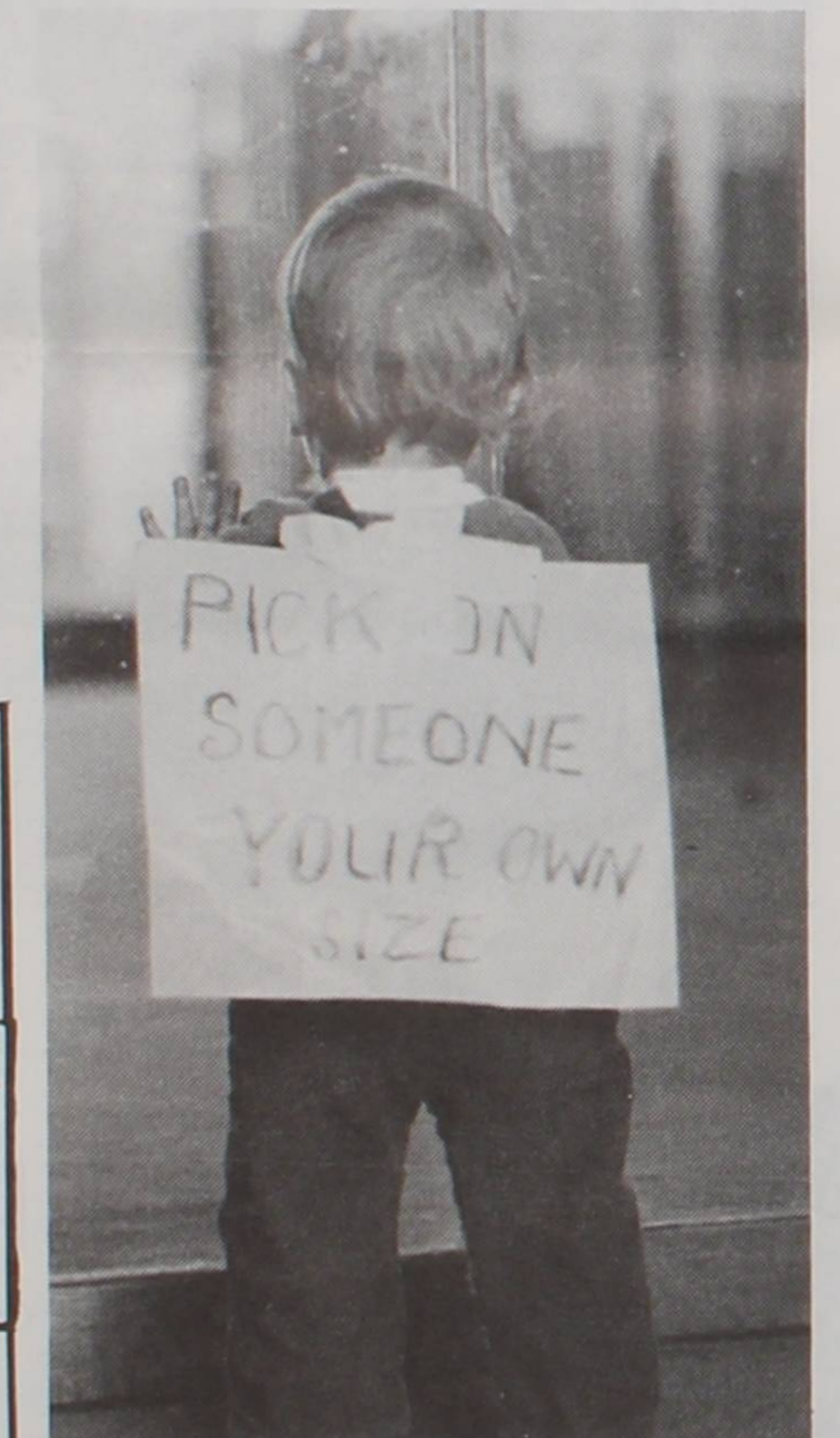


A LOLLYPOP LADY

There will be no chance for children, without a patrol on a road like this, the cars don't even stop for us, never mind children on their own, the traffic, really gets out of hand, as this stretch of road is inbetween two sets of lights and they are all going mad trying to make them. It will be dangerous, I would never let a child cross this road on their own.

A SENIOR CARE ASSISTANT

The cuts are now getting to be a joke, with already, 6 of our care staff, either sick or on leave what will happen, when our staff will be cut; two staff were on duty yesterday and between them there were beds, baths, meals to deal with and thats for almost 50 residents and with Matron busy doing paper work, that should be done by County Hall, we need every pair of hands we can get never mind taking them away from us.



ADVERT

10 Questions for all who live in Nottinghamshire concerning cuts being made in Notts. County Council's expenditure

<p>1 Fact: School crossing patrols are to be reduced. In icy weather road gritting is to be reduced by one third. Will road safety standards deteriorate?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>2 Fact: Swimming in primary schools is to be halved. Secondary school swimming will be even more reduced. Will more Notts. children be at risk from drowning?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3 Fact: Over 200 nursery nurses are to be sacked from nursery and primary Schools. Will this reduce the educational chances of the very young and will it increase the already huge demand for nursery places?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>4 Fact: 28 firemen are to be sacked. Will this lead to lower fire safety standards?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5 Fact: Domestic staff in old peoples' homes are to be withdrawn. The number of Home Helps is to be reduced. Financial support for warden aided housing is to be withdrawn. Will this lead to lower and more uncomfortable standards of life for our old folk?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>6 Fact: Two day nurseries are to be closed. Two children's homes will close down. A special assessment centre is to close. Will this affect children who are already disadvantaged?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7 Fact: The number of supply teachers (who cover for teachers who are absent) is to be reduced by 50. Is this likely to reduce educational standards?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>8 Fact: Non-vocational adult education (except in further education colleges) is to be stopped immediately. Will the quality of adult educational, cultural and recreational activities decline?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>9 Fact: Four public libraries are to be closed. All public libraries are to be closed on Saturday afternoons. Will the services provided for the reading public be hit?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>10 Fact: Many school assistants and helpers are to be sacked. (59 pianists, 24 assistant librarians, 42 school laundry staff, 94 housecraft assistants, 34 swimming instructors). Is this likely to affect children's education adversely?</p> <p>Question: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Why these cuts must be resisted

The above is only a very short list of the many dozens of cuts now being made by the Government and the Notts. County Council.

And this is just the start.

Further and even more dramatic cuts are threatened next year which will do untold damage to the provision for our children, old folk, the handicapped and the disadvantaged.

Public expenditure is not too high. As a percentage of what the nation earns (the gross national product) it is already the second lowest in Europe.

Further spending cuts will mean reducing standards of service, higher unemployment and a deterioration in the quality of life for all.

What YOU can do

If you have answered YES to the questions above you should:

- Publicise the disastrous nature of these cuts amongst your neighbours, friends and workmates.
- Write to and lobby your local councillor
- Write to and lobby your M.P.
- Organise petitions
- Write letters to local and national press
- Phone in to local radio phone-in programmes

SUPPORT THE MASS LOBBY
of the next full Notts. County Council Meeting being held at County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, on the 16th October.

What of the future?

The cuts will affect every citizen of Nottinghamshire. With over £20 million in the Notts. reserves the effect of the Government cut backs (in the Rate Support Grant) could have been considerably minimised but Notts. County Council have decided to slash services and staff with little regard to the consequences.

For our own and our children's sake they should be STOPPED.

Published by:
National Union of Public Employees
Notts. County Branch of N.A.L.G.O.
National Union of Teachers (Notts.)
National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (Notts.)
Association of Educational Psychologists
Fire Brigades Union
Transport and General Workers Union
General and Municipal Workers Union

SAVE OUR NURSERIES

Among the cuts announced by the County Council is one which will mean the closure of two Day Nurseries - Sycamore and West Bridgford - and the loss of 248 nursery jobs. When mothers and nursery nurses became aware of this, a ball began to roll.

DIARY OF EVENTS

11th September PROTEST
The meeting of the Social Services Committee was delayed by 100 mothers and supporters opposing the nursery cuts.

12th September EMERGENCY UNION MEETING
The Social Services branch of the National Union of Public Employees held a meeting, bursting at the seams, of 150 nursery nurses which resolved to oppose the cuts. Some of the mothers attended as observers.

17th September MEETING AT SATRA
Save Our Nurseries (the Mothers group) held a 200 strong meeting at St Anne's Tenants and Residents Hall, attended by mothers, nursery nurses, social workers and many more supporters.

20th September ROADS BLOCKED
14 mothers met with the chairman of Social Services, Cllr Borrett, about the threatened closures of the nurseries. The Cllr offered to



consider increasing the charge per child to offset the cuts. 50 mothers, children and supporters blocked Trent Bridge to get the message across, (it appeared on 'Nationwide' the next evening).

22nd September. MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION
NUPE Social Services branch called a march from the Forest to the Square attended by over 600 people, mostly women. Many colourful placards, leaflets chanting and singing got the point over.

A LOCAL HEADMASTER

We interviewed a headmaster from a Nottingham School to see how the cuts in education would affect his School. He said "There will be a definite effect in our school, and as crafts play a big part with the children, already 19 pianist in this area including our own have been asked to resign and will not be replaced."

There will also be no orchestral concerts, the Junior harmonic concerts have been reduced, and if our children want to see concerts, they have to go out of school time, weekends when teaching staff are not always available. I think the reductions at the provisions of Swimming will hit us the hardest, as swimming has been a high priority for children in the Nottingham area for the past 20 years.

The deleting of School stocks from education resources mean we will just have to economise as there is now no new stock in our school and less money to spend on pupils. Another one of the cuts which I find will only lead to vandalism, is the letting of school premises, through having no caretaking staff.

Yes our school will suffer.

CUTS TO SERVICES AND IN EMPLOYMENT are issues that any responsible newspaper must report on. On these pages and page 8 (overleaf) we have detailed some of those listed in a recent Finance Committee Report and in the Nottinghamshire Area Health Authority Report.

We then asked for comments from various people concerned, a headmaster, a nursery nurse, a care assistant, a 'lollipop lady', Cllr Borrett and Cllr Wright. We have also covered the SAVE OUR NURSERIES campaign. That Paper welcomes any comment or information on the Cuts for future issues.

