



RECLAIM THE NIGHT

WOMEN marched through Nottingham on 6th March to claim "freedom for women to walk alone at night".

Every day women are abused and assaulted both mentally and physically. It is not safe for women to walk anywhere at night. There is an unofficial curfew on women.

But "Women have had enough! We are not prepared to be passive victims."

FREE FROM FEAR - A BASIC RIGHT

DISPUTE AT MUSHROOM

MANY readers of On Yer Bike will be aware of a long running dispute at Mushroom Bookshop between Chris Cook, a former worker/collective member at Mushroom, and the remainder of the collective.

There is now underway an independent enquiry into the dispute, supported by both sides, which is attempting to find a solution.

The enquiry has put out a leaflet summarising the dispute and inviting comment from interested individuals/organisations on any of the issues raised. Copies are available in Mushroom and a number of other shops.

The closing date for written contributions is Friday May 9th, to: Chris/Mushroom enquiry, 2 Premier Road, Forest Fields.



HOUSING GROUP SEEKS VIEWS

THE District Labour Party has established a number of Manifesto working parties for the City elections next year. The Housing Group held its first meeting in February and immediately decided to set up a consultative procedure to enable community groups and trade unions to contribute to the formulation of the Housing Group's draft Manifesto entry.

A letter inviting comments and suggestions has been sent to over 200 organisations in Nottingham. In mid-June an all day open meeting is planned and the consultative procedure will be completed by the circulation of the draft Manifesto entry. The organisations consulted can then forward their views to the District Party before the Manifesto housing entry is finalised.

For more details contact: **Toni Stevenson (622017)**

CAMPAIGNS WORKING PARTY

NOTTINGHAM East Labour Party recently agreed to set up a "Campaigns Working Party" to oversee future campaigning activities. In particular the new group will aim to:

- * coordinate and develop campaigns initiated by branches or the constituency.
- * produce publicity and campaign briefings.
- * cooperate and liaise on campaigns with trade unions and community groups.
- * develop city-wide campaigns with other constituencies in and around Nottingham.
- * run campaign training events for branch activists.

It is important that the working party succeeds if Nottingham East is to develop as a real campaigning Labour Party.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Chris Clarke (609007).

Jon Collins

COMMUNIST DISRUPTION

MACHD Communist Chris Preston is stepping up his campaign to disrupt the Nottingham Trades Council.

At the April meeting President Joyce Donn resigned in disgust after Preston's repeated attempts to attack successful NUPE candidates after he came bottom of the poll for the Trades Council Executive.

Preston was discredited recently when NUPE members at the Trades Council's Unemployed Centre took industrial action and forced him to resign as chair of the Centre's management committee.

NO BAN ON MURDOCH PAPERS

COUNTY Councillors have refused to ban Rupert Murdoch's News International papers from Nottinghamshire's libraries despite a call from the print union SOGAT for them to do so.

Debate largely concentrated upon the rights and wrongs of censorship with many members also believing that such a token gesture would have little effect on circulation and sales (particularly since only the Times was generally available).

Since then it has emerged that a similar (no ban) position has been taken by the Labour Party national executive's local government committee, even though a number of councils (including Manchester, Liverpool and Derbyshire) have already acted against News International.

Once again Labour appears to have ignored requests for support from a trade union in struggle.

Jon Collins



COUNCILS SAY NO TO BETTER LOCAL CONSULTATION

BETTER neighbourhood consultation has been turned down by City and County Councils, says the Inner City Executive which represents a wide range of voluntary groups in the city.

The Executive has been pushing for 6-monthly open meetings in all neighbourhoods in the city. And they want local people elected from these meetings to work with councillors and officers to make sure action happens.

But the Councils have told them that while it may be a good idea they don't have the money and staff to do it.

IRISH SOLIDARITY GROUP

THIS group is an open committee of people, committed to campaign for:

- * Troops Out of Ireland Now.
- * Self-Determination for the Irish Nation as a Whole.
- * Solidarity with all those who are still struggling for these aims.

