

Newark Other Paper

WHAT'S COOKING at FLEUR de LYS?

low wages – high profits
factory law breached
closed shop – no union

What began as an investigation into wage rates and working conditions at Fleur de Lys has uncovered disturbing abuses at what is one of Newark's most rapidly expanding factories.

Fleur de Lys arrived in Newark two and a half years ago in a blaze of publicity; on a site provided at public expense and with the help of loans from public funds, the firm has grown, as have its profits. As intended, it has provided work – but work at very low wage rates (ranging from one third to one half the national industrial average wage) and under conditions that have been described to us as Victorian.

crumbs

Wage rates at Fleur de Lys are way below the minimum agreed nationally by the Bakers Union and the National Association of Master Bakers, of which Fleur de Lys is a member.

Here are the two rates of pay for a 40 hour week for production workers:

AGE	RATE AGREED BY B.U. and N.A.M.B.	RATE PAID BY FLEUR de LYS
16	£29.50	£24
17	£34.35	£26
18	£41.60	£28
19	£44.45	£30

The National Association of Master Bakers has confirmed to us that it would expect

all its members to pay these minimum rates. Why, then, doesn't Fleur de Lys?

When A.D. Liveras (the Managing Director) was negotiating with Notts County Council for the factory site, he assured a local councillor who was deeply involved in the negotiations that he would pay his employees the union rate. This he has not done. We are assured that the then Labour council would not have allowed him to acquire the factory had they known this to be the case.

How have Fleur de Lys got away with this? Because there is no trade union organisation at the factory.

overtime or else

On Tuesday July 11th, 1978 a notice signed by A.D. Liveras appeared on the staff notice board; this announced that there would be ten hours compulsory overtime that week and eight hours extra the following week. This was confirmed verbally by Jean Whiteoak, the General Manager.

A group of nine employees argued back that they didn't want to work overtime and that they were also thinking about joining the union. This brought Liveras to give them an ultimatum 'Overtime or go', at which the girls walked out, Liveras claimed at the time that he had not sacked them (see the Newark Advertiser July 22nd, 1978) but he subsequently settled out of court before two cases for unfair dismissal from girls involved reached the Industrial Tribunal.

This incident not only casts light on the style of management at Fleur de Lys but raises serious legal questions.

Firstly, overtime cannot be compulsory unless this is stated in the employee's contract of employment. There is no such

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EDITORIAL

Our report on happenings at Fleur de Lys makes grim reading. That the workforce is mainly made up of school leavers and teenagers is even more disturbing. There is a need for effective trade union organisation in the factory as the only safeguard against similar abuses recurring. Newark Trades Council has already expressed disquiet at the situation at Fleur de Lys. We understand that at its next meeting there is to be a call for Mr. Winfield, the local Bakers Union organiser, to be invited to address them on union organisation there.

We fully support any moves to organise employees to collectively defend their interests.

N.U.J. DISPUTE

We are pleased to be able to print a statement from the Newark Advertiser Chapel of the National Union of Journalists. Our readers were doubtless surprised that the Advertiser itself failed to print their own journalists case for a wage rise. Now that the journalists have accepted a 14½% increase the fight is on to ensure that the 28 strikers sacked by the Nottingham Evening Post are re-instated.

Brian Clough's solidarity with the journalists in refusing to have any dealings with the Evening Post while the dispute was on is to be greatly welcomed.

real ale

Despite Courage's domination of the town, as outlined in our last issue, Newark is fortunate in having access to 'real ale'. Only Home Ales of the 3 Nottingham breweries has pubs here but the 2 free houses and those hostelrys recently acquired by Bass Charrington ensure that the discriminating drinker can satisfy his thirst without resorting to keg.

The Home's pubs, well worth a visit, are the Clinton Arms in the Market Square, the Ram Hotel on Castlegate, the Newcastle Arms on Appletongate and the Cardinal's Hat on Jersey Street, Hawtonville.

It is a pity that Shipstone's isn't available in Newark but Hardy Hanson's beautiful Kimberley bitter is, at the Old King's Arms on Kirkgate. This house also serves Sam Smith's Old Brewery Bitter, Westcrown's Regal and Regal Conqueror, Youngers IPA and Marstons Pedigree and Old Roger.

The second free house, Kirrages on Chain Lane, offers Ruddell's Bitter and County and also Draught Bass. This last fine brew has

recently become more widely available here as a result of the big breweries' limited exchange of pubs. Although this was a cynical move designed to divert public attention from local beer monopolies, the Newark drinker has benefited in that Draught Bass is now also available at the Horse and Jockey on Baldertongate and the Grove in Balderton.

All in all, Newark is far better off for 'real ale' than many other towns; all that is needed for the town to become a 'drinker's paradise' is a successful outcome to Newark branch of CAMRA's campaign for Courage to resume the production of real ale at the Castle Brewery. For more on that, see our next issue.

Letters

I've just read in People's News Service that there's now an alternative Newark newspaper and I'm really interested! My home is in Claypole, about 4 miles out of Newark but I've been at University here in Brighton for the last 3 years.

It was really great to hear that something like that was started in Newark.

Best regards, Joan Healey,
92 Buckingham Road,
Brighton,
Sussex.