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

NOTE: The figures are shown incrementally for the two years. Hence if an amount is shown in each column, the total effect by the end of 1980-81 is the aggregation of both figures.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE	1979/80 £000	1980/81 £000
Discontinue arrangements for visiting orchestras for primary and secondary pupils	6	-
Reduce the number of school "lettings"	60	165
Delete all posts of infant and junior helpers in primary schools except those in Infant Schools and Infant Departments of Special Difficulty and those employed specifically for handicapped children	50	230
Reduce unit cost of school meals by simplifying menus	80	220
Tightening of staffing ratios in nursery education	75	268
Cessation of employment of school pianists	30	31
Reduce and rationalise the provision of adult education	170	260
Reduction in provision of the Careers Service	15	45
Reduce the level of the school library service in Secondary Schools	12	38
Withdraw support for Nottinghamshire pupils in Outward Bound courses	2	-
Withdrawal of provision of housecraft orderlies	23	67
Delete provision for the purchase of new stock by the Education Resources Service	10	26
Reduction in the General Allowance funds held centrally	14	133
Reduce the provision of swimming in primary schools	38	86
Delete support for swimming in secondary schools	14	34
Introduce charge for music lessons	45	45
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		
Closure of two Community Homes	9	54
Closure of two day nurseries	-	33
Reduction in home help hours	21	20
Reduction in training posts as result of reduced level of training	40	66
Reduction in care assistants following reduction of places because of fire prevention work	7	-
Reduction in grants to voluntary bodies	2	-
Reduction in Community Service Volunteers	3	-
Discontinuation of grants to District Councils for sheltered housing	-	395
Increase in minimum charge for home help service	-	75
Increase in pay arising out of re-structuring Social Workers	-	225+



HEALTH CUTS

Community Service Volunteers is looking for volunteers from the Nottingham area. We need young people, aged 16 - 35, who are prepared to give between four months and a year working full-time on one of over 900 community projects throughout the country.

HELPING

There is a wide range of projects available. As a community Service Volunteer you could be working with mentally handicapped hospital patients, helping them to help themselves; helping to run a community transport scheme; helping to run a night shelter for down and outs; working with single-parent families giving the parents the chance to have a 'break' from the kids. The list goes on. So whatever you have to offer, we can use you.

MONEY

Volunteers work full-time, and accommodation, meals, pocket money and travelling expenses are all provided. This means that you get the chance to live away from home, and so can throw yourself into a completely new area of work amongst people you've never met before.

OPPORTUNITY

The benefits of working as a CSV are many. If you are aiming at a job in social or community work then this is an opportunity to gain some valuable, first hand experience. Or if you feel you might want to do this kind of work, but are not really sure, then working as a CSV gives you the chance to find out what you can do. You can throw yourself into the work, but it is only a short-term commitment.

CHILD POVERTY A.G.

After several years of being inactive the Nottingham Branch of Child Poverty Action Group are planning to re-form this autumn.

BEHALF

CPAG is a charity working with and on behalf of poor families, to draw attention to their problems and to advise them on their rights. The number of poor children is increasing and the expected sharp rise in prices this winter is likely to hit them hard yet again. There are now 7 million people on or below the official poverty line, and 1½ million of these are children. CPAG exists to provide a voice to help them change the way they are treated and a source of immediate, practical help.

WORKING

The local branches, working in co-operation with other local groups;

*provide welfare rights advice and represent claimants at appeal tribunals

*campaign on issues of local and national importance to families

*work to bring the problems of poor families to the notice of the public

*support and extend the work of the national group by providing information on local issues, publicising national campaigns and distributing their pamphlets on poverty and information on the courses they run.

So most of all you'll be finding out about yourself while you're helping others. Very often you'll be doing responsible work right away. Locally for example, we have one CSV organising group activities for young offenders in West Bridgford, and another helping to run a street warden scheme in Hucknall.

We don't reject anyone who volunteers. So if you think you'd like to help, ring **53681** or contact Richard Paris at CSV, 237 Pentonville Rd., London N1 9NJ. Tel. 01 278 6601



The branches gain from being part of a national organisation since they can call on the experiences of a wide range of people throughout the country and have the backing of the Citizens Rights Office which provides an information, advisory and advocacy service and which specialises in test cases

which have several times resulted in changes in the way the laws are interpreted to the benefit of all claimants.

PLAN

The Nottingham branch has not been very active recently since many members left Nottingham. We plan to start up the branch again this autumn. The first meeting will be held at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, on Wednesday 26th September at 7.30. Detailed plans will be worked out then but prominent on the agenda will be

*local support for the campaign to raise maternity grants

*help for local families hit by the effects of cuts in public expenditure

WELCOME

We would welcome anybody interested in joining the group or just attending the meeting. Further details of the group or of membership are available from

Vivienne Bell, 85 Sherwood Vale Nottingham tel 603195

or

Sally Whitby CVS 31A Mansfield road, Nottm tel 46714

The Area Health Authority have announced savings for 1979/80. These will include for South Nottingham (southern part of Nottingham and the districts of Broxtowe and Rushcliffe)

*Delaying the opening of Phase II of the University Hospital. This means 534 acute, 168 maternity, 144 geriatric and 160 mental illness beds, 15 child mental illness beds, 30 special care baby cots, 7 operating theatres, part of the out-patients department, the department of Physical Medicine, clinical teaching division and administration.

*Opening the Highbury Mentally Handicapped Day Centre in 1980 with only the existing staff.

*Reducing support services for beds for old people.

*Delay in opening Grant Street Health Centre

NORTH NOTTINGHAM (northern half of Nottingham and the areas of Gedling and Ashfield - Hucknall U.D.C.)

*A run down of Firs Maternity Unit

*Delay in opening new ward block of City Hospital, including 12 children's isolation beds, 30 adult plastic, 20 adult and children's burns, 10 chronic dialysis, 20 neo-natal surgery beds.

This was compiled from A.H.A. minutes. More information from the A.H.A., Children's Hospital, Coppice Road, Nottingham.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NOTE

The current Policy Budget allocated additional resources of £520,000 in 1980 1981 which have now been cancelled. The 1980-81 reductions shown below include the effect of that decision.

Cessation of grant to Notts. Building Preservation Trust and deletion of most grants for historic buildings	1	16
Cessation of grants for archaeological works	3	2
Reduce provision for tree planting	2	8
Reduce the number of school crossing patrols	10	30

LEISURE SERVICES

NOTE

The Leisure Services Committee has increased its required reductions for 1979-80 by £2,000 to meet necessary additional expenditure and the 1980-81 reductions by £22,000 to allow further development to take place.

Closure of libraries on Saturday afternoons	6	18
Rationalise the use of library vehicles	2	-
Increase income from library fines	4	6

SPORTS

Reduce grant aid	2	20
Abandon low cost sports hall	17	-

YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reduce grant aid	7	15
Replace four full-time youth leaders by part-time	11	5
Transfer four full-time voluntary youth leaders to employment of their own management committees and grant aid	9	-
Delete post of peripatetic youth worker	3	4
Replace two full-time assistant leaders by part-time	-	7
Increase income from youth groups for use of premises	-	5

PUBLIC PROTECTION

NOTE

The Public Protection Committee has increased its reductions for 1980-81 by £93,000 to allow other developments to take place in the Fire Service.

FIRE SERVICE

Deletion of recruit training	18	14 (+)
Deletion of 15 firemen's posts	2	75
Deletion of two Sub Officers posts for fire prevention	4	8
Reduction in cleaning standards	5	20
Reduction in building maintenance	-	25
Deferment of Wilford Lane Playing Fields project	-	9
Reduction in maintenance of sites	5	-
Reduction in running costs of the Tollerton gipsy site	10	-

Getting BLOOD out of a Council!



Some of our readers expressed an interest in the facts behind last month's cartoon. The story started in the summer of 1970 when the Blood family moved into a prefabricated bungalow, owned by the Council, in the Wollaton Park district.

The three-bedroomed bungalow had stone floors, breeze block inner walls, stone outer walls, metal window frames and asbestos ceilings held up by steel girders. It was built in 1926 as a temporary dwelling with a 10 year duration.



The trauma began in the winter. "The ceilings dripped and the walls streamed with water. Clothes in the wardrobes and food in the pantry went mildewed and damp; pots and pans became soaking wet; curtains, carpets, linoleum, even bedding was ruined. Black mould ruined the decorating we had done in moving in. The floors bubbled up in mounds which made it impossible to open and close doors."



Mrs. Blood contacted the Housing Dept. She was told that there was nothing they could do (it was a tenants problem) and was merely advised to always keep open the windows. She went to the Health Department. The Inspector said that he would approach the Council, but Mrs. Blood never heard from them until the next winter, when the same problems having returned, she herself contacted them again. Again Inspectors came to her house; but no further action was taken.

* small REPAIRS KIT *

As a council tenant having problems getting repairs done and providing you've given the Council every opportunity to do them, without success, there is a perfectly legal way for you to have them done and take the cost of the repairs off your rent

Of course you must first have the money to pay the contractor. The Council should return the money, otherwise you can take it off the rent. If you do the work YOURSELF while you will only have to pay for materials, the Council will pay you for materials only - not labour. The LEGALITY of this method is established by the case of Lee Parker - v - Izzet (1971 All England Law Reports Vol. 3). Sect. 32 of the 1961 Housing Act list all the repairs the Council are responsible for.



Mrs. Blood was by this time feeling quite desperate, and she got in touch with Michael English, her M.P. As a result of this, further inspections took place, and pearl boarding was put on two bedroom walls. Air bricks in two rooms were also renewed, but the replacements were of the same type as the original. Both these measures proved inadequate.



The next winter brought with it the familiar damp for Mrs. Blood. The Council 'not being able to do anything', she contacted Action Desk of the Nottingham Evening Post and a firm of solicitors. Both were told by the Council that the economic situation made it impossible for them to do anything for Mrs. Blood: 'if the Council did anything for her, they would have to do it for all the tenants in Wollaton Park, and the cost would be too great.'

Various Councillors were contacted. Mrs. Blood says: "They all said that they were disgusted at the conditions and that they would look into it and get the Council moving, but then I heard nothing more from them."

Mrs. Blood's next contact was the 'Watch Advisory Committee - a sort of watchdog over the Council; she was told a lot of her problems were her own fault, that she refused to listen to advice, that she should keep her windows open. Mrs. Blood insists she always has done this, and was never 'caught out' when inspectors came. So that the Council's claim must be guesswork - "incorrect guesswork", adds Mrs. Blood.

