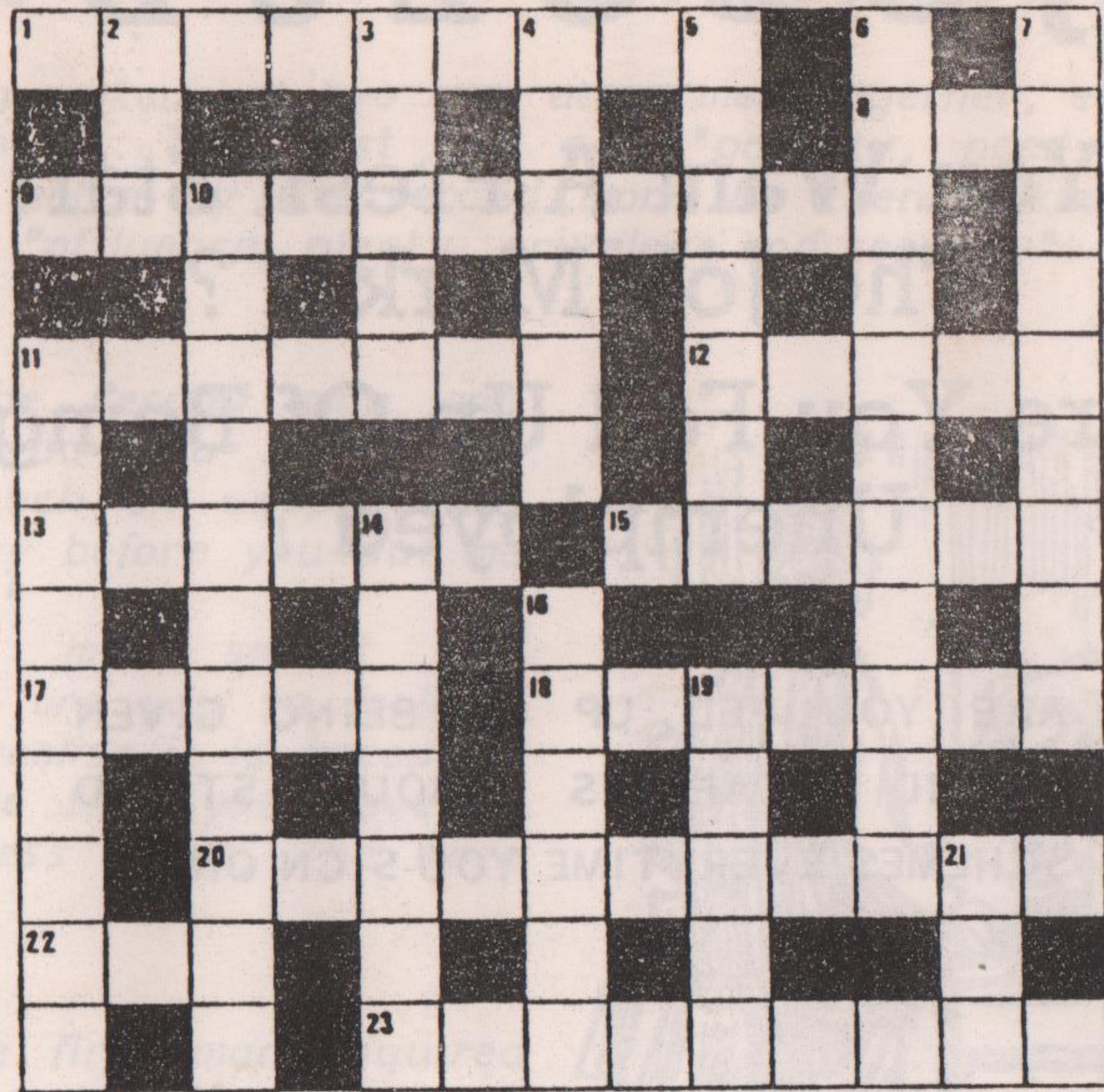


# SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY POST

FEB 89

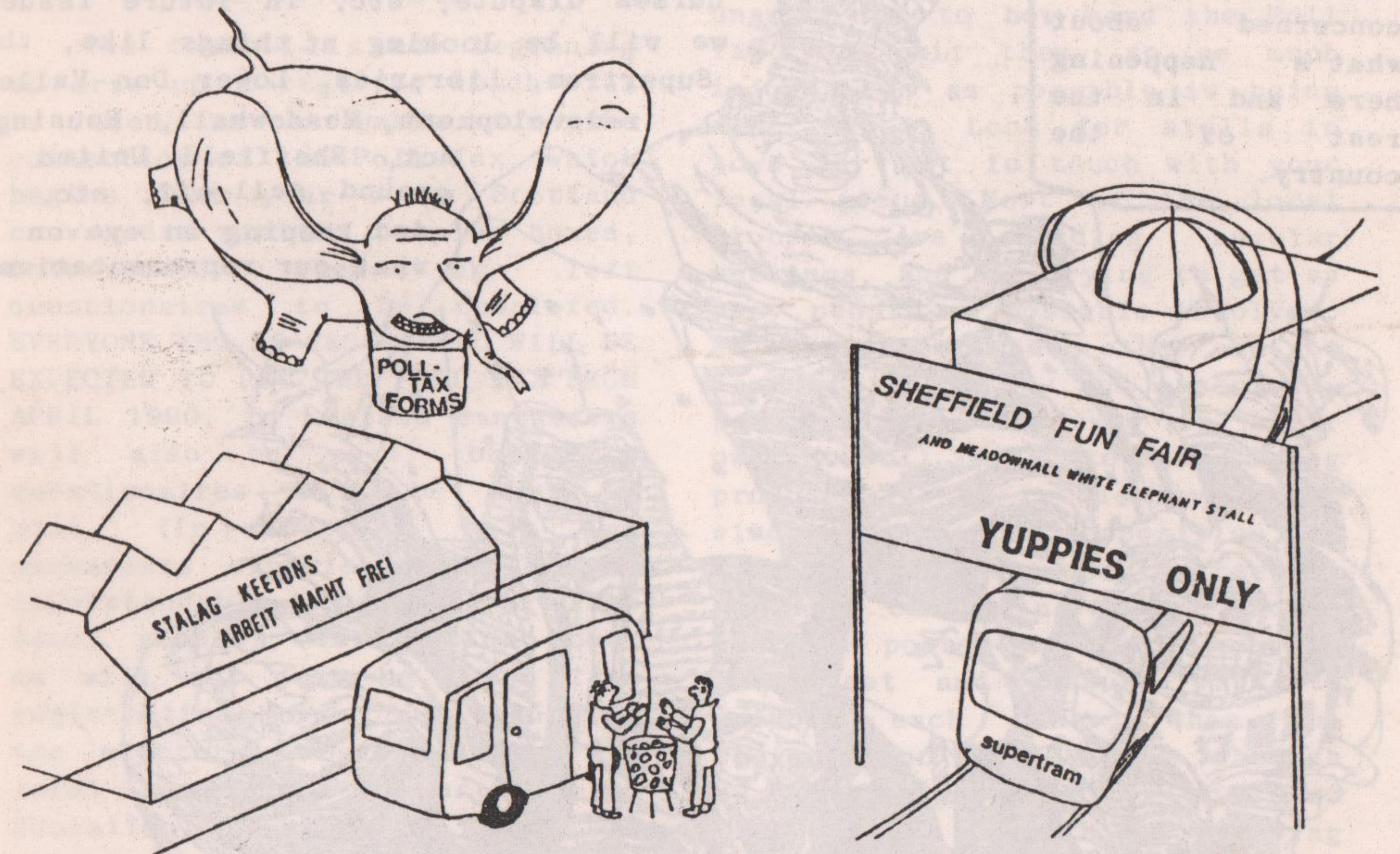


- Across:**
- Confession of guilt in recent task. (9)
  - Wee tangled female sheep. (3)
  - Dominant ore broken up into bottom number. (11)
  - Ha! Girth gives a painting in the sky? (4-3)
  - Sharpen and take right for French river valley. (5)
  - Makes chips and chops top oat. (6)
  - Fled, changed in the morning but burned. (6)
  - Health workers union sounds comfortable. (5)
  - Dan rode dressed as a king. (7)
  - Luckily fort precedes lay-tune. (11)
  - Child given by circuit in Isle-of-Man race. (3)
- Down:**
- Colouring with death in mind. (3)
  - Dance makes bachelors muddled in the morning. (5)
  - Set fire to tie gin. (6)
  - The French, back a turn, becomes instinctive. (7)
  - Rep man uses force for act. (11)
  - Dropped to send 100 to do deed. (9)
  - Pole fights and hits to do opposite of day work. (11)
  - Two faced as I crop, they become. (9)
  - Start he says becomes culture. (3,4)
  - Day vase for planet. (6)
  - Speak at zero speed. (5)
  - Shelter for eel. (3)
23. Arranged words when verdict was delivered. (9)

There will be a prize of the next 1 years copies of the Sheffield Community Post, sent to the first correct entry drawn out of a hat.  
Answers next issue.

