

# IF YOU DON'T HIT IT ... ... IT WON'T FALL

No.6

**free**

This is the sixth 'If you don't hit it...' newsletter.

Its aim is to act as a channel of communication between different groups and individuals in Nottingham.

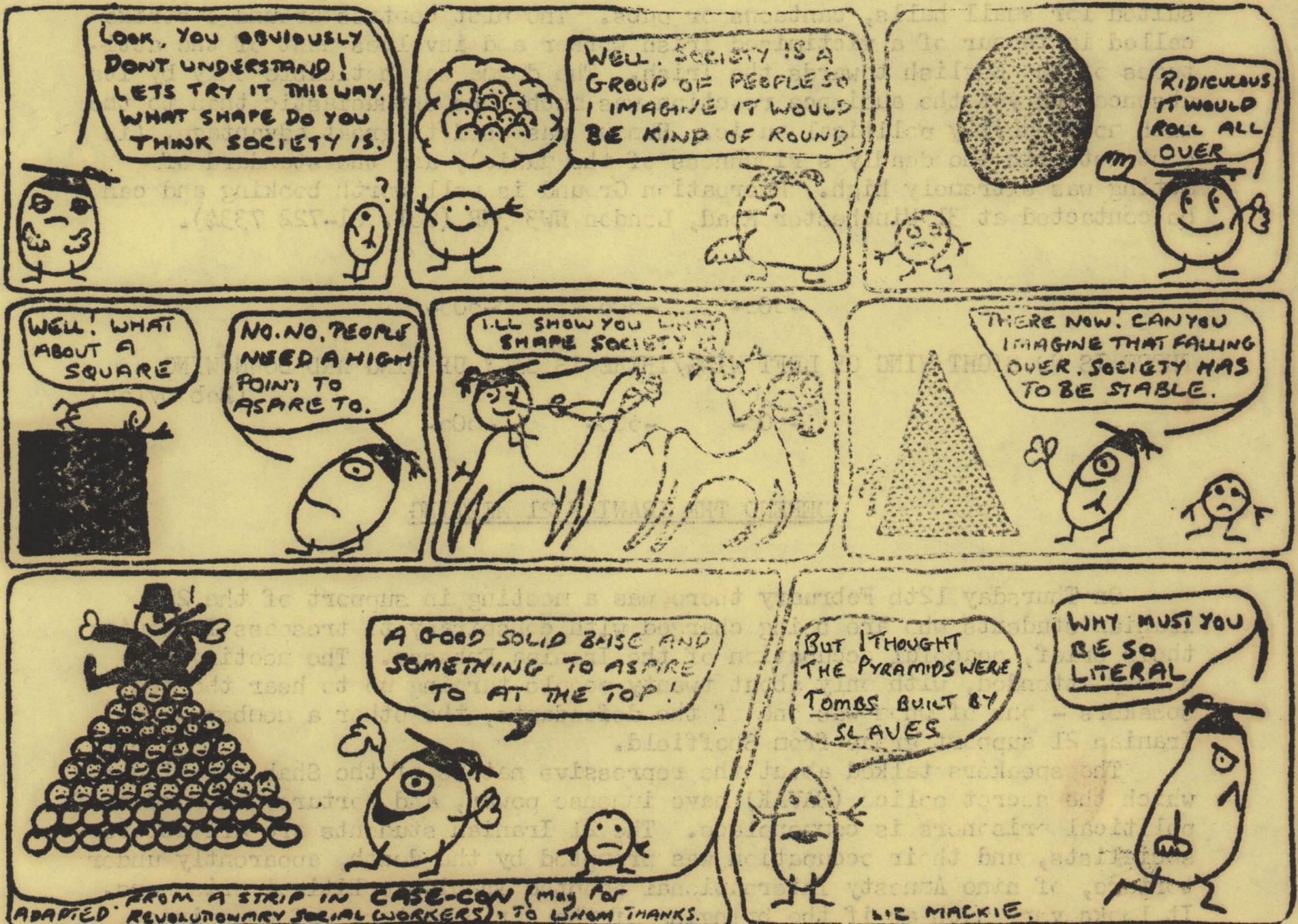
We hope this will include both information of campaigns, pickets, meetings, demonstrations, and give wider ideas and views an airing.

