

# NOTTINGHAM VOICE

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## NOTTINGHAM VOICE SICK CAPTION COMPETITION

READERS ARE INVITED TO grossly misinterpret this picture (taken at this year's Festival) by supplying an obviously misleading caption, e.g.

"Thank God it wasn't his trousers!"

OR

"Knocking off a police officer's jacket ... that'll be at least six months' suspended!"

OR

"I may be smiling now sonny, but wait till we get back to the station!"

Entries by 8th August. Prize: one year's supply of Nottingham Voice (yes, really!).





# NOTTINGHAM VOICE

**Nottingham's  
independent  
monthly paper**

**People's Centre,  
33 Mansfield Road,  
Nottingham**

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## PRIVATE PARTY

THERE ARE TIMES when local government seems like an exclusive birthday party for the very special entertainment of those lucky enough to be on the inside. The official opening of this year's Nottingham Festival in the Market Square was a good example. The large crowd spreading good humouredly over the slabs (and eyed suspiciously by the usual clusters of nervous policemen) was treated to what looked for all the world like a brief interruption to a civic booze-up. A motley bunch, including Robin Hood's band and a slightly bemused delegation from Minsk, emerged from the Council House for about ten minutes then returned whence they came looking enormously pleased with themselves and leaving the puzzled-looking populace to the contemplation of each other's navels until the Band of the Royal Marines showed up a good while later to give the occasion the oompah it deserved.

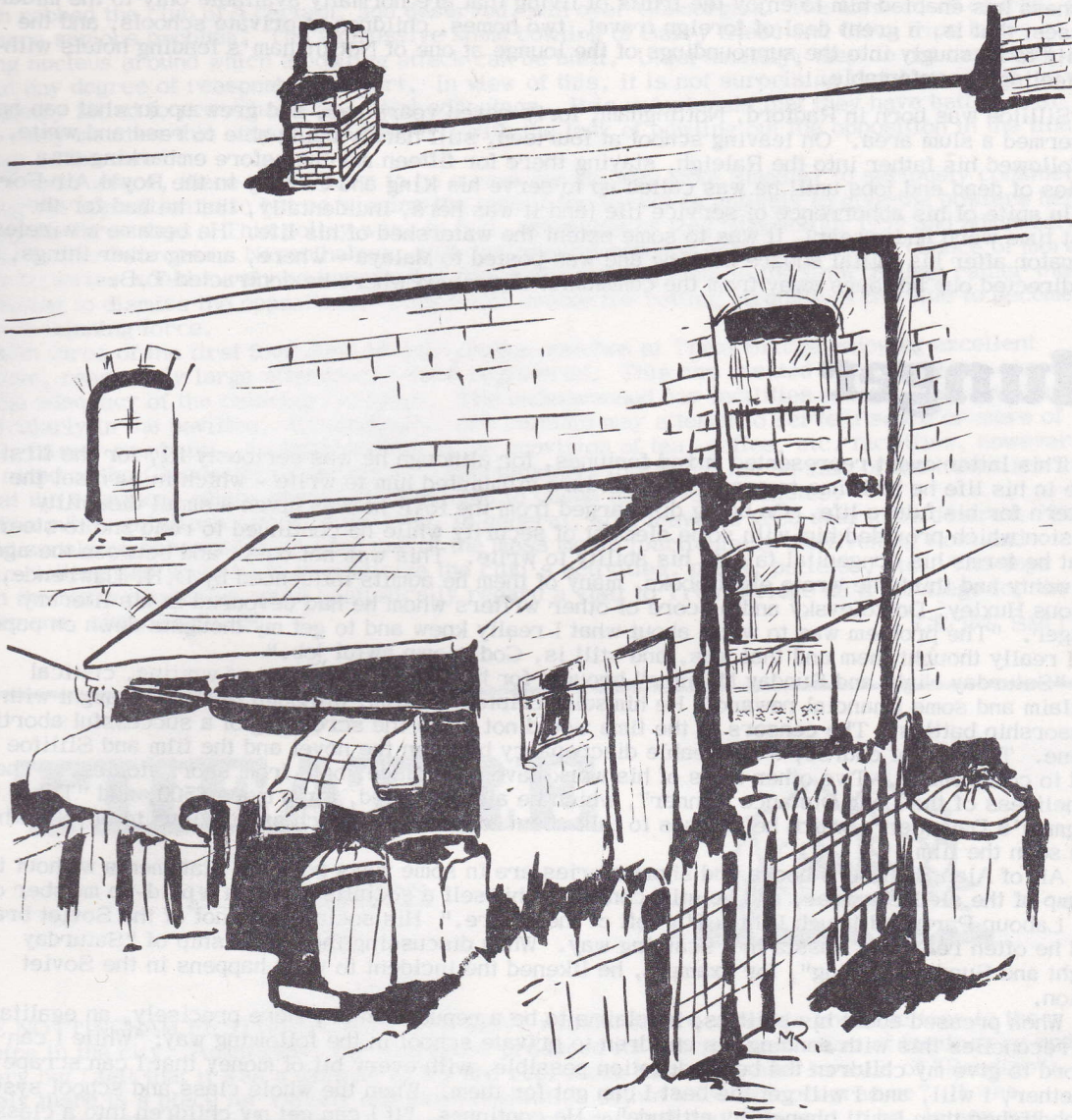
The proceedings were enlivened by the presence in the crowd of Jack Dunnett, Labour MP for East Nottingham, dressed down in socialist T-shirt (revealing very bloated capitalist flesh), and Michael English, Labour MP for West Nottingham, dressed up as usual in heat-wave-defying pin-stripe suit. They were accompanied by plump, jolly Polly Dinwoodie, Labour Councillor for Trent Ward, with husband Bill, Chairman of East Nottingham Labour Party. All four seemed to be part of the same huge private joke as the platform party, Jack convulsively clutching Polly's shoulders from behind, while Bill and Michael discreetly guffawed in the background. Or perhaps they were laughing at their friend John Carroll (leader of the City Council and sometime election agent to Jack Dunnett), who was up on the platform tastefully dressed in orange leather jacket, matching black tie and purple shirt, and dark glasses (but, surprisingly, no violin case).

### Packed up

Fortunately, the jokes were not all private. After a few words from the Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee (purple-trousered Len Maynard), the microphone promptly packed up (was the excitement too much for it?), leaving the Lord Mayor, Councillor Ivy Matthews, mouthing noiselessly like a goldfish. Much knob-twiddling behind the scenes produced only an ear-splitting blast of pop music, but Mrs Matthews was finally able to declare the 1975 Festival officially open, and the Sheriff of Nottingham, Councillor Gerry Elliott (a picturesque figure with pink bald head fringed by white cotton-wool wisps of hair and pretty corporation lace), issued an official pardon to Robin Hood for the duration of the Festival.

The platform party then straggled back to the Council House to resume whatever jollities civic duty had so rudely interrupted, delayed only by the unexpected appearance of the Gay Street Theatre (reported on another page). Masquerading as an "alternative" Robin Hood and his band, this was momentarily given a warm welcome until it was discovered that it wasn't good clean fun after all. Then Messrs Dunnett, English & Co. faded quietly away too, leaving the people who were actually paying for it all to make what they could of their brief glimpse of the municipal jet-set. Perhaps next year everybody will be invited to the party!





## SILLITOE: HERO WITH FEET OF CLAY

IT IS STRANGE THAT NOTTINGHAM'S MOST SUCCESSFUL LIVING WRITER SHOULD ALWAYS BE TERMED A "WORKING-CLASS WRITER", FOR THAT IN ITSELF IS A CONTRADICTION. WRITERS ARE NOT WORKING-CLASS EVEN IF THEY WERE BORN IN RADFORD OR EASTWOOD. ALAN SILLITOE HAS LIVED WITH THE WORKING-CLASS LABEL SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF HIS FIRST BEST-SELLER "SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING", AND IT'S NOT A DESCRIPTION THAT RESTS LIGHTLY ON HIS SHOULDERS OR HIS CONSCIENCE.

ALAN SILLITOE CONSIDERS HIMSELF FIRST AND FOREMOST AN ARTIST, AND THAT, HE SAYS, "MEANS I'M CLASSLESS" - ALTHOUGH SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS-



lessness has enabled him to enjoy the fruits of living that are normally available only to the middle classes: that is, a great deal of foreign travel, two homes, children at private schools, and the ability to fit snugly into the surroundings of the lounge at one of Nottingham's leading hotels without feeling uncomfortable.

Sillitoe was born in Radford, Nottingham, forty-seven years ago, and grew up in what can only be termed a slum area. On leaving school at fourteen, still hardly being able to read and write, he followed his father into the Raleigh, staying there for fifteen months before embarking on a series of dead end jobs until he was called up to serve his King and country in the Royal Air Force.

In spite of his abhorrence of service life (and it was here, incidentally, that he had for the first time worn underwear), it was to some extent the watershed of his life. He became a wireless operator after his initial square bashing and was posted to Malaya - where, among other things, he misdirected our bombers away from the communist camps and where he contracted T.B.

## Hunger

This latter event represented mixed fortunes, for although he was seriously ill, for the first time in his life he had time to read, which in turn stimulated him to write - which in turn set the pattern for his future life. On being discharged from the RAF he was given a small disability pension which provided him with some element of security while he continued to read and to steer what he terms his congenital talent, his ability to write. This was not easy, and between the ages of twenty and thirty he wrote eight books, many of them he admits influenced by D.H. Lawrence, Aldous Huxley, Dostoevsky and a score of other writers whom he had devoured in his literary hunger. "The problem was to write about what I really knew and to get my thoughts down on paper as I really thought them and that was, and still is, God's own awful job."

"Saturday Night and Sunday Morning" brought for him, after ten years of writing, critical acclaim and some financial reward. He himself scripted the film, although this was fraught with censorship battles. The censors at the time would not allow the screening of a successful abortion scene. This is, of course, a noticeable discrepancy between the novel and the film and Sillitoe had to compromise. Two other films of his work have been made, both from short stories. "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner", which he also scripted, for a mere £500, and "The Ragman's Daughter", which he refuses to talk about for reasons which are obvious to anyone who has seen the film.

All of Alan Sillitoe's books and short stories are in some ways political statements without the thump of the sledgehammer, and he still considers himself a socialist. "I am a paid-up member of the Labour Party, although I think I'm left of the centre." His socialism is not of the Soviet brand and he often refers to Russia in a scathing way. When discussing the censorship of "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning", for example, he likened the incident to what happens in the Soviet Union.

When pressed about his politics, he claims to be a republican or, more precisely, an egalitarian. He reconciles this with sending his children to private school in the following way: "While I can afford to give my children the best education possible, with every bit of money that I can scrape together, I will, and I will get the best I can get for them. When the whole class and school system is abolished then I will change my attitude". He continues, "If I can get my children into a class of fifteen instead of forty I'm going to do it. Another factor is, I don't want my kids when they grow up to say why didn't you send us to a better school than Radford Boulevard Boys School when you could have afforded it". Naturally, he is often criticized by Hampstead intellectuals for holding these views. "Why do you of all people send your kids to private school?" they ask. Sillitoe's response is to ask them what school they went to themselves and if it turns out to be Eton or Bedales he tells them to shut up because they don't know what they're talking about.

Alan Sillitoe is not a rich man - few writers are. He occasionally gives poetry readings, although only about four a year, and he acts as an editorial adviser for his publishers. He also continues to write one book a year. The book that he's almost finished is called "A Soldier's Life" and it's about a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Artillery who is from Nottingham and has worked his way up through the ranks.

## Paradox

In recent years, Sillitoe has been placed on GCE syllabuses, where quite often he's compared with some of his literary heroes including Conrad, Orwell and Fielding. He is quite disturbed by this phenomenon. "It gives me a very funny feeling inside that children are going to read these stories and be told how to interpret them . . . it makes my blood run cold."

He has come a long way from the noise of the lathes at the Raleigh. The advice he accepted from Robert Graves, to concentrate on writing about things that he knew, has stood him in good stead for nearly twenty years. Perhaps he will continue to write about Nottingham, its slums and its people, for the next twenty years and this won't be a bad thing. Alan Sillitoe does, however, remain a paradox, and for many, with his rationalized socialism and the romanticizing and sentimentalizing of the working classes, he is sometimes a hero with feet of clay.

STEPHEN MORRIS





READERS MAY BE INTERESTED TO HEAR of the progress of the register of business and other interests of City Council members and officials. A couple of years ago, amid much publicity, the Council decided to keep a register where both councillors and officers could declare their interests. This voluntary register is available for public inspection at the enquiry desk in the Guildhall (Town Clerk's entrance). However, despite having had two years, neither councillors nor officials are exactly falling over themselves to declare their interests. When we looked at the register recently only eleven Council members (out of a total of fifty-four) and only one officer had bothered to register. And the last entry was made over a year ago.