It was with interest and amazement that I read in the Newark Advertiser about proposals for building a hotel in the Castle grounds. Public opinion would be consulted we were told.

However, in the Advertiser dated January 19th an item on the need for an archaeological dig prior to the building of the hotel read as though the matter was already decided!

Perhaps further hotel accommodation is desirable in Newark, but why on earth build it on a site that would spoil our major tourist attraction.

Yours, D.R. McIntosh

Dear Newark Other Paper,

I was delighted to see a copy of your first edition during a recent brief return to Newark. Local press monopoly, although so prevalent, is not the healthiest of conditions and anything which challenges it, particularly when the challenge comes from people prepared to campaign actively, deserves support. I hope you maintain publication and persuade an increasing number of Newark people to read and buy the paper.

Yours, Ian Gasse
16 Peel Street,
Marsden,
Huddersfield.

sweated labour

Homeworkers are defined by the Commission on Industrial Relations as "those who receive work and payment directly from a manufacturing establishment and who work in their own home". From dressmaking to assembling fire extinguishers; making fishing tackle to assembling lipstick cases; these workers earn a pittance as will be shown shortly.

Why do it if it is so badly paid? Homeworkers are mostly women who are tied to the home with maybe children or an invalid parent to care for. Homeworking is often the only chance of employment for them.

This article does not attempt to describe all the problems concerning the excessive exploitation of these workers but it might be interesting to look at the experience of a Newark homemaker.

If you're still wearing a party hat its likely that it came from a Christmas cracker made in Newark! Because that is the main occupation of the Newark homemaker.

Jodie decided to do homeworking because it allowed her to work at home so enabling her to care for several young children. The job also seemed attractive because she could be "her own boss" in some respects and be able to choose when she worked, how fast she worked and so on. Like many other people she preferred this to the factory or office routine.

The firm supplied her with the necessary equipment and materials which included a punching machine for joining the ends of the cracker, a roller type of machine for the piece of card that keeps the crackers in a round shape, glue brush (the glue smell affected her chest), crepe paper, boxes for 12 crackers, toys and mottoes.

Payment varies according to the type of cracker made but as an example, for making up and packing 1 gross of type 07 crackers homeworkers were paid £7.50 (figures for last year). Crackers have to be done to a standard or else they are returned to the homemaker.

In Jodie's experience to make enough crackers to earn even a modest wage meant having to involve her children in the cracker-making process. This inevitably affected their schooling. Soon, the homework started "going to rot", crackers in various stages of completion littered the living room, work was laid out on the dinner table, the children complained of food tasting of glue. All this, plus the fear of the "disregard" rule in supplementary benefits (they allow you to earn up to so much then as you earn more, so in proportion your benefits are cut)

finally persuaded her making crackers was just not on even though she desperately needed the money.

Supposedly, there does exist legislation that would protect homeworkers.

The 1959 Wages Council Act requires local authorities to keep lists of the numbers of homeworkers operating in an area. In 1961 the Factories Act laid down that employers should complete returns on the number of homeworkers they employed each six months. Even more recently the Employment Protection Act was passed in 1975. This Act enabled Wages Councils to have more power to fix more general terms and conditions. (Wages Councils and Government bodies which normally lay down statutory minimum rates to be paid to homeworkers).

Unfortunately all this legislation is hardly ever enforced partly because Wages Councils operate through an inspectorate which is very inadequate (130 for the whole country) for the estimated quarter of a million homeworkers. Another reason for the ineffectiveness of the law is that employers are able to make their homeworkers "self-employed" thereby evading any responsibility for their homeworkers in the eyes of the law.

For information about the Homeworkers Association write to 9 Poland Street, London, W.1.

**riot
DISCO**

FOR
ANY OCCASION
TEL
BOB 72925
or
DAVE 78091

statement in the contracts we have seen.

Secondly, under the section of the 1961 Factories Act which deals with the employment of women and young people, it is stated that for them 'the total hours worked shall neither exceed 9 in any day nor exceed 48 in any week', nor should they 'work more than 6 hours overtime a week'.

This is the case unless the firm receives an Exemption Order from the Factory Inspectorate. J.M.B. Taylor, HM Principal Inspector of Factories has confirmed that he has no record of any Exemption Order being issued to Fleur de Lys.

Under the compulsory overtime order the employees, mainly women and young people, were working 50 hours a week, more than 9 hours a day and more than 6 hours overtime a week.

How have Fleur de Lys got away with this? Because there is no trade union organisation at the factory.

CHILD LABOUR

Fleur de Lys employ many schoolchildren both after school and at weekends. There are legal limits on the number of hours which such children are allowed to work. While we are still carrying out investigations on that count, we have evidence that Fleur de Lys has been employing regularly over the past year a boy truanting from school. The company would find it difficult to claim that they were unaware either of his being under 16 or that he should have been at school since his 16 year old sister was a supervisor at the firm.

This is, of course, a breach of the Employment of Children Act 1973. Such an action by the company would also invalidate its public liability assurance; while the truant was working injury or damage incurred by anyone there would not be covered.