If you find the newsletter useful, please pass it on, to friends, comrades, neighbours, strangers, any one. We can only afford to print a limited number of copies, and still keep it free, so it's important that each copy gets to as many people as possible.

We need help, money and information. If you can offer any of these, please contact 600337 or 602510.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 23rd March at 8pm, at 8 Foxhall Road, Forest Fields.

\*\*\*\*\*



CONCERT OF PROGRESSIVE MUSIC

On Sunday 15th February, as part of a weekend conference at the University organised by the racist "English Students' Movement", there was a "concert of progressive music and theatre". About 100 people attended a performance of music by Peoples Liberation Music and a "rehearsed reading" (or play) by Recreation Ground. The audience were all seated in regimental chairs and the musicians sat on stage behind their music. Definite barriers.

The musicians (eight of them) were billed as a "political rock" group, but came as near to rock as do the Joystings or any other evangelical, crusading band. There was no mistaking the political nature of the group, however, with song titles such as "The Law of History", "Hail Ireland's Glorious Martyrs" and "Revolution is the Main Trend in the World Today". This last mentioned included the memorable line(s) "Ever since world war two U.S. imperialism and its followers have been continuously launching wars of aggression".

The overall impression we got of the group was of a contradiction between the "progressive" intention of the lyrics and the inherent conservatism of the music. Perhaps this is not so surprising considering the subjects covered. To convey abstract ideas of imperialism and colonialism in anything but a ponderous manner proves to be nearly impossible, and indeed the group was at its best when singing of individual struggles with which the audience and performers could identify.

The play on the other hand was a much better production. The proximity of the action to the audience involved them more in the spirit of things. "United We Stand" is a short play (1/2 hour) with five actors which is ideally suited for small halls, canteens or pubs. The plot centres around a strike called in favour of a victimised Irish worker and involves most of the attitudes of the English towards the Irish. The dogma was noticable only by its absence and yet the audience reaction was much more enthusiastic than to the much more overtly political music. Humour was used to great advantage, (in contrast with the deadly seriousness of the music), and the standard of acting was extremely high. Recreation Ground is well worth booking and can be contacted at 31 Winchester Road, London NW3 3NR (Tel. 01-722 7334).

THERE IS NO RIGHT WING OR LEFT WING/THERE IS ONLY UP WING AND DOWN WING (Bob Dylan)

DEFEND THE IRANIAN 21 MEETING

On Thursday 12th February there was a meeting in support of the 21 Iranian students who are being charged with conspiracy to trespass following their brief, peaceful occupation of the Iranina Embassy. The meeting was poorly attended, with only about twenty people turning up to hear the two speakers - one of whom was one of the defendants, the other a member of the Iranian 21 support group from Sheffield.

The speakers talked about the repressive nature of the Shah's regime in which the secret police (SAVAK) have immense power, and torture and murder of political prisoners is commonplace. The 21 Iranian students are all active socialists, and their occupation was prompted by the death, apparently under torture, of nine Amnesty International adopted Iranian political prisoners. It looks very much as if the bringing of the serious charge of conspiracy,

(which if upheld will result in at best imprisonment in this country, and at worse deportation to Iran) is not unconnected with diplomatic pressure brought by the Shah, whose lending of oil money gives him plenty of power over Britain. The ensuing discussion expanded some of these points.

A few thoughts on the meeting. I was disappointed that so little was said about the trial itself, and what practical help could be given, and also that the whole question of the use of the conspiracy law, and the law in general, for political ends, was not discussed. The chairman tried to bring up these points but the speakers were not anxious to discuss them. Indeed the meeting was more about the "just struggle of the Iranian proletariat" than the issues of conspiracy. The discussion which did occur was marred by its narrow Marxist-Leninist perspective which enabled one of the speakers to claim that the question of why the Russian Revolution "went wrong" was a side issue, despite the fact that he was advocating a Russian-style path to socialism for Iran, and produced also such choice comments as "Peasants don't have a socialist conscience" and "we want socialism not humanitarianism".

