

Nottingham Voice

TORY WITCH HUNT

SUPPORT IS MOUNTING for tenants in Basford flats who are occupying part of their Tenants Hall.

The city Housing Committee on May 4th decided to throw the Tenants Action Group out of the room it had been using as an action centre. It was only the previous day that the tenants' play "Prawns in the Game" was shown on BBC TV (see p6).

The Group is refusing to move and has been sitting in 24 hours a day. Heat and light has been cut off.

On May 10th a hundred people from the flats attended an open air meeting. Speakers from tenants associations at Bulwell, Top Valley and New Radford as well as the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations gave support. Money is pouring in to the fighting fund and many people have offered to help on the sit-in rota.

New Tory housing chairperson Ted Hickey has certainly stirred up a lot of trouble.

It all started when he saw a poster he objected to. It

said: "The council regrets that owing to the pressure of big business it is unable to fulfil its obligations to the homeless this year".

"It could be taken as a semi-official poster", said Hickey. (Eds - he should know - he's one of the people who decide which homeless people should be left on the streets.)

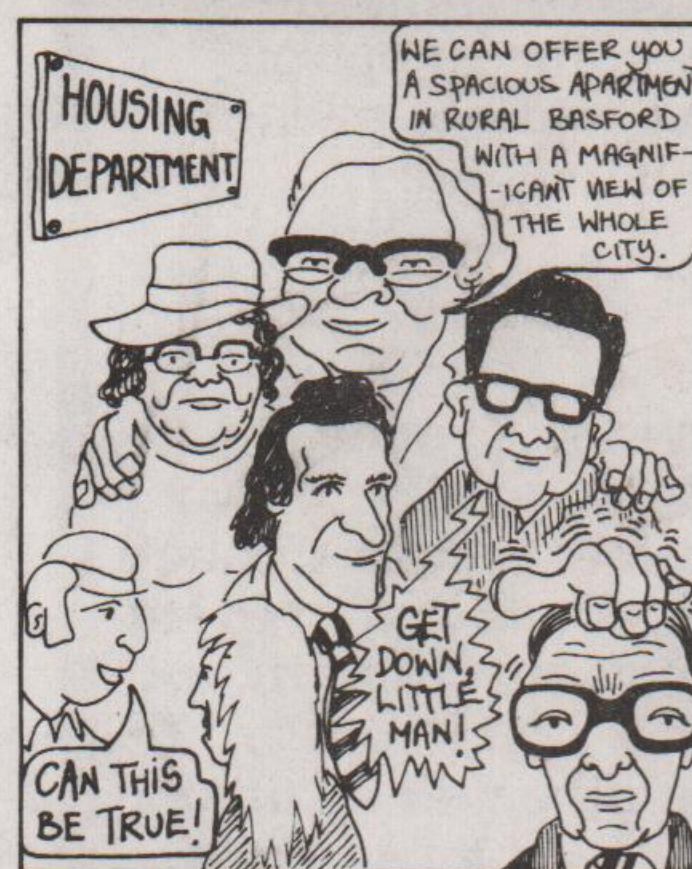
EMBARRASSMENT

"This is an embarrassment to the Department", said Housing Director Campbell-Lee. He gave a spoken report to the Housing Committee.

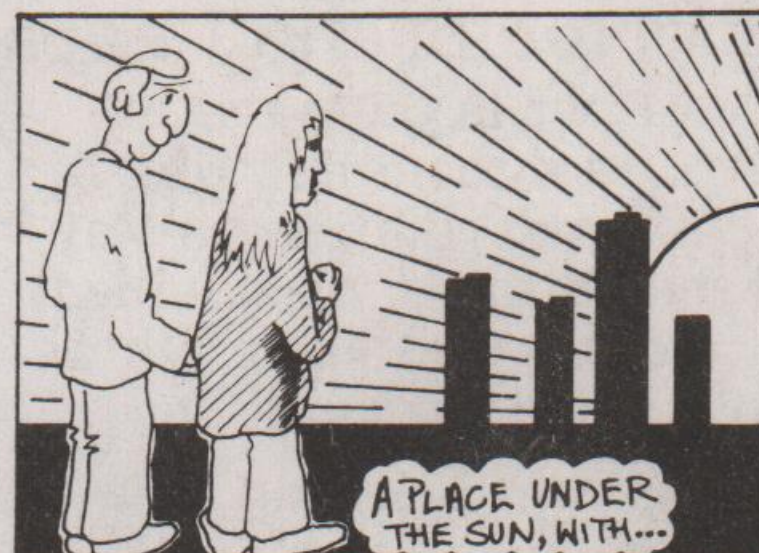
"Why no written report?" asked Labour leader John

"THE COUNCIL REGRETS THAT OWING TO THE PRESSURE OF BIG BUSINESS IT IS UNABLE TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE HOMELESS THIS YEAR"

THE PRISONERS



AFTER YEARS OF HASSLING WITH THE HOUSING DEPT, OUR TWO FRIENDS AT LAST HAVE SOMEWHERE TO LIVE; SOMEWHERE DECENT; A HOME...



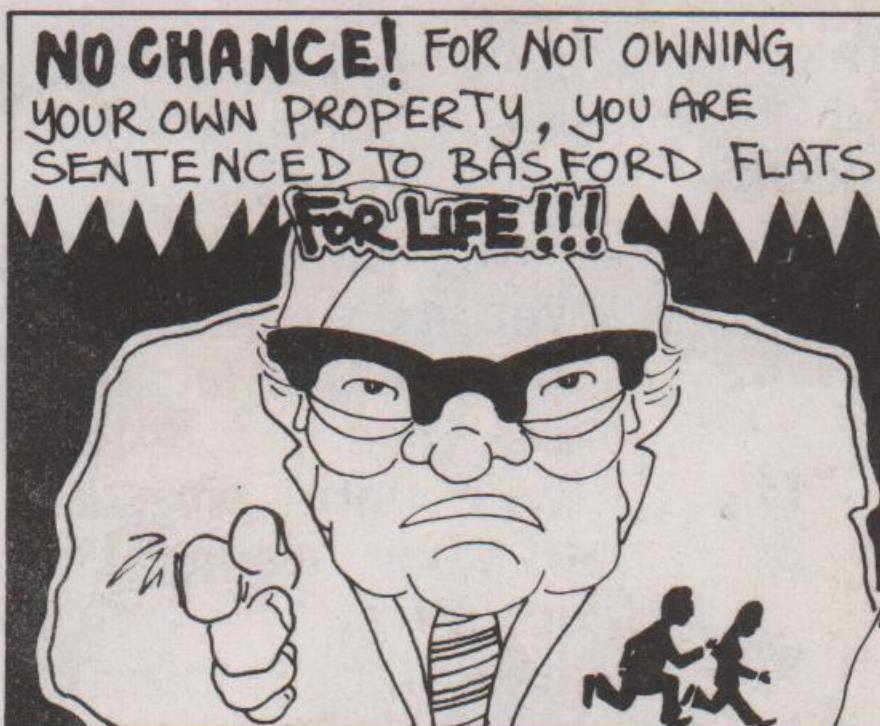
KEEP FIT FACILITIES...

HOT & COLD RUNNING CONDENSATION...

UNIQUE ANIMAL SPECIES...

BUILT-IN QUADROPHONIC...

& PLENTY OF LUXURIES FOR YOUR MONEY.



The front page of a recent issue of the Basford tenants' paper.

Carroll. "Is this an embarrassing one?" he said.

"If we are accusing them of being irresponsible", said Labour councillor Ben Allsop, "we should be responsible". The accusations should be put to the tenants group so it could answer them, he said.

Chairperson Borrett didn't agree. "The proof is here", he said. The committee then decided that the Tenants Action Group could no longer use a small room in the Tenants Hall as an action centre.

"It's a very distasteful thing altogether", said Borrett. (Eds - perhaps he had a fellow feeling for the tenants being thrown out - after this

committee meeting the Tory group threw him out as chairperson and replaced him by Hickey.)

The only real complaints they could find against the Group can only be described as trivial.

A display rack was said to have restricted use of the room by a Sunday School. It was also claimed that lights had been left on overnight.

The Group is to see a lawyer of the National Council of Civil Liberties in London. It is complaining that documents were photographed by the council without its permission. NCCL is to advise whether it has a case to take to the European Commission on Human Rights.

Donations and offers of support to: Action Centre, Old Basford Community Centre, David Lane (behind the Horse and Jockey).

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Anti-Nazi League Gains Support

THE EVENING POST totally ignored a very large meeting of the Anti-Nazi League in Nottingham on April 23rd. The Post hasn't even told its readers that Brian Clough is a leading supporter of the League.

The Post is quite clear where its sympathies lie. In its centenary edition on May 2nd the editorial complained that the law no longer allows it to publish racist speeches.

The first public meeting of the Anti-Nazi League in Nottingham attracted over 200 people. (It also attracted twenty National Front supporters who hung around outside for a while.)

Nigel Harris, the League's national research officer, told the meeting that the most fundamental target of the Front is people of Jewish origin though Asians and blacks are now a more immediate target. Until ten years ago Tyndall (NF chairman) and Webster (NF national organiser) boasted about the six million Jews killed by Hitler, he said.

The League had found massive support since it was started at the end of last year. The support from schoolkids is the most amazing, said Mr Harris. The School Kids Against the Nazis paper now plans to print 50,000 copies. A common reason given by schoolkids for supporting the League against the Nazis is "because they want to get my friends".

The next speaker Malcolm Goldsmith, until recently industrial adviser to the Bishop of Southwell, contrasted the Christian doctrine of love with Tyndall's doctrine of hate.

Arthur Palmer, prospective Labour candidate for Carlton, said many people in the Labour party thought that if they didn't talk about the National Front it would go

away. But because they hadn't put alternative propaganda it had grown. His party was going to put out anti-racist leaflets even if it meant losing votes.

TRICKLE

Don Devine, Trades Council president, said that two years ago the Trades Council and other groups had prevented the Front marching in Nottingham. The Front's attack was directed against immigrants (and those born here), he said, but when they were deported (or liquidated) it would be directed against the rest of us.

Mr Aziz of the Bangladeshi Welfare and Cultural Association said Margaret Thatcher was irresponsible to suggest the country was being swamped when immigration was down to a trickle. He complained that Robin Day had twisted a television discussion on immigration around to repatriation. It makes black people feel very insecure, he said. He attacked the Commons Select Committee for saying that colour was a problem. As a Labour party member he was ashamed that Labour members had signed the report which he described as an abhorrent, obnoxious piece of work.

HORRIFIED

John Peck, prospective Communist candidate for North Nottingham, said that those who died fighting Hitler would probably be horrified that such a movement should start again in Britain. We should deny them the democratic rights they deny others, he said.

DISEASE

During a period for discussion a black nurse who grew up in Britain said that Margaret Thatcher and the National Front had changed people's attitudes. It had changed her relationships with colleagues and patients - it is just like a disease going round the city, she said.

GAY ACTIVISTS

AN EAST MIDLANDS Gay Activists Alliance has been formed to fight oppression and prejudice against homosexuality at a local level.

The Alliance covers five counties and it is hoped that gays throughout the area will be able to coordinate activity.

At a local meeting in Nottingham recently the group agreed to fight fascism and attack local establishments which show prejudice against gays.

As well as fighting prejudice shown by the Co-op, local activists have condemned the Evening Post for their refusal to publish an advert for counselling activities, and agreed to support a picket of W.H. Smith organised by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality to demand that Smiths should stock Gay News.

Anyone interested in the group can contact Howard Hyman on Nottingham 625266 or leave messages at the People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road (412269). The group meets in Leicester later this month.

teacher sacked

A NOTTS TEACHER has been sacked because of what a judge has described as a grey area. The grey area in question is whether a teacher convicted of gross indecency with another man should be allowed to continue in his job.

The teacher, a Mr Bowly, was sacked last year after the offence occurred but appealed against dismissal to a tribunal. He won and the Education Secretary Shirley Williams intervened to say that he should be reinstated. But Notts County Council would not give him his job back and won an appeal in the High Court.

