

GIVE US BACK OUR MONEY!

AS On Yer Bike went to press, the Law Lords were considering whether the Government acted illegally in cutting this year's Rate Support Grant to Nottinghamshire County and Bradford City Councils.

If Notts win their case it would mean the Government fixed their spending target £6.75 million too low. One estimate is that around £15 million in penalties could have been wrongly withheld as a result this year.

However, even if the Government loses in court, they could act retrospectively to claw back the money a different way.

SUPPORT RESOURCE CENTRES

SERVICES provided for trade unionists and local communities by resource centres are under threat due to the abolition of the Greater London Council and Metropolitan Counties by Tory legislation.

The Trade Union Resources Trust has been formed to raise



funds to ensure that the work of resource centres can continue, and needs to raise at least £1 million from local authorities and the trade union movement to keep the centres in existence.

YOU can help by:-
*sending a donation from your branch to the Trade Union Resources Trust.

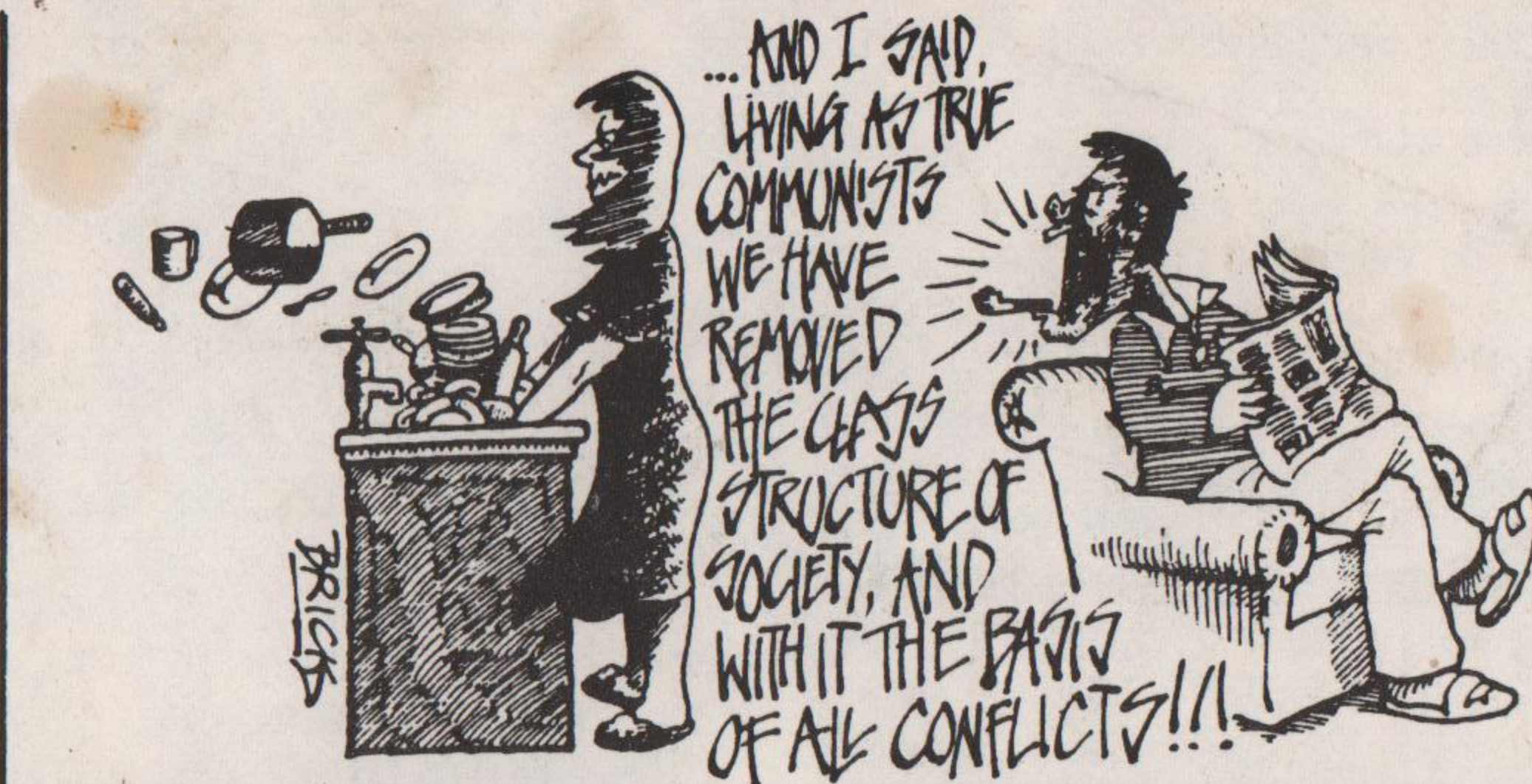
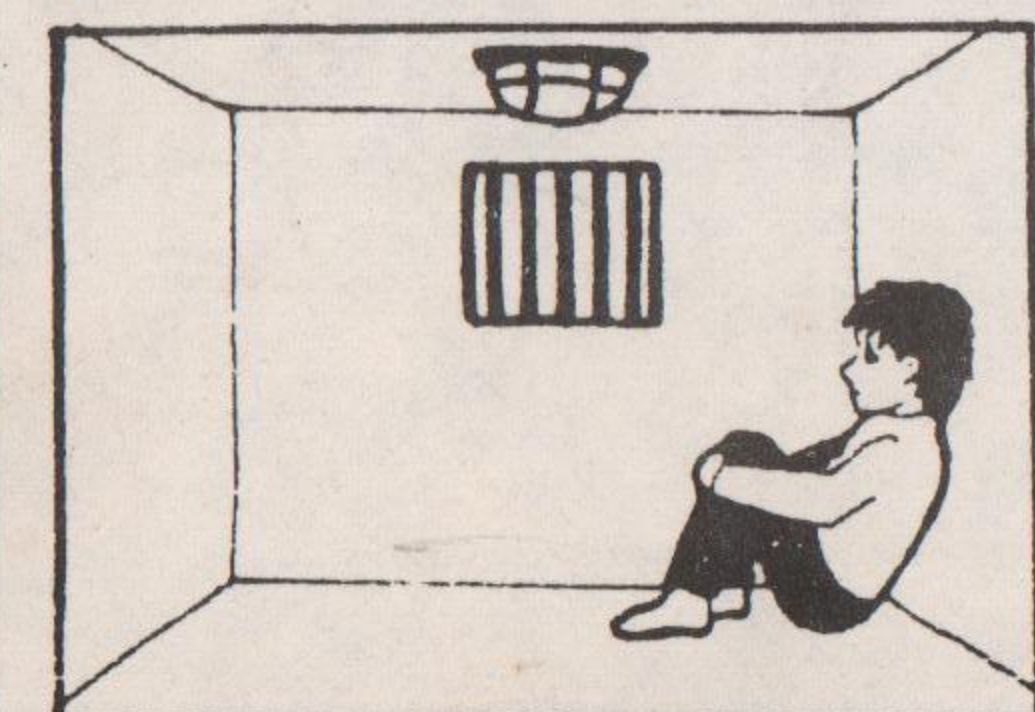
* passing a resolution from your branch to your national executive calling on it to give support for the Trust.

