

10421
5

NOTTINGHAM CND



BULLETIN SUMMER 1991 20p.

Nottingham

COME TO THE SATURDAY
MORNING WORKSHOP
JUNE 15 10.00 - 12.30

At International
Community Centre
61b Mansfield Road,
See p.2



WORKSHOP

DATE: Saturday June 15th. TIME: 10.00 sharp - 12.30

PLACE: International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd, Nottm

Every member is invited to this important morning workshop in June. Led by Laurie Gibson, National CND's Local Groups Coordinator, it will concentrate on the Arms Trade, a topical issue put into focus recently by the Birmingham Arms Fair.

The morning will also be a chance to discuss any other aspects of CND's campaign, local or national. A similar informal session held last year was well attended and was very enjoyable and worthwhile.

It's hoped that making it a morning-only event will enable more people to attend, so please arrive in good time for a prompt 10 o'clock start. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

NEWSDESK

200 CLUB Recent winners:-

March '91: #50 Mike Southgate, #10 Andrew Millward, #5 Jean Hart.

April '91: #50 Cath Wakeman, #10 Andrew Millward, #5 Cath Wakeman.

May '91: #50 E.A. Westaway, #10 Win Douglas, #5 Sherwood & Carrington (the peace group, that is).

The response to the appeal for new 200 Club members, in the last bulletin, has been small. The shares now stand at 104, therefore the 1st prize will be reduced to #25 as from the June draw.

We regret having to take this action. However a #25 chance for #1 isn't so bad, is it? We can always increase the prize with an increase in membership...

LIAM MEAD

Our computer operator-membership assistant has recently returned home from hospital and is recovering from a bad fall. Everyone at NCND sends their best wishes for his speedy recovery.

60 YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING

Eric Jessop, active NCND member, will on June 9th celebrate his 80th birthday. This also marks his 60th year of peace campaigning. He has promised us an article next issue. We all wish him many happy returns.

REAR ROOM RUBBISH RAID RIDDLE

We are in dire need of help with debris clearance in our office's rear room one Sunday. Please phone the office, 588586. This will enable future events to take place in a comfortable, civilised and safe way. Thanks to Colleen Edwards for her offer of lorry transport. Oh, and if you know any advice centres, shops etc who could use a monstrously large magazine rack/cupboard, this would ease movement within the room.

LIZ WHEAT MEMORIAL FUND

Donations at the recent funeral of Liz Wheat were kindly devoted to NCND. The sum totalled #57.20 for which we are extremely grateful.

PEACE FESTIVAL

There will be no Peace Festival this year. We are sorry for not saying so in an earlier bulletin. The reason there's no event is that NCND received next to no volunteers. If there is to be a 1992 Festival, preliminary planning & booking must start before the end of this year. Please think hard now about volunteering to restore this popular & worthwhile event.



INTERVIEW WITH
A CAMPAIGNER

by Jeremy Jago

David Lane has had a longer commitment than many to pacifism. In the early 1950's he put his case as a conscientious objector at a hearing following his national service conscription. His arguments were so clear that no further witnesses were needed for his objector status to be accepted immediately. He was not yet twenty.

I spoke to him on Bank Holiday Monday as he took a break from painting his book business premises pale green. How, I asked, did he see the link between arms trading and war? 'The situation in the Middle East was brought about by the arms build up by ourselves, the French, the Russians, the Americans and others... in the Iraq-Iran war there were 25 countries supplying arms to both sides.

'It's a fantastic situation - the French at the time of the Iraq war grounded some of their planes because they were so like the planes they'd sold to the Iraqis in the first place!

Argentina was another example: 'Amnesty had been telling us for years that the leader had an unfortunate habit of shooting his political opponents but nobody wanted to know until it became expedient for us to fight.

'When you think the world spends something like 600 billion pounds a year on war and there are 500 million people starving, this is a fantastic state of affairs... we can be lulled into thinking this is a period of peace after the Cold War, which it isn't.

Recently David was among protesters at the Birmingham Arms Fair. 'One was expecting generals in all their regalia to be turning up - actually a lot of people who were paid by the generals were turning up to, er, participate for them. These fairs have been going on for some time and fortunately, due to the CAAT and CND and others doing publicity, there were people from the various peace organisations turning up in greater numbers than I've seen before... I hope this will snowball at the two other fairs due later in this country.

He was encouraged to see peace groups from as far afield as Cumbria and Bristol. Bruce Kent dropped in on his way to a speaking engagement. Later there was a Christian CND meeting. I recalled news pictures of nuns 'cleansing' the hall after the event. How important was the religious element? 'This is the encouraging thing - there were people there of all denominations - Buddhists, Hindus, Christians of different persuasions... there were agnostics and atheists - all determined they were going to work together. I found a tremendous willingness to cooperate.

Did the Gulf war aftermath give the traders a gung-ho outlook, I wondered? David felt the effect was rather to boost protest: 'I think as a result there are more people aware of what is going on in the arms trade and this is very encouraging.