STEP 1

If you can find the money, write to your district housing office, addressing the letter to the officer you pay rent to. List each repair that needs doing, and ask them to send someone to do the work within seven days. Also include in the letter when will be the best time for the workmen to call. Make sure you keep a copy of the letter, that you date the letter and that you send it by recorded delivery. You can make a photocopy of the letter at your central library for about five pence. A librarian will show you how to use the machine.

STEP 2

If a workman doesn't come within seven days, get an estimate from your builder, etc. Get the cheapest estimate you can, then send it to the District Housing Office together with a letter. Say in the letter that as you've received no guarantee that repairs will be done, you have obtained the cheapest estimate you can. Say that you intend to get the repairs done yourself and send them the bill. Ask them to let you know within 48 hours whether they intend to do the repairs, or you will instruct the builder etc. to carry out the repair. Also say that you draw their attention to

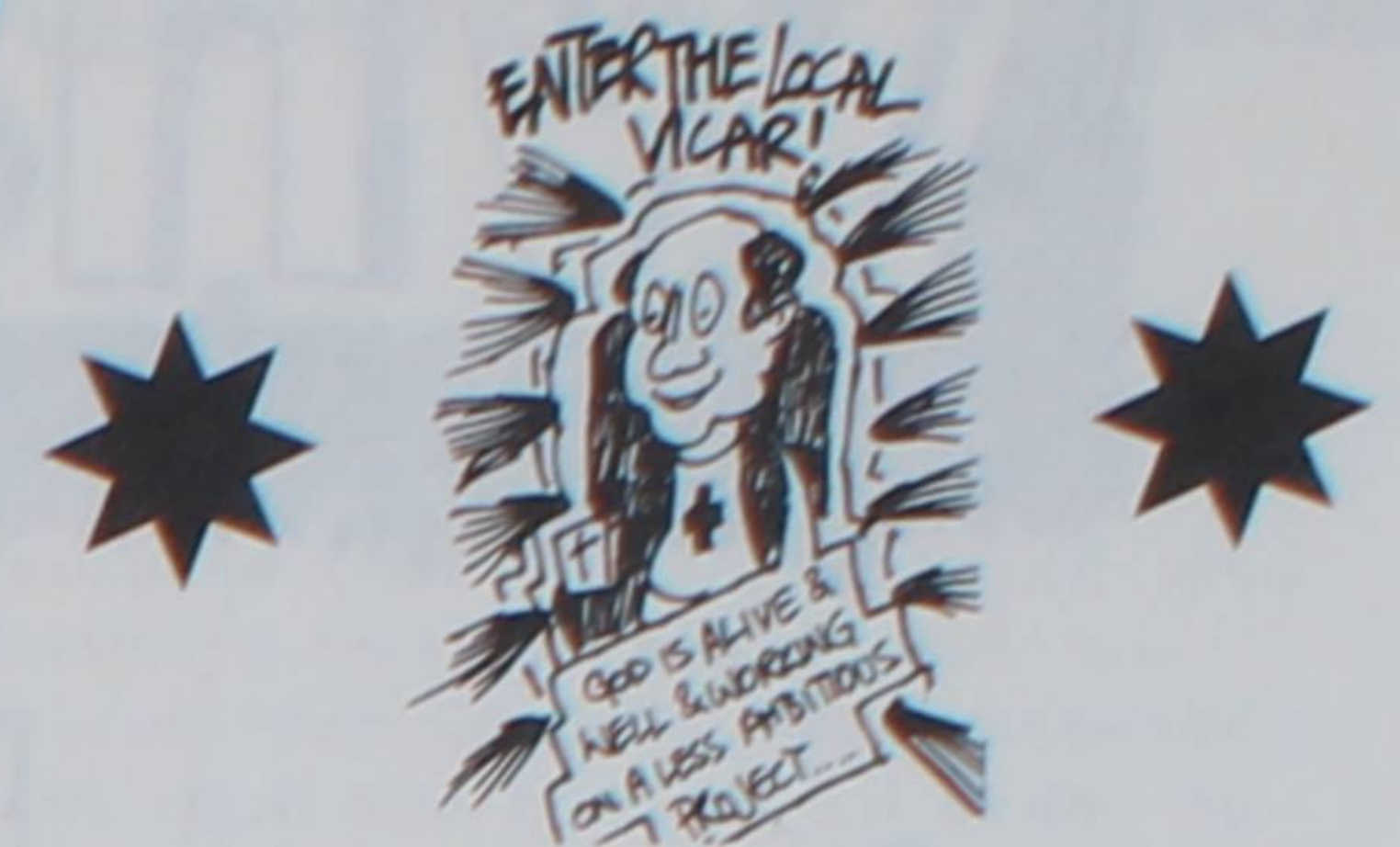


The winter of 1977 was the final straw for Mrs. Blood. Her husband contracted pneumonia; she and her children had bad colds throughout the whole winter. "The ceilings in the bedrooms dripped on us like rain," she says, "by the morning all the bedclothes were wet through. Eventually, we bought a new settee which was convertible into a bed, put a mattress on the floor and all slept in one room." A newspaper was contacted, and published an article headed 'Council House Leaks'. This prompted the Health Department to send an Inspector yet again.



Finding that nothing followed this visit, Mrs. Blood saw a solicitor with an idea to issue a summons on the Council. Reports were obtained from a G.P., a Professor at Nottingham University, and a surveyor all stating that the conditions in Mrs. Blood's house constituted a Health Hazard. The surveyor's report listed various remedial measures: central heating, insulating eills, dry lining, a damp course for the floors, roof insulation and new window frames. The Council were only prepared to put in new window frames and roof insulation. Since she was advised that this would not solve her problems, Mrs. Blood took the Council to court in February 1978 under the Public Health Act.

The case against the Council was divided into two parts: firstly it had to be established that there was a health hazard; secondly that it was the council's responsibility to prevent such a hazard.

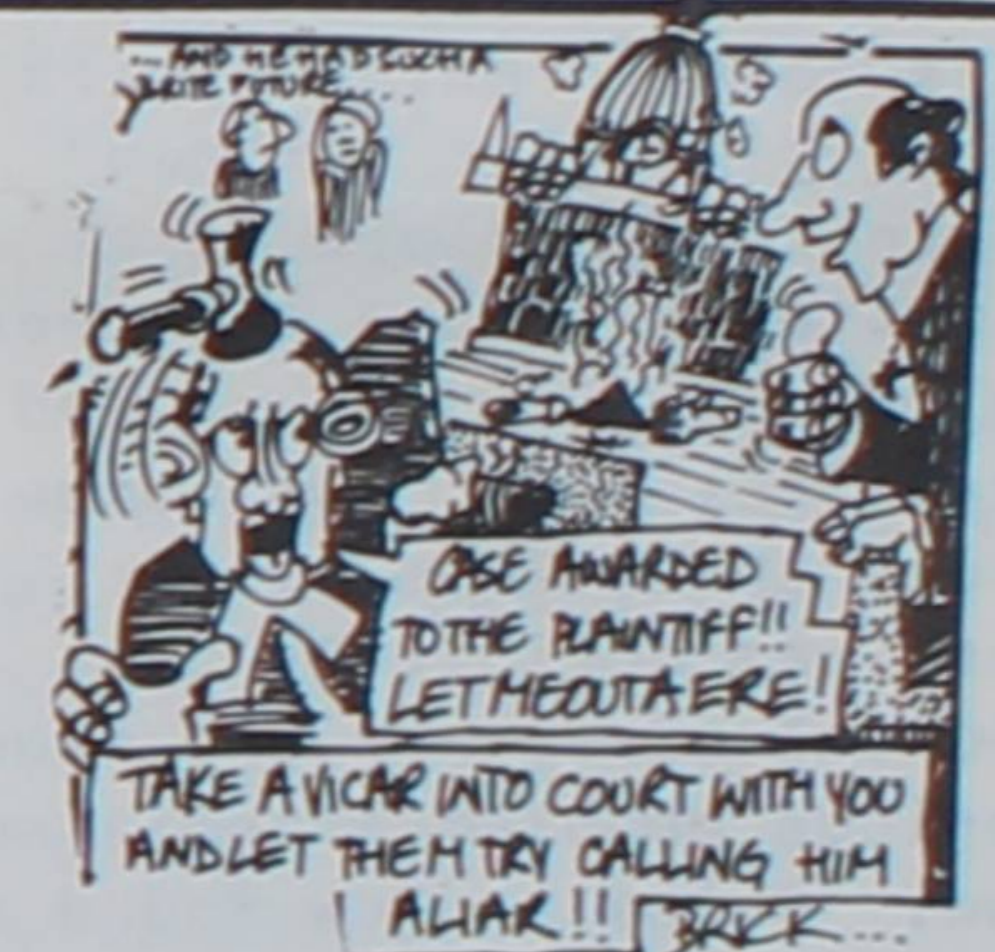


Our cartoon related to the first part. Earlier, when Inspectors had visited Mrs. Blood, they had undermined the damp, according to Mrs. Blood, by continually contradicting her, saying there was no damp when there it was, right in front of their noses. As soon as the Inspectors had gone, Mrs Blood asked the Parish Vicar to come to look at the house.



In court, the aforementioned inspectors were present, waiting to be called as witnesses. After the vicar had given evidence for Mrs. Blood, these were not called. The Council did not dispute the point.

AND SO -----



Eventually the court decided in Mrs. Blood's favour. The Council have since made most of the required improvements, and last winter was the only comfortable one Mrs. Blood has had in her bungalow. She is also waiting to receive some compensation.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Only send copies of Bills or estimates.

Keep copies of letters sent.

The tenant whose name is on the rent book/Agreement must sign the letters.

CHECK what the Council is actually responsible for - they are NOT responsible for - e.g, - fixtures and fittings (handles - carpets, etc.) or for light bulbs - cookers - fuses, etc.

Threats (unlikely) of EVICTION should be referred to your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Councillor. The support of your local Tenants Assoc. will also help to give you confidence whilst you are taking action.

* AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: - *

This information came from a booklet by Will Anson called 'A Small Repairs Kit' which is available from the LAMBETH COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE, 506/8, Brixton Road, London SW9 8EN.

the case of Lee Parker - v - Izzet (1971) 3 ALL ER which permits you to take this course of action. As before, make sure you keep a copy of the letter and a copy of the estimate, check that you've dated the letter, and send it by recorded delivery.

STEP 3

If you don't get a satisfactory answer, tell the builder to do the work (or do the work your self), pay his bill, and keep the bill safe. Send a copy of the bill to the council with a letter saying that you have had the repair done, and that you enclose a copy of the bill. Ask them to send you the money within seven days or you will deduct the cost from the rent. Say that you are not going on a rent strike, but recovering money due to you. You can say that the legal basis for this action is given in your last letter.