Ian Juniper
118 Workshop (582369)

PRISONERS BOOK RESOURCE

THE PRISONERS Book Resource collects books and magazines for Irish prisoners.

Although relatives and friends try to provide the prisoners with reading material wherever they can, the cost of books and magazines these days means that many families cannot afford to buy new books or spend money every week on



TORIES HIT AT SPENDING ON CITY ROADS

TORY County Councillors are kicking up stink about the money being spent on road maintenance in the City. Obviously the "commuter belt" party of squires and foxhunters have decided this is an issue they can hammer Labour on, although its always funny how cost doesn't matter when the potholes are in front of their property.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR VOTE

WITH the Labour Party already beginning to prepare for the next General Election Campaign, we must ensure that every Labour supporter is included on the Register of Electors.

Every canvasser will have come across people who cannot vote because they are not on the Register. Particularly in inner city areas, it has cost us vital parliamentary and local government seats.

In the London Borough of Haringey a recent door-to-door canvass of 35,000 households added 10,096 people to the Register.

Branches should conduct their own canvass, particularly in areas with ethnic communities - using party members with the same ethnic background.

For details contact:
Ron Stevenson
Labour Party Agent (418087)



magazines and newspapers. The Prisoners Book Resource collects books in England and Ireland and gets them to the prisoners' families who then take them into the prisoners on their visits to the jail.

If you have any books that you would like to donate to the Resource to show your support for the Irish prisoners please contact me on 582369.

Ian Juniper

How then shall we respond? What we should do is step up our complaints. Every crack, every pothole, every crumbling piece of pavement should be reported to the Council for immediate repair.

If the Tories want to raise this issue, then let's show them how much there is still to do.

Alan Simpson

EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANISE

SINCE 1884 the Fabian Society has enrolled thoughtful socialists who are prepared to discuss the essential questions of democratic socialism and relate them to practical plans for building socialism in a changing world.

The Fabian Society exists to further socialist education and research. It is affiliated to the Labour Party both nationally and locally. Local societies are self governing and are lively centres of discussion and also undertake research.

It is hoped that in 1986 a local society will be organised covering Greater Nottingham.

If you would like to join or to find out more about the Fabian Society please contact me at 34 Main Road, Gedling (612273).

David Colyer

THE AFRO-CARIBBEAN AND ASIAN FORUM

IN 1983 the Labour controlled City Council started its equal opportunity policy. The Afro-Caribbean and Asian Forum offered to provide a united, single structure and accountable platform for the coordination of consultation with our community.

The Forum has been most angry that the City Council have tried to divide the black community. Cosmetic consultation with organisations whose representatives are mainly City Council employees cannot claim to be genuine, broad based consultation at all.

We openly challenge the City Council's record over the last three years - to us it is a record of unequal opportunities and bogus consultation.

Qulzar Khan

CITY COUNCIL EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETINGS

Sub-Committee meetings (open to public, at The Council House)

Women: Mon 16 Dec, 7.30 (normally 4th Mon)

Gays & Lesbians: 1st Thurs, 7.30 (5 Dec)

Race: to be fixed.

Discussion Groups

Asian Women: 6pm, Wed 4 Dec, Sneinton Hermitage.

Women & Work: 7.30, Wed 11 Dec, ICC, 61B Mansfield Rd.

Lesbians: Thurs 12 Dec, 7.30, ICC.

Gay Men: Next meeting 30 Jan, 7.30, ICC.

Further details from Equal Opportunities Unit (418571).

Christmas Social for Nottingham East Labour Party, Fri 6 Dec, Italian Centre, Sherwood Rise.

Gedling Labour Party invite you to their **XMAS DISCO** at Arnold Baths, 8 till late, 14 Dec. £1.25/50p unwaged & children. Food Separate bar for those who can't stand the noise.