SAFETY BOOTS

A notice signed by Jean Whiteoak, the General Manager, appeared on the notice board informing staff that they would have to purchase safety shoes. It stated that 'These wellingtons will now become a compulsory part of the factory uniform....we have to insist that the staff purchase the boots themselves'. The money was not deducted at source (!) but was handed over in cash week by week to Mr. Maurice Firth, the Chairman of the Works Committee, who passed it on to Liveras.

However, Section 9 of the Health and Safety at Work Act states that 'no employer shall levy or permit to be levied on any employee of his any charge in respect of anything done or provided in pursuance of any specific requirement of the relevant statutory provisions'. In other words, an employee cannot be charged for compulsory safety equipment or clothes. Why then did Fleur de Lys make these charges in what

would appear to be a contravention of the Act?

How have Fleur de Lys got away with this? Because there is no trade union organisation at the factory.

WHY NO TRADE UNION ORGANISATION AT FLEUR de LYS?

These abuses would not have occurred if there had been independent trade union organisation at the factory. Then workers would have available to them not only expert advice on their rights but also the trade union's strength to negotiate for them better rates of pay and working conditions. No Works Committee set up by the employer, as at Fleur de Lys, can do this; it would not even be recognised in law as an independent trade union.

Why is there no trade union at Fleur de Lys? Liveras claims that it is because the employees do not wish to belong to one. It may well be that many did not see the point in joining a union - they have not had the advantages explained to them - though our report points out the dangers of workers not being organised. But this is not the whole story for employees have explained to us how supervisors have warned them, 'Don't mention the union here or you'll get the sack'. One of the causes of Liveras' outburst on July 11th of last year may well have been the rumour circulating that some girls wanted to join the union. There is evidence of active discouragement, if not intimidation, of the workforce from attempting to join a union.

'Action taken against an employee to deter him or prevent him being or seeking to become a member of an independent trade union or penalising him for doing so' would be against Section 53 of the Employment Protection Act 1975.

THE ONLY CLOSED SHOP WITH NO UNION MEMBERS

Liveras signed a closed shop agreement with the Bakers Union in November 1976. This agreement, which came into force on February 1st, 1977 states that all new employees of Fleur de Lys have to join the Bakers Union; yet the Bakers Union still has no members at the factory. How has this amazing situation come about?

Mr. Winfield, the District Officer of the Bakers Union, explained to us the history of his dealings with Liveras. After the company's arrival in Newark in August 1976 the two met quite regularly and in November were able to negotiate the procedural agreement. Winfields' only concern at this time was that he was being constantly fobbed off with excuses when he tried to arrange to talk to the workforce.

But then Liveras set up a Works Committee which promptly decided that no trade union was needed; most of the members of this committee were supervisors, and the votes

were counted by supervisors. So although the agreement came into force on February 1st, 1977 (and is still in force, since no 6 months written notice of its termination has been received by the Bakers Union) there has been no union recruitment and no provision for union facilities made by Fleur de Lys.

Thus when Liveras claimed in July 1978 that each member of staff was given the opportunity to join the union but had declined, he neglected to mention that he had signed an agreement which stated that all HAD to join the Bakers Union. Nor did he mention that the union's local organiser had not at that time been allowed to speak to the employees and put the case for the union.

Mr. Winfield has, in fact, been able to talk to them only once (interestingly enough, when the Industrial Tribunal cases were pending), for quarter of an hour on Friday September 8th, 1978 at 4.15p.m. when they had just been paid and were impatient to get home after a hard week's work.

Why the farce of signing an agreement and then not implementing it? What was Liveras up to? Was it that he was amazed by his Works Committee's opposition to trade unionism? Is he the sort of employer whose plans he allows to be scuppered by his employees? Or did he see the closed shop agreement as a means of covering himself against accusations of being anti-union, of keeping other unions out and of hoodwinking the Bakers Union?

FLEUR de LYS - THE COMPANY THAT'S ALWAYS IN THE NEWS

MARCH 1976

Fleur de Lys agree to take over the factory on the industrial estate built by Notts County Council.

AUGUST 1976

The factory opens. The Advertiser carries a front page picture of Liveras' daughters decorating cakes. The caption reads 'They seem to be happy as their work 'Did they work a 40 hour week?' we ask.

JANUARY 1978

Plans for expansion announced.

JULY 1978

Dispute over compulsory overtime. Cases for wrongful dismissal to go to Industrial Tribunal.

AUGUST 1978

Newark District Council approves a £200,000 loan to Fleur de Lys.

SEPTEMBER 1978

Two officers from the District Council who were involved in the negotiations over the loan join Fleur de Lys. One says, 'Fleur de Lys has a lot to offer'.

NOVEMBER 1978

Fleur de Lys settle out of court before the cases for wrongful dismissal can reach the Industrial Tribunal.

WHO ARE FLEUR de LYS PATISseries?

What do they make? Fresh pastries and bakery products.

How long have they been in Newark?

They arrived in August 1976. The previous factory was in Palmer's Green, London.

Who do they employ? Employees tend to be teenagers, many are school leavers. Even supervisors are as young as 16.. There is a rapid turnover of staff.

What is the financial position of the firm? The figures for 1976 and 1977 are as follows.