Mr Bowly was represented by his union, NAS/UWT. Union Secretary Roy Francis told the Voice that Mr Bowly had been offered "maximum protection" against attempts to undermine his professional competence. But he then went on to add that it was not Mr Bowly's professional competence that was being questioned.

What was in question, it seems, is whether a teaching career stretching back for thirty years without a single complaint should be finished by a single act of "gross indecency" outside school hours. Notts County Council and a judge say yes; teaching colleagues and the NAS/UWT have defended Mr Bowly.

It seems that union protection was not enough.

CARING SHARING CO-OP?

THE CARING, sharing Co-op has decided that the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) will not be allowed to hold discos on its premises because such events may harm the Co-op's family image.

The decision of the CWS in Manchester to cancel a booking for a CHE disco was supported by the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society (GNCS) at local meetings of its members.

After CWS cancelled the booking CHE took them to court and eventually CWS paid £250 in compensation for the loss of the booking. They tried to make CHE sign a clause guaranteeing no publicity. But far from signing this clause, CHE has been very angry at the whole affair and their members have been taking up the matter at local meetings of Co-op members.

At meetings of GNCS in Nottingham, members of CHE and the East Midlands Gay Activists Alliance proposed a motion that the Co-op should not support the prejudice shown by CWS in Manchester and that they should use their influence within the co-operative movement to ensure that homosexuals are not discriminated against. This motion was rejected by 147 votes to 19.

Commenting after the vote, gay activist Howard Hyman said wryly "it is an indication of the prejudice shown towards homosexuality that Co-op members who could agree on the inhumanity of the neutron bomb could not care about their own inhumanity towards a sizeable minority of the population".

A Director of CWS was asked whether he thought the Co-op's decision undermined the fundamental principles of humanity, freedom and justice adopted by the Co-op. He said there was no discrimination against CHE - it was men dancing together they objected to.

NOTTINGHAM VOICE is to be featured on a Midlands television programme in June. ATV's Left, Right and Centre (more noted for its Right and Centre than for any Left) will be looking at two alternative papers - Birmingham Broadside and Nottingham Voice on Monday June 19th at 10.30pm.

The Voice was also mentioned on BBC Midlands' Look! Hear! on May 5th.

(Eds - well if you can't beat them you may as well join them!)

NOTTINGHAM VOICE is printed and published at 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel: 411676).

Please contact us with any information you would like to see in the next issue, if possible by the end of May. The next issue will be out around June 17th. There will be no July issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £2 for 12 issues including postage.

P.S. The Voice still needs help with writing and production.

AMAZING VOICE 77th ISSUE CELEBRATIONS

THE AFTERNOON of May 12th marked the anniversary of the 63rd edition of the Voice printed exactly one year ago.

To mark the occasion the mighty presses were turned on in true space age fashion from over 50 yards away in the lounge bar of the Peacock Hotel. The satellite phone call which triggered the presses came shortly after 2.45pm when P J Grobworth was recalled from the Peacock to perform the starting ceremony.

Meanwhile messages of congratulation have been pouring into the Voice offices.

"I don't know why you wrote to me, but here is a duplicated answer I send out to all pompous twits who attempt to cash in on my name", signed The Queen was one of the first to be opened.

Other messages came from Granny P J Grobworth, namely "I think that the Voice is the most wonderful paper printed on Mansfield Road", and from the Editor "Why I do this is a complete mystery".

The celebrations continued later in the day when a damp squib was let off inadvertently at the Mansfield Road

Lido and Water Sports Centre. Over two past and present employees were present at this event.

Comment

The Editor (Colonel Johnstone) writes: It is gratifying in this age when unions have a stranglehold on our national economy to be able to report a no-closed shop situation in Nottingham Voice.

None of my employees are members of the NUJ - mainly because I don't pay them enough to be able to afford the NUJ subscriptions. And that's the way it's going to stay.

HOW IT WAS DONE

The editor points to the finger which started the presses rolling.



FUTURE EVENTS

(deadline for June issue is 10th June)

Wed 24th May - Trade Unions and the Media. Paul Walton of the Glasgow Media Group. 7.30, Midland Group, Warser Gate.

Mon May 29th - Afrikan Liberation Day in London. Leave 126 Derby Rd, 8am. £3 - see Letford at ICC coffee bar or Black People's Freedom Movement, 126 Derby Rd Sunday or Monday evenings.

Socialist Challenge discussions, Tuesdays, 7.30, ICC:

May 16th - British Crimes in Ireland Tribunal, Paul Winstone.

May 30th - The Strong State in West Germany, Gunter Minnerup.

Bookmarx discussions, 8pm, Roebuck, Mansfield Rd:

May 23rd - The Intelligentia of Great Britain (published 1935)

June 6th - Africa after Soweto.

Black Studies Exhibition including history, culture, education. 10am-7pm, Mon-Sat until 27th May, ICC.

Festival Fringe

Thurs June 8th - The Great Divide, an anti-fascist play by Banner Theatre, 8pm Clarendon College.

Fri June 9th - Dr Healey's Casebook, a play about public expenditure cuts by Banner Theatre partly sponsored by NUPE, 8pm, Clarendon College.

Sat 10th June - Steel and Skin, a West African dance and drum group, 7.30, ICC (to be confirmed since the group has been detained by the Home Office over work permits)

Thurs & Fri 15th/16th June - Whores d'oeuvres/Women's Army with Omoro Theatre, County Library, Angel Row.

Sat June 17th - The Toyshop, by Sociable Theatre about battered women, County Library, Angel Row.

(ICC - International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd)



Friends of the Earth at the Windscale demonstration in London.

National Front on the defensive

THE RESULTS for the National Front candidate in the recent Bilborough by-election were pathetic, says the local Anti-Nazi League. The Front polled a mere 111 votes in an area where they might have expected to do relatively well.

The League claims some credit for this. It conducted a vigorous leafletting campaign of every household in Bilborough. Its leaflets clearly show that the National Front is a Nazi party with a leadership of proven hard-line Nazi fanatics such as John Tyndall and Martin Webster. (Example of leaflet enclosed with this issue of the Voice.)

The League says it is plain that people are beginning to see through the respectable, patriotic image that the Front finds it expedient to present at this time.

The local Anti-Nazi League is continuing its campaign with mass leafletting in Arnold - where the Labour party was infiltrated by the Front recently.

Nationally the League has enjoyed a meteoric growth highlighted by its massive demonstration of 80,000 people in London on April 30th. The League says that

by drawing together people and organisations of all shades of opinion and belief, who have in common the desire to keep Britain free of Nazism, it is able to take the offensive and combat the propaganda of the Nazi parties.

And, as the League says, the National Front clearly suffered a crushing defeat in local elections around the country. In fielding their largest ever number of candidates they were clearly expecting much more.

This is the first major signal, says the League, that the tide is at last beginning to turn against the Front and that their steady and frightening growth in recent years may now be reversed. At last they are on the defensive, says the League.

WE HAVE BEEN asked to print the following statement from All Saints Residents Association:

"With reference to the article 'What Jobs for the Boys and Girls of Raleigh Street?' (April 78, No. 76) you stated that the report 'What Jobs for the Boys' was commissioned by the All Saints Residents Association (ASRA). We, the ASRA committee, state

LAST CHANCE

YOUR LAST CHANCE to object to local hospital closures is May 31st.

The Health Authority is planning to close the Children's Hospital, Cedars Hospital, Ruddington Hall Hospital and parts of Highbury Hospital and the Eye Hospital.

Save Highbury Hospital Committee has 7,500 signatures and has lobbied most of the local MPs.

It objects to beds for old people being closed while there is a large shortage. And it wants to keep Highbury for the local community in Bulwell.

It will be thrashing out its objections at a meeting organised by the Community Health Council on May 15th.

For details of the closures write to Notts AHA, Berry Hill, Mansfield.

SMALL ADS

RUSHCLIFFE WOMEN'S AID need refuge worker for 30 hours per week. £2,700 p.a. Scope for own initiative in informal, democratic organisation. Details c/o 57 Cambridge Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. Closing date June 7th.

WANTED

FAMILIES interested in co-operative housing venture in countryside and in the possibility of sharing its advantages with families - and others - needing to escape for a while. Box 3, Nottingham Voice, 33 Mansfield Rd.

although the report implies this, this is not the case. The ASRA committee decided that ASRA could not collaborate with the University in the production of the report, and we therefore take this opportunity to dissociate ourselves completely from the report.

"We also point out that copies of the report are not available from Colin Savage."

Failure to respond on race

THE TRADE UNION movement has failed to respond to the challenge of race disadvantage, Nottingham Trades Council was told at its meeting in April.

Guest speaker Dave Purdey, Senior Community Relations Officer in the city, told the meeting there was a total lack of sympathy on the part of too many trade union officials towards the black community.

There is an increasing relationship, he said, between poverty, disadvantage and race.

There was limited use which could be made of the law or persuasion, he said. So breaking disadvantage rests very much with the trade union movement.

They were seeking some positive intervention from trade unions, said Mr Purdey, not just on individual grievances but also on institutional racism.

He gave the example of Raleigh where there are 40% to 50% blacks on the shop floor but no black supervisors or shop stewards.

He wanted local trade unions to take up recent proposals on race made by the TUC. He wanted them to look at areas of employment in Nottingham where black people were not union members and where they were exploited because they were black.

There are still employers in the town where conditions are wholly outrageous, he said, and gave a recent example where 40 Pakistanis

went on strike - their basic was £35 for 60 hours.

In a discussion following Mr Purdey's speech two delegates from craft unions said their unions didn't turn black workers away as long as they were qualified to join the union.

Another delegate asked whether there was a danger of blacks forming their own associations. Employers would welcome this, he said, because they could set the coloured minorities against the others.

Answering, Dave Purdey said that with the threat of fascism officials need to make a positive attempt to find out what is happening in the branches.

A motion from the local National Union of Teachers was passed. It urged all Nottingham MPs to oppose the proposals of the All Party Select Committee on Race Relations. A system of internal control of immigration is a threat to democratic rights, it said, and proposals to introduce a quota would encourage unfounded racist fears and hostility.

The Trades Council agreed to support the Anti-Nazi League - described as a genuine attempt to build unity in the fight against fascism.

It also agreed to pledge support for any organisations infiltrated by the National Front - like the Arnold Labour Club which recently had to expel some NF members.

DONATION FOR UNION FINE

A DONATION has been made by Nottingham Trades Council to London Post Office Workers fined £1400 by their own union for boycotting mail to the notorious Grunwick company.

It was this unofficial blacking which nearly crippled Grunwick.

Meanwhile, Grunwick Managing Director George Ward is attempting to sue the Daily Mirror, London Broadcasting Company, War on Want, two MPs, General Secretary of APEX Roy Grantham, Time Out, and the Reverend David Haslam.

Who is financing all this, one asks. Is it the National Association for Freedom? Grunwick's pre-tax profits of £249,000 may help.

The Trades Council also agreed to picket Frank Wheldon school on May 19th when Ward is coming to speak to Carlton Tories.

Donations to: Peter Thompson, London District

Council, UPOW, 2nd Floor, 14/18 Old Street, London EC1.

(Sources: People's News Service, Grunwick Strike Committee, Labour Research.)

BIG MAY DAY EVENT

MAY DAY this year saw the biggest Trades Council event for a long time.

Over 400 people, including two bands, marched from the Market Square to the Forest where there were many entertainments laid on.

Labour MP Michael English, city Labour leader John Carroll, and the Labour candidate in the Bilborough by-election whose name we forget all gave typical boring speeches.

An excellent play was presented by Broadside Theatre Group. Called "Divide and

Rule Britannia" it showed workers slaving under the big boot of capitalism and of British colonial rule.

Basford tenants presented their play "Prawns in the Game" and the Woodcraft Folk gave a demonstration of dancing. There were many side-stalls.

A good time was had by all in spite of bitterly cold weather. Next year should be much better.