Weekly meetings are held every Tuesday, 7.30pm, small meeting room, Central Library.

A public meeting will be held on Sunday 18 May in commemoration of the Hunger Strikers, with a Sinn Fein speaker and a video on the Prisoners of War Today. Venue to be confirmed. Details: Box 5, 118 Mansfield Rd (582369).

PARTY PARANOIA

PARANOIA seems to be running rife in some parts of the Labour Party over the threat of witch hunts.

When Park Branch recently held a social, its apparatchiks refused to release the advertising leaflets until the title had been neatly snipped off.

The offending statement was: "The Party within the Party!"

ROCK & REGGAE

A FREE weekend event on the Forest Recreation Ground - July 26/27th. Now in its 7th (or is it 8th?) year.

A meeting ground for Afro-Caribbean and White cultures based on mutual respect - seeking to reach out now to the Asian community too.

Local bands, sound systems, poets, dancers on the main stage. Stalls (free of charge) for community campaign groups. A supervised children's area. And Sunshine?

Want to perform, want to help - for more information contact:- ROCK & REGGAE, c/o Nottingham Community Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green (tel 782463).

LESBIAN AND GAY FESTIVAL

THE FIRST ever Lesbian and Gay Festival in Nottingham will take place during, and as part of, the Nottingham Festival, largely sponsored by the Gay People's Centre Cooperative Society. (Phone 780124 for details.)

Events include: Mon 26 May: **Heritage Hunt**, 1.30pm, Camers Hill Park.

Tue 27 May: **A Herd of Elephants**, cabaret by Club Tallulah

Wed 28 May: **Compromised Immunity**, play about AIDS by Gay Sweatshop, ICC, 7.30pm.

Thurs 29 May, Fri 30, Sat 31: **Before Stonewall**, semi-documentary about life in America for lesbians and gays before 1969.

Fri 6 June: **Best of Friends**, play by Perspectives Theatre, ICC, 7pm.

To be arranged: Display and Video presentation by **Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners**. There will also be a local Lesbian and Gay Groups Exhibition to coincide with International Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, from 16 - 30 June, 1st floor, Central Library.

GAS WORKS: KEEP IT PUBLIC!

Public meeting on gas privatisation. Thurs 1 May, 7.30pm, Dover Castle, Denman Street, Radford. Speakers: Sid Richards (NALGO East Midlands Gas Officer), Alan Simpson (Labour parliamentary candidate, Nott'm South). Organised by Robin Hood Labour Party.

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 less than 100 words and signed. Items longer than 100 words may be cut. Deadline is the second Monday of the month (May 12 for June issue).

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No 9 May 1986 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.

COMMUNITY ACTION FESTIVAL Sat June 21, 10am-4pm, Market Square

Groups are being asked to come along and have fun and free publicity by having a stall, giving out leaflets, displays, etc, etc.

Labour and Conservative MPs and councillors are being invited to meet organisations and answer questions.

Contact CAT at 83A Mansfield Road (410437).

TIME to take to the streets again! Nottingham's "Community Action Team" is organising another Festival Day for community groups to put their case as to why they need improved funding and not cuts.



WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

THE fifth Nottingham Women's Festival was celebrated by many women during March.

Early in the month a weekend of workshops introduced new ideas and interests which women could learn and share and perhaps develop further in future.

There were two sparkling cabaret evenings with many local women featuring among the performers. Siren Theatre Co performed their amusing suspense thriller "Pulp". The month was filled out with

exhibitions, practical arts workshops, speakers, socials and films.

Two whole-day events were particularly successful - the Girls' Activities Day at the John Carroll Leisure Centre and the "DAFT" Day when Dance, Art, Food and Theatre were combined and women and children shared making music, dancing, food, magic and theatre.