	1976	1977
Sales	£303,230	£482,627
Trading profit	£ 40,262	£100,177
Depreciation	£ 11,606	£ 21,473
Directors pay	£ 5,333	£ 6,422
Audit fees	£ 850	£ 2,025
Interest payments	£ 2,804	£ 8,150
Pre-tax profit	£ 19,669	£ 62,107
Tax	-	-
Net profit	£ 19,669	£ 62,107
Dividend	-	-
Undistributed profit	£ 19,669	£ 62,107
Capital employed	£ 69,785	£124,091

Who owns the firm? A.D. Liveras owns all the 15,000 £1 ordinary shares.

Who is he?



He is a Greek Cypriot who came to this country 16 years ago. Two years after becoming sales manager of Fleur de Lys he bought the company.



DO YOU FEAR TO WALK ALONE?

Attacks, indecent assault and rape are not things which only happen to other people in other parts of the country. It happens here in Newark. Only recently there have been three attacks, two on teenage girls, the other on an older woman. These attacks were unprovoked, unnecessary acts of violence. We only hear of the reported cases, there are many reasons why the true figure cannot be known.

ANY WOMAN CAN BE RAPED.

Rape is not something that happens only to certain women. No woman wants or deserves to be raped. IT IS A THREAT TO EVERY WOMAN, NO MATTER WHO OR WHERE SHE IS, RAPE IS PART AND PARCEL OF SOCIETY'S ATTITUDE TO WOMEN.

The present law on rape is historically based on the belief that a woman's body is the exclusive property of either her father, husband or guardian. If a woman is seen to have taken a risk with that property by associating with people of 'low repute' by frequenting places that are considered to be unsafe, such as pubs nightclubs, or if she lives independently of men, she is considered to have been negligent and careless and therefore to have 'got what she deserved'.

Women are expected to welcome the attention of men, to be flattered by that attention. There is little recognition that these attentions may be unwelcome and that she has the right to make her own decisions and to make an independent choice about her sex life. Most men do not recognize this, they feel that they have the right to force themselves on women. In little ways this is aggravating, taken to its extreme, it is RAPE.

FACTS AND FICTIONS ABOUT RAPE.

Many men, and women too, believe things about rape that are just not true. Such ideas as 'she asked for it' or 'she said no but really meant yes' ARE FICTIONS NOT FACTS. A woman is often made to feel guilty for an act of violence towards her over which, in fact, she has no control. FICTIONS like the statements above, shift responsibility on to the women, whereas the true nature of rape is that it is a crime. The man who commits the crime is responsible for it.

FICTION: 'She asked for it', 'She's an easy lay and wanted it anyway'.

FACT: Rape is a brutal, degrading violent crime. Studies show that most rapes are planned. The woman is usually threatened with violence or even death if she resists. The way in which a wo-

man dresses or where she chooses to walk does not give any man the right to rape her.

FICTION: Violence is only a by-product of rape to enforce submission.

FACT: Most reported rapes involve violence beyond that needed to terrify the woman. The evidence is that submissive behaviour is neither more or less likely to prevent that rapist being violent. He is usually intent on hurting the woman, not just keeping her quiet. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of reported rapes involve the man humiliating and degrading the woman.

FICTION: Rape is a crime a man commits on impulse. He is just spontaneously releasing sexual desire.

FACT: An American study showed 70% of rapes are planned, 11% are partially planned, 70% are committed by two or more men. The very old and the very young are raped, sexual attractiveness does not seem to be an important factor.

FICTION: The typical rapist is sexually frustrated, repressed or psychologically abnormal.

FACT: Very few rapists have been shown to be any of the above. Very few rapists are referred for psychiatric treatment because they are not found to be ill.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN RAPED.

1. Go to a place where you feel safe.
2. Call a friend to talk to or contact Nottingham Rape Crisis centre, Telephone 411475.
3. Decide whether you want to report the rape to the police. The decision is Yours.

IF YOU DECIDE TO REPORT

1. Before you call the police, call a friend to go with you.
2. DO NOT WASH OR CHANGE CLOTHING, this will destroy evidence. Bring a change of clothing as the police will probably keep the ones you are wearing as evidence.
3. Go to or call the police as soon as possible, if you wait too long, they may assume that it was not a 'real' rape or that you did not think it was important.
4. At the police station you may request that a police woman question you. However, this may not be possible.
5. You will be given a medical examination you can ask that a police woman be present, but it is unlikely that you will have a woman doctor.
6. Make sure that you have tests for VD and pregnancy.

IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO REPORT

1. Have cuts, bruises or internal pain treated by your doctor or at a hospital casualty department.
2. Unfortunately the incidence of VD after rape is high. You should have a VD test. Treatment is confidential. If you do not want to say you have been raped just say that you had painful unprotected intercourse.
3. You should have a pregnancy test. If you are pregnant and want an abortion discuss it with your own doctor or the Family Planning Clinic (Tel: Newark 3255) You are entitled to go to another doctor or clinic if your own doctor will not refer you for an abortion.
4. Tell the doctor about any allergies you have and drugs or medicine you are taking. These can affect the result of tests.

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Who Cares About Annie?

Do you remember the Tory Party political broadcast 'Who Cares About Annie' in which an old lady was too poverty stricken to afford a T.V. set. Do you remember how it was implied that it was all the fault of those wicked Socialists and that under the Tories everything would be different. Well at least as far as the Nottinghamshire Tories go it is. Its worse. In typical Tory hypocritical fashion at the same time they were telling us how much they cared about the old, the Nottinghamshire Tories were putting charges on the local home help service.