(Eds - we hoped to get a photo but didn't manage it. Apologies.)

SPANNER IN THE WORKS



Blind stay put

BLIND workers at Chaucer Street workshops for the blind are refusing to move to a new workshop on Stonebridge Road.

This is because any new workers will be paid £3 less than workers from Chaucer Street. This has been decided by the County Council Social Services Committee.

Nottingham Trades Council is supporting the local branch of the National League for the Blind and Disabled whose members are refusing to move unless the present pay rates are maintained.

At a Trades Council meeting the Social Services decision was described as "a disgusting attack on a group of workers without industrial muscle".

Engineering minimum

MINIMUM wage rates in the engineering industry have just been increased by around 30%. But this won't make any difference to most pay packets.

The national agreement only covers minimum earnings. These rates have fallen well behind what is actually paid - even at Raleigh, notorious low payers.

Overtime rates and shift allowances will not be affected until the next round of pay bargaining.

The new agreement raises the unskilled minimum from £33.60 to £43 and the skilled minimum from £42 to £57. There will be another £3 or £4 rise in October. The new semi-skilled minimum is about £50.

Jack Hallam, Nottingham District Secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, told us that the main effect would be on holiday pay where the minimum for a skilled worker will be raised to £70 a week or average earnings if that is higher.

Some of the smaller workshops in Nottingham may have to pay increases in weekly pay as a result of the agreement, he said. These increases can be paid on top of any rise under the 10% rule.

Mr Hallam also expects that incentive schemes will have to be renegotiated. He gave the example of a semi-skilled worker at Raleigh who gets £46 plus £8 incentive for standard performance. But £50 minimum is now guaranteed so the incentive is being eroded.

"not satisfied" with NALGO

MOST Social Services employees in the county are not satisfied with their main union NALGO (National and Local Government Officers). This is the main result of a questionnaire distributed by the Notts Association of Field and Residential Workers.

Of 92 NALGO members who replied, 65 (70%) were not satisfied with NALGO.

People were also asked if they would like a Social Services branch of NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) - a more grass roots union. Of a total of 124 replies, 63 (51%) said yes and

another 35 (28%) said possibly after hearing more details.

One problem with NALGO is that several County Council departments are in one branch so Social Services staff have difficulty in getting support for their grievances. Another problem is that NALGO represents management as well as field staff.

Some Social Services staff are threatening to "do a Birmingham" - resign from NALGO and set up a NUPE branch as happened in Birmingham.

Poly lecturers unfairly dismissed?

THREE Trent Polytechnic lecturers are complaining about the treatment they have received from the Poly. They were all sacked last year without compensation - victims of the way Poly Director Ron Hedley played the job market after the government ordered large staff cuts in teacher training.

Their industrial tribunals all started in April and will continue in June.

All three were on temporary contracts. It was policy in the Poly to take on some new staff on temporary contracts to preserve the jobs of permanent staff. The lecturers are claiming that either they should not have been sacked, or they should be given redundancy pay.

Cliff Lee was employed by the education authority for 22 years since 1955. (He is also jazz columnist for the Evening Post and has occasionally written articles for the Voice.) He resigned his job as Head of English at Claremont School in 1975 to take a "temporary" appointment in teacher training with the Poly.

Now he is on the dole. But he claims there are jobs in the Poly which he could fill. Just after he was told he was to be sacked last year the Poly advertised for more staff. Lee applied and - surprise, surprise - the Poly withdrew the advert. Hedley admitted to the tribunal that the adverts were frozen because of "claims pending".

Freda Ashworth worked for the Poly for six years on temporary contracts. She is a specialist in early childhood education - an area where there is a shortage of staff in the Poly. She was sacked in December.

One reason given for not giving her a permanent post was that her husband was Head of an Education Department in the Poly - close family relationships are officially disliked, it seems.

NO COMPLAINT

But Mr and Mrs Ashworth's boss, Dean of Education Middlebrook, admitted that there had been no complaint about their relationship. Middlebrook also admitted that his wife works for the Poly - in the library at Clifton.

Just before Freda Ashworth was sacked, the Poly advertised a permanent job for a specialist in early childhood education and psychology. It went to a woman who had no experience of teaching higher education students.

Hedley sat in on the interviews for this job (he sits on

very few) - to give Ashworth "a fair crack of the whip", he told the tribunal. He didn't even take up any of her references.

The third lecturer, Malcolm Knight, was sacked after helping to set up a new course for the Poly.

He worked for two years on a new BA Honours Degree in Creative Arts - the sort of degree the Poly is developing to improve its image. Knight wrote three-quarters of the drama section which is a good quarter of the degree. He

was one of four people on the Editing Committee for the degree which will start in September this year.

EVERY POSSIBILITY

When he was appointed it was made clear that if the degree was accepted he had every possibility of being given a permanent post.

Knight is the only person in the drama division of the department with a drama degree appropriate to teach students at the level required. He was sacked at the end of December. A permanent post was advertised in the Times on the morning of Knight's tribunal.

The bosses' representative on the tribunal asked Poly Deputy Director Neilson whether it was good manage-

ment policy to allow a member of staff who had been highly involved for two years to go away and leave the students to the mercy of an advertisement.

All three cases are proceeding. The lecturers' evidence has yet to come.

Hedley is getting very paranoid. During Ashworth's tribunal Knight started to take notes and was scrutinising the Poly Director. Hedley stopped in the middle of giving evidence and asked the tribunal chairperson: "Is it legitimate for members of the audience to wear such expressions on their faces?"

But Hedley has at least one friend there. The chairperson of Lee's tribunal admitted he knew Hedley. "Needless to say, it will make no difference", he said.

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Neighbourhood News

BASFORD PLAY FILMED



Victor from the tenants association (centre) tries to persuade Albert and Gladys to join.

ALBERT, Gladys and family have just moved from a demolition area into a high-rise council housing complex.

They are thrilled with their new home.

Then the toilet starts to send back more than they put down. The lifts are often out of order. There's condensation in the flat. And much more.

So they go to see the housing officer. He writes it all down. But it's obvious that nothing is going to get done.

This is Basford Tenants Action Group Players first

production - "Prawns in the Game", based on the BBC series "For the Love of Albert".

It was so good that BBC Midlands Today showed extracts of it. They also filmed conditions in Basford flats - but not without a fight. A housing department official told the BBC to get out of the flats. They took no notice and went on filming.

Local councillors as well as the Mayor and Sheriff were invited to Basford to see the play. Only two councillors turned up, Ben Allsop and John Pennington

- both Labour. Both said there was a lot of truth in the play.

In a discussion after the play people living in the flats made it quite clear they were not happy with the council and not happy with their local councillors (who didn't bother to turn up).

Allsop blamed the tenants for a lot of the bad conditions in the flats. The audience didn't agree. He said the council had spent a lot of money on Basford flats, but not enough. The audience was not impressed.

LOCAL GROUPS MUST ACT NOW

NEXT YEAR Nottingham is due to get about £2 million to solve its inner city crisis.

A group of council officers has drawn an "inner city boundary". Within this area five sections get the highest priority: Meadows, Sneinton, St Ann's, Lace Market and "eastern fringe", and Basford/Radford/Forest Fields.

The Department of the Environment has said that voluntary groups should be involved, but as usual it's all a last minute rush and they only have until the end of May to get proposals in.

Leisure Services chairperson Cyril Swift will be

calling a meeting for voluntary groups very shortly. But apparently only one representative from each group will be invited. These groups will be asked to put in proposals for social, environmental and employment projects. These should be prepared along the lines of the usual urban aid applications.

The big question is (apart from the peanuts sum) how far the council will continue to use this kind of money to fund its own pet projects which will do little or nothing to tackle the real problems. For instance, at the May Housing Committee it was

agreed to ask for inner city money (£95,000) to finance the preparation of the Fisher Gate site for private houses - in other words cut the cost of private houses.

It is important that local groups take immediate action not only to put in applications but to demand a lion's share - to put forward their solutions to their problems.

For further details contact Joe Woodhouse, Leisure Services, Castle Gate (411881) for the council's point of view and Roger Critchley, 118 Mansfield Rd (582369) for the voluntary groups' point of view.

COMMUNIST HELPS

TENANTS of five houses in Eastwood Street, Bulwell, have been waiting two years to get improvements done.

They have no bath, no hot water and no inside toilet. So they wrote to the City Council in April 1976 asking for necessary action to have the landlord bring the houses up to standard.

Their case was taken up by John Peck, prospective Communist candidate for North Nottingham.

It took the council until October, 1976, to serve a notice on the landlord. This gave him until December last year. But although the Council assured Mr Peck that they would take action "at the appropriate time", nothing has yet been done.

There have been two rent increases while the condition of the property has gone down further. Now some of the tenants are withholding part of their rent because they are so angry at having to wait over two years.

Council officials are believed to be looking into the situation.

CONFERENCE

THE NATIONAL Tenants Organisation is to hold a conference in Nottingham in June.

The NTO was formed a year ago and its main activity is to lobby the government for a charter of rights for council tenants.

It has come under a lot of criticism from Nottingham's Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations. There are disagreements over the Charter and the organisation of the N O.

At the last conference in Manchester there was no way that local groups could put amendments to the Charter. Instead, a committee decided what the Charter should say.

Nottingham's Federation disagrees with the Charter on a number of points but they say they have had no opportunity to put their arguments. And there won't be any way that amendments can be put at the Nottingham conference.

In spite of this a campaign will be launched on the Charter after this conference.

It appears that the NTO has spent more time talking to the Department of the Environment than it has trying to sort out its own organisation.

Nottingham is pressing for regions to be allowed to put their arguments on the Charter at the June conference.

TOP VALLEY TROUBLE

A DEMOCRATIC community association in Top Valley is being forced to co-operate with a self-appointed group.

The City Leisure Services Committee has decided that Top Valley Community Association will only have three representatives on the management of a new community centre. This is in spite of the fact that the Association is already successfully running a community point in a Social Services building.

Another group which calls itself Top Valley and Areas Community Association will also have three representatives. (There will also be three councillors and a representative each from the churches and the local Federation of Community Associations. The committee will be chaired by the Deputy Lord Mayor Stan Rushton.) The building to be used for the new centre has been donated by Woolco and work on it has been paid for by a government job creation scheme.

Top Valley Community Association complains that

the other "community association" has never held a public meeting and its officers are self appointed.

The story goes back to last November when the Community Association held its AGM. A new set of officers were voted in narrowly and the previous officers who weren't re-elected walked out.

One of these was Dave Buckley. He had been in charge of plans for the new community centre and didn't accept the result of the vote. So he didn't hand over to the newly elected people. Instead he arranged behind the scenes with the Leisure Services Department for his name to continue to be used in dealings over the centre.

To back this up he and a few others started the Top Valley and Areas Community Association. All it has done so far is organise an under 16s football team. No meeting has yet been held where the membership could elect officers.

Because of this the Community Association claims it does not represent people in Top Valley and has refused to co-operate with Buckley.

chase chat up

FOOLS RUSH IN where angels fear to tread. This is certainly true of a letter Nottingham Voice sent recently to St Ann's Tenants and Residents Association (SATRA).

We asked for some information concerning problems we had heard about with the new SATRA Club and Community Centre.

Most unfair, you may say, for us to probe into problems just after the project has started. Especially since we haven't, as yet, printed any details about what a success the Club has been.

So we won't knock the SATRA Club here while they are only getting themselves established.

SATRA chairperson Ray Gosling replied to our letter and we print part of his reply: "... a lot of years struggle has gone into the SATRA Club. To combine a working men's club clientele with a community association clientele is a pretty brave, adventurous and unique endeavour.

"We try to allocate use by common sense. By trial - and sometimes error. We put the drinking club first as a priority as that is the goose that lays an egg.

The community side is now coming along very well ..."

