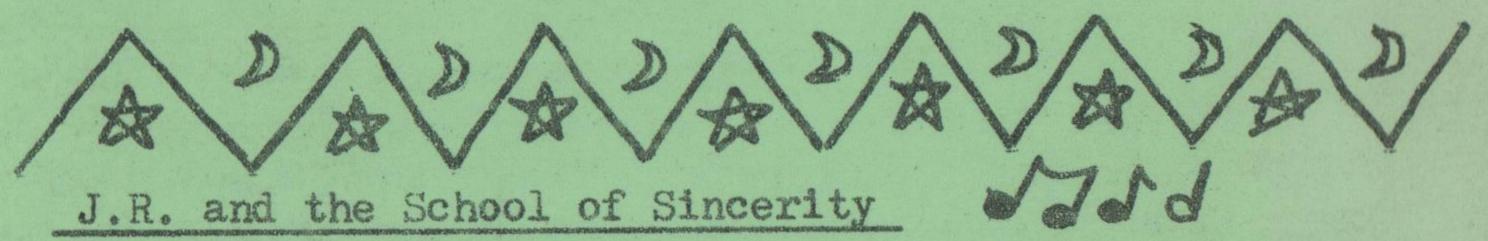
WEST MIDLANDS CND RAFFLE TICKETS

If anyone has any ticket stubs left, please return them to Crabapple now. They have to be in Birmingham by 21st, and the draw is on April 26th.