STEP 4

If the council doesn't agree to pay you back, start taking the cost out of your rent. When the cost has been paid, start paying your rent again as usual.

what was it like?

Pregnancy

The first point we discussed was how women decided where to book their deliveries. Over half the women opted for home (a few were transferred to hospital for the birth or straight afterwards.) They decided to do so as they all felt they would be more relaxed and in control of the situation at home. Of those who were booked for hospital about a third reported medical or social reasons which made it necessary anyway. It was disturbing to find that all THE others who booked for hospital described the decision as their doctor's alone, and felt they had no say in it. One woman mentioned that even the possibility of choosing which hospital was not discussed. However, we got the impression that most women hadn't expected to be offered a choice anyway, so were relatively content to leave the doctor to decide.

All the mothers attended ante-natal clinics at their G.P.'s surgery and/or the hospital. The majority found the medical aspect of this fairly satisfactory, though their comments were generally lukewarm - 'OK' and 'adequate' being typical remarks. Only one, at her own doctors clinic, described it as 'good'. One woman found the treatment at a hospital clinic so bad it made her feel ill. Two women who attended their GP's clinic found there was definitely too little medical care, and one found that a serious problem anaemia was overlooked. Quite a few found the distance and the very long waiting times at hospital clinics a nuisance, and for those with toddlers in tow, it became more of a problem, along with the lack of play facilities.

Labour

There were several inductions (where labour is started artificially by doctors or midwife). Nobody was asked they wanted this done: most didn't mind but could have done with more explanation. Two women were very upset by the use of a drip, and have refused this if they could. One was even told that her child would be brain damaged if she didn't accept the induction and monitoring of her breach baby. About three-quarters of women in hospital were monitored with machinery during labour in some cases with the baby being monitored by electrodes attached to its head as well. Nobody was particularly keen for this and all described it as being done automatically. Five women actively disliked being monitored, and found it made them uncomfortable. One managed to get the staff to remove the device. In two instances the monitor simply didn't work.

It was interesting to find that only four women actually asked for pain-relieving drugs during labour though most, in fact, ended

an article by

The Nottingham Childbirth Group

This article has been written by two local women who are also members of the Nottingham Childbirth Group, a group which exists to help and support women in getting the sort of birth which they feel is best for themselves and their babies.

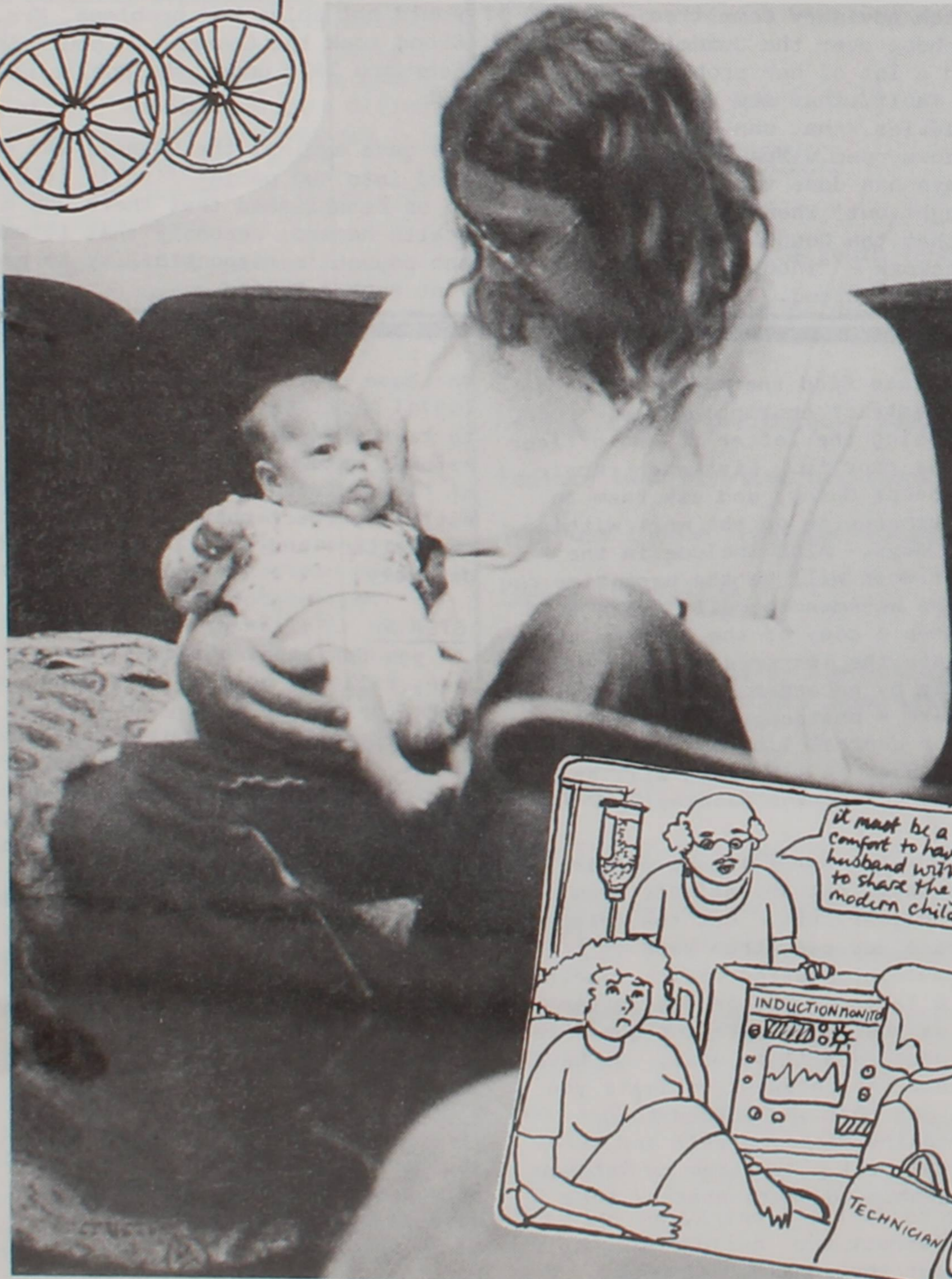
We decided to write this article because, since we had our own babies and during the time we've been involved with the Nottingham Childbirth Group, we've realised that women have a terrific amount to say about the maternity services and lots of complaints, praise and suggestions. Yet there are few channels through which to say it, and to be listened to by the people who make decisions in the National health service NHS. There are official channels for making complaints, but few women want to face the bureaucratic jungle just after having a baby. Anyway, we've

all got much more to say than can be boiled down to a few hard and fast complaints.

So we decided to do a survey. We wanted to get as many different views and opinions as we could so through friends, neighbours and professionals. We contacted 20 women with vastly differing experiences - home and hospital births, good and bad times, women with one child and women with several. Then we interviewed them using a loosely worded, open-ended questionnaire. We didn't try to interview a huge number. We didn't get a random sample. We deliberately tried to obtain a wide section of opinion on the NHS maternity services. This article is about what we found. In this issue we look at pregnancy and labour. Next time we will cover the post-natal period.



All photographs in this issue by Photographics and Roger Suckling.



Labour cont..

up having some kind of drug, if only gas and air. About half of these women found the drug helpful. In some cases drugs were given routinely against the mothers expressed wishes.

Five women had epidurals (spinal anaesthetic which numbs the lower half of the body), two of whom found positively helpful. Two definitely did not want them, but they were given anyway, and one of these found it caused problems with the delivery. Episiotomies (cutting of the entrance to the vagina) appeared to be carried out as a matter of routine in hospital, as everybody had one except one woman in a small nursing home. Many were given no reason at all; some were told that the labour was taking too long. Perhaps it should be added that the value of Episiotomies is debatable. The discomfort of the resulting stitches is often a trouble to women recovering from the birth.

It's a pity to have to put up with it if it's not strictly necessary. On the other hand one woman at home who did not have an episiotomy was torn quite badly during delivery. When we came to ask if women felt free to ask for and refuse treatment the difference in circumstances as regards place of delivery became striking. Out of the women who delivered in hospital, two-thirds answered 'no'. Some elaborated a bit on this. One felt "powerless and intimidated". Another that 'doctors should listen more and control their tempers'. In contrast everybody at home felt free to express themselves and have their wishes respected.

Improvements

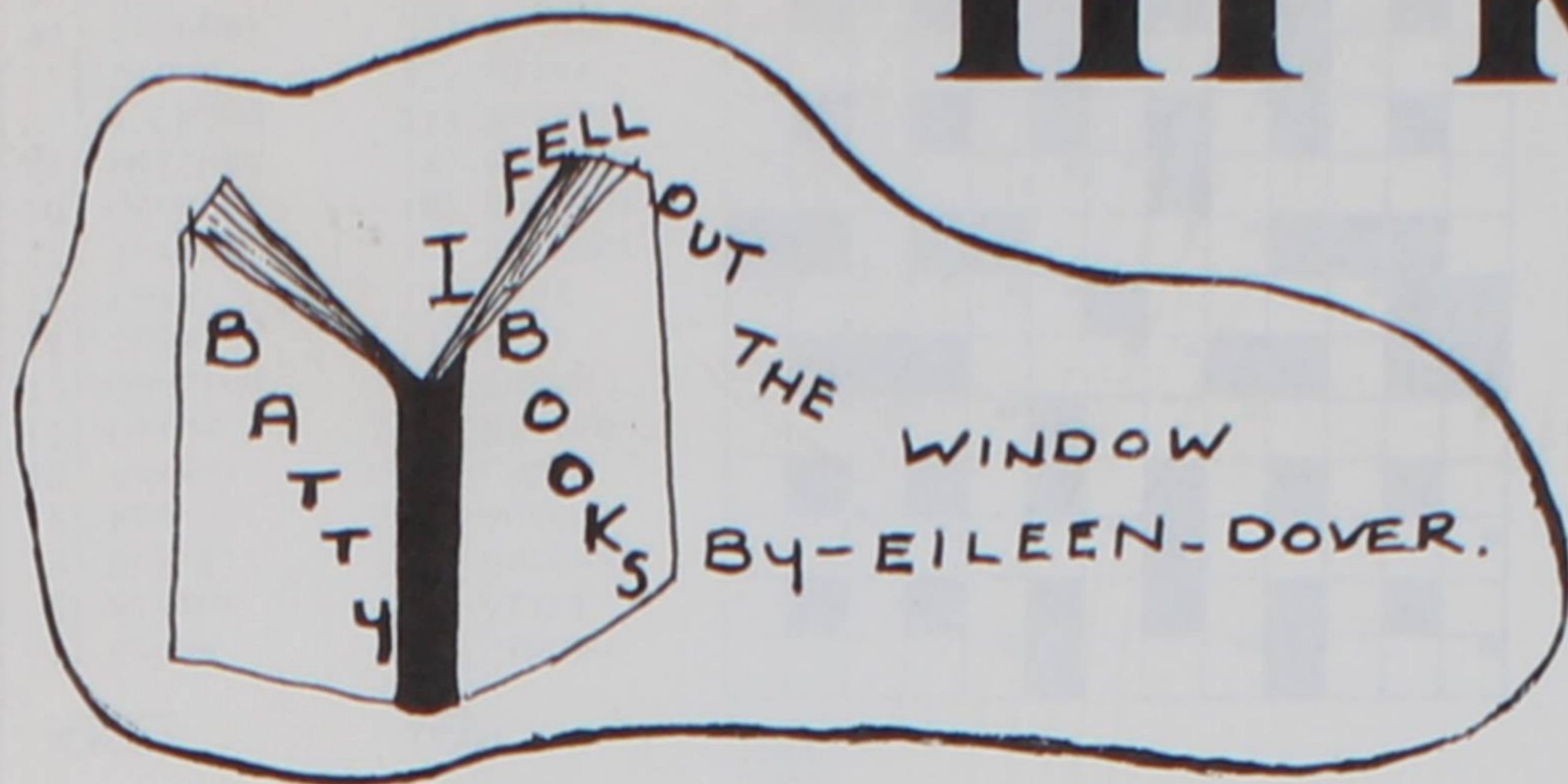
You will see from this account that there were many areas which needed improvement. Women mentioned many different points. Here are some of them:

Hospital antenatal clinics should be improved; shorter waiting times; appointments timed to suit you; play facilities provided for children; films on childbirth shown; hospital staff could hold antenatal clinics at local health centres to make it easier for women to attend

During labour there should be less routine use of drugs; machinery and episiotomes; fathers should be involved more in the birth, even if some complication arises, explanations and information should be readily supplied

MORE NEXT TIME!

HI KIDS !

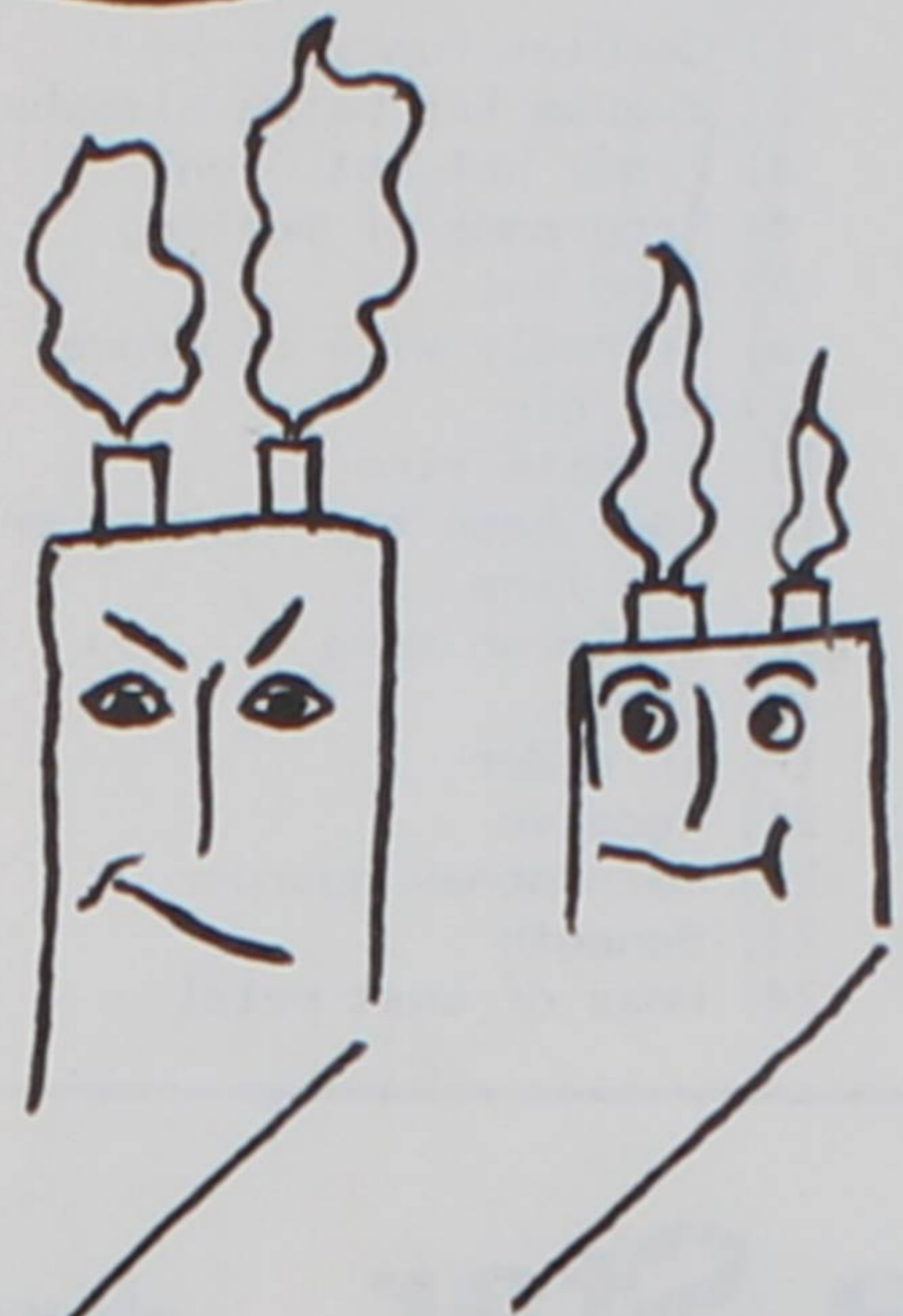


Knock, knock
Who's there?
Felix
Felix who?
Felix my ice cream, I'll lick his

Knock, knock
Who's there?
Boo!
Boo who?
Don't cry, it's only a joke.

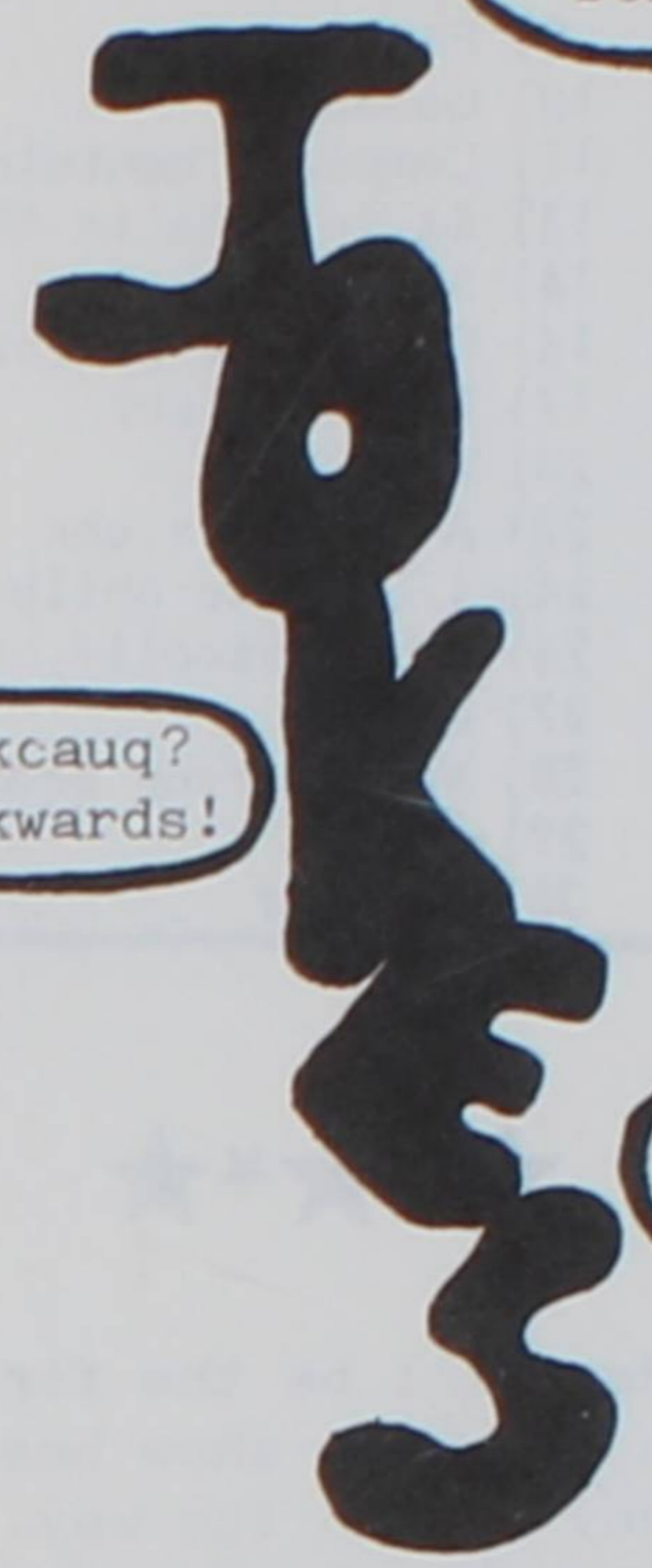
Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Major
Major who?
Major answer, didn't I.

Why does a donkey eat thistles?
Because he's an ass.



What goes kcauq, kcauq?
A duck flying backwards!

WHAT DID THE BIG CHIMNEY
SAY TO THE LITTLE CHIMNEY?
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO SMOKE.