There were a number of questions I would have liked to have asked, to help me understand the Iranian situation, but quite honestly, I didn't dare ask them as I felt that the comrades would find them silly and irrelevant. For instance I wanted to know more about the culture of the Iranian people, their day-to-day life, the influence of religion on life, whether they tended to live co-operatively or competitively, and so on. I wanted to know whether the "path to socialism" would involve industrialisation and regression to a western-style "civilization" and if so what justification could be offered for this. Also, what about Iran's role as an oil producer "after the revolution"?

However, I do know that Iran is a really heavy place now, and that 21 people are being persecuted here in Britain for their political beliefs, on behalf of the Shah. The defendant was incredibly courageous and sincere and I urge people to support the campaign in support of him and his 20 co-defendants.

+ + +

Since this article was written, the charges against all 21 Iranians have been dropped! This is not a victory however. The 21 are still hunted by the Shit (oops sorry - I won't erase that one!), and other ways of attacking them will no doubt be found. The use of conspiracy to trespass charges will not cease, either. The reasons for dropping these particular charges all related to the circumstances of this case (that many of the defendants couldn't be brought to England for the trial, that the trespass in question was mitigated by its brief and peaceful nature). In other words the case forming the precedent, *KAMARA v. DPP*, is still intact.

La lutte continue!

#### BOYCOTT OF CHILEAN GOODS

On Saturday 21st February a picket took place at the Parliament Street Entrance of the Victoria Centre. The 20 or more of us (including some children) present gave out leaflets pointing out the nature of the regime in Chile and demanding a boycott of Chilean goods as well as no arms sales. (it's reprinted at the bottom of this report).

RAVELS SHOE SHOP, which sells Chilean-made shoes, is inside the Victoria Centre where giving out leaflets is forbidden. For an hour we stayed outside but then with placards raised, we walked in. Immediately, half a dozen panicking security guards and policemen stood in our path and sent us back.

While the majority discussed what to do next and the number of security people increased a few sneaked in the Centre another way and stood outside Ravel's for 10 minutes, showing the placards and giving out the remaining leaflets! The picket soon ended as the leaflets ran out (Sorry anybody who missed it).

BOYCOTT OF CHILEAN GOODS (continued)

It was a positive action, beginning to explain to a large number of people the important issues involved in the struggles of the Chilean workers and peasants, both before and after the coup. Because we tried to do this, the Authorities quickly came on the scene. It's important, too, that on pickets and similar actions we make decisions collectively and, in situations where there's trouble, look after each other. Perhaps another picket should be organised.

However, for the time being, a meeting has been arranged to discuss the Resistance in Chile, the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) and the Boycott in this country. Come along on:

WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 8.00

26 Colville Terrace  
(off Sherwood St)

Chile Solidarity Campaign Boycott  
Sub-Committee.

The leaflet said:

BOYCOTT CHILEAN GOODS : to oppose the murderous coup boycott all Chilean products.

Buying Chilean Goods can only support the fascist government in Chile to continue murdering and torturing people in their concentration camps. Many Chilean people are resisting the military dictatorship. Since 11th Sept. 1973 40,000 HAVE BEEN KILLED 400,000 ARRESTED AND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS BANNED.

Please help to protest about such treatment by refusing to buy Chilean goods:

BOYCOTT CHILEAN SHOES SOLD BY RAVELS BOYCOTT CHILEAN WINE  
BOYCOTT CHILEAN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Insist that the British government not sell arms to this murderous government, and not send submarines and frigates. The British government is presently training Chilean military personnel here - THIS MUST BE STOPPED.

Supporting this boycott will help all the Chilean people fighting against this military dictatorship. THE PEOPLE OF CHILE WILL WIN.

0 - 6 - 0 - 0 - 0

"I got discouraged with working round mass campaigns because I used to meet people for a short time and then never ~~xxxx~~ see them again, there was no way to draw ~~xxxx~~ together what we were doing - we seemed to be just mobilising people around something which often couldn't win and I didn't have a feeling of things growing and going on" from People's Food Coop

0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Most people will know what NAC is, but for those who don't, we are (very briefly) a National Campaign, nearly a year old, with "Free Abortion on Demand - A woman's Right to Choose" - as our main slogan.

The campaign is having a national demonstration on April 3rd, around our demands which also include incorporation of private clinics into the NHS system, free facilities for all including foreign women, increased birth control facilities, no forced sterilisation to accompany abortion. We appeal to all our supporters, women and men, to attend the demo to show just what kind of support there is for abortion on demand. We have booked 3 coaches, which we hope to fill. They leave the Salutation, Maid Marion Way at 9.30am on Sat. April 3rd. Please phone Mary 42808 about the demo and book places now!