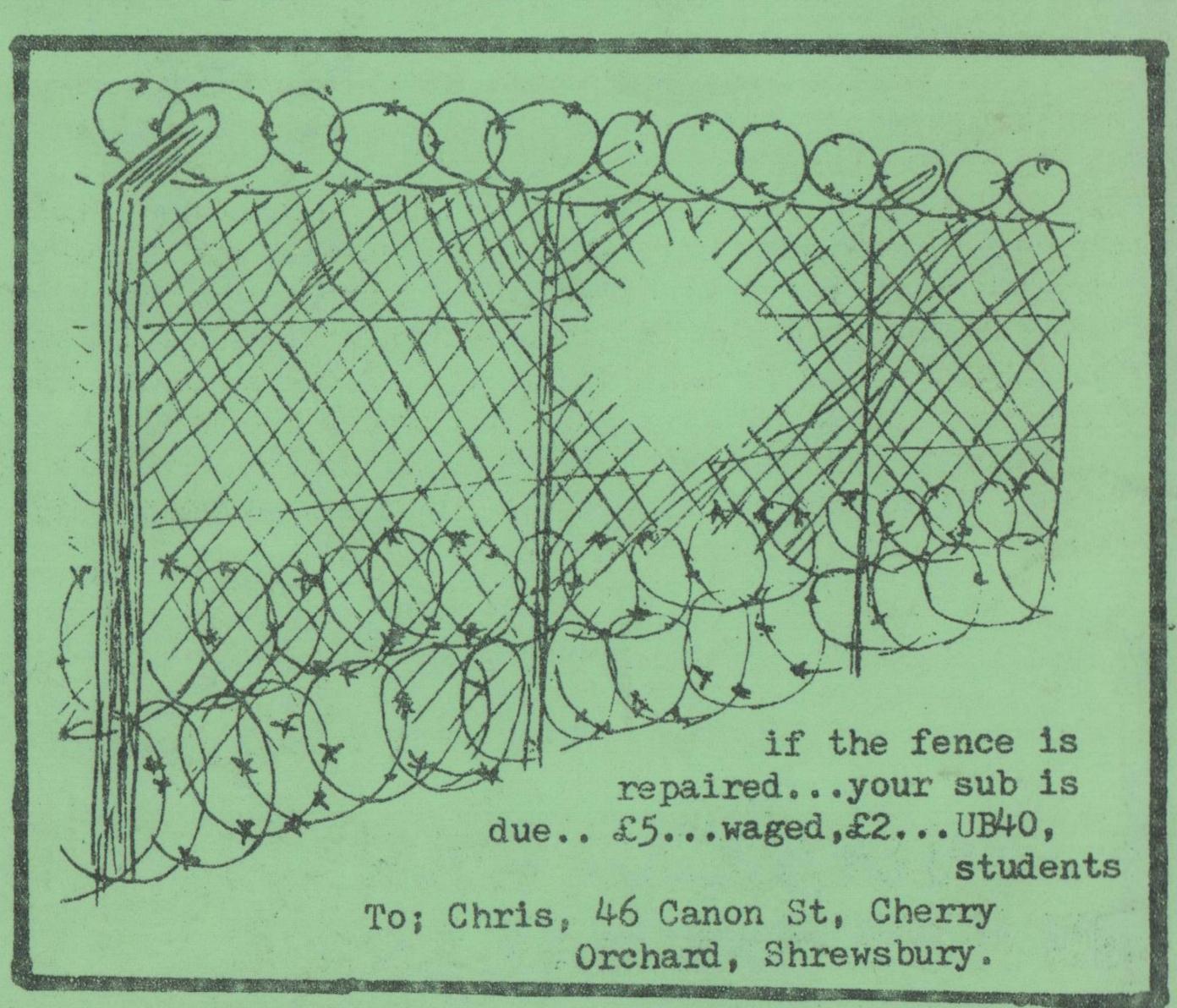


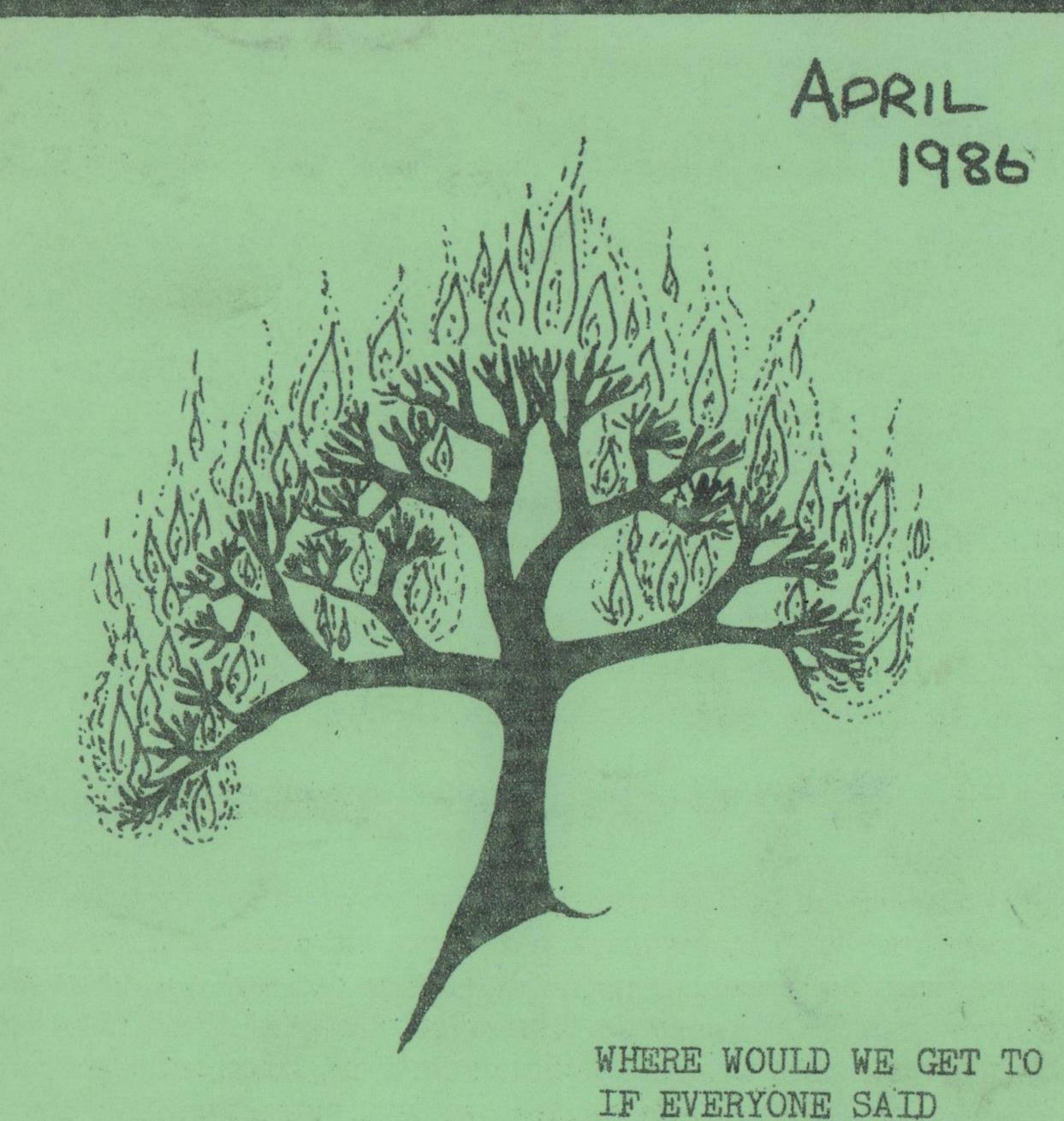
This slot here is just to say thank-you to JR and the School of Sincerity for all their efforts on and before Friday 4th April. This benefit gig was not a Peace Group initiative but was offered by David Morreale of "JR etc." and all the work put towards it was the effort of the band. We made £60 profit after costs.

The band have offered to do another gig for the Peace Group, maybe in the summer.... I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks again.

PS. Chris's posters were great.

5621





WHERE WOULD WE GET TO

AND NO-ONE WENT

WHERE WE'D GET TO

TO HAVE A LOOK

IF WE WENT

Shrewsbury Peace Group Newsletter

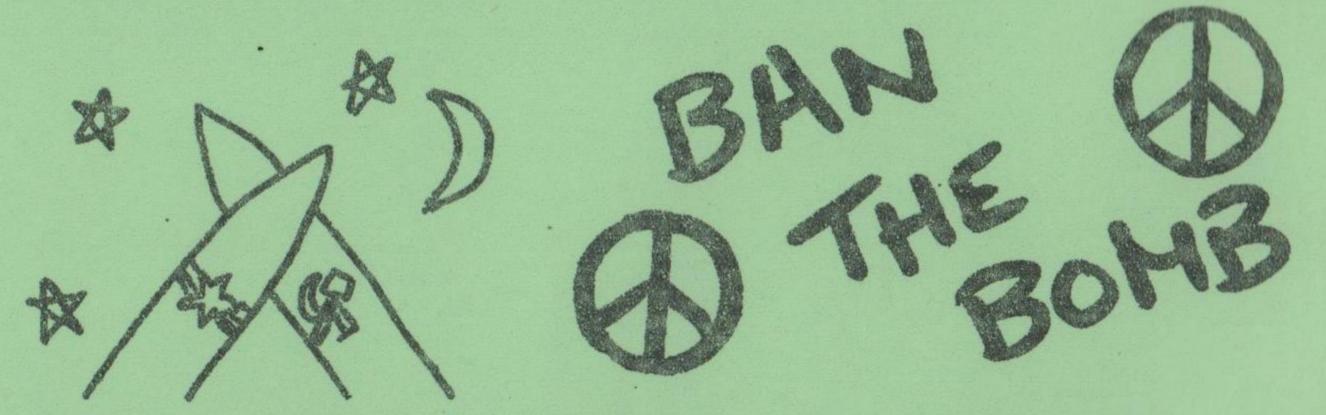
THE BASIC CASE LOW

Starting on Thursday April 17th, CND is launching its Extended Public Information Campaign. (EPIC)

The purpose of this EPIC is to get back to CND's basic case for No Nuclear Weapons in Britain and to explore the theme "Support CND for a Future Without Fear". EPIC 1 will demonstrate "the common sense of our proposals for nuclear disarmament, common sense exhibited by the majority of the worlds nations who are taking the non-nuclear initiative, and the benefits to ourselves, and to the rest of the world to be gained by joining the majority."

Why do we need it?

We have identified an 'undecided' group of people who are against cruise and Trident, but think that we should possess some nuclear weapons. They want to halt the arms race, but feel helpless to do so. Some dislike CND's image. Others feel that they do not know enough about the issues. We have to convince them, despite the propaganda, that British 'independent' nuclear weapons are expensive, irrational and not even independent. They do nothing to defend us since inviting suicide is not a sensible defence policy.



This campaign will culminate with a mass lobby of parliament on July 8th. The message will be "YES to nuclear disarmament - NO to Star Wars." At the time of going to press, no definite details are available but we will probably be sending a coach from Shrewsbury. More details in later newsletters.

