

"ROTTEN APPLES" IN THE NHS

THERE is growing concern about the amount of time some NHS consultants are spending on private practice.

A leading article in the Feb/March journal of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association pointed out the profession's failure to control its members who are not pulling their weight in the health service.

The Consultant said "we all

know them" and warned "If we do not identify these rotten apples ourselves and we do not ensure that they change their ways, the auditors will find them, the media will pillory them and then the whole profession will be smeared."

(This is an extract from a briefing by "NHS Unlimited: a Committee to Combat Private Medicine". Subscription is £6 (£3 unwaged) to: Frank Dobson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.)



"HARD END" OF CARE

VIOLENCE facing social workers in community homes is increasing, according to random surveys carried out by NALGO stewards in Nottinghamshire's residential sector.

According to an article in Trentsider, Notts NALGO News, "residential workers are increasingly dealing with the 'hard end of the care market', having to cope with clients presenting more disturbing behaviour patterns."

Concern followed industrial action by social workers in Strathclyde last year.

NOTTINGHAM PEACE FESTIVAL Sun 13 July, 12-6pm, Victoria Embankment

SHERWOOD/ST ANN'S BEER & SKITTLES - July 11

Barley Mow pub, Basford Rd. 7.30pm. £1 (50p unwaged).

CITY COUNCIL NURSERY?

THE City Council is setting up an informal discussion group to consider the need for nursery provision for council employees.

Women working for the council are being encouraged to attend.

IRELAND: TIME TO GO

THE Troops Out Movement Delegation to the North of Ireland is taking place this year over the weekend 8-11 August. Over the four days you can:

* See British Army and RUC repression.

* Participate in the anti-internment demonstration and picketing of the RUC forts.

* Attend workshops organised by Republican organisations covering the many aspects of

MAD HATTER CATERING CO-OPERATIVE

VEGETARIAN CATERING

ORGANISING a conference or a social? Having a party or getting married? Holding a small workshop or meeting?

Maybe Mad Hatter Catering Co-op can help. We're vegetarian caterers providing fresh, quality food for any event. Our menus vary from snacks through buffet lunches to full-scale cooked meals.

Our food contains absolutely no meat products. We always provide a vegan option, and some sugar-free options with our cakes. We will deliver and can provide crockery, cutlery, etc.

So if you want to know more give us a ring on 788818 or 788954, or come and taste our food at the Peace Festival on July 13th.

Wendy Russell



PLAYWORKS OPENS

PLAYWORKS is a new play resource centre, funded by the County Council, which opened in June at 25 Bullivant St, St Ann's (tel 582659).

It provides safe scrap, arts and crafts materials, and use of other resources for groups involved with children's play.

It is open 10am-4pm Tues & Thurs. Membership is £5 per group.

COUNTY LABOUR GROUP AGM

NOT surprisingly, there were few changes in the committee chairs and group officers at last month's County Labour Group AGM.

The one major event was the election of John Heppell as Resources Committee chair following a decision by Frank Higgins to stand down (after becoming City Council Mayor).

John won the election despite early indications that Frank Warsop would be the most forward candidate, strongly supported by Mansfield and Ashfield councillors. However it appears that the support (and particularly that of Finance Chair Michael Cowan) wavered at the last moment, allowing John Heppell to pick up the few extra votes he needed.

Jon Collins

British repression and resistance to it.

* Meet and talk with local people.

Priority is being given to delegates from labour groups, Irish organisations, black groups, women's groups, and gay and lesbian groups. If you want to go please write as soon as possible to: Troops Out Movement Delegation Organising Committee, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH or phone me on 582369 (work).

Ian Jupiter



BREAST SCREENING

ALL women employees of the County Council now have the right to paid time off, if necessary, to attend screening facilities for breast and cervical cancer.

Chief Officers will be expected to "positively encourage staff to take up the facilities". Details of all clinics in the county, times, etc, will be "widely circulated" throughout all departments and all women employees should receive an advisory leaflet.

The officers union NALGO has welcomed this development though they would also like to see facilities made available on Council premises.



