

Nottingham Voice

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HEAT WAVE OVER: SHOCK



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THE IRRESISTIBLE RISE OF HERBERT BIRD

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Nottingham Voice

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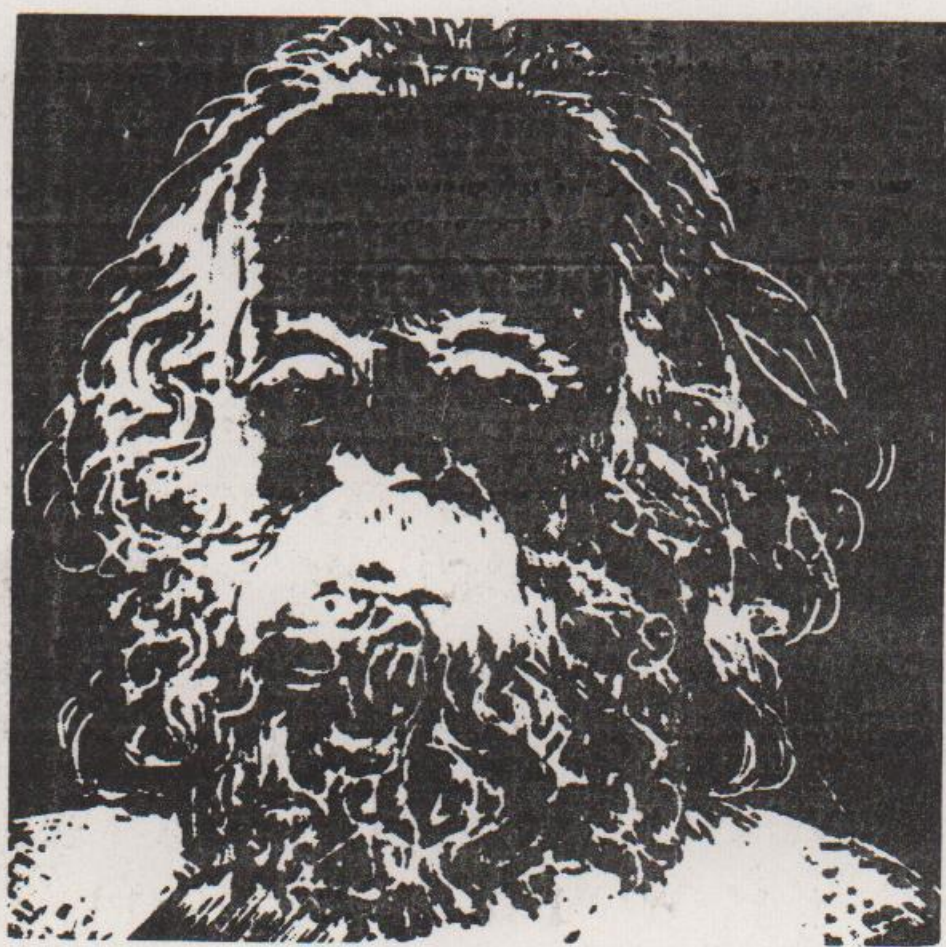
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All correspondence should be addressed to:-

Nottingham Voice
33 Mansfield Rd
Nottingham

'Phone (0602) 411676

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Torn Collar

THE END IS IN SIGHT for Nottingham's pioneering Zone and Collar scheme. A County Council Steering Group (sic) says the effect of the scheme has been minimal because 80 per cent of car-owners have access to free off-street parking in the city centre and will sit out any delays the traffic controllers impose on them.

So the experiment is likely to be abandoned, and Frank Higgins, chairman of the County Environment Committee and the man most closely identified with the scheme, would be a fair bet for the most hated politician in Notts. - a not uncommon fate for those who come between the motorist and his machine.

An undeserved fate, nevertheless. His crime, after all, was only to try and save Nottingham from further devastation by the motor car.

In the last twenty years Nottingham has suffered badly from demolition and redevelopment - almost everyone agrees about that. But we hear rather less about the contribution made by ever-expanding volumes of traffic. (Is this because many of the complainers are also car-owners?) Large chunks of the city are now a desert of widened roads, demolished street fronts, gyratory and butterfly traffic schemes, one-way race tracks, urban motorways and box-shaped multi-storey car parks.

And we have been lucky to escape so lightly. The Primary Highway Scheme, proposed in 1965 and mercifully abandoned in 1971, would have given Nottingham another 36 miles of urban motorway - including a motorway through the edge of the Lace Market and the old Central Market to link up with another through the Park, Canning Circus, the General Cemetery and the Arboretum (seriously!). The whole concrete and tarmac extravaganza would have cost £150 million at 1973 prices and would have made Spaghetti Junction look a village crossroad.

In contrast, the Zone and Collar scheme will have cost less than £1 million and will leave a permanent mark only on the psyche of local motorists.

For, whatever nonsense is talked about the Zone and Collar, the reality is that it has been a thoroughly sensible experiment in regulating traffic without resorting to a road-building blitz. This has been underlined by the wide interest it has aroused outside Nottingham, and by the active support of the Department of the Environment.

As we approach the year 2,000, and as city centre traffic snarls inevitably to a halt, it remains to be seen what those now dancing happily on the grave of the Zone and Collar will be able to offer in its place. A revived Primary Highway Scheme, perhaps? Or will Frank Higgins have the last laugh after all? ●

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Red tape closes school

THE MONTESSORI Nursery School in Lady Bay, West Bridgford, was closed down last July by Mrs Ronan, who had been running it for 18 years.

Mrs Ronan had not been planning to close the school - indeed she had spent £60 on equipment only weeks before. It wasn't a badly run establishment. Parents and local educationalists thought highly of it, as did the District Health Visitor and the headmistress of the Lady Bay Infants School. There was no surplus of nursery schooling (is there anywhere?) - the Montessori school was the only nursery establishment in the area.

Why did the school close? Mrs Ronan feels that County Hall was exerting pressure which was intended to force closure sooner or later. The crunch came when the Social Services Department insisted on new staffing ratios. But even if the school had complied with these Mrs Ronan feels that there would have been other problems.

Montessori differs from normal state nursery policy by maintaining that children are ready for language work when aged from 3 to 6 years old. State policy is into water play and plasticine. Mrs Ronan points out that all her pupils are from "good" stimulating homes and have already been through the plasticine scene.

So perhaps the school closed because the authorities didn't like the methods used.

Another possibility is blind bureaucracy. Social Services were demanding a teaching ratio of one teacher to eight pupils. Mrs Ronan had two teachers and twenty pupils - a ratio of 1:10. This is hardly vastly in excess of the Social Services requirement. Mrs Ronan says she just couldn't afford to have another trained teacher to bring the ratio down. And since the school was run on a shoestring, reducing the number of pupils wasn't economically possible.

Government regulations on staffing make interesting reading. Paragraph 9 refers to the "quality" of the staff, while paragraph 13 states: "Ideally, the person in charge or one member of the staff should be a nursery nurse or have other suitable qualifications, and where all the staff are so qualified the ratio of adults to children can be reduced to 1 to 10." (Our emphasis.) 1:10 is what Mrs Ronan had.

So where's the problem? It comes down to Nottinghamshire's policy on nursery education. County Hall has decided that all nursery schools in the area must be brought into line with the 1:8 ratio. Mrs Allen from the Social Services Department told us that it was "an Inspection Office situation". She also confirmed that Social Services "had asked for an extra member of staff", and that the 1:8 ratio was being implemented all over the county. Mrs Allen also told us that they had not insisted on the third teacher being trained - they would have settled for a parent helping out without payment.

"It would simply have been an extra body in the way", says Mrs Ronan. "I couldn't add to the staff unless it was a trained person." However, she had told Social Services that she could arrange for two neighbours to be always on call in the event of an emergency.

In the end Mrs Ronan decided she couldn't go on. Social Services were adamant that staffing ratio had to be reduced to 1:8, despite the fact that they were allowed to increase the ratio in this case - it would have been an exception, but one allowed by the regulations themselves. The regulations are there to see that parents are not exploited and that children are taught in a safe and well-run group. No-one has ever suggested that this was not the case. For 18 years Mrs Ronan has run a successful nursery group for classes up to 20 for which she has always been registered.

Mrs Ronan told the Voice, "There was some hostility somewhere. Montessori is not the fashionable thing in education. I just didn't fit into their pattern." And Mrs Ronan believes that, even if she had been able to conform with Social Service demands "there would have been something else. The next thing would have been the toilets or the washing facilities."

And so the school has closed. It is almost impossible to believe that some compromise would not have been possible given a little good will from the authorities.

A new nursery group, a community effort this time, has taken over in Lady Bay. Let's hope they have better luck with the authorities. For more information contact Glenis Austin, phone 862382 ●

NEWS NEWS NEWS

(Social Services spot)

SEVERAL MONTHS ago the Voice examined how Nottinghamshire Social Services Department was responding to the Government's call for cutbacks in public spending. Quite apart from the question of the level of service offered, the job conditions of some staff will be adversely affected if recent management proposals are implemented. They concern social work assistants whose role has now been defined as one of basic routine supportive work for social workers. For the uninitiated, some background needs to be filled in here.

Social work assistants have been described as the general "dogsbody" of social services staff because there has been no clear definition of work suitable for them. But in some areas, where there have been shortages of social workers, this has inevitably led to social work assistants undertaking work normally done by social workers. Many assistants felt they were being used as cheap labour and that the County Council was saving money by allowing this exploitation to continue. NAFW (Nottinghamshire Association of Field and Residential Workers) discovered a number of cases where assistants could hardly be distinguished from social workers in terms of responsibilities and workloads and yet they could be earning as much as £1500 a year less. Also, in one case, a new, temporary, assistant was appointed on the same salary as a permanent assistant who had been employed by the council for four years.

NAFW then pressed for NALGO shop stewards to approach the Social Services management to discuss the position of assistants, their role, pay and career structure. A paper by NAFW said that assistants should have a career structure that enabled them to be easily promoted to social worker following a period of experience and assessment. On this basis, NALGO shop stewards called for guarantees of objective assessment of ability with rights of appeal for those refused promotion.

In the middle of these negotiations, however, the management insisted that it was their prerogative to manage and produced an edict limiting the scope of work to be undertaken by assistants. The management refused to discuss job progression and development for assistants, and recently filled a permanent assistant post in the City by appointing an outside applicant rather than one of the two temporary assistants who had applied.

Social work staff are already beginning to feel demoralised at the decreasing quality of service offered to the public because of the Government's cutback in so-called "wasteful" social spending. What they want to see is support from their management team in maintaining a decent standard - not an attempt to anticipate such cutbacks by priority plans or exploitation of present staff.

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READERS MAY remember that we reported some time ago that the Social Services Committee had suspended the waiting list for telephones for the handicapped. The Social Services Department installed and paid the rental on telephones in certain cases while the client paid for the calls. The Committee took this decision because they were overspending on this item. A Working Party was set up to consider the matter.

After careful consideration the Working Party decided that the County Council has a legal obligation to provide this service - but that it need not be free. Consideration was then given to charging clients according to their means and the idea has only been dropped because the cost of administration would probably be more than the amount collected.

Because of this the Working Party has now recommended that a flat rate charge of £1 per year be introduced and this recommendation was referred from the Social Services Committee to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has now referred the matter back to the Social Services Committee for them to consider whether the cost of administering the new scheme is likely to be excessive.

Meanwhile the waiting list is still closed.