There had been quite a campaign to stop the fair taking place at all. 'Some of my friends wrote to Birmingham Labour Party about this. Being the majority on the council, they have quite a say! Actually the chaplain of the exhibition centre spoke to us - if the arms fair went, the sponsors would say 'All right, you don't want the arms fair, you won't have our other exhibitions'.

'So there was commercial arm twisting,' David reflected, 'but I feel the time has come when we should say NO MORE of this hypocrisy.'

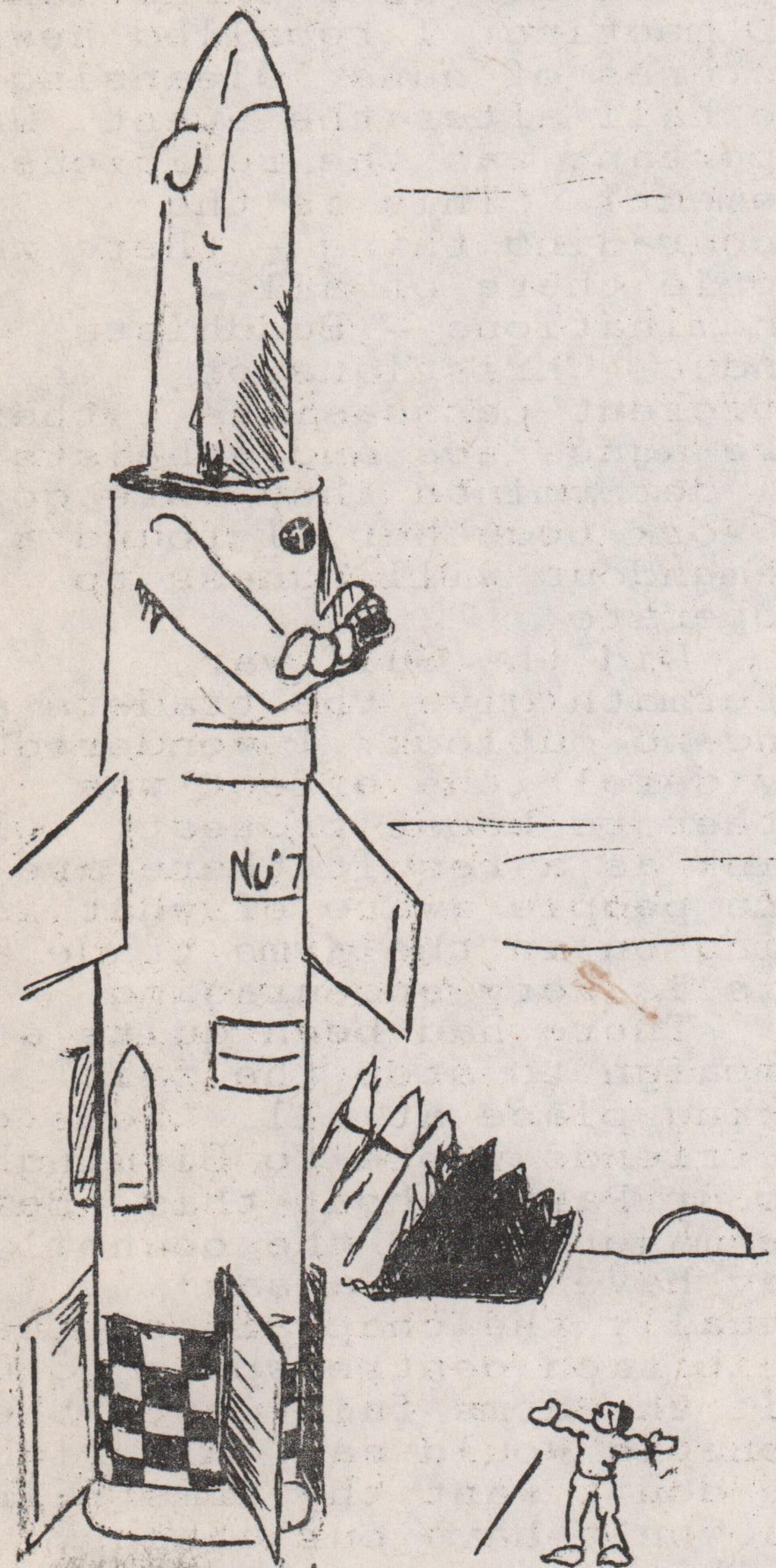
MEETING NOTICE

Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) is holding its East Midlands Regional Day on Saturday 29th June at Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham.

The Gulf Crisis highlighted the dangers of the international arms trade. This session is designed to help people make an effective contribution to stopping this trade in destruction.

Morning will involve sharing information about the arms trade and its effects. In the afternoon, campaigning (group and individual) will be discussed.

Costs are: £4 waged, £2 low waged, £1 unwaged. Please bring food to share for lunch. If you interested, please contact directly: Rosamund Miller, 48 North Parade, Grantham, Lincs. NG331 8AN



"What do you mean
NO
I've joined C.N.D.?"

Damon Mitchell

ARMS: DEFENSIVE OR OFFENSIVE?