This major programme of events is organised voluntarily and women who would like to comment and/or get involved are welcome to

MAY DAY - MON 5 MAY

ASSEMBLE on the Market Square 10.30am for march to rally at Queen's Walk Community Centre at 12.15.

The theme is **Sanctions Against South Africa - Victory to South African Workers**.

Speaker from a COSATU affiliated union. Further details: Steve Battlemuch 620947.

* Page 3 Geoff Morris from Nottingham Anti-Apartheid traces the history of the struggle of black workers in South Africa.

ARE GEDLING TORIES SPLIT?

THE TORY parliamentary candidate foisted on Gedling by Central Office has got off to a flying start by supporting the alternative route for the proposed Eastern Outer Loop Road.

He appears ignorant of the fact that only in January the Tory Gedling District Council gave permission for development on part of that route, and that the Tory County Council in 1977 safeguarded the so-called "preferred route" which cuts Gedling Village in half.

Labour candidate Vernon Coaker has challenged them to make up their minds. He asks "Are they split or have they merely changed their minds?" Sylvia Parsons Press Officer, Gedling Labour Party

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

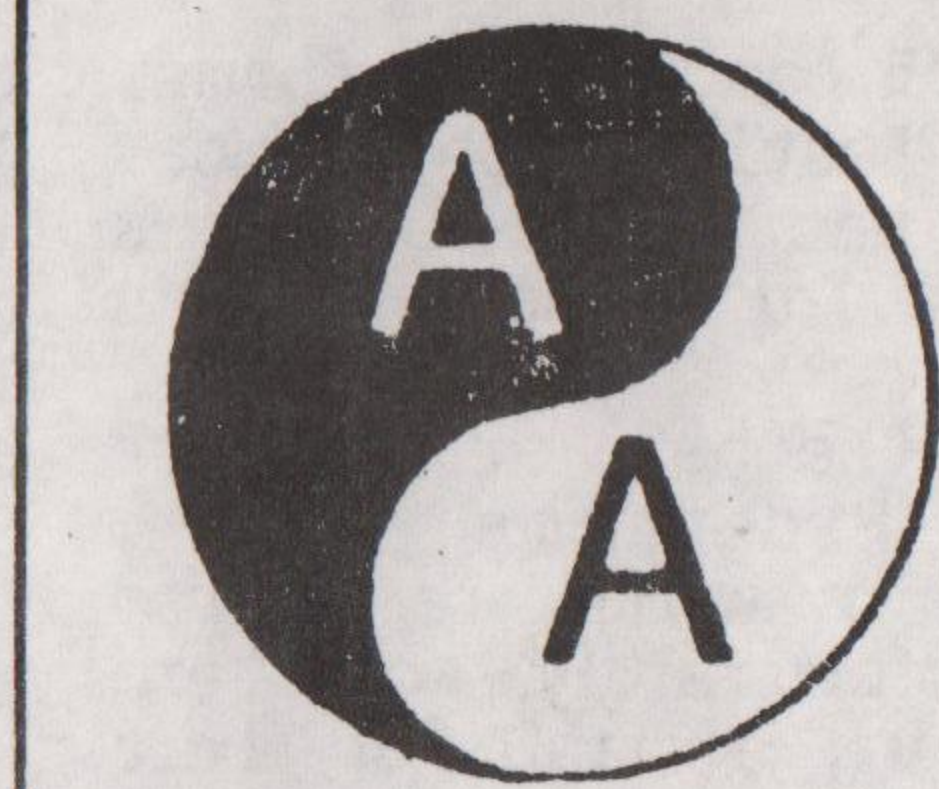
MASSIVE cuts in benefit will be suffered by the poorest people if the government's Social Security Bill is passed.