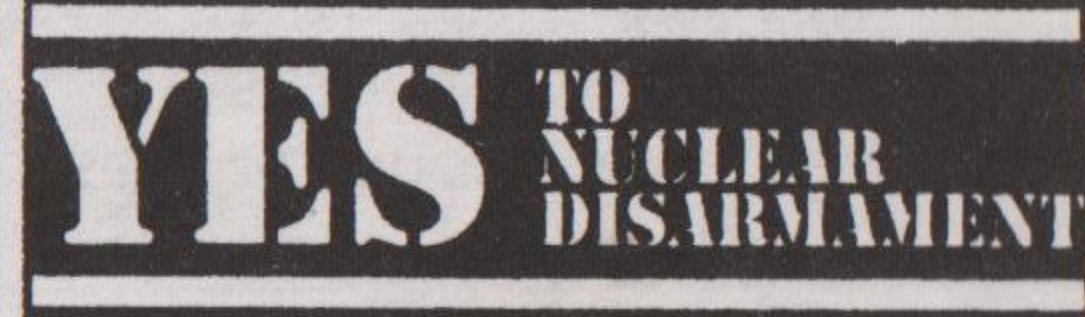
NO TO STAR WARS - Mass Lobby of Parliament - July 8

"NO to Star Wars; Yes to Nuclear Disarmament" is the theme of CND's mass lobby of Parliament on July 8.

Buses leave at 9am from the Salutation, Maid Marion Way. Tickets £6 (£3 unwaged) from NCD, Queen's Chambers, King St (472556).

Meetings and workshops during the day have been arranged in the House and Westminster Central Hall.

Ann Kesterbaum



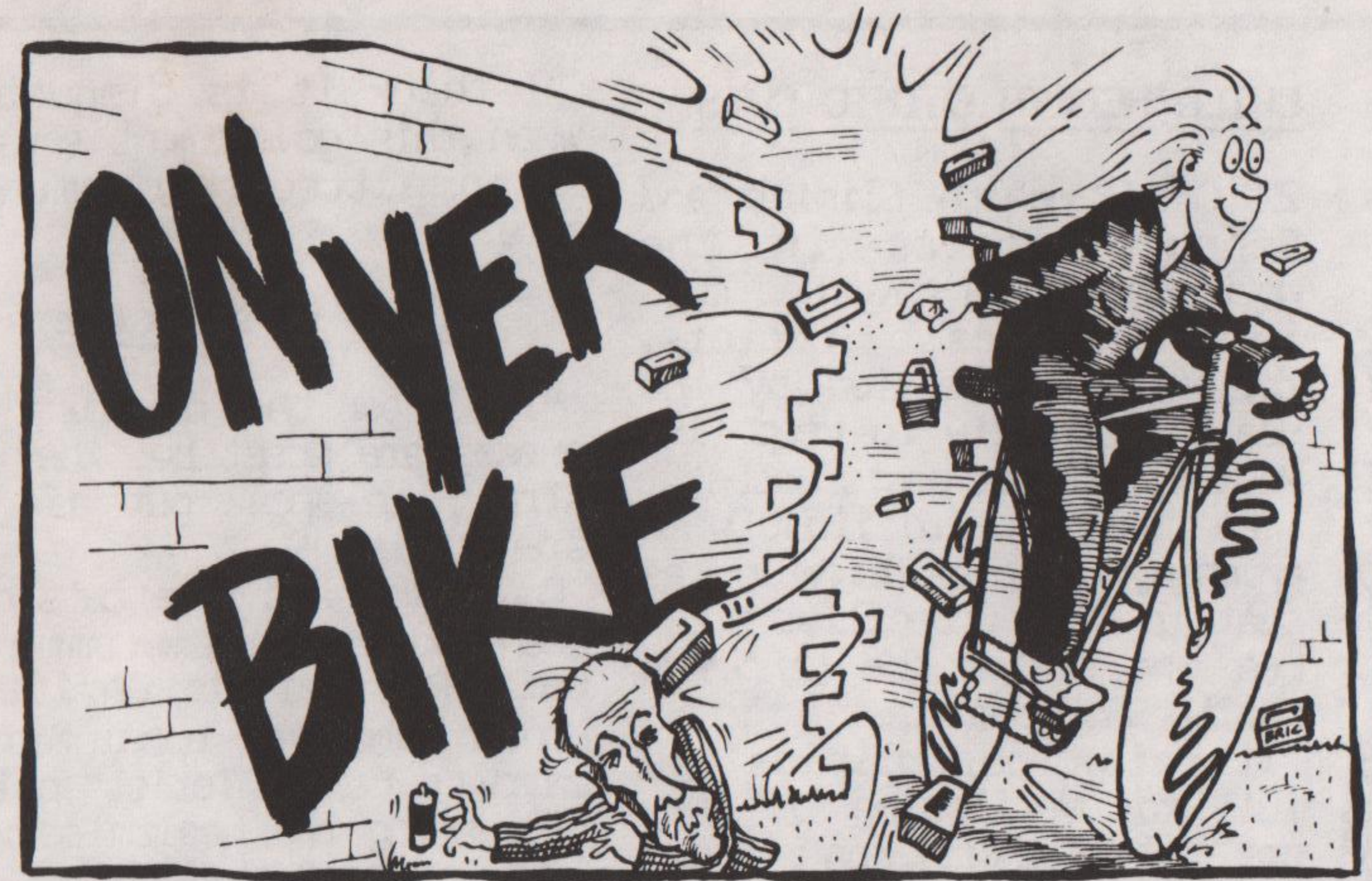
ST ANN'S/BLACK SECTION SOCIAL - Wed 16 July

