

# NOTTINGHAM VOICE

NUMBER 19-JUNE 1975

PRICE 10p

## AT LAST, IT'S RADIO TRENT!

"COME OUT RADIO TRENT —  
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE  
SOMEWHERE!"

"BUT WE'VE ONLY BEEN  
HERE SINCE 1789!"

Story on  
page 10





# NOTTINGHAM VOICE

**Nottingham's  
independent  
monthly paper**

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Nottingham**

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## DISSENTING VOICE?

REGULAR READERS may be somewhat bewildered by our frequent changes of format. The explanation is straightforward - we are experimenting to find a design which is attractive and readable, but easy to lay out. Because our time and manpower are limited, we need to be as economical as possible.

At the moment, in fact, we are rethinking our whole idea of Nottingham Voice, though we have not made any major changes in the present issue apart from layout. Future issues may be completely different, however, depending on where our rethinking takes us.

We are concentrating on three main areas:

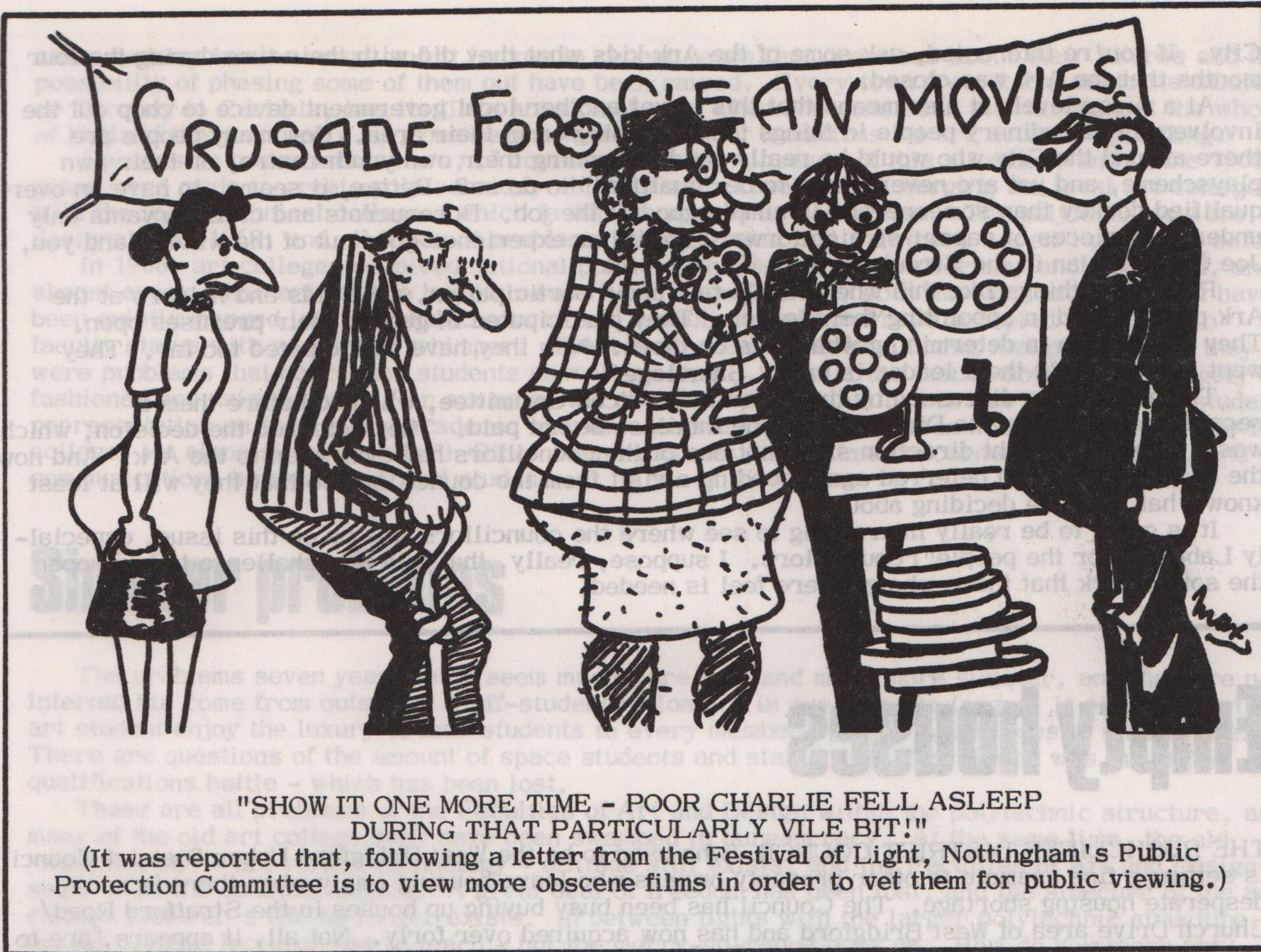
1. Political policy. We have always insisted that Nottingham Voice should be independent of any political group. We intend to maintain this position, but feel it has led to a certain lack of direction - it has not always been possible to see what the paper stands for, or even precisely what it is against. We hope to define our position more clearly so that our coverage will penetrate a little deeper and be rather more constructive.

2. Finances. Our long-term plan was to develop Nottingham Voice as a commercially viable paper, employing one or more people full-time. We think this would be quite possible - in fact, we have been making some progress towards it - but only after an extensive increase in advertising (the commercial press, of course, is heavily dependent on advertising, revenue from sales being considerably smaller). This emphasis on advertising would inevitably affect editorial policy - it is a well-known fact that radical papers do not attract advertising! This might be described as the horns of a dilemma - on the one hand we could express our opinions freely but might end up with no paper to express them in; on the other hand, we would have a financially viable paper, but would be limited to opinions which would not alarm our advertisers.

3. Deploying our resources. So far, much of our restricted manpower has been occupied in developing Nottingham Voice as a general magazine (hence our expanding arts section, sport, pubs, etc.), and as a clearing-house for a number of community and political issues. These may be excellent things in themselves, but may be too ambitious for a small, non-professional staff. The quality of our news and analysis has suffered: it might be more sensible to concentrate on finding out and digging deep - the types of reporting other local media are wary of.

The July edition of Nottingham Voice should show the results of our thinking. We would be pleased if readers joined in. Apart from the fact that sales have risen steadily, if unspectacularly, we have very little information about our readers - who they are, why they buy the paper, and what they think of its various sections. If you have any comments to make or help to offer, please call in at the People's Centre or 'phone us at 411676.





## Sinking the Ark

LONG-STANDING READERS OF NOTTINGHAM VOICE may be interested to hear of another episode in the continuing saga of the Ark Youth Centre. Just to remind you, the Ark is a centre for kids who don't fit into the normal youth club setting. It is run in the old Huntingdon Street school kitchens. During last summer the Ark had to move out of its old premises and look for new ones. For four months the Ark was without premises. The feeling amongst kids, helpers and committee members at the time was that the Education Department was completely uninterested and it took an angry letter from the kids themselves to get the City Secretary to intervene and wake the Education Department up. Now, six months later, the enterprising bureaucracy of the Education Department has struck again.

The current leader of the Ark is Bobby McNaul. He was appointed to this job (job and a half?) a year ago on the princely wage of £15 per week. This had to keep himself, his wife, his small son and another child on the way. One of the undertakings of the Ark Committee was to increase this to a living wage as soon as they could. During this last year the progress made has been nil. The problem has been that the money for wages came from the Education Department, and they were not too keen to play ball and increase the leader's salary.

The problem is that Bobby has no formal qualifications. It doesn't matter that he is brilliant at the job and that he has a natural understanding of the kids. It doesn't matter that he has actually experienced many of the problems that the Ark kids are now facing (and more besides). He hasn't got the formal qualifications.

Many of the members of the Ark Committee have a wide knowledge of qualified and unqualified youth leaders, and the knowledge that they had someone of Bobby's ability and were paying him peanuts became too much for them. They decided that they would increase his pay. They did this knowing that if the Education Department (or Leisure Services, when their hibernation is over) did not agree to pay the extra amount then the Ark would have to close in 3 to 6 months.

The Ark has now been told that the Education Department will be recommending to the Committee that the increase not be paid because Bobby does not have 3 to 5 "O" levels. Ironically, this news came through just after Bobby had delivered a lecture to postgraduate students at the University. For them, Bobby's experience and insight were sufficient compensation for a lack of GCE passes.

Let's be clear about what this means. The Ark has decided that it will close when it cannot afford to pay its leader. Remember this when you read and hear about the problems caused by young people in the Victoria Centre; when you hear about vandalism in the centre of the City. Remember it, because this is directly related to what else there is for adolescents to do in the



City. If you're interested, ask some of the Ark kids what they did with their time during the four months that the Ark was closed.

At a wider level, it also means that this is yet another local government device to chop out the involvement of ordinary people in things that are going on in their area. How many people are there around the City who would be really good at running their own youth centre, or their own playscheme, and yet are never likely to be "qualified" to do so? Better, it seems, to have an over-qualified donkey than someone who is simply good at the job. Bureaucrats and civil servants only understand pieces of paper; straightforward ability or experience goes out of the window and you, Joe Citizen, Man in the Street, go with it.

Remember things like this when people talk about participation. The kids and helpers at the Ark participated in appointing their leader. They participated in getting their premises open. They participate in determining what goes on there. Now they have participated too far. They want a say in what their leader is paid. Sacrilege!

The matter was discussed by the Leisure Services Committee, who had before them a recommendation from the Director that the increase be not paid. They deferred the decision, which was a step in the right direction since not one of the councillors had ever been to the Ark. And now the decision has been deferred again pending a visit from the councillors so that they will at least know what they are deciding about.

It is going to be really interesting to see where the councillors line up on this issue, especially Labour ("for the people") councillors. I suppose, really, that this is a challenge to keep open the sort of Ark that those who go there feel is needed.

## Empty houses

THE RUSHCLIFFE DISTRICT COUNCIL (who used to be the West Bridgford Urban District Council) is setting a fine example to other property owners who leave housing empty when there is a desperate housing shortage. The Council has been busy buying up houses in the Stratford Road/Church Drive area of West Bridgford and has now acquired over forty. Not all, it appears, are to rehouse the homeless or families from the housing waiting list. Some stand empty for years. For example, numbers 4 and 6 Stratford Road have now been empty for two years. Number 17 has been boarded up and number 18 is also unoccupied.

These houses are not slum dwellings or "unfit for human habitation". They are solid semi-detached Edwardian houses which in the City would be regarded as too good even to be included within an Improvement Area.

The mystery begins in 1972, when West Bridgford Council submitted a planning application to build council offices on the nearby park. Part of the Stratford Road area was seen as a way of replacing the open space that would be lost. This application disappeared during the 1974 local government reorganisation. But not the dream of new council offices. Officially all the houses are to be "redeveloped". But angry protests at rate increases and the pending 1976 elections make new council offices unlikely.

In the meantime, good houses remain empty. Explain that to the next homeless family, Rushcliffe!

## Gobbledygook

THE RECENTLY ISSUED DEPRIVED AREA STUDY produced by the County Council Planning Department is not the easiest thing in the world to read. The report is liberally scattered with terms like "matrix", "multivariate sets", "principal component analysis" and "spatial analysis", to name but a few. So what does the study actually tell us? Well, it says that the areas suffering from "multiple deprivation" are to be found in the inner wards of Nottingham, that is St Ann's, the Meadows, Radford, and Forest Fields, and in Newark, Worksop, Kirkby and Mansfield. The Raleigh Street area, which was the most deprived area, was reported to have commented "Well at least we've come top in something!"

One could put it another way and say that there are a lot of poor people in Nottingham and poor people are deprived and tend to have more problems than other people. These conclusions are hardly startling and one wonders how much money was spent on the study. However, the report does conclude with some recommendations for overcoming the problems of "deprived areas". One of these recommendations is for Advice Centres which would "mount campaigns to persuade local people to make their needs known; act as a focus and provide premises for community groups; and help to co-ordinate voluntary groups and direct their work to those whose needs have been brought to notice". Well Nottinghamshire County Council, we've got news for you. The People's Centre has been doing precisely that for over the last year, and we'd like to thank the Council for all their support - we did have a pencil from Cllr Dick Wilson. Perhaps councillors would do well to actually read some of the reports their departments spend so much time compiling and even follow through some of their recommendations!