At a recent meeting of our Radcliffe Labour Party Branch, the question came up of whether or not to re-affiliate to CND and the motion was (predictably as it happens) defeated. "We must have arms for the defence of our Country", stated an eminent and respected man who was one of the candidates in the local elections.

Certainly, we CND members at the meeting had not suggested otherwise. There's a difference between having necessary arms with which to defend one's country and the possession of weapons of mass destruction. These latter are by their very nature offensive and not defensive; they can not protect the people. CND is against all weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear or "conventional".

Through the ages, it has been assumed that the army of a country was in existence to safeguard the population of that country; that is, until death was dealt from the skies upon the millions of hapless people below.

Were we actually defending Britain - far away in the Gulf? That has caused death and wounding to thousands of civilians, men, women and children indiscriminately, with very few casualties on 'our' side, at least. It seems to me, perhaps naive, way of thinking that if you want to have a good chance of survival in a modern war, join the army!

The Gulf war, apart from anything else, caused and, in its aftermath is still causing, terrific environmental pollution to add to all the other pollutions happening through the world. In view of this and of worldwide arms proliferation, the protests of a few people are inadequate to prevent the headlong rush to global destruction. This is perhaps one good reason why we must get together to build up our movement to the strongest force possible. If you are thinking of joining CND, do! If you are thinking of letting your membership lapse, don't.

Please renew, TOGETHER WE STAND.

WIN DOUGLAS.