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....  
.....

Send to:  
Black Star  
P.O. Box 446,  
SHEFFIELD  
S1 1NY.



IN THIS ISSUE

## Tinsley Park

## Keetons Strike

## Poll Tax Etc.

WELCOME TO the first edition of Sheffield Community Post. We hope to be producing it approximately bi-monthly. As you'll see we have tried to make it a mixture of interesting fact and light humour. At present Sheffield is undergoing massive changes at the whims of businessmen in cooperation with the City Council. We feel that their line "this will put Sheffield back on the map and encourage business to move to the city", is not true and is not in our interests. It is obvious that the people of Sheffield will end up paying for their hare-brained schemes. As for jobs, they will be low paid, many of them Employment Training Schemes, and there won't be nearly as many as the Council claim.

We feel that this paper is important because it will be looking at Sheffield as a whole, from an independent perspective, rather than the

usual Sheffield wide papers which take the side of the businessmen and/or the Council.

In this issue we have articles on, Poll Tax, Tinsley Park, Keetons Strike, nurses dispute, etc. In future issues we will be looking at things like, the Supertram, Libraries, Lower Don Valley redevelopment, Meadowhall, Housing Act, Sheffield United ground sell-off, etc.

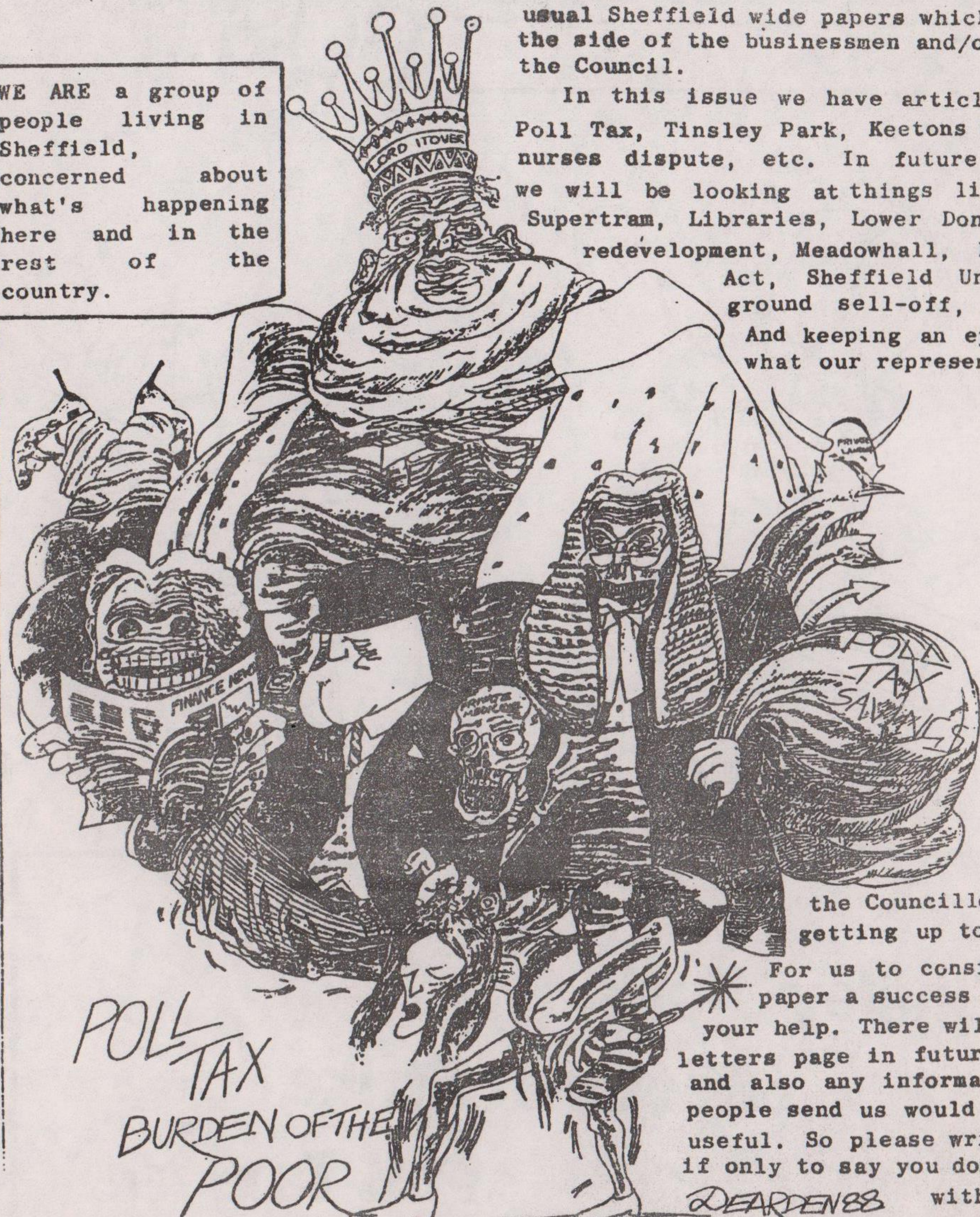
And keeping an eye on what our representatives,