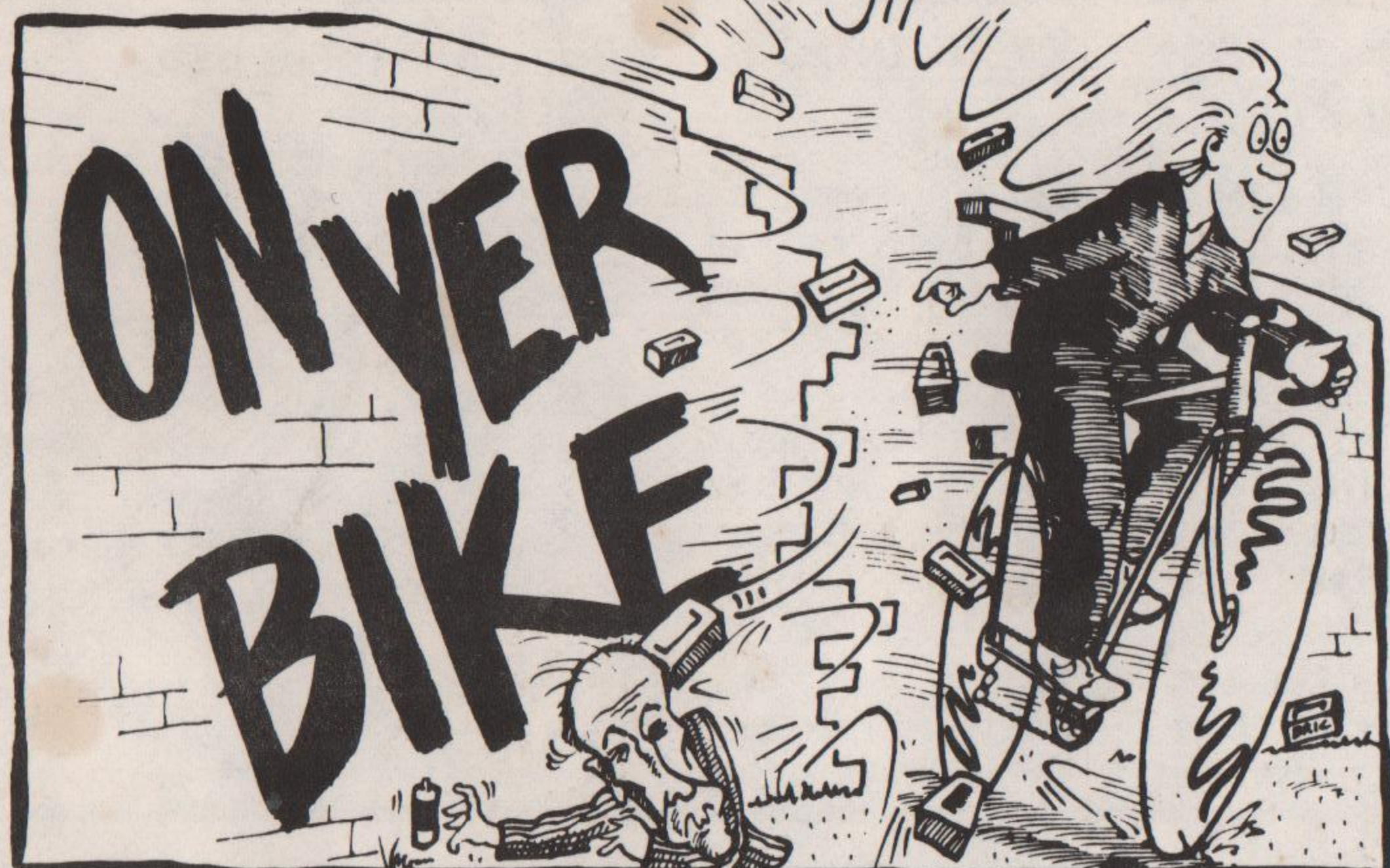
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 3pm, 7 Dec, Queens Walk Community Centre, Meadows. In aid of Bridge Branch Labour Party.

BOOK BARGAINS. Fabian and Institute for Workers Control pamphlets at half price (75p unless shown, postage 17p extra). Phone 413349. Trade Unionism, Tony Benn (25p). Low Pay: Labour's Response, C. Pond. Socialism & Decentralisation. Occupational Pensions. Why are the many poor, Peter Townsend. Labour & a World Society, Denis Healey. Socialism Can Survive, Michael Mann. The Swedish Road to Socialism, Martin Linton. Who Controls Training, Caroline St-John Brooks. Winning Women's Votes, Lsanne Radice.

CONTRIBUTIONS to On Yer Bike are welcomed and should be sent to the editor: Nigel Lee, 51 Braidwood Court, Hyson Green (tel 788059). Priority will be given to items which are signed, less than 100 words, and relevant to the broad labour movement in Nottingham. Items longer than 100 words will be cut. Deadline is the second Monday of the month. Because of Christmas, please inform the editor by 2 Dec if you intend to submit any articles for the January issue.

ADVERTS: Small ads free to labour movement and voluntary groups. Personal ads 1p per word. Display ads on request.

Printed by NUSU Printshop, NG7 2QH.



No 5 December 1985 5p FOR THE NOTTINGHAM LABOUR MOVEMENT

ON YER BIKE is a monthly information service aimed at members of the labour movement in the Nottingham area. It is edited independently. Contributions are particularly

welcome from women's, black, lesbian/gay, disabled and other disadvantaged groups; campaign groups; and from organisations and individuals within the labour movement.

CITY FORCED TO DOUBLE RATE

FURTHER CUTS threatened by the Government will force the City Council to more than double its rate next year.

In a "provisional" statement the City has been told that if it spends £25 million next year which is the Government's assessment of what it needs to spend, its "rate support grant" from government will be cut from £12 million this year to £7 million next.

This would force the City to levy a rate of around 46p next April compared to 20.9p this year **just to meet Government guidelines.** In fact it will have to spend nearly £28

million just to avoid making cuts in jobs and services.

Labour Councillor John Taylor told the City Council meeting in November that even a Tory budget would mean nearly doubling the rates **as well as** large cuts in jobs and services. His resolution calling for the Government to change its policy was carried against Tory opposition.

* Taking the much larger County Council rate into account, City ratepayers are likely to have to meet a total rate increase of 20% (around 40p more) just to avoid major cuts in jobs and services.

PROTEST! While you still can

PROPOSED changes in public order law will have a serious effect on people's rights to protest.

Spontaneous marches will be made illegal. Seven days notice will have to be given to the police. Among those concerned is Christian CND which points out that many events require immediate response, such as demonstrations against the deployment of Cruise missiles.