Of those who have registered, Mr and Mrs Dennett have no interests, while Steve Evans declares a membership of the Union of Shops Distributive and Allied Workers and employment at the Co-op (which has long since ceased). Cllr W.J. Bradbury variously describes himself as either working in, or owning, a factory in Beeston (it's not clear which) and being a director and shareholder of both E. Kingston Ltd and Kingstons (Daybrook) Ltd. David Jenkin is City Architect (well actually he isn't any more) and has three building society accounts. Len Maynard is employed by the Metropolitan Housing Trust and is a member of the Co-op, and Alderman Foster is employed by the Co-op. Alderman Foster, in fact, is now an honorary alderman only (the office was abolished in May last year) and is no longer a member of the City Council. The Carroll family are there in force (as indeed they are on the Council) - John Carroll declares himself a director of Carroll Agencies and the owner of two houses; Mrs Carroll declares her part-time clerical work for Jack Dunnett MP; and son Dennis his employment with the Social Services Department (actually he left last December). Cllr J.A. Green says he's employed by the Post Office but is also a partner with his wife in J.R. & H.M. Green Retail traders (a sub-Post Office) and is a director and shareholder in both Jack Green Agricultural Merchants Ltd and General Plating Co. Ltd.

It's nice to know that such accurate, up to date, and comprehensive information is available on our local councillors and officials.

## Ordinary chaps

THE LAW SOCIETY HAS NOW APPOINTED members of the public to sit on its Disciplinary Committee, and the average cross section of the public that has been appointed consists of Group Captain Gordon H. Perry, Sir Richard Haywood, CBE, Doctor R.C. Trace, CBE, Colonel G.M. Singleton, CBE, MC, TD, TL. Isn't it refreshing to know that the spirit of Parliamentary Acts has been complied with and now ordinary members of the public are represented on the Disciplinary Committee!



# Festival gaieties

THE FIRST EVENT ORGANIZED BY NOTTINGHAM'S new street theatre group took place on Saturday, June 14th in the city's Old Market Square. The group, appearing as "Robina Hood and her Gay Folk", zapped the opening of Nottingham's two week Festival and managed to get leaflets into the hands of the Lord Mayor and her Lady Mayoress(!), members of the official Robin Hood Society and delegates from Nottingham's twin city in Russia, Minsk. The pamphlet was evidently translated for the Russian delegates who, it seems, were not amused. Nor were the police. The street theatre group, which had been well received by the public, was told "to go home and change into something decent" by the immaculately dressed police official who appeared to be upset and confused by Robina's fish-net stockings, Maid Marian's beard and Friar Tuck's cleavage. Later Radio Nottingham interviewed two members of the group who warned that they were considering making an official complaint against the police. The interview was broadcast on Monday morning and the gay street theatre group also got a mention in the Evening Post in the late edition, Monday.

## Birch twigged

THERE HAS BEEN TROUBLE IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT recently following the widely reported remarks made by Cllr Don Birch about social workers. As a result of his remarks he was asked along to a meeting with social workers so they could put their point of view. The meeting had to wait some time for Cllr Birch to turn up - he was spotted in the Newcastle Arms at the time - but even so Cllr Birch said he didn't see why he should apologise for his lateness. He had had a hard day apparently (unlike the fifty or so social workers who came to the meeting, presumably). Perhaps he thought it was sufficient compensation to bring along Big Daddy John Carroll (who hadn't been invited).

We hear that the meeting never did reach a high standard of discussion and things were beginning to get out of hand when Cllr Carroll was lucky enough to spot Cllr Steve Evans in the audience. He promptly used this as an excuse to leave, towing Cllr Birch behind him. Apparently he objected to the fact that Cllr Evans was there, since he wasn't a social worker - despite the offer from Cllr Evans to leave the meeting if necessary. When asked afterwards why he had left the meeting, Cllr Birch replied: 'He (Carroll) left and I followed. What else do you do?' Cllr Birch then retired to a hostelry not a million miles away from the Voice office. It is understood that the interview given to Radio Nottingham was not used because it was not up to the usual standards of clarity.

## Heycock-up

SINCE LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE ON THE DIFFICULTIES facing the Ark Youth Club a letter from Wyndham Heycock, Director of the County Leisure Services Department, has come into our possession. The letter was sent in response to the representations made by various people to Cllr Michael Gallagher, Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee, in an attempt to persuade the Committee to pay more to the leader of the Ark Youth Club. (The Management Committee of the Club had decided to pay a higher salary come what may and this means that the Club will close through lack of funds if the Committee doesn't authorise an increase.)

The second paragraph of Wyndham Heycock's letter states: "I must tell you that I deprecate such an action which was calculated to influence an elected member to prejudice an issue on which he would have to decide at a later committee meeting within the county council. Indeed, it suggests that you and your committee members lack confidence in my impartiality and my being prepared to present a balanced case for consideration by the county councillors. I realise you may have had no such motive in writing as you did, but I'm sure you will agree that such an interpretation would be entirely valid."

This is quite a startling statement about the nature of local government. Wyndham seems to be suggesting that it is wrong for people to contact their representatives on matters which they have an interest in. The letter seems to state quite categorically that the only people who may directly approach councillors are department officials, who therefore have a right to vet any approach by members of the public to councillors. This novel theory would lead us to the position where one would not be allowed to approach a member of Parliament except through a Government department. Well, Wyndham, you have quite a nerve. You are not elected by the people of Nottingham to represent their interests. It is not your job to act as a barrier between people and their elected representatives. You are employed by the people of Nottingham, through their councillors, and those same people have every right to approach councillors on any matter for which they are responsible. And you imply that some people have come to doubt your ability to present a balanced case to the councillors. Well, if you are going to act in this way, is it surprising?



# MERRY-GO-ROUND

7

## TAKING A WHIRL WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT



**WELL DONE JACK DUNNETT.** Our illustrious East Nottingham millionaire, solicitor, property tycoon, worker-hero MP has filed details for the compulsory register of MPs' interests.

Surprise, surprise, he is described as a solicitor, Lloyds underwriter and director of Park Street Securities which finances residential development, of Notts County Football Club which tries to play soccer and of Lansdowne Properties which owns a hotel. He owns shares in all three companies. Perhaps he will now tell us what we don't already know - what his financial connections are with his wife Pamela, with the enigmatic Elsie Richards, and with his other business colleagues. Does he have any interests, direct or indirect, in any other companies or any other nominee companies, in the Bahamas or Switzerland for example?

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**MEANWHILE BACK AT TOP VALLEY** the heat is on City Council leader John Carroll again.

Why did he tell the City Council that the Ombudsman said there was nothing wrong with the ill-fated deal with Canberra Developments Ltd when it was known as early as last December that Local Ombudsman Mr F.P. Cook had stated that because of legal limitations on his powers "It was not a case I was able to accept for investigation".

Does he think the casual platitudes handed out in his last performance in the Council House chamber will satisfy all those citizens anxious to know how a property developer with scruffy premises in run-down Small Heath, Birmingham came to land that fat £3 million deal with the Corporation?

No - it was a "slip of the tongue". He meant to say the Secretary of State for the Environment. But has Mr Crosland in fact said there was nothing wrong with the deal? If the answer is yes why has Councillor Carroll now decided to send all the papers to the DoE? His "clear the air" excuse does not ring true.

It seems the pressure is beginning to tell. In a city like Nottingham, with all its notorious past, these mysteries have a habit of coming to the surface again and again, each time revealing a bit more of their true nature.

Perhaps the deputy district auditor, currently investigating some of the deal's aspects, will be able to fill in the answers - failing that there's always Mr Crosland.

Even in the last couple of months circumstances have changed. The Land and Housing Committees have approved the axe of 230 garages from the £3 million deal. And the contract sum has been cut by £40,020. These £174 garages were due to be built next to 230 of the 319 houses.

But "In the light of experience the Director of Housing is of the opinion that council tenants are unlikely to occupy and pay for more than a quarter of the number of garages proposed".

Now only the 89 garages due to be constructed in blocks, detached from the houses, will be built. To provide parking spaces the 230 house driveways will be coated with tarmac.

How many more alterations and modifications can we expect on this so-called fixed-price contract?

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**WHEN NOTTINGHAM BECAME PART OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** and Labour assumed control of the new county council, that notorious whitewash manifesto "The Way Ahead" heralded a new era of enlightened industrial relations for the authority's 40,000-odd full-time and part-time workers.

The vast majority of the new County Hall masters had a respectable trade union pedigree. And certainly it appears that the big unions, Transport and General, NALGO, NUPE and the like enjoy tolerably cordial relations with the county's politicians and have the chance to negotiate changes in council plans and policy.

But step across the threshold of the Education Department and we're back in the bad old days of the Tolpuddle Martyrs

Here, the issue likely to spark off a wave of industrial action by teachers and lecturers in the autumn has less to do with conditions than with rights established in the 19th century - rights of trade unions to be consulted about and negotiate over policies affecting job security, working conditions, status and pay.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers are doggedly pursuing their claims for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by those enlightened and motivated enough to devote leisure time to extra-curricular school activities.

Yet Education chairman Bill Cairns - arrogant Victorian overlord he is rapidly becoming - has apparently told them they have no negotiating rights with their employers, the council.

Their rights, for which they should apparently be grateful, extend only to consultation. And every self-respecting trades unionist knows what that means . . . the dubious "right" to be told



what is happening once it is a fait accompli.

Education Director James Stone, Bill Cairns, Finance chairman Michael Cowan and their cohorts may have acted badly towards the teachers' unions.

But their treatment of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, who represent 1,000 college lecturers in the county, has been scandalously cynical.

Since the beginning of the year they have been seeking negotiations in a variety of fields - over conditions of service, rationalisation of courses, which includes closure of Waverley College and removal of a lot of courses from West Bridgford and Basford Hall Colleges, and over last year's Houghton pay award.

And they are no nearer negotiations now, let alone any negotiated settlements.

The Education Department's record of delay tactics and manipulation demands closer examination.

In February the Council of Local Education Authorities and the ATTI reached a national agreement on conditions of service to come into effect in September.

So far even Education Committee members have not been shown the document. Provisions for local negotiations in certain discretionary areas have been ignored.

And Notts ATTI have been consistently fobbed off with pleas from the LEA for more time to study the document. It will now be impossible to negotiate an agreement before September, leaving higher and further education teachers in Notts appreciably worse off than their colleagues in surrounding counties.

The ATTI wrote three times asking for a meeting over the college rationalisation plans after they heard about them in January. They eventually got a reply but no-one agreed to meet them. A joint advisory committee meeting which was likely to discuss the matter on May 1 was cancelled by Bill Cairns . . . he said there was insufficient business on the agenda.

Yet on May 29 the Further Education Sub-committee approved the detailed plans - closure of a college and dramatic course transfers.

The ATTI's representative at the meeting failed to get a seconder in his bid to prevent a decision being taken because the unions had not been consulted.

And Councillor Cowan apparently told the ATTI man there was little point in discussions with teachers since they were only interested in money.

The ATTI wrote to the Director in January asking for talks about implementing the Houghton pay award. Stone asked for more time to formulate plans. The ATTI waited patiently. And the Further Education Sub-committee took its decision in April without any negotiations taking place.

Cairns wrote to the ATTI in June. But he gave no date for opening negotiations on conditions of service.

He offered no consultation or negotiation over the college reorganisation, referring only to discussions with staff in colleges and bringing the matter before the joint advisory committee.

And with brutal irony he told the union of the pay award arrangements for college establishments: "You should all be aware that the Education Committee took a decision upon college establishments at the meeting of the Further Education Sub-committee on 17th April".

The department's tactics seem to be to despatch officers to address general assemblies of staff in colleges completely by-passing the ATTI as a trade union.

That's why they and the other progressive teachers unions have a 19th century struggle on their hands . . . the fight for active and realistic negotiations.

If half the staff are missing when schools and colleges reconvene in the autumn - you have been warned why.