Ray also replied to a question we asked about SATRA's attitude to political parties. We pointed out that prospective Tory candidate Martin Brandon-Bravo had a very misleading letter printed in Chase Chat (St Ann's community paper jointly run by SATRA and the local churches). We had also heard that Brandon-Bravo attended a SATRA main committee meeting though he is not a SATRA member, and that SATRA would not allow the Young Socialists to hire a room for an anti-fascist meeting.

"Your political questions at the end of your letter are despicable," wrote Ray. "Like all non-political organisations SATRA chats up, and is chatted up by, prospective politicians like Brandon-Bravo. Has he not flattered you by chatting you up? Are you jealous?"

"Chase Chat, our successful community paper, has printed one letter from Martin Brandon-Bravo and turned down another. It depends on demand. It depends upon subject. Equally so the club have let a room four times to the Young Socialists and turned them down once."

The Voice received another, anonymous, letter on SATRA notepaper. It was less restrained. "Who the hell do you think you are?", it said. "Mind your own so and so business. What happens on SATRA is our own affair. Not interfering busybodies like you. Also you want to get your facts right. Then crawl back under the stone you came from. When I find out which main committee member fed you this false information, I can assure you they will no longer be on the main committee."

The Voice wishes SATRA well in its "brave, adventurous and unique endeavour."

They also claim that the auditors said that proper accounts weren't kept during the time that Buckley was taking some of the responsibility for the books of the Community Association.

It will come as no surprise for Voice readers to learn that Buckley is friendly with Tory councillors in Top Valley. County Councillor Robert Stevenson was chairperson of Buckley's organisation for a while. When Stevenson moved out of his council flat in Top Valley Buckley moved in. We have written to the Housing Department to ask how this was possible.

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McCARTHYTE TORIES

DEFEAT for the Tories was turned into victory at the April meeting of the County Education (Policy and Standards) Sub-Committee.

The committee was discussing two reports on Sutton Centre school. One, by an "Independent Group", deplored the County Council's decision to launch an Inquiry outside the established procedures. The other, by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs), showed that Sutton is an excellent school.

It was in this debate that the Tories' well known expert on farmyard morality, Deputy Leader Herbert Bird, said that some teachers don't have the morals of pigs. Tory chairperson Fred Rudder followed this up by saying that the standards of the farmyard are much higher than the standards of some people who send children to school.

The meeting agreed to propose a working party to look into the standards of sex education in schools. (The full Education Committee backed this at its meeting on April 27th.)

The public discussion which followed should have been about whether the Tories are fit to be in charge of the county's schools. But the media concentrated on Bird's deliberately outrageous comments and the discussion which followed was about whether sex education should be taught in schools and whether Bird is a member of the human race.

Criticism of the Tories was turned into criticism of teachers.

The story started last October when some parents of pupils at Sutton Centre school went to see Chief Executive Ray O'Brien to complain about a lesson which discussed why people swear.

O'Brien by-passed the Head, the Governors, the Education Committee and the Director of Education. He tried to set up an "Independent Project Group" to look into all aspects of the school. This would have been illegal because inspections of schools have to be done by qualified officers. It was squashed by the National Union of Teachers which has two thirds of Sutton staff as members. So the HMIs were called in to look at teaching in the school.

The Independent Group was just to look at trivial

attempts to smear the school. They couldn't support any of the allegations and said unanimously that the decision to launch an inquiry outside the established procedures was a grave error of judgment. They deplored it and the strain and distress caused. They criticised the fact that the Governors of the school were not fully informed.

At the Sub-Committee, Stella Smedley (Labour) accused the Tories of "McCarthyite behaviour". It was a dangerous precedent she said and had allowed a few parents to create havoc.

Fred Riddell (Labour) described it as a ghastly mistake. He told Tory chairperson Caroline Minkley that some members of her administration had hoped to achieve some political point scoring. They hoped it would show the school in a bad light.

The school should not have been subjected to an HMI report so early in its existence, he said. But it was one of the best reports he had ever seen.

HYPOCRISY

HYPOCRISY in the Labour camp at County Hall went unnoticed recently.

The County Labour group made a big fuss about not being able to see the Coal Board's plans for pits in the County - even though they are a few years out of date.

When the plans were first sent to the County for use in preparing the County Structure Plan it was Labour in control. So they could have seen the plans if they really wanted to.

The Labour group at that time voted not to allow its members to see the plans.

£95,000 subsidy

HOUSES FOR SALE in Fisher Gate will be subsidised by the government's inner city money if a City Housing Committee plan is accepted.

Filling in the caves under the site will cost £95,000. If this cost is met by "inner city" money it will knock over £1,000 off a £13,000 flat and over £2,000 off a £20,000 house.

Inner city money is supposed to be used to help deprived areas.

The Sub-Committee passed a motion proposed by Sylvia Booler (Labour) noting with pleasure that the reports vindicated both the education philosophies and teaching methods of Sutton Centre and expressing full confidence in the staff and the school.

(Sutton Centre claims to have abolished lines, detention and the cane. It has much less vandalism than the average. It is not the Tories' favourite school.)

Later in the same meeting it was agreed that the county's 39 school Advisers would in future be called Inspectors. "There is now a clear need for a more systematic monitoring of the quality of the work which is going on in our schools", Director of Education James Stone told the meeting.

DOUBLE STANDARDS

COUNCIL TENANTS are to pay for a footpath for owner-occupiers in Phase 4 of the Meadows redevelopment. This was decided at the May Housing Committee.

Part of a major east-west footpath from London Road to the Royal Ordnance Factory passes through areas which are now to have houses built for sale by private companies.

Where council houses are being built along the route the cost of the footpath is added to the housing contract - in other words council tenants pay for it.

But where there are houses for sale the cost of the footpath isn't to be added to the housing contract - council tenants pay for it instead.

Could it be that the City Council is prejudiced against council tenants?

TORY LIES CONTINUE

CITY TORIES are continuing to lie about their programme of rehousing people from clearance areas. They claimed recently that they were up to three months ahead of schedule.

In fact they rehoused 1,139 families less than they promised between April 1977 and March 1978.

In April last year Chief Executive Michael Hammond said the council would rehouse 1,386 families from clearance. In May, Tory leader Jack Green promised to rehouse another 1,032. This was just three days before the County elections. As we have said before, Green was lying.

Just 1,279 families were rehoused - over 100 short of the original prediction.

It is obvious that Hammond was confounded by Tory policy in other areas as well. Last April he said there would be 2,624 dwellings available for the waiting list.

Wrong, Mr Hammond, very wrong.

Only 1,396 allocations for rent were made to people off the waiting list - a shortfall of 1,228.

People wanting transfers fared slightly better. There were 1,037 transfers last year compared to 1,562 the year before, a cut of a third. Green told the City Council last May: "Nothing in our intentions will make more difficult the availability of transfers for genuine cases".

If you add it up there was a shortfall of nearly 3,000 allocations of council dwellings for rent compared to what we were led to expect.

In the last year over 1,800 council houses have been sold - 1,300 of them to people other than sitting tenants. Around 1,500 more are standing empty waiting to be sold.

The Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations has attacked Hammond's latest "Progress Report" - "lack of progress report" as they put it.

It shows that at the end of March the council was well behind in rehousing people from many clearance areas:

- there were still 98 families in Salisbury St which Green said they would complete in 1977.

- there were still 422 families in Radford West which Green expected to complete in 1977.
- almost the whole of Radford East was left - 756 families - though Green said half would be moved out in 1977.

The Federation also complains that not a single council house will be built in 1982. And only 506 council houses will be built from 1979 to 1982. Meanwhile, the machinery of local government will be used to build 1,496 private houses.

The waiting list stands at 9,509 compared to 6,217 a year ago. But 2,553 council houses have been sold, says the Federation - enough to have cut the waiting list by a quarter.

HICKEY TAKESOVER

TWO OF THE NASTIEST Tories on the City Council have been put in charge of the Housing Committee. Ted Hickey is to be chairperson and Philip Owen vice-chairperson. Charles Borrett who has chaired the committee for two years has been booted out because he didn't agree with the worst excesses of Tory policy.

Hickey also takes over from Borrett on the select three-person City Emergency Committee. In case of nuclear war or other disaster Hickey will be advising Chief Executive Michael Hammond where he can stick the homeless.

To make sure that housing really is the worst committee the Labour group has chosen its nastiest councillor as housing spokesperson -

blustering buffoon Peter Burgess. New boy Ben Allsop who had been trying hard to get this position has been kicked aside.

Burgess is a loyal hack of East Nottingham's wealthy MP Jack Dunnett - the key to power on the city Labour group, it seems. Both Labour leader John Carroll and deputy leader Len Maynard are ex-Dunnett agents.

If Labour get back into power next May these three will be joined by Dunnett's present agent Betty Higgins who will probably take over as leader.

With that threat hanging over the city, Labour has a good chance of losing - even though the Tories are doing their best to lose by attacking as many sections of the city's population as they can.

the silly bit

SOGGY CENTENARY

partial
Special/Centenary Issue

ALL THIS WEEK the editor has been going hairless worrying about the Evening Post stealing a march on him by having a sudden Centenary.

"What can we do to compete?" he said, sobbing into his Guinness. "It's unfair", he howled, dunking another slab of pork pie and laying it to drain on the beer mat.

"They've got over 90 years head start on us - how are we going to make all that up in . . .", he dragged his timepiece out of an inside pocket, shook it, banged it against the edge of the table and read it, ". . . in 28 hours? It's so damned UNFAIR, do you hear me? So - UN - FAIR."

With tears of anguish coursing down his youthful cheeks he pounded the table with his fist to emphasise his words. Pound, pound, thump and bang. "SO DAMNED UN - FAIR".

Gobs of soggy pork pie flobbered across the lounge bar and stuck to the phlock wallpaper before sliding obscenely down to lodge aromatically behind the pipes.

"Come up with something Grobworth!" he shrieked, "Or your job's not worth that!" He slammed his fist

down into the ashtray and shards of ceramic shrapnel zinged and shattered through the Snug, slashing veins and plaster as they went.

I gulped down my Cherry B and headed out into the streets.

"Yeah boss, yeah". I flicked up the collar of my Gannex "Sorrento" and jerked a spike of ashtray onto my cheek.

The warm blood spurted. "Dash", I murmured, and dabbed it with my hanky.

FILTH-

Open letter to councillor
Herbert "piggy" Bird

Dear Sir,

We (that is, me and Eric) welcomed your remarks about how nasty and perverted some teachers are - all rude and grubby and it's true some of them haven't the morals of pigs or even the manners of birds.

But personally we, that is me and Eric, think the tide of filth in public places sinks even deeper than that.

We (Eric, etc) think that some local councillors are ignorant bigotted little pillocks who aren't fit even to dish out the nibs for some of those teachers. In your exemplary wish to clean up the city "with a hammer" we're sure you agree with us.

You remain sir,
our most humble and obedient servant,

P. J. GROBWORDTH

From the lounge bar

SYMPATHY

I HAVE NOTHING but sympathy for poor old Charlie Borrett, one of the very few gentlemen on the city council.

For the past two years he's been the chairman of the Housing Committee and he's had to preside over some awful meetings - particularly those of his own group.

Now as he approaches the winter of his life, he's callously tossed aside and given the chairmanship of the interminably boring Lard Committee.

When I spoke to him the other day he put on a brave face and said he really wanted to leave the Housing Committee anyway.

But I know it's a facade, Charles, and really I'm disgusted that masons can behave so cruelly.

CENSORED AGAIN

THE EVENING POST is not noted for its love of unions - it doesn't even recognise the NUJ to which the majority of its editorial staff belong - and so I was not surprised to see the Comment column on May 2nd wingeing about the closed shop and its introduction in journalism. "Enforcement of this concept" the editor droned "will undermine an editor's right to accept from any source, and to publish freely, news and opinions . . . " etc, etc.

The local NUJ branch was moved to reply to this drivel and Frank "rule-book" Palmer was duly despatched to construct a letter to the editor. Palmer pointed out that he had never known anything censored as a result of NUJ action and that "The only time I have been censored in the last twenty years was by you as editor of the freedom loving Evening Post. You spiked my letter querying your article on the benefits of your new technology."