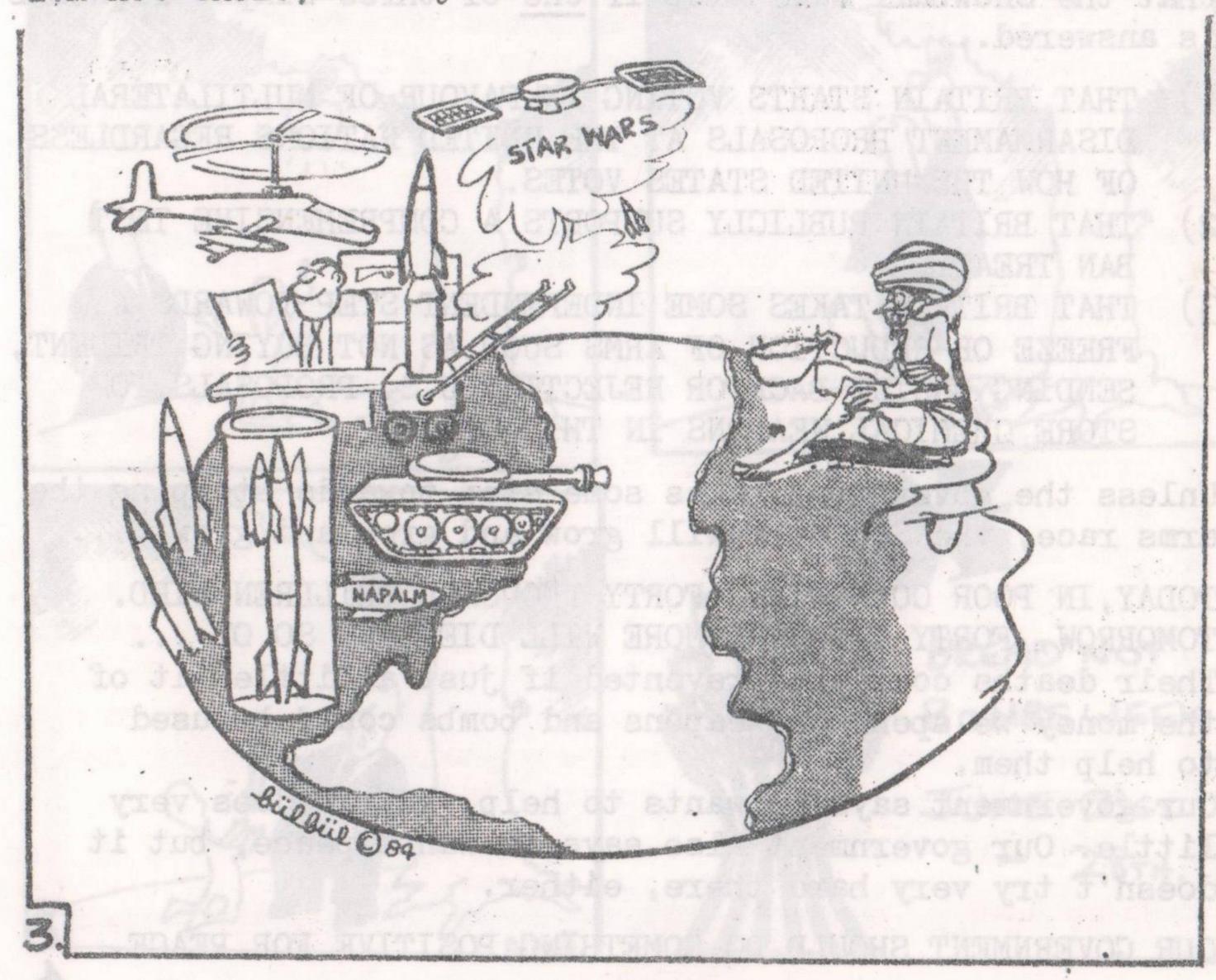


SHREWSBURY ... BASIC CASE WORKSHOP.

Shrewsbury Peace Group are hoping to have a Basic Case workshop on April 29th, Tues. It will probably be at Belmont Youth Centre, at 7.30pm. Both date and Venue are

to be confirmed. We will let you know.

If Shrewsbury Peace Group decide to launch their own local EPIC, we will probably use May 17th as our starting date, and oulminate on Survival Saturday, whenever that is. There are many aspects of this campaign and there is bound to be something in it that you can do to help. Do come to the workshop. We are hoping to have Bill Braddick of West Mid CND to help us with ideas. This is something that the whole group can do together. It would be helpful if the newsletter distributors could make the workshop, because we may have information for them to pass on. If you want to know more please ring me on S'bury 271274. If I'm not there, leave your name etc. and I can ring you back.



THE SNOWBALL CAMPAIGN



The Snowball Campaign is a non-violent action but it means breaking the law. Each of the Snowballers cuts a single strand of the perimeter wire fence at a local nuclear base.

With this action they are saying :

LIFE ON THIS EARTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE !!

The Snowball started with three people cutting the fence at USAF Sculthorpe in Norfolk, then nine, then twenty-seven, then eighty-one. The numbers grow and grow.

Each of the Snowballers goes to the police and hands in a statement explaining why s/he cut the fence. Each person also writes three letters - either personal or to a public figure - explaining why this action was taken. Each promises that the Snowball will stop if one of three simple requests is answered...

- 1) THAT BRITAIN STARTS VOTING IN FAVOUR OF MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AT THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDLESS OF HOW THE UNITED STATES VOTES.
- 2) THAT BRITAIN PUBLICLY SUPPORTS A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY.
- THAT BRITAIN TAKES SOME INDEPENDENT STEP TOWARDS A FREEZE OR REDUCTION OF ARMS SUCH AS NOT BUYING TRIDENT, SENDING CRUISE BACK OR REJECTING U.S. PROPOSALS TO STORE CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THIS COUNTRY.

Unless the government takes some step towards stopping the arms race, the Snowball will grow and grow and grow.....

TODAY, IN POOR COUNTRIES, FORTY THOUSAND CHILDREN DIED.
TOMORROW, FORTY THOUSAND MORE WILL DIE. AND SO ON ...
Their deaths could be prevented if just a little bit of the money we spend on weapons and bombs could be used to help them.

Our government says it wants to help, but it does very little. Our government also says it wants peace, but it doesn't try very hard there, either.

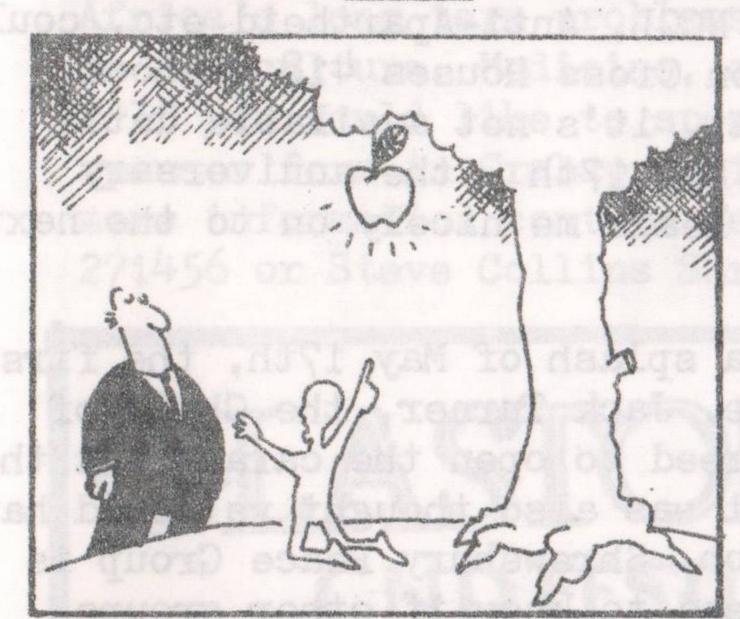
OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR PEACE.

URENCO's enrichment plant at <u>Capenhurst</u> (Cheshire) provides fuel for nuclear power stations. The new MoD plant on the same site has cost £100 million, and is to make highly enriched uranium to fuel Trident submarines, and also for nuclear weapons.

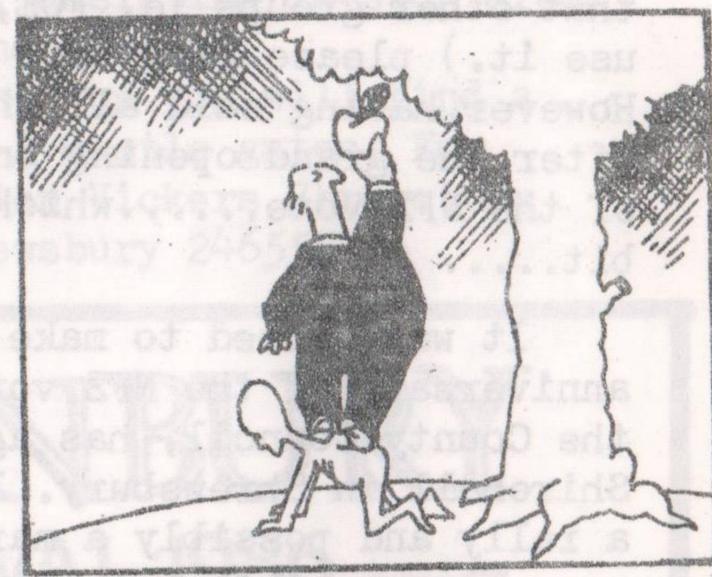
The uranium which is enriched for military use is mined under inhuman conditions in Namibia by Rio Tinto Zinc, a British company. This is in defiance of the United Nations Decree which makes it illegal to import raw materials from Namibia while that country is occupied by South Africa.