The County Council's Welfare Rights Service has calculated the effects of the Bill will include:

- * An overall yearly loss to mentally handicapped people in the County of £530,000.
- * Claimants in the County will lose at least £10 million as a result of the abolition of "single payments".

get in touch with **Helen Bridges - 782463(work)** **Carol Crowe - 626709(home)**

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL



SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID - Mass Lobby Tues 17 June, Lobby of parliament. Contact Geoff Morris - 472440.

CITY UNEMPLOYMENT AT 20%

UNEMPLOYMENT in Nottingham continues at around 20% with more than one in four male workers out of work and more than one in nine female workers, in spite of continuing fiddles by the government to reduce the figures.

The February figures show that more than a half of male workers were unemployed in Lenton ward, and more than a third in Radford, Forest, Manvers, St Ann's, Strelley and Trent wards.

Nearly a quarter of female workers were unemployed in Lenton, Forest and Radford wards.

In total, 23,934 were out of work in the city. Another 3,100 were on temporary employment schemes. (Further details from the City Planning Department.)

* 3,500 children will lose their entitlement to free school meals - a loss of over £400,000. * Housing Benefit cuts will mean a loss of about £8,200,000 for Nottinghamshire people.

At the April City Council meeting Councillors Keith Pavier and Gill Haymes spearheaded an attack on the Bill. Changes in the Housing Benefit system would cost the City Council £6.5 million said Coun Haymes.

* Earlier this year the Manpower Services Commission demanded that leaflets produced by the County Council about the Bill should be withdrawn from the MSC funded Unemployed Centre because they were too political.

But Paddy Tipping, Labour candidate for Rushcliffe and Chair of the County's Economic Development Committee attacked the move saying "This is clear censorship on the part of the government and the MSC who are trying to conceal what the Social Security Bill will do to people living in Nottinghamshire." The leaflets stayed on display.

THE NEW WOMEN'S CENTRE

IN 1985 part of the former Blind Institute on Chaucer Street was offered to women's groups for a new Women's Centre.

With the help of an Inner Area Programme grant, conversion works are planned but, unfortunately, women are now being frustrated in their attempts to start work by the slow grinding of the Council's Department of Technical Services.

The Morrison School of Dance occupy part of the building at

present and the Department of Technical Services promised they would be relocated by 10th March. An extension of four weeks was then agreed to by the Women's Centre because Technical Services hit problems in moving the Dance School.

Then, with no warning, the bombshell hit, as on 25th March the Women's Centre were TOLD by the Department of Technical Services that the earliest date they could have vacant possession was 2nd JUNE!

A further delay is

unacceptable. It means works are put off again and Workoon, who will do the building works, have little alternative but to sue the Women's Centre for putting off the start date.

WHY THE DELAYS!?!?

Lee Harrison

Stop press

Following the intervention of Inner Area Programme Committee Chair Joan Ducker and the Chief Executive the Women's Centre have now been offered vacant possession from April 15th.

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

THE IMPACT of the new legislation of the Social Security Bill is just being felt. Although it may well be amended in the House of Lords it threatens everyone.

Therefore action by local authorities to combat some of the harsher aspects are desperately needed.

For example with the abolition of the Death Grant, albeit totally inadequate, the "paupers funeral" will return. There is an urgent need to develop a municipal funeral service which can be run along the lines of Lambeth's.

The privatisation of the Water Authorities and the new law which removes water rate payment means that many households will cease to have basic services.

It is now necessary for a new "interim" system to be devised

to ensure that we do not return to the diseases e.g. diphtheria, typhoid, etc which are associated with contaminated water supplies and inadequate drainage.

We need to redouble our efforts in fighting this legislation but at the same time ensure that Labour controlled authorities are providing more services and if necessary challenging the government through the courts on these and other appalling changes to the Bill.

Sharon Atkin Labour candidate Nottingham East

WOMEN & RACISM & HOUSING

Nottingham City Council's Women's Sub-Committee will be having an open meeting on Sat May 10th, 3-4.30pm, ICC, 61B Mansfield Rd. Childcare.