The Post carried the letter - except for the section containing this comment.

CONGRATULATE

WHEN ALL the noise has died away one can only congratulate Councillor Herbert Bird for the way in which he's exposed the extraordinarily unpleasant sex habits of teachers.

For too long these classroom dictators have been an envied minority in society, enjoying enormously long holidays and the company of

extremely attractive young girls coming into the full flower of womanhood.

Now at last Herbert has exposed them for the sort of people they are. He has lifted the blanket and found three of them in bed at Mansfield.

Three of them . . . at Mansfield. And for a not inconsiderable fee he'll give you their address.

Councillor Bird says some teachers don't have the morals of a pig. I confess that hours of painstaking research have failed to reveal how he comes to know so much about pigs let alone their sexual habits . . . though I don't doubt he has first hand knowledge.

And let me say that I think it would be wholly unfair to point out that his opinion of teachers and their sex lives is in anyway affected by the rather fetching chalk dusted appearance of his wife these days.

FAILURE

I HAVE BEEN keeping a close eye on the many and varied contests of skill and knowledge between Radio Nottingham and Radio Trent. These contests - tug of war, football, to name some of the most boring - have proved most successful for the Radio Nottingham teams who have won all but one to date.

Their one failure was the beef eating contest (yes! which team could eat the most of the Albany's roast beef). I am reliably informed that the BBC Radio Nottingham team threw the contest on instructions from the hierarchy. Apparently, it wasn't considered that gluttony was the kind of contest the BBC should win.

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Sneinton survives -

SNEINTON has some remarkable links with its past. In the graveyard of its parish church, designed by a Quaker, lie the remains of a miller-cum-scientist whose grave was visited by Albert Einstein. His house and windmill still stand, a mere two hundred yards away.

Across the road is the

birthplace of "General" William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. A pub called "The Bendigo" is a reminder of the local boy who became national bare-fist boxing champion, interspersing his fights with bouts of evangelical campaigning and even, occasionally, combining the two!

Nature has been pushed out

EVEN THE name of the place is a story of survival. The origins of Sneinton are closely linked with those of Nottingham. Until recently we were told that Nottingham derives its name from the Saxon settlement of "Snot-ingaham", which was founded by the followers of a man called Snot. This theory no longer seems to be fashionable. Now the popular idea is that it was really called "Snodengeham", derived from the Saxon word for caves, "Snodenge", and meaning the "house of caves".

What is common to both theories is that the Norman invaders were unable to pronounce the sound of "Sn", or, perhaps, as part of their campaign to make the Saxon language obscene, they simply refused to do so.

From this it followed that "Snotingaham", or "Snodengeham", eventually became "Nottingham".

Both theories also fit Sneinton's case. If Snot's people settled on the hill and in the caves where the Lace Market now stands, they would in all probability also occupy the neighbouring hill and caves at Sneinton. If "Snodengeham" was named after its caves, the same could still apply to Sneinton. The Normans also tried to change the name of Sneinton. They called it "Notintone" but it never caught on.

VILLAGE

From its formation, around 900 A.D., until the middle of the 19th century, Sneinton remained a village, quite separate from the city. It covered a large rural area whose limits were broadly defined by Nottingham to the west, Carlton and Colwick to the north and east, and the River Trent to the south.

And, as an indication of its rural character, it's recorded that as late as 1800 a wild stag was shot on Sneinton Elements.

SQUALID

With the coming of the industrial revolution, which transformed Nottingham from a notably pleasant city into a squalid place with appalling living conditions, many of the richer families moved away from the town into nearby villages, such as Sneinton. However, following the enclosures, Nottingham burst out of its medieval boundaries and tightly packed housing soon filled the space between the city and Sneinton. Eventually, it was engulfed and became little more than a suburb. The merchants and factory owners who had exploited Nottingham, while enjoying the good air of the countryside, found it necessary to move on again. They colonised more remote village communities - a trend which continues today.

FARMLAND

Sneinton formed the outer edge of the city boundary until the 1930s. It was about that time that council estates, and some private housing, obliterated the farmland between Sneinton and Carlton. Many local people still remember, prior to this building, Sneinton Dale petering out into a lane flanked by cornfields.

By the outbreak of WW II, Sneinton's only contact with nature was Colwick Woods, which even now is steadily being eroded by building and is not treated with the respect which the last piece of ancient woodland remaining within the Nottingham borders deserves.



PHOTO: TRAVIS TOWNSON

1960s high density housing and Victorian high density housing.

Churchyard important

THE PART of Old Sneinton surviving to the present day is mainly contained between the church and Colwick Woods. Traces of its earlier history still stand among the rows of terraces, built a century ago to house the better-off artisans and the lower middle class.

The most interesting approach to Sneinton is from the city along Sneinton Road. After passing a group of tower blocks, built to replace some of the worst housing in the district, and now creating their own problems, St Stephen's Church appears as the first landmark of Old Sneinton.

The church itself is of considerable interest, but, in the environmental sense, the churchyard is important too. Its grass and mature trees serve to relieve the monotony that would otherwise exist in such a densely populated area. Local children use it as an adventure playground, with some inevitable damage to trees and grave-stones. A natural consequence of the city authorities failure to provide proper play-space, and their consistent neglect of the area.

GEORGE GREEN

The churchyard is also noteworthy as containing the

grave of George Green (1793-1841), one of England's most distinguished scientists. He was a miller with a flair for mathematics and physics, who enjoyed one year at school before entering his father's baking, and later milling, business. He used the top floor of his windmill as a study. And it was there that he evolved theories which earned him the title of the "father" of the theory of elasticity, upon which modern structural engineering is based.

His scientific writings were prolific and his abilities and importance to science have been compared even to those of Newton. His work has been found to be fundamental to the understanding of magnetic and electrical forces and, later, of solid state and nuclear physics.

It has been said that he has not become a popular hero because his work is so advanced that it cannot be popularised by misleading stories - such as the one about an apple falling on Newton's head, or the even more unlikely one of George Stephenson being inspired by the sight of a boiling kettle.

A few yards from his grave is that of Jane Smith with whom he had a long relationship. Although they never married, she had seven children by him, and some local people still remember their

to see better days?

youngest daughter, an eccentric old lady who lived in a summer house on Green's Gardens. It is even possible that some of them remember the bonfire of "old rubbish" which was burnt by well intentioned neighbours following her death. It is now thought that the scientist's letters and personal papers were destroyed in that fire. More solid evidence of Green stands in the form of the family house and the mill itself.

WILLIAM BOOTH

Green died in 1841, at the age of 47, at a house in Notintone Place. Although the building was demolished about ten years ago to make way for a Salvation Army Centre,

three similar houses were restored and incorporated into the design of the complex. The reason for this unusually sensitive treatment is that one of them was the birthplace, in 1829, of William Booth, founder and first "General" of the Salvation Army. His house now contains a small museum.

It has been claimed that Booth's witnessing of the Reform Bill rioters tearing down the railings in Notintone Place, as they set off to attack Colwick Hall, influenced him to take the path that led to the formation of his "army", which was quite a progressive and militant force in its early days. It also shows what a perceptive child he was, being barely two years old at the time.

Conservation

BOOTH'S HOUSE, Green's mill, and the church are included in the area designated as a conservation area in 1975. Many types of building, ranging from humble "artisan dwellings" to an early Victorian mock castle are now protected by the planning authorities. Unfortunately, regulations alone cannot prevent old buildings from falling down, and those build-

ings which are no longer useful tend to be neglected by their owners. It is essential that useful functions should be found for these large and imposing houses which are so worthy of preservation. The City Planners have now taken the first step along a path which will give them the opportunity to face up to some of these problems.

Open space

IN FEBRUARY 1977 the Council launched a district plan for Sneinton. It was long overdue then, and has been delayed at each stage of its development since. The planners are committed to carrying out a public participation programme to identify and solve Sneinton's problems. The first stage has been completed, and now the Planning Department is beginning to publicise its "preferred options" for dealing with the various issues. There does, however, seem to be an inability to really get to grips with the main problems.

Probably, the main issue is the dangers caused by the area being astride three busy main roads while being wholly deficient in children's play-space. This has led to an unenviable accident record. Sneinton needs open space for other reasons too. In some parts the old, high density housing could never be improved without some green open space to freshen it up.

But they are unable to persuade the County Council to build the link roads which will be essential to cure the problem. When replying to a council questionnaire, most residents cited lack of open space as their main complaint. But the council has earmarked several vacant sites for new housing which will only serve to exacerbate an already poor situation.

However, there are many positive suggestions contained in the plan, such as the restoration of Green's windmill and the creation of a park on the wasteland surrounding it. This idea was submitted to the Planning Department by the Sneinton Environmental Society twelve months ago, and it is one example of how the Society's proposals have influenced some aspects of the development of the district plan.

There are many simple ways in which Sneinton could be made more attractive - especially because it has so many virtues, and its vices are so easily defined. There are few City districts which share Sneinton's advantages; shops, jobs, public transport, pubs, churches, and a social and racial mix of people who seem to get along remarkably well together.

TRAFFIC

The planners accept that the traffic situation will deteriorate even further following the construction of the Eastern Outer Loop Road.

OLD MILL SYMBOLIC

IN MANY WAYS the old mill tower is symbolic of Sneinton - and its fate may be significant. It stands on wasteland, burnt out and neglected. Built of the same local red brick as the houses in the area. It has defied abuse, the elements, decay,

and the indifference of its owners since its sails last turned, over a century ago. But it still looks defiantly out across the Trent valley, attracting the curious and unnoticed by the ignorant, as if expecting better days to arrive shortly.

DAVE ABLITT (Chairman, Sneinton Environmental Society)

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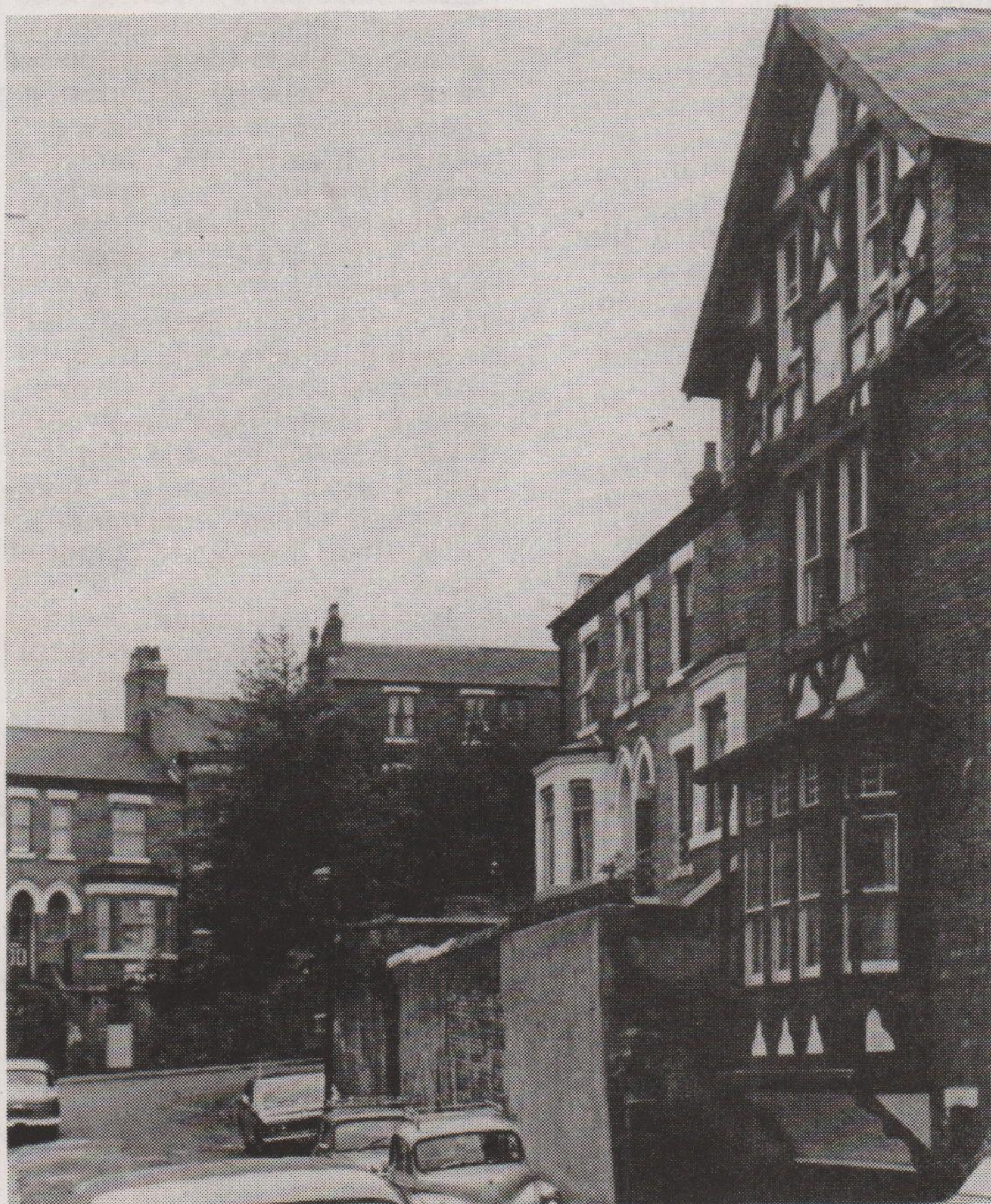
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PHOTO: BILL VINCENT



Part of the conservation area.

