

Project Work! Welfare to Work!

What's the difference? - it's all forced labour.

When the Labour government was elected some assumed that it would act more fairly to people on benefits than the Tories did. Job Centres in Nottingham suspended the Project Work programme, waiting for Labour to cancel it. But now the government has told them to carry on and force claimants on to Project Work placements until Labour's own brand of forced labour - Welfare to Work - part of the so-called New Deal which this month is extended to the 25 and over age range.

Now that Project Work is up and running, and Welfare to Work is being introduced, many claimants aged 18-50 are being forced to waste their time in useless training and work placements for only £10 on top of the normal dole and the bosses get paid £60 -£75 a week by the government for our labour. If we complain they say we are lazy scroungers.

This is all based on the ridiculous work ethic of New Labour, they don't ask questions about why we work, what it will contribute to society? They seem to think that work, what ever it is, is a useful thing in it's self. Why take some one out of voluntary work to make them toss hamburgers for Mc Death. Welfare to work will also undermine the position of paid workers. Why would a business employ some one when they can get paid to take on a slave. Well maybe because they want a trained worker who wants to do the job, which leaves claimants in the hands of the multinationals who want cheap untrained labour. In New York where the Workfare scheme (which inspired both Project Work and Welfare to Work in Britain) has resulted in 20,000 city council



PROUD TO BE A PANSEY
(Politically Active Not Seeking Employment)

workers being laid off and replaced by the unemployed. Unemployment is a fact of capitalist society, you can't punish people just cause your systems fucked. It would be far more beneficial if people prepared to live simply and thats all you can do on the dole, were allowed to without harassment.

In Nottingham Help The Aged and Nottingham Council for Voluntary Services refused to take part in Project Work.

To resist the schemes contact: NCA c/o PO Box 192, Nottingham NG1 1FJ or leave a phone No. on the pager and we'll get back to you. Tel: 0839 046175.

Dole Chaos!

Just for fun we lifted this one from the Schneus, Ta.

We've been sent a copy of a DSS internal Memo which we found hilarious. On Wednesday afternoon Police were called to a Benefits Office to remove a drunk. As officers were removing him, another police car arrived and seeing the first car stopped to see if any help was needed. On entering the building they saw someone they wanted in the office and arrested him. Another police car driving passed, seeing the 2 cars outside, stopped and, on entering, saw someone they too wanted to arrest. Yet another passing police car seeing the first three, entered the benefits office. As they did so two customers hurried abuse at them, the police followed them inside and cautioned them. Due to the fact that four police cars were parked outside, a passing riot van stopped to give assistance, thinking a full on riot was going on. On entering, one of it's officers saw someone he wanted to arrest; his mate decides to have a go and is also arrested. There are now 4

cars, 1 van, 5 customers and 9 policemen all doing their own thing in our office. By now other guilty customers are also getting the wind up and are leaving left right and centre. A customer in room 4, having a go at a supervisor, dashes out and falls over a woman PC. Shock on his face, he asks if the law are here for him, not waiting, he makes a rapid exit. So the total outcome of the action - 4 cars, 1 riot van, 9 police, 5 arrests, 8 legging it, 1 problem customer gone and 13 blank tickets.

Dealers in Death - revisited

the Heckler & Koch/Royal Ordnance factory owned by British Aerospace was the site of another Nottingham CAAT protest in an ongoing campaign against their sale of arms to oppressive regimes. The theme of the protest, timed to coincide with the EU summit in Cardiff, was the licensing of the export of the technology for the manufacture of 200,000 assault rifles in Turkey, a country renowned for its human rights abuses and for waging a genocidal war against its Kurdish population. The timing of the demo was because of the EU's recent release of a code of conduct for ethical arms sales and Turkey's attempts to gain entry into the EU - the deal for the technology being granted to a British company as a bribe during our presidency.

A 30 - strong picket arrived outside the gates at around 8.30am with placards and banners which were tied to the fences. Two Earth Firsters! quickly scaled a pair of lampposts and proceeded to spend two and a half hours dropping an impressive 12 metre banner reading "Heckler & Koch - Dealers In Death". As this continued

flowers and white ribbons were also tied to the fence. At about midday a coach load of 35 Kurdish people arrived from London, bringing flags, banners and lots of enthusiasm. Traditional Kurdish dancing was performed by the roadside with local activists' participation. A symbolic blockade of the entrance then ensued, lasting for around five minutes and gaining lots of attention from passing motorists.

With Kurish protestors and CAAT campaigners from London, CND activists from Derby and Leicester, and a large turnout from local CAAT supporters - as well as another bout of guerilla catering from Veggies - a successful escalation of the campaign was seen. There was substantial press interest and the campaign will continue!

For news of further events please contact Christine on (0115) 9603693.

Animal Help!