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BUREAUCRACY and paranoia go together, particularly at the Mansfield Social Services Department. During our long hot summer, Area Director Tony Hughes took to vetting all the work of the community worker, Christine Fleckna. He was so anxious to keep her under his own control that he even tried to prevent her from meeting other community workers in case they corrupted her in some way. Her colleagues, not lacking a sense of humour, wrote her a letter (knowing Hughes would open it) purporting to come from the National Institute of Social Work and requesting her to

NEWS NEWS NEWS

speak to a gathering of community workers on the following topic: "Anal Retentiveness and Paranoid Psychosis among Social Services middle management when confronted by the external threat of community workers."

Sadly for Hughes, he swallowed this gibberish and wanted to know what was going to be said about him. When the penny dropped and he realised he'd been duped, he became extremely upset and threatened to call in the police.

Several days later he suffered a relapse which necessitated several days off work. Rumour has it that his parting words, as he was carried out of the office, were: "Nobody make any decisions while I'm away."

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MEANWHILE, BACK at Head Office, it has been decided to employ temporary social work assistants on the winter "Warmth for the Elderly" scheme. The assistants are to provide information and advice for old people. They will also give practical help in the form of draught excluders (said to be spare copies of the priorities report).

Incidentally, Age Concern are continuing their policy of looking after the old all the year round rather than only over the winter months - when the danger of exposure both to the cold and in the press is at its highest. Social Services take note!

BUSSED UP

CLLR MRS Whiting of the Rushcliffe Borough Council is supporting an application by a local electrician to run a bus service in West Bridgford - over the existing 1 and 2 routes currently operated by City Transport to commute schoolchildren. He wishes to extend the service to run throughout the day.

The Transport and General Workers Union has agreed with the Tory City Transport to open new routes or extend existing ones if there is a genuine demand.

So what's going on? If there is a demand for a full bus service here then Cllr Mrs Whiting should be approaching her Conservative colleagues on the City Council rather than encouraging electricians to run buses. When the proposed cuts to West Bridgford (involving routes 12, 14, 21, & 24) come into force will Cllr Whiting be the people's champion in speaking against the cuts or will she see them as another opening for private enterprise?

PROFITABLE STRAINS

IT'S THE THIN end of a wedge of tripe, believe me, now that the City fathers have installed the revolutionary new "Garbage on Wheels" music and information service (music? Information?? SERVICE?) on our publicly owned buses in an attempt to cut costs (Quote "The buses must be made to pay; so must pensioners".)

Why stick at buses? Isn't it time our Masters took a long hard look at our Public Conveniences? They must cost a fortune. True, until recently ladies were expected to pay a p for a pee - but even now it's only 2p Surely being caught in extremis is worth 10p to anybody? A pay-as-you-enter turnstile would be simplicity itself. And once you have your captive audience in the stalls, the new Music and Information Service comes into its own:

Grams, Drone, drone, squeak, plonk.
1st Voice: More hits from Salad Days There by Bert Fizzle and the Gumdrops. Now for some information:

2nd Voice: ". . . they only make lousy chewing gum, but we can stretch a point. Next time you want to be safe and not sorry make sure to ask for "Stallions". Now available in raspberry, banana, and menthol-eucalyptus. Remember the name - "Stallion". (Noise of horse clearing its throat, etc.)

Jingle: "Buy me and stop one."

1st Voice: And now our personal information service. It's small ads time . . . "Exotic young gent, with . . . "

The mind boggles - but it would pay, wouldn't it? And that's what free enterprise is all about.

P.J.G.

AN APOLOGY

IN THE LAST issue of the Voice we pointed out that "Down to Earth" (the whole food shop in Hockley) were selling their price-list for 5p (see page 7 - Points). It has since been brought to our notice that this is not in fact the case.

Their price lists are FREE, and the item wrongly identified as a price list was a 16 page leaflet including information on some lesser-known foods and some ways to cook them, as well as information on Down to Earth itself and price-lists. At 5p a copy, it's a bargain.

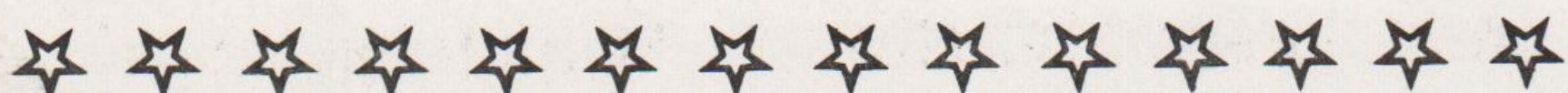
POINTS

HERBERT BIRD, loudmouthed Tory leader of the Gedling District Council, is pursuing his political ambitions in some unlikely places. Bird, who is also on the County Council and may be hoping for better things when the Tories win the County elections next year, is on the lookout for any means of getting some publicity. Not surprising then that he offered to take on the chairmanship of Radio Nottingham's tame current affairs programme "All Sides of the Question" which is due to be put out of its misery in the new schedules. The impartial BBC Radio Nottingham found this offer too much to stomach - even after toying with the idea of accepting Herbert's generous offer and renaming the programme "One Side of the Question".



A RECENT REPORT from the Chief Consumer Protection Officer notes that petrol stations are now allowed to change their petrol pumps so that they only clock up half the actual price. Petrol stations are allowed to tamper with their machinery in this way as long as they display a notice on the pump explaining what is going on to puzzled customers who might otherwise think they're getting half price petrol.

This ruse has been necessary because the price calculators on many petrol pumps are unable to run fast enough to work out present day prices.



CONSTERNATION IN Whitehall as the Post Office steps out of line and makes a £400,000,000 profit. What are things coming to? Possible solutions proposed:

1. Hive the PO off to Leyland Motors.
2. Open a PO Subscribers' Deposit Account in Geneva.
3. Set up a series of Holdings bracket Holdings comma Holdings bracket companies and lose it all in paperwork.
4. Launch "Post Office Railways Ltd".
5. Employ enough civil servants to absorb £400m in wages while investigating the source of the error.
6. Invest in HMG via the good offices of the IMF.
7. Raise the price of all Post Office services.

The last proposal was accepted as the most realistic. Up-marketing the Post Office services should shake off a lot of surplus trade, thus re-balancing the books and preparing for a healthy loss in 1978-9.

Passed nem con.

P.J.G.

STARTLED constituents of Michael English found on November 2nd that the medium grey MP for Nottingham West was the object of a bitter attack in the press by former Arts Minister Hugh Jenkins over his blockage of the Public Lending Right Bill. Mr English's delaying tactics were destroying his faith in the parliamentary system, said Mr Jenkins. Meanwhile, back in Nottingham, voters are still recovering from this rare indication that their MPs are alive and well and droning on at Westminster.



WE HEAR that the latest brainchild of the sensitive Cllr Michael Cowan involves the construction of a large copy of the County Council logo - an 'n' with a bush mysteriously growing in the middle of it. This copy is to be constructed from fibreglass and rumour has it that it will be some sixteen square foot and cost about £3,000. It will be mounted prominently on County Hall just to make sure that everyone realises it is County Hall. Bewildered officers have been vainly pushing a small copy of the logo around on a picture of County Hall to try and find some location where it won't look completely absurd ●

contact:

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OFF THE PRESS

FOR MR GEORGE Yandell, Clerk to the Nottingham Magistrates, October is the month of his annual report.

And for the Evening Post it's time to reach for the banner headlines.

Last year the news was dire: "'VIOLENT CITY' CRIME SHOCK" screamed the local organ in its boldest front-page type. "Violent crime in Nottingham has rocketed by 20%," shocked readers were told. And juvenile courts had handled an extra 400 cases.

A heavy editorial followed, naturally, though its argument was somewhat baffling. The problems "come back to self-discipline," it pronounced. "Too many people believe that the State will look after them and theirs, come what may."

Better news from Mr Yandell this year, though. Violent crime down 13%, drug offences down 30%, breathalyser offences down 21%, and juvenile cases down 20% (or 651 cases).

(And this is even better than it looks. A rise always seems more dramatic than a fall because an increase from 4 to 5 is 25%, but a drop from 5 back to 4 is only 20%!)

Glad tidings, clearly - but (surprise) no welcoming headlines in the Post. Instead, a small side-of-page item, obscurely titled "Now lib hits city court" (a feeble reference to a 10% rise in female cases).

And no welcoming editorial either.

No prizes for guessing why. Like most right-wing papers, the Post runs a law-and-order campaign: society is getting more and more lawless, and the only answer is stiffer penalties and more power to the police.

And anything which doesn't fit the thesis? Play it down and give it a silly headline, of course!



REMEMBER NATIONAL SERVICE? - the nation's youth under arms? khaki uniforms for khaki minds? If you're a few years under forty perhaps you don't. But you've probably had to put up with the wisdom of those who do.

A cure for everything, was National Service. Juvenile delinquency, vandalism, mugging, football hooliganism, beating up your grandma, living on social security, scruffy dress, long hair, bad spelling.

Sad, then, to read in the Guardian on October 18th of the exploits of the jolly matelots of Ark Royal (heroes of the BBC's recent sit-com "Hello Sailor").

"50 of the ship's 2,500 men went berserk

in the French port of Toulon on Saturday night and were dispersed only by the intervention of the French Police and Royal Navy shore patrols . . . the Mayor of Toulon called on the Ark Royal officers to stop the crew's violence.

"Saturday night's street-brawl was the culmination to a series of incidents. One sailor was arrested in a stolen car, another two were arrested as they held off an angry mob who had surrounded them when a young French motor-cyclist was knocked down and seriously injured by a second stolen car.

"Earlier in the week sailors from the Ark Royal had assaulted a taxi-driver and cut fishing boats loose from their moorings."

Time for a new recruiting campaign, obviously (Man. United and Rangers fans please apply): Join the Navy and do the world. Stick the boot in in every port . . . ●

PEOPLE'S CENTRE 33 Mansfield Road

412269/411676

HOUSING, WELFARE & LEGAL ADVICE

Open Mon - Fri, 11am - 6pm, for general advice and at the following times for special areas:

WELFARE RIGHTS	Mon 10am - 6pm
HOUSING ADVICE	Tues 2pm - 6pm
LEGAL ADVICE	Mon 6.30 - 8pm Wed 6pm - 8pm
GAY ADVICE	Thurs 6pm - 8pm
OFF THE RECORD (Youth Counselling)	Mon, Wed, Fri 7.30 - 9pm

ADVICE ON ALL health matters will be available again on Tuesday evenings (6.30 - 8 p.m.) from 9th November at the People's Centre.

The Health Group, which includes experienced medical students, will also be available to represent people at Medical Appeal Tribunals who are denied sickness benefit, invalidity benefit, etc.

The People's Centre is registered as a surgery for vagrants, and earlier this year a doctor was able to prescribe for people without doctors, and make abortion referrals.

This doctor left Nottingham a few months ago, but the Health Group are hoping to replace him in the near future ●

Letters

Dear Nottingham Voice,

You might like to know we wasted about £2 in bus fares last night going to the FoE "meeting" as listed in the current Voice. We found scaffolding in front of the Lion Hotel, and it looked as though nothing had been going on for several weeks there. Quite possibly the fault is with FoE rather than you - so this is written in the hope that the same mistake won't appear in the next issue.

Cheers,
Sandy and Hilary Morrison.

Eds' note. We have no address to reply to this postcard - so we'd like to clear ourselves in print! The "current" Voice when the card was written was the October edition - it had been out for over three weeks. In that edition we listed the FoE meeting for the Horse and Groom, which is correct. We can only think that Sandy and Hilary had an out-of-date Voice. Such are the pitfalls of not having a subscription!



A FEW WEEKS AGO, Mansfield Brewery put up their draught beer prices by 2p per pint. This now makes Mansfield Bitter 25p or 26p in lounge bars. This compares with Kimberley (Hardy & Hansons) at 21/22p, Home at 22/23p, and Shipstone at 22/23p. (I know that some Kimberley, Home and Shipstone pubs are more expensive than this, but you can generally get their beer at these prices.)

