

No 12 October 1986 3p
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.

FUTURE OF ON YER BIKE?

APOLOGIES for the non-appearance of the September issue of On Yer Bike, and the limited size of this issue. This is due to the inability of the current editor to continue production. If On Yer Bike is to continue, other people will have to take on responsibility. People are needed to:
* submit information and write articles.

* type.
* do layout.
* look after distribution and accounts.
Volunteers should contact me at 51 Braidwood Court, Hyson Green (tel 788059). If there is enough interest I will call a meeting to work out how to organise future issues. If there is not enough interest, the paper will fold and all subscribers will have their outstanding money returned in full.
Nigel Lee

POST DISPUTE SETTLED
LONG LIVE THE POST DISPUTE

THERE was confusion all round as the NUJ finally settled its 8 year old dispute with the Post caused by the sacking of 28 journalists who backed a national strike in 1978. The print unions have still not settled their slightly older dispute which followed 52 redundancies forced by management without negotiation earlier in 1978. As far as the NGA is concerned the labour movement is still being asked not to speak to the Post and not to buy the Post. The NUJ has won the right to recruit and represent journalists at the Post. But it has yet to be tested whether the Post management will lift their 13 year ban on allowing union officials onto

the premises. The NUJ has agreed not to call out its members in support of national disputes which the Post management has no control over. The print unions NGA and SOGAT are still not recognised. An added complication is that journalists at the Post are doing some jobs which breach national new technology agreements between the print unions and the NUJ. As On Yer Bike went to press TUC national officer John Monks said they had not been formally notified of the NUJ settlement. Any lifting of the TUC's labour movement boycott would depend upon agreement by all unions involved, he said. This is unlikely unless the print unions also get a settlement.

Space Age Technology - Steam Age Management

KEY dates in the Evening Post's ruthless imposition of new technology:

- 1971:** 95 redundancies.
- 1973:** Management force a six week lock-out which smashed the unions' closed shops and ended with 148 redundancies. All union officials were banned from the premises for ever.

Summer 1978: Management impose 52 redundancies on the print workers. The print unions boycott all commercial printing work at the Post premises in Nottingham and at their high quality colour printing works at Huthwaite.

Late 1978: 28 journalists sacked for joining a national NUJ strike over pay (this is the dispute that has now been settled). TUC impose labour movement boycott - this has not yet been lifted.

NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGN GROUP
Rally - Sat Oct 11 2-5pm
Rainbow Rooms, Coop Centre, Broad Street

THIS rally will, hopefully, be the inaugural meeting of the Nottm & Notts Campaign Group. During and since the miners dispute a number of MPs and an ever increasing number of Labour Party members have realised the need for the left to organise in defence of, and to press for, socialist campaigning policies. This means linking up with campaigns and workers struggles nationally and internationally and mobilising

for these to be supported by the party and be central to the policies of a future socialist government.

To achieve this we must organise effectively across constituencies, across campaigns, across the country.

Chair: Sharon Atkin. Invited speakers: Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner, Diane Abbott, Michael Manley, ANC, Billy Etherington, El Salvadorean trade unionist, Notts Women Against Pit Closures Troops Out delegate to Ireland '86.

Nottn Campaign Group
c/o 37 Leonard Ave

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

UNIONS and management in the County Council have agreed a procedure for dealing with sexual harassment. It recognises that "any visual, physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature could constitute sexual harassment" if it is "unsolicited and unwelcome", or it "creates an intimidatory, hostile or offensive work environment for one or more employees," or when "submission to such conduct is implicitly or explicitly a term or

condition" affecting the individual's employment. It also recognises that in many cases victims of harassment are unwilling to make a complaint, and may often choose to leave the job or be wrongly dismissed. This is unacceptable, says the document. The procedure will be circulated in a booklet to all employees.
* The City Council is currently discussing a comprehensive policy to tackle all forms of discrimination and harassment.

SMOKING SURVEY

SMOKING in the work place could be on the way out in the County Council. A recent survey carried out by the officers union NALGO shows that over 90% of non-smokers and over two thirds of smokers would agree to "no-smoking" in their work areas. 30% of smokers would welcome assistance in giving up smoking. Both unions and management have agreed there is a need to tackle the problem of smoking, and intend to set up a working party to formulate a policy. (From Trentsider, Notts NALGO