Here is now it works. The old no matter how poor are charged 50p per week. Those on supplementary benefit were told that they could claim the 50p from the DHSS - wrong, they can't. The old are then given 10 weeks to pay, in other words if they get more than £5 in arrears, no matter what state the old person or their home is in the service is cut.

And what pray is it the Tory administration are going to do with all the money they hope to get from the old. Believe it or not they intend to build old peoples homes Very commendable you may say, but wait, isn't that kind of care expensive, wouldn't it be better to try and keep the old in their own homes. Of course it would but as changes are being made for domiciliary services some of them can't afford it. In other words money levied on old people for the use of the home help services will be used to finance old peoples homes. Those who can't afford the levy will end up in them.

But then this is all part of the Tory philosophy which says people must pay for the services they receive and that there are (or will be under the Tories) means tests for those who can't afford them; the corollary of this is that the Tories dislike and will try and destroy the provision of free and universal services for all. This would all be very nice if at the end of the day we had a better service to offer to the people who need it but in the case of the old and the home helps we won't. What is even more disturbing is that in the long run this kind of make 'em pay policy may prove more expensive to the ratepayers. Taken to its logical conclusion there is no reason why charges should not be levied on a host of other services at present provided free with increases for those services where a charge is already being made.

Of course the Tories will reply that more money is needed to finance better services. Why then has Nottinghamshire County Council balances of £7million outstanding which have arisen because the Council has been underspending? 'The Guardian' newspaper of the 23rd November, 1978 reported that Nottinghamshire Council was underspending by almost 7% per head. In other words the Council are receiving more money than they are spending on providing services for you. Perhaps the next time you see your County Councillor you should put this question to him or her, 'Why are you charging old people for a service which for all who receive it is a necessity when millions of pounds of unspent money could be used to finance it?' What is more important to remember is that the Tories whether in Nottinghamshire or anywhere else have never cared about Annie.

DRESS
MAKING
Alterations and
repairs at Olgas
indoor market
stall, weds,
fri & saturday.

PUNK
SOUL
ROCK

DISCO ?
SHOP ?
CLUB ?

NO



COUNTRY
ORIGINALS
RARITIES

AN

EXPERIENCE

NUJ dispute

Statement from Advertiser NUJ chapel:

More than half the journalists at the Newark Advertiser have joined thousands of others throughout the country in supporting a national strike to get better pay and conditions on local papers.

The strike, called by the National Union of Journalists, is being obeyed by 98 per cent of the 9000 provincial journalists who work in Newspaper Society offices.

So far the Advertiser has continued to appear, produced by two strike-breakers, four non-union staff and two members of a rival union, the Institute of Journalists. They are also getting help from a freelance.

The Advertiser's West Bridgford office is now without a reporter. The 11 striking members are picketing daily and distributing leaflets about the strike. But they and their colleagues throughout the country are receiving no strike pay. Most of them are living on borrowed cash, savings and the remnants of their wages.

Morale is high. The strikers are determined that this strike-the first of its kind in the union's 71-year history-should end low pay and improve conditions on provincial papers.

The vast majority of provincial journalists earn less than the average male manual wage. Only a handful earn as much as the average male white collar wage.

But the provincial newspaper industry is one of the most profitable sectors of British industry today. The recent extensions to the Advertiser premises show that money is not short.

The NUJ is asking only for a fair wage. In the 1950s and 1960s it tried to reason with the Newspaper Society but wages continued to fall behind other workers in the industry.

Lesser forms of industrial action have been tried at the Advertiser and other papers but with little result. It has now come to an all-out strike and the Advertiser chapel are determined to win improved pay and conditions.

The determination of the strikers is shown by the fact that they walked out, just before Christmas, knowing full well that there would be no strike pay.

They also knew that this could be a long strike. But it is the best chance for years to end low pay and get a decent reward for working long and irregular hours.

The Advertiser chapel agreed fully with NUJ president Mr. Denis MacShane when he said: "We have waited long enough. Unity now, and the justice of our claim, makes this strike the most crucial struggle the NUJ has ever fought. Your courageous support will make our fight short and successful."

Newark [New Jersey]

part 2.....

As black protest in Newark grew it focussed on 3 main areas: ghetto housing, education and police brutality. A move to clear a black neighbourhood for a new state college was followed by a decision to fill a vacant Board of Education place with a white rather than a better qualified black official (70% of Newark's schoolchildren were black). Though feelings ran high on these two issues neither was likely to provoke a confrontation on the streets, police brutality was a different matter.

On the night of July 12th, 1967 a black taxi driver was arrested for a minor traffic offence, taken to local precinct station and severely beaten, other taxi drivers spread the word through the ghetto, and within hours a large crowd had the station under seige, hurling bottles, bricks and the occasional molotov cocktail.

By the following day it was clear that the black community leaders had lost control of the situation. The police went on the rampage beating anyone with a black skin - including off-duty black police officers. Firebombing and looting spread. On the morning of July 14th, as the riots began to diminish, the National Guard was called out. Newark, the most heavily policed city in the U.S., found 3,000 National Guardsmen and 375 state troopers on its streets. In an effort to dislodge snipers the troops fired at anything that moved. Casualties mounted - 1 policeman; 1 fireman; 23 blacks, including 6 women and 2 children, were killed. Over 1000 were injured, 1300 arrested and \$10 million damage caused.