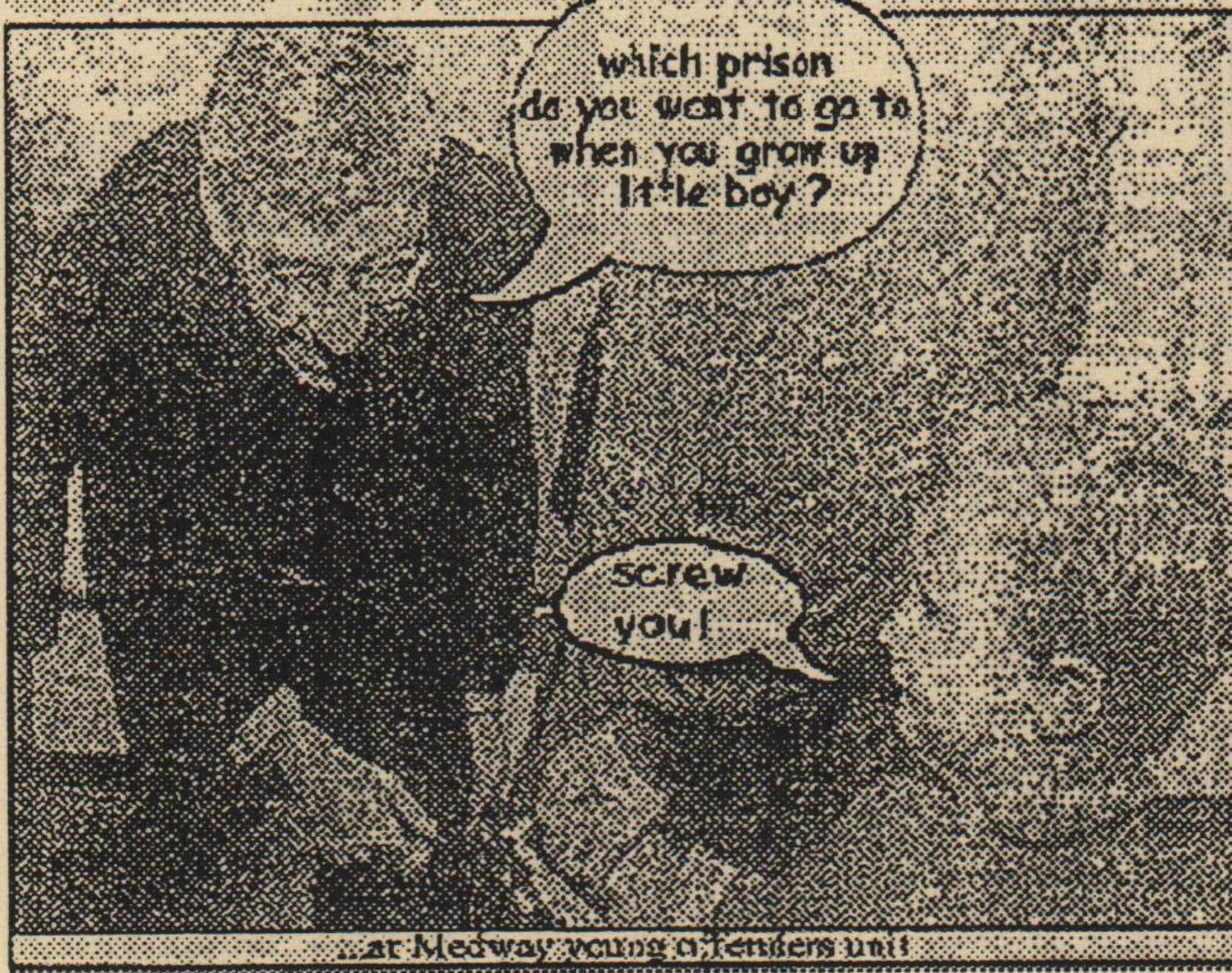
Local animal sanctuaries desperately need volunteers. No experience necessary. Transport provided most Sundays. Contact Brent on 916 0300.

Dogs, cats & rabbits in need of good loving homes. Lots of different sizes, types, and ages, always available. Contact Celia on 01623 753 883.

Child Prisoners Riot!

This last month 9 children had to face 30 cops in riot gear when they kicked off at Medway Detention Centre at Cookham Wood in Kent. The kids started smashing windows in the prison when they were stopped from playing pool and weren't allowed to see the end of the world cup matches. Medway holds up to 40 12-14 year olds who have committed 3 imprisonable offences and broken a supervision order. The private prisons were built by Tarmac (the nice people who are preparing to quarry our Country Park at Bestwood!) and our beloved Group 4 (or Grope 4as the female road protesters called them at Twyford Down.) and it costs the tax payer between £4000-5000 aweek per child to keep them there. The Childrens Act - which gives children in care rights to visits, phone calls, access to independent inspectors an so on - do not apply to these prisons.