## Folk

Dear Sir,

I read your article on Folk music, and I think your reporter "CS" would have formed a better opinion of the NTMC if he had been to the club for a few weeks before he criticized it. If he wanted to listen to someone talking and just hear the folk singing as a background then he came to the wrong club, as all singers are given the attention one is expected to give to a singer. If he went to a theatre and people round about were talking he would be annoyed. The windowsill squad do not spend "almost the whole evening" performing, but generally the first set. As for being a clique, one cannot expect to have the red carpet rolled out when going to a club the first time. I have been to several folk clubs and although they were "informal and relaxed" not a member of these clubs spoke to me all the evening, perhaps it is because I am not so young as I assume all folk club members should be. I do sing but not the traditional song your "CS" says must be sung at the NTMC.

Yours truly, S. McLoughlin. 90 Tunstall Crescent, Aspley, Nottingham.

(Editors' comment: It's a fair point that one session is not representative of a folk club, though CS did make it clear he was describing what happened on April 25th. It seems a little unfair, however, to assume he prefers clubs where the audience talks all the time - this was not the point of his comment at all!)

## Pubs

Dear Sir,

Your comment on my "Pub Call" column nearly made me choke over my gin and tonic (as you know, we Evening Post hacks drink nothing else).

It was not the tone of your remarks that surprised me - that was predictable - but the fact that you bothered to write them after only two issues of "Pub Call" (or was it one?). Pity the third issue, which came out on the Friday before Nottingham Voice appeared on the news-stands, rather spoiled your point by devoting the best part of half a column to the beer at the Robin Hood and no more than two inches to the food.

The last part of your comment, though, is a fair assessment. Referring to your own pub column, you say: "It's a fair bet the Post won't be running anything like this month's article . . ."

Dead right. I'm reluctant to knock Chris Holmes (who I like and whose knowledge of beer I respect), but this month's article seems to assume that the bloke in the public bar has a Ph.D. in chemistry and/or statistics.

I particularly liked the bit about the rise in beer duty being "£4.32 per 36 gallons plus 14.4p for 36 gallons for every degree of original gravity over 1030 plus 8 per cent VAT".

They talk about little else in my local.

Cheers, Chris Arnot. c/o Hardy's and Hansons Brewery, Kimberley.

(Editors' comment: It was not the tone of your letter that surprised us but the fact that you bothered to write it after only three issues. Pity every issue since rather spoiled your point by reverting to your usual minuscule comments on beer.

Actually, "Pub Crawl" isn't a bad column if the atmosphere of a pub is your chief concern. It's typical of the Post, though, that it should pick up the idea of the Pub Guide made popular by the Campaign for Real Ale and turn it into journalistic cosmetics. The character of British pubs and beer is seriously threatened by big breweries whose chief concern is making money. CAMRA, of which Chris Holmes is national chairman, has been conducting quite a successful campaign against this, and it's a pity the Post should jump on the bandwagon and turn the Pub Guide into a bland piece of tourist information - a drinking man's guide to indoor scenery.

If Chris Arnot is really doing his readers a service - the regulars as well as the road-house clan - we might expect him now and again to expose some of the really dire things brewers are doing to pubs. But would his commercially minded proprietors allow it? After all, it was precisely this that cost Nottingham Voice a brewers' advertisement!

It also seems a little dishonest (as well as a curious way of showing liking and respect) to select as typical the one really complex sentence in an article whose simple message - that some brewers and publicans are overcharging - should have been clear even to an Evening Post hack.)



# Democracy

IN CASE YOU ARE STILL PUZZLED AT THE EXPULSION of Steve Evans, Market Ward City Councillor, from the Labour Party here are a few details. There were four reasons given for the expulsion: the distribution of Urdu leaflets publicising advice sessions; voting against Executive Committee decisions at General Management Committee (although he wasn't the only Executive Committee member to have done this); campaigning against Labour Party policy and the Labour Group; and his connection with the Housing Action Committee.

There were only four speakers in support of expulsion. They were - surprise, surprise - John Carroll, Len Maynard, and Frank Higgins (City Council bosses) and an unknown minion who bumbled about leadership. Nine members, on the other hand, spoke at some length in support of Steve Evans. The main points made by Big Daddy John Carroll and company were that Cllr Evans had been asking embarrassing questions in Council (including such terrible things as condemning lump labour and asking for information on Labour Group policy), had been "creating disorder and chaos", and was trying to split the Labour Party!

So Steve Evans has been expelled from the Labour Party, despite the public statement of the General Management Committee Chairman that expulsion was not being considered and despite the acceptance by the GMC of the National Executive's enquiry, which merely reprimanded him for minor matters. Neutral members present (yes there were a few!) and even a couple of renegades from the minions came down on Steve Evans' side. But at the end of the day it was a foregone conclusion: 31-22 for expulsion.

There will be a Public Meeting on Thursday, 26th June at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road for those interested in the campaign for the reinstatement of Steve Evans and in the struggle for democracy in the Labour Party.

## Militant mums

THE SILBURY CLOSE MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP at Clifton has got itself into a battle with the bureaucrats. The Group, mainly consisting of Meadows people rehoused to Clifton, decided to run a summer play scheme this year for toddlers, and put in an application for £200 under the Urban Aid programme. The application was successful, but there were still a few hurdles to cross in the shape of permission for the scheme from the City Council and also from the Planning Committee. The Council gave the go-ahead, but the Planning Sub-Committee decided that everyone else was wrong and said the scheme could not have planning permission. The planners claimed they had already provided three play spaces in the area. With the usual foresight of the Planning Department, they had also laid tarmac and gritted the surface so it is completely unsuitable for toddlers to play on. These play areas also quite often contain broken glass and other rubbish. The mums had wanted to use land originally intended for garages which is at present unused.

As far as is known, none of the councillors concerned has ever visited the site and actually seen what the mums are talking about. So what comeback have the mums got? They can appeal to the Department of the Environment to get the decision reversed - a process that takes up to a year. And by that time the summer will be over and the £200 grant lost. So the Silbury Close Mother and Toddler Group intend to go ahead anyway and buy mobile play equipment that can be moved if they are raided. It remains to be seen who is going to win this battle - but we don't much fancy the chances of the Planning Department.

## A problem shared...

ALL IS NOT SWEETNESS AND LIGHT down at the Consumer Advice Centre and the Citizens Advice Bureau which share a premise on Beastmarket Hill. Rumour has it that there has been considerable disquiet felt by the CAB over the use that the reception area is being put to. The CAB, of course, is an "independent" body, while the CAC is run by the County Council, and the CAB feels that the CAC hogs the reception area with its displays of Easter eggs, inflatable toothbrushes, or whatever the current consumer fad happens to be. Furthermore, the CAB doesn't feel it gets the publicity it deserves in the window displays. I hear that peace moves have been commenced to resolve these problems. But it's an uneasy partnership, and one where the Consumer boys are going to win when it comes to any important decisions. Well, it's the County Council who pay the bills at the end of the week.



# THE HAPPY MEDIA

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## HOW THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO SAW THE NEWS



EITHER YOU BELIEVE THE POLITICIANS THAT, when you voted in the Common Market Referendum, you were taking the most monumental decision of your life, or you don't. But how did the media locally attempt to influence you one way or the other?

The two main branches of the local media are, of course, the Evening Post and BBC Radio Nottingham. The Post were totally unabashed in their attitude towards Europe; not surprisingly, their unequivocal message was: "Vote Yes, With A Capital 'Y'". This message probably came home loud and clear to most people even before the fateful day, on which the Post at least had the honesty to come out with the front-page headline: "Why We Say Yes To Europe". And they were on the right side, weren't they?

This, then, is bias; but Radio Nottingham's situation threw up some equally fraught questions. Throughout the run-up to the Referendum, the BBC's watchword was BALANCE. It's a word which reverberated up and down the corridors of power at both Broadcasting House and the Television Centre. In fact, the shock-waves were felt at Radio Nottingham's York Street premises, where a firm directive arrived saying that - come Referendum Day - there should have been an equal number of interviews with Pro's and Anti's. We're happy to report that BALANCE was achieved . . . but could it be that this almost hysterical insistence on "fair play" stopped some people getting their views across? For instance, if Radio Nottingham had interviewed eight Anti's and only six Pro's, what chance would there be for an Anti who still had a valid point to make? So: unashamed bias or so-called balance . . . you pays yer money, and you takes yer choice.

WE WERE INTRIGUED TO HEAR THAT important details of a new series of consumer tests being conducted by the County Council very nearly failed to hit the Radio Nottingham air-waves. The reason - the unheralded appearance of Finance Committee chairman Michael Cowan when newsmen were doing their best to get the facts back from County Hall via their radio-car . . . live into their lunchtime programme. Councillor Cowan felt it necessary to clamber out of a first-floor window onto the balcony, and - with rather less charm than people normally display on balconies - ordered the offending vehicle out of the members' car-park.

## No reports

STILL ON THE SUBJECT OF COUNCILS: the local media have very recently been posed with a question which journalists regard as fundamental. The City Council's policy-making committee got a Government circular which said they should no longer prevent the media publishing committee reports until after committees have met. (At the moment, this kind of embargo is the order of the day.) Journalists are displeased with the Council's response - simply to "note" the circular. They reckon this is the next best thing to ignoring it altogether. It's understood that the National Union of Journalists could be taking a future interest in the matter.

WE THINK THERE'S A STRONG ARGUMENT to suggest that the media as a whole are getting a great deal of mileage at the moment from two admittedly unsavoury characters - the Black Panther and the Cambridge Rapist. And we're not sure that vast acreage of coverage is always motivated by the best of intentions. How strong is the Black Panther link between Kidsgrove and Nottingham? How important is it that bucket-loads of male saliva are actually being analysed in a Nottingham laboratory? It's a two-way thing, of course; the media are always in the market for a new line on a big story . . . the police, on their part, regard it as vital to keep up a flow of carefully-controlled publicity in the hope that informants come forward. One hopes that, at the end of the day, the impression the reader or listener gets is an accurate one, and the police "tail" is not wagging the media "dog".

ANOTHER QUESTION: HOW MUCH COVERAGE are the media justified in giving - or obliged to give - to a loner? We're talking about Councillor Stephen Evans, who, after a protracted running battle with the Labour Party authorities in the Nottingham East constituency, has now been expelled. There are some journalists who feel that a man who "kicks against the pricks" should be virtually ignored; there are others who think that an element of Establishment-knocking isn't necessarily a bad thing. Compare, if you like, Radio Nottingham's extensive coverage of Councillor Evans' activities with the scant, down-page treatment by the Evening Post.

IN A MONTH OR TWO, this column may have an additional element, with the promised arrival of Nottingham's commercial station Radio Trent. Derby exiles in the Lace City have been disturbed to find Trent's test transmissions almost blocking out their station. And Radio Trent will have to show more tact than they recently did with the Voice. They rang up and demanded to see this month's article (see page 10) before it went to press. Some chance!



# Conspiracy charges

ON THURSDAY, 29TH MAY, FOURTEEN PEOPLE were summoned on charges of conspiring to incite disaffection amongst soldiers. As it happens, the overkeen Department of Public Prosecutions was rebuked for "summoning" when it should have "requested at mutual convenience", and for giving insufficient notice. The pleas will be entered later and expenses were awarded to the defendants. The basis of the conspiracy charges against twelve of the defendants is that they were found in possession of a leaflet called "Some Information for Discontented Soldiers" which sets out the various ways that soldiers can leave the army if they have already decided to do so. The other defendants are solely charged with conspiracy to incite disaffection. They were never found in possession of the leaflet nor giving it out - and in fact none of the defendants is charged with distributing it.

The same Thursday saw the publication in the Guardian of a letter signed by a number of professors at the University of Bradford, including a retired United Nations Brigadier, openly admitting that they possessed the infamous leaflet and were conspiring to give it to soldiers. It's nice to see such people prepared to put their heads on the chopping block for their principles.

The trial takes place from September 29th. The government obviously hopes for convictions, and that the Judge will make full use of his power to give unlimited sentences for conspiracy convictions. Why? Obviously the failure of government policy in Northern Ireland has led to demoralisation of the army. Many soldiers are trying to leave and this trial is a response to that situation. This is not the only area where the law is being used for political purposes: the success of the flying picket during the 1972 builders' strike led to a conspiracy trial against a number of building workers; the Criminal Trespass Bill will try to make squatting and other forms of occupation of buildings illegal; Jenkins' "anti-terrorist" legislation has been used to attack the Irish community. The list goes on. And on.

One of the defendants in the trial lives and works (on "Peace News") in Nottingham, and the local defence group is organising a Benefit on June 21st at the Yorker public house on Mansfield Road. Staple Diet will be playing, and there will be a disco and an exhibition. There will be a late bar till 11.30. Tickets are available from Selectadisc or the Defence Group (Tel. 53587).