Reviews

Signed reviews or articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

State Secrets

State Research Bulletin No5, Independent State Research Publications, 35p.

DID YOU KNOW that the Ministry of Defence has admitted that the use of troops in the firemen's strike was contrary to Queen's Regulations? This followed an article in State Research No4, which showed that unless an emergency is declared troops can only be used for "limited and local" actions.

So are the troops going to apologise for doing what the Queen has forbidden? Not on your life. The words "limited and local" are now to be crossed out so that troops can be used anywhere at any time.

Did you also know that the Atomic Energy Authority has a private army of 400 constables who can carry arms at all times, enter any premises anywhere, and arrest on suspicion? ...that applications for jobs like teachers and social workers with at least one local authority can be turned down on the strength of secret police recommendations?

...that at the last count there were 613 members of the British armed forces serving in 17 different third world countries?

...that just after Britain recognised the Angolan government in January the Tory Shadow Foreign Secretary John Davies met with the CIA backed Angolan guerilla movement FNLA together with John Banks who recruited mercenaries for FNLA in 1976?

These are just a few of the facts in State Research No 5. The first four bulletins of this new bi-monthly were only on subscription, but it is now more widely available.

No 5 includes a background paper on identity cards (it was seriously suggested introducing ID cards after the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974). Previous background papers have been on The Institute for the Study of Conflict, the Official Secrets Act, the Special Branch, and

the Politics of Public Order.

It is essential reading for all who want to know what the State is up to.

It should also be read by those who still think we live in a free society. Such people will be reassured by Home Secretary Merlyn Rees who told the House of Commons in March: "The Special Branch collects information on those whom I think cause problems for the State".

nigel lee

CIA

Brainwash

Walter Bowart
Operation Mind Control
Fontana, £1-00

FOR THE LAST 35 years the Central Intelligence Agency of the U.S.A. has been brainwashing its citizens to carry out various subversive tasks for it. The C.I.A. have been in close collusion with not only other military organisations but also with the Departments of Justice, Health, Education, the F.B.I. the Bureau of Narcotics, Bureau of Prisons, the Atomic Energy Commission and nearly every major central government organisation.

Through mind reform techniques: behaviour modification, hypnosis, narco-hypnosis, conditional reflex therapy, and the widespread use of electronic, ultrasonic, microwave, and low-frequency noise they have mentally crippled many lives (constantly dreaming of what they have done but never really remembering is how one psychologist put it). These victims have been used to carry out a whole series of assassinations within the U.S. and also against foreign heads.

SINISTER

This is the startling claim of Walter Bowart, an American investigative reporter who believes that this Cryptocracy (a compound of secret and government)

involves every strata of American life. While accepting that the American consciousness is geared to a conspiracy theory in almost everything, his book is both provocative and totally believable.

This is possibly the most sinister book to come out of America to date. If his information is to be believed, (and this reviewer is convinced of its authenticity) then any pretence at democracy is something to be laughed at.

The American governing classes have connived, conned and murdered their way to maintain an elitist structure. The Kennedys, Martin Luther King and more lately Orlando Letelier (a pro Allende Economist and Chilean Diplomat) were murdered by C.I.A. financed and trained assassins. Bowart has met almost the whole of the American bureaucracy head on to gain his information. The new Freedom of Information Act is something that he has used, but at no small cost. He has spent many thousands of dollars to finance researchers so that he could quote the appropriate sections of the Act.

CHILLING

Richard Condon, author of the prophetic Manchurian Candidate, writes a preface. Here he concludes that the C.I.A., amongst others, are responsible for the murders of many hundreds of people. He draws on the chilling analogy of the famous clown Grock who had his legs broken by his father so that he would walk grotesquely and thus earn a living. He considered he was doing the right thing.

Maybe Grockian state of mind invades the senior levels of American society. Mind control is seen as just the way of the world and even its original conceptions are lost, never to be found, in a country on the brink of total collapse.

There is certainly one thing made clear in this book, you have to be rich or have very powerful friends to gain entry to this fantasy world - which in reality leaves one very troubled for the future of America.

steve humphries

Natural Engineering

Nature, Mother of Invention
Felix Paturi
Penguin 95p

THIS BOOK is an attempt to answer two simple questions: "how has thinking man, alone of all creatures, managed during a brief history to create the world-wide energy and raw material crisis? For some 2,500million years there has been life on our planet; the higher plants have existed for about 450million years, vertebrates for some 400 million.... They too transform matter and energy, and on an even greater scale than man has ever done or will ever do. But they have caused no crisis. Why?"

The answer, as Paturi demonstrates, is also simple. All the scientific principles and techniques of the modern world are used in the plant kingdom, but with an infinitely greater elegance and efficiency than by mankind.

He runs through their achievements in areas such as energy use and conservation, waste disposal, pollution control, architecture, transport, communications, hydraulic, measurement and genetics. Many enlightened minds have always recognised this: one example which the author gives is the development of much of modern architecture from the old Crystal Palace, a design which the architect, Joseph Paxton, took from his studies of giant water lilies.

In doing all this he cites some amazing examples: a bilberry bush in Pennsylvania over a mile across and estimated to be 13,000 years old, a 550feet high eucalyptus tree in Tasmania, the fact that plants produce, through photosynthesis energy equivalent to a 100 times the world output of electricity.

But the book is much more than a "Gosh! How wonderful is Nature" exercise. As the author says: "plants, too, solve technical problems by technical means. But they can do this without any problems of noise and garbage, without polluting the air or setting up stress situations that need psychiatric treatment. Yet plant and human technology are often amazingly similar". The moral is that we need to follow the plant world in living with our environment instead of against it.

john maxwell

Cultured Middle Class

AN ARCHITECT boasts about the four houses he and his three neighbours designed to live in at Lambley. He complains about the lack of squares, village greens, spaces and avenues in our urban areas. He blames both "the public sector housing machine" and "the private enterprise system of spec. building by Wimpey, etc." Owning one's own home is healthy, he says, and welcomes the way the City Council has slashed its council house building programme.

A planner looks at inner city decay. He says that all the reports point to the need to increase public investment - in housing, schools and industry. But there is no major commitment by the Government to increase public spending. The City Council's decision to virtually abandon its council house building programme is another blow to inner city residents, he says.

These are just two of the wide variety of views in Nottingham Quarterly, a new non-glossy magazine edited and written by Nottingham people. It has a strong bias towards the Arts and is obviously aimed at the cultured middle classes.

One of Nottingham's famous authors, Alan Sillitoe, writes a poem about Nottingham Castle: "...the mob did far more damage than a foreign army... Finally the Council got it: a fine museum artfully protected..."

ANARCHY

Writer, journalist, broadcaster Ray Gosling recalls his "green apple days" when he first came to Nottingham. He spoke to the Cosmopolitan Debating Society on anarchy - and ruined their day by failing to keep to the laid down procedure of speaking for twenty minutes!

Richard Eyre, former Director of the Playhouse, confesses to having edited a school magazine which was literally ripped off the presses by the staff and rewritten. Neville

Dilkes talks about the Nottingham based English Sinfonia Orchestra which he conducts. A Loughborough University professor writes a learned essay on local novelist Stanley Middleton.

There are profiles of Wally Brown, leader of Nottingham Jazz Orchestra; Wayne Evans, leader of local rock band Gaffa; and folk singer Dave Turner.

The Curator of Nottingham Industrial Museum writes about the Basford Beam Engine. Modern art is discussed by the Exhibitions Organiser at the Midland Group Gallery.

Other articles include where to eat out vegetarian, changes in printing technology and city wild life in the spring.

You get all this plus poems, drawings, photographs, and a short story by Frances McNeil who wrote the first play in the BBC2 series "A Woman's Place".

The Evening Post must consider this new publication a serious threat to its circulation. It could manage only half a dozen lines to describe it and didn't mention any of the contributors. Not even Alan Sillitoe. The small heading in the Post was "From football to music" (there is nothing about football in this issue)

Contributions for future issues are welcome - contact John Sheffield, 44 Pyatt Street, The Meadows (tel. 865885).

nigel lee

Local Artists

IT'S WORTH staggering up to the Castle, even if just to raise a chuckle at Inez Munton's 'Jubilee Quilt'. Hanging majestically over a chipped radiator, this excellent pun deserves to be mass produced, wrapped in a Corn Flakes packet and marketed free with every flake. If I had the money I'd do it myself.

Aside from the usual dose of framed P&D abstracts, still lifes with rigor mortis and newts crawling out of adjacent churchyards, this exhibition contains a number of excellent works which ought to be given to the nation. It's about time the London galleries were given a laxative.

Inevitably Paul Waplington's two paintings stand out. Unlike the majority of artists represented he believes in what he's saying and loves his characters and locations. 'Summer 76' is particularly snappy in its humorous portrayal of the summertime blues, although sadly both works suffer from a degree of chauvinism.

'Domestic Scene' (Krysia Nowak) and 'Mill on the River Eye' (A E Hasnip) surpass Mr Waplington's canvases in their purity and animation. The former, I'm convinced, is a cartoon of my Mum and sister, in which the artist delivers to the viewer a strength of charac-

ter that's almost oppressive in its exactness.

Considering I was totally unimpressed by the other winners, I'm pleased that 'Mill on the River Eye' received a prize from the Holbrook Trust, though I'm suprised we agree.

It's a beautifully observed drawing of exactly THAT and is hung at the end of a row of truly amazing technical drawings by P J Ward, Gail Gibson and C Orgill. Unfortunately these other artists forgot what they were portraying and got lost in the precision of line and colour. Without the bird in the sky and the confusion in the river, Hasnip's drawing could have fallen into the same syndrome.

L F Clarke's 'Isolation' oozes out and makes you want to jump in and wallow in all that sensous paint. It's great, particularly for those romantics who think isolation has got something to do with being creative!

Of the other works, there are interesting exhibits by Marjorie Smith, Stephen Foster and Alan Bell, but I'm never sure if 'interesting' isn't a derogatory term. Stan Bullard's anarchic sketch of Trent End is a cracker and M F Oldham's lovable character in 'Portrait of an Old Man' is unhappily swamped by a claustrophobic frame.

Finally, where is the mysterious Exhibit 83? Nobody at the Castle knows.