The first question that occurs is how Mansfield Brewery hope to get away with it. Their beer is certainly not superior to the other local breweries' beer. Their pubs are certainly no better. So what is it all about?

It could have something to do with the fact that they have a firm grip on the Mansfield district and that a lot of people are forced to drink in their pubs if they want a local drink.

Another aspect is that Mansfield Brewery's performance last year was pretty pathetic when compared with the other local companies. Their profits actually went down. Inflation alone should have made them increase by 10% at least - and that is just to stay in the same place.

All the other local companies increased their sales and profitability last year and all these companies are selling traditional draught beer (real ale) in most of their pubs. Mansfield sell no real ale. Is there a message somewhere for the Board at Mansfield?

In order to find out what Mansfield thought they were doing, a local Campaign for Real Ale representative 'phoned them and spoke to Mr Ungers, one of their directors. He asked Mr Ungers if it were true that Mansfield Bitter would now be 26p a pint. Mr Ungers, while admitting he didn't have the exact figures, said, "I don't think so as I was drinking in one of our houses last night and it was 26p in the lounge so it should be 25p in the public, but I am not sure since our managed houses do not have public bars."

What was the reason for the recent price increase?

Mr Ungers wasn't sure: it could be put down to "general price increases".

Didn't this make Mansfield ale uncompetitive with other local brews?

"You must remember that we are half way between Nottingham and Sheffield - and prices in Sheffield are considerably higher than those in Nottingham!"

But Sheffield beers (Tetleys, Stones and Wards) were generally available at 23/24p per pint, weren't they?

Well, you could get Mansfield ale for 21p in Sheffield.

Where?

Well, in a club.

"But we're talking about pubs aren't we?"

"Well we haven't got many pubs in Sheffield."

The conversation ended soon afterwards.

CHRIS HOLMES

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Wild transport

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION buses frequently have their windows plastered over with official notices. Some patiently explain to you the arcane significance of the hieroglyphs on your ticket, though what you gain by this knowledge is not made clear. Others, with monotonous regularity, announce a "revision of fares" - it's a relief to know it's only a revision, and not an increase.

A recent addition to the repertoire deserves reprinting, and immortality of a sort:

"Witnesses. A bus fitted with a two way radio will go a long way to deter hooliganism, but a witness could prevent it from happening again. Would you be a witness if you saw an incident on this bus? Hooliganism will continue without your help."

Perhaps you have seen this notice, read it, and thought no more about it. Or perhaps, like me, you have found it profoundly disturbing and woken up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat, overwhelmed by the full horror of its implications.

It deserves closer attention - a title and three sentences, the second of them a question.

When you look at the question, at first it seems easily answered: a witness being somebody who sees something, if you saw an incident, then you would by definition be a witness.

Why ask so obvious a question, then? Is it merely rhetorical, or is it trying to catch you off your guard, and if so why? To avoid getting into any difficulty with the unstated implications of this question, I would recommend that you enter and sit in the bus with your eyes shut.

And what about the first sentence, a statement of fact? It raises several questions: a bus so equipped may go a long way, but exactly how far? Will it go beyond its advertised destination? Will it end up in the depths of Leicestershire, missing all the stops along the way, its passengers the helpless victims of official hijack? Do you have to extort from the driver a promise that he will switch off his two way radio and thereby run no risk of the bus slipping from his control and going further than both he and you want to go?

Are there perhaps at this very moment runaway buses heading to the coast or up to Scotland, going much further than promised on the signboard on the front, twenty or thirty innocent people kidnapped and driven against their will on a macabre mystery tour without even having notified their next of kin, at the mercy of a mechanical terrorist? It may deter hooliganism, but at what risk!

But before you write to your local MP to protest at this appalling danger, read the second half of that sentence, for it contains consolation of sorts. We are assured that a witness could prevent it from happening again.

Admittedly not "will" but "could", so there is no certainty, but at least this implies that as long as there is a witness the bus will fight shy of breaking loose and careering over the countryside; and since, as we have already seen, anyone who sees an incident (and what is this if not an incident?) is by definition a witness, it is essential that there be at least one passenger on board at all times, keeping strict guard on the bus, imposing his will on the anarchic will that threatens to break loose.

So if you ever find yourself the sole passenger on a bus, it is your civic duty to remain on board, whatever your destination or plans, until somebody else boards and can take over guard. We have no reason to be certain, but that way at least the risk of rogue buses terrorising this green and pleasant land will be reduced to a minimum - this is something in which each one of us must play his part.

And that leaves us with the final sentence, which may come to you as something of a shock, as it did to me

Having resolved to fulfil my duty and single-handedly tackle all escaped buses, whatever the risk to life and limb, I am suddenly told that my services are not needed, my self-sacrifice and co-operation is spurned, rejected. The Corporation, having spelled out the danger that threatens, next simply admits defeat and abjectly says that nothing can be done, that hooliganism - and what greater hooliganism is there than buses with a mind of their own terrorising the people like latter-day King Kongs? - is inevitable, and will continue without our help, whatever you and I do to avert the danger.

What craven and appalling defeatism! What has become of the Dunkirk Spirit, of the proud independence and defiance shown in the darkest days of the last war? Then, too, there were those cowards and appeasers who said that the danger was too great and we should submit to it. But we didn't submit, we stood alone against the Nazi hordes, and our action gave hope and inspiration to the rest of the world.

Now we are warned of a danger as great if not greater - automated terror, Leviathans, Juggernauts, buses which throw off all human control - and the authorities calmly lay down their arms and accept the inevitability of this horror, the eventual enslavement of the human race by these monsters, these Frankensteins.

We must not allow this to happen, we must unite against the common foe, ruthlessly sweeping away all those who preach base submission. Write to your local MP at once - if he has not had the misfortune already to fall victim to the runaway buses.

KC

Akins sides

NOTTINGHAM IS ONE of thirty-seven cities designated by the 1968 Gaming Act as centres for "hard gaming". This means that citizens of Nottingham and, say, Blackpool, can play roulette and blackjack in casinos, while those of Leicester and Skegness can not. "Designated" centres are spread throughout the country on the basis of population and, according to a local spokesman for the Gaming Board, "other factors, such as the incidence of tourism".

In Nottingham, "hard gaming" is restricted to two clubs, the Victoria Club, Victoria Street, and the Pelham Club, Pelham Street. The Victoria Club is the much more prepossessing of the two. In addition to its gaming facilities, it offers a billiard room with two excellent tables, a cocktail bar and a reasonably adequate restaurant. The decor is opulent, ties are worn, and the membership fee is £12 per annum. The Pelham Club offers no such frills, although coffee and sandwiches are provided to punters on request. At both clubs, the games played are Blackjack and Roulette.

Blackjack is a game of some degree of skill, in that a punter who observes the recommendations of the Gaming Board (which must be displayed in the club together with the rules of the game) can minimise his chances of losing, if not actually increase his chances of winning. It is rare that spectacular wins can be made at this game; an ambitious punter would do well to content himself with winning as much again as he started out with.

Roulette is a game of pure chance in which the odds are stacked heavily in favour of the bank. Punters bet on one of thirty-seven numbers coming up on the spin of a wheel, but winning bets are paid at 35-1. Bets combining small groups of numbers may be made, but are paid at progressively lower odds.

The Victoria Club has three American Roulette tables (minimum stake 25p, maximum - £5 per number), one French Roulette table (minimum stake 25p, maximum - £2 per number), and one Blackjack table (minimum stake 25p per hand, maximum - £10). The Pelham club has one Blackjack allowing similar stakes, and two American Roulette tables with similar minimum stakes but with a maximum of £1 per number.

The Victoria Club, because of its higher table limits and "superior" reputation tends to attract the more affluent punter. Money passing across the tables on an average night can be counted in thousands of pounds rather than in hundreds. The atmosphere in the casino is suitably serious. The Pelham Club attracts the smaller punter, its normal clientele being drawn from the city's waiters, taxi drivers, chinese restaurant proprietors - and, of

course, the occasional citizen "trading down" from the Victoria Club. Its atmosphere is informal and the staff courteous but bored. The average "take" of each club is 20% of money passing across the table.

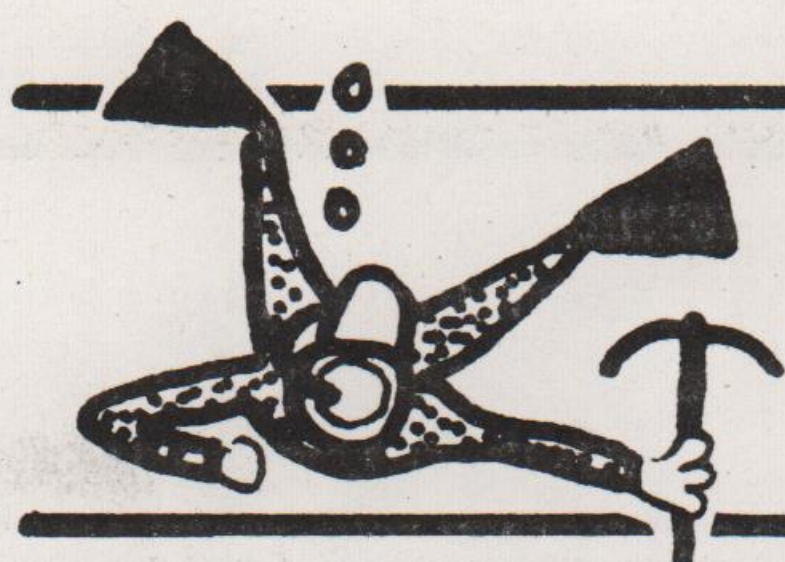
Those who believe in supporting domestic industry will be overjoyed to learn that both clubs are owned and managed by a local company, Parkside Clubs Limited. And, indeed, many punters at the Victoria Club will be familiar with the Company's proprietor, ex-barrow-boy George Akins, who frequently visits the premises in an exuberantly informal state. Sources close to the great man are unable to tell me whether his increasingly excitable demeanour is due to regret about the passing of his old friend "Alderman" Bill Derbyshire or to his increasingly cool relationships with his erstwhile business associate Eric Hedley Green.

As far as one can tell, however, Parkside Clubs Limited is still keeping its corporate head above water. In its accounts for 1973, it showed a net trading profit of £88,525, much of which must be attributed to its gaming activities. Despite the requirements of the Companies Acts for accounts to be filed annually, George Akins must surely be forgiven for failing to file accounts of his Parkside operation at Companies House since then - his other business interests must occupy a lot of his time. Apart from running his city-wide chain of betting shops, his interests include automatic vending, restaurants, the motor trade, and of course, his latest bid for respectability, Fine Art and Antiques!

With such a talent for diversification, it is rather surprising that George Akins has missed the boat in what seems to be a rather obvious direction. Of the thirty-seven cities designated for "hard gaming", nearby Derby is one. Up until now, however, it has not actually had its own casino. It seems likely, however, that one of the larger names in gaming is shortly to move in to remedy this deficiency. Punters are a fickle breed and it may well be that our hero will lose one or two of his larger ones to the rival operation.

Much more likely to cause him concern, however, is the prospect of losing staff. His diligent staff of croupiers, all of whom have to undergo a period of ill-paid training and who have to be individually licensed by the Gaming Board, are paid an average of £55-£60 per week. This is for a five day week, working from 8.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m., without extra payment for Saturdays or Sundays, and without any paid holiday in the first year. There are, of course, fringe benefits. Croupiers are given interest-free loans if required to buy the dress suits and shirts they need for their

(continued on page 11, column 2)



FAULTY TOWERS

THE CONTINUING FIGHT of the Kingsthorpe and Kendale Tenants Association against the appalling conditions of their council flats is getting little support from its big sister SATRA - the St Ann's Tenants Association - in whose area they live.