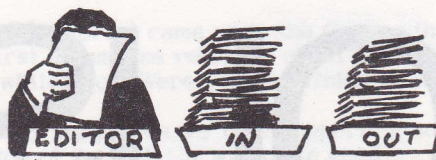
BARKER

## NALGOing gay

A BATTLE HAS BEEN DEVELOPING RECENTLY IN NALGO (the local government officers' union) over the formation of a NALGO Gay Group - known as NALGAY. The Group was set up following a letter in the local government paper 'Public Service' from Howard Hyman, who is also a member of the Nottingham Health Services Branch of NALGO. The Group aims to help homosexual or bisexual members of NALGO and to campaign to end discrimination against them. The formation of the Group was followed by a lively correspondence in the pages of 'Public Service' - mostly violently against or very sympathetic. However, the Nottingham Health Services Branch took exception to the use of the initials NALGO in the Group's title NALGAY, and said that the use of these initials in the title of such a group was illegal. There was talk of a High Court injunction. The Health Services Group of NALGO wrote to Howard Hyman expressing the wish that 'NALGO' be no longer used by the Gay Group. And this was despite the fact that other 'fringe' groups in NALGO had used the initials without interference (for example the NALGO Action Group).

Since NALGAY is a national group of gay people within NALGO, it is difficult to see why such strenuous opposition should be forthcoming from the local Health Services Branch. Fortunately the General Secretary of NALGO seems to be somewhat more enlightened than the local Health Services Branch and has written in reply to a letter from NALGAY that 'there is nothing to prevent the use of the term NALGO in your activities'. However, despite this reply, it seems that the idea of obtaining an injunction is not dead yet and the matter is being pursued in the National Executive Council. We must suppose that it simply goes to show that a NALGO Gay Group is badly needed.





## A MATTER OF SURVIVAL

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you some time back and you published an item called 'A Matter of Survival'. I once more appeal to the 'Voice' about the terrible conditions we are living in in a demolition area. I have had my name down on the Nottingham Council since the 16th August 1970 for a four bedroomed house or a large three bedroomed house as I have refused to take No 58 Birkin Avenue, Hyson Green. Four bedroomed, no bathroom, toilet down the yard and a backyard that was not big enough to hang out even one clothes line of washing. I believe I have been left on the shelf. Social Services have done everything in their power to help me. The Probation Society and the Welfare Society have achieved nothing. But not for the want of trying. For two years I have kept a bucket under my sink and a bucket on the stairs for myself and six children to use. Imagine how embarrassed when a school teacher calls to see me and various other people call and sometimes ask permission for my convenience. Sorry I haven't got one. Well I think it is time the world knew of my difficulty. When it's dark I have to go like a sneak thief with buckets in my hand and empty them in the River Leen. On two occasions I have been stopped by the police and been told I will get a caution if caught again. I am afraid I am at my wits end and don't know who to turn to. So please please see if you can once again work me another miracle. We are lousy with rats, no proper sanitation, the property falling down to the ground, the rain coming through the ceiling. I have to keep cleaning up the sewerage from the other toilets. The water grates and guttering are running with fever water. We have had hundreds of blue bottles flying round the sitting room.

I am ready to commit suicide and take my six children with me. I write to you in desperation. Please help me.

Rosalie Joan Merrin, anxious mother of six children.  
13 Gauntley Street, Radford Road, Hyson Green, Nottingham.

(Editors' Note: We contacted the Health Department who said they would visit the property in the near future. It seems there are a number of things Mrs Merrin can do. She can take action against the present landlord of the property under the provisions of the 1936 Public Health Act and force repairs to be done. However, things are not that simple because the property is subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order by the City Council - but the Council have not purchased the property as yet and have left the responsibility in the hands of the landlord. This is a device by which the Housing Department can avoid taking responsibility for demolition properties until the very last minute. If Mrs Merrin doesn't want to take action against the landlord at this stage (which seems a bit unfair) then it seems that the best line is to get the Health Department to slap a Closing Order on the house and then it will be the responsibility of the Housing Department.)

## FALSE IMPRESSION

Dear Sir,

I would like to correct a completely false impression that you gave under the heading of "Merry-Go-Round", referring to behind the scenes dealings with the Conservatives on the question of asking them to second a Resolution.

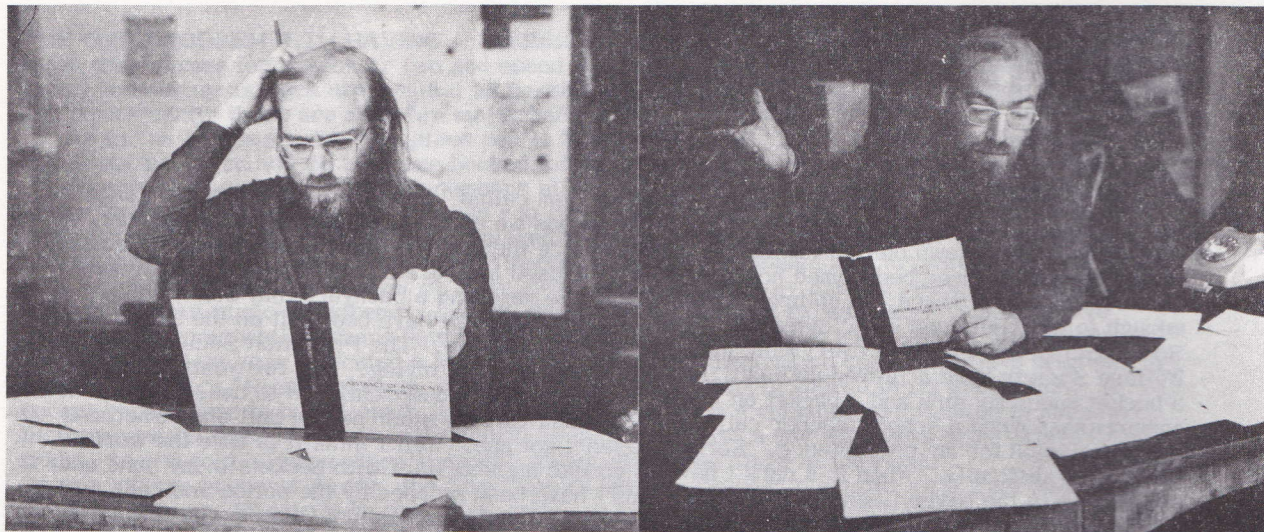
In fact, it was the Tories who were trying to embarrass us, firstly by their Leader going out of his way to inform me that they were not seconding the Motion, and secondly by the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party doing precisely the opposite and then trying to claim that there had been some form of collusion. This I bitterly resented as at no time had I discussed this matter with any Members of the Conservative Group other than as I said above, the message which was sent to me by the Tory Leader.

Irrespective of any other objections that arose from it, I feel the facts should be made quite clear in this case relating to the innuendo which the Tories and yourself have conjured up.

Yours fraternally, John Carroll, pp Big Daddy John Carroll. The Council House, Nottingham.



# HOUSING:



VOICEMAN FRED BROAD, WHO HAS SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS BEING PUZZLED BY THE CORPORATION'S HOUSING FINANCES, COMES UP WITH SOME INTERESTING CONCLUSIONS

ARGUMENTS HAVE RAGED FOR YEARS OVER THE FINANCE needed to build council houses and "subsidise" their tenants. But just how does it work out in a city like Nottingham? We decided to investigate after we received a letter from one of our readers a few months ago. We weren't sure where to start but a telephone call to the City Treasury revealed that the only information publicly available was contained in the Abstract of Statistics for 1973/4 - which is somewhat out of date in these inflationary times. We were lucky enough to have obtained a copy of the proposed budget for the Housing Committee for 1975/6 as reported by the City Treasurer, and also a copy of the capital programme up to 1980. So we were interested to know how much truth there was in the persistent idea that all Council tenants run at least two cars, have a colour telly, pay the rent, and still have enough to go down the pub every night - and all on Social Security. Is the ratepayer really subsidising the Council tenant?

Where do you start? Well, the table (right) shows the Housing Revenue Account estimates for the current year and shows the percentage increase in spending. (We haven't shown the percentage increases in income because the Government has changed the way income is obtained and so the percentage increases wouldn't mean a lot.) Looking at these figures, what is immediately apparent is the very high percentage spent on "debt charges" - £14.1 million, nearly three quarters of the total. The next highest figure is a mere £2.2 million (11%). And after the £1.9 million spent on management the figures become relatively insignificant. So what are the "debt charges" that the Housing Committee spends so much money on?

## Borrowing

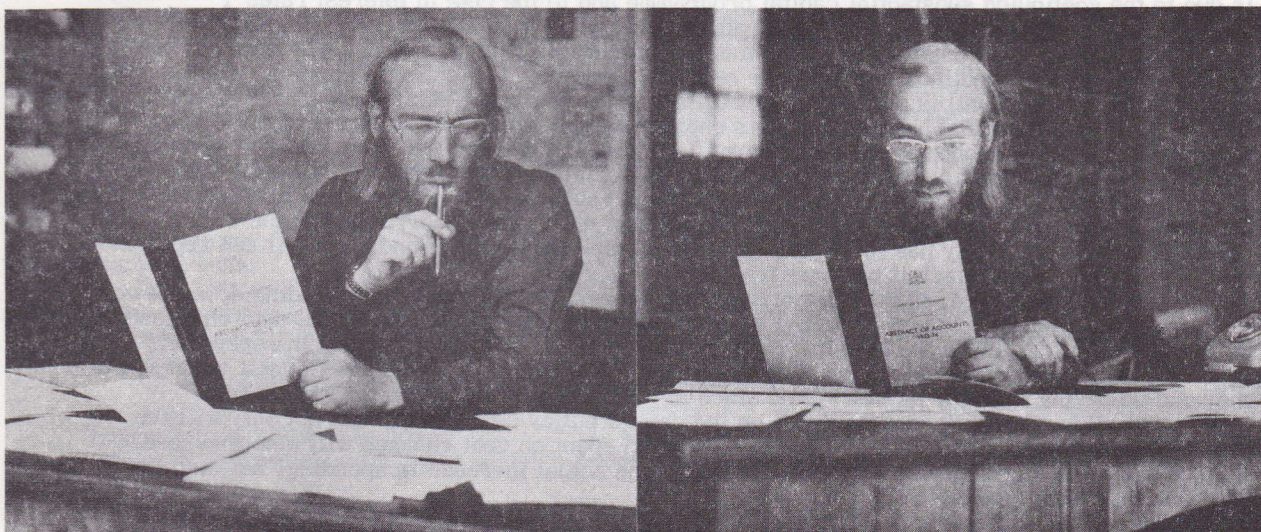
In order to build houses (and buy the land needed) the Committee has to borrow money from somewhere, because it doesn't have enough money coming in for this type of capital (investment) programme. In fact, the money is raised by the City Council as a whole who borrow money for the entire capital programme of the Council. This borrowing by the Council is controlled by the Consolidated Loans Fund. The Loans Fund borrows money from a variety of sources and has, of course, to pay interest on it. The Fund then lends money to other committees, including the Housing Committee, who then have to pay the money back plus the interest. But more about the Consolidated Loans Fund later.

Repairs are the second largest item in the Housing Committee's spending. The proposed increase in the repairs budget is only 21% compared to increases for management and debt charges of 45% and 41% respectively. It is worth looking at the City Treasurer's Report to the Housing Committee (January 1975) to see what is really happening to the various increases. The Report states that the Government has said there must be "restraint" in spending on repairs, management and maintenance and has asked the Council to keep to the same amount per house that they spent last



# WHO PAYS

11



## Housing Committee Budget 1975/6

Spending	£	Income	£
Debt Charges	14.1m (41%)	Government subsidy	8.0m
Repairs	2.2m (21%)	Rents	6.9m
Management	1.9m (45%)	Rates	3.4m
Purchase of land	0.5m (5%)	Interest (sale of houses)	0.5m
Other	0.7m (15%)	Other	0.6m
Total	19.5m (36%)		19.5m

Percentage increase from last year in brackets.

year, after allowing for unavoidable increases in pay and prices. However, the Report continues: "The Government have also stated that where it is not possible to contain the increase in management expenses, compensatory savings should be made in repairs and maintenance expenditure". In other words, the first things to go are repairs and maintenance, while management can go over the increase allowed for - at the expense of the Council tenant.

So how are the Housing Committee proposing to raise this £19½ million? You can see from the table that the government subsidy (including the subsidy of rent rebates) is in the lead at £8 million, closely followed by rents at nearly £7 million. If the massive debt charges did not exist, rents would, in fact, adequately pay for all housing charges - with a surplus of some £2 million! However, money to pay off the debt charges has to be found from somewhere, and it is the government subsidy and rate subsidy which make up the difference.

## Statistics

We obviously need to know how the debt charges are made up in order to make any sense out of all this. The City Treasury was not able to give us any breakdown at all and we were referred to the Abstract of Statistics (a bargain at £4, order yours now). In fact, although the debt charges can be divided into two parts - repayment of the original money borrowed, and payment of the interest on it - unfortunately, the Abstract of Statistics is little help to us in spelling out the details of this.