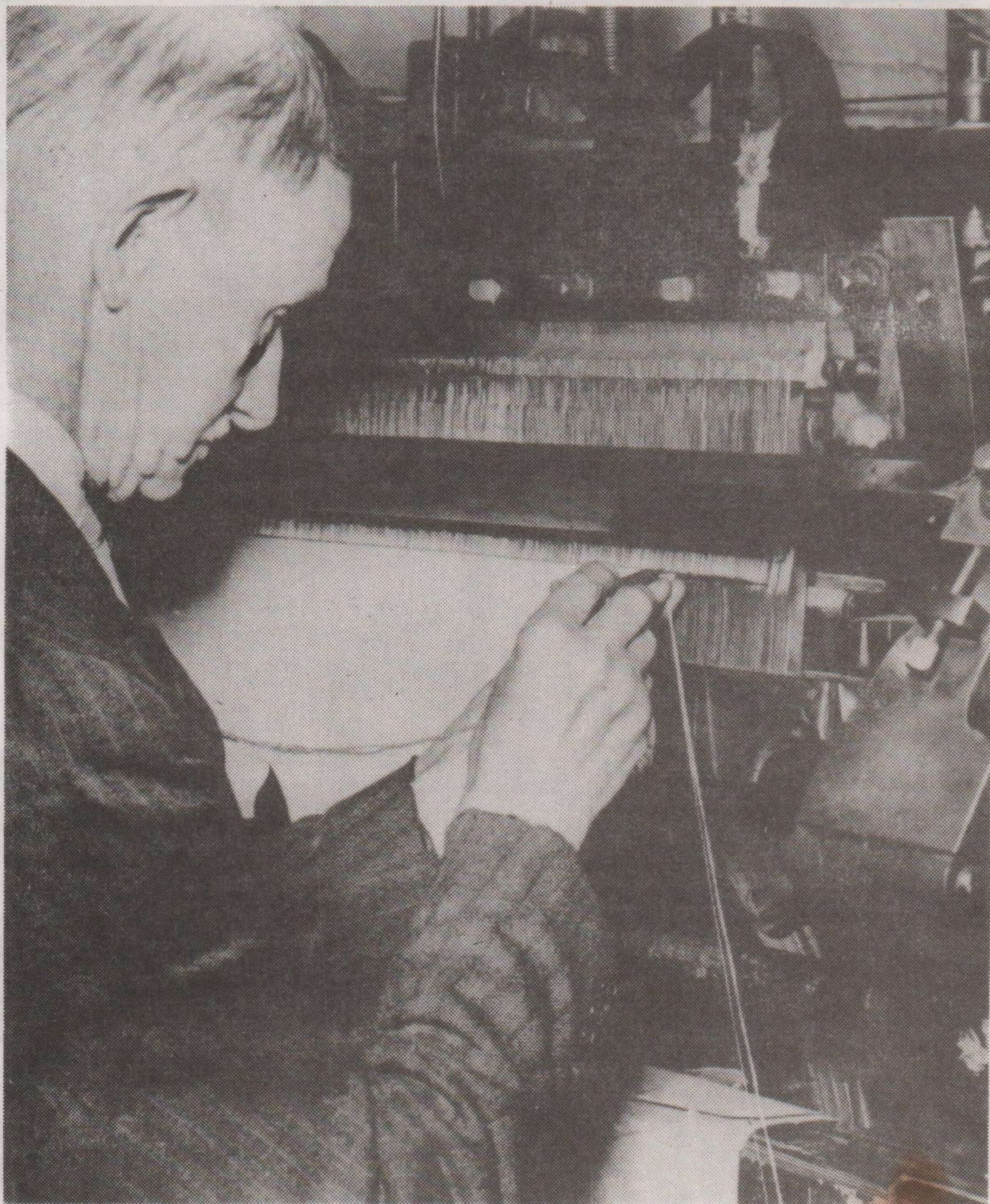
john clark

Knitting

HAND FRAME KNITTING is the theme of the next exhibition at the Midland Group Gallery. It follows "the historical, technical, architectural and design developments of the craft from the frame's invention by William Lee in 1589 to the present day", and is centred on the Nottingham area.

... display will be examples of knitwear, working straw/surgical hose/glove frames, photographs and documentation of the working and social conditions of the knitters. Framework knitting has had a big effect on Nottingham history: it was the decline of hand frames which sparked off the Luddite revolts, whilst more recent technological changes led to the abandonment of many Lacemarket factories.

On Saturday, May 20th, there is an afternoon conference with Dr Chapman from Nottingham University speaking on historical aspects and Jo Rowlinson, a trained framework knitter, on her career and possible future developments.



Mr Neville Hind at his frame.

Finger lickin' drama

NEW PLAYHOUSE director Geoffrey Reeves certainly gets his new regime off to a flying start with the British premiere of Tennessee Williams' latest play "Vieux Carre" (until May 27th).

Set in the French Quarter of New Orleans; based on his experiences there in the 30's; destined for the West End when it finishes in Nottingham.....all sounds very promising.

To commemorate the great occasion 'ole Tenn himself flew over by Concorde to see the play and meet the assembled hacks at the Albany Hotel, all making free with the Playhouse booze and hamming up quotes from his Memoirs.

And he was just great - a dapper, charmingly irascible Southern gentleman, sharper than he seems, with his spruce moustache and big black glasses making him look like a literary Colonel Sanders. Every minute I kept expecting him to pluck out a leg of Old Kentucky fried chicken to nibble with his white wine.

Despite some neanderthal ("Are you going to visit Lawrence country around

Mansfield ?) and mealy-mouthed ("Do you still lead a Bohemian lifestyle ?", ie are you still a raving queer) questioning, the old charmer was - without giving too much away - in a discursive mood.

He even admitted, with a kind of rueful serenity, that his vision of life had become less harsh, his new attitude summed up in a sentence: "oh well, it's nearly over, you've gotten thru it".

And he was happy to throw bouquets to the Playhouse - "one of the two most distinguished theatres in England" - and to join with Geoffrey Reeves in putting down a superior questioner who wondered why the play was being shown to "relatively unsophisticated audiences".

"All English people are sophisticated", he beamed, "this is the most sophisticated country in the world". Beneath Tennessee Williams the image there are, it seems, the makings of Tennessee Williams, the mellow old man.

david smith

Films to come

BETWEEN THE FESTIVAL Fringe and Nottingham Film Theatre, the city is being offered some interesting film over the next few weeks.

The last in the current season of Mizoguchi movies at the NFT is "Crucified Lovers" (May 26th), another period story of two adulterers, set in the time when crucifixion was the penalty for their crime. As ever the director is especially sympathetic to the women in the film. The other featured director is Robert Aldrich, who made "Mean Machine" (May 13th-14th) and "Hustle" (May 27th-28th).

For the Festival the Film Theatre is giving long runs to three films which have been much lauded by the London critics. First is "Padre Padrone" (May 19th-21st), made by the Tavianis and about a Sardinian who, like his compatriot Gramsci, leaves his native soil for education and a career as a writer but later returns to rediscover his roots.

"The Lacemaker" (June 6th-11th) is an unfashionably tender story of two young lovers which, through never falling into the trap of sentimentality, deserves the

high praise it has been given.

The third, and perhaps major, work in this trio is Visconti's "The Innocent" (June 13th-18th). Made just before his death and set, like his famous "Death in Venice", at the turn of the century it effortlessly captures the heavy currents of those years.

In the Fringe three film evenings at the WEA (home of the old Peachey Street Flick) look to be worth attending. First is a programme put on by the East Midland Group of the Independent Film Maker's Association (June 7th) and then an evening of films about modern politics (June 9th).

Between them is a selection of movies about blues/folk singers, which includes Joan Baez and the Voices of Harlem at Sing Sing prison and shorts on Fats Waller, Leadbelly etc (June 8th). This complements an all day session at the Class Classic, sponsored by Radio Nottingham, and including clips of Floyd, Hendrix, Zeppelin and others (June 10th).

john maxwell



A scene from Vieux Carre by Tennessee Williams at Nottingham Playhouse.

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THE NATIONAL FRONT

The National Front says it is just an ordinary political party. Is it?

1. They say they are not Nazi

Then WHY did their leaders say:

'Mein Kampf is my doctrine' [National NF Chairman Tyndall] — Mein Kampf was 'the Bible' of the German Nazis. 'We're busy forming a well-oiled Nazi machine throughout the country... Hitler put Germany on its feet. We and fellow-Nazis will do the same for England' [NF National Organiser Webster].

'When we are knocking at the gates of power in Britain, there will be a new generation...they won't give a damn who was a Fascist and who was a Nazi' [NF national leader Verrall].

2. They say they are just patriots

Then WHY does Chairman Tyndall say:

'The Second World War was fought for Jewish, not British interests. Under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, Germany proved...she could be a truly great power' [Tyndall].

'We did not fight for our own freedom [in the Second World War], we fought for the freedom of the parasitic Jew to leech unmolested' [Tyndall].

'The most decisive influence behind Britain's war against Germany was the determination of world Jewry to destroy National Socialism [Nazism]. I support this belief' [Tyndall].

Anti Nazi League

12 Little Newport St
London WC2



3. They say they are against violence

Then WHY does the NF leadership say:

'Our membership would suffer a loss of morale if they weren't attacked. They want it, because it makes them stronger...We want to sort out the weak people from the strong' [Webster].

'Driving down Carnaby Street, I beheld walking about a species of humanity that I thought only existed in the wider forms of horror fiction, and I resolved there and then that if I ever revisited this neighbourhood in the future, it would be...at the tiller of a Chieftain tank, preferably with a flame thrower apparatus attached as an extra, and a large refuse van bringing up the rear' [Tyndall].

'We've got some really vicious bastards. I'd never cross them...My branch is the biggest gang of thugs in London' [NF Wandsworth organiser Hampton].

'The day our followers lose their ability to hate will be the day they lose their power to achieve anything' [Tyndall].

4. They say they are for democracy

Then WHY do they say:

'Democracy raises the small men to the kind of position only great men are worthy of...it keeps great men down by its hatred of true leadership and true personality...It is destined soon to go under' [Tyndall].

'I'd have elections only every eight or ten years. Then, as a strong Government, we'd go to the people and ask if they wanted us to carry on...Dictatorships are often the best' [Tyndall].

'There are a great number of people in this country who have democratic rights who should not have them' [Tyndall].

5. They say they are for freedom of speech

Then WHY do they say:

'When we get to power, our opponents will be swept aside like flies' [Tyndall]. 'If the law against us should be strengthened, then the time would come to stop giving out leaflets and start giving out guns' [Lawson, editor NF 'Britain First'].

'We should restore 'real' freedom of press. We wouldn't allow anything seditious or subversive or slanderous' [Tyndall].

One thing is clear — they are liars and hypocrites.