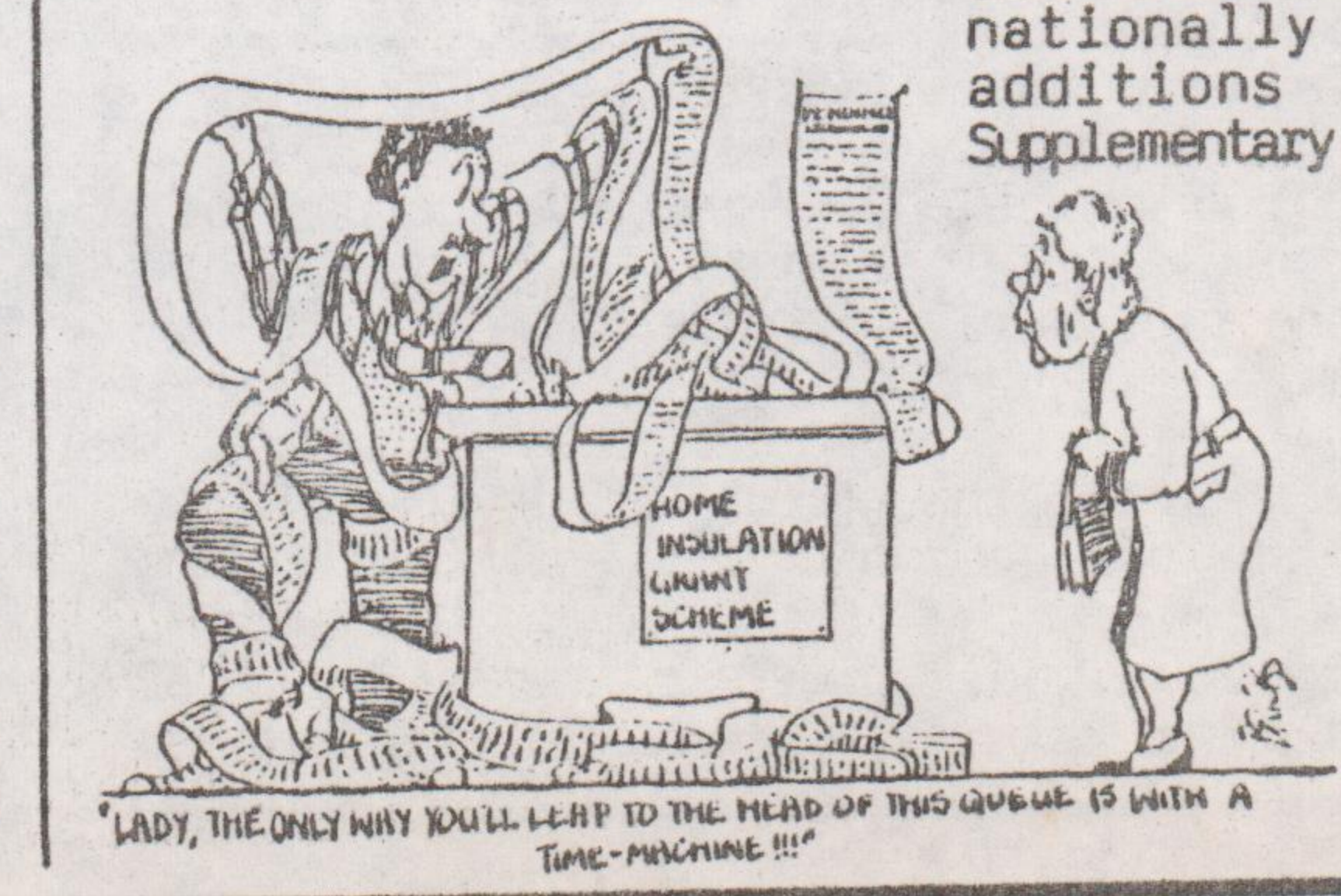


News)
* In the City Council, NALGO have already agreed the outline of a policy on smoking with management. It is based on respecting the rights of both smokers and non-smokers.

WASTE HEAT SCANDAL

200 JOBS could be created in local firms if there was a five year programme to insulate all homes in the County, says the Notts Heating Rights Group in the July issue

of their paper "Anti-Freeze". It would cost £4.75 million a year, but it would save £12 million a year in reduced heating costs, they say. The Government is cutting the Home Insulation Grant Scheme even further while DHSS pays out £400 million a year nationally in heating additions to people on Supplementary Benefit.



ON October 25th, the message to the right-dominated Nottinghamshire County Council Labour Group will be "no divide and rule!".

Most readers will know about their refusal to live up to a 1985 manifesto promise to do "all within our power" to help lesbians and gays, by building a "direct link with the oppressed sections of the community" in "a strong and active partnership" to counter discrimination.

Only after a big shove from the minority of socialists in their midst did the Group initiate an Equal Opportunities plan to implement their promises.

There's very little money or power behind the proposed new Equal Opportunities Sub-Committee. But at least it's a start for Ethnic Minorities, Women, and the Disabled. Each of these groups is to be represented, through special Working Groups.

LESBIANS AND GAYS REFUSED REPRESENTATION

But Lesbians and Gays have resolutely been refused representation on the same basis, despite strong pressure from trade unions and the County Labour Party.