the Councillors, are getting up to.

For us to consider the paper a success we need your help. There will be a letters page in future issues and also any information people send us would be useful. So please write, even if only to say you don't agree with us.

DEARDEN88

WE ARE a group of people living in Sheffield, concerned about what's happening here and in the rest of the country.



POLL TAX  
BURDEN OF THE  
POOR

# NO POLL TAX HERE

THE POLL Tax will replace the present rates system in 1989. The rates are a tax on property - the bigger your house the more you pay. The Poll Tax is a tax on people - the more people who live in your house the more you pay. Every adult over 18 will have to pay. The current estimate from Sheffield City Council is £385 per person a year. In Sheffield 95% of households will lose out, the majority of people in Dore and Ecclesall will be better off, the majority of people in Firth Park and Darnall will be worse off. The Poll Tax equals more poverty - rich and poor will pay the same, whilst businesses will pay less than they do now. It is totally unjust and unfair.

## REGISTRATION

The council is now beginning to draw up a register which will be used as a basis for the collection of the Poll Tax, which begins next year. In Scotland canvassers visited peoples homes, interviewed them or left questionnaires to be completed. EVERYONE WHO IS REGISTERED WILL BE EXPECTED TO PAY THE POLL TAX FROM APRIL 1990. In England canvassers will also be used, but more questionnaires will be sent by post. (In Scotland Poll Tax canvassers experienced a lot of understandable hostility from local people). Information about us will not just be taken from registration forms, but also from the electoral register, and all local government departments - Education, Housing etc.. This is an attack on our privacy and a major intrusion into our lives. The council is spending large amounts of money on computers to file this information. Fears about a national identity card system may not be unfounded.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SHEFFIELD ?

There are local anti-Poll Tax groups in many areas of the city, and a citywide group, Sheffield Against the Poll Tax, also exists which co-ordinates activities, resources etc. (details below).

A lot of people are still unaware as to how hard the Poll Tax will hit them, so as much information as possible is being distributed. Look for stalls in town, or get in touch with your local group. Most of the local groups are holding regular meetings, and are trying to get as many people as possible involved. We must support each other and not leave neighbours - and especially pensioners - to worry on their own. No Poll Tax posters are being produced for us to display in our windows to show our opposition, we need to organise support street by street, contacting every house where a poster is displayed. We must meet and discuss ways to support each other, when the registration forms come through our doors, get together and send them back with 'delaying questions' etc.

Discuss the Poll Tax at work, invite a speaker from Sheffield against the Poll Tax to a meeting if you want more information, set up an anti-Poll Tax group and link up with local groups in the area. People in NALGO, the union whose members will be expected to implement the Poll Tax, are talking about refusing to co-operate with it, and have set up an anti-Poll Tax group. This is not just a 'community' issue, nor is it just a 'union' issue. It

affects us all, and we must get together to discuss it, and support each other in the actions we take.

#### HOW TO DELAY REGISTRATION

Due to the wide ranging information available to the people who will compile the register, it will probably be achieved. If we don't co-operate then it will be made very difficult maybe even impossible.

It is an offence to refuse outright to give information, but there are many ways - not involving prosecution - to delay being registered.