IF THEY COME FOR ME IN THE MORNING,  
THEY'LL COME FOR YOU IN THE AFTERNOON.

N.L.

## Round the Horn

A SECRET REPORT ON COMMUNITY WORK in Nottingham from the Social Services Department was made public by a group of community workers at a recent Community Work Forum. The report, compiled by David Horn, the Department's Community Work Adviser, proposes a reorganisation of community work undertaken by Social Services. The Report, virtually impossible to read, is basically an attempt to reconcile the bureaucratic organisation of the Council with the need for freedom in the work undertaken by community workers.

A reply to this document and an alternative view of community work has been prepared by a variety of "independent" community workers in Nottingham. These "independent" workers are from the Nottingham Areas Project Team (an Urban Aid Project sponsored by the Probation Department) and the Council for Voluntary Service, and also the worker for the Meadows Tenants Association. The alternative report says that the real issue in community work is the lack of control that people have over their own lives and environment and the lack of resources in the deprived areas.

The real argument, however, centres around the issue of why some people are "deprived" and whether anything can effectively be done about it. The reformists would take the view that what is needed is to give the "deprived" the means (information, organisation, and the will) to exert pressure on the system in order to achieve a more equal distribution of resources. This in turn reflects the view that some people are deprived largely as a matter of historical accident, and that it is possible to redistribute resources within the community. What this view ignores, however, is the deliberate workings of the system which makes some people deprived and powerless, and gives others vast wealth and power. And it is arguable whether those with power are likely to give it up easily.

The recently announced "increases" in state benefits illustrate the point. As the Guardian recently demonstrated, the "increases" in benefits due to come into effect in November are in fact cuts, because the increases are significantly less than the increase in the cost of living. In the light of this, perhaps the kind of argument now raging between Social Services and others is rather academic, because perhaps the real need is not to teach people the same kinds of skills and techniques that others use to deprive them, but to construct a social system where this would be unnecessary.



# MERRY-GO-ROUND

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## TAKING A WHIRL WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT



IT LOOKS AS IF THE WILY JOHN CARROLL WILL NOW BE ABLE to salvage considerable election kudos from the Festival Hall debacle. Preserving the Lace Market and saving millions by not building it there, and stepping in to save the Theatre Royal should stand him in good stead for next year's City Council elections.

And with the ten-strong Tory group split into at least ten bickering factions things look rosy for the ebullient leader. But, judging by the bitter exchanges during this month's council meeting, he is having a rough ride with his new opposite number, subpostmaster Jack Green.

With remarkably little sense of strategy the Tory leadership have been indulging in behind-the-scenes dealings with John Carroll over thorn-in-the-flesh Stephen Evans. Big John apparently asked for and got co-operation from the naive Tories in seconding an Evans motion the previous month. Bob Adams, ruthlessly ambitious Conservative deputy leader, even appeared to relish his role in "embarrassing" the Labour majority by giving Evans a seconder for the first time since his excommunication from the Labour group.

But, far from that, it seems it gave the devious Labour leadership the chance to compile documentary evidence that Evans had voted against the Labour group in Council. And this was, of course, prime material for persuading the executive of East Nottingham Labour Party to rid themselves of yet another problem member - which they duly did.

"IN OUR SOUTH WALES VALLEYS WE HAVE A SOCIETY which, based on past adversity, is permeated by the positive values of mutual aid and extended kinship" - Leo Abse MP. "He who is a relative of Lord Heycock has a job for life" - well known South Wales proverb.

Lord Heycock, one-time engine driver, property company director, chairman of the old Glamorgan Education Committee for 27 years, then chairman of the new West Glamorgan Council, has a remarkable family tree. His "positive values of mutual aid and extended kinship" cast an amazingly wide net in education and include none other than Nottinghamshire's unimaginative and overpaid Director of Leisure Services, Wyndham Heycock. Now earning between £188 and £196 a week, Wyndham doubled his salary when he moved to Notts to take the post conjured up in local government reorganisation.

Born in Port Talbot - where else - in 1925, Wyndham, a cousin of the Baron of Taibach, Llewellyn Heycock, worked for Glamorgan Local Education Authority as Assistant Further Education Officer from 1957 to 1962, and as Further Education Officer until 1973.

The Baron was the most powerful of a close-knit ring of six Labour aldermen, all committee chairmen, who controlled the old Glamorgan County Council for at least ten years before its demise. And he is widely regarded as the most influential politician in South Wales. Lord Heycock, made a life baron in 1967, is the prime example of how massive Labour voting, which guarantees office for life for those who want it, elevates men way above the working class backgrounds which inspired them to enter public service.

In 1973, Heycock's Education Committee spent £45.8m, two-thirds of the total county budget, and employed 15,300 teaching and administrative staff. His power was considerably enhanced by provisions in the standing orders which allowed him not only to take decisions but also decide what matters needed his individual attention. Between February 1970 and local government reform in April 1974, Heycock used his power on over 340 occasions.

It is perhaps difficult to understand why cousin Wyndham should have forsaken the valleys for Nottinghamshire. Surely to such a well-connected family money, even £9,738 to £10,218 a year, is not that important. It can't be power. This year the Leisure Services budget is a mere £4.2m compared with Education's £112.6m - yet Wyndham's background, both in South Wales, and in Manchester and Barnsley was education.

The bulk of his cash, £2.6m, goes to the library services - 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  million books plus records. Some goes to the country parks and the arts. And to bolster his department and help justify his director's pay, the youth service has just been transferred there from education. Well, he did spend two years as a youth organiser and evening institute supervisor in Barnsley, so he knows all about it.

According to a sycophantic Evening Post interview, he got the job on the basis of a 1,000 word essay on "the challenge of leisure in the next decade" - this was now his guiding light. Most of Nottinghamshire's progressive policy towards leisure - which is everywhere a major growth industry - was laid down before Heycock's arrival: the philosophy of the country parks, spoil-tip and quarry reclamation, including Holme Pierrepont. Apart from a few concerts and odd dabbling in arts support, the patient ratepayers of Notts are still awaiting the evidence of Mr Heycock's arrival.

Again in the Evening Post interview, but in another context, he made the ironic comments: "People don't know what they are capable of doing until they have tried, they don't know what they like doing until they have sampled it," and, "Eventually people are not going to be judged so much by what they do in their working time but by what they do in their leisure time".

Perhaps he looks forward to the day when he is better known for his interests in the theatre, music and reading.

BARKER



# JUMPING IN AT TRENT

## AN ADVANCE LOOK AT NOTTINGHAM'S WONDERFUL NEW LOCAL RADIO STATION

SOMETIME EARLY NEXT MONTH, NOTTINGHAM'S WIRELESS LOVERS will be able to tune in to yet another friendly local station - Radio Trent, which is based in a beautiful Georgian house on Castle Gate.

From this comfortable base in the city, Trent will broadcast on 301 metres in the medium wave-band and will be in competition with the national and local Beeb stations. There's one slight difference, however: Trent is out to make money, while the BBC has to exist on a budget provided by reluctant television licence holders.

For those who know nothing about independent radio stations, they exist on revenue from advertising, and to convince would-be advertisers that it's worth ploughing around £20 in for a sixty second jingle, the commercial station has to prove it has the listenership to make the investment valid. That's why Trent has got to make a big impact in Nottingham, and fast, otherwise the advertisers will stick with the more traditional and well-proven methods like display ads in the local rag.

Trent have scooped a big-name disc jockey in Kid Jensen, who in recent months has been hosting a rock music show on Radio Luxembourg and a young-at-heart pop show on Granada television, "45". If you're under 30 you'll probably have heard his mid-Atlantic drawl before, but otherwise his name will mean nothing. He's in charge of music at Radio Trent and this indicates the sort of audience they're hoping to attract - the Radio 1 listener, the young housewife, the students and people who are bored with middle-of-the-road stations like Radio Nottingham.

It seems Trent are going to be a music station with the music getting heavier as the night goes on. They'll probably have a 'phone-in or two as well.

One can almost forgive them for not wanting to enter into direct competition with Radio Nottingham - remember, a recent survey showed that 55 per cent of people interviewed in the city claimed they listened to Radio Nottingham regularly.

## Music station

This must have daunted the bossmen at Trent, but it's going to be a music station - although they should beware of becoming too heavy. Jensen on 208 could only manage to get his Dimensions show late at night because even Luxembourg management realised that his brand of rock only appealed to a minority audience. And this, in terms of advertising revenue, is bad news.

This is going to be one of the interesting factors in Radio Trent's output - how much the conflicts of advertising and content are going to determine the eventual programmes.

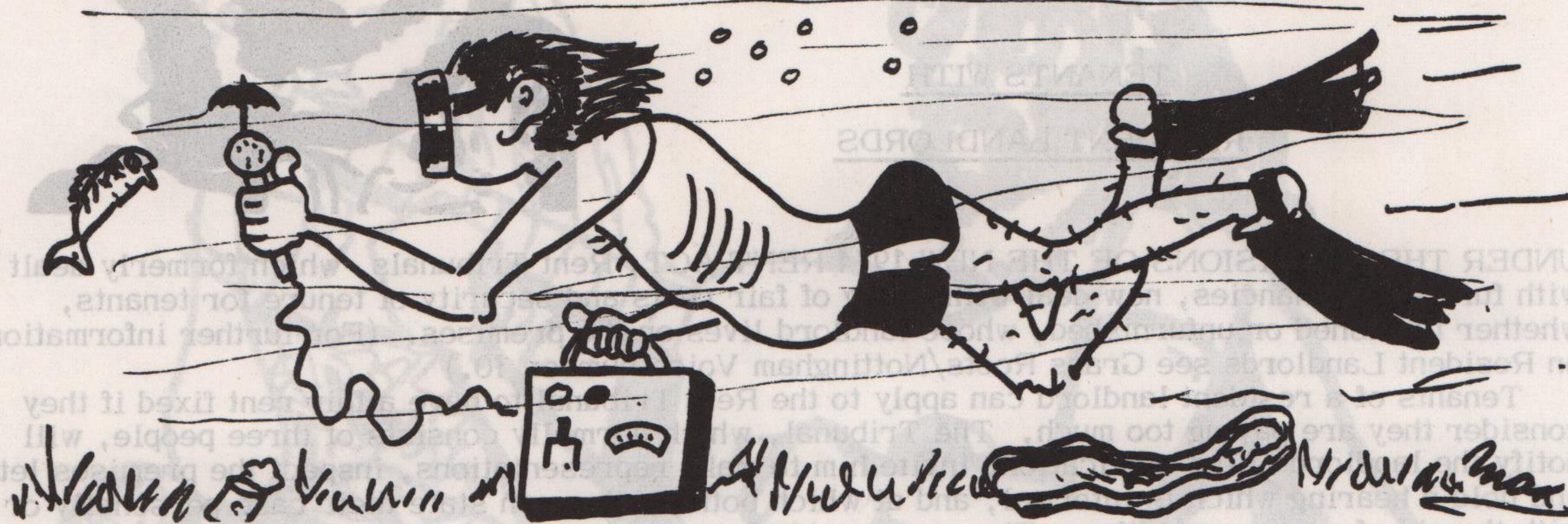
Well, how did it all start? Once upon a time, a body known as the Independent Broadcasting Authority decided that it was time there were commercial radio stations in the land. They decided big cities could most stand the influx of a new and interesting broadcasting and advertising medium. Eventually the Government gave its approval and rival consortia in various cities fought for the franchises. In Sheffield it went to Hallam, London got two - Capital and London Broadcasting, Manchester got Piccadilly and Birmingham got BRMB, and so on until Nottingham became the place to take a commercial radio pitch.

There were two groups - Radio Robin Hood (backed by the vast resources of the Evening Post) and Radio Trent. What the rival consortia have to do is submit their claims for the franchise to an IBA panel, and usually the one that's done its homework gets the vote.

Trent owe their success to three men - Bob Hedley, Terence Kelly and Doug Crawford. Hedley, a smooth-talking Geordie, is a former leader writer of the now defunct Guardian Journal and sometime contributor to Nottingham Arrow - the council paper. Kelly calls himself a broadcasting consultant, and Crawford acted as his sidekick in their research of Nottingham - in fact, Crawford has worked for Radio One's Newsbeat.

It was the responsibility of these three men to prepare Trent's case, and Lady Luck was on their side as far as timing was concerned. The Evening Post and Guardian Journal, during the summer of '73, found most of its employees out on strike, and it was in the Autumn of that year that Kelly and Crawford hit town. There they found many former employees of the Post who'd left through redundancy or resignation, only too willing to provide ammunition against their former employers, and thus the Robin Hood group. Useful facts emerged: for example, the Post monitors Radio Nottingham's news bulletins and sometimes follows up stories for use in its own news





columns. Kelly and Crawford clapped their hands in delight. Fodder like this could only help their case.

