

NOTTS ANTI-FASCIST ALLIANCE

EDITORIAL

With this newsletter you will find a leaflet put out jointly by NAFA and the ANL. This might surprise many people as NAFA has been internally very critical of the ANL. Over the last month there have been two constructive meetings between some new ANL activists and representatives of NAFA with a view to co-ordinated action. There is still a long way to go, the ANL is not democratic, has no members meetings and some people from the SWP seem to have the ability to over-rule decisions made by activists. Nonetheless we are now hopeful that there may be ways of eliminating the foolish duplication of work which for example led to both NAFA and the ANL on two occasions sending half empty transport to the same event. As a first step the picket of the BNP at the Guildhall advertised here is being jointly organised by ANL and NAFA, the ANL have also taken NAFA leaflets for a recent stall. We are more hopeful than in the past.

Below is notice of our AGM and a short proposal by our Secretary. NAFA is an open and democratic organisation and our structure should reflect that we have almost 200 members, a regular newsletter (and at the AGM a pilot edition of a public newsletter will be available) and a wide range of activity. The AGM is also an opportunity to look back at our first 15 months and to look ahead to next year. The plan to hold the AGM as part of a rally has been dropped and the rally will be held later in the year. Note the date, we are meeting a week earlier than normal because of Easter.

Also included with this newsletter is material for the Women Resisting Racism and Fascism day-school. This group is a NAFA affiliate and many of its members are also NAFA members. We wish the day-school every success.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of NAFA is on Monday 5th April, 7.30 at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. Tea and biscuits will be provided. The pilot issue of NAFA's public newsletter/paper will be available.

Business: The year past, the year ahead.

Financial report.

Renewal (or otherwise) of our affiliations to other groups.

Election of people to co-ordinate NAFA jobs.

AGM PROPOSALS

NAFA currently has three named officers. A Chair (who no longer attends NAFA meetings due to other involvements), a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Secretary's job has grown to involve a regular newsletter, membership, normal secretarial business and I've been chairing meetings. Megalomania should not be encouraged! Additional work tends to be taken on and discussed by a small group of others, there is a danger NAFA could become cliquey. I'd

suggest that we need a secretary, a membership person, a newsletter co-ordinator, a social co-ordinator, someone to liaise with other anti-fascist groups, someone to liaise with minority communities as well as a chair and treasurer. It is not fair or democratic to vest too much work and power in one individual. I also feel that the meetings should drop to monthly, with working groups meeting each month based round some of the above - but also the short term work groups set up to organise particular events. Ross Bradshaw.

MANSFIELD NEWS

BNP members Trasker, Chadwick and the Belshaw brothers appeared in court for affray and actual bodily harm in February following their assault on a Mansfield solicitor. At short notice 20 or so NAFA members and 30 or so ANL members held a demonstration outside the court to let the BNP people know they were unpopular in Nottingham. The four had their case postponed as the prosecution wanted more time to investigate material they had found on the accused. NAFA has been sent a document found on Trasker, it was a Combat 18 hit-list largely composed of Nottingham Jewish students. Most of the people on the list no longer live in Nottingham and all have now been contacted either by the police or the Union of Jewish Students. NAFA did not wish to give major publicity to this for fear of prejudicing any legal action against the BNP and also because we did not wish at this stage to worry the students more than they are already. Stickers have been appearing in Mansfield of the most crude and offensive type and fascist material has been circulated in one of the local colleges.

LOCAL BNP NEWS

Two successes. The Nottingham High School have banned a visit to the school from the BNP who had been invited by the school politics society. (This banning was the school's initiative, NAFA was not involved). Edgar Watson the timber merchant have agreed to remove all BNP stickers from their premises in Radford and to investigate which of their staff was responsible. The firm have no sympathies with the BNP and readily agreed to this action when approached by an anti-fascist building company. The man behind the BNP PO Box numbers in Nottingham is Colin Mellors of Carlton, whose address is known to us. Anyone any ideas where he works? NAFA has been informed where the BNP meets in Nottingham, in a public house under an assumed name. We are exploring this further before going public.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership now stands at 187, warm welcome to new members. Renewals have been coming in steadily from those who joined prior to October 1992 whose membership for 1993 is now due, many thanks to those who renewed promptly and thanks also for the many donations which came in with the renewals. Reminder notices are enclosed with this mailing for those overdue - sorry but this is the last call for dinner, renew or be cut off!