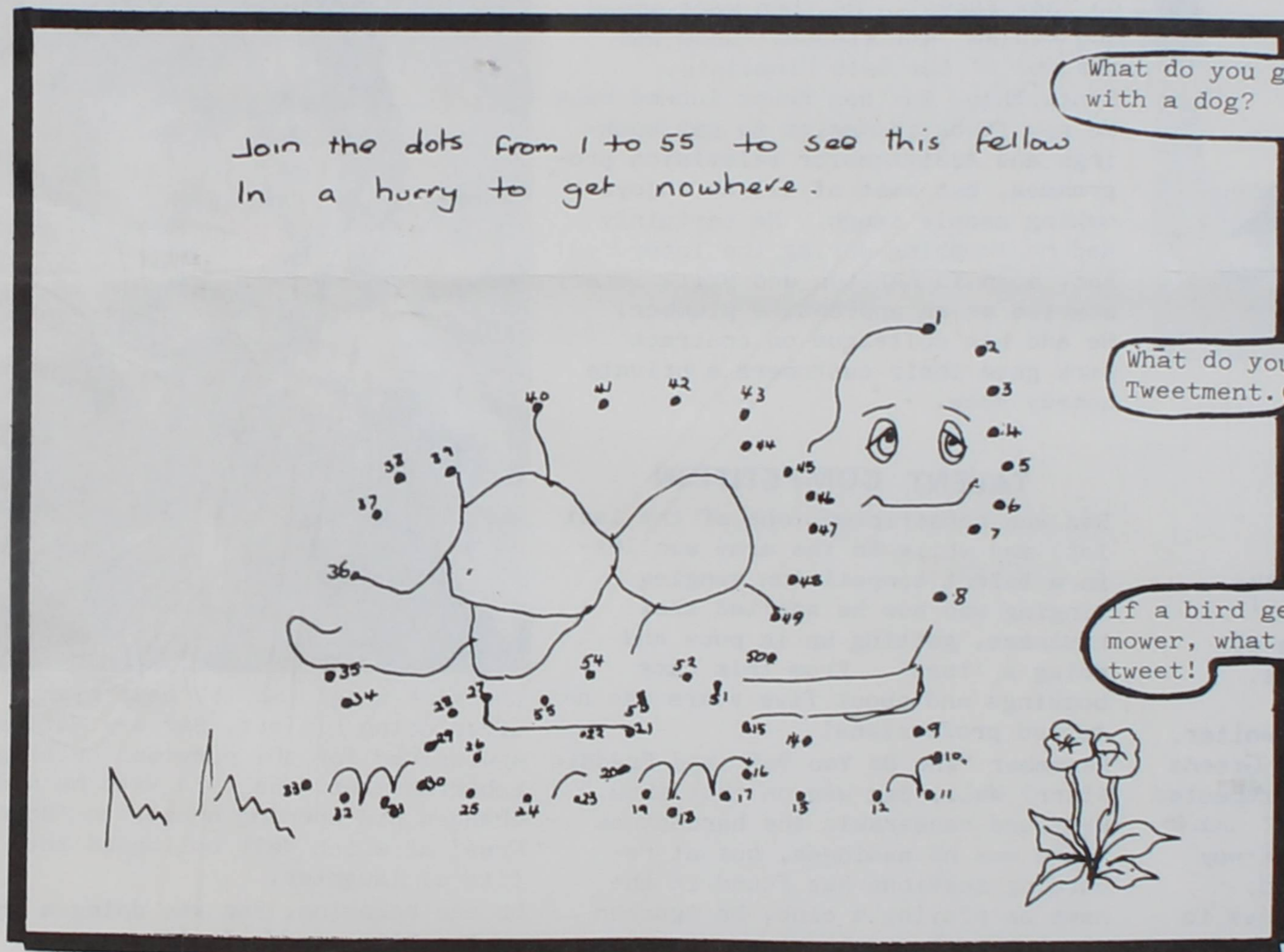
A GRAVE OFFENCE

By the 17th century manufactured woollens had replaced raw wool as our principal export. A writer in 1633 declared that for the sake of this industry God had killed out the wolves from England "as a blessing sent upon the nation" in order to preserve the sheep; and another writer in 1681 said that God had specially provided Fuller's Earth in England with which to cleanse the cloth.

Parliament, by it's many Acts from the Middle Ages onwards, had protected and controlled this great industry. Thus, in Elizabeth's reign, a law was passed ordering the lower orders to wear none but woollen caps on Sundays and holy days, while from Charles I's reign the dead must be buried in none but woollen shrouds, and a certificate must be furnished, of which the following is an example:-

"North Riding of Yorkshire (to wit).
'Be it remembered that on the 3rd Day of October, 1777, Mary Stephenson of Whitby in the said Riding being a credible Person doth make Oath, That Ann King late of Whitby aforesaid Quakers on the 28th Sept. past was not put in, wrapt, or wound up, or buried in any Shirt, Shift, Sheet or Shroud made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold, or Silver, or other than what is made of Sheep's Wool only, or in any Coffin lined or faced with any Cloth, stuff or any other Thing whatsoever, made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold, or Silver, or any other Materials, but Sheep's Wool only.

The Mark of
X
Mary Stephenson.
Sworn before me, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Riding.
Thos. Boulby.
3rd Day of October 1777"



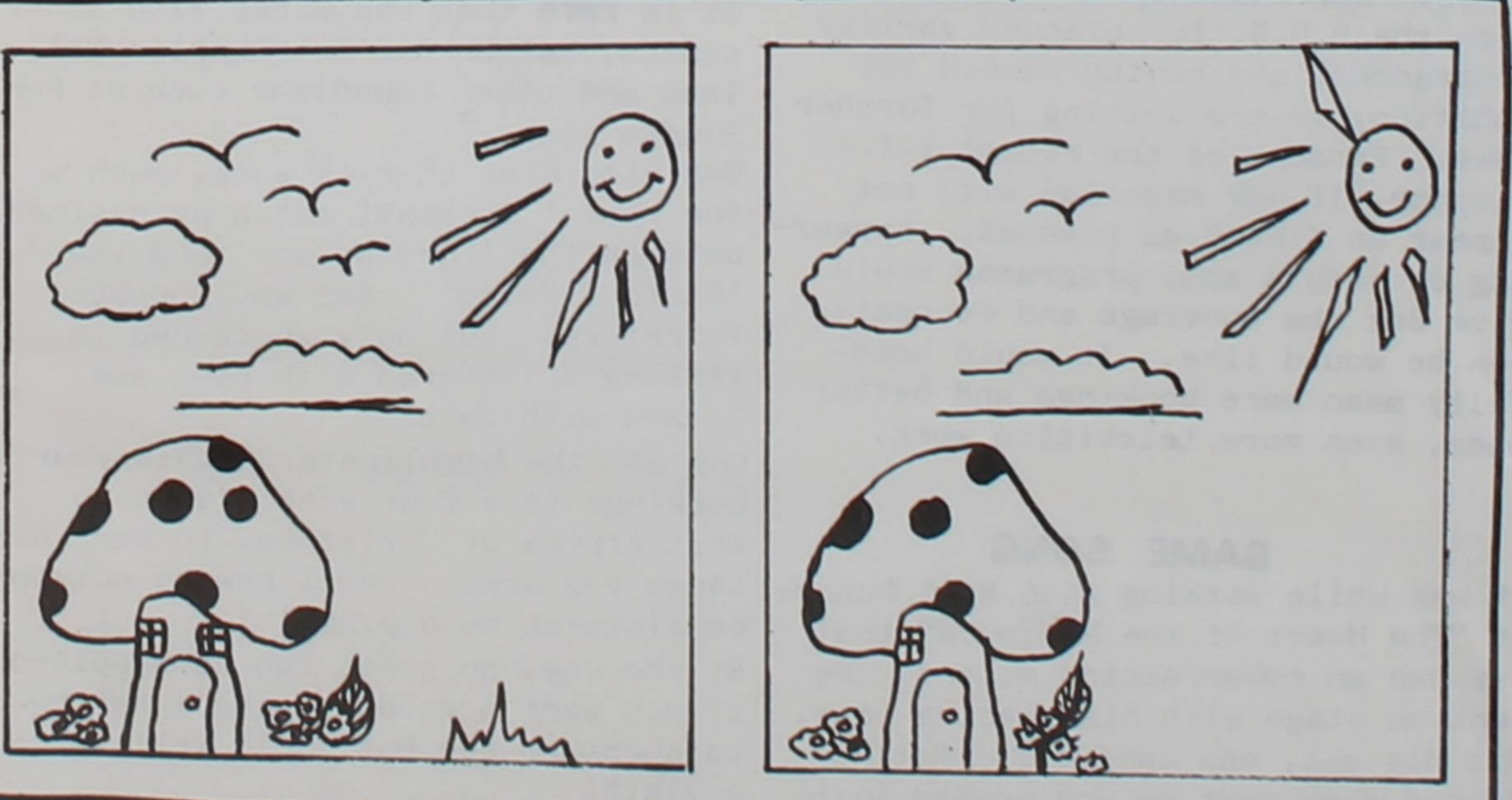
What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? A land rover

What do you give a sick bird?
Tweetment.