Hedley meanwhile had the local contacts, especially among the unions and industry. He ensured support from these sides, and when the day of the IBA hearing came, Trent won hands down.

Kelly is now on Trent's board of directors.

However, one of the rules in the commercial set-up is that local papers musn't lose advertising revenue on account of independent radio, and it's probably because of this that one of T. Bailey Forman's management team - Theodore Wilfred Harper Kearton - is Trent's newest director. A pilot, he's affectionately known as Winco at Forman Street, because he persists in flying around in the Post's plane taking boring aerial pictures of Nottingham. Incidentally, he was a director of Radio Robin Hood.

Where has the money come from? Well, Trent has a nominal share value of £300,000. Getting on for a tenth of this is made up of ordinary shares, worth a pound each, and it's quite interesting to know some of the people who've put money into the firm.

The Greater Nottingham Co-op have invested £4,000, the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Manchester) £4,000, the General and Municipal Workers Union (Nottingham) £6,667, and the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers (Leicester) has thought fit to invest £1,250 of its members' money.

Terence Kelly and friends have put in a mere £1,250, while Lord John Manners, the brother of the Duke of Rutland, has invested a thousand. On the sporting side, Gunn and Moore Ltd have put in £250 and the Newark Advertiser has put in £4,000. Another of the driving forces behind Trent, property developer Norman Ashton Hill, has put in £500.

In fact, the influence of the Newark Advertiser musn't be underrated. Trent was originally called the Newark and Nottinghamshire Broadcasting Company Ltd until it was changed to its present name in September 1973. One can be sure there'll be "Buy the Advertiser" jingles on Trent in the not too distant future.

Other people who've put money in are Bob Hedley, the Automobile Association, Moss Empires (who run the Theatre Royal) and the University of Nottingham Union.

## On the Board

Who's on the Board? Well, there's Roger Parlby (editor of Newark Advertiser), Sid Williams (a trade union official), Terence Kelly, Norman Ashton Hill, Bernard Bateman (Tory city councillor and director of Beverley Acceptances Ltd), Fred Bircumshaw (deputy chief executive with Nottingham Co-op), Charlie Butler (Socialist city councillor and director of Nottingham Racecourse), Lord John Manners (farmer and blue blood), Ailsa Stanley (JP and Post correspondent). There's also the company secretary for Moss Empires, and chartered accountant Jackson Milton Barham, who besides Trent is a director of 24 other companies. Ashton Hill goes even further - including Trent, he's a director of 36 companies.

All in all a very mixed bunch, and it's going to be very interesting to hear about the behind-the-scenes politics at Trent. As you can see, there's a predominance of Tory capitalists on the board, but there's also a strong lobby of Socialists. The money the unions have put in amounts to almost £12,000 - beware, brothers, they'll be asking you to leave your money and the board soon.

There could be the odd spark of conflict - for example, do the union representatives know that people who've applied for jobs on the news side of Trent have been asked if they're union members, and some of the more active applicants have received muted tut-tuts? It's well-known that Roger Parlby and his mates aren't exactly non-partisan where political loyalties are concerned.

Whatever boardroom bust-ups are on the horizon, it's almost laughable that these old people (and most of them ARE getting on a bit) are going to finance a station that churns out music which must be anathema to their ears. We've already established that it's going to be predominantly a music station (apart from up to 15 minutes of adverts an hour), but what of the news output, and are

(continued overleaf)



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## TENANTS WITH RESIDENT LANDLORDS



UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW 1974 RENT ACT, Rent Tribunals, which formerly dealt with furnished tenancies, now deal with fixing of fair rents and security of tenure for tenants, whether furnished or unfurnished, whose landlord lives on the premises. (For further information on Resident Landlords see Grass Roots/Nottingham Voice number 10.)

Tenants of a resident landlord can apply to the Rent Tribunal to have a fair rent fixed if they consider they are paying too much. The Tribunal, which normally consists of three people, will notify the landlord of the application, invite him to make representations, inspect the premises let, and hold a hearing which is informal, and at which both parties can state their case personally or with the aid of a representative. The representative can be a barrister, solicitor or layman, but financial assistance for professional representation is not available under the legal aid scheme, although legal aid is available for advice on a case.

The Tribunal will take into account all the circumstances of the letting, i.e. age, locality, amenities, services provided (but not the personal circumstances of the landlord or the tenant), and will fix a fair rent accordingly.

It will also consider security of tenure at the same time and, where no notice to quit has been served on the tenant, it will normally give the maximum period, six months, unless satisfied that there has been misconduct, such as non-payment of rent, on the part of the tenant.

**BUT BEWARE:** any tenant should think very carefully about applying to the Tribunal simply for a fair rent, as this is almost always followed by a notice to quit from the landlord.

Where a resident landlord serves a notice to quit on a tenant, the tenant, if he wants to stay in the premises, should always apply to the Rent Tribunal for security of tenure. The notice to quit is automatically suspended by a tenant's application and remains so until the hearing. Once again, at the hearing, the Tribunal will fix a fair rent, but, where a notice to quit has been served, the Tribunal normally gives a period of security of less than the full six months. Once that period of security has expired, the notice to quit automatically takes effect.

However, the tenant can re-apply to the Tribunal for an extension of the period of security, provided he does so before the existing period ends. This applies even where the Tribunal has given a reduced period of security in the first place. In practice, Tribunals normally only give one extension, if any.

There is no right of appeal against a Rent Tribunal's decision, except to the High Court on a point of law. It is advisable to take legal advice before appealing.

The address of the Tribunal for Nottinghamshire is: Birkbeck House, Trinity Square, Nottingham. Further information and advice is available from the People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel. 411227), and the Housing Advice Centre, 100a Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham (Tel. 40814).

### JUMPING IN AT TRENT continued

they going to make the same mistake Capital did in London?

There, a fat news staff was taken on and when the station found itself in financial difficulty, guess who was the first to go? Yes, the journalists, because Capital, unlike LBC, is predominantly a music station.

## 'Poppy' news

Rumour has it that there are going to be four minutes of news every hour on wonderful Radio Trent. This will no doubt come down the telegraph wires and be monitored by the newsroom staff, who number about ten. Like other rock-orientated stations, Trent will produce "poppy" news, presented with all the urgency that a few days' broadcasting can give.

Nottingham Voice has already criticised Radio Nottingham for its lack of in-depth news coverage, but one feels Trent's will be shallow to the point of being utterly meaningless.

The news staff could fall into a state of apathy anyway, for re-writing news from the wires is surely enough to make any reporter consider applying for a job on the Northampton Evening Telegraph.

Despite the discouraging noises there have been about the National Union of Journalists, the news staff should ensure that they're fully paid-up members. The NUJ did all it could to secure the best possible redundancy terms for the Capital journalists, because from London's example, the first people to go in bad times will always be those who are least likely to be missed. They need the protection of the union.

The financial side of Trent is one which will be invisible to those who listen in. Nottingham should be grateful for more choice on the radio, and the competition Trent poses to other stations can only produce a better standard of broadcasting. We wish Trent luck - they'll probably need it.



THE SAGA OF THE EASTCROFT DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME continues with the refusal of the Department of the Environment to give the £300,000 asked for by the City Council to support it. Things are getting pretty desperate now and Councillors must wish that they had never heard of Eastcroft. Despite the fact that the County Council is supporting the refuse disposal side, the City Council wants it to help bear the loss on the heating side, a proposal which the County Council is firmly resisting. The County Council's Environmental Committee has already (last November) authorised a total of £44,000 to be spent on modifications. Among these are alterations to the seats in the cranes ("the operators work in an ergonomically poor position"), taking out a cross bar in the chutes ("it causes blockages"), alterations to the boiler controls on the advice of the Fire Officer, £10,000 to be spent on further modifications to the heat exchangers and, in case this doesn't work, to "replace the present type of heat exchanger completely . . . a sum of £162,000 will be put into the capital programme . . . to cover this item". The Report from the Director of Planning also comments, "It must be expected that from time to time other problems may emerge which will require substantial capital expenditure to achieve a satisfactorily working plant". And that concerns a scheme which started operation in 1971 and which has never worked properly since.

Things are getting so bad down at Eastcroft that the dustmen are contemplating strike action because they have great difficulties in actually delivering rubbish there. And a strike by dustmen over the Eastcroft issue could prove to be extremely bad news for the City Council, whose answer to all the problems is "redesigning" - hardly a short term solution. Meanwhile the tenants associations involved with Eastcroft are attempting to put their views across at the Eastcroft District Heating Consumers Committee where the interested parties meet. At the last meeting the National Coal Board showed their increasing worry over the publicity that the scheme is getting by attempting to have removed from the Committee the Meadows Tenants Association worker on the grounds that the only tenants representatives on the Committee should be consumers. Unfortunately for the NCB this ploy failed because, if adopted, it would have meant that the Meadows would have no representation at all - there being no Meadows representative on the scheme at the present time. This would have been highly embarrassing for the City Council, who are trying to be seen as reasonable. The NCB are worried by the spectre of more and more people either not being connected or being disconnected from District Heating. They quote one case where a tenant refused to be connected because he had been influenced by "various publications". A further interesting fact about the Consumers Committee is that the Chairman was to be paid £400 per annum for the job of chairing four meetings per year - and a hundred pounds a meeting is by no means a bad screw. This decision has been reconsidered by the Policy Committee following a protest from MATAR.

Meanwhile the tenants' request for an enquiry by the Department of the Environment has been turned down on the grounds that it is a matter between the City and County Councils. Protests to the Prices Commission and the Weights and Measures Department have not yet been answered. Some little progress is being made, since Clorius Meters Ltd and the NCB have at least agreed to look into the possibility of telling tenants how much the units of heat are going to cost them before they use the heat. Previously, tenants only knew what they were paying at the end of the year. And now there isn't going to be an enquiry, at least tenants know how to get some action: either get disconnected - or don't get connected in the first place!

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## Pachwork

COULD YOU SPARE SOME TIME to do some decorating for the elderly and disabled? Pachwork is very short of volunteers which means that people are having to wait several months for work to be done. If you would like to help contact Judy Wood, People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel. 411227).

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## Trojan councils?

THE WEST RADFORD ACTION GROUP has been urging action on rubbish and unsafe walls in the area as part of their overall repairs campaign. Indeed, when one Inspector placed his notebook on a wall part of it fell down! WRAG is also looking to open an advice centre in the area, and we hear that plans are afoot for a joint advice centre with the Council. Beware, WRAG, of Trojan councils!



# CARRYING THE CANBERRA

THE STRANGE STORY OF A SMALL FIRM WITH A SMALL OFFICE IN SMALL HEATH —  
AND A MULTI-MILLION POUND CONTRACT WITH NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION

"NO COMMENT" IS THE RESPONSE OF CANBERRA DEVELOPMENTS LTD to the suggestion that the company is running into financial difficulties in completing a contract for 319 houses for the City Council at Top Valley, Bestwood. The Council has responded with soothing noises when questioned about Top Valley - "Proceeding satisfactorily" (Cllr Peter Burgess) and "Well up to or even ahead of schedule" (Cllr John Carroll). But this leaves many questions unanswered.

The series of land deals began with the sale of 58 acres of land (supposedly surplus to the City Council's own housing needs) to Contemporary Homes Ltd for £526,000. The Council generously allowed payment by instalment over five years - all interest free! The initial deposit was £52,600 and the contract of sale was signed in November, 1971. Only two weeks later, this contract of sale was assigned to Premier Homes (Sussex) Ltd, a company in the same group as Contemporary Homes (i.e. in effect the land was resold before the contract was completed).

No doubt the Town Clerk was even more surprised to learn a few days later that the land had been re-assigned to Canberra Property Group Ltd who had paid £120,000. Allowing for the £52,600 initial deposit, either Premier Homes or Contemporary Homes had made £67,400 profit in one month merely by buying land from the Council and reselling it! The deal was described by Cllr John Carroll as a "speculative transaction" and Cllrs Carroll, Burgess, Betty Higgins and Dennett opposed the sale to Canberra.

The Canberra Property Group Ltd operates from a small office in a seedy part of Small Heath, Birmingham (shown opposite) and began life in February 1971 with a nominal share capital of £1,000. The company also owned Canberra Developments Ltd (holding 3,900 out of 4,000 shares). It is with this subsidiary company that the City Council has signed a contract to build 319 houses on Top Valley. The total cost of land and houses is expected to be £3,024,600.