Though brutally suppressed the 1967 riots united Newark's blacks. The problem was, where do we go next? Militant black nationalists saw a chance of gaining control of the city, but Newark was economically too important to be surrendered to "unstable" and "inexperienced" blacks. Instead, concessions were made by the white power structure. "Safe", liberal blacks for the first time took their places high in city government.

Since 1967 little has been done to eradicate Newark's sickness. There is no shortage of bland official statements, but the ghettos remain. A black mayor has no control over job creation, school financing, or state funded social services. Real power lays elsewhere. The intention has been to create the impression of real movement while actual movement has been too limited to be significant.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Newark, which in fairly recent memory, was its own Education Authority has, on the face of it, a reasonable range of schools to cater for its children. As well as the usual provision it also has a number of Nursery Units, (more were in the pipe-line but were blocked by the present Conservative Administration at County Hall who have actually refused loan and grant assistance from Central Government resources), a Day Special School for "Slow Learners", a school for the Severely Educationally Sub-normal (the official term!), and a number of **Special** Classes in Primary Schools. There is no local provision for Physically Handicapped Pupils at present although a number of children will be going to the Nursery Unit at Holy Trinity School in January. Traditionally, Physically Handicapped children have been "bussed" an hour each way to the Thieves Wood School beyond Ravenshead, as the only alternative to seven day boarding. Even the new Physically Handicapped Unit will not be able to cater for the needs of these children beyond the Infant stage. Pupils with visual or hearing losses are frequently denied the opportunity to remain within present schools with the aid of a teacher auxiliary on the grounds that staffing ratios do not permit further increases in personnel. The alternative, paradoxically, is very expensive education in Residential Schools outside the County where the fees are often as high as £7,000 a year. While the County has far-sighted schemes with regard to Advisory Teachers for Parents of Handicapped Children, Peripatetic Teachers for the deaf and is even prepared to provide from six to ten hours tuition in a pupil's own home in certain instances, there are clearly gaps in the system which have not been properly thought out in response to some fairly obvious local needs. In terms of handicap, and it has been estimated that one in six children may have some particular special need, Newark can fairly be said to be on the fringe of existing provision with little likelihood of any meaningful developments in the near future. Special Education itself remains somewhat piecemeal and the state of Remedial Education for the large numbers of children in school who need a little extra help is even more chaotic as one by one existing Remedial Teachers (who are often part-time only) have been withdrawn throughout the area.

Following the chaos of Secondary re-organisation which has left many parents of teenage pupils in a state of shock as they watch their children going through an unknown and, to many, incomprehensible

middle and upper school system, we now have the further and added complication of a decline in practical terms of many of the support services within schools which one could reasonably expect from a compassionate Education Authority in the late 1970s. The Nursery Unit programme has been cut, Remedial Teachers and Ancillary helpers have been steadily withdrawn, the needs of the physically handicapped have been hardly recognized and the pressures on schools to cope with increasing numbers of children of lesser ability who cannot find their way into the existing special schools is not recognized in terms of any meaningful extra provision whether in terms of extra staff or in-service training. Whilst the physical structures of schools buildings may appear to be significantly better than those in the neighbouring County of Lincolnshire we should not be fooled into thinking that all is well in Newark and that the needs of all our children are being met at any one time in the best and most appropriate ways. Continued parental pressure is very necessary at this particular time to plug the increasing gaps in an already leaky system. Make sure your local County Councillors know your views!

SKAN

"What is it? Why? What does it stand for?" These are just a few questions I have been asked about SKAN. What is it? Well SKAN is an Anti Nazi League for us school kids and students. Why? Well as they say if yer wanna future - self explanatory. What for? To stop the NF fascists ruining our lives by torturing our friends and stopping our music. Yes OUR music. If the NF racists get their way, dozens of OUR favourite artists would, well at the best be deported. For example if they had their way Paul Simon, Clash, Poly Styrene, X ray spex, Arri Up, Slito, Erroll Brown, Hot Chocolate, Rita Ray, Darts and Jean Burnel, Stranglers would all go.

SKAN in school - one of their main aims is to combat the poisonous leaflets the NF are distributing throughout schools, hoping to form a youth organisation on the same lines as the Hitler Youth Movement. I hope to count on your vital support in this matter. If you would like to be a member of SKAN, write to SKAN, P.O. Box 151, London, WC2, asking for information-to join-or both.

If the NF got into power our lives wouldn't be worth living - they would make schools like prisons, they would want us to shut our mouths, they would want no free discussion with teachers or amongst ourselves, they would expel any of us who

thought for ourselves, cane and flog us for the slightest thing, force us all to wear uniform and after all this, when we left school they would force us to join their racist, poisoning army. It just wouldn't do, so if you want to stop this join and support SKAN.

punk



Well, the great punk rock explosion of a few months ago seems to have died down. The media don't comment much about it now that they have it for their own ends, mainly to make as much money as they can. Punk appear to have defeated its early promise, having allowed the major record companies to exploit their stand against youth unemployment, inflation, racism and fascism and the establishment.