The key fund is the Consolidated Loans Fund, which does all the borrowing and lending. The Council borrows from individual investors, from the Government, and from banks. The total amount owed by the Council at the end of 1974 was £155 million - which worked out at over £500 for each person in Nottingham. This total included local government stocks and bonds (total about £40 million), mortgages (about £48 million), temporary loans (about £19 million) and an overdraft of £15 million (no kidding). It is interesting to compare these figures with those submitted to the



Policy and Resources (Finance) Committee in April of this year. At that time the Council had borrowed £149 million during the previous year, of which over two thirds - £101 million - was in temporary loans. This was a huge increase in temporary borrowing. Of course the vital question is how much interest the Council are paying on the debts, because the interest paid will be reflected in the Housing Committee debt charges.

The 1974 figures show that local bonds were being paid at some 12½%, and that back in 1973 temporary loans were being repayed at rates between 10% and 16% - you can bet that these rates are now a lot higher. Indeed, the City Treasurer's Report states: "The increase in debt charges is due to the continuing substantial capital programme and to the rise in interest rates". Unfortunately, information on the current rates of interest is not easy to come by. But it all amounts to a lot of people having a substantial investment in Nottingham's Council tenants.

The estimated expenditure this year for capital expenditure (which is not included in the Housing Revenue Account) is a total of £30 million, according to the capital programme submitted to the Housing Committee last November. This capital expenditure is to be spent on buildings, improvements and environmental work. Over £5 million of it was set aside for advance payments for buying houses by both individuals and Housing Associations. However, the Council are now not giving advances to individuals, thus saving some £3 million. It is all this capital spending which leads to the debt charges talked about earlier. Most of the money is borrowed via the Consolidated Loans Fund and eventually has to be paid back, with interest, to that Fund so that it can repay the people and institutions which it borrows from.

We can see, therefore, that the majority of the money which is raised for building does not come from the rates, but from loans. It is the repayment of these loans that causes the debt charges to be so high and which leads the Housing Committee to spend so much of its money in repayments - some of which comes from the rates. But then 50% of domestic ratepayers are Council tenants, so they end up paying that way as well. And since the building programme is increasing (the programme allows for an increase of 67% on the capital outlay next year), then not only will the debt charge increase significantly, but the proportion spent on debt charges will also increase. And, in fact, the increase will not be solely due to the actual increase in spending, but also the increase in interest rates.

## Insistence

The real problem of council housing is therefore the need to raise capital. The Housing Department would have no trouble running itself and providing its present services if it weren't for the need to build new houses. It is the method of paying for these new houses that causes the trouble. At present the Housing Committee is spending about £14 million per year on the debt charges. But this amount is over half of the £27 million capital programme. So if the debts were forgotten the Housing Committee would be able to maintain half of the present building programme out of its income without having to borrow anything. Even though the government gives grants towards housing, it is government insistence on making Councils borrow vast sums of money at exorbitant (and increasing) interest rates that really causes the trouble. This is not the case with other types of public expenditure: we don't build roads by borrowing the money; we build them out of taxation received.

A particularly worrying aspect of this subject is the difficulty one has in trying to work out just where the money is going. It's easy enough to get hold of detailed figures on where the capital is being spent - but extremely difficult, for example, to find out what proportion of the debt charge goes back in interest. The Housing Revenue Account itemises very small sums of expenditure - but baldly announces a debt charge of over £14 million with no explanation at all. The more vital questions are being left unanswered.

The myth is that the "ratepayer" is subsidising the Council tenant. The myth is just a myth, and the reality is that the Housing Committee cannot pay its way because of the burden of debt charges which it is forced into. With an increasing capital programme the situation can only get worse. In the meantime, it will be those elements of spending which can least afford to be cut back that will be cut back - repairs and maintenance - and the Council will go on borrowing at higher and higher interest rates. Rents will be forced up to try and "balance" the books, books that never will balance. The housing policy isn't working and no amount of tinkering will make it work. Council tenants are not being subsidised, indeed many of them have paid for their homes over and over again. The increasing cost of building and the government insistence that building be paid for from revenue and loans means that Council tenants, ratepayers and taxpayers (and many people are all three) are subsidising the moneylenders.

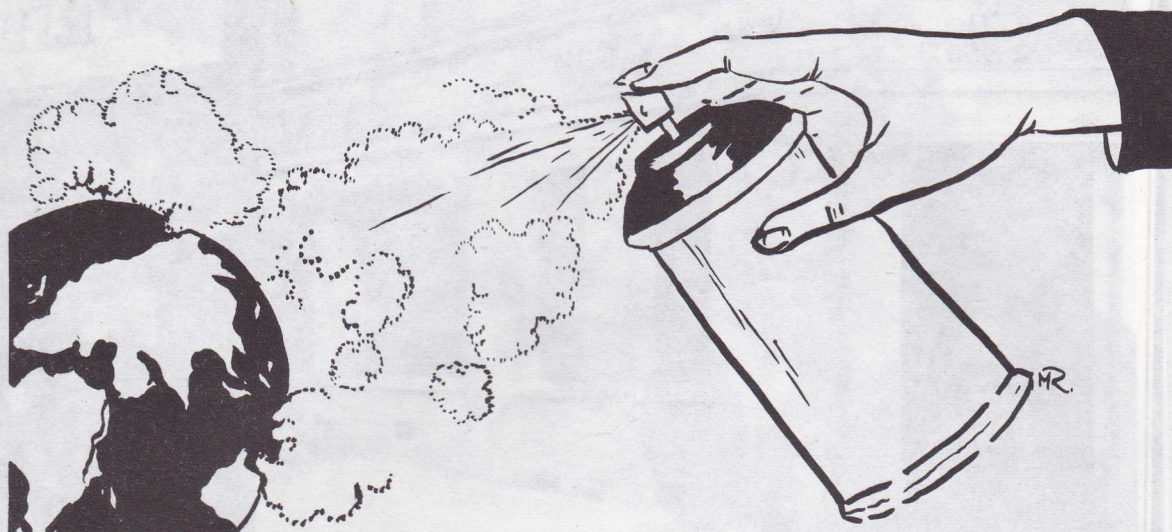
## ANYONE INTERESTED?

THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE HAS RECENTLY RUN A SUCCESSFUL secondhand shop in Market Street which has given a much needed boost to funds. The shop concentrated on secondhand clothing, but there is no reason why such a shop should not sell locally produced goods of all kinds. Since the People's Centre will probably run another shop in the future we would like to hear from anyone locally who wants an outlet for things they make. This could be of particular interest to community groups who want a retail outlet without being ripped off, or any other struggling craftsmen. Drop a line via the Voice or give us a ring (Nottm 411676).



# ALL FREON JUDGMENT DAY

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AEROSOL SPRAY CANS MAY NOT SEEM VERY SIGNIFICANT or glamorous trappings of modern civilization but the very real dangers in their continued use have been recognized in the United States. Sales of these cunning little conveniences have been completely banned at a time when their use over here has proliferated beyond all the bounds of sanity. We can now buy almost every conceivable liquid and smell in aerosol cans from oven-cleaner to instant cobwebs, from mouth fresheners to paint sprays. They have endearing qualities that make them very acceptable in a wasteful society of high consumption and mass production. They are clean, pocket-sized and their contents are instantly available at the touch of a finger.

The US chemical industry used to sell about 3,000 million aerosol cans every year, which produced a revenue of some £3,500 millions. Together all those little cans contained about a million tons of the aerosol gas, freon, a propellant which is released into the atmosphere every time they are used. Indeed, this is the principle upon which they work. Freon is an inert gas, it is not broken down by other chemicals and it does not dissolve in water. In other words, it is almost impossible to get rid of it. However, it is when it reaches the stratosphere, the upper half of the belt of atmosphere surrounding the earth, that the trouble starts, and this has been the subject of concerned investigation by scientists since 1971.

It has been shown that ultra-violet light, which is solar radiation of smaller wavelength than that of ordinary visible light, causes the normally inert gas freon to break down, releasing the gas chlorine which in turn breaks up the ozone formed in the stratosphere by the action of sunlight on molecular oxygen. It is known that ozone absorbs ultra-violet light, protecting the earth from its harmful effects. Clearly, then, freon must diffuse upwards above most of the ozone before encountering the ultra-violet radiation in any appreciable strength. This is a slow process and it has been estimated that freon molecules may survive in the earth's atmosphere for an average of 40 to 150 years before decomposition in the stratosphere. There is thus considerable delay in the observation of its effects and this gives rise to considerable alarm when you consider the following facts. Usage of aerosol sprays has doubled every five to seven years since 1950 and measurements taken by the American National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that (at seven points over the American continent) ozone concentrations fell by between one and two per cent in the three years ended in 1973. In other words, it may already be too late to avoid serious depletion in the amount of ozone over many years to come, even if the use of all aerosol spray cans were immediately stopped. For example, a 10% depletion in the year 2010 would itself carry a four to five per cent effect into the twenty-second century.

Although general measurements of the ozone level in the stratosphere are difficult to obtain because of variations due to weather, latitude and season, if the indications are correct and the ozone level is being reduced, then proportionately more ultra-violet light will reach the earth. The consequences of this would be disastrous in causing a worldwide increase in skin cancer. It has been estimated that a 5% depletion would be enough to cause 40,000 additional cases of skin cancer in the US alone. Other physical damage seems to be largely a matter of conjecture, but it is also known that too much exposure to ultra-violet light can cause damage to the eyes.

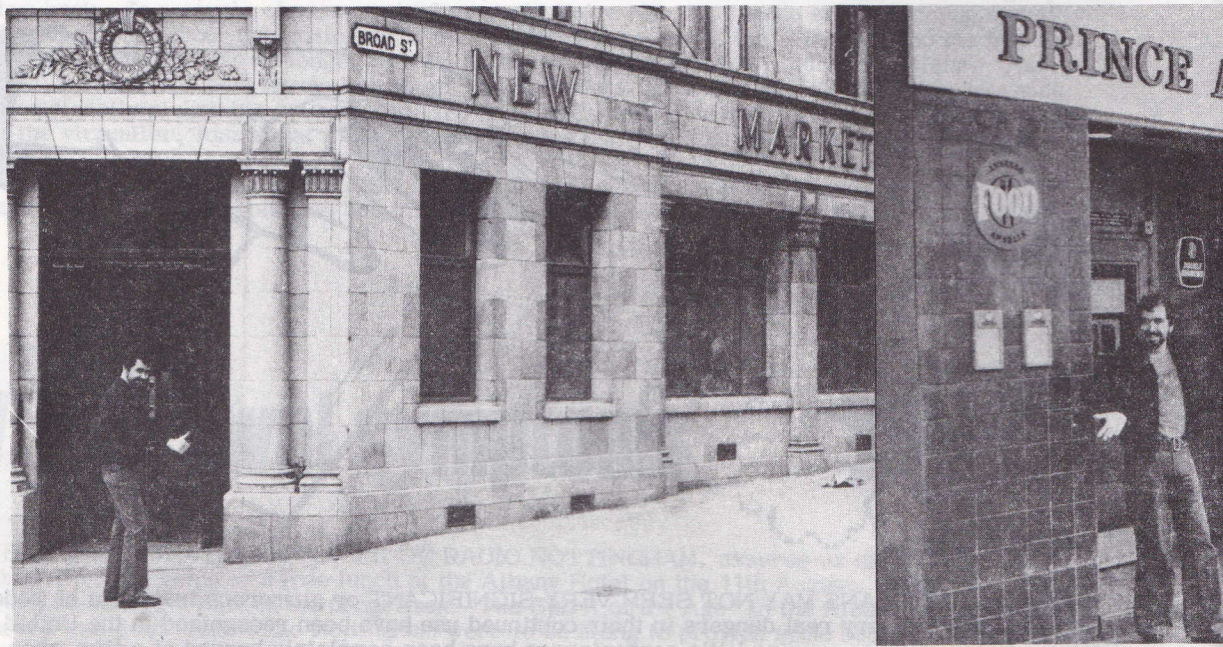
A secondary consequence of the destruction of ozone would be a reduction in the temperature of the stratosphere with the strong possibility of resulting climatic changes.

The apathy of the British government is curious in the face of so much evidence. Meanwhile, the next time you spray your armpits or your vital regions using an aerosol spray can, remember that you are helping to destroy the ozone level in the earth's stratosphere with the terrible consequences that entails.