Accidents will happen. Say you never received the questionnaire. Wait for a week or two after receiving the registration form, then write back and tell them your dog ate the form or it fell on the fire - any excuse will do - and could you please have another one.

Not at home. If a canvasser comes to your door pretend to be out. Call up other people in your area and let them know canvassers are coming round.

Take your time. If a canvasser does catch you, don't fill in the form on the doorstep, say you're too busy or just leaving, and ask them to leave a form. You will have around 21 days to complete and return it - this applies to forms sent through the post too.

Keep them busy. Wait 18-19 days, then return the questionnaire unanswered, asking what one of the questions means. When they return the form with an answer to your query, wait another 18-19 days and then repeat the process on another question. Keep doing this until you run out of questions to query, 5 or 6 questions should cause at least 4 months delay.

These are just a few ideas, information on the kind of questions to ask and other ideas will be available soon.

#### NON-PAYMENT

Most people are saying that they can't afford to pay the Poll Tax, or won't pay it. We must show our opposition and know that together WE CAN BEAT THE POLL TAX. Refusal or inability to pay will lead to a fine and eventually to imprisonment. For those in employment, an order can be made to deduct the amount of money owing from peoples wages before they receive them. For the unemployed, there is a strong possibility that money will be stopped direct from benefits, although the powers to do this don't exist at present. SUCH METHODS ARE TIME CONSUMING AND COSTLY, AND IF ENOUGH PEOPLE REFUSE TO PAY, THE COURTS WILL SIMPLY CHOKE ON LEGAL ACTIONS.

Local anti-Poll Tax groups exist in the following areas of the city:- Pitsmoor, Sharrow, Heeley, Page Hall, Manor, Parson Cross (HOMES Campaign), Crookesmoor and Nether Edge. There are others setting up all the time. To get in touch with any of these groups contact:-

Sheffield :Co-ordinating Centre  
Against Unemployment,  
73, West Street, S1  
Tel: 724866

Sheffield Against The Poll Tax meets every second Monday at S.C.C.A.U. : at 7.30 pm. The next meeting is on Mon. February 6th.

S.A.P.T. can provide information, speakers for meetings, help in setting up a group in your local area/workplace/union. Everyone is welcome to meetings.

There will be a dayschool on February 4th at the University, organized by S.A.P.T. It is open to anyone who wants to find out more about the Poll Tax and what we can do to stop it being implemented. It will be followed by a social evening at the University.

#### PATNICK UNCONVINCED OVER SUPERTRAM

FOR THE first time in living memory Irvine Patnick, M.P. for Hallam, has agreed with us. This moment in history came about when he aired his views on the proposed new supertram. Patnick says, "I still don't think Supertram has been thought through properly and I will be urging ministers to take a long hard look at what is proposed". Supertrams promoters, who are confident that the cash will be forthcoming, have applied to the Department of Transport for over £30 million. The cost of the first phase of the scheme will be £65 million, that is from Mosborough to Hillsborough. Labour councillor Roger Barton declined to comment.



Irvine Patnick  
-unconvicted



Princess Anne - no  
substitute for the  
Queen mum

#### TOWN HALL TO BE REDEVELOPED

THE COUNCIL have announced their latest scheme in the redevelopment of Sheffield. The Town Hall is to have a multi-million pound face lift to bring it into the 1990's. It is hoped that as the city is brought up to date, the Town Hall will reflect the changing attitudes of the Council. Instead of a drab, ugly, old stone building and an overturned egg box (built during the Council's 'loony left' period) the Town Hall will be remodelled on the lines of the Fairy Tale Castle, Disneyland.

As the Labour Group is considering a possible defection, en masse, to the Mickey Mouse Club, some critics have stated that they can not tell the difference. Unlike the cartoon world created by Disney, Sheffield is unlikely to have flying elephants, though white ones are everywhere these days. We'll have Jumbos not Dumbos landing on Tinsley Park open-cast mine.

#### ROYAL VISIT FOR SHEFFIELD

Yet another royal visitor comes to Sheffield, along with the obligatory bus service disruption, this time we have Princess Anne. She's coming to see the Unity centre, not a stones throw from either the Leadmill or the Lyceum, both scenes of recent royal visits by Prince Charles. Why should we be visited by third rate royals? After all, the Queen Mother is undoubtedly the most popular granny ever and she hasn't been to Sheffield for ages now. Is she being dissuaded from coming to Sheffield? and if so WHY?