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN (continued)

We are also planning local activities: March 8th is International Women's Day and on Sat. March 6th we have booked stalls in the Victoria Centre so that we can show exhibitions, slides, leaflets etc. This is in conjunction with other women working on the Working Women's Charter, Sex Discrimination Act and in the Trades Council.

We have a financial crisis right now which is a big limit to our activities and so we are having a SPRING FAYRE on March 20th at the International Community Centre: Jumble Sale, Cakes, Dames, Crafts etc - goods, money and help would be very welcome.

We attempt to have ongoing discussions about abortion and women's fertility; control over our bodies in a more general context; why women are not taking advantage of existing legislation in many cases; the question of the foetus and its rights if any etc etc. One of the main discussions we have been having recently within NAC has been around how to broaden ourselves out from a small highly committed group meeting regularly and over a long period, but remaining, most of the time, small and consequently weak. At the same time we know that women do recognise a need for abortion as their right, and whenever we have public events we seem to arouse considerable interest.

We want to make ourselves as public as possible by speaking in the streets, doing mass leafleting on estates, shopping centres, schools etc but we have found it very difficult to organise this because of lack of time and money and also I suppose because it takes a lot of nerve and energy to carry that through beyond the initial burst of enthusiasm - but SPUC and LIFE, the main anti-abortion groups, have been getting a lot of publicity recently around the reconvening of the Select Committee in Parliament, and we really need to get ourselves across to women as much as possible in all kinds of situations, if we can, to be successful.

Anyone interested in working with us is really welcome. Next meeting. Tues March 2nd 8.00 Women's Centre.

SHOWING OF THE FILM: V I V A P O R T U G A L

The Nottingham Campaign of Solidarity with the Portuguese Workers is showing the film VIVA PORTUGAL on Thursday 4th March at the ALBERT HALL Derby Rd., commencing at 7.30. Tickets 35p In advance. 40p at door. Available from Pathfinder Books or tel. 43081.

The struggles and achievements of the workers and peasants during the first year of the new Portugal are shown. Documenting the historical events of the period with much on-the-spot film, it goes behind government crises and shows us the real forces that took Portugal from a revolt of army captains to a revolutionary democratic struggle. It includes moving scenes when people were released from prison, the organising of factory and village committees, farmworkers seizing land and found co-operatives to cultivate neglected private estates; villagers occupying an empty manor house to create a people's hospital, the need for collective action and much more. These episodes in the Portuguese revolution are vital to the understanding of present events.

It's a good film! Come along and see it.

IF YOU DON'T HIT IT.....IT WON'T FALL

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd March. All welcome.

If you have anything you would like to go in, phone either 600337 or 602510 preferably before that date. Then it can be discussed at the meeting. Money contributions are needed too, especially welcome from groups or individuals who have used the newsletter.

## WOULD A SQUATTING CAMPAIGN

### BE A GOOD IDEA?

This article is intended to put up a few ideas for discussion of how an effective squatting campaign could develop.

GETTING SOMEWHERE REASONABLE TO LIVE IS A PROBLEM FOR MANY PEOPLE. Sometimes the problem is high rent - and not wanting to have to work overtime to pay it. Or finding life in a new council estate isolated. Or coming to a town for a job and finding there's nowhere to live. Or getting away from a dominating husband or repressive parents. Or not being allowed to live the way you want, for example, in a communal set up. These are some of the problems that lead to homelessness. Well over 10,000 people in London and thousands elsewhere have become squatters as the only real choice open to them.

### WHY HAS SQUATTING DEVELOPED?

The system we live under - capitalism - is not interested in satisfying our needs; it uses our needs to make profit. This may mean knocking down houses to allow more profitable office development. A great deal of money has been made on the interest from loans for building New Towns (like Harlow) and council estates (like Top Valley). Direct profit is made in building and improvement schemes. However, this has certainly not provided adequate housing for all; and this is where squatting and other housing militancy has come in.