ACNA Centre, Hungerhill Rd. 8-late. £2.50 (£1.50 unwaged). Pakistani food (included), live music, disco, Sharon Atkin.

CONTRIBUTIONS to On Yer Bike are welcomed and should be sent to the editor: Nigel Lee, 51 Braidwood Court, Hyson Green (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 normally the second Monday of the month. There will be no August issue. Deadline for the September issue is Mon 28 July.

One page of each On Yer Bike is offered to a local group to describe their work in greater depth. Contact the editor for further details.

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No 11 July 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. 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.

CHAOS IN NOTTINGHAM'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

THIS issue of On Yer Bike focuses on serious allegations being made by MIND, the local Mental Health Association, about serious disorganisation within Nottingham's Mental Illness Unit.

Their concern is not just about management chaos and low staffing levels, but also about the highly secretive way the new General Manager Philip Hogarth is attempting to prevent public discussion.

There can be no doubt that many of the problems are caused by the management reorganisation being forced on the NHS by the Thatcher government, following the "Griffiths Report" written by one of Sainsbury's bosses. Now we are seeing the effects of trying to run a public service like a supermarket chain.

Nigel Lee

BRUCE'S LONG MARCH

BRUCE KENT will pass through Nottinghamshire on July 22 and 23 on his 550 mile Long March from Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base to the nuclear warhead factory at Burghfield.

He will speak at a meeting in Nottingham at 7.30pm on the 22nd at the Congregational Hall, Castle Gate and will take part in a Peace Service at St Peter's Church early the next morning.

In the preceding days there will be a fast outside St Peter's drawing attention to the theme of the march.