GEOFF METCALFE



# CHRIS HOLMES' PARLI



AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, ONE OF THE "PROBLEMS" encountered in writing this column is deciding which good pubs to write about since there are so many in Nottingham (even Chris Arnot can find them, although he seems to have trouble finding the poor ones). So that I can write about more pubs I have decided to embark on a series of crawls. Actually doing the crawl I intended proved impossible - which probably has more to do with my old age than the strength of the beers. I also got to thinking what a ridiculous pastime pub-crawling is, and started remembering epic journeys of my youth which usually ended disastrously. The amount of "machismo" associated with beer-drinking is very silly - the idea that you're not a man unless you can drink ten pints at one sitting (or falling). Anyway, back to The Crawl.

I thought that Parliament Street might be a reasonably formidable goal (TRUE) - it goes as follows.

We (I thought it might be wise to have support) started at the Turf Tavern (1) on the corner of Upper Parliament Street and Sherwood Street. A Shippo's pub, one-roomed, friendly, with excellent beer (for the reason of personal preference the only comments on drink in this column are restricted to the ale). It is a typical Victorian pub that has been semi-tarted but not objectionably. There was also canned music but this was not abrasive.

## NOT PREJUDICED

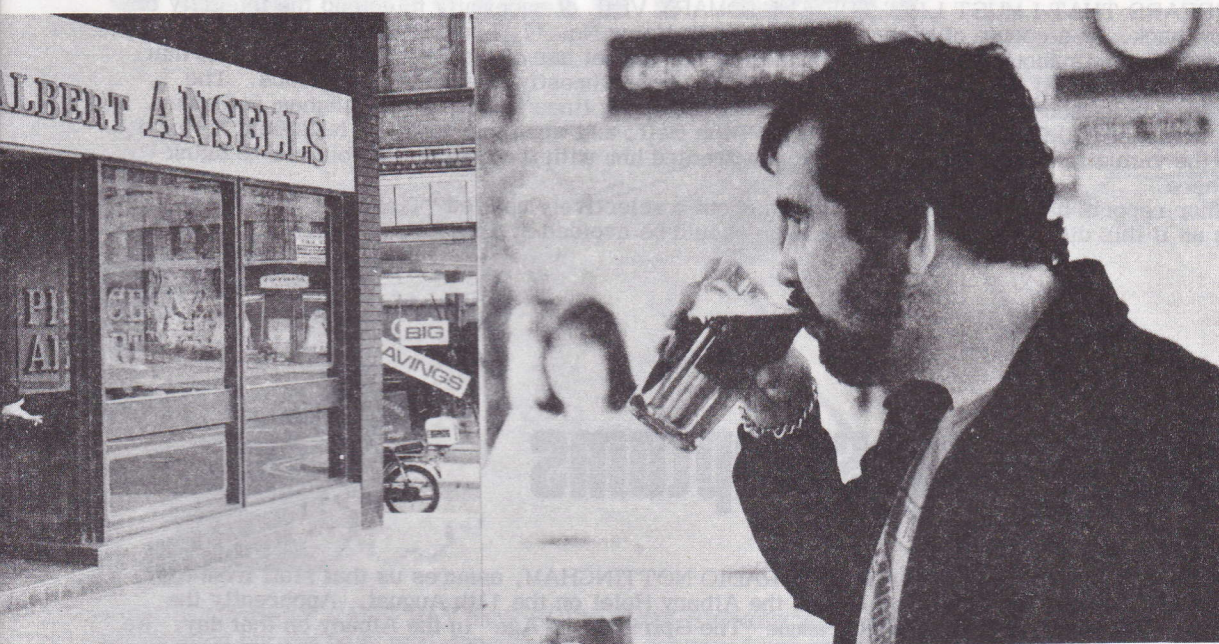
We moved onto the Bluebell (2) about twenty yards down Parliament Street. It is a large, rangy pub with a lounge at the back and public bar at the front. The lounge has recently been "done-up" and it's not bad at all since the main feature of a glass dome in the middle of the ceiling has been retained, and there is plenty of polished wood around. The beer was fine - Home Brewery traditional. There is another bar attached to the Bluebell that is on Forman Street, but it can be approached from Parliament Street as well. As we expected, we were refused service (very pleasantly, I might add, by an apologetic girl who must be getting fed up with telling people that they must be wearing a tie to be served in there). Presumably people without ties would upset the two (sic) customers who were in there - and this was at ten to nine!

Moving on and attempting not to be prejudiced, we approached the Milton's Head (3). This pub has been written about before in Nottingham Voice. Suffice it for me to say that I found it hot and very noisy (juke-box). Obviously a lot of money has been spent on this place. Whether it is justified I am not sure. The beer is Home Brewery tank beer - I insisted that I could tell it was tank but my partner said he thought it was "fairly acceptable". Anyway, it was not as good as the beer we had had so far.

Next stop was the Prince Albert (4). It defeats me why it was so well patronised. Unless the girls were there hoping to be pounced upon by hairy Ansell's Bittermen and the blokes thought they were Ansell's Bittermen. Once again very noisy and nowhere to get away from it (except out). The beer was awful and expensive and no mild. It was chilled and did not taste of anything. We did



# PARLIAMENT ST PUB CRAWL



not wait for the beer to warm up to see if it actually did have any taste.

Now comes the awkward part - crossing the road to The Newmarket (5). Once again, already mentioned in this column; briefly, the best pub and the best beer on the crawl.

The going started to get heavy as we left to go up the other side of Parliament Street. The Dog and Partridge (6) sells good Shippo's but it consists of two lounge bars with a gay atmosphere and over-priced beer, but by this stage we did not really care. One ridiculous feature - there was a Watney's Red ashtray on the bar but fortunately no Watney's Red in the cellar.

We pushed on to the Old Corner Pin (7) on the corner of Clumber Street. You can only buy halves in the lounge and the beer is confusing. The dispenser looks like electric pump but people have insisted that the beer is tank - I don't know myself and certainly would not make a judgement considering the state of my palate at the time. One thing that must be wrong is a claim in the doorway to sell "Home Ales From The Wood". A claim I would seriously doubt.

The delights of the Coach and Horses (8) awaited us next. The second Ansell's pub on Parliament Street and not recommended. A soulless pub with the usual juke-box in the only room. Expensive lounge prices for public bar conditions without public bar games. The beer was not chilled as it was in the Prince Albert - I did not finish my pint.

## ORDINARY LOCAL

We decided to call it a day at the Parliament House (9) which is opposite the Turf Tavern where we started, and also a Shippo's pub. This is a surprising pub to find in the city centre - it is just like an ordinary local with a large public bar and a small snug. There's a dart board in the public and the beer seemed to be O.K. It is not the place to finish a crawl since there is a very long flight of steps down to the toilet - you might never get back up again.

It was an interesting combination of pubs and it is worth looking at the prices charged (lounge prices since some pubs had no public bar).

	Bitter	Mild
Turf Tavern	20	19
Bluebell	20	19
Milton's Head	20	19
Prince Albert	23	N/A
Newmarket	20	18
Dog & Partridge	24	21
Old Corner Pin	21	20
Coach & Horses	22	Forgot to ask
Parliament House	20	19

P.S. I swear I'll never touch another drop!



# City newsman in pub bar

IT APPEARS THAT I MUST LIFT THE CUSTOMARY VEIL of anonymity to defend the integrity of a fellow hack. In a couple of paragraphs I wrote in Voice No. 17, I made some disparaging but justified comments about the tarting up of the Forman Street bar of the Blue Bell and the fact that its charming landlord was no longer welcoming the former (mostly West Indian) regulars. The landlord, for reasons best known to himself, attributed my lines to a Radio Nottingham newsman who occasionally slakes his epic thirst in the Blue Bell, and when this luckless hack paid his next visit, the victualler, foaming at the mouth, confronted him with the article and told him to drink elsewhere.

Other reports have also been filtering in about a selectively applied "Ties only" rule. It seems as if this disagreeable man and his inn should be avoided at all costs.

IAN CUTHILL

## Withdrawal symptoms

TOM BEESLEY, STATION MANAGER OF RADIO NOTTINGHAM, assures us that staff from the station will not be going to a free lunch at the Albany Hotel on the 11th August. Apparently the BBC will be filming a part of the programme 'The Spirit of the Age' in the Albany on that day. We had heard that staff from Radio Nottingham were to be along to provide some background in the restaurant, but David Heycock (producer of the programme) told us that although they had considered the possibility of using a restaurant and having some local people along to act as 'extras' the proposal 'had come no further than discussing possibilities'. He also told us that there would be no chance of this happening now. It's nice to know that the BBC are so careful in how they spend the licence fees in these times of austerity.

## Off Centre

A PUBLIC MEETING, HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE in Mansfield Road on 5th July, approved by a large majority (61 to 8 with 14 abstentions, if our reporter heard the figures aright) the outline proposal to set up a Community Association to run the Centre. It was agreed that, after all interested parties have had an opportunity to study and discuss the proposed draft constitution, a further meeting will be held at which the Association will come into being and to which a draft constitution will be submitted for approval.

Three questions dominated the meeting.

(1) Is the International Community Centre achieving its aim of (among other things) promoting "cultural and social understanding among people of differing ethnic backgrounds"? Members of the Young Muslim Society declared that the Centre was institutionalising segregation rather than breaking it down. The Centre was just providing facilities for meetings instead of actively promoting inter-cultural activities. Umpteen ethnic groups might meet at the Centre but, if they all sat in their separate rooms and never met each other, the divisions were simply being cemented.

The Young Muslims found widespread support for their view and, what's more, the Warden of the Centre, John Gibbs said he agreed with them. O.K., so it's an open door that only needs pushing - all we need now is people with ideas for inter-cultural activities. How about starting with a joint session of the Young Muslims and the Quakers?

(2) Were the authorities trying to pull a trick by handing down, take-it-or-leave-it fashion, a constitution prepared without proper consultation? The Black People's Freedom Movement detected knavery in the air and said they would not co-operate in the new Association if the draft constitution was pushed through. No-one else accused the local authorities of deliberate villainy but there were strong criticisms, loudly applauded, of the autocratic way in which the draft constitution had simply appeared before the meeting - or more accurately, hadn't appeared because only a mere outline was circulated.

(3) Was the proposed Association Council overloaded with local authority nominees? There was a strong feeling around that the draft set-up gave too much say to the local authorities. For example: eight local authority nominees on the Association Council; chairperson to be appointed by



the City Council; changes to constitution (e.g. to reduce the number of local authority nominees) subject to veto by the City Council.

It was pleaded from the platform that the City Council was providing a large chunk of the necessary money and therefore naturally wanted to see that it was properly spent. This explanation was not well-received.

For most of the meeting it seemed from the floor that the authorities wanted their largely-unseen constitution adopted willy-nilly at this meeting. Indeed, City Leisure Services Director Hugh Lawson claimed he could see nothing wrong with this procedure. In the end, however, Chairwoman Councillor Mrs Higgins wisely decided that discretion was the better part of valour. She deferred the constitution to a future meeting, promising full opportunities for discussion and representations in the meantime. In doing so, she almost certainly saved the sound basic proposal - to set up an International Community Association - from a sad and unnecessary rejection.

Let's keep the Centre's special aim clearly in mind: "to promote cultural and social understanding among people of differing ethnic backgrounds, with particular reference to the needs of minority groups".

This aim will only be achieved by the participating groups and individuals becoming keen enough to promote inter-cultural activities themselves. For lasting success, it must come from the people, not be handed down from Authority. This isn't left-wing dogmatic theorising - it's the lesson learned from hard experience in voluntary organisations, youth organisations and multi-racial groups.

It follows that, in the best long term interests of the Centre, direct visible involvement by the local authorities in the Centre's management should be kept to the absolute minimum. Hence we support the many people at the meeting who called for a reduction in the number of official nominees on the Association Council.

No doubt the local authorities will feel this is grossly unfair, unreasonable and illogical. After all, the City is putting up the money. It may seem unfair, unreasonable and illogical - but that's human nature. For it is human nature not to want more tutelage, however well-intentioned, than is strictly essential. And bending one's knee to the giver of charity is not the modern way of doing things.

Two parallel cases come to mind:

(a) The City Council gets most of its money from the government, but doesn't it object like hell when the government tries to dictate how that money should be used! And how would the City react if the government decided that it wanted to appoint a batch of nominees to the Council, just to keep an eye on things?

(b) Most users of the Centre have their origins in ex-colonial countries now independent. And if these countries can run themselves, surely we can trust their brothers to run a little community centre in Nottingham without Big Brother built in to keep watch?