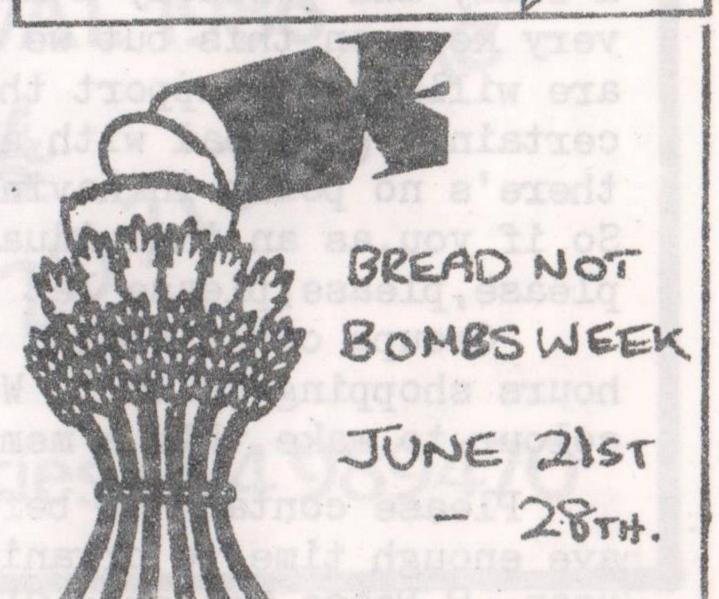
Most ordinary people (no such thing-Ed.) long for peace and justice. They have tried hard to make our government listen, without success. So the Snowball Campaign began.

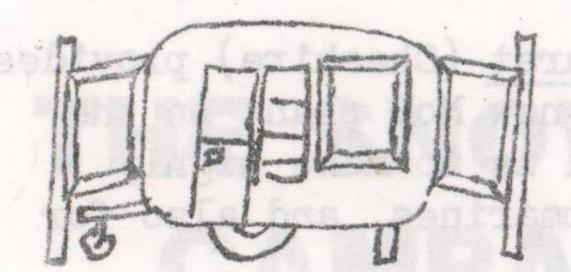
THE NEXT LEG OF THE SNOWBALL WILL HAPPEN ON APRIL 18-20th. A GROUP IS GOING FROM SHREWSBURY, TO 'SNOWBALL' AT CAPEN-HURST. WE WILL BE TAKING PART IN SUBSEQUENT SNOWBALLS TOO. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE EVER-GROWING SNOWBALL, WHETHER TO GET ARRESTED OR TO SUPPORT,....











Shropshire Peace Alliance News.

The caravan is nearly ready!!!!!! What do you mean, what caravan? Well, are you sitting comfortably....

Once upon a time there was a large organisation called CND. From the goodness of their hearts they bequeathed from their treasury a sum of money to a lowly group of peace campaigners in Shropshire. CND said they could buy a caravan to have their summer holidays in... oops, no I mean to take displays of their peaceful message around the county......

Well, it's nearly ready. Dave, Alison, Mark and Bill and others joined together at Berrington Hall and performed miracles. Emily and I are hoping to paint the outside with Mark's beautiful new NFZ design.

Anyone wanting to use the caravan, (and it was agreed that other groups ie. FOE, NCCL, Anti-Apartheid etc. could use it.) please ring Dave on Cross Houses 418 to book. However, having said all that, it's not available until after the grand opening on May 17th - the anniversary of the NFZ vote.....which leads me nicely on to the next bit....

It was agreed to make a splash of May 17th, the first anniversary of the NFZ vote. Jack Turner, the Chair of the County Council, has agreed to open the caravan at the Shirehall in Shrewsbury. It was also thought we could have a rally and possibly a march. Shrewsbury Peace Group is very keen on this but we need to know if other groups are willing to support this venture. We will almost certainly go ahead with a rally at the Shirehall, but the there's no point in having a march with only 6 people... So if you, as an individual or as a group, are interested please, please, please let me know. Susan S'bury 271274

Groups could book a coach for the day and have a few hours shopping as well. We need you, your banners and your colour to make this a memorable celebration!

Please contact me before 15th April otherwise we won't have enough time to organise anything worthwhile.

Susan, 9 Peace Cottages, Old Coleham, Shrewsbury - 271274 6.

Mark Davies is organising a newspaper ad. for May 17th to advertise Shropshires first year with NFZ status. This is an expensive thing to do, costing well over £150, as Shrewsbury Peace Group found out during Bread not Bombs week last year, and sponsorship from other than Peace Alliance funds will be needed.

If you would like to contribute and know people who might also like to help, please contact Mark on S'bury 64842. Alternatively, send donations, labelled Newspaper Ad., to Jill Bedford, 11 Underdale Rd. Shrewsbury.



SPONSORED FAST

Starting 20th April we (Helen Vickers, Sue Richardson, and Steve Collins) plan to fast for 3 days. By doing this we hope to raise money for the charity aid for African education. This charity is concerned with Africa's long term problems, assisting in such areas as Agriculture, Medicine, and Housing.

If you would like to sponsor us you will find a sponsor form in Crabapple 1-2 Castle gates. For more information contact Helen Vickers Shrewsbury 271456 or Steve Collins Shrewsbury 246555



WHO KILLED HILDA HURRELL?

We still don't know, do we?
I'm not sure why I went to see this play. I knew that I'd be very depressed afterwards....

Shortly after Hilda was murdered, I was sharing an evening with some friends out at Plox Green. I had seen Mick earlier in the day and he had said that he wouldn't be able to come because, in view of the circumstances, he didn't want to leave Jane alone in their isolated country cottage. I told him to bring Jane along too and so there were about 8 of us sitting around talking and obviously Hilda was uppermost in our minds.

We convinced ourselves that there was no way that the security forces/police/government etc. could have had anything to do with Hilda's death. That sort of thing doesn't happen in this country. We were all very disturbed by the implications of some of the evidence but managed to persuade ourselves (?) that it just wasn't possible. Our police wouldn't do it...would they? The Government was pretty rotten but they couldn't sink that low..... could they?

As time went by and evidence came in and issues were evaded and nothing happened, realisation dawned on us that we were almost certainly wrong in our previous conclusions.

The play was superb and caringly performed. The Music Hall was packed. There must have been 500 people in that hall. How did they feel....Many of my friends were there, I think I know how they were feeling. There were amusing parts but I couldn't laugh. It was all too distressing. I was shaking by the end.

Nothing particularly new was said but the issue of Hilda's death was raised again. Odd how the police had an incident caravan in the Square that previous week asking for further information.