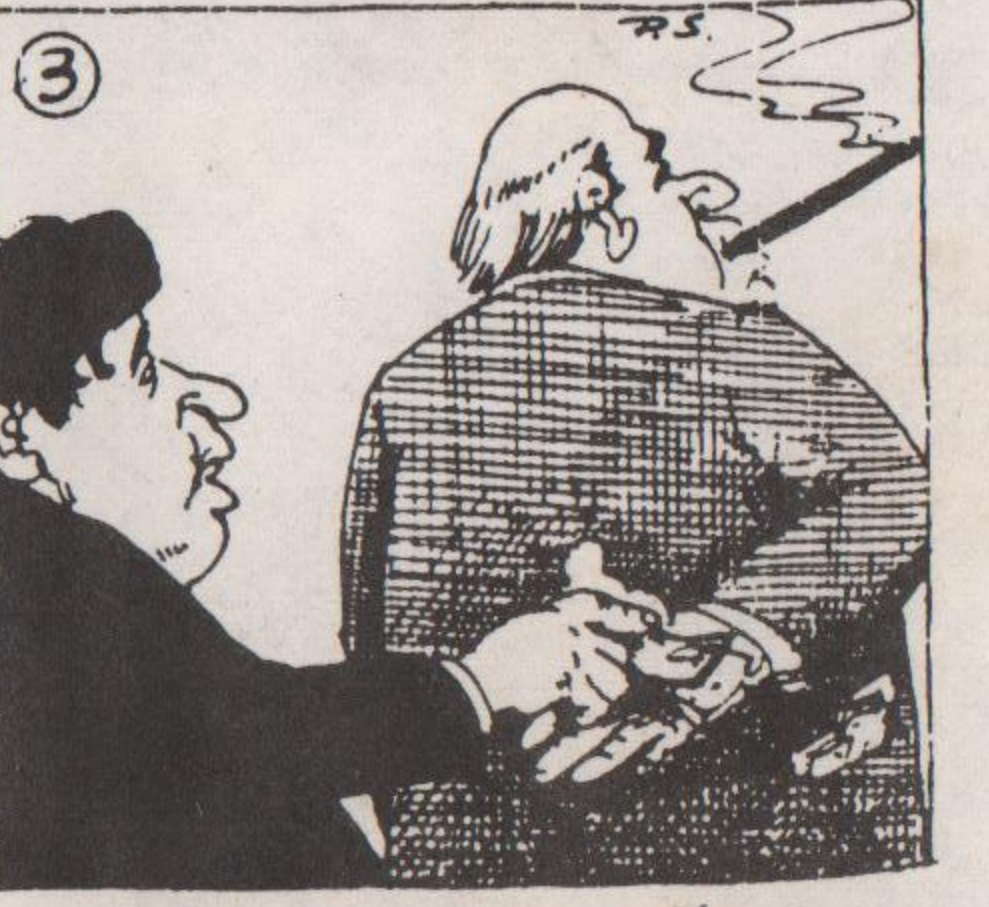
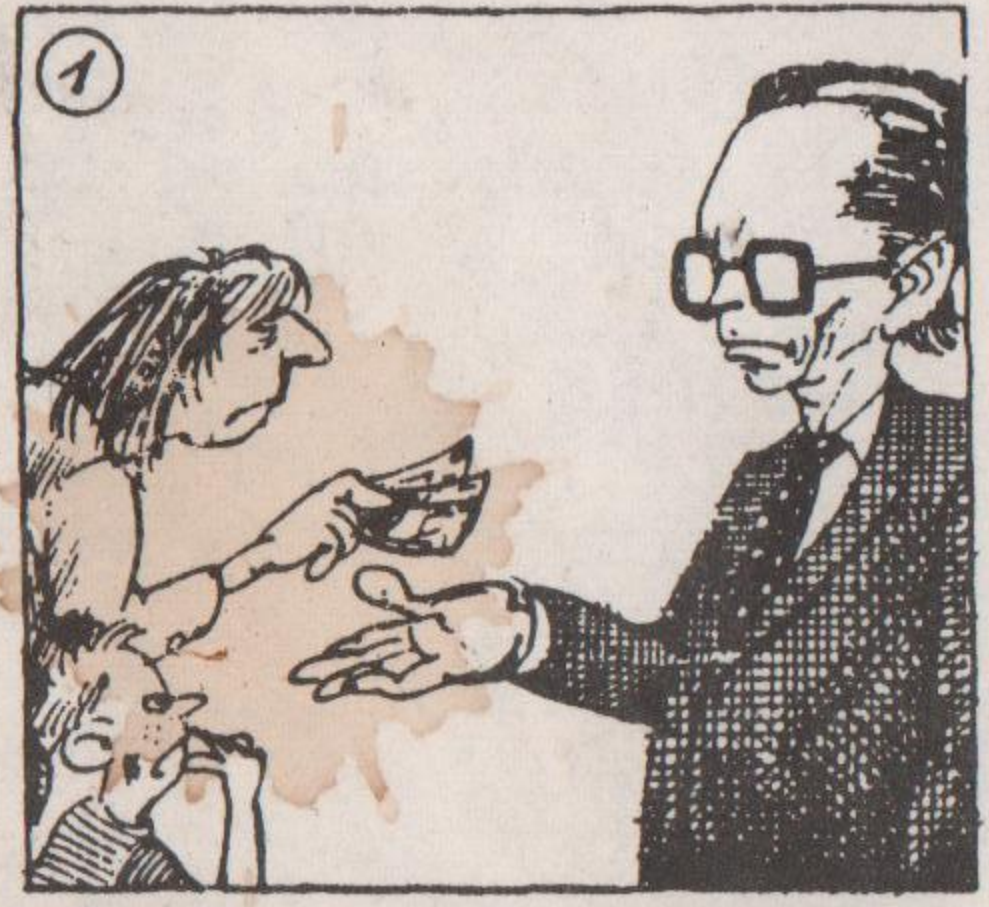
The police will be able to tell groups **where** they can demonstrate, **when**, and **how**



many people are allowed. This will have a crucial effect on picketing. Anyone breaking this law will be liable to a £400 fine, with £1,000 fine for anyone encouraging others.

A meeting was being held by the National Council for Civil Liberties at the Ukaidi Centre on 27 Nov, sponsored by CND, Anti Apartheid and local trade unions to explain the proposals.

Further details from NCCL: Julian Griffiths, 71 Forest Rd East (703396).



Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler shows how his proposals for changes in Social Security will work. (From "Past Caring", a joint report by the Greater London Council Welfare Benefits Project and Child Poverty Action Group.)

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

OVER 12,000 people have been out of work for over a year in the Nottingham Area.

Figures for July 1985 show that 12,407 people registered at the Nottingham and Bulwell Employment Offices had been unemployed for more than a year - 45% of the total unemployed.

Nationally 1,326,900 had been out of work for over a year.

* In On Yer Bike No 4 it was wrongly stated that unemployment in September for the Nottingham Travel-to-Work Area had increased by 897 over the previous year. That was the increase over the previous month. The increase over the year was 2,312.