Fran Russell of the Howard League for Penal Reform commented; "These child gaols, apart from being repugnant, will simply not work. Putting vulnerable, disturbed children hundreds of miles from their families and communities is no way to get children to stop offending.



Oliver Reid's Wine Column.

Being the rich Hollywood giant I am, I like nothing better than a glass (or a few bottles, let's not be mean!) of top dollar champagne, however, for all you Sneinton midgets, here's a money saving alternative.

Elderflower wine (sparkling):

You will need;

1 oz. ginger or grated lemon rind.

1 pint elder flowers.

8 pints boiling water.

to each gallon of juice add:

3 lbs of sugar

Juice of one lemon (organic)

1/2 oz of yeast.

- check hedgerows playing fields and woods for elder trees (you're going to have to be quick off the mark on this one!) - they're gnarled looking and light brown in colour and a bit spindly. The florets of tiny white flowers are easy to identify. Don't take too many, else there'll be no berries left for September wine making. The best way to remove flowers from the stems is to take 2 or 3 florets and roll them in your hands, using a sheet of newspaper to catch the flowers. While doing this, 8 pints of water should be on the boil. Put the flowers and lemon rind in the pan(s) of boiling water, turn off the heat or cover, leaving to stand for 4 days in a warm place. Later strain through fine muslin into a demijohn (about 50p each from 2nd hand shops), and stir-in the sugar and lemon juice, and leave to ferment in a room with a decent temperature (65-70 degrees Fahrenheit). Just before it finishes fermenting, strain it once more, and bottle it. It should be ready to drink in about 4-6 weeks or you can leave it to mature for a couple more months. It's great for festivals, which reminds me, I'm off to get smashed with me old pals Richard Harris and Liz Taylor, cheers!

It's Yer Cheetin' Recipe Column.

here's one for all you veggies who are sick of committing murder and supporting live exports, and veal crates for the sake of a lump of cheese!

Cheetin' Cheese:

Melt some hard vegan Marg. (eg. some Granose.) and stir in an equal quantity of soya flour. Flavour it with yeast extract (the one called Natex gives the "cheesiest" flavour.), soy sauce, herbs etc ... Then chill it and allow it to harden. It can be cubed or sliced to serve in salads or sandwiches.

Police launch plan to control the news



Undercurrents productions spent a year uncovering the co-ordinated plans by the various British police forces to control the news reaching the nations screens and newspapers. As Channel 4 dragged its heels in commissioning the investigation, undercurrents productions took it upon itself to expose the plan. The video feature "BREAKING NEWS" will be shown nationally at co-ordinated national screenings for the first time on July 9 1998. It will also be distributed on Britains only alternative news video, undercurrents.

The feature follows the story of one freelance journalist who has been arrested six times in the last two years merely for doing his job, reporting newsworthy events. Television journalist Roddy Mansfield claims that-

"In all the times I have been arrested the police have never respected my press credentials and held me until all my deadlines are passed and then I am always released without charge. In one case the Met. police erased my tape, however they left the microphone on as they erased in the custody suite thus giving us concrete evidence of news management"

His story is backed up with similar stories of arrests and beatings of journalists, photographers, and Television workers. One HTV producer received two broken ribs from a trolley blow while reporting an event in Manchester.

For the first time ever the public will see the video footage and photographs that the police have been intent on suppressing over the last year. The investigation also includes exclusive footage of the first journalist being arrested under the new

harrassment laws merely for filming Thames Valley police behaviour.

Director of undercurrents productions Paul O' Connor was quoted as saying

"It seems that news and currents affairs programmes now rely so much on the police for fly on the wall documentaries, that to risk upsetting the police force is seen as not good for business. That probably explains why reports of police management of the news are not getting through to the public. That is why any form of alternative distribution of independent news documentaries is so important"

Breaking news will be distributed as just one of twelve features on the award winning news video undercurrents 9. With an ever expanding audience of 60,000 in Britain alone, over 100,000 in Australia and cabled into the homes of 7 million homes in the USA an emerging news network is coming up from the grassroots.

Contact Paul O' Connor for more details on : 01865 203661 or 0973 298359 (mobile)

Undercurrents should be shown at the rainbow centre on 9th July Ring to confirm!

Nottingham in Bloom?



Yes, it's that time of year again when Nottingham is suddenly covered in hundreds of horrible coloured flower arrangements in an effort to convince us that this city really is pleasant to live in.

It might seem mean spirited to be cynical about flowers, but the whole event does appear completely mad. Why spend thousands of pounds, litres of grim pesticides and so much effort on creating displays which will only last a few weeks. Wouldn't it be better to spend the time, money and effort on actually making Nottingham a more pleasant place to live in all year round. We could have a

week of tree planting, creating wildlife areas, natural sculptures, doing up parks- restoring the balance between grey concrete and green living spaces, where we could all relax.