After the bomb had fallen,

After the last sad cry,

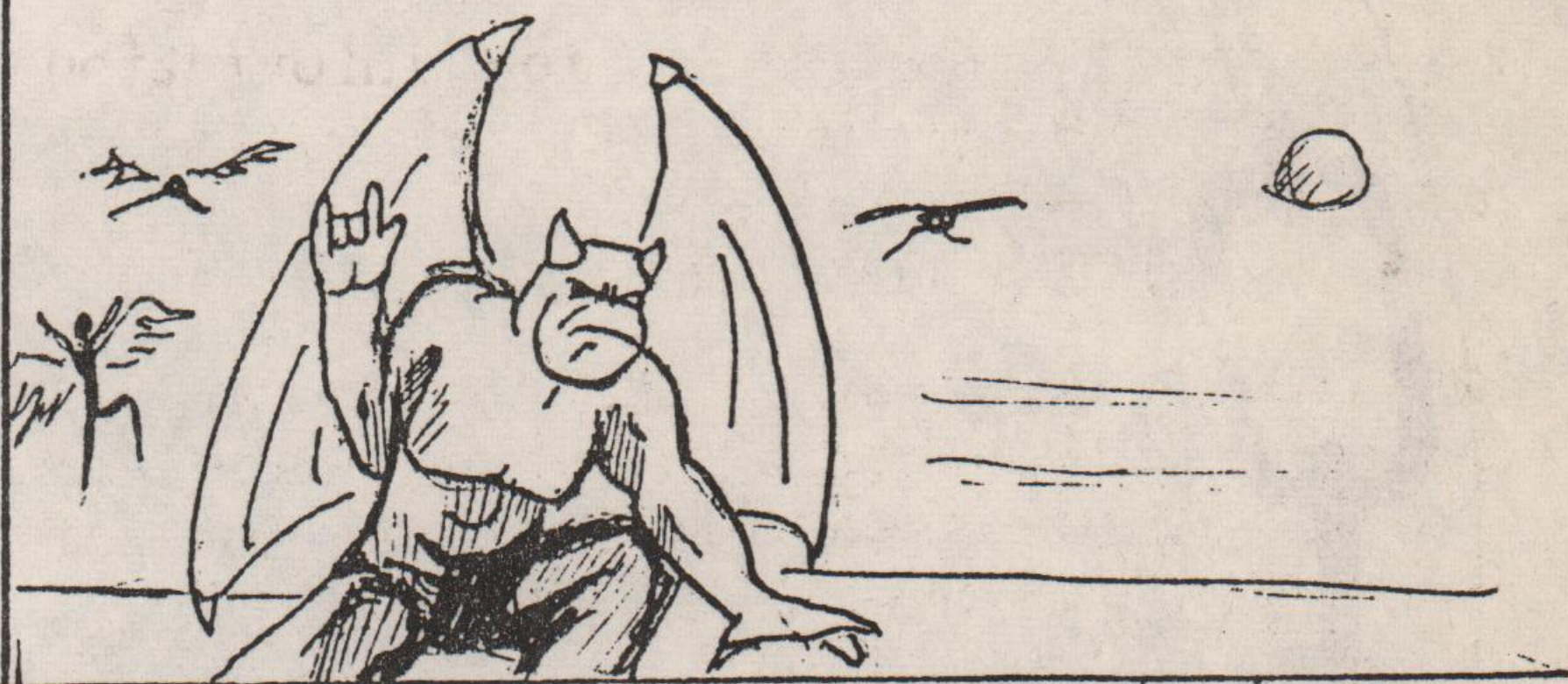
when the earth was a burnt out cinder,

Drifting across the sky,



Came Lucifer Prince of morning,
With his fallen angel band,

silent and swift as a vulture,
On a mountain top to stand,



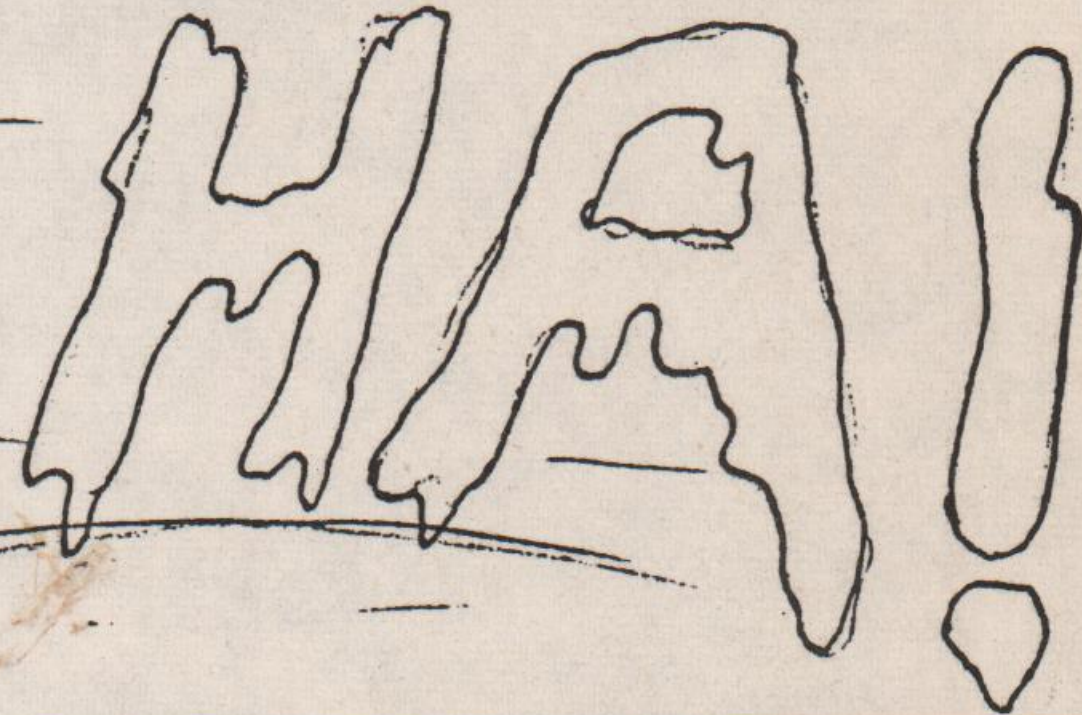
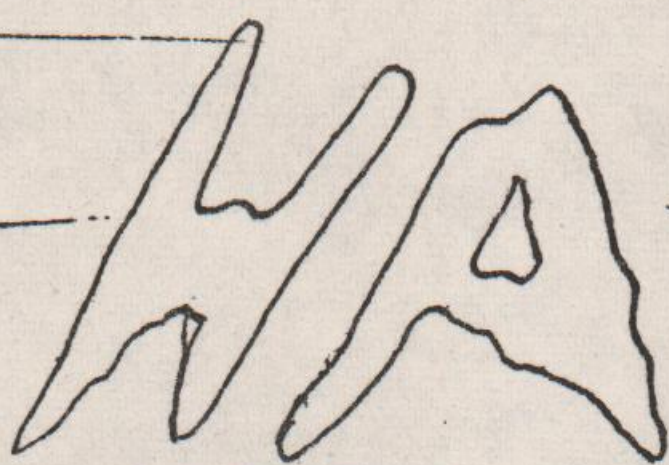
And he looked as he stood on that Mountain, With Scarlet wings unfurled,
At the charnel house of London, And the cities of the world,