"Tom of Cluny"

## Grant time again!

THE SEASON IS UPON US FOR APPLYING TO THE Local Authority for grants. The new Urban Aid Circular has now arrived and the closing date for applications to the City Council is the end of September. The Urban Aid scheme provides grants for voluntary groups who have a project which is aimed at areas of 'special social need'. Applications can either be made to the City Council or to the County Council depending on the type of project. The City is taking responsibility for the following types of projects: adventure playgrounds and play projects; schemes for ethnic minorities; community centres and workers; certain types of advice centres; and the homeless. Other schemes are the responsibility of the County. The circular also states that Local Authorities are specifically asked to consult with voluntary organisations. Let's hope they do.

Applications can also be made to the County Council Social Services Committee for grant aid in fields where the Social Services Committee has a responsibility. Applications are particularly worthwhile if the activity you have in mind in some way relieves pressure on the Social Services Department. Social Services have at the moment a working party on priorities because it is recognised that the Department cannot cope with all the problems it is currently asked to deal with.

The Council (this time the City) is continuing to try and make life difficult for the People's Centre - this time by refusing to allow them to use the Council's planning advice centre on Radford Road for a campaign for the registration of fair rents. The refusal was made despite officers' recommendations (both the Technical Services Department and the Planning Department were quite happy with the idea), and despite the recommendation being an item on the 'B' list of the agenda. 'B' items are those which are not usually discussed by Councillors but passed on recommendation. Not so with the People's Centre. The application was thrown out. Still, such little problems don't unduly upset the Centre and it is probable that the Centre will put in for both Urban Aid and for Grant Aid from Social Services. Both applications were turned down last year.

Information, forms, etc. for Urban Aid from the City Secretary, Guildhall. For Social Services write to David Horn, Social Services Department, 126 Mansfield Road. Copies of both programmes are available at the People's Centre. Let's see those applications roll in!



# ROCK INTERVIEW



DAVE BRETT INTERVIEWS KEITH MULHOLLAND  
(2nd left) and MICK DEVENPORT (3rd left) of NUTZ

IMAGINE A BAND WHOSE MUSIC SOUNDS LIKE A MIXTURE of Taste, Eagles, Uriah Heep, Jethro Tull, Led Zeppelin, The Who and Fleetwood Mac and you're almost bound to be thinking of a band called Nutz! I saw Nutz perform live recently at the Boat Club promoting their new album "Nutz Too", and although the band suffered from poor acoustics, a broken bass drum skin and a temperamental mixer, the concert was excellent. The audience gave them an enthusiastic reception and it became obvious that they have a strong following in Nottingham, this being their third visit to the Boat.

After the performance, I spoke to Mick Devenport (guitars and vocals) and Keith Mulholland (bass and vocals) and asked them how long Nutz had been going.



**M.D.** Four years. An A and R man from A & M (Records) came up to the Cavern in Liverpool, saw us performing and he signed us up. Our first album was released about a year and a half ago.

**D.B.** You did a successful tour of Germany a while ago. Were you headlining or supporting another band?

**K.M.** A bit of both really. When we played really big places we'd be supporting someone like Johnny Winter, when we played clubs we'd be top of the bill. It was quite good.

**D.B.** How did you go down with the audience when you supported Johnny Winter?

**K.M.** Amazing - it was really good. The audiences are slightly different over there.

**D.B.** In what way?

**M.D.** They sit and listen more and don't have to be entertained as much. Over here you have to keep the show going otherwise people tend to fall asleep.

**K.M.** They're also more violent. You have to see that you don't upset them or it's goodbye to your equipment . . . and yourselves.

**D.B.** I've been listening to "Nutz Too" and you seem to have been influenced by an amazing number of bands. Is there anyone in particular who's influenced your writing?

**K.M.** To a certain extent we've been influenced by just about everyone you can think of.

**M.D.** With people as old as Keith and myself influences go right back to the Chuck Berry days.

We seem to have come along a parallel to other modern bands.

**K.M.** You can't put our music in a nutzshell (puke!).

**M.D.** You can't say we're an out and out heavy band and you can't say we're a pop band and a middle sort of appeal doesn't fit us.

**K.M.** We all have our own music that we're into at the moment but that changes with time as you hear different LPs and songs. I think maybe Stevie Wonder and Townshend and obviously many bass players have influenced my playing.

**D.B.** Do you find that audience reaction varies much round the country?

**M.D.** The midlands crowd is really good to us. Other audiences are different - you do get various reactions.

**K.M.** You appeal to them all but you can tell which sort of music they like more. In Scotland, it's heavy rock and roll; the further south you get, the more melodic music is preferred; they like you to lay back a little bit.

**D.B.** How well is the new album selling?

**M.D.** Tremendously well, apparently. Over the past fortnight sales have been very good.

**D.B.** You use keyboards quite a lot on the album yet you don't use them on stage. Don't you think you'd benefit by having someone on keyboards full-time?

**K.M.** We thought about this about three years ago but we couldn't find anyone good enough at the time and once we got established it became harder to get someone in because of problems with the recording contract.

**M.D.** To get a keyboard player that we wanted would also have cost a lot of money. When we first started out we just didn't know of anybody. We're happy with the line-up now the way it is. If we want keyboards on the album we just get somebody in.

**D.B.** You've got a big British tour coming up soon haven't you?

**M.D.** Yes, we've got a whole load of gigs lined up in colleges, universities and clubs. We're also supposed to be going to America next spring.

It's not often that new bands showing such promise come to light, and with such versatility this band is bound to go far. Gather your Nutz now because pretty soon you're going to have a hard time catching up with them.

## COMPETITION

PETE BARDENS' CAMEL ARE RAPIDLY ESTABLISHING themselves as a major force in contemporary rock music. The release of their "Snow Goose" album will push them rapidly up the ladder. "Snow Goose" was inspired by Paul Gallico's story of the same title and the music was written by Pete Bardens (keyboards) and Andy Latimer (guitar) with orchestral arrangements by David Bedford. The album is a highly melodious work in keeping with Camel's usual style. Bardens' use of synthesizer is particularly impressive as is Andy Latimer's guitar work. Take a listen to the "Snow Goose" and "La Princesse Perdue" tracks.

We're giving away two copies of "Snow Goose" in this month's competition. Answer the following questions and send the answers on a postcard with your name and address to Nottingham Voice Competition, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, to arrive no later than 9th August.

1. When was Camel formed?
2. Name one of their other albums.
3. Who plays drums with the band?

Last month's winners of the King Crimson Live album were: Roger B. Thomas, Lenton Hall, Nottingham University, and Chris Wade, Graveney Gardens, Arnold.

DAVE BRETT



# ROCK PREVIEW

THE ONE PROBLEM WITH HAVING A SUMMER each year is that it tends to encourage people to leave their homes for a week or two and spend the time lounging on some distant stretch of beach trying to soak up as much ultra-violet as possible. Rock bands are the case which proves the rule and consequently there are very few major bands touring the country at this time.

As far as I'm aware the only place you'll find "name" bands in the city during the summer is the Boat Club. On July 26 UFO are booked for the venue. I've never really appreciated UFO's driving brand of rock music; their numbers all seem to have the same raunchy "I can play better guitar/drums (delete as applicable) than you can" sound to them. The band are always well received at the Boat, however, having played there several times previously. UFO will presumably be promoting their nth album titled "Force It" and just released by Chrysalis. The following week at the Boat sees the arrival of Wally, a band who are rapidly gaining recognition throughout Britain. Their music is extremely varied, almost to the point of excess; some numbers have obvious folk roots whilst others have their roots firmly in electronic rock. Their first album released late last year indicated a lack of direction in the band which could well have been due to the fact that Rick "Rich" Wakeman and Bob "Mad Bomber" Harris shared in its production. If recent reports are to be believed, however, Wally will have a valuable contribution to make with their second album. The band are a six-piece outfit and have a guy who plays some pretty mean fiddle, so I'm told. I hope there's room for them all on the stage at the Boat.

As you are probably aware, the Boat Club is devoting Sunday nights to local East Midlands groups: Gaffa and Wheels have played recently, in fact Wheels will be performing once a month as a result of their popularity. The outfit are a really tight four-piece with an amazing guitarist in Barry Foster and an equally versatile and inventive guy on keyboards - between them they steal the show. Of all the local bands Wheels are destined for the top. Whether they make it tomorrow or in ten years, they'll get there. Centuaris, who come from Long Eaton, play the Boat on Sunday July 27th, and again are a band full of potential: their track "Road to Damascus" on the Nottingham Castle Rock album is one of the most outstanding. The band are a four-piece: lead, bass, keyboards and drums with an average age of only seventeen years. Ned Ludd can be seen on August 3rd, and since I know nothing about the band I can't tell you much about them. Admission fee at the Boat on Sunday nights is a mere 35p, which is really excellent value and gives you a chance to see what fine musicians we have in Nottingham at a realistic cost. Don't forget, of course, that you can still see jazz/rock outfit Cisco at the Imperial each Sunday, and Glider every Wednesday fortnight at the same venue.

Radio Trent have begun broadcasting this month on 301 metres and 96.2 MHz stereo. They put out a superb rock programme each night except Sundays from 9 till 12 p.m. Besides playing albums, its host Jeff Cooper features interviews, concerts and recently had a live report from the Knebworth Festival which, although totally inaudible at times, conveyed the festival atmosphere well, specially since the Floyd were performing in the background at the time. I'll try and bring you more details next month.

DAVE BRETT

## REVIEW

IN ALL PROBABILITY THE NAME BANCO means less than nothing to you. "Foreign bands" are rapidly becoming two-a-penny, yet Italian bands are making a valuable contribution to contemporary rock music. Banco are such a band. The band have received wide acclaim in Italy for several years but have only just been brought to the attention of the British public through the release of an album on ELP's Manticore label. The personnel comprise: drums, twin keyboards, bass, lead guitar and a vocalist. In many ways the album resembles PFM's music, the same classical base being quite evident. If you're into PFM's music then you're bound to like Banco.

DB

THE BEST NEWS OF THE MONTH is the release of "Squire", Alan Hull's second solo album and one which should certainly please his multitude of fans.

The album opens with the title track and the entire LP is based on the tv play "Squire" which starred Alan Hull in the lead role. The musical "Squire" is a catchy song with Alan adding mellotron and Kenny Craddock playing some delightful guitar.

Another song, "Dan The Plan", shows up the infamous T. Dan Smith for what he was with the words: "You turned this house into a caravan". This track has been put out as a single and



deserves to be a hit but probably won't be.

An old rocker, "Nothin' Shakin'", features Alan on vocals only supported by Snafu, a tight backing band. Then there's "Golden Oldies", a song about Top of The Pops with Alan asking "I wonder what went wrong?" And "I'm Sorry Squire", an attractive instrumental, "Waiting", featuring Ray Jackson on flautolette, and "Bad Side of The Town", a variation on the "Fog On The Tyne" theme with a clever orchestral arrangement by Jean Roussel. The old Lindisfarne sound is captured on "Mr Inbetween", but it is the only track that harps back to the Lady Eleanor days.

"Squire" is yet another major work from Alan Hull. He must surely rank as one of the country's leading solo artists now that Lindisfarne has reached the end of the road.

TM

# JAZZ

THE MOST INTERESTING

GROUP IN BRITAIN



THE NAME OF MIKE WESTBROOK IS USUALLY ASSOCIATED with Solid Gold Cadillac, avant-garde movements, and occasional controversies in the area of jazz and rock music forms. He has always been an experimentalist, and some of his more way-out innovations have met with very little sympathy and understanding outside the rarified atmosphere of the Jazz Centre Society.

But, for me, his appearance at the Albany Hotel in a Festival Fringe promotion during June was one of the highlights of my jazz experience so far. There were only a few of us to enjoy the new directions he seems to be exploring with his Brass Band, but that may have been due in part to the gigantic opposition of Cleo Laine and John Dankworth on the same evening. I'm glad I chose Mike Westbrook.

Mike's four-man, one-woman group which he calls his Brass Band is a logical development in his career as a musician, and one which seems to offer all kinds of new possibilities. Having explored several areas of jazz and rock playing, including ventures into "free", Mike seems to have decided that it's time to seek refreshment by referring to musical influences from the past, and the Brass Band draws from medieval, pop, trad jazz, classical and rock sources in a very satisfying way.

Switching between tenor horn and piano for inside gigs, but playing tenor horn only for the outside appearances, such as the Lister Gate afternoon shows during the Festival, Mike takes the band into a varied and interesting programme, with Paul Rutherford swapping between trombone and E-flat horn, Phil Minton (tpt, vcls), Kate Barnard (alto horn, vcls) and Dave Chambers (saxes). Sometimes the band plays straight brass band arrangements of medieval lyrics or of classical pieces; occasional jazz standards are beautifully played, such as "High Society" and "Original Jelly Roll Blues", and settings of Blake's poems follow Fats Waller's "Rump Steak Serenade" and Ellington's "Creole Love Call".