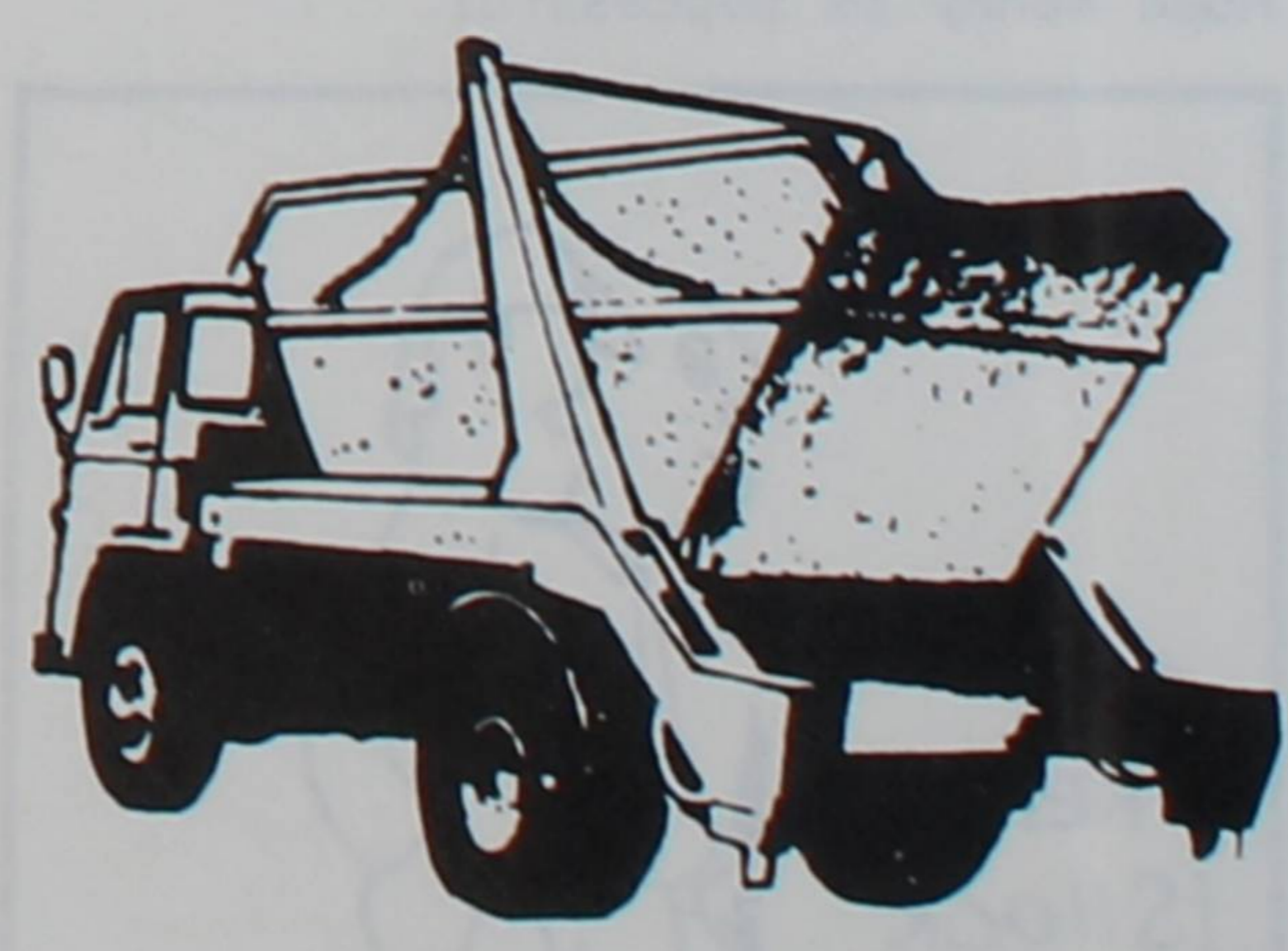
If a bird gets run over by a lawn mower, what do you get? Shredded tweet!

What do you get when you cross a duck with a cow? Cream quackers!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



CHURCHILL SKIP HIRE LTD.

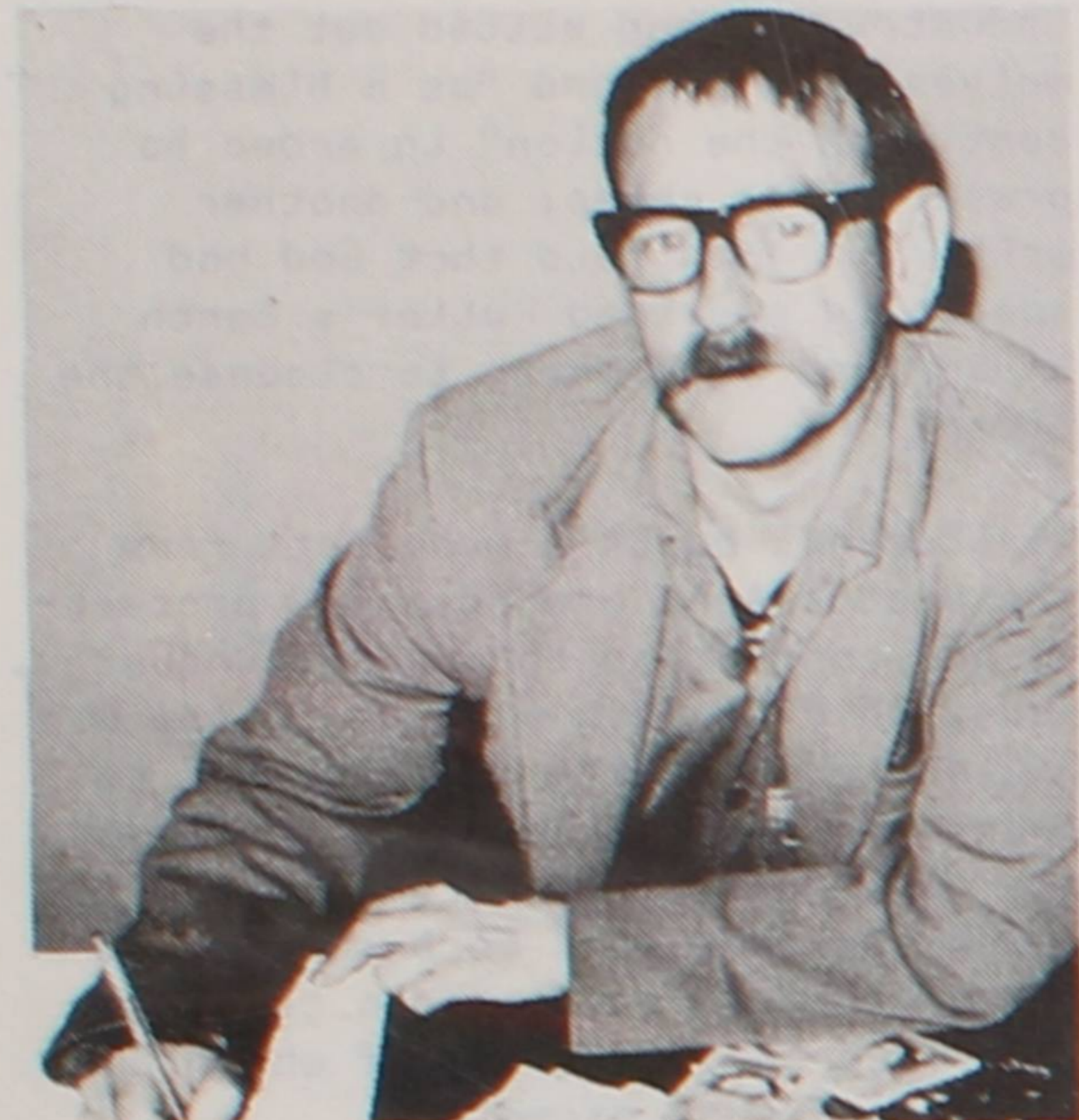


RUBBISH FROM
FACTORIES AND
HOUSEHOLDS,
INCINERATORABLE
WASTE.

IF YOU WANT TO TALK RUBBISH
RING 701192

Sponsored Walk

A letter of thanks was received, from Dr. Martin Knapp of the City Hospital Renal Unit, for the donations received from the Sponsored Walk by That Paper's Journalist, John Boyd.



John walked 280 miles to London to raise money for the City Hospital's new Kidney Unit on July 4th.

SORE FEET

John explained why he does sponsored walks: 'People think I'm mad, and a sucker for punishment,' he said as he nursed two very sore feet, 'but I realise there are people around who are less fortunate than myself, and it is those who I see struggling for life that make me do what I can to raise funds that are so badly needed, to support research at the Renal Unit in helping to arrest disease to the kidneys'

John, who himself suffered from an illness that nearly destroyed him, said that he was fortunate to have a world-wide organisation to turn to for help and understanding.

Today there are many sick people who still need help, and do not have an organisation to turn to. There is still a lot of money needed. CAN YOU HELP? With your help, so many lives could be saved.

SPONSOR

If you sponsored John, and haven't yet paid your money, could you please get in touch through 'That Paper', (phone 787813), or write to: Mr. J. Boyd, C/O Mr. Anderton, Notts. Probation Services, 148 Radford Road, Hyson Green, Nottingham.



Strange Comeback

Maybe some of the 'older' readers will remember a group in the early 60's by the name of M.I. (Musically Inclined) Five. If so, great news! The lead singer, Ronny Strange, is planning a come-back. After 15 years out of show-business Ronny feels he would like to be back on the 'Pop' world scene.

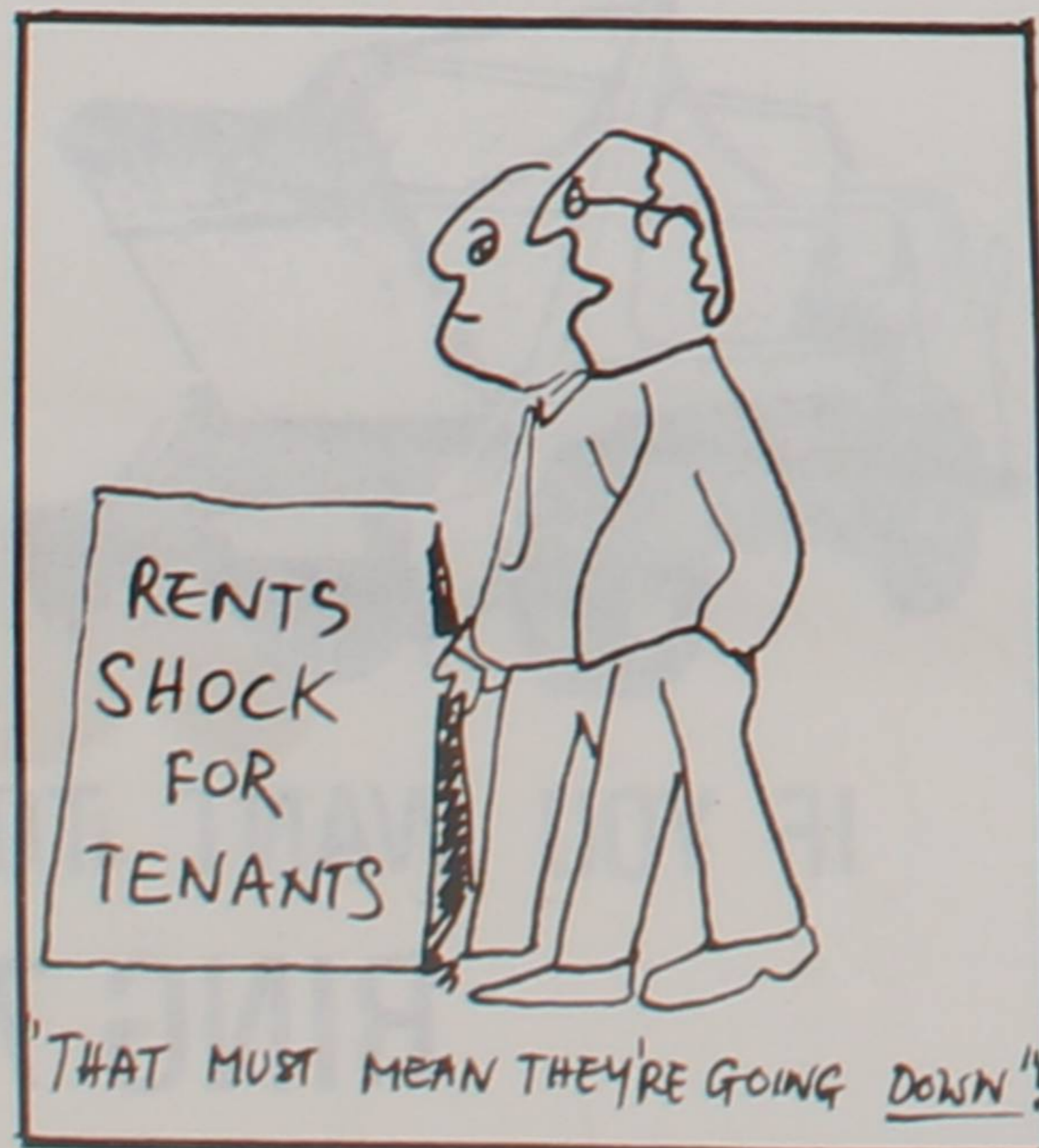
Way back in the 60's M.I. Five had a hit with 'Some People' which was also the backing piece to the film of the same name. While on the road M.I. Five worked with stars of the time such as, Billy Fury - Vince Eager - Joe Brown and Helen Shapiro.