AND HE LAUGHED

and as his mocking laughter

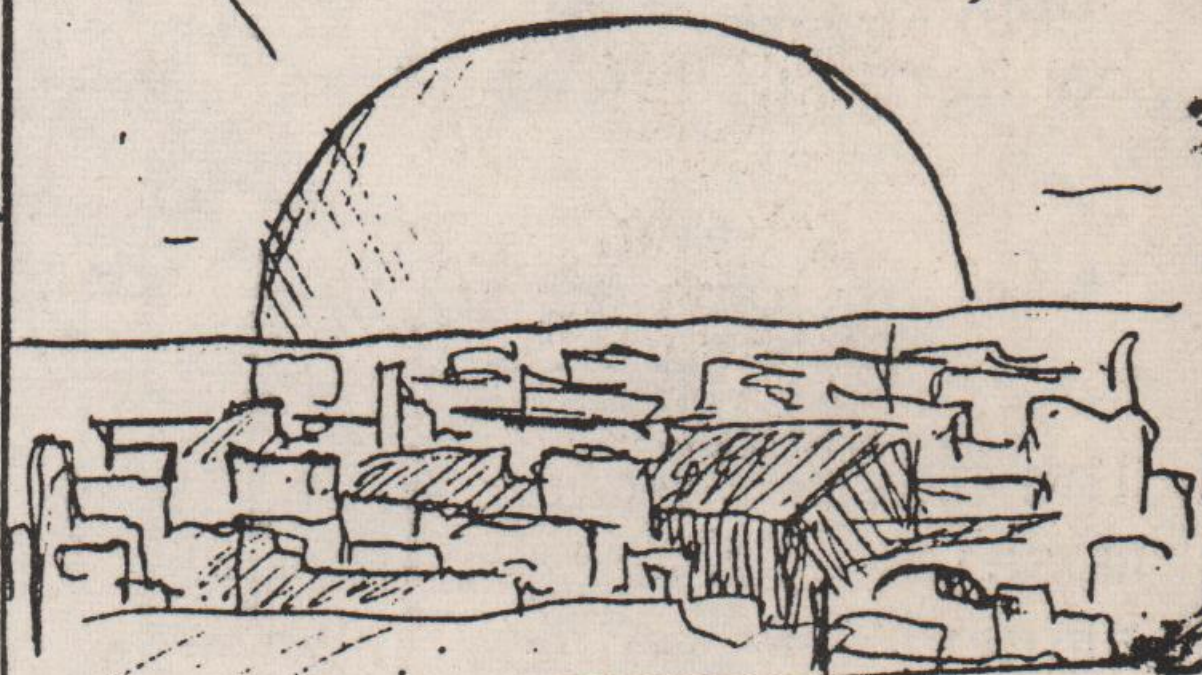