One piece of information did come to light....I don't think I'll ever forget it. About 3 months before Hilda died a Mrs Goodman disappeared. Who?.....Mrs Goodman was area secretary for CND; a member of The Council for the Protection of Rural Wales. She was of an age with Hilda and her involvement in conservation and the peace movement

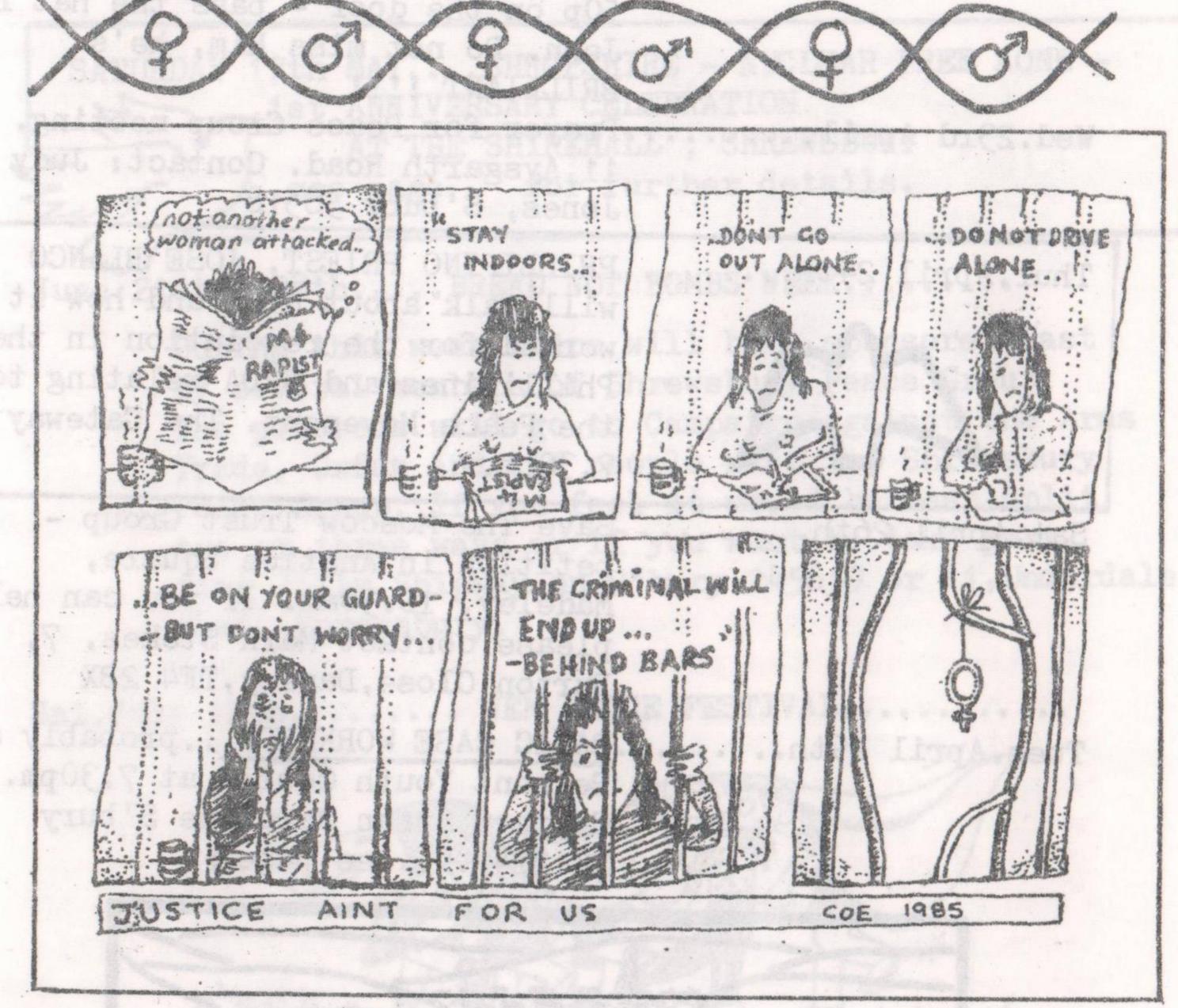
were very similar. She went shopping one day from her home in Corwen and has not been seen since.

I didn't think we had Karen Silkwoods in this country but it looks like I was wrong again.

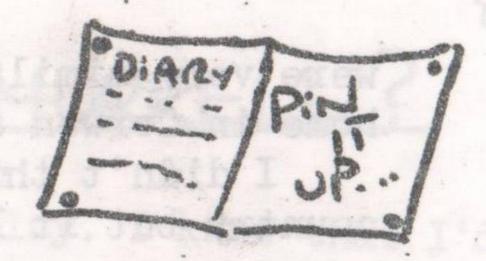
Susan

Holly Near.

"It could have been me,
But instead it was you.
So I'll keep doing the work you were doing As if I were two.
And if you can die for Freedom
Freedom - Freedom - Freedom
If you can die for Freedom,
I can too."



LOCAL DIARY ... / PIN



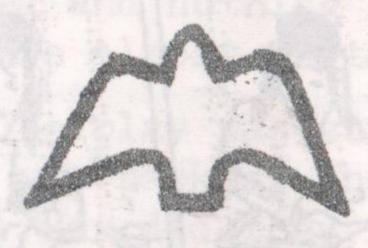
Tues.April 15th......STAR WARS VIDEO.....7.30pm at the Gateway. Also there's business to be discussed. So please be there.

Wed. April 16th Kibbutz meeting with Moshe Matsuma Speaking on communitarian life. Dawley Information Centre, High Street, Dawley. 7.30pm. All Welcome.

. John Edgar - NUCLEAR FREE TONE -Fri.April 18th..... Radical folk singer, live at the Seven Stars, Old Coleham at 8pm. 50p on the door - pass the hat for John. Do not miss him, he's BRILLIANT !!!!

Prayer for Peace Group meeting. Wed.23rd April..... 11, Aysgarth Road. Contact: Judy Jones, S'bury 58518

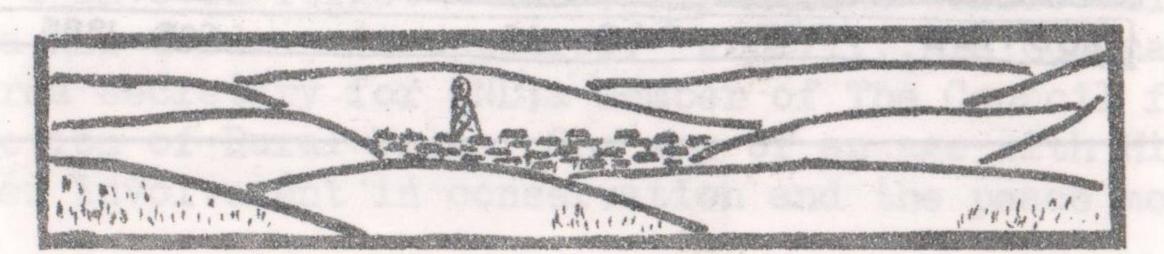
Thur, April 24th....



.PHILLIPINO PRIEST, JOSE BLANCO will talk about NVDA and how it worked for the revolution in the Phillipines and NVDA relating to the Peace Movement. The Gateway 7.30pm.