To be very suspicious it would seem that Britain in Bloom is another attempt to convince us that we do live in healthy pleasant spaces *not* concrete wastelands, an attempt to further decrease our desire to actually improve where we live, by encouraging us to decorate our towns and cities with brightly coloured flowers once a year. To demand diverse, green colourful spaces all year round, doesn't quite fit in with Mr. Blair's agenda. It might just cause us to question why we should be forced to live in such grey, depressing, polluted places, just in order to serve the capitalist machine. The last thing that the people behind Britain in Bloom want us to do is to dream, use our imaginations and demand real change.

If Nottingham wins Britain in Bloom again, will it really be anything to be proud of?

Is it cheaper?

The Economics of Owning Versus Hiring a Car.



DRIVE TO WORK/WORK TO DRIVE

How expensive is it to run a car or bike? Around 70% of car costs are fixed overheads, paid whether or not you drive it. Perhaps 20% of readers would enjoy a better quality of life by selling their car. Cycling locally, with trailers for loads, plus taxis and hiring a new car when needed is a viable alternative.

Ownership of my F-registration Vauxhall Astra was £1,700p.a. for depreciation, spares, third party insurance, road tax, interest lost (3%), parking, breakdown cover, M.O.T., servicing and cleaning.

Petrol was £790 for 9,000 miles. I was paying £2,490p.a. (1998 prices) to own a car used occasionally for long journeys - £48 per week. I'm taxed at 24% plus 8.4% National Insurance, so that's an income of £70 per week for a car.

Cycling is green, healthy exercise, usually quicker for city trips, fun and very cheap. A £200 - £500 bike with all the safety essentials and £45 p.a. of servicing/spares only costs £3 per week to run before insurance.

A way to save a lot of money is to get rid of your car. From a "poor car owner" you could become a "wealthy cyclist" able to afford the best of everything. Economy car hire is from £20 a day, £50 a weekend or £120 a week inclusive of insurance for damage beyond £250. You could hire for 12 weeks (at £140 a week) or take 480 taxi rides for £3.50 instead of owning a car. Remember the most pollution a car will ever produce is in the manufacturing stage.

Send a SAE for a free sheet on how to calculate your own car's cost. Anna Semlyen, Centre for Health Economics, University of York, YO10 5DD.

(ta, York Subvertiser.)



On the final day of Green Transport Week critical cyclists occupied city centre streets in Nottingham. Sick of choking and being cut up by dangerous drivers about 20 cyclists created a pleasant car free space by cycling at walking pace across all lanes. A police escort added safety, and a stereo strapped to one cyclist's back added the good vibes, and a pleasant time was had by all. Except maybe the motorists, but we have to face their selfishness every day, they can make way for a positive alternative once a month.

The police called a halt to our summers evening ride by blocking off two lanes outside Vicky Centre with a riot van (a little over the top!)

Another critical mass is planned for the last Friday in July. Meet 5.20pm at Old Market Square. Bring banners, whistles, sounds etc... Skateboarders and rollerbladers welcome.

BRAMBLES.

Radical Routes to Mutual Aid.

"The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. Make it now." (Bill Mollison.)

Brambles Housing Co-operative is situated in Pitsmoor, an inner city area of Sheffield, just to the north of the city centre. The housing co-operative was set up in 1991, the focus of the co-operatives work has shifted towards concern about the environment. The co-op currently houses five adults and six children in two adjacent houses. They are trying to develop structures for people to live low impact lifestyles in urban areas.

The only similar place for children in this age range in the U.K. is at Lisnevin in Northern Ireland and the reoffending rate there is 100%"

"The whole point of these gaols is to demonise children, to make out that small children are a threat to society who need to be banished as far away as possible. Inevitably, there will be bullying, self-harming, and suicides in these institutions and the children will come out more likely to offend than when they went in. We hoped we'd got over all this when Michael Howard went - but this Home Secretary seems just as keen as his predecessor to portray children as evil and dangerous."

After the riot the Home Offices comment was that it was not concerned and it was an internal matter for Group 4. They intent to build more prisons for children at Onley in Northamptonshire, Medomsley in Co. Durham. There is also one planned for Gringley-on-the-Hill in Nottinghamshire but due to local protests this is going to public enquiry.

Anyone who thinks that these places are anything more than warehousing for venerable children that society doesn't want to deal with is mistaken. They want these kids out of sight so they don't have to take a hard look at the society that created them.

For prisoner support information, and benefit tapes contact: Sheffield ABC, PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 3FF.

or Spirit of Freedom at Earth Liberation Prisoners, BM HEAL, London WC1N 3XX.

send your old books to Haven Distribution - BM Haven, WC1N 3XX. (they distribute books free to prisoners.)