All women welcome



NOTTINGHAM-JUIGALPA DIRECT LINKS COMMITTEE

THE FOUNDING of the Nottingham-Juigalpa Direct Links Committee is an expression of the desire by many local groups and individuals to expand the material and political support for the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua by establishing strong links between grass roots organisations in

Nottingham and their counterparts in the town of Juigalpa.

It is hoped that by focussing on one town a greater awareness of the needs of the Nicaraguan people will thus be generated, ensuring the sort of solidarity locally that will help to combat the trade embargo and defeat the U.S. backed "Contra" terrorists.

For more information contact: John Truscott (582369)

HEPATITIS B VIRUS

GAY MEN in Nottingham are complaining at the lack of urgency shown by the health authorities in dealing with Hepatitis B. This is a virus which is transmitted in a similar way to the AIDS virus, though it is not quite as deadly and there is now a vaccine available.

But gay men told the April meeting of the City's Gays & Lesbians Sub-committee that many GPs are not sympathetic, and there is no publicity to encourage groups at risk, which include gay men, to get themselves vaccinated.

IF YOU VALUE YOUR HEALTH MORE THAN THEY DO.

MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION ABOUT THE HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

Although Hepatitis B is not a large scale problem in Nottingham at the moment, many people predict that it could become serious.

A leaflet funded by the GLC in London states that "40% - 50% of gay men who have been tested in London sexually transmitted disease clinics show evidence of past infection". It also claims that "it would cost less to vaccinate all non-immune gay men... than to care for those who would otherwise get hepatitis B."

STUDENTS MARCH AGAINST FOWLER

WEDNESDAY 26th March saw nearly 40,000 students marching in London to protest against proposed cuts in welfare benefits which could see many losing up to £1,000 a year.

18 coaches full of demonstrators traveled down from Nottingham to join the march in South London which linked the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Education and Science.

It was the largest demonstration ever organised by the National Union of Students but was almost totally ignored by the press with coverage restricted to two minutes on the BBC news.

The message for the future is clear and it won't be lost on Student Unionists. Peaceful protest is no longer enough. Direct action and disruption must be the next step in our campaign. We will be heard.

Jon Collins

NOTTINGHAM Trades Council has chosen the theme of supporting the struggle against apartheid in South Africa for this year's May Day celebrations. In this article, Geoff Morris from Nottingham Anti-Apartheid traces the history of the struggle of black workers in South Africa and the role which MayDay has played in building working class unity against apartheid.

MAYDAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

RESISTANCE to the apartheid regime is intensifying day by day throughout South Africa. In response to the violence and repression directed against the black population the African National Congress has declared 1986 "The Year of People's War" and is organising to defend the township areas against police and military attack.

The struggle in South Africa is however conducted on many fronts, one of the most important of which is the trade union front. 1985 saw the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) which groups together the most powerful independent non-racial trade unions in South Africa into a federation 500,000 strong. This was the culmination of four years of work to bring about unity within the new trade union movement in South Africa.

The new federation made clear at its launch that it would contribute to the national liberation struggle. At its founding conference it called for:

- * The repeal of the pass laws. (Should the regime fail to comply, Cosatu will start a defence campaign, including the burning of passes.
- * The immediate lifting of the State of Emergency.
- * The withdrawal of the racist troops from the townships.
- * The unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, and all political prisoners and detainees.
- * The repeal of orders restricting individuals and outlawing organisations.
- * The dismantling of the bantustan system.
- * An end to the migrant labour system.

COSATU will be organising to celebrate MayDay in South Africa this year. However it will be under very different conditions to those under which we celebrate MayDay in Britain. For a start MayDay is not now and never has been recognised as a workers holiday in South Africa. This has not however prevented workers in South Africa celebrating the holiday.