Sat.April 26th..... . Save The Moscow Trust Group petition in Anstice Square, Madeley. 10.30am. If you can help please contact Mark Stokes, 7, Burton Close, Dawley, TF4 2BX

Tues.April 29th BASIC CASE WORKSHOP ... probably at Belmont Youth Centre at 7.30pm. Contact Susan Caroline S'bury 271274.... see page 3



MORE DIARY....

Tues. May 6th..... Business meeting at 11, Underdale Road, 8pm. To discuss... May 17th. Survival Saturday WAR bus labrate entrate that the bired and rate Basic Case heast and to the servero'behred, attentesseed t Fundraising was restleteller orange est There are Interest bein and lots more

Wed.April 7th Shropshire Peace Alliance Meeting United Reformed Church, English Bridge Shrewsbury. 7.30pm.

Tues.April 13th.....Capenhurst, Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons. Patricia Pulham from Cheshire will talk on the above at Wem Parish rooms at 8 pm.

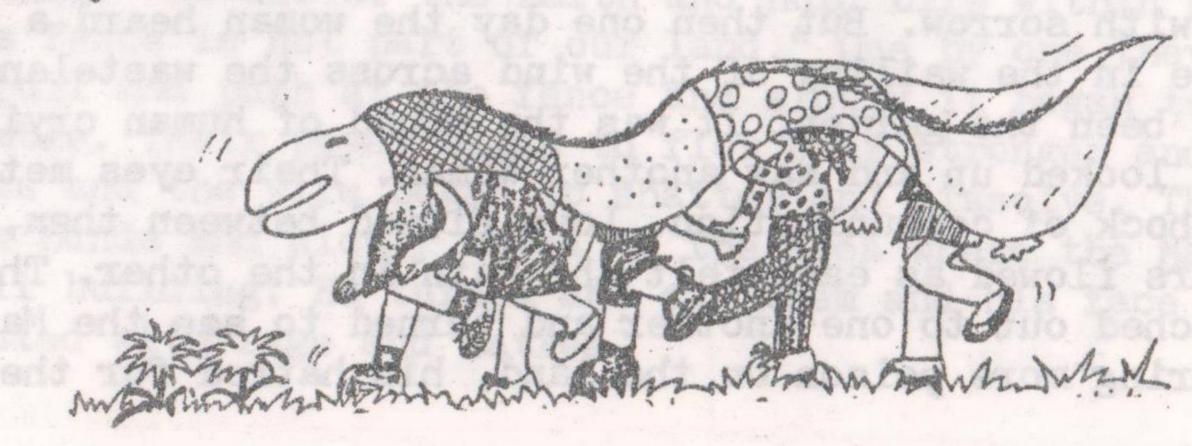
SATURDAY 17th MAY SHROPSHIRE - NUCLEAR FREE ZONE -AT THE SHIREHALL, SHREWSBURY for further details. see page

June 21st - 28th BREAD NOT BOMBS WEEK

During this week there will be a sponsored fast by several members of Shrewsbury Peace Group. The proceeds will go to Campaign against the Arms Trade, Oxfam and, if people want it, Shrewsbury Peace Group. If you feel it would be best split two or three ways or if you want to take part, ring Jilly Shipway on S*bury 245659 or 11, Underdale Road, Shrewsbury.

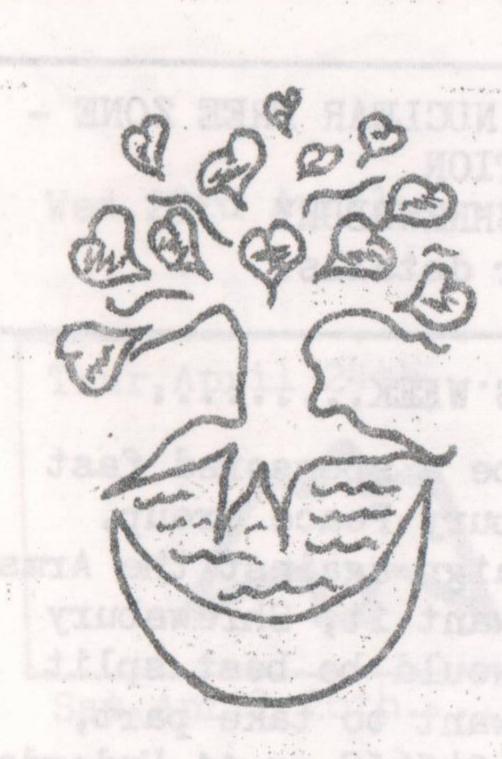
all the trees, destroyed the Llower

Sat. July 12th WEM PEACE FESTIVAL



THE MYTH TREE SYNOTT

There once was a Man who saw a piece of Earth, marvelled at its beauty, at the flowers and trees that grew there. He walked among them, heard the call of the birds and saw the movements of the animals, and for a while he was content. But always he asked questions. "Why is the grass so green, how do birds fly, what is water?" He also saw that all living things end and die and return to the Earth and he grew afraid. He thought if he could only find the Secret of Life he could live frever. So he cut down a tree to examine it and found that Life disappeared and he could not catch it. He pulled a flower apart and the same thing happened. His fear grew and as it grew he began to destroy more of the living beauty in an effort to catch Life.



There was a Woman who also lived in the garden and one day he noticed that whilst he was angry and afraid she was relaxed and smiling and the flowers grew around her and the animals came to her. "She is closer to the Secret than I." he thought and called her to him. She loved him and she came. His anger and fear grew and as it did so he punished her for his own inability to reach the Secret. She became his servant, and did his will, but always when he looked at her he was reminded of the fact that he did not own the secret.

Soon everything began to remind him and so he cut down all the trees, destroyed the flowers, and the more destructive he became the more afraid he became. The Woman looked on with sorrow. But then one day the woman heard a new note in the wailing of the wind across the wasteland that had been the garden. It was the sound of human crying. She looked up and saw another Woman. Their eyes met in a shock of communication. Love flowed between them, and tears flowed as each felt the pain in the other. They reached out to one another and turned to see the Man busy pouring more poison on the land, his hatred for the Earth

that would not yield up its Secret, growing ever stronger.

They did not know what to do to save the Earth and so stood by helplessly.

Then one day they awoke to find that in the night he had built a fence, he had surrounded the area that had been pure delight with a hideous mass of wire, and they were on the outside. Too late they realised that by their inaction they had been put outside, his hatred had grown so much that even they were now enemies. They watched day by day as a monstrous structure began to appear within the fence and great was the sickness and horror they felt when they realised that he was building a device with which he could take apart the World completely. "Doesn't he realise by now," they said, "that to take apart Life is to lose Life ? He will destroy everything.". They stood weeping and moaning, clutching the fence and gradually they became aware of movement around them. Women appeared, one by one, each moaning and weeping until the fence was surrounded by Women. The Man looked up and noticed the Women but so afraid was he that he simply added more wire and continued building his Weapon of Destruction.