The Sex Pistols said they would never sell out and appear on Top of the Pops, yet they did! Just think how much they made out of their single 'God save the Queen' and their album 'Never mind the Bollocks'. And now in a recent N.M.E. poll Sid Vicious has been voted 'the most wonderful human being' like the anti establishment bands of the sixties, the Stones, for instance, they'll soon be driving round in cars that cost three times what a working man earns in a year. In fact the famous punk bands exploit the working class because they become rich on their fans' money.

The only successful thing to come out of the 'New Wave' is the Rock against Racism (RAR) organisation which is punk dominated. It has had much success when it joined with the Anti-Nazi League to help organise the carnivals against the Nazi National Front. The last big one was at Brockwell Park in Brixton when over 100,000 went to hear Elvis Costello, Misty and Aswad. Tom Robinson and Sham 69s singer also appeared to speak out against the National Front. A small contingent went from Newark on a hired bus and had a great day.

Now to the music itself, The Clash appear to be the most politically aware band, just listen to their first album 'The Clash' with tracks like 'Career Opportunities' about youth unemployment, 'I'm so bored' comments on Britain being swamped by American T.V. crap, 'Protex Blue' is about contraceptives, and 'Hate War' inticizes all the wars and sufferings that go on today. Musically 'The Clash' are good, they can unlike that Scottish Band, whose trousers appear to have shrunk, play their instruments, the only criticism be-

ing that sometimes their lyrics are difficult to understand.

Another good band is Elvis Costello and the Attractions with singles like 'Watching the Detectives', 'I don't want to go to Chelsea' and 'Radio radio'.

The Boomtown Rats latest offering 'Rat-rap' is their most commercial record yet, has yet another punk band sold out?

The Jam have left mainstream punk and are basically 60's type rock.

My personal favourite band is 'Poly Styrene' and 'X Ray Spex' with their single 'Identity'.

Write and let me know what your favourite is and why.

Thomas Pyncheon

SELL OUT

The first issue of Newark Other Paper sold out within a week of its appearance on newsstands; in fact we reckon that we could have got rid of double our initial run of 500. If you're reading this now, we imagine you must have found something of interest in Issue No. 1, if only courting the mistakes.

The reactions we heard were mixed, as we expected and hoped, if we were to please everyone we wouldn't be doing much of a job as a newspaper.

Here, anyway, are some of the comments overheard. Some we accept, some we would challenge and some we don't understand - It couldn't be worse than the Advertiser - It's awful, scurrilous, badly written and libellous -

It's not a newspaper, it's a magazine but it smells nice (Beth, aged 5) -

It needs someone to stir the shit here -

There's a mistake in the article on -

You can't sell that here, I'm fetching the police (Market Superintendent) -

Aren't you taking a risk printing that? -

We enjoyed the article on Newark, New Jersey (journalists on the Advertiser) -

It's a Left Wing paper I won't stock it (Hickmans newsagents on Cartergate) -

We are not amused (Duke of Newcastle)

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Letters to 82 Charles Street, Newark, where the open editorial meetings are held every Friday at 7.45. All readers are welcome.

The Editorial Board for this issue was made up of Dave Barton, Colin Bromfield, Alan Dorling, Roger Grimes, Sylvia Meeds, and Travis Townson. Helpers included Nora Scrimshaw, Paul Shepherd, Chris Taylor, Brenda Unwin, Dex Whicher and Dave McKenny.

Newark Socialist Forum

Newark Socialist forum is a broad left organisation. First started in 1976, when it was known as Newark Left Discussion Group. It comprises of members of the Labour Party, Communist Party, Fabians and non aligned socialists. Its aims are to bring some left wing political life back into Newark. Over the past two years it has been fairly active. It has organised two folk evenings, two performances by the mobile workers theatre, the last one being the Working Womens' Charter. It has also had a showing of the War Game - a BBC documentary showing what happens to the public in nuclear war. It was banned by the BBC. Recently it has been involved in trying to set up an anti nazi league branch in Newark. It has met with some success, with the performance of the CAST Theatre Group's play 'What Happens Next.'

If anybody is interested in the Socialist Forum please contact 189 Yorke Drive, Newark.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Every September sees the start of another academic year of Newark Technical College, with it comes the problem of student accommodation. Students, often from abroad, are faced with the prospect of competing for a place to live. Consequently, student accommodation is often overcrowded, the living conditions poor. Students complain they are being exploited by landlords and the Great Estate Agent Conspiracy.

The problem is compounded by the lack of a complaints procedure at the Tech. Accommodation officers are inhibited by the very lack of property available to them. The result is inertia, resulting in disillusionment and misery.

Student accommodation problems aren't confined to Newark but seem an expression of the peculiarly British propensity for muddling through. Unfortunatley, those who adhere to such ideas rarely have to suffer the consequences of them. Too often educational establishments see accommodation as an irritant that interferes with their main business, a worldly issue many academics are unable to contemplate, let alone acknowledge.