Poverty & Suffering

Bruce's main reason for



Ann Kesterbaum

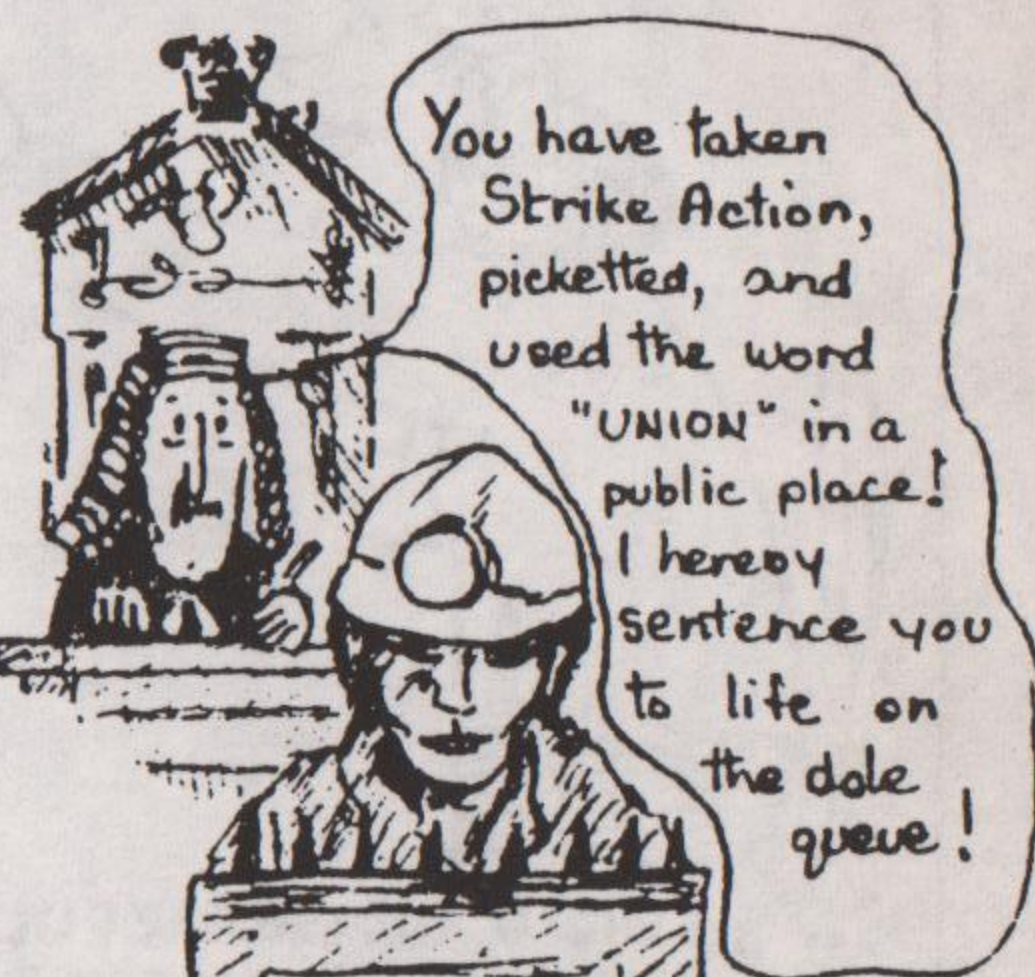
Breakaway pit union rejected

MEMBERS of the breakaway (Report of a debate at the Union of Democratic Miners Labour Women's Conference. Labour Weekly 23/5/86) should not be allowed to be members of the Labour Party.

Instead, Labour leaders should campaign to mobilise public support for the NUM in any area where there are UDM members.

Labour women endorsed overwhelmingly a call from the Nottingham East, Radford Women's Section for "unconditional support" to the Justice for Mine-workers Campaign which is fighting for the release and reinstatement for sacked and imprisoned miners.

Conference called on the party leadership to give "full and active support" to the NUM and Women Against Pit Closures.



NICARAGUA & EL SALVADOR The Central America Solidarity Campaign describes the latest situation Page 3

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEMANDED

THE LOCAL mental health group MIND has called for an independent inquiry into Nottingham's mental health services.

This follows serious concern about conditions at Saxondale Hospital, and a number of suicides by patients at Mapperley Hospital.

Although the Regional Health Authority has said it will have an internal inquiry into the suicides, MIND says an independent inquiry is needed to look at long standing problems which lie behind them.

MIND says the problems include:

* Low staffing levels.

"HUSH-UP" OVER SAXONDALE

NOTTINGHAM Health Authority is refusing to respond to issues raised by the local Mental Health Group MIND over the proposed closure of Saxondale Hospital.

MIND wrote to the authority claiming that "the running down of Saxondale Hospital is going on in an unplanned and chaotic fashion creating serious cause for concern not only for the psychiatric health of the patients there but now for their physical health and safety."

They also made detailed criticisms of the report of the "decommissioning team" which aimed to plan the transfer of patients and staff out of Saxondale before closure. MIND accused the team of making "little progress" on any of the issues in their remit. They called on the authority to provide "more coherent plans".

But the Mental Illness Unit manager Philip Hogarth has

* Chaos at management level.

* Resources being cut back.

* Staff morale is low.

* The use of locked wards and additional medication to "control" distressed patients in lieu of proper staff cover.

MIND claims the problems extend to community services as well as hospitals. They claim "there are now fewer health service staff working in the community than twelve months ago". They are also "worried about the community bases for sector teams being postponed".

MIND's proposal for an independent inquiry will be considered by the Community Health Council in July.

told MIND the debate on Saxondale should not be a public one, suggesting instead a private meeting with MIND.