Then the miracle began to happen. The Women saw the fear in the Man and saw that he was afraid of them and then looked to themselves and saw that it was because they were still connected to the Earth and still felt in their hearts its stirrings and movements. "We have the Secret within us that he desires", they told one

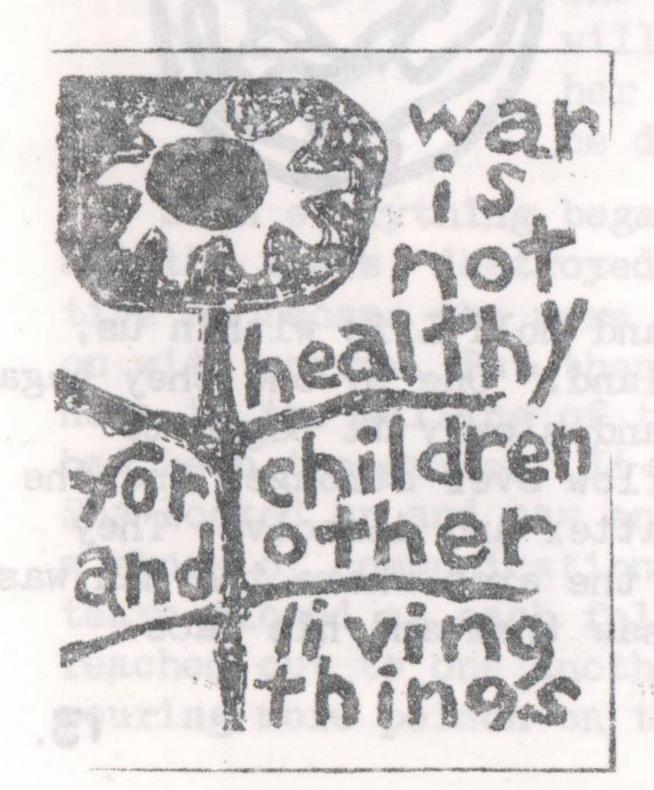


another. "We are of the Earth and hold Life within us, this fence is not part of our land." One by one they began to pull and push at the fence and slowly it began to crumble. Their power began to flow ever stronger and the posts and the wire began to shatter and dissolve. They took hands and slowly moved to the area where the Man was still building. He turned and saw them and his face twisted with rage and hatred.

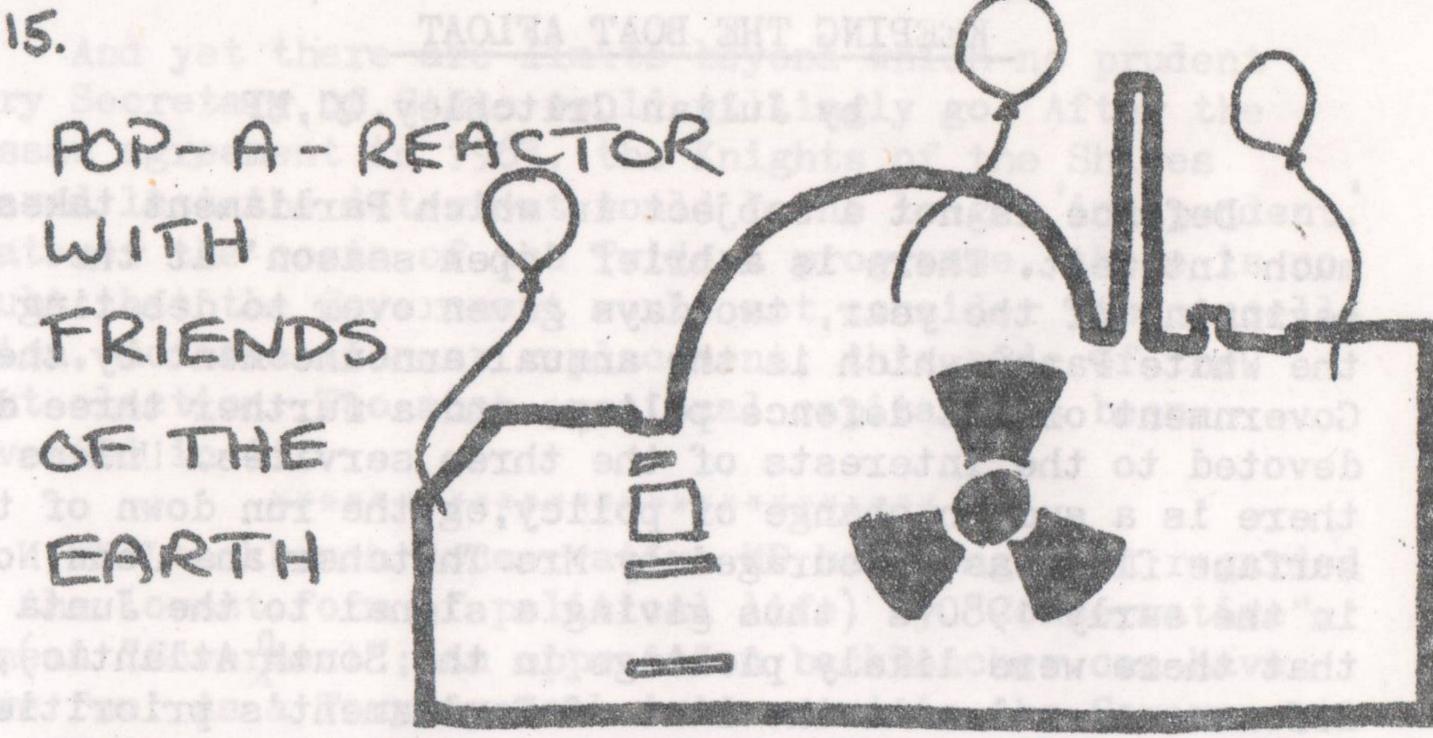
Still they came on, the power of the Earth they loved, the Secret of Life flowing between them, they walked on and on and he was powerless to stop them. He tried to hack them down but as they fell more moved up behind them and he saw the Life in the fallen bodies rise up and the ground became green and the flowers grew over their bodies. Finally they mached his Weapon and began to dismantle it. As they rendered it harmless they chanted and sang and the wind moved their hair and the birds sang again and the grass grew thicker.



He watched helplessly and found that as the Weapon was broken down by their actions something was happening to him. He felt his tension dropping away. He saw the flowers and the trees and heard the singing and remembered where he had come from. He felt new Life springing up and felt water on his face. He put up his hands to his eyes and found that he was weeping. His tears flowed down and over the ground, a pool formed and more flowers and grass grew around it. He saw with a shock that his tears had created a tiny garden, Life had come from him. "The Secret has been here inside me all the time," he thought. He looked up and saw the Women smiling at him. "We have work to do," he said to them. "We must repair the damage I have done and you must teach me how to do it."



This newsletter was compiled by Susan, Simon and Steve. We need some one to do the next issue....any volunteers? Copy-date for the next issue is Friday, May 2nd. Stuff for this to 9, Peace Cottages, Old Coleham, Shrewsbury or leave it in the box in Crabapple shop, Castlegates, Shrewsbury. Anyway, hope you enjoy this issue....



Sometime in May, the bulky outline of Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station will be graced by hundreds of balloons scaring upwards in front of it. Some of the tags attached to them will be sent back to us, drawing attention to how far radioactive dust could travel in the event of a serious accident. Trawsfynydd, 50 miles to the west, is our nearest nuclear reactor.

There are two particular points to this exercise. First, the existing station is 23 years old, a few years away from the end of its life. And so, shall we say, not in its safest condition - as has been pointed up by the recent leak of radioactive carbon dioxide.

Secondly, after the Sizewell Inquiry report comes out around September, the Electricity Board will press-whatever the recommendations - for a whole 'family' of Pressurised Water Reactors. One likely site is (you guessed?) Trawsfynydd. The PWR design is inherently more dangerous than previous designs because of the tremendous pressure at which it operates. So if anything goes wrong, it gets serious in fractions of a second. So quickly that humans cannot deal with it. It has to be left to computers.