The problems confronting Newark's student won't go away until students themselves work collectively through a vigorous union and bring pressure on the college and the town itself. There are a fair number of students in Newark yet they remain, for the most part 'invisible,' their protest muted. Examples of bad housing, poor food, unhinged land-

lords and rip-off estate agents can't be allowed to remain in the realm of hearsay - they must be substantiated and used to buttress a programme of protest. Until this happens few people, other than students themselves, will take the problem of student accommodation seriously.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Hawtonville Tenants Association are engaged in a campaign for a community centre to be built on the Hawtonville estate. Their first efforts are directed towards gauging local support for the idea. If it can be shown that the people on the estate genuinely want a community centre then Newark District Council will themselves look at the project. But the first step is to determine public opinion.

By common consent the Hawtonville estate suffers from chronic deprivation, as bad as any in the county. The area is poorly served by public transport (infrequent, erratic and expensive) the shops (not one chemist shop on the estate, for example). Even worse, play and leisure amenities are practically non-existent.

According to the 1971 census the population of Hawtonville estate was 10,157, of which 4,212 were under 21 years of age. Furthermore, the Newark District Council report of 1974 found that, 'For provision of leisure and recreation facilities young people appear to be the most deprived group. The report went on to express concern for the large numbers of housebound women in the area, those with little or no social life.

It has been suggested that Bailey House could serve as a community centre of sorts by greater use of the present building or extending it. But even if all interested parties were amenable objections would remain. Firstly, an extension of Bailey House would be restricted by the siting of the building; secondly, what ever way you look at it, Bailey House is inadequate, and always will be inadequate, to serve the needs of over 10,000 people.

Play areas and a community focal point are essential to any large estate. Essentially then Hawtonville is deprived. However, the first thing you notice about Hawtonville is the general air of neglect, rather than the lack of amenities. Untidy streets, derelict areas, overgrown verges add to the general impression of an area in decline. To arrest such a trend it becomes imperative that a sense of community is fostered. The people of Hawtonville and Newark District Council have to get together with this aim in mind. If Hawtonville is to become a better place to live a lot has to be done. A community centre would be the first step.

whats on



MUSIC

Folk at the Rutland Arms, Barnbygate - Monday evenings 40p.
Folk at the Old Kings Arms, Kirkgate - Wednesday evenings Free.
Jazz at the Old Kings Arms, Kirkgate - Monday evenings Free.
Jazz at Kirrages, Chain Lane - Sunday evenings Free.
Jazz at the Rutland Arms, Barnbygate - Wednesday evenings.
Jazz at the Palace Theatre, Appletongate - Friday evenings 50p.
Classical at Palace - Gilbert and Sullivan evening with the English Sinfonia Chorale - Sunday February 25th at 7.30p.m.
RHP Band in concert Palace Theatre - Saturday February 17th at 7.30p.m.
Country and Western, Pete Sayers Music Show - Palace Theatre - Saturday February 24th at 8.00p.m.
Mediaeval music and traditional instruments The London Consort in 'Pastyme with Good Company' - Palace Theatre - 7th February at 7.30p.m.
Dave Betton and Style - Newark Working Men's Club - Wednesday February 21st.

MEETINGS

Newark Archaeological and Local History Society 'Windmills' Tudor Hall, Appletongate - Wednesday February 14th at 7.30p.m.
Newark Town Labour Party - AGM, Wednesday 31st January - 7.30p.m. - Palace Theatre
Newark Communist Party - Joe Whelan (Secretary of Notts NUM) on 'Way out of the Crisis' - Details later.



YOU'VE GOT RATS?

BUT OUR RULES AGAINST
PETS ARE QUITE
CLEAR.....

There are those who would say, in answer to the above question, that there is nothing on in Newark, not only for youngsters but also other age groups, and it must be admitted that to a large extent this is true.

However, things seem to be looking up, at least in one area of entertainment, trad., jazz evenings are on the increase with bands playing regular dates in the town, forming a welcome alternative to Bingo and plain boozing.

As most people know jazz grew out of the religious spirituals and work songs of African slaves and negro fieldmen in the USA, the music often echoing these sad peoples appalling plight. In fact musical skills could often add to the market value of a slave, advertisements for the sale or hire of men in early American newspapers made such claims for their goods as 'makes fiddles' or 'artful and can both read and write, and is a good fiddle player'.

The roots of jazz and blues in slavery should never be forgotten, though now traditional jazz has evolved into 'good time' improvised music.

Live traditional jazz is played at 3 venues in the town now.

For myself the best evenings are at the Kings Arms in Kirkgate, with a lively crowded atmosphere reminiscent of the heyday of trad. jazz, the 'Angry Young Man' period in the 50's. There is no charge for admission, just a collection for the band at the end of the evening.

A good variety of real ales are served at the pub by the knowledgeable and genial host, Chris Holmes.

Kirrages, another pub that offers real ale has trad., jazz on a Sunday night, again admission free, but for my own tastes the evening is a little too restrained and subdued.

The third gig for jazz buffs to visit is the club which meets fortnightly at the Palace on a Friday night, I haven't been lately but it used to be a lively evening, with one disadvantage, you've got to pay!

All three bands contain good and enthusiastic musicians and deserve support, not just for the enjoyment they give, but also because they keep live music going in a world of mass produced entertainment.

Organisers who wish their events or meetings to be advertised free of charge in this column are asked to get in touch with us.



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