#### ALL SHEFFIELD FINAL?

WEDNESDAY AND UNITED could face each other in the F.A. Cup Final, in May ~~this~~ year, for the first time in history. Now this would give the city a real boost. Surely this would put Sheffield back on the map and encourage business to move to the city. It has recently been announced that Sheffield is to be the home of the worlds biggest sports library.

\* next year

# HEALTH SERVICE TREATMENT

THE GOVERNMENT is in the process of reorganising the National Health Service. Their intention is to redistribute the N.H.S. budget, without increasing it, among the regional health authorities. These health authorities are separately funded units and the government's aim is to introduce free market competition with 'rewards' for 'cost efficient' management. Together with this there is a new system of finance, devised by a successful supermarket chainstore manager. Regional health service managements are responsible for implementing cut-backs in services, staff levels, and wages in order to keep within government guidelines. The most successful regions get preferential treatment at the expense of the less successful. These regions are still underfunded but can afford more complicated treatment such as heart surgery, while waiting lists for more common treatment are similar to other areas.

## REWARDS AND RED HERRINGS

Regrading is a new move to introduce a career structure for health workers. This was seen as necessary because too many people leave nursing when they realise that to stay in the profession means a lifetime of bad pay and conditions. Nurses are now offered a 'reward' of 'promotion' if they work harder. Also nurses in unpopular more trained areas (intensive care, coronary care, and other specialities), that are difficult to staff, are offered better grades and therefore better pay.

In practice this has been used to divide nurses' opposition to the health service cuts and management have found it a useful weapon. There are now two tiers of nurses' pay, low paid State Enrolled Nurses and nursing auxiliaries who get very low wage increases (sometimes as low as 4% of an already low wage) and at the other end of the scale, some sisters getting relatively large wage increases. This causes tension at work, particularly because some low paid staff have to do work they are not properly trained for, or paid to do, due to under-staffing and under-funding. As an example of this, one S.E.N. at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital got 7 months backpay of £12.50

while others on the same ward were getting over £1000.

## APEALS PROCEDURE

Understandably this has brought a wave of protest, most notably against the regrading system. To handle this Kenneth Clark introduced an appeals procedure for nurses not satisfied with their new grades. This procedure is allowed to hear 10 appeals per year in South Yorkshire where hundreds have been filed. Nationally over 100,000 appeals have been filed. Now nurses find themselves waiting to hear the results of their appeal. Obviously the vast majority will fail but only a few at a time. This way anger will be spread over a long period of time and coordination of protest is very difficult. Adding to this the Royal College of Nursing, which represents over 50% of nurses, did nothing and the leadership of the health workers unions, NUPE and COHSE, failed to coordinate any action. There have been some interesting, but isolated, developments, for example, nurses at the Northern General Hospital voted for indefinite industrial action (this has not happened) and in Manchester at the Springfield Psychiatric Unit, nurses were on strike for a month.

## WORSE IN STORE

Meanwhile management in Sheffield set up an informal appeals procedure where they agreed to meet any nurse appealing against the grade given to them and basically told them individually that they 'had a case' and should await their appeal result, management could do nothing for them until then.

By splitting nurses in this way it is easier for management to implement the policies of central government and so gain their 'rewards', because there is no resistance.