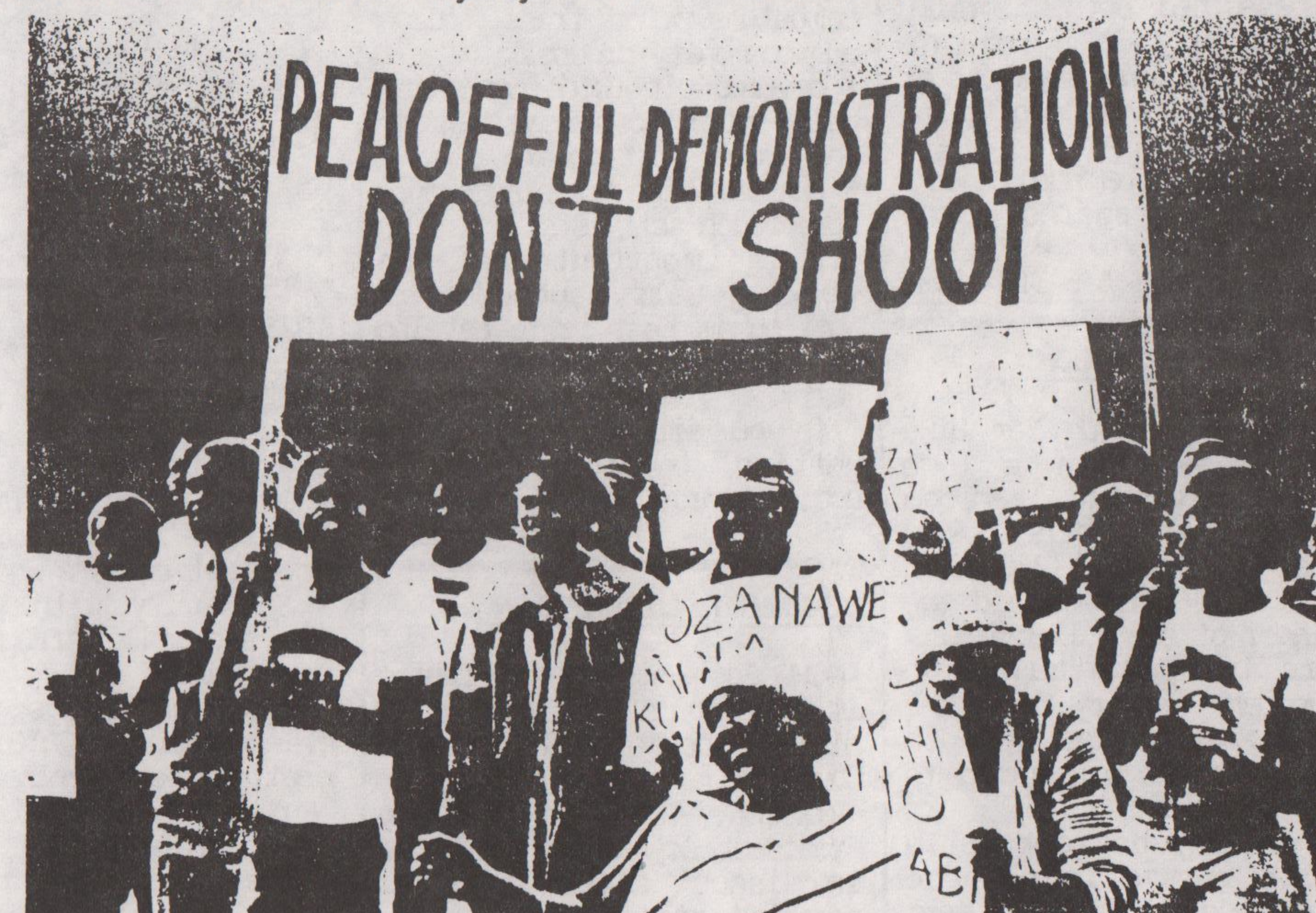
Since 1895 it has been an occasion not only to express international working class solidarity but also a platform used to attack the apartheid regime's racist policies. The regime has not stood idly by; during MayDay celebrations in 1950 for example police attacked workers killing 18 and seriously wounding 30.