The nuclear power industry, worldwide, is teetering on the brink of its own grave. Let's help it to fall in. Pop-a-reactor from Crabapple and other outlets throughout the area; 40p buys a tag to tie on a balloon. Further details: Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth; phone Shrewsbury 67968.

KEEPING THE BOAT AFLOAT

by Julian Critchley, QC, MP

Defence is not a subject in which Parliament takes much interest. There is a brief 'open season' at the beginning of the year, two days given over to debating the White Paper which is the annual announcement by the Government of its defence policy, and a further three days devoted to the interests of the three services. Unless there is a sudden change of policy, eg. the run down of the surface fleet as encouraged by Mrs Thatcher and John Nott in the early 1980's (thus giving a signal to the Junta that there were likely pickings in the South Atlantic), defence comes low in the list of Parliament's priorities.

For several years I have been one of three Vice Chairmen of the Conservative Party's backbench defence committee, a task which cannot be described as arduous. The Chairman is Sir Anthony Buck, the Member for Colchester and a former 'naval person'. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 16.15 in order to listen to a sequence of guests: academics, journalists and retired admirals with something lethal to sell. Some of our guests have even been Known to bring Charts.

The party should not be confused with the all-party select committee which takes itself altogether more seriously. The select committee can summon witnesses and write reports, which as they are rarely given debating time on the floor of the House, enjoy a brief life, as short as that of the mayfly, but less productive. The party committee, on the other hand, acts to keep the boat afloat while not actually rocking it.

We have few illusions. Less than 4% of Parliamentary time is devoted to defence on which has been spent since the end of the Second War between a quarter and a third of all Government expenditure.

Parliament can either approve or disapprove of Government policies. It has no power as Congress has, to even alter the pattern of allocation. *********:it is in defence matters, as in no other subject, that the differences between the elected on both sides of the Atlantic are so great.

And yet there are limits beyond which no prudent Tory Secretary of State would willingly go. After the Nassau agreement in 1963, the Knights of the Shires feared lest the deterrent would be no longer independent. Whatever the costs of the Trident programme, there is no doubt that the Government would not consider its cancellation, modification, or replacement, this side of the next election. Too much emotional capital has been invested in it.

The backbench Conservative MP has long been regarded as the lowest form of political life. By "Conservative", I mean "Government"; an opposition backbencher can have more fun. As a Tory my task is to sustain the Government in office. As an MP who has taken an interest in defence matters for more than twenty years, I have no doubt in the role that Parliament is called upon to play.

Parliament has been excluded from direct participation in the policy making process. It is for our masters to guage what it is they can get away with. Parliament has no voice in many, if not all, of the major policy decisions that have been taken since the War. Lord Atlee never informed or consulted his cabinet, let alone Parliament before embarking on the construction of a strategic nuclear force. Operation Antelope, later renamed the Chevaline project, was revealed to the House by Francis Pym ten years after its inception. The list is endless.

Parliament's failure to prvide a forum for defence policy has set a limit to the size of an informed public opinion on matters of defence. This, in its turn, has meant that the authority with which the Government of the day can clothe their policy decisions has made them immediately acceptable to public opinion as a whole. The evidence of the public opinion polls has been that the public attitude to policies, whether conscription, the level of spending or the independent nuclear deterrent, has been one of support for whatever the Government's view on any of these topics may have been at any one time. The public approved a three per cent increase in real terms in defence spending; now that the party is over, and defence will be squeezed, no one seems to care very much.

Julian Critchley is Tory MP for Aldershot.

Ed. this article was written in Dec.85 before the Westland crisis.

******* = edited

GREEN AND Common 2) 18

The Womens Peace Camp is Still there !(Despite constant evictions.) But new women and those who have been before are always welcome. In fact some women are coping with the evictions better than ever thanks to a special new tent that can be removed and carried away, complete with contents, in about ten seconds. This amzing new tent (with built in ground sheet) has been built by a sympathetic camping firm in Cumbria, and financed by the Quakers who are donating them to Greenham.

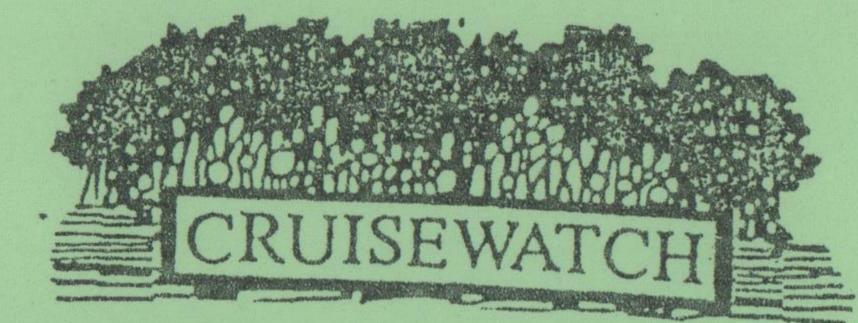
However, even the new tent doesn't stop the bailiffs attacking women. And when women are attacked the police always look the other way.....

Meanwhile, inside the base, the Americans are spending

250 million dollars on "new facilities"....

SIMON SIMON SIMON AT GREENHAM.

Over the last couple of years, many women at Greenham have become ill with strange symptoms - sickness, headaches, dizziness and disrupted menstrual cycles for example. With many women experiencing these symptoms at the same time, and with the effects being noticed particularly at one gate, it was thought that it might have something to do with the base itself. Visiting doctors and scientists have connected the symptoms to low-level microwave radiation, and have found that areas around the base are being subjected to radiation levels much higher than expected. Microwaves can cause physiological and neurological changes in humans, and very high levels can cause blindness and death. Both Americans and Russians are trying to develope microwave battlefield weapons - the Americans tested an "electronic flamethrower" back in 1972. The military arm't "allowed" to experiment on humans, but perhaps they see Greenham women as guinea pigs rather than humans Some Greenham women are currently undergoing tests to find out what's happening to them.....



The last Cruise convoy exercise was witnessed by over 1,000 protesters. (March '86). They convoy was halted many times, its schedules disrupted, and cruise launcher vehicles painted with various colours of paint and porridge! Warming fires were lit on hill tops across Southern England to warm the population that the Americans were practising for Armageddon again. The convoy was tracked all the way to Salisbury Plain and all the way back again. As usuall, some policemen were excessively violent, and photographers who captured the violence on film were themselves arrested. One mixed Cruisewatch group stopped the convoy for ten minutes by blockading the road, and then sprinkled aromatic oils on the Cruise missile launchers - just imagine, those evil silos at Greenham Common now smell of flowers!

The police were astounded at the huge numbers of peaceful people who turned up at such short notice. Are we in Shrewsbury too far away to join in? Or can we publicise Cruise deployments in some other way? Perhaps we could have some sort of local Cruisewatch support group? There is a small group of people who are interested in helping out in Cruisewatch activities in the South. It wouldn't mean doing any of the dramatic and dangerous charging around on Salisbury Plain but helping to relieve worn out and over worked Cruise watchers at times. If anyone is interested in Cruisewatch please ring (again?), Susan on S'bury 271274.