NUCLEAR MISINFORMATION

A TRENT Regional Health Authority document on "Civil Defence in the Health Service" has been attacked by the Nottingham Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons as "a malicious piece of misinformation".

"No scientific evidence is quoted in support of the document's conclusions," says the Campaign.

The Authority's document describes how, after a nuclear attack, services such as libraries and social security would be maintained, and suggests that voluntary groups could help by "bereavement counselling".

The Campaign estimates that a "small" nuclear bomb on Nottingham would kill 280,000 and leave 180,000 injured.

The City Council's Health Sub-Committee agreed that the Council's facilities should be used for distributing the Campaign's leaflet.

ENGINEERING SUPPORT UNIT

A PROPOSAL for an "Engineering Support Unit" has been backed by the City Council's Employment & Economic Development Committee.

The Unit would assist local firms by identifying potential growth areas and encouraging firms to move into these areas, especially those firms engaged in activities which are contracting.

In 1984 over 18,000 people were still employed in engineering in the Nottingham area, despite a fall of 30% since 1979.

The proposed Unit, with two staff, would back up the Centre for Product Development, recently set up by the City Council to promote new ideas in local industry.



SHADOWING

ON 28th October all of the Hiroshima Day Shadow Project defendants charged with "Breach of the Peace", received letters telling them that "after further consideration" the charges had been dropped.

Obviously the prosecution had been unable to conjur up any evidence, and so cut their losses before we embarrassed them further when we got to court.

Once again Nottinghamshire Police have been shown to be far from politically independent in their attitude towards Peace campaigners.

Candida MacLeod-Brudenell

IMPARTIAL DECISION?

JINNAH Youth Society was formed in 1978 to provide sporting and cultural activities for Pakistani youths. The experience of providing such services has highlighted other existing needs within the Pakistani population of Sneinton.

For the past three years we have been applying for funding. In January we met the County Council and it was resolved that their Management Services Division would prepare a report regarding our project. The report recommended funding.

However the County Council is not funding us and has decided to fund other groups on political patronage.

We are now told by Cllr Aslam and Cllr Tipping that the report was prepared by a junior officer and is meaningless though it has been approved by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Zahoor Mir

FIGHT AGAINST FOWLER

THE CAMPAIGN against the Fowler Social Security Reviews continues.

Following on from the demonstration organised by the TUC on October 27th there will be a rally on November 30th at 1.30pm, Rainbow Rooms, Broad St with Labour's spokesperson Michael Meacher and Judy McKnight from Society of Civil and Public Servants.

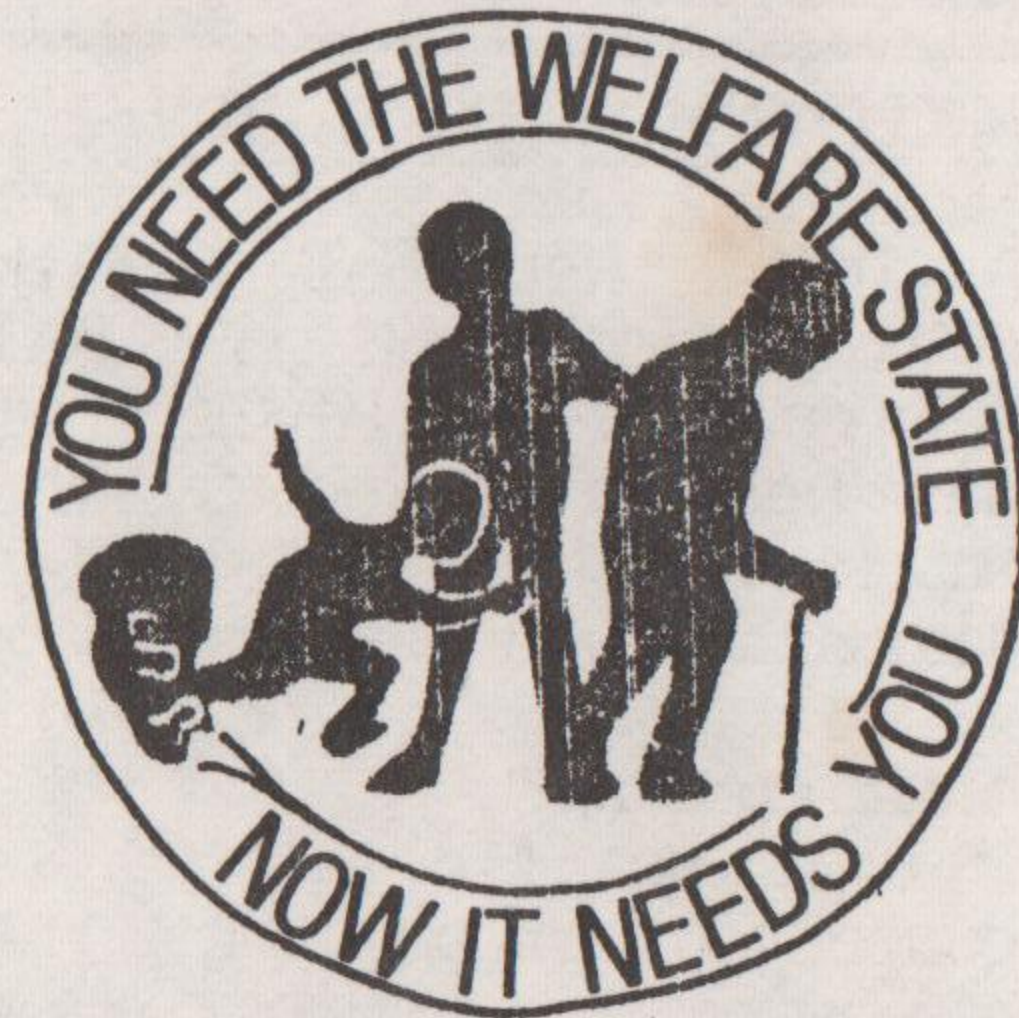
From 1-8 December the Regional TUC have called a Benefits Week (tel 472444).

Local Labour Party wards and trade unions must keep up the fight against the reviews. We have the Tories on the run. Some of their plans are in ruins.