In 1985 celebrations were held against the background of a continual massive presence of the apartheid army and police in the townships and daily arbitrary killings of unarmed citizens in the streets. MayDay rallies were held throughout the country and several companies were hit by stay-aways. Workers staged plays, sketches and poetry readings amidst the singing of revolutionary freedom songs.

Workers at several meetings resolved to observe MayDay as a

national holiday and demanded a national minimum wage, a 40-hour working week and paid maternity leave.

The 1985 MayDay celebrations symbolised the rapidly growing unity of the working class and the unity of the unions and community, women's, youth, student, church and other progressive organisations. The aim for 1986 is to strengthen and extend the MayDay Committees working towards coordination on a national level.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

BLACK workers in South Africa have a long history of organising to defend their rights. The first recorded instance of a strike by black workers occurred in Cape Town in 1854.

In the 1950s the trade unions became part of the resistance to apartheid. Black workers formed the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in 1955, which allied itself with the African National Congress (ANC). At its first conference SACTU declared that a "struggle for economic rights of all the workers without participation in the general struggle for political emancipation would condemn the trade union movement to uselessness and to a betrayal of the interest of the workers".

In the 1960s, many members and leaders of SACTU were arrested so the decision was made to go underground. By the early 1970s the problems of unemployment and poverty were being felt acutely by the black working class. In 1973 a strike wave began in Durban which spread to other areas of the country.

The following period saw the formation of new democratic trade unions in South Africa, and the reconstitution of SACTU as an underground organisation operating within the newly emerging unions.

By 1980 two federations of democratic unions had been formed, the Federation of South African

Trade Unions (FOSATU) and the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) as well as a number of unaffiliated independent unions. The 1980s also saw the formation of the South African National Union of Mineworkers.

With the formation of the United Democratic Front in 1983 a number of trade unions affiliated to it. SACTU worked to encourage the moves towards unity within the new trade union movement. Four years of debate resulted in the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in December 1985. Unfortunately CUSA was not able to give its support to the new federation.

The new federation committed itself to organise on a non-racial basis and to build broadly-based industrial unions. COSATU in its expressed determination to struggle for political rights placed itself firmly on the terrain of the national liberation struggle.

In March this year an historic meeting took place in Lusaka, Zambia between representatives of the ANC, SACTU and COSATU. In a statement issued after the meeting a commitment was made not only to the overthrow of apartheid but also to the fight for the economic emancipation of all South Africans. Rejecting the government reforms it was recognised that "lasting solutions can only emerge from the national liberation movement" with COSATU pledging itself to work with other democratic mass organisations to ensure the mobilisation of the people in united mass action.



ON THE BUSES

THE Business Plan, required by the government and designed to chart the way for Nottingham's buses into the private sector, was the source of bitter disagreement at the last District Labour Party meeting called specifically to discuss the issue following John Taylor's resignation from the Transport Sub-Committee.

Concern centred around:

- a) the lack of any reference to "social needs" in the company's objectives.
- b) proposed concessionary fare changes which broke manifesto commitments.
- c) a move away from parity with local government negotiated pay and conditions.
- d) about 100 job losses.

Feelings also ran high over a decision to offer large wage increases to the top two City Transport executives although an amendment deploring this was defeated.

In the end District Party called on the Council to try and ensure that there were no overall job cuts, that pay and conditions were protected, and that the new company recognised the importance of meeting "social need".

Jon Collins

SUPPORT NICARAGUA

Benefit Social. May 16, 8pm, Hyson Green Boys Club, late bar, food. MILIANTU, Hope Augustus and Support Band. Sharon Atkin. To raise funds for a village library in southern Nicaragua. Tickets from Mushroom, Hiziki, Oroborous, Community Arts Centre, 118 Workshop.