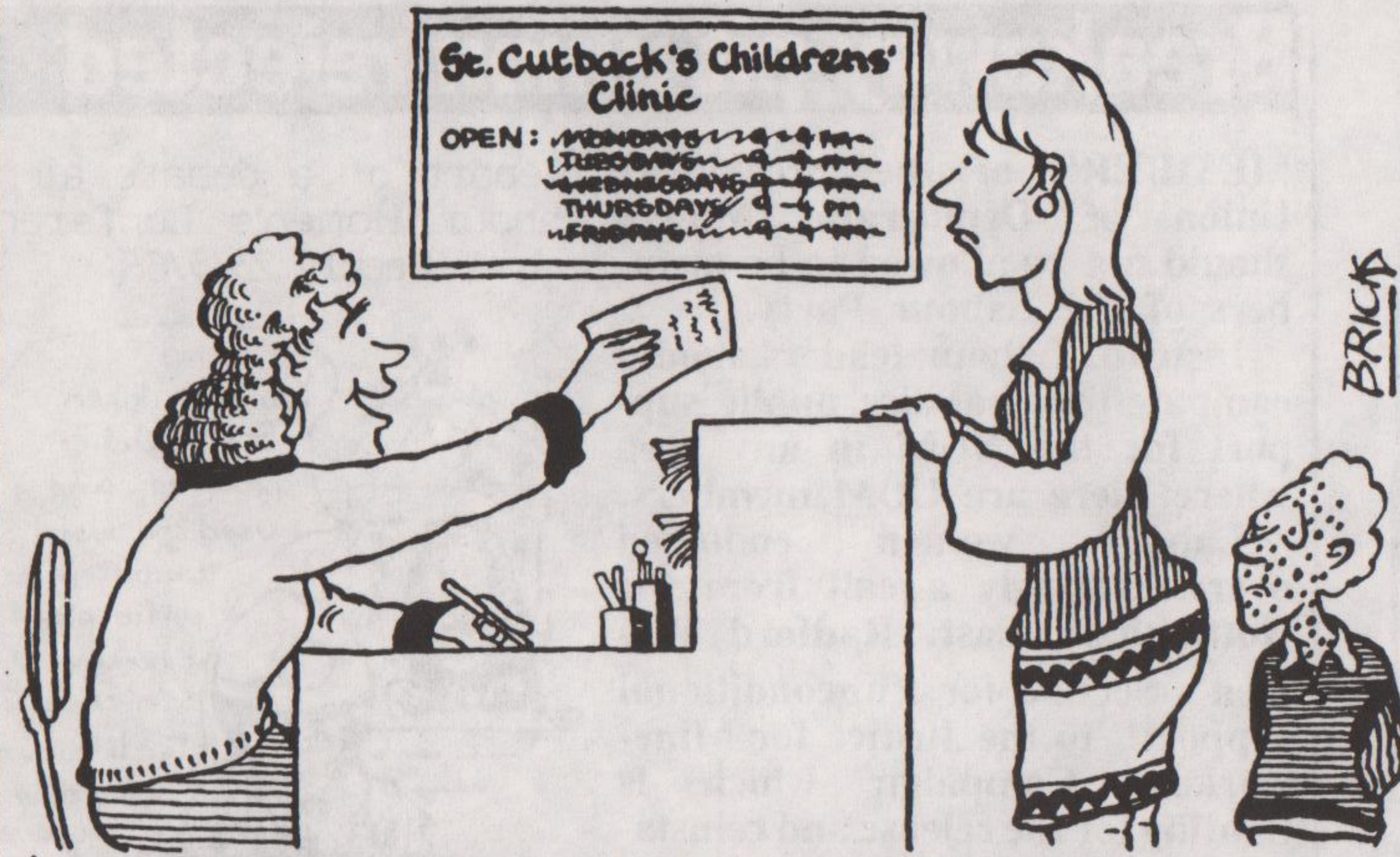
MIND has accused him of a "hush-up" and says the situation at Saxondale is serious and must be brought into the open.

OFFICIAL REPORT INTO NOTTINGHAM'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BEING KEPT SECRET

A REPORT prepared by the Mental Health Act Commission following a visit to Nottingham last December is being kept secret.

It is understood that the Commission, which is an official government watchdog, made a number of criticisms of Nottingham's mental health services, including the excessive use of medication to control patients.

The Mental Illness Unit Manager Philip Hogarth has confirmed the report exists but refused to release it.



CHILD HEALTH CLINIC CUTS

22 CHILD Health Clinics and School Clinics in the Nottingham area have had cuts in attendances by doctors, following a decision by the Health Authority to keep five Medical Officer posts vacant. The cuts came to light when an anonymous plea for help was sent to City Councillor Nigel Lee who chairs the Council's Health Sub-Committee. It said: "our clinics are full to overflowing. If they are cut mothers won't come, children will be missed, injections not given, baby battering won't be seen."