However we must do more than campaign against Fowler. We

must campaign for a new type of Social Security system and not just fall into the trap of defending the existing system which, as staff and claimants alike will confirm, is in one hell of a mess.

Steve Battlemuch
Branch chair, Civil and Public Servants Association (DHSS South Notts) (tel 620947)



NHS MORALE AT ALL TIME LOW

"MORALE amongst support service workers in the NHS has never been lower," says a union report about the effect of competitive tendering in Nottingham.

The report, by Alan Hughes of NUPE, was presented to the City Council's Health Sub-Committee in November.

It details problems on three contracts. In one case payments were withheld from the contractor because cleaning standards were so bad.

An in-house contract for

evening cleaning at Queen's Medical Centre has also hit snags, it says. "Because of the 30% cut in wages, all of the original staff left... cleaning services are being maintained by staff from other areas being employed on overtime rates."

The Health Authority says it is saving £250,000 a year and claims this will be "reinvested in direct Patient care". The City Council has asked for evidence of this, and expressed concern that good staff at all levels are leaving.

TAIL THAT WAGGED THE DOG

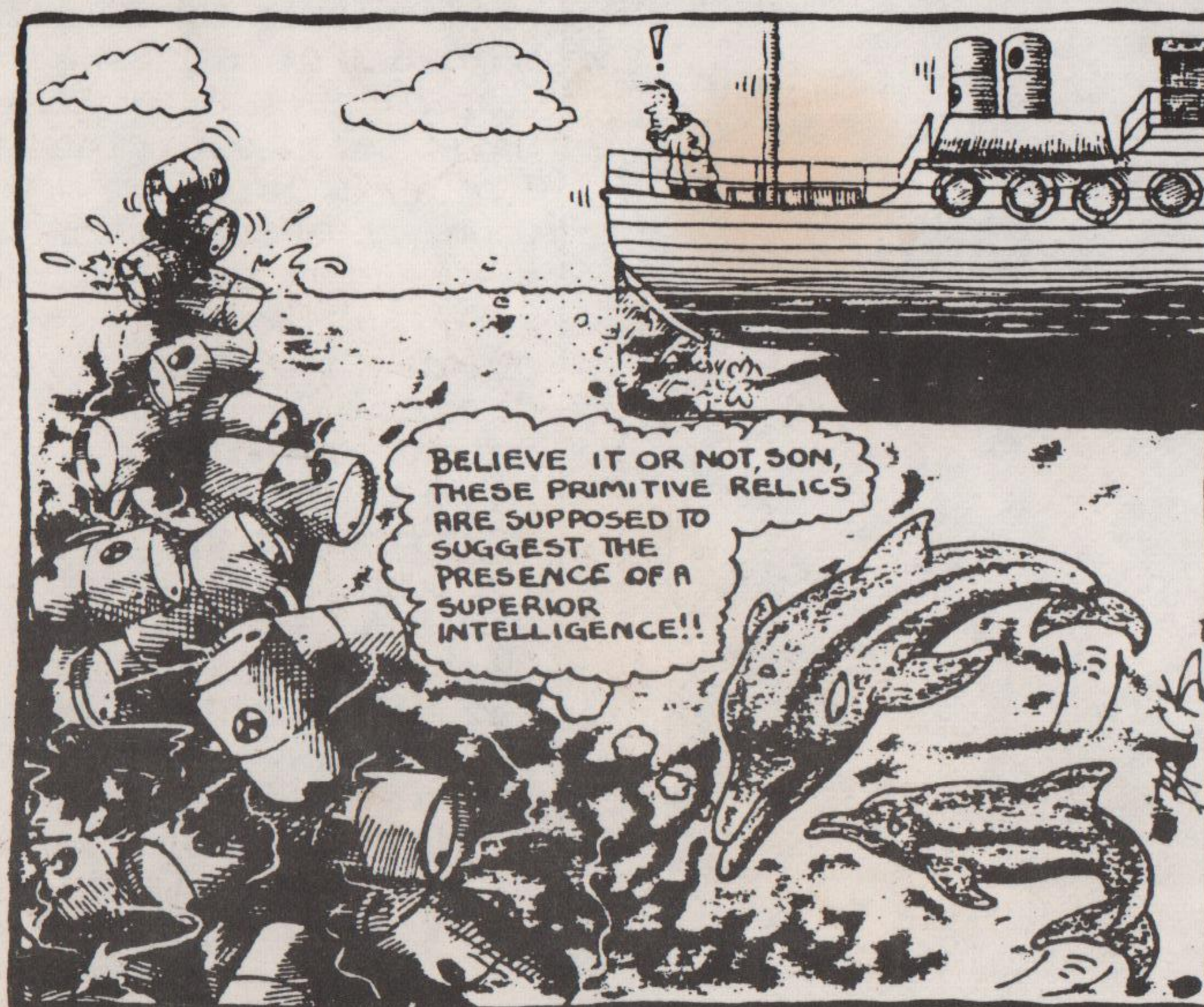
LABOUR members of Nottinghamshire's Education Committee reversed a decision of the Education Director, John Fox, after he banned a play written for schools without consulting the Committee.

The play, "The Best of Friends", looks at friendship across the boundaries of age and sexuality, love between men, questions ideas of

manhood and masculinity, and criticises the fear of sexuality and the irony that it needs a war to allow men to come together.

Teachers saw the play, courtesy of Campaign for Homosexual Equality, while County Councillor Alan Simpson sponsored a County Hall showing which directly led to the Director's ban being overturned.

Chris Richardson



NEW TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR BLACKS

A TRAINING scheme in computing and electronics is to be set up by the City Council, aimed mainly at unemployed Afro-Caribbeans and Asians.

It will have three staff paid for by the Manpower Services Commission under the Voluntary Projects Programme. More secure funding will be sought after the first year.

The Home Office has also been asked to approve two

development workers under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1966 which provides 75% funding from the Government for work with the black community.

As well as supporting the Training Scheme, these workers will also "ensure the successful implementation of the (City Council's) Employment and Economic Development Strategy with regard to the Asian and Afro-Caribbean Community."

REMEMBER BLOODY SUNDAY

ON SUNDAY 30th January 1972, 14 unarmed people were shot dead by British troops at a Civil Rights demonstration in Derry.