In a recent letter from SATRA to a resident of Kingsthorpe Close they referred to Kingsthorpe and Kendale Tenants Association (KKTA) as just "a flash in the pan". Nevertheless, in its short life, KKTA have achieved some measure of success in their campaign to re-house all families with young children. The Director of City Housing, Mr Campbell Lee, has told them that no more families with children under 13 are to be moved into the flats after January or February next year. Such families that have to be rehoused before then because of the need for repairs will not be required to return. This should go some way towards reducing the concentration of children on an estate which has no facilities for them.

The other major issue with which KKTA is concerned is the state of the flats themselves. The dampness has become something of a celebrated mystery which has baffled the so-called experts for years. Wimpey are now carrying out what they term "experiments" to determine the exact cause of the damp and they are awaiting confirmation from the City Council of a contract for the £1½ million overhaul which the Department of the Environment insisted was necessary in a report earlier this year. The Council's attempts to get round this by introducing various red herrings have come to nothing - especially their claim against the original builders - not surprising when it was the City Architect who passed the flats as built to standard.

Unfortunately for those families with children under 13 who want to move out, the work can be completed without full clearance of the flats. This was revealed at a meeting of tenants and Labour councillors at the Walter Hall School on October 20th. The meeting was attended by some 75 tenants and produced a predictable string of complaints . . . one woman complained of having found a rat which she took along to the Public Health Department who were suitably unimpressed. Cllr John Carroll promised to have all the complaints investigated and urged tenants to give the Tories a rough ride as they were responsible for the £1.50 per week rent increases. Unfortunately Campbell Lee was unable to attend himself as he doubted the political neutrality of the meeting. Cllr Jack Green seems to have had similar reservations but has told KKTA that "so long as you stay politically independent we will meet with you". Thus if the KKTA doesn't go messing about

with politics and weeds out the reds from under the damp beds they can have their complaints listened to.

The longstanding confusion concerning who should do what about Kildare Road flats has apparently been resolved by the Council. But other interested parties - the residents for instance - have had virtually no word of change in their position. Nottingham's dynamic Housing Department did state in a letter to tenants dated 7th October "as you will have noticed scaffolding has been erected at the rear of 63-68 Kingsthorpe Close and certain works of repair are proceeding". The letter concluded "you may rest assured that I will keep you informed as the matter progresses". After waiting for the Council to take definite action for nearly nine years, full of hopeless efforts to patch the place up with superficial repairs, it would seem a generous gesture if the tenants were a little better informed of the Council's new plans. If this were merely the price of a stamp it might be understandable - who asks for miracles?

A Council Inspector telling one set of long-suffering tenants as recently as October 25th that any repairs were entirely their own job does let confusion, or at least some atmosphere of mystery, still shroud the case. The repairs so lightly waived by this inspector include dealing with cracked walls in most rooms, the ever rising damp and all its connected niceties of completely devastated paintwork that even Council repairs can't keep on the saturated bricks.

Judging by the standard of Council repairs the tenant would not be the only amateur tackling the job.

To be as optimistic as possible the contract with Wimpey will be the Council's final admission of this disastrous balls up. On the other hand there is no reason why, if the structural defects are put right, the tenants should be told to clear up the rest of the mess themselves - which is what the Inspector was probably trying to say. After the expense of this major overhaul do the Council imagine that they justify themselves in not doing the whole job.

But then it must be galling for the City Council to have to decide to spend as much on repairs after only nine years as they did on building the flats originally ●

(AKINS SIDES continued)

work. Even this, and love of their colourful employer is hardly likely to cause them to retain their loyalty should the rival concern be so unsporting as to offer the going rate for the job, which I am reliably informed is nearer £100 per week.

R.G.

MERRY - GO - ROUND

FEARS ABOUT THE irresistible rise of parish-pump bully Herbert Bird through the Tory strata at County Hall have proved all too nightmarishly well-founded.

The "axe-it-and-win-votes" supremo of Gedling has done himself proud, considering his late arrival on the County scene.

He didn't have enough gall to trouble Peter Wright for the Tory group leadership - and the bumbling Wright was returned unopposed to champion his group's campaign in next year's election.

But Herbert DID go for the deputy leadership and he DID succeed. His mixture of badgering, cajolery, ill-argued bravado in meetings and over-killed "district council lib" ticket won him enough votes to beat the urbane Michael Spungin, himself a living legend at County Hall as the only other man to know how Finance Chairman Michael Cowan's budget system works.

But not only has Herbert Bird made himself Wright's lieutenant and strong-arm boy, he has also it seems lined himself up as the next leader of the entire council.

At present the odds are heavily on the Tories to wrest control next spring, if only as a result of the national political climate.

If they claim the majority, pundits expect Peter Wright to be booted upstairs from the political arena to become the council's next chairman.

Herbert Bird would then be a length ahead of the other front-runners for leadership of the Tory group and in turn leadership of the council.

His obsession with pinning rates to a minimum, and to hell with the services provided, bodes ill for the carefully balanced programme of development built up by the Labour masters over the past few years.

The ambitious and usually enterprising Leisure Services Department can expect to take a pounding. So can the highly successful, although still painfully limited, Consumer Protection Department.

Social Services already teetering dangerously close to the financial cliff-edge will probably break down altogether. Teaching staff will be cut with the massive education budget providing the inviting soft option for massive spending cuts.

Remember "austerity rules OK" where Cllr Bird reigns.

With the Law-'n'-Order brigade at the reins the only chief officer sporting a grin will be Chief Constable Charles McLachlan with more manpower and equipment to fight the rising tide of anarchy which will inevitably threaten us all under Tory rule.

Still there is one thing everyone will be happy about. Herbert Bird will no longer be

able to complain about lack of consultation between Gedling District and the County Hall mandarins since he runs the Gedling sideshow as well.

CONDITIONS IN Nottingham's Labour politics must be much worse than I thought. When it comes to making a bob or two out of lucrative High Court appearances the party can normally find its own lawyers, if only by courtesy of the Jack Dunnett variety roundabout.

But for a Labour hardliner and union official like Ben Allsop to hire two Tories, and two City Council committee chairmen into the bargain, to fight his case over the Radford ward election drama is to defy credibility.

Yet there they are - solicitor Martin Suthers and barrister Andrew "I-can't-make-enough-money-when-committees-meet-in-the-afternoons" Hamilton, professionally fighting to keep Ben Allsop on the Council. (Our Andrew has since resigned as Transport Chairman - what a shame.)

Allsop's rival, former Tory Sheriff Gerry Elliott, has gone to the High Court in his bid to claim the seat Allsop "won". He claimed Allsop got home by default, because 33 unfranked ballot papers were not counted - and they would have given him victory by 21.

Two High Court judges apparently side with Gerry. They agreed, at a hearing last week, to come to an early decision on the matter. The options open to them apparently are to declare Gerry elected or direct a new election.

For Ben Allsop and his two new Tory allies it means at best a by-election and at worst he is kicked off the Council without ceremony.

Never mind, if you want a safe seat, Ben, you can rest assured that if you join the Tory Party you'll have at least two supporters among the Council's dynamic front-running personalities.

RUMOUR OF THE MONTH. I would be grateful for any info on the obviously scurrilous suggestion that Frank Higgins, Chairman of Notts. Environment Committee, the man who brought you Zone and Collar, Lilac Leopards, Park-and-Ride, free city centre buses and lots more, has his sights on the plum £18,000 a year job as Chairman of the National Bus Company. He is of course already a board member.

Could it be, like other full-time committee chairmen at County Hall, he is looking for a plush way to rat on the sinking ship come election time?

Normal info rates will of course apply.

BARKER

APOLOGY

IN OUR EDITION of 10 July 1976 we referred to a quotation in the Nottingham Evening Post about what Mr Hammond, the Chief Executive and Town Clerk said at a meeting of city businessmen. First we are assured by Mr Hammond that the quotation as printed in the Evening Post was inaccurate and we accept that this was the case. Secondly we withdraw the connection we made between this remark and the period the Labour Group were in control of the City Council. We further retract unreservedly the inference that the quotation showed political bias on Mr Hammond's part, an inference which we accept was totally unfounded. We apologise to Mr Hammond for any distress the use of this quotation and our comments caused him.



WASTE IT!

IN THE MIDDLE OF September a friend of mine drove through a blinding thunderstorm to visit Newstead Abbey. The gates were locked but an attendant surfed up on a tidal wave to inform him that the Abbey was closed "on account of the fire risk, on account of the drought".

In the same week we saw Pythonesque news films of the good citizens of Cornwall queuing in a howling tempest to fill their jerrycans from the standpipes in the street. Smile to the camera, thumbs up, Dunkirk spirit - if the Dunkirk spirit means getting soaked through in more or less ridiculous circumstances.

Since then it's rained and rained; more than enough for a dozen Test series, and still no end in sight. The weather boffins are polishing up their superlatives again, and extrapolating their statistics to prove that if the current rainfall continues, etc., etc., the future of the herring is secure - because the whole of East Anglia will be under full fathom five (or possibly full metre 9.18) and, as such, will become part of the Thames estuary where small fry may swim in safety. The Isle of Nottingham of course will only be visible from just north of the People's Centre to plot G 38 of the Forest Cemetery. Land values in this area are expected to rise, etc., etc.

As the reservoirs will be hopelessly inadequate to soak up all the water, drastic measures will have to be taken, and a new

government pamphlet is actively being prepared.

It's called, eloquently, we feel, "Waste It - Every Drop" and contains the following extracts:

3. Never bath with a friend. Maximum penalty £50, or six gallons of water to be drunk in the presence of a magistrate.

12. Bathe morning and evening, and, if possible, after meals. Remember! Eight out of ten doctors recommend "water" as the most effective remedy against unsightly dirt, which even your best friends, etc.

36. It is said that the difference between a German and a Frenchman is that a German washes his hands after taking a leak, whereas a Frenchman washes his hands before. Why should we not learn a lesson from both of them? After all, now that we are in the EEC, etc.

44. In the interests of public health and bearing in mind the rabies and lassa fever scares, it is imperative that one should retreat to the bathroom in order to cough, sneeze, scratch, etc. And always remember to flush the pan before and after the symptom is annulled.

Good practical stuff. I particularly like the variation in approach, from the cosy to the downright frightening. Sounds rather like a weather forecast.

It goes on to mention the possible necessity of forming groups of Council Vigilantes who will be empowered to forcibly enter any premises where they suspect economy may be being practised.

The final point is the cruellest. "Even if it stops raining within the next month, it will still be necessary to use an extra 350,000,000,000 gallons a week for the foreseeable future. It has been decided that the only certain way of doing this will be in conjunction with Messrs Watneys, Bass Charrington, etc."

Inevitable, I suppose. I only hope they don't plan on buying 350,000,000,000 million cats to pass it through first.

Still - better news than six months ago, when Tetleys were actively considering marketing the world's first Beer Bag - complete with the little perforations.

Stop Press: The WEA on Shakespeare St, asks me to announce that they are accepting no more applications for their 6 week course "Rudimentary Ark Design".

P.J. GROB WORTH

THE BRITISH Association of Dermatologists is due to hold its annual conference next July in Nottingham. The City Council has been requested to hold a civic reception and cocktail party for "some 200 guests" attending the conference. Councillors, who are also being invited to attend, have agreed to this - presumably in order to seek advice on how to develop thick skins about complaints of rate-payers money being wasted on "hospitality" ●

RIGHTS

HOMELESSNESS is one of those problems that don't go away, no matter how hard people squint in the opposite direction or how vigorously the authorities try to sweep it under the carpet. In this short article, we'll concentrate on the particular question of statutory responsibility for the homeless, rather than plough our way through all the different causes.