### IT'S MORE THAN JUST A ROOF

Following nationwide redevelopment schemes the number of standard family units has increased. (In Nottingham, for example,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of all council housing has three bedrooms) Many people don't want to fit into this pattern so it's not surprising that in London especially squatting has been used as a way of setting up more flexible living arrangements. The possibilities are limitless, including accommodation for single young people; single mothers (and fathers); communes (some mixed, some just women, some gay people); battered wives... At the same time the number of families has increased, now making up quite a large proportion of the squats in London. Black people, too, are often forced to squat because housing and a decent wage are not easily available to them, especially at times like this when the economic crisis tries to make scapegoats of them. Communities of squatters have grown up, some with their own nurseries, food co-ops, women's and gay centres and advice centres. Squatting has been a social movement.

Nottingham, like most other cities, has ever increasing rents and plenty of homelessness. Behind the 12,000 on the waiting list there must be overcrowding; young adults living with parents etc. WOULD A SQUATTING CAMPAIGN BE A GOOD IDEA HERE? Before reaching an answer it's worth considering some of the problems.

### UNDERMINING SQUATTING

The Councils and Property Sharks haven't taken this attack on 'their' property lying down. They've hit back in several ways, making life more difficult for squatters. Quick, and sometimes nasty, evictions are more common while the law which squatters have used (Statute of Forcible Entry 1381) is likely to disappear and be replaced by a criminal trespass law which will give direct powers to the police in an eviction.

Secondly, the State, helped by many community workers, have encouraged "licensed squatting" where the property is 'lent' on the condition that the squatters are 'well-behaved' and move out when told. This needn't always be a defeat - but usually is because it effectively divides squatters from each other.

Thirdly, a massive smear campaign has been launched. The present economic crisis is fundamentally sexual and social, too; many people find themselves in conflict with the nuclear family and some actually walk out of it. Squatting has been one expression of this development (others include some housing and industrial struggle, the women's liberation and gay liberation movements the 'alternative society') yet the whole movement has been very confused and unsteady. When it comes to changing our personal lives, most of us feel insecure and just don't know what we're doing. In Islington, for example, right-

wing Councilors have played on this confusion and set 'young marrieds' against 'drug-crazed, queue-jumping hippy squatters' (!!) in a campaign. This demands 'Homes for Islingtonians' and 'Evict the Squatters' and those problem families 'pampered' by the Social Services Dept. (See Islington Gutter Press). That this polarisation has been possible is partly the squatters own fault by failing to act politically, recognising the needs of others and joining with them against the Council and landlords in the first place.

Occasionally, vigilante squads of local residents have evicted squatters; this is probably most easy when there is a complete insensitivity to the others needs. For example, some squats have hindered tenants in clearance areas from fighting the clearance order.

#### SOME OF THE THINGS PEOPLE DO IF THEY'RE THINKING OF SQUATTING

There are already dozens of subterranean squats in Nottingham. (No, these aren't in cellars, it's when no-one is supposed to know). There are also a good number of more open squats where the occupants would resist evict if necessary.

#### GETTING IN

Find an empty house in good condition. Make sure it's got running water on tap (rather than down the walls) and working gas and electricity. Get in without seeming to break in - perhaps through an 'open' window. Try not to alarm the neighbours. At this stage the police will be looking for any excuse to nick you - so don't do any damage, or pinch anything (turning on the light is considered theft) Immediately change the lock so you have your own key to the door. Put up curtains, pictures of the Bay City Rollers, the Divine Guru and Ernest Mandel and generally make it obvious that you intend to live there. A legal notice, pointing out that any intention of breaking up the squat will be answered by prosecution can be helpful.

Squatters are 'protected' by the "Statute of Forcible Entry" which encourages landlords to take them to Court rather than evict. HOWEVER, if a landlord decides to push it, they probably can. Also, this law which makes squatting a Civil Matter (like a Divorce) is likely to soon be swept away. So, make sure that you're not alone; friends, local tenants, other squatters can all be helpful. Try and make sure that everyone knows what's going on. Discuss together; we can't trust the law. We must be able to trust each other. Would some sort of squatters group make all this easier?