There are occasional glances at rock, with Dave Chambers' soprano sax improvising over a piano figure, but most of the music is carefully arranged and played "straight". Paul Rutherford's style is admirably suited to the new approach, and he displays superb tone and range on both brass instruments. For me, the latest Mike Westbrook Band is the most interesting group playing in the jazz idiom in Britain today because it takes a new look at old material and, let's face it, that's what art is basically about if you take the view that there's nothing new in the Universe. Who, I wonder, is going to be brave enough to give the Mike Westbrook Brass Band its second Nottingham booking? They are worth East Midlands Arts Association support, and the University or the Poly should be interested as leaders in the cultural life of the city. Don't miss them.

There have been one or two developments in Nottinghamshire Jazz since the last "Voice", and new venues seem to appear almost monthly, while some sessions just quietly fade away. One of the most active of the newer bands is the New Savoy Jazzmen, with residencies at the Earl Manvers on Tuesdays and the Town Arms, Trent Bridge on Wednesdays. Leader Paul Stirk is also casting around for further playing opportunities. Chris Burke's Band is trying to establish jazz as regular Tuesday night entertainment at the New Ireton Club, Chilwell, and has instituted a policy of monthly guest shows at the Town Arms. Reedsman Sammy Rimington and American trumpeter Don McDonald appeared on July 3rd.

Jazz at the Federation Club features two star guests in July, with Wild Bill Davidson backed by Jazz Spectrum (9th) and glamorous saxist Barbara Thompson - the sexiest saxist? - on Wednesday 16th. Fans of the Glenn Miller style can hear the Syd Lawrence Orchestra at the Strelley Social Club (24th). Blues-based guitarist Al Gascoigne - returning to Nottingham after a spell backing Screaming Lord Sutch - has formed his own group Desperate Dann, and may be worth catching in one or other of the Nottingham rock clubs. Les Devotees feature their pure New Orleans-style sound at the Carlton Liberal Club every Friday, with Di Seagrave and Tony Jackson singing on alternate weeks. The Dancing Slipper's Noel Jiggins has decided to switch his jazz sessions featuring top bands from Saturdays to mid-week in future.

CLIFF LEE



# EATING OUT

"NOT ONE OF THE GREAT  
GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCES"



THE SEARCH FOR A GOOD INDIAN RESTAURANT led me to the Maharani next door to Social Services in Hockley. The Maharani is a pleasantly decorated, newly opened, all-purpose Indian in the style to which not only are we becoming accustomed but also pretty bored. The menu looked quite hopeful with one or two interesting things to make a change from the average Indian. Samosas and sheikh kebab are among the starters so I decided to try the samosas - a favourite of mine - and I was sorely disappointed. Samosas should be crisp, light, triangular envelopes of pasta with highly spiced meats inside and served (for my taste anyway) with generous slices of lemon. They can be absolutely delicious. These days you can buy insipid deep-frozen samosas, and I suspect that is exactly what the Maharani does. Certainly the samosas I had bore all the marks of frozen origin. They were soggy, bland and served with the kind of mint sauce normally reserved for roast lamb in emergencies. The sheikh kebab was also infuriatingly boring with just enough flavour to make you want the real thing. I can only assume that Indian restaurant proprietors don't think the British can take properly spiced food.

We then had a stab at vegetable vindaloo and Maharani chicken special, both of which turned out to be almost totally devoid of interest. The vegetable vindaloo was particularly disturbing - one expects some effort to go into a vegetable dish which is as highly priced as similar meat dishes. All the Indian desserts were unavailable and all fruits on the menu were tinned. All in all it was not one of the great gastronomic experiences. The search for a good Indian restaurant must therefore continue.

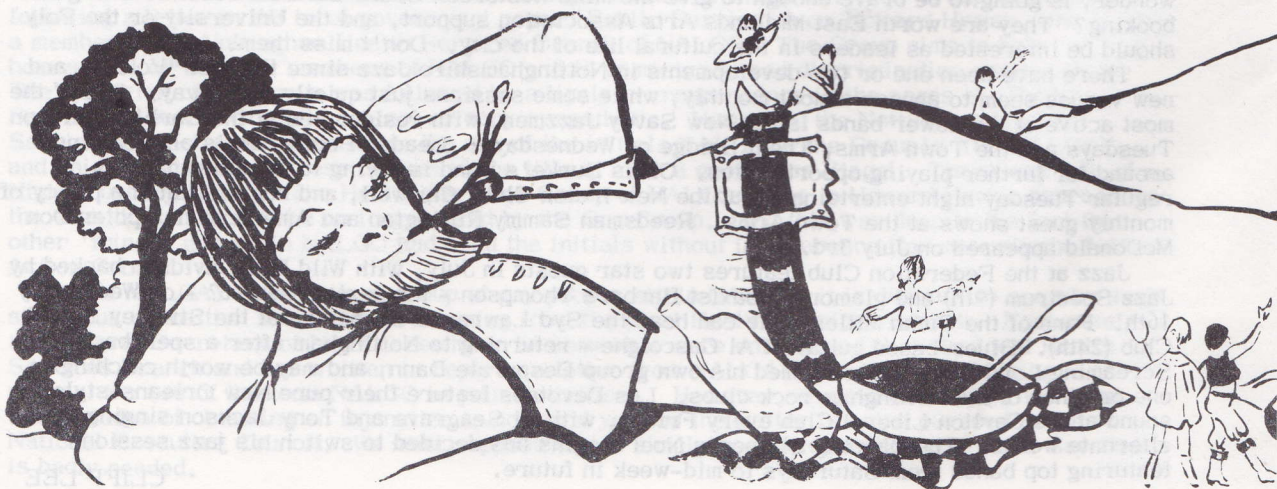
Ben Bowers Restaurant on Canning Circus was a vastly better experience. The downstairs bar had a resident classical guitarist adding tone to the place and was in a pleasant, slightly offbeat setting for a pre or post dinner drink without the pressures to vacate a table for the next diners. The service was efficient and pleasant and the menu provided a good range of food with a variety of origins - American, French, Russian, etc. The avocado vinaigrette was excellent at only 35p and was served with plenty of vinaigrette - although I thought there was slightly too much vinegar in it.

Which brings me on to salad dressings, about which much rubbish is written and said. A good salad dressing depends entirely on good ingredients. You need olive oil, wine vinegar, salt and black pepper (preferably freshly ground). The key to success is the olive oil. Take a nice crisp salad, and sprinkle on salt, pepper, oil and vinegar in that order. Don't overdo the vinegar and toss the whole thing well. You can substitute lemon juice for vinegar if you like. You can mix the dressing and then pour it on - but I wouldn't bother. This dressing will turn a salad into a work of art. If you are reduced to Mazola and Sarsons then do not despair - add other ingredients to make the dressing palatable. Mustard is particularly good (either English or French), and in this case the dressing must be mixed before applying to salad. Olive oil is, unfortunately, amazingly expensive but is a lot cheaper if bought in large quantities. If you get the urge to buy General Foods Inc. Fruity South Seas Salad Dressing or anything similar - lie down until the feeling goes away.

But I digress. Ben Bowers also did us proud with a splendidly charcoally charcoal grilled steak and beef stroganoff. And for the quality of food available it is very reasonably priced. Ben Bowers is recommended.

And for a quick snack in town you could try the Palace Coffee House on Parliament Street. I don't know what the rest of their menu is like but they certainly shoot a mean cheeseburger. But don't order it unless you are quite hungry because it isn't one of those Wimpey-sized 'burgers. It's a man-sized 'burger.

G. NOME





JEAN-LUC GODARD

AND THE POLITICAL FILM



LENIN SAID IN 1922: "The cinema is the most important of all the arts". What he recognised in film was what he saw as its vast potential for changing, or modifying, people's consciousness - in fact as a weapon in the revolutionary process. And for a few years following the Russian Revolution there was, of course, the most amazing flowering in revolutionary film, principally in the hands of Dziga Vertov and Sergei Eisenstein.

However, since that period, with some notable exceptions, the politically revolutionary film has been more or less abandoned until recent years when Jean Luc Godard became, in his own words, "at first a bourgeois filmmaker and then a progressive filmmaker and then no longer a filmmaker but just a worker in the movies", a quotation which reflects both Godard's critique of his earlier work and the development of a specifically politically revolutionary attitude to the cinema. It is he more than any other filmmaker since the Russian Revolution who has carried forward the cause of revolutionary film. To anyone interested in either revolutionary politics or progressive cinema a consideration of Godard's work and views must be of major interest.

In very broad, and perhaps over crude, terms the basis of Godard's consciously political later work has been the view that conventional film is "illusionistic", "psychological" and absolutely characterized by modes of representation specific to capitalist ideology and production. The distinction he has drawn between "political film" and "politically made film" is useful here both as an aid to understanding his own work and the purpose and nature of revolutionary film as he sees it.

The "political film" in this sense is one which deals with political issues or themes in a filmically conventional sense. Thus one would expect to find a clearly defined narrative with beginning, middle and end, well-drawn "characters" whose psychological motivation the film explores, the construction of coherence, a careful presentation of an "illusion of reality" - in fact all the chief characteristics of conventional narrative film. An excellent example of this type of political film is Z.

Against this, the "politically made film", drawing strongly on the work and theory of Brecht and Walter Benjamin, a contemporary of Brecht's and a major Marxist critic, makes a deliberate attempt to draw the audience not into the experience of a narrative film, with all its mechanisms of identification, but rather to provoke thought in the audience, to constantly deny emotion in order to further analysis; in a very strong sense to make the audience "produce" the film by confronting it with a series of questions, disruptions, subversions of expectation.

Hence, to achieve this end, Godard and some other filmmakers of similar political mind have destroyed the overwhelming force of the narrative (i.e. we cease to wonder, "How will it end?") by breaking it up in a variety of ways. In order to depart from the force of the illusion of classic methods of representation, formal mechanisms such as direct speech to the camera, long held shots, repetitive actions, quotation rather than speech by actors, the appearance of the camera and even discussion about the making of the film, have been introduced. One of Godard's most recent films to be seen in Britain, Tout va Bien, which has been shown in Nottingham, can be regarded as perhaps the finest example of the "politically made film".

It is clear, then, that the revolutionary filmmaker's objection to most cinematic products lies precisely in a certain mode of representation exemplified in the "political film" briefly discussed. In that sense a new "language" (using the term loosely) has to be invented by the revolutionary filmmaker, which is the task that Godard and others have inherited from Eisenstein and Vertov.

JLG





# RACING



## CLASS STRUGGLE

### AT NEWMARKET (2)

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT, AT THE TIME OF WRITING, in the Newmarket stable lads' strike, offered little hope for a reasonable or quick settlement. Although the Newmarket Trainers Federation had finally agreed to go to the Arbitration and Conciliation Board, a body with only advisory powers, it appeared that their intention of standing firm in their refusal to improve the £3 offer was unshaken. This in spite of the fact that even some owners, notably Chris Collins, Chairman of the owners' association, have expressed surprise at the trainers' refusal to settle.

Sam Horncastle, the union organiser leading the strike, has expressed a feeling of betrayal. As he rightly pointed out, the lads have repeatedly restricted their activity - notably on Derby Day at Epsom after Lord Wigg's personal intervention - but those who have prevailed upon them to do so have apparently done little to prompt the trainers to improve their offer. Perhaps they have tried and failed - if so they should say so publicly.

It is quite obvious to many both in and outside the racing industry that a Government level enquiry is urgently required. But throughout the whole period of the strike the Government, in particular Michael Foot, Minister of Employment, has been conspicuously silent, at least in public. Yet there have been appeals to the Minister from the strikers, from Jack Jones, Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, and from prominent columnists in both major racing dailies, the "Sporting Life" and "Sporting Chronicle". In the last few weeks, too, public opinion seems to have swung behind the strikers to a far greater extent than when the industrial action began.

Perhaps the Government finds itself in a potentially embarrassing position. The levy raised from betting is, of course, a not inconsiderable source of revenue. Maybe Ministers would prefer not to rock the boat and perhaps run the risk of sending owners off to France. On the other hand, the lads' claim is well within the social contract; indeed with inflation at its present rate, and if delay in settlement continues much longer, the lads would be perfectly justified in raising their demands.

Even if one accepted that the Government has enough on its plate without becoming involved in a minor industrial dispute in a leisure industry, the unpleasant suspicion remains that this small group can only be ignored because it lacks industrial muscle. Yet this Government, in theory at least, is apparently pledged to helping the lowly paid: the lads are exactly that.