## Not available

Information about the Canberra Property Group is difficult to come by, because of their habit of not filing annual returns at Companies House - as legally required under the 1948 Companies Act. Annual returns to the end of 1974 have now been filed but only after considerable pressure from the Registrar of Companies. Even so, no details of shares held and transferred after September 1972 are available. Even more disturbing is the failure of the Canberra Property Group Ltd to file any statement of accounts since the year ending 31st May 1971. This is despite pressure by the Registrar of Companies.

The shareholders of the Canberra Property Group, according to the 1972 return, were T. Cubitt Sowden/P.F. Cubitt Sowden (499 shares), E.F. Crook/B.I. Lilley (250 shares), Mary Isobel Grove (250 shares) and Mortimer Rabin (1 share). By December 1974, the Cubitt Sowdens had gained another 200 shares, Eric William Grove 200, and Control Nominees Ltd 100 shares. Mary Grove, Crook and Lilley had no shares. The Cubitt Sowden holding is therefore the majority holding and is listed under Crill, Cubitt Sowden and Tomes, Solicitors, of St Martin's Chambers, St Helier, Jersey - a well known tax haven. Mr T. Cubitt Sowden has stated that he was "a trustee for various trusts who have land in the Nottingham area" (Evening Post, June 3rd, 1975). The identity of these "various trusts" remains a mystery.

Control Nominees Ltd has a nominal shareholding of £100 and is a company that holds securities on behalf of customers of the National Westminster Bank Ltd. The company is owned by National Westminster (99 shares) and Bishopgate Nominees Ltd (1 share). The nineteen directors of the company all appear to be employees of the National Westminster, and the company, according to its returns, has no income and no expenses, and none of its directors is paid.

Control Nominees Ltd appears to be a device for customers of the National Westminster Bank to hide details of their individual shareholdings, since a nominee company does not have to divulge who it is acting on behalf of. Because there was no income or expenditure the company did not have to prepare a profit and loss account and thus details of individual shareholdings and transfers are not made public. Again we are left to guess the identity of the National Westminster customers.





None of these transfers of share capital has been filed on the returns of the Canberra Property Group Ltd between September 1972 and December 1974. However, further clues are provided in the 1974 returns of a public company called Five Oaks Investment Ltd, whose annual report states that the major shareholders of the Canberra Property Group Ltd are "Mr Eric William Grove and his Family Settlements and Mr A.A.P. Southall and his Family Settlements".

It should be borne in mind that Southall and company were the solicitors who acted on behalf of the Canberra Property Group in negotiations with the City Council over the original contract of sale for 58 acres of land at Top Valley. It was Southall and company who wrote to the Town Clerk on 17th December 1971 directing the Town Clerk to complete the sale contract with Canberra Developments (Northern) Ltd. Nowhere in the two available returns of the Canberra Property Group Ltd is any mention made of a share holding by Mr A.A.P. Southall.

Another familiar name in the ranks of Five Oaks Investment Ltd is that of Mr B.I. Lilley. As well as part owning 250 shares in Canberra Property (September 1972), Mr Lilley also appears as a Director of Five Oaks with an ownership of 4,000 shares. One would think this was a poor investment, given the accumulated loss of Five Oaks of roughly £1,145,000 by 1974.

In the absence of proper company returns, it is surprising that Canberra Property Group could only reply "No comment" to the questions put by the Post. No doubt the long awaited accounts of the group will provide some interesting answers when, or rather if, they ever emerge.

However, not only did the City Council sell land on Top Valley to a private developer who then made a profit on the resale within a month, but it has now proceeded to buy back part of the land together with 319 houses from Canberra at a cost of over £3 million - land that the Council had originally decided was surplus to housing needs. Of the £3 million, over £240,000 was paid over by the Council by 27th February 1975. However, Canberra still owed money on the original deal and they should have paid a further £88,000 by 31st December 1974. The City Council extended the time they had to pay until 31st January, 1975. Meanwhile, the Council were rapidly pushing through the deal to buy back the land plus houses from Canberra. Even then this money was never paid because the Council agreed to offset what Canberra owed them against what they were going to pay for the "land plus houses" package deal. Not that the houses were completed, of course.

So the Council made the first payment on this deal on 11th February, 1975 as a matter of urgency. Why was this payment made with so much urgency? Could it be that Canberra needed the money so badly that they could not afford to wait, and perhaps could not even raise the money they owed the Council? It would be interesting to know whether the contract for the Top Valley houses is a fixed price contract and whether any completion dates have been set for the 319 houses the Council is buying. It appears that the Council have already made payment on twenty houses in Phase 5 which are not, in fact, yet built.

All in all, the Top Valley land deals pose so many questions that it is inconceivable more will not come to light eventually. So much of the evidence is not available - not even the elementary evidence contained in the legally required annual returns of the companies involved - that it is likely that the full truth will only come to light after a searching legal inquiry into the whole affair.



# FOLK

FOLLOWING THE "SCHEME"

TO A NEW VENUE



THE SCHEME, at the Foresters, Huntingdon Street. Tuesdays.

I TURNED UP, INNOCENTLY, AT THE FOX ON TUESDAY, MAY 20th, expecting the club to be at its customary venue (which I remember well for some highly entertaining evenings about two years ago). However, a sign outside the Fox told me that, because of building alterations, the club has temporarily moved to the Foresters, Huntingdon Street (near the old Central Market). So I hurried down Parliament Street, and by pure chance just managed to locate the pub in time for the 8.20 start.

My first impressions were twofold - the presence of Dave Green, which is always good news at a folk club, and the generally seedy and cramped condition of the room, which was definitely bad news, considering that the entrance money was 40p. But the evening started well with three rousing songs from the resident group, Cudgell, featuring the very strong voices of the group supported by some good chorus singing.

I had noticed by this time that the club is under new management - the present organisers are very friendly people, but I must confess I rather missed the dulcet tones of the former chairman, Paul Waplington, and his catch-phrase, "Stop bloody rabbiting". The policy of the club, also, seems to have swung towards mainly unaccompanied traditional music, which in itself is no bad thing but means that contemporary folk music has very limited outlets in the city. The singers came up with many striking and rarely-heard songs, which even the regulars didn't know! Unfortunately, there was some competition with the sounds from the bar next door, including a creaky door, bursts of conversation, a mysterious and recurrent noise resembling a muffled waterfall, and a middle C note produced presumably by the electric beer pump, which nevertheless provided a surprisingly effective drone accompaniment to many of the songs!

The guest, Bernard Wrigley from Bolton, astounded me by singing "Days of '49", one of Dylan's supreme performances on the "Self-Portrait" album, in a broad Lancashire accent. The general effect was as though the great 1849 gold rush had been to Wigan instead of the Klondike. His raucous, powerful voice, often reminiscent of George Formby, tackled a wide range of songs, with equally varied accompaniments, including bass squeeze-box on an A. L. Lloyd whaling song and a Harry Boardman song called "The Weavers of Wellbrook", and on a Rugby (League) type of song by Henry Boot about a rather questionable episode in the back streets of Wigan. Another Henry Boot song (does he really exist?) called "The Half-Timer", was about the hard life of kids around 1900, and the treble squeeze-box accompaniment gave it a "busking" quality. The audience loved the dirty recitations, which were saturated with innuendoes, which naturally made them sure-fire winners.

The Scheme folk club seems to me to have declined, no doubt partly because of its change of premises - certainly the atmosphere, and indeed the standard of the music, were not as they have been in the past. I hope that the club is soon able to return to the far more suitable Fox Inn venue.

CS

# JAZZ

GOOD SOUNDS

AT THE FESTIVAL



FEW LOCAL JAZZ MUSICIANS WILL BE without a gig at one or more jazz venues during the Festival fortnight. The normally busy jazz scene bursts into even more frenzied activity for the two weeks of the Festival, with late bars available at some of the venues to lubricate the thirsty throats of musicians and audiences alike.

By well-established tradition - if you can call the Festival a tradition after so few years - the Bell Inn provides the hub of jazz activity in the Old Market Square. Every evening from Saturday 14th June to Saturday 28th, "live" music will be featured in the Snack Bar. During weekday evenings groups will play, and solo pianists specialising in a two-fisted approach will occupy the weekend spots. The resident Footwarmers group will also be heard on Sunday lunchtimes. On the two Fridays within the Festival period late-night shows commencing at 11 p.m. are scheduled with guest groups appearing. These will continue until 1.30 a.m. with a bar until 1 a.m., and tickets should be obtained in advance from the Bell. Among the groups booked for appearances at the Bell are the Mercia Jazzband, Les Devotees, the Good Time Jazzband, the Ken Eatch Jazzmen and the Swing Quintet.

Round the corner from the Bell, the Imperial Hotel, St James's Street will also be having one





or two sessions with late-night extensions, and these are likely to be either on Wednesdays, when rock-jazz outfit Big Elbow hold down a residency, or on Friday, which is by long tradition the jazz night at the Imperial. There are also likely to be celebrations at one or other of the popular Cisco's Sunday sessions with high jinks from a group already known for its spirited performances.

Special guest stars have been approached to appear with the Nottingham Jazz Orchestra at the Old General Hotel, whose Sunday sessions have been a significant feature of the local jazz scene since the very first Festival. A late bar will also be available for one of these performances. The Ken Eatch Jazzmen will be continuing their Thursday residency at the same venue. Another resident group putting on a special show is the Mercia Jazzband, who have booked Alex Welsh sidemen Johnny Barnes and Roy Williams for their session at the Tally Ho, Oakdale Road on Wednesday 25th June.

There's something crazy about having two sessions featuring top-line guests on the same evening and within a few hundred yards of each other, but that is what is happening on Thursday, 19th June when the Rhythm Club, operating at the Test Match Hotel, feature the music of the Alan Elsdon Band, and the Dancing Slipper on West Bridgford's Central Avenue have trombonist/blues shouter Gene Connors (The Mighty Flea) backed by the Mardi Gras Society Band. One or two people involved on the local jazz scene have long been pleading the cause of co-operation to prevent this kind of fracas - which can only result in the division of a jazz crowd which may well have attended both sessions on different evenings. The Dancing Slipper also has a booking for the Terry Lightfoot Band on Tuesday, 17th June.

Wednesdays at the Federation House Social Club have become a well-established feature of the jazz scene, and the Festival is marked by a special show which is scheduled for "live" broadcasting by Radio Nottingham. Jazz Spectrum, the Harry Brown Quintet and vocalist Dilly Archer are booked, and the show will be beamed out for two hours on local radio. I would like to see Radio Nottingham involved much more in featuring the music of groups regularly appearing on the jazz circuit.

Johnny Hobbs' music is now a well-established feature of the entertainment scene at the Blue Boar, Hucknall, and he adds a special Festival reunion of his Stompers to his Monday and Wednesday residencies featuring his trio. The reunion is scheduled for Sunday, 22nd June. On Tuesdays Johnny operates the only low-fi disco I have ever heard of, during which he plays old-style music of the twenties and thirties which includes famous tracks from great jazz bands. In complete contrast the Festival Fringe Committee have booked the Mike Westbrook Brass Band to parade in the Market Square in the early afternoon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 16th, 17th and 18th June, and they will also be heard in concert at the Albany Hotel on the Monday evening. I can't wait to hear what the progressive Mike Westbrook will do within the brass band format.

A new group on the scene is currently establishing popular residences at three venues. The Savoy Jazz Band can be heard at the Earl Manvers, Colwick Road on Tuesdays, the Town Arms, Trent Bridge on Wednesdays, and fortnightly at the Grand, Alfreton Road on Thursdays, where they alternate with the New Crescent Dixielanders, who also play on Fridays at the Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton Hill. No doubt the Festival will see something special laid on at one or other of these venues. Down the road from the Earl of Chesterfield, Les Devotees are featured at the Carlton Liberal Club on Fridays.

Finally, I'm assuming that something of the Festival spirit will permeate to the outlying areas, and particularly to the Warren Arms, Stapleford, where jazz can be heard on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I have always subscribed to the view that Festivals only serve to prove what seems self-evident to some of us - that people are basically fun-loving and not half so defeatist as current propaganda would have us believe. What a pity that it needs a Festival to provide the evidence for this.

CLIFF LEE



# CINEMA

## SEXPLOITATION REALLY IS THE RIGHT WORD



RECENTLY I WENT TO SEE CHINATOWN - a film with stars, a famous director and favourable reviews. There were three of us in the audience. A few days later I saw Sex is Beautiful, a dubbed French film with no stars and no big name director which most reviewers had ignored. The audience, on a Thursday afternoon, numbered over sixty, by no means all of whom were the malign-ed "rain-coat brigade". If the audience had been hoping for scenes of explicit sex they must have been disappointed. So what were we being offered?