Ronny went for an audition one at Elstree studio and ended up being an extra in 'GHOST SQUAD' (remember that?) missing his

audition altogether.

He also had an audition for the T.V. show 'Opportunity Knocks' but thinks he failed because of an incident some years before. The incident happened in Nottingham when Ronny was a waiter. He accidentally dropped Hughie Greens boiled egg on his lap - then repeated the performance the next day! At the audition, with Ronny half-way through his song, Hughie said, "Remember the eggs?" needless to say Ronny didn't get on the programme but what amazed him was the fact that the incident had been remembered all that time.

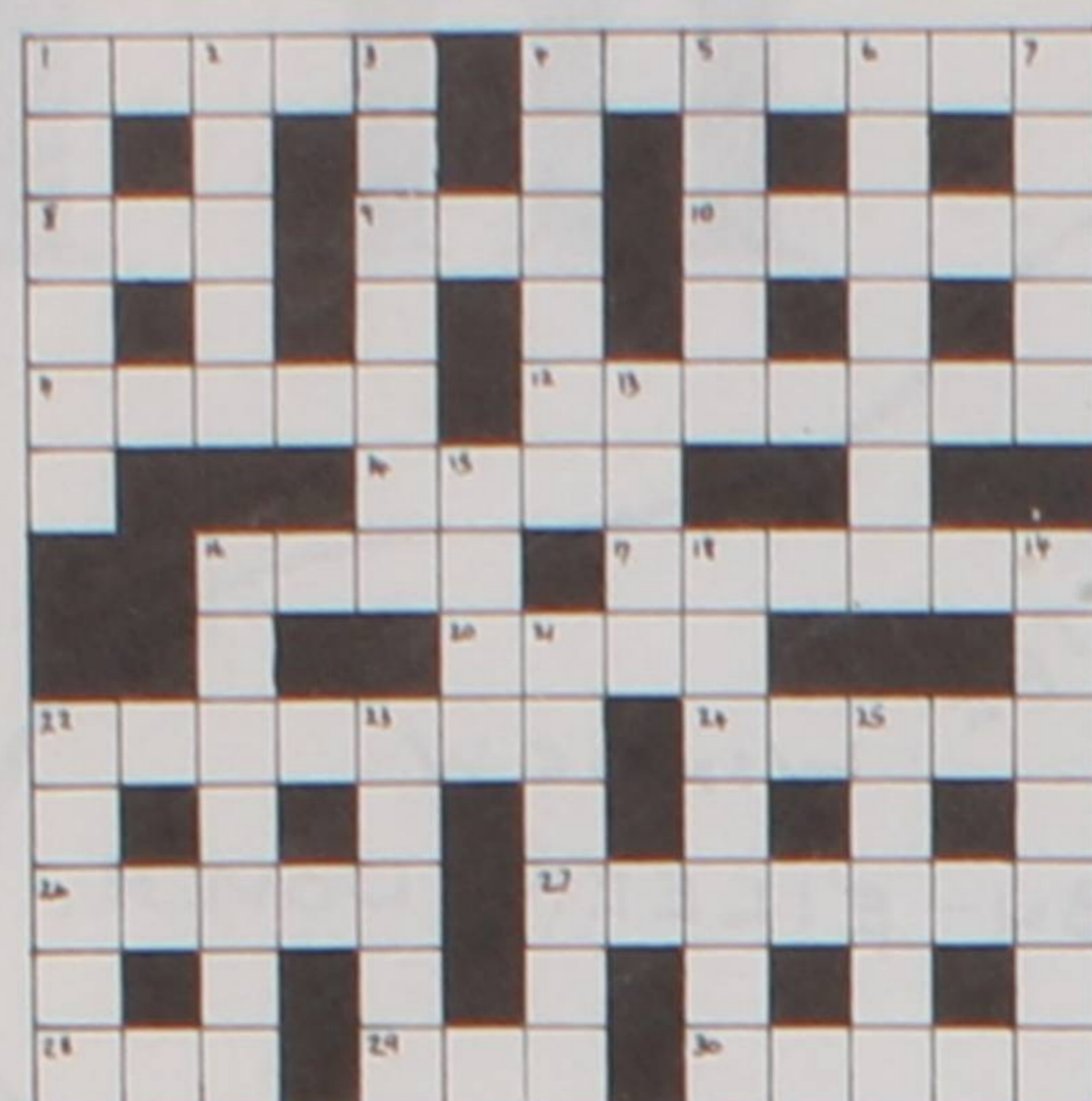
At present Ronny works local clubs where he can and is, gradually, building up an act. It would be great to revive the stars of the the 'Golden Sixties' so let's hope Ronny is successful.



Useful Phone Numbers

Nottingham Woman's Aid: 46490
 Family Planning Association: 40431
 Child Poverty Action Group: 603195
 Community Relations Council: 49861
 Community Health Council: 411486
 Citizen's Advice: 411791
 City Information Office: 40661
 Housing Department: 411421
 Housing Advice Centre: 40814

QUICK X WORD



- ANSWERS
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|------------|---------|---------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) Grape | 2) Aberg | 3) I.S.I. | 4) Roe | 5) Adieu | 6) Oxide | 7) Dancing | 8) Spas | 9) Late | 10) Terror | 11) Gain | 12) Enchant | 13) Regular | 14) Accept | 15) Miser | 16) Under | 17) Ingot | 18) Tutor |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|------------|---------|---------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

ACROSS

- 1) A fruit
- 4) Hypersensitivity to substance
- 8) Major changes in this institution due to metrication
- 9) Fish eggs
- 10) Goodbye
- 11) Compound containing oxygen
- 12) It is done in the ballroom
- 14) Springs
- 16) Dead, not before one's time
- 17) Extreme fear
- 20) Win
- 22) A snail is one
- 24) I Chinese philosopher
- 26) Paradoxically, you sit in one
- 27) Gospel
- 28) Very narrow beam of light
- 29) Decay
- 30) Teacher

DOWN

- 1) Goodies funky ----
- 2) Excuse for being elsewhere
- 3) Frank but not Frank
- 4) Programme of meeting
- 5) Find out
- 6) Princely wife of Grace
- 7) Not old
- 13) A white wine
- 15) They keep the washing on the line
- 16) Childish song
- 18) Charm
- 19) In order
- 21) Receive
- 22) Mean money hoarder
- 23) Beneath
- 24) Mass of cast metal

★★★★★ You're a Star ★★★★★

Baz will be the first to admit that a break in show business will help any act on its way. For Baz Harris that break came in 1977 when he won on 'New Faces'. He then went ahead and won an 'All Winners' show and was one of the Gala Finalists. Since then, Baz has never looked back. He now finds it easier to get bookings and auditions for television programmes, but most of all he enjoys making people laugh. He certainly had me laughing during the interview! Baz, born in Carlton and still local, started as an apprentice plumber. He and his colleague on contract work gave their customers a private comedy show.



TALENT COMPETITION

Baz was conscripted (one of the last lot) and while in the army won 10/- in a talent competition singing. Singing was how he started show business, getting up in pubs and doing a 'turn'. From this came bookings and about five years ago he turned professional. Remember "Who Do You Do?" and Freddie Starr? Well, Baz was on that show. He found rehearsals the hardest as there was no audience, but at recording sessions Baz found it the same as playing a club, he ignored the cameras! Apart from Freddie Starr, Baz has worked with other top personalities, including Jimmy Tarbuck, Anita Harris and Matt Munroe.

EXTRA

Apart from "Who Do You Do?" Baz has appeared as an extra in "Up the Workers" and in "Crossroads" several times. Baz recently had an audition with the B.B.C. for planned variety programmes, and having passed the audition, is now waiting for further news. Because of the recent I.T.V. dispute, it may mean Baz will not appear on TISWAS as planned. Appearing on such a zany programme would give Baz the coverage and recognition he would like. It would hopefully mean more bookings and better ones, even more television work.

SAME SONG

It was while working with Matt Munroe at "The Heart of the Midlands" that Baz had an embarrassing moment. He went on stage with his opening song, did his act, and came off. Matt Munroe then went on and opened with

the same song! So the next night after doing his act, Baz saw Matt and apologised for the previous evening's embarrassment. He told Matt he had changed his opening number to 'Born Free' at which Matt collapsed into fits of laughter. On one occasion, Baz was doing a show on the bill was an Italian singer. They both shared the same dressing room, and while Baz was doing his act the Italian left. On returning to the dressing room Baz found his size 6 boots missing, and in place an old shabby pair of size 7½ pointed shoes. The Italian had run off with his boots!

COMICS

It is rare that Baz works with other comics, but he has met Charlie Williams and other comedians such as Ken Sludge Lees. Baz also does charity work, such as the recent football match at Basford between the 'Lord Nelson' and the 'Basford Colts'. Baz was supposed to referee, but only succeeded in getting splattered with pies and soaked with water. One of the highlights to this year's bookings is a four week cruise to West Africa at Christmas, so Baz, because you are so small beware not to be mistaken as a pygmy! By the way, no jokes can be supplied, if you want a good evening's entertainment go see Baz, he's well worth a visit!