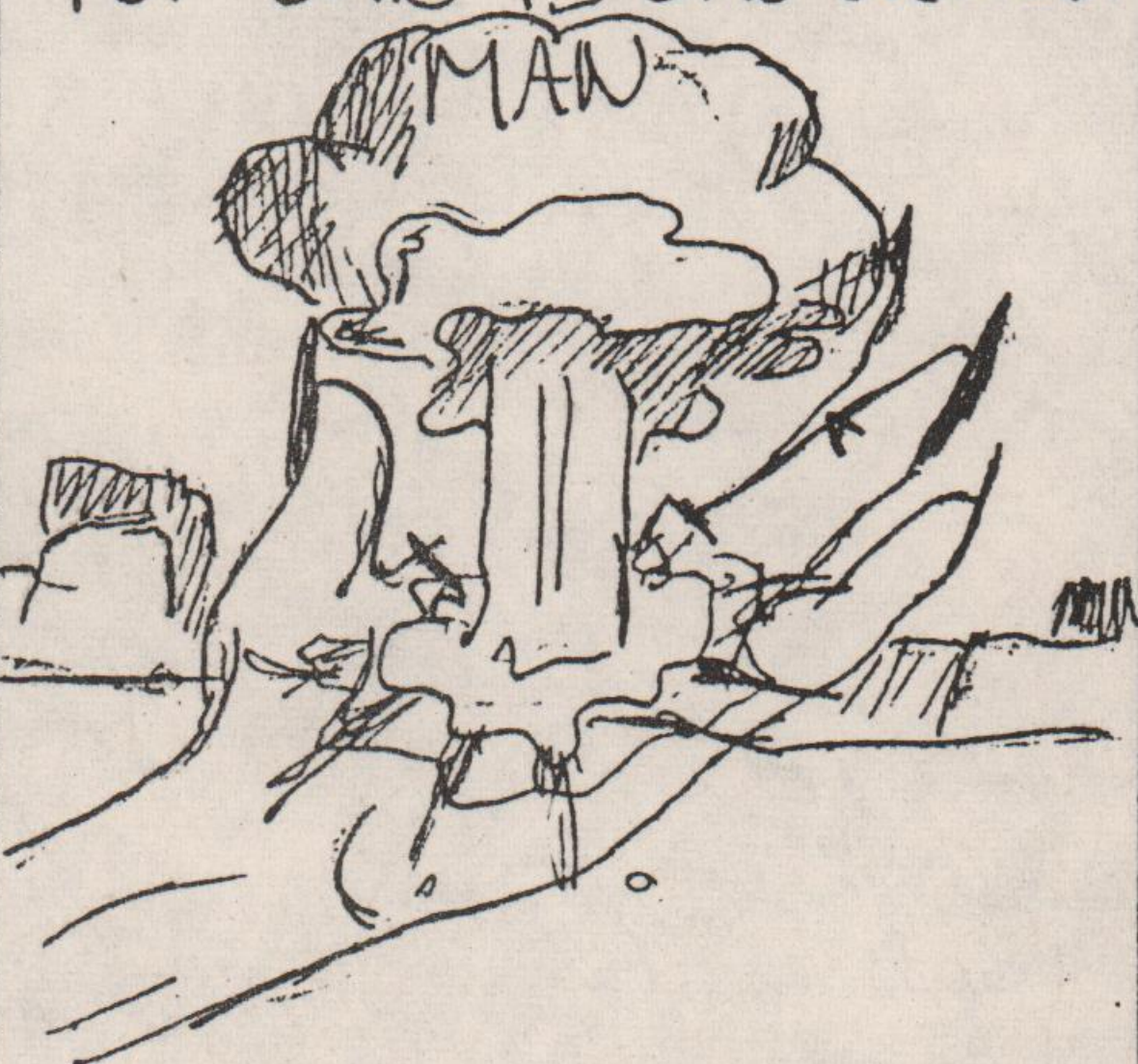
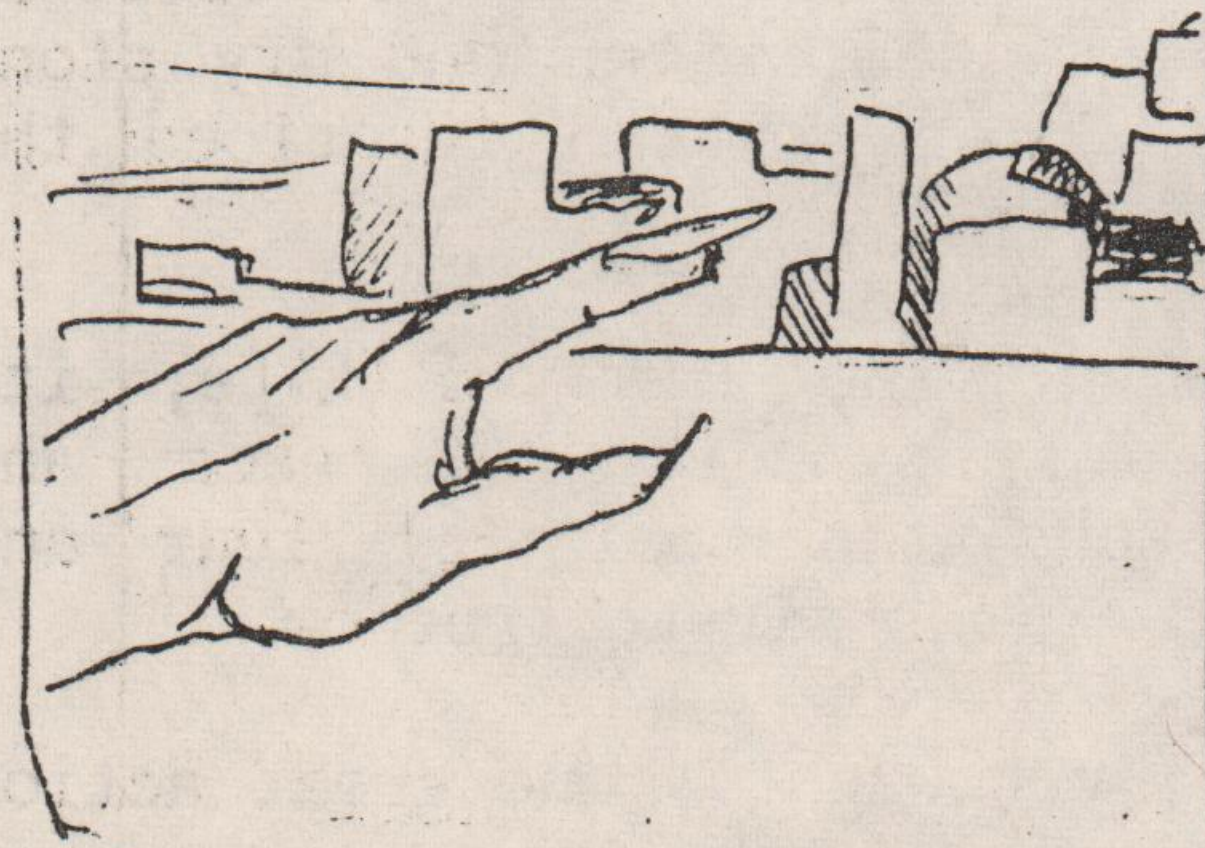
across the heavens ran