A roof over your head is something that most people take for granted, yet housing remains a basic necessity that, in our Welfare State, is not provided on a blanket scale. The confused philosophy and haphazard approaches to housing become apparent in the relevant Acts of Parliament. And refusal to tackle basic structural inequalities in society has meant that factors contributing to greater housing stress and homelessness in some sections have brought about financial advantage or gain in others. Subsidy of demand in the privately-owned sector has tended to reinforce the propertied middle-class, whilst subsidy in the privately-rented sector has disproportionately benefitted a selected number of people.

Britain spends only about 5% of her Gross National Product on housing investment which reflects the lack of priority given to it. Of course, the majority do have a decent roof over their heads so the homeless are, almost by definition, a relatively powerless group who have to rely on official benevolence to solve their problems. Attempts at direct self-help, such as squatting, have not had a big impact on the total numbers of people homeless. Indeed, the early days of the re-emergence of squatting in 1968 saw many scenes of violent suppression.

Confusion over statutory responsibility for the homeless has made things much worse than they might be and, in Nottinghamshire, this is reflected in the treatment of the homeless by the different district councils. The legislation covering homelessness is fairly complicated, but these are the main points.

Until April 1st 1974, a local authority had a duty to provide temporary accommodation under the 1948 National Assistance Act for those made homeless in circumstances "which could not reasonably have been foreseen". This was originally meant to cover only emergencies such as fire or flooding but these quickly became only a small part of the problem.

The Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, defined the authority responsible as the Social Services authority.

Now, the 1972 Local Government Act, which came into force on April 1st 1974, replaced the statutory duty to provide for the homeless

by a permissive power. This meant they didn't have to if they didn't want to. However, the Act also made it clear that such a permissive power was to be used in accordance with any directive issued later by the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Just to confuse matters, on February 7th 1974, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office issued a joint circular to all social service and housing authorities placing the responsibility for the homeless with housing authorities. This revelation was arrived at by arguing that homelessness should be seen as an integral part of their statutory duty under Part 5 of the 1957 Housing Act to "take account of the housing needs" arising in their area. Although this interpretation of the law remains quite valid, it has never been established and it seems unlikely that it ever will be. Nevertheless, some local authorities were hooked by the red herring and a surprising number of housing departments did begin to make moves to take on responsibility for the homeless.

Imagine their surprise, then, when immediately afterwards, the then Secretary of State for Social Services, Sir Keith Joseph, issued the threatened directive under the 1972 Local Government Act to all social service authorities restoring their duty to provide temporary accommodation for the homeless. This meant that such instructions were legally binding and thus overrode the advice of the previous circular from the Department of the Environment, the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office. Although the directive felt that this duty on the social service authorities need only be a temporary measure while the housing departments take on this responsibility, no time limit was set.

Consequently, a year and eight months later, housing departments can, quite legitimately, refuse to have anything to do with the homeless and, in such cases, the social services departments must be legally responsible.

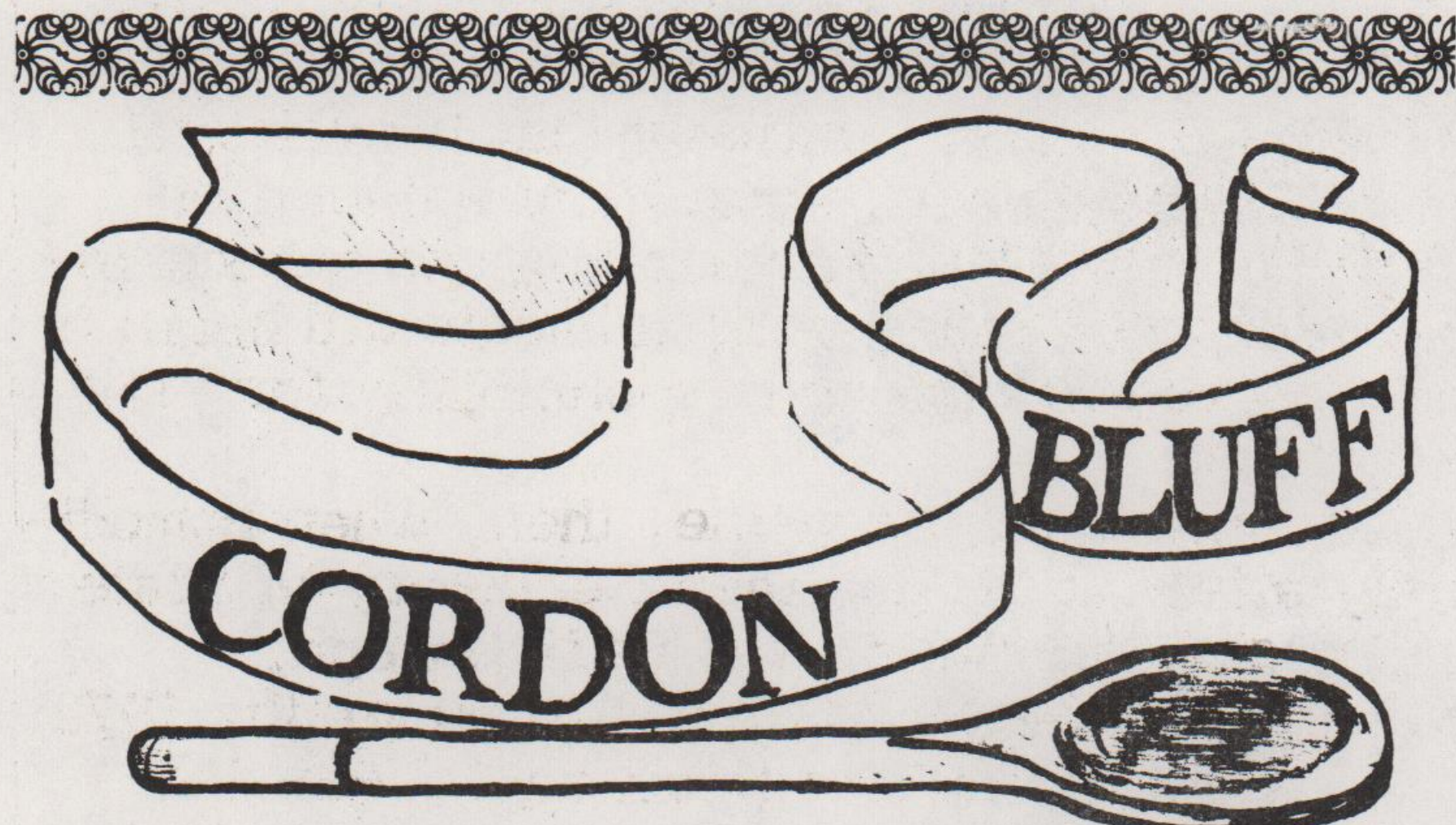
In county areas, such as Nottinghamshire, the confusion can become more acute as housing is a district council responsibility whilst social services are administered by the County Council. Provision for the homeless by social services departments is bound to be inadequate in view of their lack of resources: they were not intended to be housing authorities as such.

In Nottinghamshire, you may be surprised to discover that Broxtowe, Bassetlaw, Ashfield, Gedling, Newark, Rushcliffe and Nottingham District Councils do accept

responsibility (up to a point) for the homeless, although some have arbitrarily imposed a twelve-month residential qualification. A curious "odd man out" is Mansfield District Council which has been firmly digging its heels into its slagheaps and refusing to follow the example set by the others.

The Chairman of the Housing Committee has been quoted in the "Chronicle Advertiser", a Mansfield paper, as saying that homelessness is entirely a social services responsibility. Quite correct, of course. More recently, the same paper quotes Cllr T. Pearson at the last Housing Committee as saying that: "Social Services got (sic) the money and they should accept the responsibility (for the homeless)."

Until some clear directive is issued by the Government, intransigent local councils, such as Mansfield, will continue to shut their doors to the homeless. Perhaps the Area Director of Social Services in Mansfield should follow the example of his opposite number in Ashfield, Mr Clarence Booler, who finds time to sit on the Ashfield Housing Committee too ●



A Basic Guide To Good Cooking

MUCH UNNECESSARY distress is caused by cooking rice, so this month I am describing some methods. There are many kinds of rice but in general you want to buy long grain (or patna) rice which separates well on cooking. I have a distinct aversion to the pre-packed, pre-fluffed types of rice. Brown rice is nice - if genuine it will smell rather like a dirty drain while cooking (but will be delicious to eat). Real "highland" brown rice will have reddish brown flecks on it. However, you won't go far wrong with Basmati rice (from Indian shops).

The key rule is that rice absorbs twice as much water by volume as itself, but also bear in mind that milled rice (i.e. most rice) will have a fair amount of excess starch which must be neutralised one way or another. One cup of rice will feed about three average people.

Method 1: Clean rice under running water until water comes through clear. Place rice in a lot of lightly salted water and simmer for 15-20 minutes. Drain well, place in ovenproof dish, dot with butter and put in low oven for

10 minutes.

Method 2: Wash as above. Place in heavy saucepan with exactly twice the volume of lightly salted water, bring to a gentle simmer, cover with close fitting lid, and leave for 20 minutes or so. The rice must not be disturbed in any way or the steam channels the rice creates will be broken and the rice will be soggy. Resist the temptation to keep looking at it - steam will be lost every time you do. Resist the temptation to add more water. The rice will be cooked when it is "dry" - about 20 minutes. An asbestos mat is recommended on gas stoves.

Method 3: Don't bother to wash the rice, just fry slowly in a little oil (enough to coat the rice all over) until translucent - about 5 minutes. Add twice the volume of water, a little salt and proceed as above. The frying does away with the need to wash.

Paella: This is a famous Spanish dish not often seen in England - and is good for using up leftovers. It uses the same principles as above. Put half a cup of olive oil in a frying pan, add 1 chopped clove garlic, 1 small chopped onion, 2 tomatoes peeled and chopped (pour boiling water over tomatoes to loosen skin), 1 red pepper (optional) and some diced chicken (say ½ lb or whatever you have). Fry gently for 10 minutes or until onion has softened. Sprinkle with ½ teaspoon paprika. Add 1 cup rice and cook a further 5 minutes. Put into casserole on stove. Add two cups chicken stock, a pinch of saffron (or turmeric), small packet frozen peas, some prawns or shrimps, salt, stir and simmer gently for 15 minutes. Place 10 or more mussels (previously cleaned and scrubbed) on top, sprinkle with 1 tablespoon sherry (optional but recommended), cover and cook a further 5-10 minutes. The mussels will open when cooked. Serve with slices of lemon. Feeds about three. If mussels fail to open, DO NOT EAT. They are probably bad.

You can vary the ingredients almost infinitely. Try squid (only 40p a lb at the moment). Chop off squids' heads (they're obvious!), pull out transparent backbone and remove insides, wash well in salted water and cut into rings or strips. Other fish can be added when you add the rice. You could also add chopped pork at the frying stage.

Or make it entirely from fish using two or three types (e.g. hake, turbot, cod, whiting, haddock, squid, etc.), prawns or shrimps, mussels, a bay leaf and some thyme, plus similar ingredients as above. The olive oil is essential - among other things it stops the water evaporating off. You could finish this off in the oven for a few minutes. If you don't want the mussels whole - boil for 5 minutes in water and then remove and put in with other ingredients. Remember if they fail to open - don't eat. They say the way to keep mussels alive (they should be alive when cooked) is to place in a bowl of water with a little oatmeal.