"I think it is disgusting when this government says it is committed to community care."

Afraid to speak out

"I know the doctors and nurses are upset but they are afraid to speak out as jobs are at risk." Coun Lee said "The cuts have been made by the new Community Unit Manager Dr Christine Hopton who was appointed to carry out the Tories' policy of running the health service like a supermarket chain. "These sort of arbitrary cuts are seriously undermining morale in the health service."

MEETING WITH TENANTS

AT a recently held consultative meeting the District Labour Party's Housing Manifesto Group met local tenants groups to discuss proposals for consultation and decentralisation following the next City Council elections. Although poorly attended, representatives were clearly cynical about existing arrangements on consultation, believing that they only rarely produced any positive results.

More positively, all felt that recently opened Area Housing Offices were a good idea which could be extended by giving them greater control over housing in their own locality. Suggestions to extend these to cover the whole city and to formalise their links with local tenants groups were also well received.

LIFE RIDE UK

LIFE RIDE UK is a marathon "fun and fundraising" cycling event which comes to Nottingham in August. It is a 2000 mile tour raising money for Intermediate Technology, "leaders in the field of long-term prevention of poverty and hunger in the Third World". It will link up with a Nottingham Day-Ride on Sunday 10 August with hundreds of local riders. It starts and finishes at the Victoria Embankment with a 44 mile route via Belvoir Castle, or a shorter 24 mile route via Cropwell Bishop. There will be a display on the Market Square on Sat 9 August. Register by sending sae. to Intermediate Technology (Life Ride), 9 King St, London WC2E 8HW.

image, and the impact on staff morale."



HOSPITAL BOSS SLAMS PRIVATE CLEANERS

CONFIDENTIAL documents leaked from Westminster Hospital in London have revealed one of the most damning attacks yet on privatised cleaning. One of the leading firms Crothall's has been accused of a "totally unacceptable performance". Hospital manager Barry Elliott states his concern about "the risk of infection, the damage to the hospital's reputation and

The report concludes that the problems with this contract "have demonstrated that regardless of how good monitoring systems and procedures are, there is little direct action that we can take to get a contractor to perform."

The report was published in Public Service Action, the labour movement's anti-privatisation magazine. (From Labour Weekly, 30 May)

WOMEN AND TRAINING

A CHANCE for women to find out about local training opportunities and discuss their training needs. Fri 4 and Sat 5 July, 10.30-1pm, People's College, Castle Road. Wheelchair access. Crèche for children. Signers and interpreters available. Details from Wendy Young (418571 x4513). ALL WOMEN WELCOME.

Jan Collins

"SECTARIAN ATTACK" IN ON YER BIKE (NO 8)

IT should not be to the "left press" we look for sectarian attacks upon individuals. At the April Trades Council I with others questioned rules as is the right and responsibility of all delegates. Talk of disrupting Trades Council, being a delegate since 1965 and Secretary for six years, is a joke. President in 1985, I resigned after six months; it was not followed by going to the press. It was my initiation that brought about the Unemployed Centre, with three years service. The last meeting I chaired I received a vote of confidence. The spineless gutless individuals who contributed to the article should get their facts right.

Chris Preston

LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

NOTTS branch of the national library campaign was formed in February last year as a response to cuts of £100,000 in library bookfunds in the County. By 1990, says the Campaign, there will be 82,000 less books on library shelves in Notts, and opening hours will be reduced by 32 hours per week. In school libraries, six posts have already been frozen. Details about the campaign from Notts NALGO, 41 Loughborough Rd, West Bridgford.

STATISTICAL THOUGHT

The County Council has 13 Chief Officers - all are male. Every Chief Officer has a secretary - all are female. If a person's sex is unrelated to their position, then the odds of such a distribution occurring are 67,108,864 to 1!

From Trentsider (Notts NALGO News)

No Pasaran !...but Reagan still tries.

The recent US attack on Libya showed the determination of US imperialism to maintain its domination across the globe - by direct military intervention if necessary. The Nicaraguan Revolution is a major target of this policy. The example shown by the Nicaraguan people in 1979 & since is not one that the US wishes other Latin American (or African) countries to follow.

Reagan's Administration has attempted options short of using US ground troops which would lead to a protracted war with many thousands of deaths, because of the so-called "Vietnam Syndrome".