He cried "LOOK!" to the
fallen angels

"for this is the work of
MAN"

who was made in the
image of
GOD!"



Written and drawn by Damon Mitchell. Damon was also responsible for the splendid illustration for our Christmas issue.



PEBBLES FOR PEACE MOSAIC

Having been on Easter Monday's Barrow demo, member Anne Mitchell was so impressed by the Peace Mosaic unveiled by Bruce Kent that she wrote to the organisers. Chris Sinton of Barrow CND replied, thanking Nottm members for supporting the event. Chris also sent background notes which we summarise here.

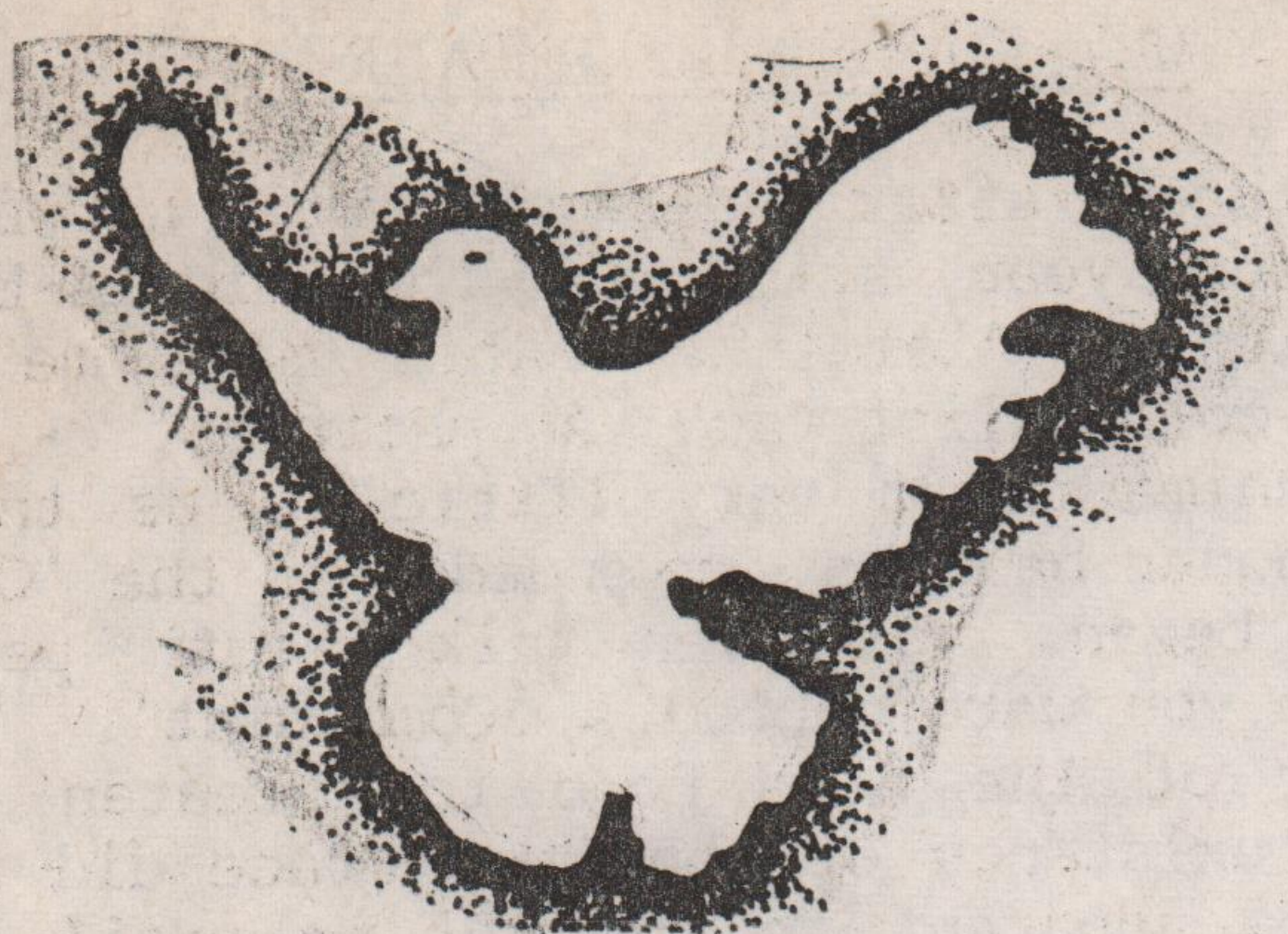
PEBBLES FOR PEACE MOSAIC Barrow in Furness Public Park.

The idea, dating from 1988, was to make a mosaic from pebbles contributed from around the world. Material and supportive messages came from 16 countries.

Mosaic expert Maggy Howarth worked with students from Barrow 6th Form College and teacher Wendy Rowe to create the mosaic, also helped by school pupils, CND members and others. A wall and seat were built by Robert Drake, local writer and dry stone waller, and Boris Howarth inscribed the plaque.

In the design, the Tree of Life, its leaves bearing symbols of peace and justice, breaks the chain of fear and oppression as birds fly to freedom.

"From many tiny thoughts, one great action grows."



Letters

What has happened to Nottingham CND?

After seven years away from the city, I have just re-joined and can't believe it. Remembering the days when we took several coaches and even chartered trains for National demonstrations, I was surprised to discover that we were to share a coach with Leicester CND for the Easter Monday "Turn from Trident" demo in Barrow-in-Furness. I was even more surprised when only six people turned up to board it. Even so, we swelled the number of passengers by more than 50% Leicester had managed a turnout of ten.

Many thanks to Damon and Jason (neither of whom are actually members) for risking black eyes and broken noses to keep the Nottingham banner flying high, despite the howling wind and driving rain, while four women and an eight-week-old baby marched determinedly behind.

What happened to the rest of you? I know that you are out there. The membership file bears witness to that. So stand up and be counted for what you believe in. Individual tickets aren't expensive, but coaches do cost money and precious funds are wasted when the tickets stay in the drawer.

See you next time; whenever and wherever that may be.

Love and peace,

ANNE MITCHELL.

This month's

Editorial team: Win Douglas, Jeremy Jago,
Louise & Eric Jessop,
Peggy Westaway.