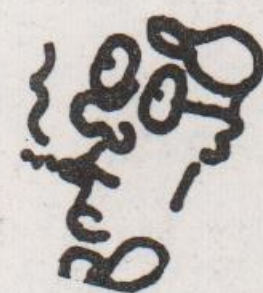
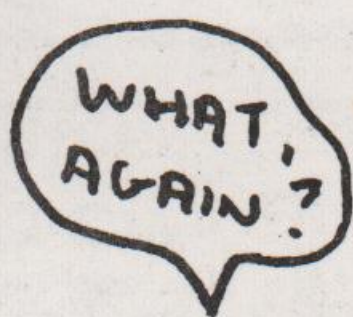
FRED BROAD

2p

Number 53 · 19 Nov 76 · Fortnightly



Voice changes format (shock)



NOTTINGHAM VOICE is going fortnightly.
The next issue will appear on Friday, 19th
November.

We are also changing the format.

The new Voice will look like this - smaller
than the present Voice, and printed in red
on grey paper.

This means it will look different on the
newsagents' stands - so keep an eye open
for it.

REVIEW

TELL ME WHY?

Tell me why you're lonely,
old man.
Tell me if you've got any
cares.
If you care about me, then I'll
care about you.
And I'll help you if I can.

Tell me why you're crying,
old man.
Have your family gone away?
Tell me if you want any help
And I'll help you in any way.

What's that you're saying,
old man?
I can't hear what you say.
You can't talk properly, can
you?
You're not worth helping in
any way.

Kevin Daft
Aged 12
Padstow School

THE OLD MAN

Through the miserable town
walks an old man with dirt in
his hair.

Just walking and walking to
absolutely nowhere.

He just walks and walks until
the day is gone,
Then he has a rest until a
policeman moves him on.

People stare at him as he walks
by
But one day it might happen to
you and I.

Guy Jackson
Aged 12
Padstow School

MEETINGS

● "END TORTURE NOW"
That's the subject of a meet-
ing called by the Quakers and
Amnesty International to be
held on the 6th November.

Torture, defined as the
infliction of physical or
mental suffering in order to
break the will of another
person carried out with
administrative approval, is
commonplace in the world
today. Just a few countries
who use torture are Portu-
gal, Chile, South Africa,
Greece and Spain. Even
Britain is not free from
torture. This year Britain
has been found guilty by the
European Commission of
Human Rights of the torture
of detainees in Northern

Ireland in 1971.

The meeting will be held
at the Friends' Meeting
House, Clarendon Street at
8pm. Anyone interested is
invited to attend to hear guest
speaker Sydney Greaves.

= A ONE-DAY FORUM,
"Homosexuals as People", is
to be held on Saturday, 6th
November at "La Chic", 5-13
Canal Street, Nottingham.
The forum is being organised
by the Council for Voluntary
Service in conjunction with
the Campaign for Homosexual
Equality and will discuss the
various aspects of the exper-
ience of being a homosexual in
Nottingham.

The speakers will include
Ike Cowan, who is a leading

expert on English law as it
affects homosexuals, and
Glenys Parry, a clinical psy-
chologist from Guy's Hospital,
London. Rose Robertson will
be offering her experiences as
a parent who had to deal with
homosexual problems in the
family and who founded Parents
Enquiry, a service to parents
who discover that one of their
children is homosexual.

Chaired by Ray Gosling,
Vice-President of CHE, and
Graham Knight, of Radio
Trent's "Talkback", the forum
starts at 10am. All are invited.

● 18th November, 7.30pm,
Byron Hall, Trent Poly-
technic, Shakespeare St.
Viktor Fainberg who spent
5½ years in a mental hospital

SMALL ADS

PEOPLE'S CENTRE

Independent advice centre
requires fulltime worker
responsible for welfare
rights, information sys-
tem and coordinating
volunteers. Experience
in welfare rights/housing/
legal advice essential.
Salary £2,500. Initial
appointment 1 year.
Full details: People's
Centre, 33 Mansfield

Rates: 2p/word, up to sixty
words. 10p box number.

Road, Nottingham.
Closing date for applica-
tions 30th November.

CHARITY SHOP

Now open at People's
Centre, 33 Mansfield Rd,
9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat.
Second hand clothes, toys,
books, small household
goods, etc. on sale.
Donations of unwanted
items for sale welcome.

SMALL REMOVALS

PEOPLE'S CENTRE TRANSPORT

Reasonable Charges
Profits to Work of Centre

Tel. 412269

in the Soviet Union will talk about civil rights in Russia. The meeting has been arranged by Amnesty International and the Students' Union and is the last in a series of three discussions looking at civil rights in the East, West and the Third World.

DIRECT ACTION AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS

(This article was submitted by members of the Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law.)

NEW READERS start here:

HM Government - A group of self-styled socialists claiming to represent "the mob" but in reality out to rule them.

THE TRADES Union Congress - A group of self-styled socialists claiming to represent "the mob" but in reality out to rule them.

CAMPAIGN Against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTL) -

A group of self-styled socialists claiming to represent "the mob" but . . .

THE MOB - An insignificant majority.

Scene: HM Government seeking to impose order on the Mob has introduced a Criminal Trespass Bill which it hopes will please its masters, the State and Capital. The TUC tries to keep up its image with the Mob by opposing two out of the five Trespass Proposals but at the same time does not want to antagonise its masters who, it hopes, will reward it with HM Government's job. CACTL, noticing the power struggle that's going on (many haven't), feels a bit left out and so joins in.

NOW READ ON.

THE CAMPAIGN Against the Criminal Trespass Law is now reaching a crucial time in its opposition to measures proposed by the Law Commission which would bring squatting, sit-ins, occupations and picketing, as well as other forms of trespass into the grasp of the criminal law. The Queen's Speech this

November to open Parliament will almost certainly put forward the Law Commission's proposals.

Unless a concerted effort is made to oppose these measures, the consequences will be serious for the thousands of people who resort to squatting, sit-ins, etc., because, whereas at present these are usually civil matters to be settled in a court, the Criminal Trespass Law will make them criminal and so open to direct police action.

We can expect to see gangs of bailiffs supported by the police breaking up factory or college occupations. Similarly sit-ins at social security or housing offices will be subject to police attack. If a supermarket manager revokes a shopper's "license to be there" because of a complaint about prices or if a picket is on factory property then we can expect to see police aid and intervention.

In recent years the amount of direct action has escalated. The long council waiting-lists coupled with clearance chaos and high-rise blues and high rents charged in both the state and private sectors have encouraged the growth of squatting as a means of people housing themselves in the way they want to. Following the Upper Clyde Work In, there have been two hundred more occupations, including one at Plessey, Nottingham. Embassies too have been the scene of direct action, usually against repressive regimes in the appropriate countries.

The CONSPIRACY LAWS, used against the Shrewsbury pickets and others, have gained the reputation as directly political laws, aimed to attack working class people.

The CRIMINAL TRESPASS BILL is designed to tidy up some of the mess left by Conspiracy and introduce a more respectable "properly criminal" law to do the same thing.

As part of the campaign against these proposals, CACTL is organising what looks like a very interesting

conference on DIRECT ACTION AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS.

This conference will be at Reading University on Saturday 27th/Sunday 28th November.

The aims are:

- * to provide information on the Law Commission's Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform Bill, and place in the context of the state's response to direct action.
- * to examine the effectiveness, problems and possibilities of direct action.
- * to discuss practical actions to carry forward the campaign to defeat the Bill.
- * to provide an opportunity for activists to exchange experiences, ideas and information from both the labour movement and the community.

The Agenda includes an explanation of the bill, eleven workshops on matters arising out the campaign and three films - Coup pour Coup, Behind the Rent Strike and a new film on the Fisher Bendix occupation.

Nottingham CACTL is keen to sell tickets and arrange transport. You can either go as an individual or be delegated from a tenants association, women's group or trade union. The cost is £2.50 or £1.50 for claimants.

For details contact:
Nottingham CACTL, c/o 15
Scotholme Ave, Hyson Green,
Nottingham, tel. 708302.

ADULT LITERACY IN NOTTINGHAM

"WHY DO YOU NEED an Adult Literacy Scheme, what's the problem, who needs literacy lessons?"

There is still a surprising lack of knowledge concerning the Adult Literacy Scheme, despite the local and national publicity the scheme has received in the media - the best example being BBC TV's "On The Move" and "Your Move" programmes. There is now a statutory and a voluntary scheme in operation in Nottingham, organised in centres, and on a one-to-one basis in the student's own home.

Since the conferences recognising the need for basic Adult Literacy took place in the early '70s, the scheme has seen an amazing expansion. The NCVS voluntary side of things began in one small office in 31a Mansfield Road and involved fewer than fifty students and tutors. There were also two LEA Centres whose main function was basic English.

Since mid-1976, with support from ALRA and the LEA, the Voluntary Scheme has been operating from the Hogarth Centre, Carlton Road, and involves 600 tutors and students. Eight LEA Centres have also been opened in the city of Nottingham alone.

The Hogarth Centre provides space and facilities for an increasingly professional approach to Adult Literacy. Resources can be developed, teaching, and training courses can be catered for, and it is hoped that the Centre will develop into the focal point for Literacy work in Nottingham. The Centre is also the referral point for the county.

Heather Roberts, the newly appointed County Co-ordinator, is very optimistic about the continued success of the scheme, as the need for basic Adult Education gains wider recognition.

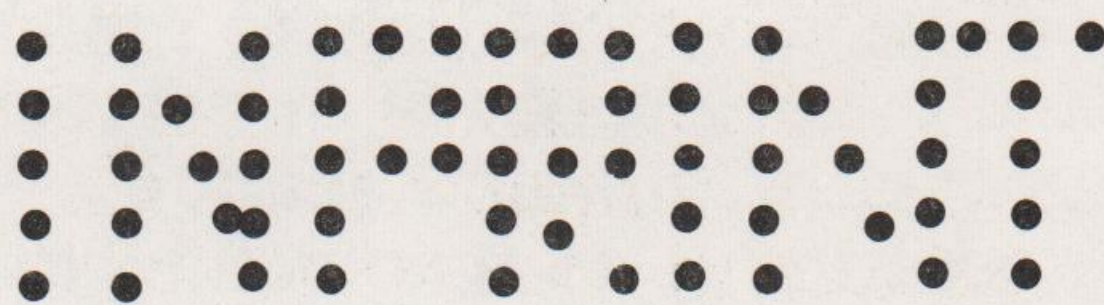
The students that come to the Hogarth Centre bring a wide variety of problems. There are the mothers whose small children confuse them when they bring home their first reading books; there are those whose job promotion prospects are limited because their reading and writing are not up to scratch; and there are the people whose literacy problems are only a part of a general inability to cope, as society's requirements change. The image that is often held of the semi-literate adult is that of an inadequate individual, running away from his problems, or the aggressive youth who turns to violence as an outlet for his energies. "On The Move" has set out deliberately to attack that image, and as anyone involved in the NCVS or the

LEA scheme will realise, students come from all levels of society, including professional groups.

Tutors are recruited on the premise that sympathetic adults, given support and training, can transmit the skills they themselves have acquired. The evidence for this is that the drop-out rate from individual tuition is lower than that from standard night-class provision, and the fact that students maintain contact, even when lessons have ceased. One of our big problems is that success rates are difficult to measure, as standard reading tests are designed for children, and do not apply. We see our success, not only in terms of numbers receiving tuition, but in the fact that our students are adults, and are in a position to define their own goals and level of attainment.

Resources designed for the adult reader have always been a problem, and with this in mind, students and tutors are organising an Open Day on Saturday, November 6th, in order to raise money for resources. The event will run from 2pm until 6pm and will be attended by Donald Gee of "On the Move". There will be a jumble sale, stalls refreshments, a story corner provided by Library Services for the children, fortune telling, displays, showing the work of the Centre, and other attractions.