#### SETTING UP

Many landlords employ workers to vandalise empty houses to prevent squats. A good house can usually be found. Perhaps it's important to choose one in an area where the neighbours might be sympathetic. Someone should stay in 24hrs a day to prevent Heavy Landlords from indulging in Instant Evictions. The gas and electric can both be turned on and put in your name but since there's been a lot of arguement in Court about this recently, it's probably best not to advertise that you're squatting. However, if there's trouble, it's certainly worth a fight.

If you're on Social Security don't be fobbed off with a cut rate. Claim for full householder rate. (These points above are covered in more detail in the Squatters Handbook.)

If squatting becomes more widespread here what arrangements could be made about plumbing, wiring and general repairs. Some communities run self-help courses in these subjects. Similarly, could something be set up concerning the supply of furniture, beds, locks, curtains, colour T.V.s etc?

#### STAYING THERE

Some people are prepared to move on when asked. But those who need and want somewhere permanent have to either get rehoused or persuade the Council/landlord to let them stay. Some suggestions about this.

#### A SQUATTING GROUP

This would need to co-ordinate finding places, getting furniture and fighting evictions. It's important that any group involves everyone and this means

open meetings, sensitive listening, arranging nurseries so parents can come etc. Otherwise, if just a few people do all the organising it soon breaks down. People don't feel committed to each other and there's no collective strength when it's needed. On the other hand, because the success of staying in a house can depend on links with non-squatters (tenants, building workers, women's liberation activists etc) perhaps a group needs to involve others from the start.

HOW COULD AN EFFECTIVE SQUATTING CAMPAIGN DEVELOP? All the time, people are finding that capitalism doesn't satisfy their needs. (There's News from Every where) It's with these others that a movement strong enough to prevent evictions and intimidate Councils can be built. Most tenants associations, trade unions and labour party wards have next to no contact with the needs and demands of the people they claim to represent. Some however, (the exceptions that prove the rule) might be worth contacting. The 'action groups' that spring up from time to time as part of an active struggle are certainly worth getting in touch with. Would widespread flyposting be useful, too?

Can links be built with demolition workers, builders, gas and electricity board workers. They might be persuaded not to demolish or cut off squatters supplies. Some squatters have done 'Auction Busts'. These cause havoc by outbidding the other bidders (usually Property people) up to very high prices .....then quietly leaving; It makes a mockery of the property market.

What are the main effects of the crisis on working class people generally? What actions will bring us all together? Will the soon-coming rent increases along with the drop in the amount of cheap housing bring various groups together, including squatters, in one common struggle? How will the Cuts change the way different groups act? These questions are the ones which need answering because what happens generally will effect how successfully a squatting campaign could be.

WHAT ABOUT A MASS SQUAT? Could a large-scale squat somewhere provide a focus for a squatting movement? Could it be a centre for some sort of festival as well as provide a permanent home for some people.

SQUATTING ISN'T AN ANSWER TO EVERYTHING AND SHOULDN'T BE OVERRATED. IT IS ONE WAY OF MAKING SOME SPACE. Other strategies, such as demanding rehousing, setting up a Women's Aid Centre or refusing to pay rent can sometimes solve the same problems that squatting tries to solve. Would a campaign be a good idea? If anybody is interested in talking about a squatting campaign, perhaps doing a leaflet for more general circulation? Would anyone be interested in a more general housing group which looks at housing struggle as class struggle, tries to go beyond the usual limits of tenants associations, and pays special attention to the social/sexual crisis? If so, contact Keith c/o If you don't

#### INFORMATION\*INFORMATION\*INFORMATION

THE WOMENS GROUP meets every thursday at 8pm at the Womens Centre, 26 Newcastle chambers, Angel Row, Nottm. Discussions every week; women only. Contact 75985.  
NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN Meets every other Tuesday - 2nd, 16th, 30th March. 8pm at the Womens Centre. FUTURE EVENTS OF NAC: Spring Fayre, Sat. 20th March at International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd, at 2pm. and National Demo in London on Sat. April 3rd. For more details phone 45689 (day) or 42808 (eve).  
WORKING WOMENS CHARTER CAMPAIGN meeting Wed. March 10th 8pm at the Womens Centre. For more details contact 47304.

REFUGE FOR BATTERED WOMEN CAMPAIGN meetings on Mondays, 8pm Peoples Centre, 33 Mansfield Road. For more details contact Chris 35-5440.