Printing: L. & E. Jessop, J. Jago.

Typing: Phyllis Wells.

Collation: Wendy Wain & W. Bridgford
Group.

VIGIL REPORT by Colleen Edwards

Sometime during the night of Jan. 14th, spent in a Church Vigil for Peace, I and a member of the Ilkeston Green Party decided that there was no way we could spend the night of the deadline, either sleeping or watching events unfolding on T.V.

Thus it was that we joined untold thousands making our way to Trafalgar Square, at 9 p.m. As we entered the Square, we were stopped in our tracks by the incredibly massive police and ambulance presence. A few yards further and the picture changed dramatically. St. Martin's was a solid curtain of light: candles held by those, either not willing or able to risk arrest.

By 10 p.m. (the time set for the start of the March down Whitehall to Parliament Square), it was impossible to guess the numbers in the Square. For perhaps the first time in history, the March left exactly on time. We had been sure that the Police would not let the March proceed. It was unstoppable.

For two hours we sat and brought all traffic to a stop outside the Mother of Parliaments, whilst we made a desperate last ditch effort to get those on the inside to listen to the voice of Peace. At Midnight, silence met the 12 strokes of Big Ben. 15 minutes later, the vast majority of the protestors marched back to Trafalgar Square.

The two of us, now joined by a London member of the Green Party, spent the next 2 hrs. on the steps of St. Martin's in a vigil which was to last beyond the deadline - 5 a.m. British time.

At 2 a.m., we decided to walk across London to join the previously advertised vigil outside the American Embassy. Thus it was that, at 5 a.m., we listened to the news of the passing of the deadline in Grosvenor Square. In my case, this night was made even more poignant by the present of an Iraqi, whose family was in Baghdad and who became more tearful and less articulate, as the deadline drew nearer.

This was a 2 days' period that I shall never forget and, I pray to God, never need to repeat.

BE IT HOLY - OR BEDEVILLED?

Holy Loch, according to tradition, was so-called because relics and artifacts en route for Glasgow Cathedral were lost there centuries ago.

Maybe the relics protected the Loch area against enemies during the clan wars, but against friends it has proved to be powerless as the U.S.A. moved in with the most powerful weapons of all.

After days of wonderment at the spring beauty of Western Scotland, it came as a brutal shock to behold the repair docks and supply ship, with other ugly ironmongery slap in the middle of Holy Loch. Cuddling around, like a litter of pigs nestling for feeding, were the silent harbingers of death, the submarine fleet, the hunters and killers. The killers each carry 16 nuclear warheads with 20 times the destructive capability of the Hiroshima bomb.

Most of the western lochside has been razed for warehousing the supplies for the supply ship and, behind the warehousing, are 700 small, dark and gloomy houses for the personnel, each home discharging its effluents into the loch. I do not know where the officers dwell, but the homes of "other ranks" looked miserable for sailors returning after three months submerged below the sea - and carrying nukes.

We were informed that sometimes over 2,000 personnel were in the town of Dunoon, but, by the number of charity shops there, the town was not sharing any affluence from the "visitors".

Will the U.S. Navy take their ironmongery with them when they leave next year - and repair the damage to the environment? Do you think so? Further east, Loch Long has had its guts torn out to provide storage room for nukes and other weapons of destruction. Here are kept vast stores of ammunition and repair supplies and here also the submarines have their nuclear warheads fitted and serviced.

Is man the only animal to foul its own nest? The Loch Long pillage was done by OUR government in OUR name.

DOREEN GOWER.

WHY I AM STILL CAMPAIGNING..

I returned after the second world war from a four year stint in the Middle-East (including Alamein). This made me an anti-colonialist and a pacifist. But Hiroshima meant very little to us then. No sooner had the war ended than the 'Cold War' began. To even talk about peace meant you were dubbed a 'Communist'. The power of the Atom Bomb to threaten the very existence of the human race did not become apparent to most of us until the early '50s. When Churchill took the decision to develop the H Bomb, I immediately returned my war medals to him.

In 1957, resistance to nuclear weapons began in real earnest, but it was then strictly limited to "The Bomb". Since then, CND has slowly become more radical and is now much more anti-war - which is as it should be. The Gulf war has once more proved, if any proof is needed, that the nuclear option is NOT a deterrent, (but it could be used by accident or by a mad Head of State).

During the first wave of CND (till the Cuba crisis), I was on local CND committees. I am still campaigning, though perhaps not so diligently because of Anno Domini. More than ever, I feel sure that trying to solve political problems by killing masses of ordinary people (including young soldiers) is not only immoral but totally inefficient.

ROGER RAWLINSON.

DIARY

- June 15: NCND Morning Workshop with Laurie Gibson (see page 2 of this issue for details).
- June 29: CAAT Regional Day, Nottm. (see page 4 for details).
- Aug 3rd: Listergate stall -Japanese Crane folding for....
- Aug 6th: Hiroshima Day Commemoration gathering (details to be announced)
- Nov: NCND AGM - date to be announced. Proposals and motions should be submitted to NCND Castle Gate office.