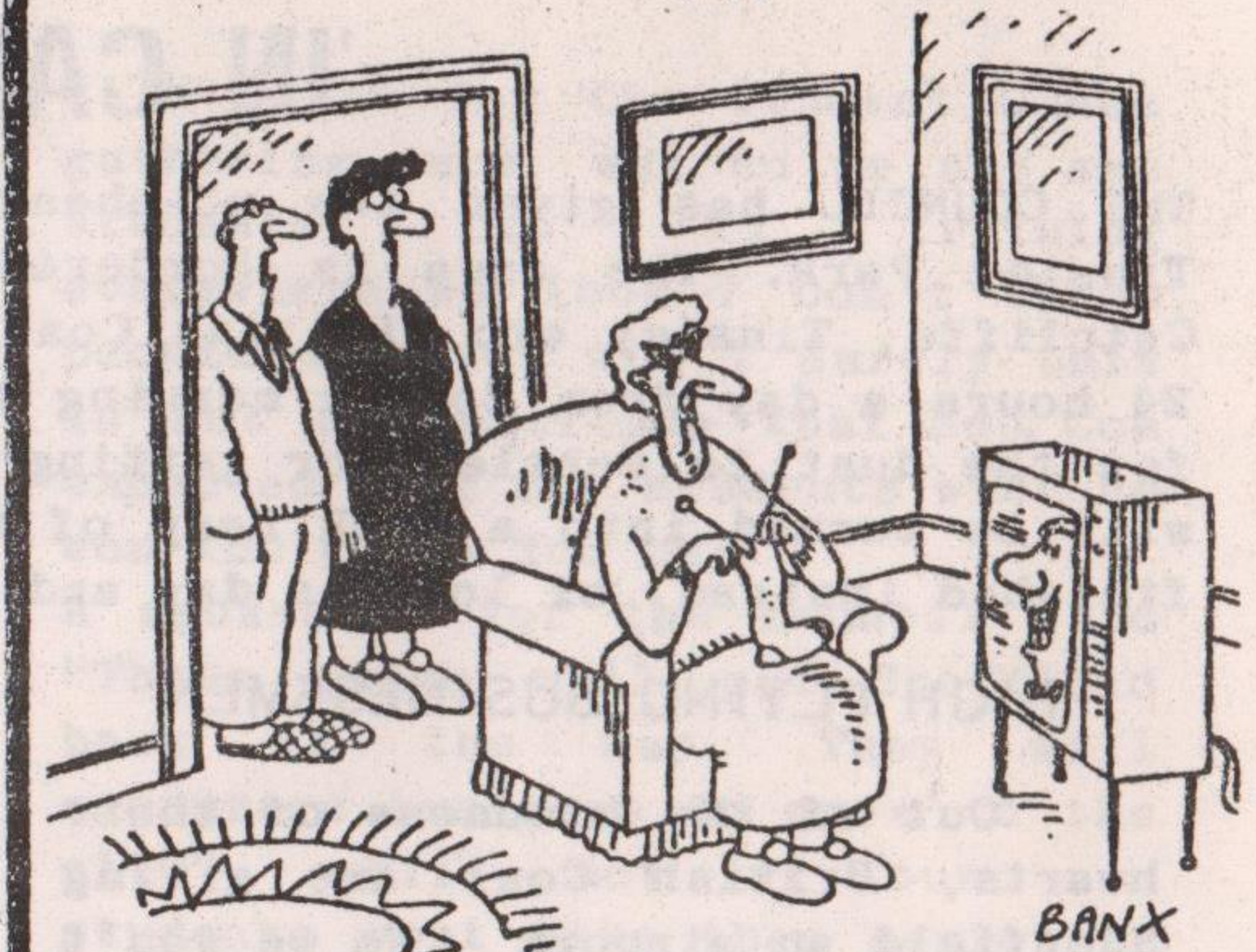
The government has already announced that next year's wage increase will be small and that other health workers, that is radiographers, technicians etc., are in for regrading.

# KEETONS DISPUTE

THE NOW familiar green and yellow buses run by the Yorkshire Terrier bus company are crossing the official A.E.U. picket line at Keetons, Greenland Rd, Darnall. Keetons rents parking space to the buses.

This dispute has now lasted two and a half years, the unions' strike pay long since ran out (union bureaucracy could not be overridden even for the sake of stopping these workers being starved back to work) and the strikers are only able to keep going due to contributions and donations from the public. The strike started on 2nd July 1986 after management ignored agreements made with the union on machine manning, safety

## POLL TAX REGISTRATION TIME IS NEARLY HERE



MY MOTHER? - I THOUGHT SHE WAS YOUR MOTHER!!

regulations, and redundancies, enforcing impossible working conditions and laying off workers. The union held a secret ballot, after peace talks had been asked for and turned down, the result was 2:1 in favour of strike action. Doyle, the manager, issued a statement within 5 minutes, announcing that the whole workforce had sacked themselves. A.C.A.S. were called in and when they told Doyle he was acting illegally they were told to leave. Despite several attempts to hold talks there is still no end in sight. Keetons are losing money in unfilled orders and the scab workforce is insufficiently trained, this means less safe working conditions and substandard work leaving the factory. It is the likes of Yorkshire Terrier bus company that make it easier for the management to refuse to negotiate by subsidising their losses (£250,000 in the first year alone).

Donations can be sent to:  
Keetons Strike Committee  
A.E.U. House  
Furnival Gate  
SHEFFIELD

Tel. 769041 or handed in to the stall outside the Town Hall.