A married woman's husband goes away for a couple of days; she meets a friend who tries to persuade her that she is "unliberated". The women meet two friends of the "liberated" lady and she, of course, takes the opportunity to disrobe and prove her freedom from, as she puts it, all "the old taboos". The married lady, although shocked, is soon speeding on her way to a beautiful house in the country accompanied by a fashionable dress designer.

Everything goes well - at least we get a glance at breast and bottom (particularly the lady's) - until a confrontation with group sex jolts her into retreat. She reclines, safe underneath her husband's renewed sexual vigour, and decides that she does love him and the kids after all - a signal for happy scenes of her running through the woods with the old man and offspring.

The world these "people" inhabit is one of fast cars, fashion photography, smart boutiques with intriguing back rooms, and country houses amid forests and lakes, all setting a scene in which they embrace incessantly while whispering inanities into each other's ears. If it wasn't for the odd bits of plastic sex you would think you had stumbled into a rather poor Martini advertisement. It certainly lacked the imagination or wit of the Cossack vodka ads.

In that it attempts to do a little more than simply provide naked bodies, Sex is Beautiful seems to differ from many films made for the same market, and to this extent is even more unsavoury. It takes two closely related topics of particular concern at the present time - the housewife pinned at home and the concept of liberation for women - to construct the semblance of narrative and theme and provide the opportunity for copulation sequences. The bored housewife, it emerges, will find "liberation" by allowing herself to exist as the realization of male fantasy.

Thus during the weekend sexual "idyll" she discovers her sexuality under the expert guidance of the super-masculine dress designer whose real joy is to parade her naked and sleeping body to his friends. On returning to her husband, and newly awakened, she realizes that her marriage can be both secure and "liberated". We are being offered the eternal male fantasy, no less: a woman who can be both a household slave and as permanently desirable and sexually available as any Playboy playmate.

Apart from this explicit, subverting distortion of certain concepts associated with women's liberation, the film offers the usual fare of sexploitation also found in films taking less care to create a theme or definite narrative structure. The primary features, obviously, are the objectification of the female body (which is continually and disproportionately dwelt upon by the camera, striving to titillate without revealing), and the portrayal of the sexual act in the dreamlike context of a world cut off from reality. Invariably, natural sound is replaced by obviously acted heavy breathing or by "romantic" musical accompaniment.

Rather than creating sexual fantasy on the screen itself, the film operates by offering a world, and the women in it, upon which to project fantasy. It thus provides the conditions for fantasy rather than its realization, and in this sense can be seen to differ markedly from the explicitness of blue movies, which, if nothing else, break through some of the hypocrisy of a film like Sex is Beautiful.

Of course, little of what I have written is original, but it does seem important not to fall into the trap of dismissing Sex is Beautiful and the many films like it as just mediocre sex films. They deserve more attention, since they do constitute a fairly sizable element in the economic and cultural life of this society. As such they serve not only to amuse a few old-age pensioners but also to simultaneously reinforce and exploit some of the social, sexual and ultimately political attitudes on which that society is based. Sexploitation really is the right word.

JLG

# THEATRE

## "THE WHITE DEVIL"

at NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE



THE TWO MAJOR PLAYS OF JOHN WEBSTER, "The White Devil" and "The Duchess of Malfi", are highly wrought dramas which concern themselves, broadly speaking, with the problems of evil and the nature of justice. The power within both plays rests upon the tight web of imagery relating





### The White Devil

Tom Wilkinson as  
Brachiano and  
Louise Breslin as  
Isabelle.

to the major themes. Both plays suffer, along with most Jacobean Tragedy, as a result of the convention that insists that the final act must end with a pile of bleeding bodies littered about the stage signifying that justice has been seen to be done. It seems to me that the director of Webster's tragedies must either play down the death pangs of the final act, and thus leave room for the language to do its work, or play them for all their gore and horror and allow the language to evaporate into the roof of the auditorium. Richard Eyre's Playhouse production of "The White Devil" chose the latter policy and, for all its evident power, lost sight of the play's major concerns.

Webster's seventeenth century Rome is seething with corruption; the order of the state is maintained by a formalised, impersonal and self-righteous type of justice which bases its judgments upon, largely, circumstantial evidence. The scene, which presents the trial of Vittoria Corombona for apparent complicity in the murder of her husband, evidences this type of justice. While we recognise that Vittoria has been corrupted by sexual desire, we feel a degree of sympathy towards her when she is viewed in the context of those who are assuming the right to stand in judgment over her. Cardinal Monticelso, although not a Machiavellian figure like most of his fellows, demonstrates his own corruption by his inability to separate himself from the base pettiness of the trial. He delivers a self-righteous sermon on the nature of whores and indulges in scraping together evidence against Vittoria which does little else than prove his lack of dignity and just authority. For such a situation to be apparent, it is necessary for an audience to be presented with a Vittoria of vitality, spark and integrity to contrast starkly with the pompous aridity of the courtroom. Sadly, Patti Love, as Vittoria, never presented such a character - she interpreted Vittoria as a petulant puppet, jerking into action like a housewife who has discovered that the milk has boiled over.

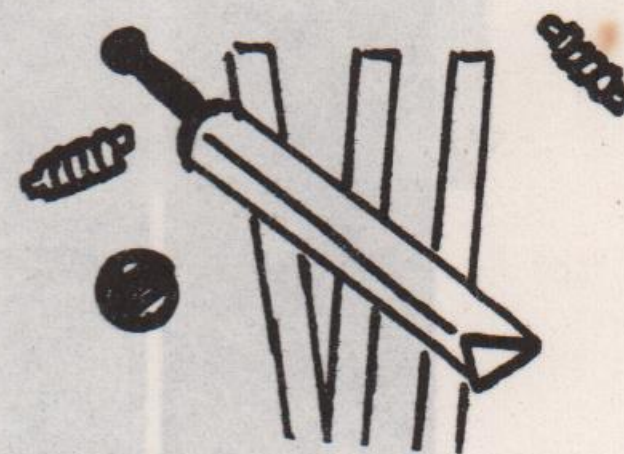
It would be wrong to chastise this Playhouse production out of hand, for it had many qualities that made it a success. Stephen Rea's Flamineo had the right balance of evil opportunist and out-cast victim. We could understand and sympathise with the nature of Flamineo's evil, which we could not do with the Vittoria in this production. The strength in depth of the Playhouse company was revealed, once more, in this production. Bob Hescott as the silent clerk who records the events of the trial in painstaking longhand offered an effective counterpoint to the tirade of Monticelso. Above all else, one must draw attention to the set and costumes in Richard Eyre's production. He chose to place the drama 180 years on from its intended period, in a society resounding with the forms and characteristics of Goya's art. Richard Eyre's purpose would appear to have been twofold; firstly, an effort to universalise the plight of an individual in a systematised society (if the step can be taken from 1610 to 1790 then, so can the step from 1790 to 1970); and secondly (as revealed in the programme illustrations from Goya's "Caprichos"), an attempt to underline the position of an apparently pure individual being preyed upon by the internal devils of her own sin and, moreover, by the corrupt devils within the society that she inhabits. The feeling of Goya's paintings was transmitted eminently, notably in the figure of Cornelia, Vittoria's mother.

In balance, the production was worth viewing for its visual spectacle; I regret that much of the language was allowed to disappear. I feel that if attention is focused upon the language in Jacobean Tragedy, as evidenced in a memorable Royal Court production of "The Duchess of Malfi" some four years ago, then the force of thematic imagery is bound to have its effect upon the audience. As it stands, the audience left this production laughing at the absurdly elongated death pangs of the characters, and not silenced by what, poetically, can be a chilling experience.

GP



# CRICKET



## NOTTS C.C.: PROBLEMS

### AND PROSPECTS

ON THE SURFACE, THE PROSPECTS for Notts County Cricket Club in 1975 do not look too bright. The retirement of Gary Sobers and the resignation of captain/manager Jackie Bond seemed like further problems for a club which has the worst playing record in the County Championship during the past twenty years. Yet the team's early performances this season suggest that another summer of mediocrity and frustration may not be inevitable. The enthusiasm of the team in the field, the success of South African all-rounder Clive Rice, and the much improved middle order batting are all encouraging factors. The fielding improvement is perhaps almost inevitable with the relative youthfulness of the team, but it is a pleasure to see a competitive spirit from a Notts team in the field - something which, over many years, has been sadly lacking.

The introduction of Clive Rice is probably the major talking point. Unlike Sobers, this all-rounder is still relatively young, enthusiastic and, more especially, a penetrative seam bowler. His bowling, in fact, may be the greatest contribution, at long last giving the other opening bowler, Barry Stead, some support from "the other end". Rice should also be regularly available for Notts, unlike Sobers, who was dogged by injuries, test calls, etc. The other seam bowlers, Wilkinson, Birch, and Taylor, are more of a "stock" nature, but an aggressive opening pair could increase their effectiveness. Less reliance could then be placed on a useful, if not outstanding, spin attack of Bob White (off-spin) and Harry Latchman (leg-breaks and googlies).

The early season middle-order batting contributions of Derek Randall and Peter Johnson are perhaps the most unexpected yet encouraging features of the side. Randall had a very lean time last year and must have a successful season in '75 to sustain the favourable impression he made in 1972-3. Johnson remains an enigma. He was literally a child prodigy at Nottingham High School during the 1960s and had a sensational record as an all-rounder. His record at Cambridge, however, was useful rather than outstanding, and it seemed that he was yet another Notts player who would be unable to sustain his early promise. His early season form for Notts happily suggests that this judgment could be premature. To score three seventies in his first three first-class innings of the season was a fine achievement.

The remainder of the batting is (and always has been) reasonably consistent. Opener Mike Harris is one of the most consistent and productive run-machines in England, yet is persistently overlooked by the test selection committee (which is flagrantly more impressed with a player's "establishment" background than his record). Harris has, in fact, been Notts most consistent post-war batsman with the exception of Reg Simpson and Joe Hardstaff, and his career record is matched by few of the batsmen who were originally selected to tour Australia last winter. Smedley and Hassan are entertaining batsmen with reasonably good career records, although they are both prone to have protracted "run droughts". Finally, Rice and Bob White should add further strength to the middle order, while Harris, in addition to his many other talents, is now making a good job of wicket-keeping.

Only the most extreme optimist would forecast that Notts are strong enough to gain a major trophy this season. However, the early season form of the team at least suggests a tangible improvement on the playing standards of the past few years. If this can be sustained then I believe most supporters will be reasonably satisfied. Trent Bridge is still a fine cricket arena and deserves a team which is equal to it.

GEORGE SMITH

# RACING

## CLASS STRUGGLE

### AT NEWMARKET



THE CURRENT (AT THE TIME OF WRITING) STRIKE of the Newmarket stable lads became the excuse for some of the most horrifying scenes seen in this country for some years. A peaceful sitdown on the Newmarket course by the lads was more than many spectators and jockeys could bear. They descended on the strikers with considerable violence, in many instances watched by the police, and broke up the protest. Class struggle in its most naked, albeit educational, form. With a few exceptions, media coverage sensationalised the events without in any way revealing their cause. There has been no inquiry, either by the police or the Jockey Club.

Abysmal wage levels have forced the lads to take action. The basic wage at present is £23.50 for a five day week, to which can be added £4.40 threshold payment and £6.50 for compulsory weekend working. Thus for a seven day week with, to say the least, unsocial hours: £34.40. There is, in many cases, an additional rent allowance which, because it varies considerably, is difficult to determine but averages at around £1.50 a week. The lads have asked for an additional



£4.47 and so far have been offered £3 by the trainers' association.

Trainers, owners and many racing journalists are quick to point out that the lads receive "presents" when their horses win. The drawbacks to this argument are not hard to find. "Present" giving is in most cases not compulsory, and far fewer horses win than lose. In any case, to be forced to rely on the benevolence of one's master for a reasonable standard of living seems far too close to feudalism to have much relevance to twentieth century conditions of employment - even in a capitalist society.

The trainers' case for refusing the lads an additional £1.47 is based on the view that the lads' demands will result in increased training costs to owners with a subsequent decline in the number of owners willing to keep horses in training, and thus in unemployment. The trainers naturally omit to mention that the extra cost need not be passed on. As a group which in general, particularly in the South of England, enjoys a very high living standard, they could absorb the increase themselves. But, of course, this is exactly what they wish to avoid. To guard their own high standard in an inflationary period - and racing has been hit by inflation - they are quite prepared to reduce the real levels of their employees, in this case the stable lads. The trainers' absolute determination to defeat the lads is signalled by their refusal to go to arbitration, a demand constantly reiterated by the Transport and General Workers Union district representative.