Desperate to wriggle out of a promise they don't want to keep, the leadership lurch to and fro between contradictory positions: it's a middle class phenomenon and Labour is for the working class; there aren't any gays or lesbians outside the city (this one has surprised gay friends in Mansfield); it's a disgusting habit ordinary people won't tolerate; lesbians and gays don't suffer discrimination; it's a private matter (hence all the laws and policing?) . . .

NASTY TRICK

And now they're trying on a particularly nasty trick. A couple of decades ago the Labour right argued that the white working class wouldn't stand for too much concentration on fighting racism. Now similar elements are encouraging the idea that lesbian and gay rights won't be tolerated by ethnic minorities, and so should be dropped.

They're able to exploit the sexism and homophobia that exists amongst some straight black men, deflecting their anger at persistent and institutionalised racism onto lesbians and gays.

The tactic is aided by a deliberate limiting of resources, and their concentration in a very few hands.

There are maybe real clashes between the ethical standards of some religious minorities and the rights of lesbians and gays to equality in law with straights,

BLACK WOMEN WANT IN ON BLACK BUSINESS AGENCY

BLACK women are demanding to know why they have not been included in plans for a Black Business Agency in Nottingham.

The Agency has been set up by the City Council in consultation with its Race Sub-Committee.

But the Council's Women's

Sub-Committee has supported black women who want to know why a report on the agency lacked a female dimension and why no women's organisations were supporting the agency.

They also want to see women involved in the management structure, and positive action to employ women as senior consultants wherever possible.

TARRAN BUNGALOWS

A TENANT of one of the City's 300 Tarran Mark IV bungalows has had it designated "exceptionally hard to heat" which allows her extra money from the DHSS each week.

The bungalows were built after the war as "temporary accommodation" from concrete panels lined with plasterboard, and are mainly occupied by the elderly and disabled.

A DHSS Tribunal agreed the home had badly insulated walls, cracks between the concrete panels, and badly fitting windows and doors.

The only source of heat was on-peak electricity.

Nottingham Heating Project prepared a report for the tenant and the Notts Welfare Rights Service helped her deal with the DHSS.

HEALTH STRATEGY GROUP

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, ICC, 61B Mansfield Road.

Oct 21: OSCAR (black self-help group for sickle-cell anaemia)
Nov 18: Health and Housing
Dec 16: Using the media
Further details: tel 410625 or write c/o 33 Mansfield Rd.

and freedom from discrimination and harassment.

WE NEED MUTUALITY AND SOLIDARITY

But where two rights are in apparent conflict, the solution can never be the elimination of one of those rights. We need dialogue, and we need mutuality and solidarity. We need to protect and celebrate a potentially rich variety of sexualities. And just as we need especially to defend the right to their cultures of groups subject to the constant pressure of white racist hostility, we need also to defend the right to personal safety and full citizenship of lesbians and gays, who are increasingly under attack from a reactionary government and its gutter press.

And let it be remembered that lesbian people and gay people are there in all races, all cultures. To set race against sexuality only succumbs to the divide and rule tactics of the white ruling class - and terribly, it tears black lesbians and gays apart.

We hope to see still more white lesbians and gays in the county making the connection, and taking a clear stand in the fight against racism. And we hope to see plenty of black people - straight as well as gay - on the demonstration, to show that divide and rule tactics will get Labour nowhere.

There must be no scapegoats. We need a socialist lead, not a retreat to Victorian values.

Mick Wallis (East Midlands Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights)

David Orekoya (Manchester Lesbian and Gay Black Group)

SAY "NO" TO DIVIDE & RULE

▲ DEFEND BLACK RIGHTS

▲ DEFEND WOMENS RIGHTS

▲ DEFEND DISABLED RIGHTS

▲ AND DEMAND...

FAIR DEAL for LESBIANS & GAYS in NOTTS

DEMONSTRATE OCT 25th NOTTINGHAM

national speakers

▲ ASSEMBLE 12.15

▲ SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th

▲ OLD MARKET SQUARE, NOTTINGHAM

pub LCLGR EAST MIDLANDS, 3 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM

COUNTY LABOUR PARTY Report of the June Meeting

DELEGATES expressed anger at the continuing refusal of Labour Councillors to approve a gays and lesbians working group. They called upon all Party members to join in a future lobby of County Hall.

The meeting overwhelmingly supported further funding for the Nottingham Video Project. Its videos of the Miners' Strike were especially

appreciated.

Looking forward to the Peace Festival, delegates called upon the County Council to set up urgently a Peace Sub-Committee involving Trade Unions and the Peace Movement. On jobs, the meeting unanimously approved an emergency motion opposing the takeover of Plessey by asset-stripping Lord Weinstock's GEC.

Donald Worsley (Secretary)