NURSERY CAMPAIGN contact Margaret 865894. SEX\*DISCRIMINATION CAMPAIGN Liz 344-2667

WRITE ON SISTERS - womens writing magazine contact 7.34 Victoria Centre or 43081.

Fund-raising happening For this project on March 26th, The Yorker, Mansfield Rd, from 8pm. PLEASE COME!

WOMENS RIGHTS DISPLAY all day in the Victoria Centre, on Sat. March 6th.

WOMENS DISCO on March 13th in The Yorker, Mansfield Road, from 8pm. All women welcome. Contact 75985.

IMG PUBLIC MEETING "Revolutionary Perspectives of Womens Liberation" Thurs.

March 11th. Phone 43081 for venue. Speaker Hilary Wainwright.

LESBIAN GROUP contact 75985 GLF meets Wed. March 3rd & alternate Weds. 75985.

GAY WORKERS CAMPAIGN contact through Peoples Centre. NALGAY c/o Howard, Peoples C.

ARBORETUM AREA RESIDENTS/TENANTS meeting March 24th Internat. Community C. 8pm.

# campaign against a criminal trespass law

C/o no.6

BOWDEN ST

SE11

01-289-3877.

It's very likely that a Bill will soon go before Parliament, which proposes to make TRESPASS a CRIMINAL OFFENCE. Trespass means staying on someone else's property when they don't want you there. At the moment it's only a 'civil matter' - you can't be arrested for it, and the police aren't supposed to get involved. To make trespass a crime would be a serious attack on anyone who takes direct action, however peaceful, in support of their interests both at work and in the community.

## YOU COULD BE ARRESTED FOR TAKING PART IN ANY OF THESE ACTIONS:

**OCCUPATIONS** of factories and workplaces. Thousands of workers have saved their jobs through work-ins and occupations - like the 6,000 at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, and the 2,000 at Fisher Bendix on Merseyside.

**OCCUPATIONS** by students unions and other groups - like the sit-in at Birmingham Poly which stopped threatened cutbacks in courses, or Town Hall occupations by tenants against rent rises, or the occupation of social security offices by claimants or strikers who have been refused benefit.

**SQUATTING** : there are at least 800,000 empty houses in England & Wales. At least 250,000 have no permanent home, and a million more live in overcrowded and inadequate conditions. More than 40,000 homeless people have been forced to house themselves in empty & unused homes.

**PICKETS** : on private and State property - like the mass pickets which won the miners' strikes in 1972 and 1974, or the pickets by Islington tenants in protest at harassment by Prebbles estate agents.

+

**TENANTS** : who don't leave immediately after a possession order has been granted against them, could be arrested; and so could tenants without a rent book, if their landlord rang the police and claimed that they were squatters. Licencees too and many people living in tied accommodation might well be arrested, if they didn't leave when told to.

**GYPSIES** : most local authorities have utterly failed to carry out their duty under the Caravan Sites Act, to provide permanent sites for gypsies - forcing gypsies to trespass on open land.

## WHERE DID IT COME FROM ?

These proposals were produced by the Law Commission, a body of judges and lawyers, which advises the government on law changes. In their first report in 1974, the Commission proposed the following new offences:

- " 1) without lawful authority entering property by force adversely to any person in physical occupation of it, or entitled to occupy it, and
- 2) being unlawfully on property and failing to leave as soon as reasonably practical after being ordered to leave by a person entitled to occupation. "

They recommend up to 2 years jail for the first offence, Forcible Entry, and up to 6 months for the second, Criminal Trespass, and they propose that the police should be given the power of summary arrest. The Law Commission will produce their Final Report on Trespass at the beginning of March. Significantly, it will come out as Volume 1 of their 3-Volume Final Report on Conspiracy. Their proposals are clearly part of the general moves by the State to strengthen the law to control direct action.

# WHY DO THEY WANT IT NOW ?

A Criminal Trespass Law would give Parliamentary backing to recent repressive measures that have been brought in through judges' rulings, and by raking up old laws. The Shrewsbury pickets were jailed under the 100 year old Conspiracy laws; the Islington tenants who picketed Prebbles estate agents were ruled by a judge to be obstructing the highway - thus setting a precedent, which makes non-industrial picketing unlawful; quick eviction procedures were introduced by Court Rules Committees in 1970 - they were supposed to be just for squatters, but they've already been used against occupations by workers and students. A Criminal Trespass Law would make these 'backdoor' methods unnecessary - since it would provide a blanket charge covering all these activities and more.