## COUNCIL & BRITISH COAL 'IN CAHOOTS'

THE COUNCIL has given the go-ahead to 'opencast' 425 acres of land at Tinsley Park. The area is bordered by Brinsworth, Handsworth, Darnall, Catcliffe, Tinsley etc. British Coal envisage that the work will go on for 24 hours a day from Monday morning to Saturday afternoon leaving 42 hours for the dust to settle. For getting on for a decade the Tinsley Park site will be turned into a muck heap of massive proportions and when they have finished instead of lorries day and night it will be planes.

### HIGH FLYING BUSINESSMEN

Out of the kindness of their hearts, British Coal are giving Sheffield an airport - No we won't be going abroad from it or catching planes to Heathrow or Gatwick - For this venture is for the businessmen from the other side of Sheffield (who obviously wouldn't want it on their doorstep).

From the start the council gave the impression that it was all done and dusted. Tinsley Park Action Group was set up by local residents and users of the municipal golf course (which would be effected) to oppose the plans. A member said "there is a feeling that the Council and British Coal are in cahoots, even though they say they are not".

### ILL HEALTH

Richard Caborn M.P. was on show at public meetings all around the area, attempting to explain that local people hadn't understood properly, but he failed to make  $2+2=5$  - local people had understood only too well what it meant for the area, about 99% of them rejecting the proposal. Summing up he basically said that British Coal were going to do it anyway - with or without the council, so if the council said 'yes', it would be able to call a few shots. I doubt that came as a surprise to many people that the Council totally disregarded local opinion and said yes.

Opencasting wrecks the environment, destroys wildlife and is bad for peoples' health, especially the young as was shown in a recent report.

### HUMAN CHAINS

Tinsley Park Action Group vowed to continue its fight to save the land from British Coal in order to save residents, woodland and wildlife throughout the area from noise and pollution. As the 'Star' put it "one protest leader warned this afternoon of human chains in front of bulldozers if legal methods of objection fail".

I can only finish by quoting A.C. Turnbull's words: "... We residents of Brinsworth have had to put up with almost everything over the years: noise day and night from British Oxygen; the address system calling out 24 hours a day from the British Rail coking plant; fumes and smoke from the steelworks; slurry lorries passing through every weekend depositing their loads over the roads on the way to the tip at Orgreave.

We don't want opencast mining. We don't need an airport...."

### POSTSCRIPT

The council still intends to go ahead with the airport in the light of the recent air disasters. It is in fact noticeable that there hasn't been much promoting of the airport recently.

## OBITUARY



Hirohito - good riddance!!

EMPEROR HIROHITO, of Japan, dies and the government wants us to forget his war crimes. Japan is now one of the worlds leading industrial nations. With total disregard for peoples feelings the government wants to attend his funeral to protect diplomatic relations.

This man who was a 'God' until 1946 was fully aware of the atrocities committed on prisoners of war, during and after the war, in fact some people are still suffering.

Excuse us if we dont shed a tear for his passing away but say, good riddance, thank god he's dead!

Not only did he not denounce the suffering of the allied troops and people in occupied territories, but must take some of the blame for the bombing of millions of ordinary Japanese people, some of these are also still suffering, dragged into an Imperialist war in a terrible

## STUDENT GAMES

WITH PLANS for the Student Games gathering pace, why do we not see students out in training everywhere we look? Don't these people want to win? Surely this is not the attitude that Seb. Coe expected from our students when he won the games for us!

A spokesman for the council said "These games will put Sheffield back on the map. They will encourage business to move to the city", well, not if our own students wont take them seriously.

## COE RUNS FOR PARLIAMENT

SEB. COE, The yuppie athlete from Sheffield is trying to be elected to stand for election for parliament for the Conservative Party. It is not known where he will stand but he would surely have no chance if he stood in Sheffield (unless he was to oust Irvine Patnick from his seat in Hallam). What a let down for his fans. No wonder the Tories wanted Seb. to go to the Seoul Olympics, to get in the news and gain public sympathy.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANKS TO, Montenev Community Workshop for their help in producing this issue, t'PAPER for the use of their graphics, Paul Dearden for his brilliant Poll Tax cartoon, Bob Smith for his brilliant poem (lifted from t'PAPER), and anyone else who has helped.

Bob Smith has a book available, 'Crazy Jane', 30p from Southey Library or Montenev Community Workshop.

alliance with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. The Japanese people are well rid of him.