Of course, everyone is welcome, so come along and spend your money, or, even better - volunteer to help us. The Open Day organisation is being co-ordinated by Carol Rawlinson, and if you can help contact her at Nottm 582172, or through the Hogarth Centre.



Developing and Under-developing New York

MANY PEOPLE will have heard that New York has gone bust while "selfless public servants" and "helpless citizens" look on. This

pamphlet, sponsored by the Struggle Against Work Collective, tries to show how this picture is quite false.

They suggest that the crisis is the result of years of struggle between working people in the city - including factory and office workers, students, housewives, the unemployed, blacks, etc, - and the big business and government that run the city. This is documented in some detail.

The struggle has been to increase people's standard of living and make life less dominated by work, while business wants to limit these gains and enforce discipline.

The "money crisis" is, in fact, a refusal of capital to invest in such a troublesome area. As "New York Affairs" said: "If New York is able to reduce social services without civil disorder, it will prove that it can be done in the most difficult environment in the nation".

The parallels with Britain (the sick man of Europe), the cuts here and the insistence of the International Monetary Fund on them, is obvious. This alone makes it worth reading.

There is also a discussion of immigration, "human capital", wagelessness, and of possible ways to keep on fighting.

35p, available from Mushroom or me.

KEITH VENABLES

SQUATTING: What's it all about?

Published by Squatters Action Council, 10p.

SQUATTING: What's it all about? is a sophisticated attempt to de-politicise squatting. Like the "Right to Work" campaign it simplifies and distorts an important issue beyond all useful meaning.

My understanding is that the strengths and weaknesses of squatting in London are not a simple matter: it's around events like at Charteris Road and Villa Road recently that a clear theory and an active organisation will either develop . . . or stagnate.

How does this pamphlet fit in with this need for squatting

to grow?

It is divided into three sections. The third section is lifted from Sheffield Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law's excellent leaflet on criminal trespass, and is probably the best thing around on this subject.

The first section, "The nature of Anti-Squatting Stories", collects together several stories showing how the media have deliberately organised a witch-hunt against squatters in order to scapegoat them for the housing crisis and prepare for the coming of the Criminal Trespass Law.

The "Wife who lived a Nightmare" story from Nottingham Evening Post is included along with the truer story from Nottingham Voice. Useful though this may be, it is necessary to see how the power of squatters could develop practically rather than get too wrapped up with the liberal idea that you can "correct the media".

These two sections between them explain a major threat to squatting in the Criminal Trespass Law and say what squatting is not about. How then does this pamphlet justify its ambitious (or pretentious) title - Squatting: what's it all about?

In the second section, "The Squatting Charter", we are told "what the squatting movement stands for?"

Among the ten points of the Charter is the principle (no. 3): "WE ARE NOT TRYING TO LIVE RENT AND RATE FREE. We squat because we have to . . ."

This is one example of the attempt throughout the pamphlet to make squatters appear respectable, deserving victims.

Further on, "The Charter" states: "Squatting is not the prerogative of 'Hippies' and 'people who do not want to settle down' '60% of the properties (squatted in Lambeth) are occupied by households with children'".

According to the author(s) of this pamphlet, people only squat because they are physically homeless.

So, a picture is painted: "everyone" wants to pay rent,

is deserving, really does want to go out to work and settle down and have children (probably getting married on the way - after all, it's only proper isn't it?).

What is the reality?

It's a lot more complicated. Many squatters in London are there because there aren't enough houses to rent, many long for a semi-detached suburban respectability. But there is also a significant and large minority (who knows how large?) who squat because they refuse to accept the discipline of tedious work, the psychological and sexual torture of the "nuclear family", the isolation of modern housing estates. For them squatting is a positive act, a struggle to satisfy their needs in the face of capitalist organisation.

Significant, too, have been the women's and gay communes (as well as the "mixed" and less formal communal arrangements) trying to provide more space for women's autonomy and gay love. Refuges for battered women all over the country have included many squats (Nottingham, for example).

Many black and asian immigrants have squatted and from that base launched important campaigns - the Bengali Housing Action Group is just one example of this.

This pamphlet doesn't mention any of this and so side-steps the important issues of working class power.

It would be in no-one's interest to pretend that squatting is led by people who clearly and politically reject wage labour, sexism, racism and authority; hopefully this review has hinted at the complicated nature of squatting and its problems.

At the same time to ignore the different needs of various groups within and outside squatting is to ignore how to develop real unity and collective power.

It is misguided and dangerous to suggest that "the squatting movement stands for" the principles of this Charter. The Charter surfaced through Squatters Action Council

which claims that it (the Charter) "has wide support from squatting groups and involves thousands of squatters individually".

My information suggests that although the SAC newsletter is almost the only channel for squatting news at the moment, SAC has very few real roots in squatting.

If this is true, then even the good points of the Charter - e.g. We stand for HOUSING FOR ALL as a right (no. 2) - have little real influence or practical meaning among squatters.

However, what is clear, is that pamphlets like this will do nothing to solve the real divisions that exist among squatters and within the working class as a whole. Conjuring "a Charter" out of thin air is a stroke of magic not an act of organisation.

Squatting: what's it all about?. Available for 10p from SAC, c/o 2 St Paul's Rd, London, N1 - but don't bother!

Col Chester

NOTTINGHAM WRITERS' CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1927 the Nottingham Writers' Club exists to promote friendly co-operation between writers and also promote activities for their mutual interest and benefits. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday evening of each month at the Nottingham Society of Artists' Studio, St Luke's House, 71 Friar Lane, Nottingham. The first meeting of the month, beginning at 7pm, is usually devoted to a speaker talking on some aspects of writing, with occasional members' meetings. The second meeting, on the third Wednesday at 7.15pm, is a manuscript meeting.

All meetings are free to members. Manuscript meetings are also free to non-members. At the manuscript meetings members either read, or have read for them, some piece of their own unpublished work (short story, article, poem, chapter of novel, etc.) to receive constructive

criticism and market advice where possible.

At general meetings non-members (visitors) are charged a visitor's fee of 20p. The details of the remaining general meetings for 1976 are as follows:

● November 3rd - A set piece evening in which members take along a piece of their own writing under the subject of "Portraits". These pieces will be read anonymously and then judged for an award for the best piece of writing for the evening.

● December 1st - This will be the Nottingham Writers' Club's Christmas Social.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Club a special dinner will be held at the George Hotel, George Street, Nottingham on Friday evening, May 6th of that year (1977). The guest speaker will be Cardew Robinson.

AUBREY BUSH

NOTTINGHAM POETRY SOCIETY

THE NOTTINGHAM Poetry Society provides for the interests of those people who write poetry, appreciate it, or do both. Meetings are held every month - on the fourth Saturday afternoon of each month at 2.30 - at the New Mechanics, Birbeck House, Trinity Square, Nottingham. The details of meetings for the remainder of 1976 are as follows:

● November 27th - Adjudication of the Nottingham Poetry Society's Annual Open and Junior Competitions. These competitions consist of the one open to poets from any part of the country, or overseas. The junior section is for children up to the age of 16 living in the city or county of Nottingham. The public adjudication of the junior section will be at 2.30pm - the Open Competition at 3.30pm.

Owing to the fourth Saturday of December falling on Christmas Day this year, there is some doubt about a December meeting being held.

There is a collection of 10p at each meeting. Apart from poetry competitions and members forum, meetings are usually devoted to a reading and talk by a well known poet.

Further details for both the Poetry Society and the Writers' Club may be obtained from the Publicity Officer, (Mr) Aubrey Bush, 17 Balmoral Road, Forest Road, Nottingham, NG1 4HX, tel. Nottingham 701314.

AUBREY BUSH

EXHIBITION AT MIDLAND GROUP GALLERY, 11 EAST CIRCUS STREET, NOTTINGHAM. OCTOBER 9th to NOVEMBER 6th, 1976.

PAINTINGS and prints by Alan Davie have been said to evoke elation, excitement, rich potential creativity and relevance to life. Their eye catching images are certainly striking, and with enough substance in them to cause the viewer to debate these speculative points. The scenes depicted are nothing like anything to be seen on this plane of existence, but neither are they abstract.

There is a combination of colourful objects brought together in one place, and where they would not normally be together unless that place was bewitched. Snakes and Ladders, Queens of Heart, half moons with some of them taking up angular positions our lunar body never could, and partly opened doors with watching eyes, these are some of the ingredients making up these compositions. If there is a comparison with some talented children's art as displayed on classroom walls, this would not be a detrimental comparison. These pictures have the degrees of freshness, innocence, brightness and semi-logical sequences seen in the work of many talented young artists.

There is an evocation of magic and of youth, with a merging together in the magic of youth. It is realised in works with such titles

as "Magic Lamp", "Witch Gong", "Witches Room", "Black Moon", and "Fisher-man's Myth", while "Ideas for a Children's Wall" confirms the link with the younger generation.

The ceramics in the exhibition are by Geoffrey Doonan who describes himself as self-taught in this line. Of the 18 exhibits only four bowls could be regarded as in any way functional, although even their shapes are not those usually seen in pot stores. An abstract artistic appeal rather than utility is obviously the theme, with the majority of the pieces coming into the category of ceramic sculpture. Seascapes, moon discs and moon farm are reminiscent of desolate earthly or lunar locations. The exhibit "Citadel" stands guard over it all.

The impression of the complete exhibition is one of passing out of our normal three dimensional sphere into a more occult realm composed of the contrasting clear light of the paintings and prints and the mysterious darkness of the ceramics.

AUBREY BUSH

SAVING THE CHILDREN IN GOTHAM

THE STORY began in Gotham when two young ladies discovered they had mutual interests. These two interests were, and still are, the welfare of children and the promotion of local arts and crafts. The possibility arose of combining these interests. The possibility was converted into practical use.

The Gotham branch of the Save the Children Fund was formed some two and a half years ago, with Mrs Pauline Dainty and Mrs Sue Howick on the committee. Funds to help save the children have been raised from film shows and barbecues.

The latest film show at the Village Hall had a programme of Laurel and Hardy and cartoons, a gala of laughter for children of all ages, with

other amusements to keep the young ones happy.

An all star show at a local night spot should bring in more funds for this worthy cause - as should a visit to the village by Leslie Crowther on November 27th.

The bringing together of child welfare and works of art came about this May. A shop was opened on Gotham's Meadow End to serve the dual purpose of providing an opening for local artists and craftsmen, and raise additional funds for the saving of children wherever they need to be saved. This will provide a forum for creators of creative art over a radius of some thirty miles.

Children over a much wider area will benefit from the work being done on their behalf by these two ladies, and others, in Gotham - and in other parts of the country too.

These two endeavours help to inspire other people to look to, and work for, a better and more beautiful world.

AUBREY BUSH

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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theatre

HOBSON'S CHOICE

THE "ETHNIC look" and the A-level text hit the Playhouse in the form of Harold Brighouse's "Hobson's Choice". This story of a Salford bootmaker and his three daughters -

Lancashire's answer to the Three Sisters - milked for laughs by Richard Eyre to produce a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining evening.

As always, the superb sets of Trevor Pitt and the costumes of Pippy Bradshaw create just the right atmosphere of period authenticity. Within this background the domineering elder daughter, Maggie, decides to confound the prevailing belief that she is too old to marry - at 30! - and find herself a husband. Her choice is Will Mossop, unsuspecting and helpless apprentice bootmaker in the family shop, played with great success by Mick Ford.