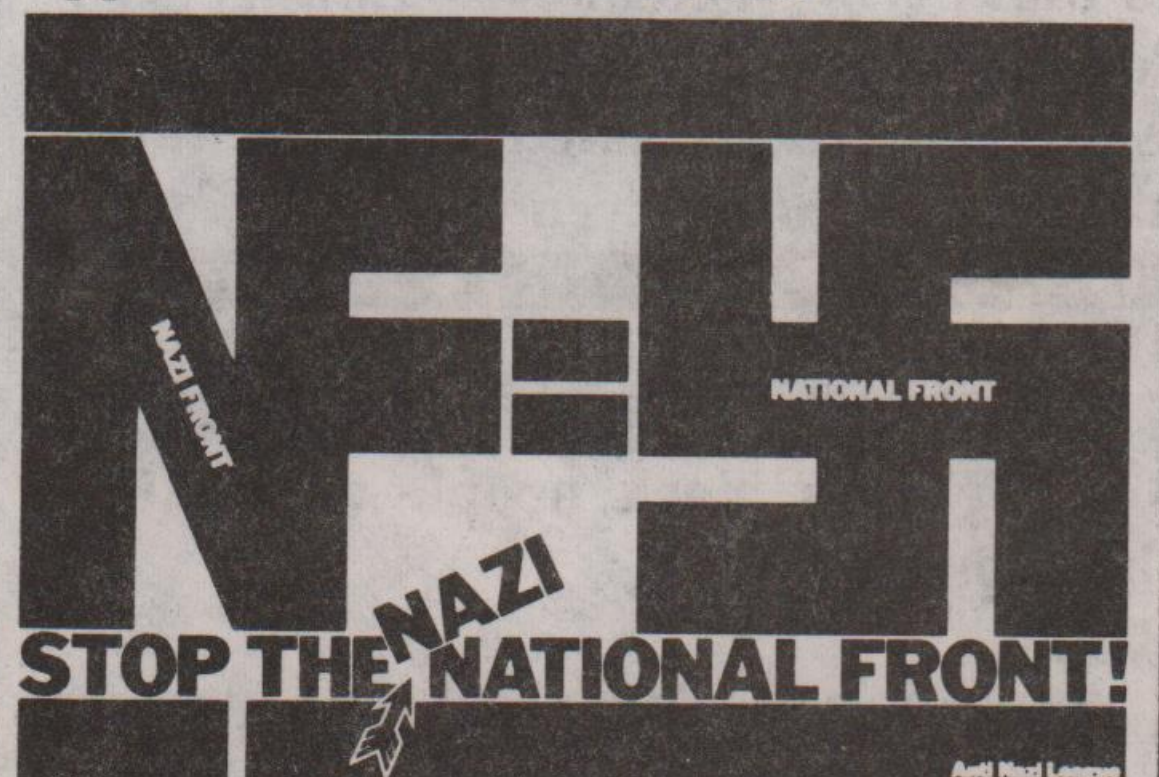
Why? Because they are Nazis, but they know if they admitted it, no-one would vote for them.

Hitler did the same thing in Germany. He said all problems could be solved if Germany expelled the Jews.

Tyndall wants to do the same. He says all problems could be solved if Britain expelled the blacks and the Jews.

Hitler's policies led straight to the Second World War, to mass slaughter and the concentration camps. Tyndall is trying to do the same.

Don't be conned by the new Nazis — oppose the National Front.



THE LIARS OF THE NATIONAL FRONT



John Tyndall,
Chairman of the
National Front,
in Nazi uniform
with swastika.



LIE Number 1

The NF says the country is overcrowded with black people.

BUT

1. Every year since 1961 more people have left Britain than came in! Between 1970 and 1975, 1,215,600 people came into the country — but 1,509,400 people left.

2. For every 100 white people in Britain, there are only **THREE** black people. Most of the country has **NO** black people at all.

3. For every 88 children born to white parents, 2 are born to Asian parents and under 1 to West Indian. By the year 2,000 when the black population will stop increasing, there will be 5 black people for every 100 whites.

LIE Number 2

The NF says the country is being 'flooded' with black immigrants.

BUT

1. For every 70 immigrants entering the country in 1977, only 28 were black; 26 of those were wives, children and aged parents of people living here. More West Indians are leaving than coming in — between 1970 and 1976, 5,000 more West Indians left than entered.

2. Most black immigrants' wives and children are now being kept out of the country, with all the anguish and heartache that family separation involves. People who apply to enter Britain have to wait between 15 and 19 months even for a first interview at the British Embassy. About half the applications are being refused even then.

LIE Number 3

The NF says black people are taking the jobs of whites.

BUT

1. The NF does not explain how there were three million out of work in 1932

[23 per cent of all insured workers] — but no black people in the country.

2. The NF doesn't explain why there are more black people unemployed — there are twice as many West Indians out of work [15%] than the rest [7%]. Between 1974 and 1977, unemployment for all workers doubled — but for young blacks it went up five times over.

3. In London, where unemployment is lowest, there are most blacks. In Glasgow and Northern Ireland, where unemployment is highest, there are very few black workers.

LIE Number 4

The NF says black people take the homes of whites.

BUT

1. Black people can't get houses — so they end up with the worst housing of all. On official figures, they are more overcrowded, have more sharing, fewer facilities in the oldest and most broken down buildings.

2. Glasgow has the worst housing in Britain — there are 27,000 people homeless there. But there are hardly any black people in Glasgow.

3. It is not black people who caused 300,000 building workers and 8,000 architects to be unemployed. Nor the 800,000 second and third houses belonging to the rich.

LIE Number 5

The NF says black people sponge off the welfare services.

BUT

an official study shows that immigrants get 20 per cent less from the social and welfare services than those born in Britain. This is because they

have few aged parents or children. Even by 1981, they will still get 10 to 15 per cent less — while paying the same for National Insurance as everybody else.

LIE Number 6

The NF says black people do all the mugging — and they do it to whites.

BUT

1. On police figures, the rate of crime for black people is 'remarkably low' [for Asians, it is a quarter of the rate for the English].

2. Lewisham was supposed to be the case that proved everything. In the first six months of 1975, there were 103 cases of mugging in Lewisham — 84 involving West Indian youths. But in Glasgow at the same time there were 480 cases of mugging — not one of them involving any black.

3. The rate of assault on black people by whites is much higher than the other way around.

These are the lies the new Nazis invent to mislead ordinary people.

The lies exploit real problems — unemployment, bad housing, poor hospitals — to divert attention on to black people. But black people no more 'cause' these problems than they cause bad weather! Usually black people suffer from these problems worse than everybody else.

The NF picks on the tiny minority of black people for the same reason Hitler picked on the Jews. Once everybody is looking the other way, the Nazis can come to power.

In Nazi Germany, we could see what that meant — a police state, the concentration camps and finally world war.

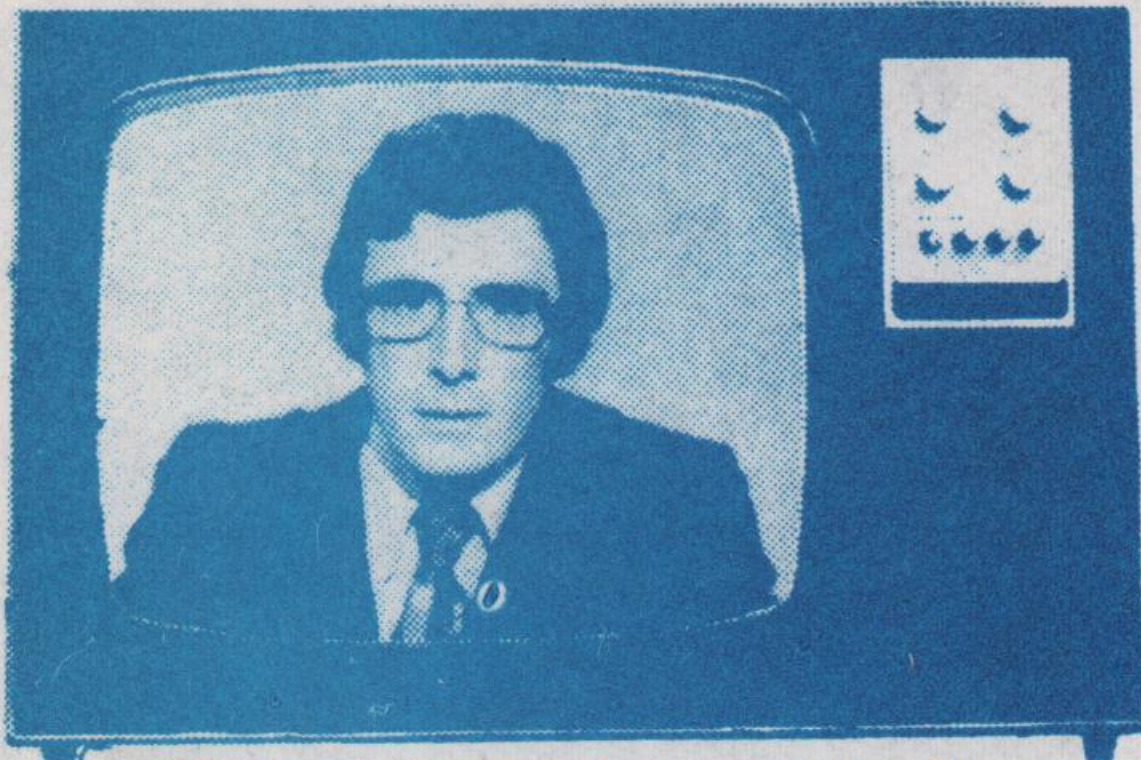
Don't be taken for a ride — the National Front is Nazi.

Anti Nazi League

TV News

On Tuesday morning a group of twenty middle aged men with right wing leanings will gather in London to decide how the BBC will tell you what's going on in the world next week. The deliberations of this weekly Editor News and Current Affairs (ENCA) meeting are filtered through the Beeb's lumbering bureaucracy as confidential duplicated minutes. These go to, and are treated with reverence by, all the news editors, programme editors and middle rank journalists. A full copy of the minutes for 1976 has filtered further, to *The Leveller*.

But the most extraordinary tale concerns the publication *Bad News*, a detailed analysis of TV coverage of industrial matters produced by the Media Group at Glasgow University. The ENCA group were reduced to fury. When you read these minutes, you find it hard to believe at first that such powerful men could behave with such paranoia. They began devising wild



"....that you just can't argue with...."

schemes to discredit the authors—not just the authors, but *all sociologists*.

When the report first came out, DG said (January 16)

he did not object in principle to statistical analysis as a method of trying to estimate the extent of reporting on a particular subject. The trouble in this case was that [Brian] Winston and his colleagues had looked at the subject in such a prejudiced way.

Curran said he was sending a copy of the BBC's reply to the publication to "a Trades Unionist whom he had recently met in Birmingham and who seemed to have absorbed uncritically all the Winston Report arguments." That meeting was also told by CA to DG that "the TUC's chief press officer had indicated that it was in general not unhappy about its relations with the BBC".

In further discussion it was noted that Winston and [Paul] Walton were clearly being active in promoting their report and their propaganda was bound to fall on some fertile ground . . .

Bad News

Peter Beharrell and Greg Philo (eds)
Trade Unions and the Media
Macmillan £2.50

"THE GLASGOW media group reported that in the unofficial Glasgow dustcart drivers' dispute in 1975, during 13 weeks and 21 interviews shown on the national news none of those on strike was interviewed." This was said by Lord Annan in his report on the future of broadcasting.

This new publication is edited by two of the Glasgow Media Group and includes contributions from trade unionists as well as academics.

"British Leyland's future threatened by huge dividend payouts" was the sort of headline you didn't hear in 1975 - in spite of the Ryder report saying that 95% of Leyland's profits between 1968 and 1972 were distributed in dividends leaving hardly any for investment. The spotlight was turned on the car workers instead - the book reports that they got 24% of TV news' general industrial coverage in the first half of 1975, whilst nine out of the twenty "principal disputes" in all industries got no coverage at all.

The view of Denis Healey and the Treasury that wage increases were the main problem was uncritically repeated. Other explanations

- for example that lack of investment in manufacturing industry was the problem - were given much less time. Lost production was frequently blamed on strikes but seldom on breakdowns caused by obsolete machinery. There was routine coverage of wage demands but not of movements of investment capital - a key factor in the decline of productive industry.

The authors' conclusion is that TV news consistently gives a picture of society which blames workers for the problems of a capitalist economy.

Another study of coverage of the Mayday strike in 1973 shows how the media presented the action as irrational instead of relating it to a growing fightback against the Heath government. "May Day Madness" and "What a Flop" said the papers - even though no national newspapers were published, nearly two million were on strike and most mines, car works, railways and docks were closed for the day. Less than a year later Heath was forced out by the miners strike.

The book also includes contributions on the way students, farmworkers and local government officers have been treated by the media, the problems faced by producers and the unions inside television, and what the union movement could do to combat the present bias.

Nottingham Voice
April '78 No 76

BOOKMARX S.D.E. with THE INDEPENDENT FILM MAKERS ASSOCIATION

present

'TRADE UNIONS AND THE MEDIA'

PAUL WALTON (Glasgow Media Group)

Public meeting ~ All welcome

**WED. 24th MAY
7.30pm**

**With video
evidence**

**Midland Group Gallery
(Entrance on Warser Gate,
Lacemarket)**