14 years on, a demonstration will be held in London to mark that anniversary and to call for British withdrawal from Ireland. This will take place on Sunday 2nd February 1986.

MAKE THEM LISTEN!

THOSE of us living in St Ann's are settling in for another winter with our inefficient and expensive District Heating Scheme and there's still no sign that the Council recognises the problems we face.

The St Ann's Heating Group (STAHG) was set up last year by local tenants and residents in response to the many difficulties experienced by people living in the 4,000 homes that the scheme covers.

If you would like to help STAHG please call Trevor or Fiona on 585361.

Make sure that you sign our petition which calls for an independent investigation into the District Heating Scheme. So far the City Council has totally ignored this demand - with your help we'll MAKE them listen!

Trevor Clarke

CND NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

ALTHOUGH not quite as large as previous CND national demonstrations (perhaps because people are getting bored with a big set-piece London march) the turnout on 26th October was nevertheless impressive.

In total about 100,000 marchers wound their way between the Russian and American Embassies finishing in Hyde Park, with the obligatory speakers.

A welcome change was the music from Billy Bragg, Paul Weller and Gil Scott-Heron but as darkness and the temperature fell the crowd thinned out as people went home.

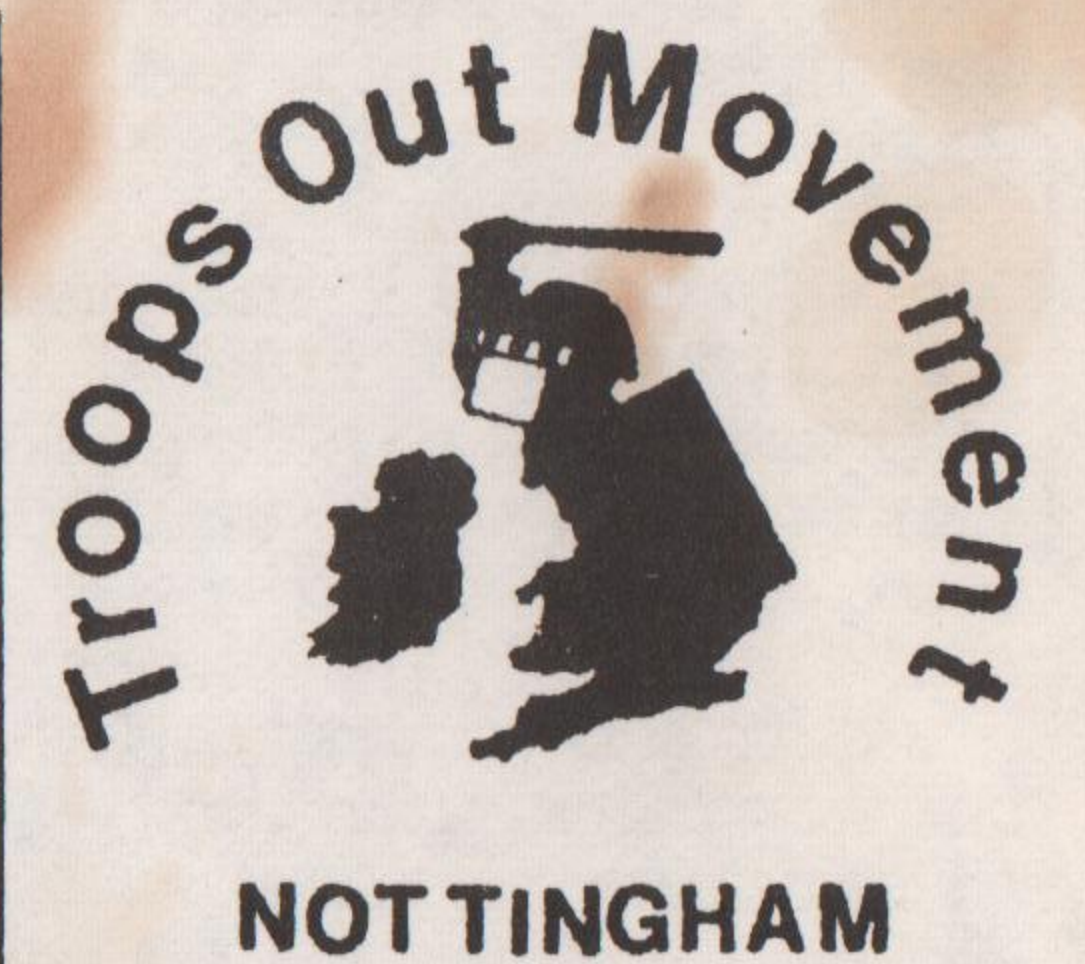
Same again next year?

Jon Collins

It is being organised by the Coordinating Committee for British Withdrawal from Ireland.

The Nottingham branch of the Troops Out Movement is seeking the sponsorship of individuals and organisations who support the call for self determination for the whole of the Irish people and political and military withdrawal from Ireland.

Ian Juniper (582369 - work)



BARCLAYS BOYCOTT

ON October 24th, as part of the National Union of Students South African Campaign, Nottingham Area Students Council organised a Day of Solidarity with South African students.

The day of action commenced with a rally of 200 students from colleges throughout the county.

The students peacefully occupied Barclays Bank highlighting to users the fact that despite the critical conditions in South Africa, Barclays are maintaining their high level of investment, a direct and offensive method of supporting apartheid.

The day closed with a spontaneous picket of Tesco's in the Victoria Centre, when the feelings of the demonstrators were agitated at the seeming lack of concern and understanding of the general public towards apartheid.

The rally and demo drew to an end without harassment or trouble. All in all the day could be said to be successful, with Radio Nottingham and Radio Trent providing just publicity - for once!

Allison Westray

NOTTS WOMEN AGAINST THE BREAKAWAY

THE NOTTS Women Against Pit Closures, building on the contacts and solidarity formed during last year's strike, are mounting a massive campaign against the breakaway. **THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**

Appeals for financial and political support are being sent to labour movement bodies throughout the country. The most urgent plea is for resolutions to be passed condemning the formation of the breakaway union and calling on the TUC and the

ANTI-APARTHEID

OVER 60 delegates from local trade unions attended a Nottingham conference on trade union solidarity against apartheid in October.