Unemployment is at a record post-war level; wages are held down, while rents and prices are going up; the cuts in social spending mean worse conditions on estates, in schools, in hospitals. Faced with this situation, more and more people are being forced into direct action to save jobs, to defend their living standards, and to get decent housing and social services.

## DIVIDE AND RULE ? - NO !

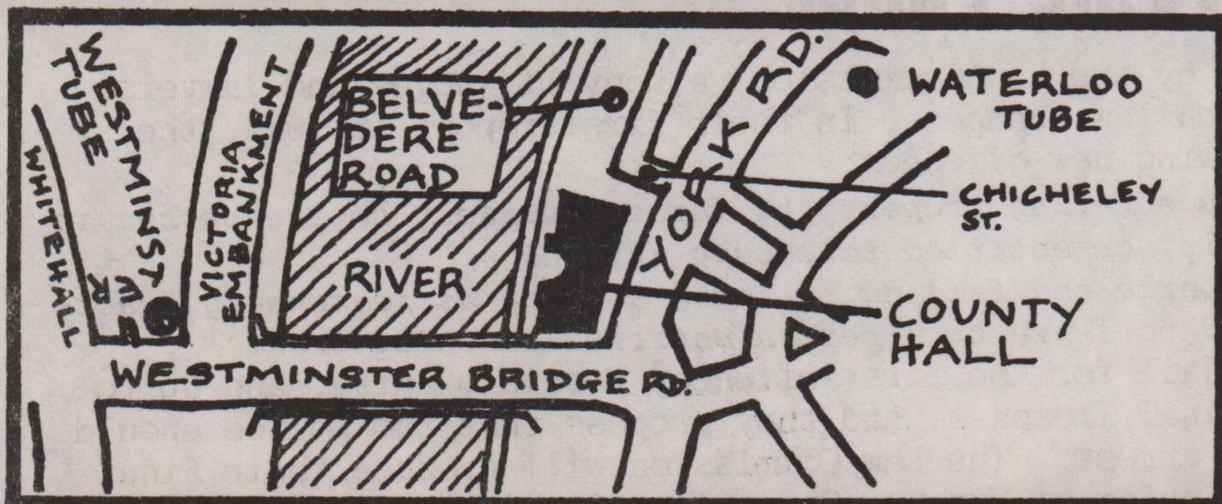
The Final Report may introduce a Criminal Trespass offence that's limited to those of us with the least influence - tenants, licencees and squatters. But as the use of squatters' eviction procedures against workers' and students' occupations demonstrates, ONCE the principle of a Criminal Trespass offence has been ACCEPTED, it could very easily be EXTENDED. CACTL is supported by many Trades Union, Student and Community groups - including ASTMS and NUS nationally, the Yorkshire miners, 16 Trades Councils, 7 Labour MPs and many local groups and branches - some 120 in all. IT'S VITAL THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR UNITED OPPOSITION TO ANY ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN OUR FIGHT AGAINST ANY CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAWS.

## SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1 Get your Trades Union, Student Union, Housing, Community, or any other organisation you belong to, to pass a resolution supporting CACTL, opposing the Criminal Trespass proposals, and supporting our national demonstration in London on February 28th. Send it to CACTL, to your local MP, and through to the regional and national levels of whatever organisation you're in. And tell other people about CACTL - set up a public meeting and form a local Campaign Against A Criminal Trespass Law. We can send you leaflets, posters, speakers etc..
- 2 Lobby your local MPs, and urge them to vote against any Criminal Trespass Bill in Parliament.
- 3 Support us financially. We badly need money to pay for printing, hiring halls, mailings etc.. Cheques are payable to Campaign Against A Criminal Trespass Law.

## DEMONSTRATE

## 28th FEB.



ASSEMBLE 1.30pm  
BELVEDERE ROAD SE1  
BEHIND COUNTY HALL.  
MARCH TO A RALLY IN  
TRAFALGAR SQUARE.  
BRING YOUR BANNER !  
STREET - THEATRE.

## AGAINST THE CRIMINAL TRESPASS PROPOSALS