The Contra war has placed a massive strain on the Nicaraguan economy & people, but attempts to stimulate a civil war have failed. Daily Reagan's options are narrowed & US military intervention in Central America increased.

The US is carrying out what Pentagon statigists call a "low intensity war". This has placed massive strains on the Revolution as resources are diverted to defence. In 1985, 26% of GDP was lost or destroyed, damage to infrastructure was equal to 40% of total exports & the financial blockade froze 16% of foreign trade.

More resources are being put into this "low intensity war", including the Contra \$100 million; the use of Green Berets to train the Contra; and the attempt to get Honduras to declare war on Nicaragua, so that Reagan could rush in championing democracy & freedom.

Reagan wants to be able to send in US troops, the Contra are simply not up to the job, but first he needs to create the optimum conditions for this; - all anti-Sandinista forces going over to the Contras, - massive economic destabilisation

to weaken the revolution's support, - agreement for the token use of other imperialist armies eg Britain - mass support, or at least the lack of mass opposition, in the US.

Reagan has not been successful so far. Attempts to unify the Contras into one army have led to some of the leadership growing more impatient with their CIA backers. Some of the Misquito Indian groups have agreed to a cease-fire & negotiations.

The FSLN has responded with more land reforms, a 100% wage increase, calling on the international aid agencies to step up their aid. The FSLN is also going to the people, discussing in every village & in every factory what needs to be done to safeguard the Revolution.

The assault on Libya, & playing the "unity against terrorism" card is achieving more than the anti-communist "looney tunes" tirades. Republican & Democrat Congressmen now only differ on how to defeat the Nicaraguans.

It is urgent that the British Labour Movement echos the alertness & vigilance of the Nicaraguans by building the broadest possible movement of opposition to the US's "low intensity war", & against US invasion. Also, let us not forget the role of "our" Government both in supporting the US trade embargo on Nicaragua, & as a potential supporter & possible accomplice in invasion.

Visit to Nicaragua

This summer two activists of CASC & NJDLC, John Truscott & Christiane Matthews, will be going to Nicaragua for four weeks. They intend to spend two weeks in & around Juigalpa where they will hand over the funds & materials that have been collected in Nottingham along with letters of support & solidarity. They will also make a video and talk to people & organisations about their needs.

On their return meetings will be organised for them to tell of their experiences & of the latest situation in Nicaragua. As they are active trade unionists and Labour Party members it is hoped that the branches will invite them to speak and show their slides or video. (John is in both T&GWU & ASTMS, Christiane is in NUT).

If your Branch wishes to invite them, or get any other information on anything in these articles, please contact CASC at:- 118 Mansfield Rd. Nottingham. Tel:- 582369