In retrospect, one might wish that the miners had appeared in solidarity on Derby Day and that tactics during Royal Ascot had been considerably more militant. The difficulty, though, for the strikers is their comparative lack of strength in numbers combined with the threat that they will lose their jobs if their militancy cannot be safely ordered by the ruling class. The combination of these two factors resulted in the sad demonstration at Royal Ascot where they were "allowed" to walk down the course before the Queen arrived and racing began. One cannot help feeling that when action is as obviously controlled as this it loses virtually all effectiveness. It is, though, very difficult, bearing in mind the degree of support, to think what else they could effectively do at the moment. The support and action of other trade unionists is urgently needed if this small struggle is not to peter out in defeat and, with it, the loss of the strikers' jobs.

Obviously the lads urgently require money for the strike fund. Donations can be sent to Mr S. Horncastle, Bevan House, Camp Road, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8HF.

ALAN FOUNTAIN

# CRICKET

## SOME CAUSE

### FOR OPTIMISM



THE 1975 CRICKET SEASON HAS BEEN DISTINGUISHED by a considerable revival of interest in the game. The main impetus has, of course, been the introduction of the entertaining and highly successful Prudential World Cup competition. Happily, the improved state of affairs has also been evident locally. The performances of Notts C.C.C. have so far given cause for guarded optimism about the future. Although, on the morning of June 21st, the playing record of one championship win and three John Player League victories can hardly be described as spectacular, it does mean that the club will equal the number of successes achieved in each of these competitions during 1974!

In fairness, the championship won/lost record does not tell the full story. A glance at the club's impressive bonus points haul reveals that Notts have at least been playing more effectively on a day-to-day basis. The lack of tangible victories can be attributed to: (1) the relative



weakness of the bowling attack and associated injury problems, and (2) bad luck with the weather which robbed the club of a certain, and deserved, win over Glamorgan. The former, of course, is the more serious problem. The aggressive seam bowling of Barry Stead and Clive Rice forms a strong nucleus around which a bowling attack can be built. Unfortunately, they do not currently obtain any degree of reasonable support. In view of this, it is not surprising that Notts have repeatedly failed to press home an initial advantage. It is unfortunate that they have batted first in so many matches this season and been left with the task of bowling out the opposition in the final innings of the match.

On the surface, there would seem to be a case for skipper Mike Smedley to seriously consider putting the opposition in to bat on winning the toss if the wicket is unlikely to give the bowlers help during the three days. This policy was, in fact, attempted by Reg Simpson in 1959 and admittedly met with mixed success. Nevertheless, with the present bowling deficiencies, the chance of more Notts victories would surely be improved if they were chasing runs in the final innings rather than attempting to dismiss the opposition. This would enable the batting strength of the side to become a match-winning force.

With three of the first four John Player League matches at Trent Bridge enjoying excellent weather, reasonably large attendances were registered. This has created some problems concerning the adequacy of the catering facilities. The undermanned bar facilities are the main problem, particularly in the pavilion. Occasionally, one barmaid may attempt to serve a score or more of irate, thirsty members. An improvement in the provision of tea, coffee, etc. facilities, however, was noted at the Gloucestershire match. Unfortunately, this could not be said of the turnstiles in use at the entrances where people were obliged to queue for several minutes.

The public relations policy of the club, in general, still leaves a good deal to be desired. This would surely be enhanced if greater use of the mass media (particularly the Evening Post and Radio Nottingham) were made to publicize the club's activities, plans, policies, etc. The days when the Notts committee could realistically regard a visit to Trent Bridge as a privilege for the public are, alas, long past.

GEOFF SMITH

# THEATRE

## BRINGING DICKENS

### TO LIFE



THE NOTTINGHAM FESTIVAL CAME AND WENT without any remarkable contributions to the theatre in the city. Admittedly, the Playhouse produced its summer pantomime of bumfoolery and tittery but I felt that it was a mistake to try and reproduce the successful formula of "Bendigo"; surely there is a place for variety and experimentation within a festival programme? It was largely left to the festival's fringe to provide experiences that could be said to be, in any way, experimental. The Lace Market Theatre produced a full and varied programme for the fortnight but I fear that lack of publicity left them short of full support.

One theatrical event during the festival was, to my mind, an unreserved success; the appearance of Emlyn Williams in a late night performance as Charles Dickens. Dickens has always been a novelist best read when darkness is deepening - the imagination catches hold of his characters more precisely as they come hobbling out of the shadows with their shades of humility or pomposity, meekness or aggression. Mr Williams' performance was akin to reading Dickens under quite the most appropriate conditions. In the course of his two hour performance approximately fifty characters must have been created in voice and gesture.

The stage was set quite simply with a replica of Dickens' own lectern; Mr Williams' love for the text was evident from the start as he thumbed through the volumes for the apparently right passage. From the imperious yet beneficent eye to the unruly yet cultured beard, it was only at the end of the performance that the audience had any sense of seeing someone other than Dickens himself. In this sense, the skill of Emlyn Williams is that of his master - the ability to convince the audience or reader that the reality of the character cannot be denied.

The performance was not merely remarkable for the range of characters recreated, it was also remarkable for the range of material used. Emlyn Williams must have persuaded anyone who remembers Dickens as a dull, repetitive serialist that the opposite is the case. In addition to extracts illustrating the wit and pathos of the refined mature novels - "Our Mutual Friend", "Little Dorrit", "Dombey and Son" - the audience was reminded of Dickens' skill as a severe social critic, as a writer of short stories and as a writer of bizarre tales for children. The performance must have rekindled an interest that many, through educational and media oversell, have rejected for far too many years.

In July the Playhouse moves into its summer season, which includes the National Theatre production of Beckett's "Happy Days". I hope, next month, to be able to look at this and to consider how Nottingham fits into the National Theatre's new policy for the regions.

GP



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**L**ONG TERM FOSTER HOME REQUIRED for a three year old Anglo-Jamaican girl, with a lot of personality, in the Nottingham area. She is affectionate, lively, and enjoys the company of other children. If you think you can help, please contact Mr Z. Luczynski, Social Worker, West Area, 136 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Telephone Nottingham 56211, extension 296.

**R**AMPTON. I am very anxious to contact people with any knowledge or interest in Rampton Mental Hospital. Would people who have either worked there or have been in as patients contact: Judy Wood, People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham. Tel. 411227.

**M**AX (celebrated "Voice" cartoonist!) does drawings, posters, murals, etc. Phone 607287 for terms.

**G**ROUP for homosexual men and women. Contact Nottingham: CHE, P.O. Box 82, Nottingham NG1 1ET.

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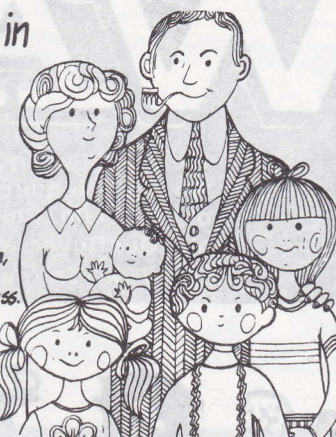
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### PEOPLE'S CENTRE DIRECTORY

THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel. 411227), gives advice on legal, welfare, housing and other rights, and also acts as a centre for a number of organisations. It is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The following organisations can be contacted through the People's Centre (call, write, or 'phone 411227). Specialist legal advice is given by the Response group on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Thurs. 7.30 - 10 p.m.

Campaign for Homosexual Equality  
Thurs. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Child Poverty Action Group  
Weds. afternoons,  
Fri. evenings.

Claimants Union  
Monday afternoons.

Gingerbread  
(one-parent families)  
Mon. 7.30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

National Council for Civil Liberties  
Tues. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Nottingham Community Planning Group

Off the Record  
(young people's problems)  
Weds. & Fri. 7 - 9.30 p.m.

Pachwork (organises volunteers to decorate homes and do gardening for old and disabled people)

Refuge for Battered Wives Campaign  
Most Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Response  
(qualified legal advice)  
Mon., Tues., Weds.  
6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shelter  
Weds. afternoons,  
Fri. evenings.

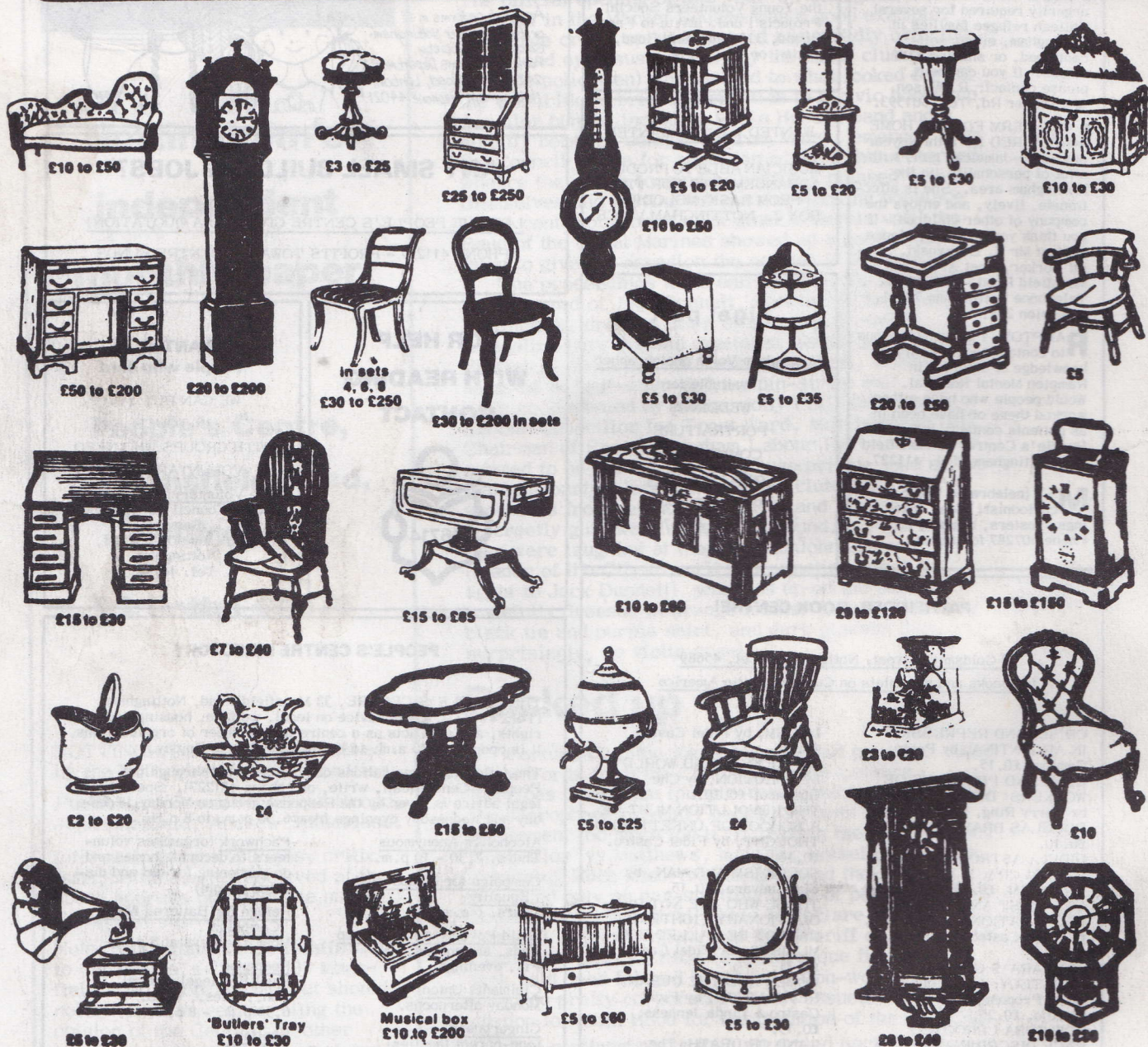
Student Community Action Women's Liberation Group  
Advice on women's rights:  
Fri. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Group meetings: Thurs. 8 p.m. Newcastle Chambers, near Bell Inn, Market Square.



# WANTED

We urgently require to purchase items as illustrated below in any condition. We also require any old Barometers, Mechanical Money Boxes, pieces of Porcelain, China, Pewter Plates, Furniture, etc., in fact, anything which is old. Our Buyers will be pleased to call any time to value or buy.

(We will also purchase any parts of Clocks, Music Boxes, Mechanical Toys, etc.)



## The Jug & Bowl

5b ARKWRIGHT STREET, NOTTINGHAM

RING NOTTINGHAM 864077