The employers' constant ploy is to blame the Government for failing to inject more cash into racing. They would, they have said, be pleased to pay the extra money if the Government would release a greater percentage of collected betting tax back into racing via increased prize money. It seems all too apparent, though, that most of this money, bearing in mind that the industry is already state subsidized, would go to feather the nests of already fat birds while little would in reality end up in the stable lads' pockets.

Racing is in a bad way, but not least because its administration is in the hands of a small élitist clique whose self-interest was all too well illustrated by the scenes at Newmarket. It has been reported that two present members of the Jockey Club, the turf's ruling body with total control (under Royal Charter), were actually present in the bloody charge on the lads' sit-down. It is certainly true that Sir Randle Fielden, a former leader of the Jockey Club, publicly supported the action against the lads.

The entire industry - for it is the employer of many thousands of men and women - would benefit from a Government level inquiry with a view to establishing minimum wage levels, new methods of democratic control, and greatly improved conditions for the lads and others. This would be the very least we should expect. In the meantime one can only hope that the lads will be able to hold out with the support of the few unions (notably the ACTT's television racing blackout) which have responded in solidarity with their struggle.

ALAN FOUNTAIN

# PUBS

## WHAT TO DO WHEN

### LANDLORDS OVERCHARGE



AFTER LAST MONTH'S COLUMN ON PUB PRICES it was interesting to see the results published a couple of weeks ago of a price survey carried out in the West Midlands.

This was organised by the council's Consumer Protection Department and was carried out in managed houses. Overcharging was discovered in over 70% of cases. This is incredible, but is well supported by facts. The question is: What do we do about it?

An obvious aid to the customer is a printed price list on the wall. There is no legal requirement for it at the moment, but this is something that CAMRA is pushing for at Parliamentary level. CAMRA is also going to carry out a national survey on pub prices to see if the West Midlands experience is typical. If it is, then the legislators will have to do something.

This does not prevent individuals taking their own action. Write to the Consumer Protection Department at County Hall if you suspect overcharging in any particular pub. Complain to landlords if you think you have been overcharged. If you do not get satisfaction write to the brewery - in the end it is their responsibility if it is a managed pub, since the landlord is an employee.

Beeston is a marvellous place to go drinking. There is first class Shipstone's available - especially at the Royal Oak and the Star. The Royal Oak in Villa Street is my personal favourite. It is only a small pub but the beer and atmosphere (even before you've had a few pints of Shippo's) are ideal. There is also plenty of good Home Ales and Kimberley (Hardy and Hanson's) in Beeston - usually delivered by hand-pumps, as in the Royal Oak.

A pub serving hand-pumped Kimberley is the Crown on Middle Street. This is a tremendous pub serving good beer. It is a "listed building" because of its architectural interest and is well worth a visit. Unfortunately, the landlady is retiring soon, but let us hope that the pub is maintained in the same tradition and sets the same example of what a pub should be for a few more hundred years.

By the time this article is printed the EEC Referendum will be over. If, as looks likely at the moment, the result is a YES vote, please let me allay any fears about the horror of Eurobeer being forced upon the British Beero. There is no reason at all to fear that we shall be forced in a few

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years time to drink a standardised lager type beer that conforms to some instruction from Brussels. In fact, entry into the EEC will make it easier to improve standards in this country. This will be done by forcing brewers to have a minimum amount of malted barley in their beer (they can put in what they want at the moment). There should also be better labelling - ingredients will have to be published, as will the strength of the beer. In short, I am confident that membership should improve things for the beer drinker.

For anyone who goes to Worksop, there is a place worth visiting. A chemist's shop (yes, really!), Marris and Morton's in Bridge Street, has a licensed room at the back where the landlord (or pharmacist) sells Yorkshire Clubs 6X bitter. But be warned - it is only open at lunchtimes.

CHRIS HOLMES

# EATING OUT

## WHERE PRAWN COCKTAILS ARE

### "QUITE AN ADVENTURE"



THE PAGODA RESTAURANT ON GREYFRIAR GATE (next to the Sherwood Rooms) is the kind of place that gets Chinese restaurants a good name - and you can't say that for many of them: the average chop suey is pretty much a mess with poor quality ingredients and little effort in the preparation. This is not true of the Pagoda which specialises in meat and single vegetable dishes which display one of the best features of Chinese food - crisp "undercooked" vegetables.

The Pagoda is in two parts: the main restaurant at street level, and the Peony Room in the basement, which is open on Friday and Saturday nights. The menus are identical but the Peony Room has the advantage of low lights and live music from the resident quartet "Latin Quarter", and boasts a dance floor for a quick whirl between courses. The music turned out to be surprisingly good, with the bass guitarist from Cisco and a female singer sounding very much like Cleo Laine.

However, the food is the main point. The appetisers on the menu are varied and there is a considerable choice of Chinese-type soups. Our prawn cocktail (50p) and barbecued spare ribs (40p) were both appetising and well served. The prawn cocktail was "quite an adventure", featuring as it did pineapple and cucumber in the salad base as well as a generous wedge of lemon for the mayonnaise. The two specialities we had were fried beef and char choi, and chicken with asparagus. Both were excellently cooked, although the plain boiled rice wasn't terribly good - but then I don't know a restaurant that can serve appetising fluffy and fresh rice. (And please don't drown Chinese food with Soy Sauce - or at least give it a chance before you do!)

The carafe of wine was acceptable, although hardly cheap at £1.20 per half litre, and the wine list boasted a goodly selection including such specialities as a Pagoda cocktail (80p) and sake. Both the dessert (apple fritters with cream) and the coffee were excellent, and to round off I had a Ng Ga Py, which is a Chinese liqueur - and it was at this point I discovered that the Chinese for "Can I have the bill?" is "liqueur". However, this was the only hitch in otherwise excellent service.

The Pagoda can be recommended to anyone who likes Chinese food, and particularly for a romantic evening out in the Peony Room. One can eat reasonably cheaply or lash out according to means, but the Pagoda is definitely the place to try something different - be it food or drink.

I made a terrible mistake the other night - I went to Bunter's in Hurt's Yard. The entire meal was returned to the kitchens from whence it came. The management explained that they had been "busy" and it wouldn't happen again. Personally, I wouldn't risk it.

G. NOME

## BIKE-IN

BICYCLES ARE AN IDEAL FORM OF PERSONAL TRANSPORT in our cities. They are cheap to buy, cheap to run, healthy and pollution free. Yet although sales of bicycles have doubled in the last 5 years, their usage has fallen. Friends of the Earth are campaigning for improved facilities for cyclists in the city - for example, the provision of bike parking places, cycling priority routes, cycleways and cyclelanes. These measures would encourage the use of cycles in the city as well as make bike riding rather safer than it is at present.

On Saturday, June 14th, we are holding a bike-in in Nottingham. If you are interested in cycling and the improvement of conditions for cyclists please come along. Meet at 2.00 p.m. under the Castle Rock on Castle Boulevard. For more details contact Friends of the Earth, 10 Lamcote Grove, The Meadows, Nottingham.



# ROCK INTERVIEW

23



DAVE BRETT CATCHES UP WITH GREENSLADE & DAVE LAWSON (second left)

A SHORT WHILE AGO TRENT POLYTECHNIC promoted a concert featuring Greenslade at the Albert Hall. The band were in good form and the near capacity audience instantly warmed to them. After the performance I met Dave Lawson, who plays synthesizer and piano and sings lead vocals.

**D.B.** How's the tour going so far?

**D.L.** Very well. We were at the Palace Theatre in London last night, which was a bit nervous as you can expect a London gig to be, especially at the beginning of the tour.

**D.B.** You've not been back from America long. How did things go over there?

**D.L.** It wasn't quite what we expected. We toured with a band called Kraftwerk and their style was a lot different to our own. The audiences were a bit bemused by it all and we ended up getting slightly better reviews than they did, which was bad news for them but very good for us. This upset their manager a bit and we were asked to leave, to cut a long story short.

**D.B.** Did anything out of the ordinary happen over there?

**D.L.** Yeah, we went over to the West Coast and were the last English band ever to play the Whisky-A-Go-Go. Do you remember the Whisky? It's in Los Angeles and almost every English band that's made it has played there. It's a club rather like the Marquee in London. It's got bags of atmosphere - and cockroaches.

**D.B.** Were the audiences very different in America?

**D.L.** Not a lot. I'd say our first gig, in New York, was rather like tonight - very friendly, very enthusiastic; it spurs a band on to play to an audience like that. We're going back there in August supporting Uriah Heep, which is still not one hundred per cent, but it's better since we know the guys in the band.

**D.B.** Greenslade was formed in 1972 and support has been growing steadily ever since. Has there been any time when you've felt like jacking it all in because you weren't quite making it as quickly

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as you'd like?

**D.L.** Frequently. But that's more or less the familiarity bag, playing the same set. We were working so hard, and we have been working so hard, that we never get any time for rehearsals. I know it sounds stupid but there's always something that crops up. So we have to do the rehearsing at the gigs, and to please all the people, with the type of material you play - because everyone wants something else and you can't please them all - we take great pains in working out a programme: sometimes leaving something out after we've played it for quite a while, and then usually at the very next gig someone asks for it.

**D.B.** When you first started did you find it easy to get gigs - with having two keyboards in the line-up?

**D.L.** I must admit that people were very wary about booking us, but that's only natural with an unknown commodity. People are still wary in some parts: they don't know the band or they're not sure, they read the press reports and think, "Could be one of those clique-type bands".

**D.B.** Not having a lead guitarist would probably also put people on their guard.

**D.L.** Not really. I think it's more us having two keyboard players, not having a guitar was an added insult. With Martin (Briley) we're incorporating the two - bass and lead. Quite frankly we have an aversion to guitars, you know - no, there's some fine guitarists around.

**D.B.** Do you do much improvisation on stage?

**D.L.** There's quite a bit. Once upon a time it was top heavy with improvisation and arrangements were smaller, but now it's vice versa and quite frankly it's a happier norm. The band works better that way. You can still get a buzz from playing arrangements tightly and disciplined.

**D.B.** What of the future?

**D.L.** Well, the itinerary is pretty full up to the end of February; there's a new album September or October; there's Germany, Switzerland and the States again.

**D.B.** Do you ever get a break from work?

**D.L.** Yes, we've got a break in June.

Working as Greenslade do, no-one deserves one more!

# ROCK PREVIEW

WELL I SUPPOSE IT CAN HARDLY HAVE ESCAPED YOUR NOTICE that that annual orgy of creativity and artistic awareness has burst upon us once more. And as usual there's a veritable feast of rock music such as to make us all retire under the covers in the now-legendary Nottingham Festival.

In fact, there's only one event of any note, and that's the so-called Rock-Extravaganza which opens the festive fortnight from 2-9 p.m. on the Victoria Embankment. I suspect it'll be another case of "By the time I got to Woodstock, it had finished", with every band over-running and a shocking sound system. But at least it provides an all-too-rare opportunity to weigh up the merits of a bevy of local bands. There's Wheels who play tight, rather sterile little ditties; Gaffa who're more fun - and that's what music should be like on a nice warm Saturday; blues from Colin Staples' Staple Diet; Matarka (who?); Limelight, making a lone and welcome reappearance in their home town; and then probably the most interesting band Orphan - now reformed and likely to produce something with a greater degree of originality than most. And watch out for Orphan's drummer - Keith. Five years ago he was quite the best skin-thumper in this town - I hope he's still as violent as ever.

But if your idea of the perfect Saturday evening isn't nursing sunburn or wringing out wet denims, then there are plenty of indoor gigs on Saturday 14th too. At the University, Argent are bringing their full circus into the Sports Hall, which has a much better acoustic now, thanks to Taff's Magic Curtain. Out at Jacksdale there's the 1970s version of early Small Faces/Who styles on show from Hustler, and back in town at the Boat there's Trapeze, who also play the Golden Diamond on Monday 16th.

But don't worry, over 25's, because there are plenty of opportunities to wallow in glorious nostalgia. Sunday 15th sees the Nashville Teens en route from Tobacco Road to the Grey Topper. And on Tuesday 17th the Topper goes a step better with those refugees from the blues boom Savoy Brown. Then on Friday 20th Shane Fenton pops into the Palace, Newark, with some black vinyl pulling in the middle-aged spread of Alvin Stardust. And the same night, with Geordie at Clifton College, there's a rare performance (of some sort) by the Timothy Leary of vodka-tonic Viv Starshell. Or, if you fancy your music more technical (his admirers would say sophisticated), you could pop down to the Leicester De Montfort Hall for Billy Cobham. Then again you'll probably be able to hear him from Hoe Hill if the wind's in the right direction.