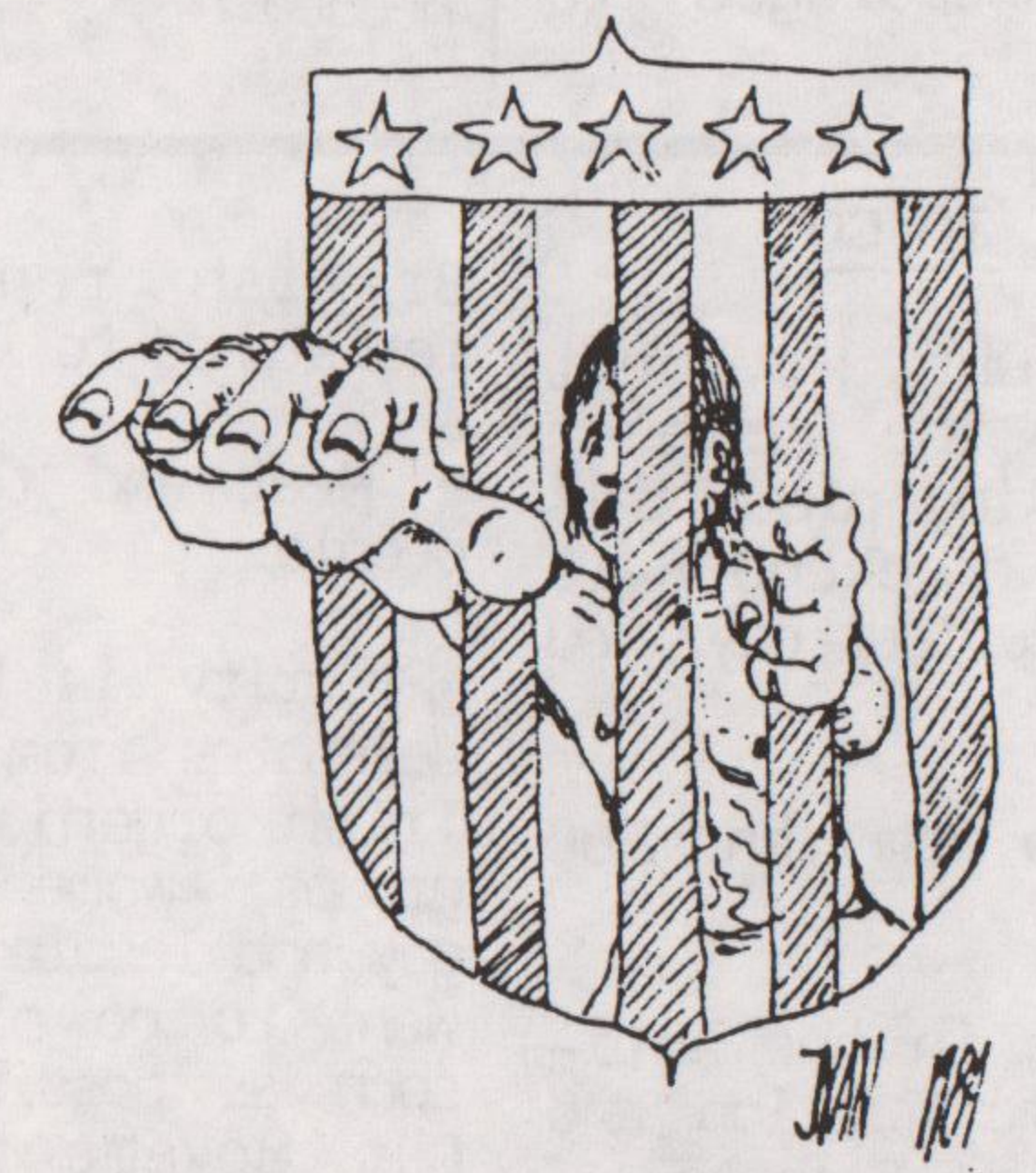
El Salvador

In El Salvador the phoney democracy of the Duarte regime is falling apart after only two years of civilian rule. An easing of the repression in the towns combined with a facade of reforms was intended to isolate the combined opposition forces of the FMLN-FDR in the countryside which would then be defeated militarily by the Salvadorean army. Despite massive quantities of the latest US military aid & the use of saturation bombing & scorched earth tactics learned in Vietnam, the Salvadorean army has been unable to inflict any significant damage to the armed forces of the FMLN, who have in fact expanded their operations to cover every department of the country. FMLN-FDR offers of negotiations have revealed Duarte's claim to be a peacemaker as fraudulent.

The cost of the war, even with US aid, has forced Duarte to introduce a far-reaching economic austerity package which has succeeded in antagonising all sectors of the community. Some large Trade Union federations, whose support got Duarte into power, have now deserted him, as his promises of peace & prosperity have proved empty.

The Unity of Salvadorean Workers (UNTS), formed in February 1986, is the largest federation of workers and peasants in El Salvador's history & the streets of the capital are once again filled with demonstrations demanding an end to the austerity, for dialogue with the FMLN-FDR & for an end to US intervention in their country.

In desperation, Duarte has again unleashed the forces of urban repression. The Death Squads & State Police now roam freely throughout the cities kidnapping & murdering civil rights & trade union leaders. After two years of whitewash by the international media the total failure of the policies of this US puppet regime can no longer be ignored. The 6th year of the war of liberation of El Salvador is about to explode with renewed ferocity across the headlines of the world.



SACKED MINER

Dave Boyle, a sacked miner from South Yorks, recently visited El Salvador, & Nicaragua, while on the "Labour Movement Delegation to El Salvador". He was able to talk to trade union leaders & workers in both countries, including the El Limon gold mine in Nicaragua.

Since his return, Dave has been speaking at meetings in pit villages in South Yorks, NUM Branch meetings & other Labour Movement

meetings. At present he will be speaking to Notts NUM branches. The Nottingham Central America Solidarity Campaign is organising his meetings in Notts, any Labour Party or Trade Union Branch can invite him to speak.

Dave will be able to explain the current situation in both El Salvador & Nicaragua from his own experiences & will have slides to show.