Led, literally, by the ear to Maggie's marriage bed, Will is transformed thereby into an independent and prosperous bootmaker himself. The wheel of fortune turns and soon old man Hobson, declining into ill-health and alcoholism, faces his choice of weary loneliness or allowing Maggie and Will to return to nurse him, the price being that Will receives a half-share of the business. Thus the sons destroy the father, the family "triumphs" again. Hence the saying - Hobson's choice is really no choice at all and the play ends with him firmly under Maggie's thumb.

Set in Salford, the play soon begs comparison with "Coronation Street" and is in fact one of the first landmarks in the tradition of "Northern" drama, exhibiting all of its virtues and most of its faults. The virtue is warmth, authenticity, spontaneity, the "cosy working-class hearth" of George Orwell or the character of Maggie, concealing a "heart of gold" beneath her sharp exterior.

The reverse of the coin is an excess of snobbery - Will's rise is measured by his capture of the "high-class" trade, Hobson's decline by the fact that he is reduced to making clogs for the workers - and sentimentality, especially the worship of the family, the great mould into which all emotional experience must be squeezed.

But, obviously, any play penned in 1916 is bound to be

Salford life seen through bourgeois spectacles. The Playhouse can take credit for reviving a neglected play with great zest and wit.

MORE ADVENTUROUS treatment of conventional fare is to be found at the Phoenix Theatre, Leicester, where three Shakespeare plays are in repertoire until Christmas. The plays, linked under the heading "Those who would be King", are "Hamlet", "Richard III" and "The Tempest".

The "Hamlet" is a superb modern dress version with the "hero" a be-denimed, bearded student in revolt against Father, family and society. Claudius becomes a kind of regal Dick Nixon, followed always by a dark-glassed Mafioso style bodyguard, whilst Polonius is his pin-striped, briefcase-bearing "advisor".

Sensibly, the production dispenses with the rhetoric and chooses a low-key exposition - Hamlet even nibbles at food and opens a can of drink during "To be or not to be"! Very effective it is too, illuminating several obscure sections of the text and making the whole play more relevant to modern life. Definitely the best version I've seen and well worth haring down the motorway to see.



Sunday lunchtimes

● The Footwarmers, Bell Inn, Angel Row.

● Harry Brown Jazzmen, Robin Hood, Sherwood.

Sunday evenings

● Nottingham Jazz Orchestra, 8.30, Old General, Radford Rd.

● Harry Brown Trio, 8.00, Green Dragon, Oxton.

● New Crescent Dixieland Band, 8.30, Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton Hill.

● Eric Pembleton Festival Big Band, 7.45, Festival Inn, Trowell.

Mondays

● Johnny Hobbs Trio with

Annie Hawkins on double bass, 8.00, Blue Boar, Nottingham Rd, Hucknall.

Tuesdays

● New Crescent Dixieland Band, 8.30, Rutland Hotel, Ilkeston.

● Alternate Tuesdays, Mike Cole Jazzband or Ken Each Jazzband, 8.00, Bell Inn, Angel Row.

● Harry Brown on piano, 8.00, Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton Hill.

Wednesdays

● Riverside Jazzband, 8.30, Old General, Radford Rd.

● Mercia Jazzband, 8.15, Tally Ho, Oakdale Rd, Carlton.

● Johnny Hobbs Trio with Annie Hawkins on double bass, 8.00, Blue Boar, Nottingham Rd, Hucknall.

● Jazz night at the Federation Club, Claremont Rd, Sherwood. This month's guests include the Tommy Burke Trio and the Paul Winfield Quartet on 10th and Buddy Tate on the tenor sax backed by Jazz Spectrum on 24th.

Thursdays

● Ken Each Jazzband, 8.30, Old General, Radford Road.

● Harry Brown Trio, 8.30, Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton Hill.

● Eric Pembleton Festival Big Band, 7.45, Festival Inn, Trowell.

Fridays

● The Swingtet, 8.30, Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton Hill.

● Eric Pembleton Festival Big Band, 7.30, Festival Inn, Trowell.

● Harry Brown on piano, 8pm, Robin Hood, Sherwood.

● The Chris Burke New Orleans Band, 8.30, Albany Hotel.

Saturdays

● Eric Pembleton Festival Big Band, 8-11.45, Festival Inn, Trowell (couples only).

Special Dates (November)

● Thursday 4th: American pianist and clarinetist, Butch Thompson, with the Chris Burke Band, 8pm, Moor Farm.

● Sunday 14th: Big band concert at the Playhouse, a long session starting 6pm. Bands performing include the Nottingham Jazz Orchestra, the Radio Leicester Big Band, the

Musicians Union Big Band, the Ken Each Jazzband and the Kyte-Hopkins Big Band.

● Thursday 18th: Terry Lightfoot Jazzband, 8pm, Test Match, West Bridgford.

● Tuesday 30th: On BBC 2 - Second House - a special three hour jazz documentary recorded at the Newcastle Jazz Festival.

folk

Sundays

● The Co-op Folk Club, 8pm, Crown Hotel, Western Blvd.

Nov 7th: Sean Cannon

14th: Singers Night

21st: Geoff Bingham

28th: Singers Night

● Southwell Folk Club, 8pm, Admiral Nelson, Westhorpe.

Nov 7th: Singers Night

14th: Tony Capstick

21st: Bernard Wrigley

28th: Jake Thackray

Wednesdays

● Beeston Folk Club, 8pm, Three Horseshoes, Middle St, Beeston.

Thursdays

● Lambley Folk Club, 8pm, Robin Hood & Little John, Lambley.

Nov 4th: Ripley Wayfarers

11th: Singers Night

18th: Graham Cooper

25th: Larkspur

● Carlton Folk Club, 8pm, Windsor Castle, Carlton Hill.

Nov 4th: Singers Night

11th: Wesley, Park and Smith

18th: New Celeste

25th: Fifth anniversary party with visiting celebrities.

● Midlands Country Music Club, 8pm, Beechdale Hotel, Beechdale Rd.

Occasional guests throughout the month.

● The Gregory Hotel, Ilkeston Rd.

The Moonshiners: 8pm.

Fridays

● Redressers, White Swan, Percy St, Basford.

● Nottingham Traditional Music Club, 8pm, News House, St James's St. During November guests

will include Ron Taylor, an ex-Songwainer.

● Hemington Folk Club, 8pm, Three Horseshoes, Hemington.

Nov 5th: Singers Night

12th: Dave Brindley

19th: To be arranged

26th: To be arranged

● Country Music Club, 8pm, Horse and Jockey, Mill St, Old Basford.

Nov 5th: To be arranged

12th: Shaun Gibson Sound

19th: John Lydon

26th: To be arranged

● Bingham Folk Club, 8pm, Wheatsheaf, Bingham.

Nov 12th and 26th - resident singers - John and Isabel Thorpe.

Saturdays

● Cropwell Bishop Folk Club, 8pm, Wheatsheaf, Nottingham Rd, Cropwell Bishop.

Nov 6th: Chris Foster

13th: Brian Dewhurst

20th: Dave Start

27th: Singers Night

Other dates - November

● Saturday 6th: Dancing Slipper, West Bridgford. Barn Dance with Ripley Wayfarers and Fred Wedlock.

● Sunday 7th: Priesthouse, Castle Donnington - Ripley Wayfarers.

● Saturday 13th: Second Amber Folk Fair, 2pm-midnight, Alfreton Leisure Centre. A family folk day featuring Gary and Vera, Roaring Jelly, Dave Cartwright, Derek Brimstone, Peggy Cash, Ripley Wayfarers, Dolphin Morrismen, Handsworth Sword, Mansfield Folk Dance Group. Tickets and information from Alfreton Leisure Centre, Alfreton, Derbys. (sae please) or 'phone Alfreton 4817.

● Tuesday 16th: Test Match Hotel, Gordon Sq., West Bridgford, Ceilidh, featuring Flashpacket, admission 40p.

● Wednesday 17th: Wayfarers Folk Club, Benjamin Outram Centre, Peas Hill Rd, Ripley.

Old-time Music Hall Night featuring the Tommy Burton Trio, the Sherwoodaires and Penthouse Four.

INFORMATION

ADVICE

- People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, 412269. General, gay, and legal advice. Tribunal representation.
- Citizen's Advice Bureau, 2 St James's Terrace, 411792. General and financial advice, solicitor. Mon 10-7, Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-12.30.
- Eastwood CAB, Library, Nottingham Road. Langley Mill 68065. General advice.
- Beeston CAB, Library, Foster Ave. 221074. General advice.
- Confidential Advice, 31a Mansfield Rd. 46714. Sexual identity problems, drugs, gambling, etc Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-3pm.
- Free Legal Advice, Mon & Tues 6.30-8pm, People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Rd. Thurs 6.30-8.30 CAB, 2 St James's Terr., or contact CAB any time. 411792.
- Off the Record, 33 Mansfield Road. Youth counselling. Mon, Wed, Fri, 7-9.30pm.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Thurs 7.30, People's Centre, and Fri & Sun 2.30, International Community Centre, 61b, Mansfield Rd
- Gingerbread (one parent families). Mon 7.30, ICC.

- Consumer Advice Centre, Beestonmarket Hill. 411741. All consumer problems. Mon-Fri 9-5.30 (6.30 Wed), Sat 9-12.30.
- Housing Advice Centre, Upper Parliament St. 40814. Housing advice, tenancy relations. Mon-Fri 8.45-5.
- Pakistan Friends League, Sat & Sun 2-4pm, International Community Centre, 61b, Mansfield Rd.
- Indian Workers Association. Sun 2-4pm, ICC.
- Community Relations Council, 61b Mansfield Rd. 49861. Advice on immigration, housing, race relations.
- Race Relations Board, Birkbeck House, Trinity Sq. Complaints of racial discrimination.
- Women - general problems. 'Phone Carrie 43081.
- Abortion referral - 'phone Sue, 77230, or Mary, 42808.
- Battered Women - Sue 77230.
- Sex Discrimination advice. 609852, or 344-2667 for advice and support.
- Gay advice; Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE), Mon, Tues, Wed, c/o 31a Mansfield Rd. 46714. Thurs 6-8pm People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road. 412269.

- Gay Liberation Front. 76410.

LOCAL MPs

- Jack Dunnett, East Nottingham, 'phone 40555.
- Bill Whitlock, North Nottm, 'phone 861595.
- Michael English, West Nottm, 'phone 861595.

CONTACTS

- Anti-Fascist Committee, 126-128 Derby Rd.
- Campaign Against Criminal Trespass Law. 'Phone 46714.
- National Abortion Campaign, 'phone 43081 or 42808.
- Friends of the Earth, 33 Drayton St, Sherwood. Meet every Tues 7.30, Horse and Groom, Wheeler Gate.
- East Midlands Alternative Technology Group 239 Westdale Lane.
- Claimants Union, c/o 33 Mansfield Rd. 412269.
- International Marxist Group, 56 Park Rd, Lenton. 47304.
- Communist Party, 65 Castle Boulevard.
- Solidarity with Portuguese Working Class, 23 Mansfield Gr.
- Troops Out Movement, 18, Corporation Oaks. 601037.
- Black People's Freedom Movement, 126-128 Derby Rd.
- Gay Liberation Front. Meet every Wed 8.00, 'La Chic', 5 Canal St.
- Women's Groups:
 - Battered Women & Nurseries Campaign - Sue 77230.
 - Women's Street Theatre, News Letter, and Writing Group - Carrie 43081.
- Sex Discrimination - Liz 344-2667.
- Lesbian Group - 76410.
- Discussion Group - Rachel 43081 or Mary 601593.

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APPLICATION FORMS IN ALL SHOPS OR FROM
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SOCIETY, PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT,
14, BROAD ST. NOTTINGHAM. TEL: 46094