The week beginning Sunday 22nd brings some of the best pub-rockers back to our area. At the Golden Diamond, Raymond Froggatt's back with a new band but the same old songs, and the following day at the same venue Capability Brown reappear under their new name Krazy Kat. Honest and powerful rock and roll at its best lads! A touch of subtlety hits the Topper with the truly amazing



bass-playing of Stephen Amazing and his chums in 'A Band Called O'. But it's back to heavy metal on Friday 27th at the Regency, Ilkeston for Strife.

Meanwhile back at the festival (let's face it, you'd forgotten about it again - hadn't you?), the programme tells us that on Thursday 26th at Bert Hall there's a folk concert. I'd quibble with that heading because Billy Connolly is a comedian now, pure and simple. But unlike most of his brothers in that line he's funny. And he's learnt the subtle distinction between rude and crude.

Finally, three residencies of note. Every Sunday at the Imperial on St James's Street and every Thursday at the Horse and Jockey in Mansfield Cisco are to be found with their appealingly passé jazz-rock. And alternate Wednesdays at the Imperial watch out for what I'd consider Nottingham's best local band, Glider. Or if you're down in the smoke, try giving them some support on the 24th when they support SBQ at the Marquee. For a town who's main current claim to fame is Paper Lace we're rather fortunate to have the likes of Glider in our midst. So support them before the cigars and wallets of London get them!

By the way, for those of you who mourn the passing of Sounds of the Seventies, Radio Nottingham starts a late-night Friday programme (10 p.m. - 12.30) on the 13th. It's called Moonlight Mile. That's all!

TREVOR DANN

## REVIEW

KEVIN COYNE MADE A WELCOME RETURN to his home town of Derby recently when he appeared at that infamous nightclub, Cleopatra's. It was his first appearance locally with his new band, comprising Andy Summers on electric guitar, Archie Legget, bass, Peter Woolf, drums, and the immortal Zoot Money on Keyboards. Kevin opened his set alone, accompanying himself on acoustic guitar on "Marlene". Then the band came on and rocked into another golden oldie, "Eastbourne Ladies", with Kevin excelling on vocals. The reggae-flavoured "One Fine Day" followed with Zoot Money duetting with Kevin. At the end of it all Kevin muttered something about the death of Debussy and fell onto the stage, dragging his mike after him. It was a glimpse of past Coyne lunacy. "Marjory Razorblade" and Dylan's "Knocking on Heaven's Door" came next, but the highlight of the set was "Saviour", one of the best tracks on the new "Matching Head and Feet" album. Finale was "Reeling and Rocking" and Kevin's encore was a medley of "Bye Bye Johnny", "Shake Rattle and Roll" and "Shame, Shame, Shame". If anyone deserves to be a success in these times of economic gloom it must surely be Kevin Coyne. (T.M.)

## COMPETITION

LATE LAST YEAR ONE OF THE WORLD'S most respected bands finally split up. Since 1968 King Crimson had undergone various metamorphoses, yet always returned resourceful as ever with plenty of new ideas. To mark the demise of King Crimson a live album, recorded at one of their last concerts, has been issued. We'll be bestowing copies of King Crimson U.S.A. on the two winners of this month's competition. To enter, send the answers to the following questions on a postcard with your name and address to Nottingham Voice Competition, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, to arrive no later than 5th July.

1. Who was the only member to remain with the band throughout?
2. What is the title of the other King Crimson live album?
3. Who was bassist with the last version of Crimson and with whom does he now play?

Last month's winners of the latest Greenslade album, "Time and Tide", were: Ian Roberts, Radford Boulevard, and M.Lewis, Willoughby Hall, Nottingham University.

DAVE BRETT

THE GUARDIAN Friday May 16 1975

Manuel Moreno aged 30, a teacher dismissed for using in his lessons literature containing references to his early sea life, told an industrial tribunal in Nottingham yesterday that he was disillusioned with traditional education.



# Apt failupes

SHOULD BRITAIN'S COLLEGES SCRAP THEIR ART DEPARTMENTS?



SOMETIME DURING THE MIDDLE OF JUNE, the Faculty of Art and Design of Nottingham's Polytechnic will throw open its doors to reveal the end product of three years' work by students about to leave. If the general public do venture into the cosy-looking red brick building in Shakespeare Street, it would be a fair bet that every prejudice they've ever held about art students will be convincingly confirmed, particularly in the fine art area.

Art education is, as always, in a state of flux, and any intelligent person who is voluntarily trapped in either its administration or its teaching must be in a permanent state of schizophrenia. This is because, on the one hand, it could be argued that art education represents the freest of all the areas of higher education, the students being allowed to develop at their own pace, while, on the other hand, art colleges often seem little better than mental institutions - and less effective.

This country is unique - and over-privileged - in the number of art colleges that it has. No



other country has as many, and it is only in recent years that questions about their futures and the possibility of phasing some of them out have been raised. Every town from Rochdale to Mansfield, or Torquay to Carlisle, has its little art school, and when one considers that throughout the whole of Holland there are only six, one begins to wonder what traditions we are actually upholding.

Successive governments have, of course, seen the nonsense of this situation, and in the 1960s plans were made to create polytechnics, which in many cases meant merging the local art college with the local technical college - which is what happened in Nottingham. The polytechnics were designated in 1969, and all kinds of problems have followed (not that there weren't problems before).

In 1968, art colleges received national publicity through events at Hornsey and Guildford, and almost every other art college had its own sit-in. Significantly, both Hornsey and Guildford have been quietly merged into monolithic educational establishments and have accepted reduction to faculty status with scarcely a whimper. There were many problems during that period, and they were problems that concerned students as well as staff. Some of the issues now seem strangely old-fashioned and unimportant. For example, the abolition of examinations in Art History, and student representation on faculty and academic boards. (How many students even bother to turn up now for college, let alone sit on boards?) Other burning issues at the time concerned assessments, and communications between staff and students.

## Sinister problems

The problems seven years later seem much more real and much more sinister, and they are not internal but come from outside. Staff-student ratios are in question: no longer, it seems, can the art student enjoy the luxury of four students to every member of staff - up it goes to nine to one. There are questions of the amount of space students and staff occupy, and there was the entry qualifications battle - which has been lost.

These are all problems of the Faculties of Art and Design within the polytechnic structure, and many of the old art college staff have been swamped in bureaucracy. At the same time, the old "them and us" - art versus technology - attitude still exists, and the Faculties of Art and Design seem to be the constant losers. A great deal of freedom has been lost, and the sinecure of the art college lecturer's life no longer exists. In between fights with the larger polytechnic structure, the art college lecturer has to teach - but the merry-go-round goes on. How do you teach art? This is a confusing question, and one that very few art college teachers have come to terms with. Should a teacher be a glorified technician, or should he be sometime administrator, sometime psychotherapist, sometime mastermind of irrelevant information? There are no traditional lines to follow any more, particularly in fine art, and basically all that is needed most of the time is a sympathetic ear to the student's needs.

The students themselves generally seem to be bewildered, not only by what they are doing, but by the problem of what they can do when they leave, and consequently have slipped into a pall of apathy. They have adopted a "cool" attitude and the good ones either leave after a year or work away in a corner for three years unbothered by anyone.

The problems are, in the existing system, insoluble and in the present climate where there is no job mobility all the problems will be internalized. The solutions may seem simple, but they aren't. For example, if one accepts Herbert Read's definition that art should be a part of all aspects of society - not just in galleries and colleges - we could close all the colleges tomorrow.

A fundamental necessity is to question the validity of art education. What have been its effects? We have more art colleges than almost every nation in the world, certainly in Europe, and we have the least visually aware population. How many people buy original paintings, and how many people regularly visit art galleries? (In fact, there aren't that many to visit!) Why do we allow such appalling architecture, and why didn't we rise as one to protest about the changing sky-lines of our major cities?

## Failed miserably

Art colleges by these standards have failed miserably, and even by their own standards aren't doing too well. Ask any graphics student, for example, to explain the work of one of his fine art colleagues. He may as well be from another planet. If art students cannot communicate with each other, what chance do outsiders have?

All may not be lost, however - though it may as well be if Quentin Crisp's paragraph about art schools in his recent book "How to have a lifestyle" is true:

"In vast colleges so weirdly designed that birds can fly in at the windows even when they are shut . . . staff wander about like expatriates in a refugee camp. Not even wages of more than £2 an hour can persuade these men to teach what in a sense no longer exists. Called by their first names and disguised as teenagers to help them shrug off the burden of their status, they drift along the cracked corridors praying that the cup of pedagogy may pass from them or, while their charges neck or fight in other parts of the building, they sit in the staff room, smooth out their pay claims with ivory hands and sigh. Even if, by a miracle, an art student does become a professional painter and succeeds financially, he inherits a styleless tradition. . . ."

STEPHEN MORRIS



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### FOR HELP WITH READING CONTACT



### 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

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

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.

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Public Relations Department,  
243 Derby Road, Lenton,  
Nottingham. Telephone 44021.



### HELP WANTED!

IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE MONEY, the People's Centre is hiring an empty shop in Market Street to sell second-hand clothes and goods during the second week in July.

WE NEED: LOTS OF HELP to prepare for and publicize this event; LOTS OF HELP to run the shop; and LOTS OF RUMMAGE.

IF YOU CAN HELP, please contact Judy Wood or Marian Jeffries at the People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road. Tel. 411227.

### PATHFINDER BOOK CENTRE!

for books and pamphlets on Black Nationalism  
93 Goldsmith Street, Nottingham. Tel. 45689

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RESPONSE (Legal Enquiries)

SHELTER

WOMEN'S LIBERATION GROUP

The People's Centre also provides:

- \* Advertising space in the window (certain matters only)
- \* Duplicating facilities for community groups, voluntary organisations, etc.
- \* Rooms for holding meetings
- \* Publicity on particular issues (contact Nottingham Voice)
- \* Advice and assistance of a general nature to newly-formed tenants' associations, community groups, etc.

Finally, what we can't do.

We can only help with a few requests for accommodation. We are not an accommodation agency! All we have is occasional offers of accommodation, mostly for single people requiring accommodation in an emergency. Regrettably, we get very few offers of accommodation for couples with more than one child.

Also, we cannot take unwanted furniture and household articles unless you can supply the transport.

Remember ALL OUR ADVICE IS FREE. WE WILL ALWAYS DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP YOU. IF IN DOUBT, CALL AND SEE US!

About the...

# PEOPLE'S CENTRE

Our address is 33 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM

Our telephone numbers are

NOTTINGHAM 411227 and  
NOTTINGHAM 411676



In 1974, our first year of existence, we dealt with over 5,000 requests for advice and help. This leaflet explains just what information, advice and help is available at the People's Centre.

The People's Centre gives general advice on the following matters:

- Welfare Benefits and Services
- Legal Matters
- Housing Problems
- Social Security Problems
- Rent and Rate Rebates
- Women's Rights
- Health and Welfare Services
- Civil Liberties
- Other similar problems

\* We are open for general advice at the following times:

10am - 8pm Mondays to Fridays

Sorry, we are closed on Saturdays and Sundays

The People's Centre has specialist "surgeries" for certain matters. If your problem is one of the ones below, it's best to come at the times mentioned:

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Times</u>
Social Security and related Benefit problems	CLAIMANTS' UNION	Mondays 2pm-6pm
	or CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP	Wednesdays 2pm-5pm and Fridays 6pm-8pm

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Times</u>
Legal Problems	RESPONSE	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays 6.30pm-8pm
Housing Problems	SHELTER	Wednesdays 2pm-6pm
Civil Liberties	NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES	Tuesdays 6pm-8pm
Planning Problems (e.g. Compulsory Purchase, Improvement Schemes)	COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP	Wednesdays 2pm-6pm
Homosexual Problems	CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY	Thursdays 6pm-8pm

The People's Centre is a base for all the following organisations in Nottingham. You are welcome to get in touch with them by writing to our address or by telephoning:

AT EASE (Counselling for Servicemen)  
CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY  
CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP  
CLAIMANTS' UNION  
COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP  
FAIR HOUSING GROUP  
GINGERBREAD  
HOUSING ACTION COMMITTEE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES  
NOTTINGHAM VOICE  
OFF THE RECORD (Counselling Service for Youth)  
PACHWORK (Requests for help with decorating)