Colin Belton, from the South

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

CLIFTON postal worker Kevin Powell was banned from his social club's management committee. His crime? Violence? Smashing furniture? No. Simply showing affection to his boyfriend.

Other club members objected. He was hauled before the committee, refused union representation, and banned. (The Headpostmaster David Wilkins is President of the Social Club.)

Daily Kevin faces hostility and abuse encouraged by the actions of the committee. But he is determined to fight for his rights.

Will you fight alongside him? Resolutions and letters of support for Kevin Powell to: Chairperson, Union of Communication Workers, Nottm & District (Amalgamated) Branch, P.S.O., Nottingham.

Richard McCance

SYSTEM BUILDING SCANDAL

ON November 16th, Nottingham tenants representatives attended the launch, in Manchester, of the SYSTEM BUILD & TOWER BLOCK HOUSING PROJECT.

The aim of this project is to bring tenants and councils together in a national campaign to force the government to release badly needed funds to tackle the system building scandal.

They will be asking the City Council to join them on the Project Labour Party members can show their support by lobbying their local councillors and passing a resolution through their wards. For more information contact: **Polly Griffiths (412563)**

Labour Party to continue its stance of non-recognition.

With other coalfields voting to join the breakaway, and the NCB offering its "pieces of silver" it is crucial that the "Union of Democratic Mine-workers" is isolated and exposed for the bosses' union that it is.

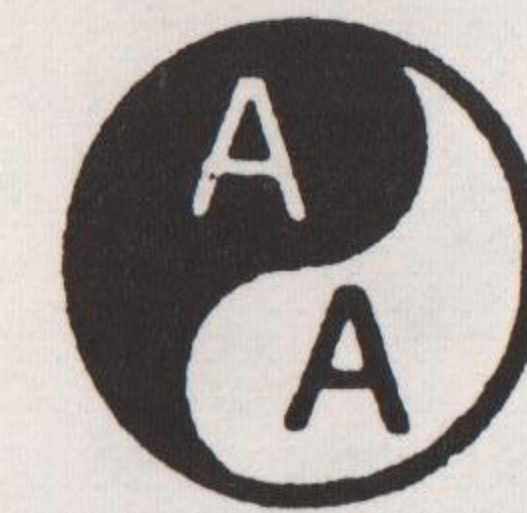
HAS YOUR LABOUR PARTY/TRADE UNION BRANCH PASSED THE RESOLUTION YET? If you need copies of the model resolution, leaflets, more information, etc contact me on 703671. **Tina Yemm**

STOP THE SPLITS: SAVE THE PITS

African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), praised the actions of Southampton dockers stopping exports of arms components to South Africa, and South Wales dockers stopping imports of South African coal.

Brian Bolton, of the Transport and General Workers Union, exploded the myths about job losses which may be caused by sanctions. In fact job losses were being caused by South African links - for example this was a major cause of BL losing a bus contract for Thailand, he said. Shop stewards committees should seek meetings with management to discuss their links with apartheid and how this could affect exports to third world countries.

Further information about the Anti-Apartheid Movement from Geoff Morris (472440).



STARVATION WAGES

YOUTH Training Scheme - a quality training scheme? Certainly not in many instances if recent evidence is anything to go by.

Workshop unemployed centre recently had a case brought to them by one irate father who's son, after finishing a YTS course, had been offered a contract by Sovereign Joinery at a rate of 75p per hour, 40 hours a week (£30 a week gross).

The job was van driving and coincidentally the previous driver (earning £110 per week) had just been sacked.

Although reported to the local paper they eventually decided not to publish. The reason, according to one union member at the Workshop Guardian, was the £15,000 per annum advertising placed by Sovereign.

Jon Collins

COMMUNITY DAY OF ACTION

THE COMMUNITY Day of Action on Nov 9th was a "first" for Nottingham. It was the widest range of community organisations who have ever come together.

Everybody had a concern about the crisis of funding facing the voluntary sector.

16 City and County Councillors attended and a very useful discussion took place. Unfortunately neither Tory Councillors nor MPs managed to attend.

Two major issues were discussed. One was the community groups' feeling that the procedures for distributing grants to groups should be reviewed and overhauled.

POLY STUDENTS OPPOSE CUTS

THREATENED by course closures as a result of a National Advisory Body (who coordinate spending in the country's polytechnics) planning exercise, students at Trent Polytechnic recently took action culminating in a demonstration outside the Academic Board meeting as it decided its response.

CIVIC RECOGNITION FOR YOUTH GROUP?

THE Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Youth Group have requested civic recognition for their national conference on 20/22 December, and are awaiting a decision from the City Labour Group.

It is understood that no requests for civic recognition have so far been refused by the City Council under the present administration which has expressed a positive commitment to disadvantaged groups including lesbians and gay men, women, blacks and people with disabilities.

The conference is expected to bring together upwards of 300 young women and men between the ages of 15 and 26 from all over the country.

Details of the conference from NLGYO, c/o Box 11, 118 Mansfield Rd.

Ben Clarke

The other was that it was time for the local authorities to openly join the voluntary sector's campaign against government cuts and for more resources to fund both the voluntary sector and local councils.

Wyn Williams



GEDLING LABOUR CANDIDATE

THE proposals, demanding a 2.3% cut in spending and a 5% cut in student intake starting in September 1987, could have meant the closure of courses in Public Administration and Fine Arts together with the merging of numerous others.

In the end the Directorate responded by deciding instead to suggest only limited cuts (60 places) over a number of different departments. The next move is up to NAB.

Jon Collins

VERNON COAKER

VERNON COAKER has been selected as prospective parliamentary candidate for Gedling. Vernon, the leader of the Labour Group on Rushcliffe Council, is a teacher at a local comprehensive school.

He said that he intends running an energetic, high profile campaign which would involve putting Labour's case in the workplace, in shopping centres, at trade union branch meetings, in community groups and canvassing on the doorstep.

He was determined to expose the hypocrisy and cynicism of the Tories and to ensure that they would take the full blame for the disastrous years of office.

Sylvia Parsons
Gedling Press Officer

