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NOTTS . ANTI-FASCIST ALLIANCE
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**NEWSLETTER: NEWSLETTER: NEWSLETTER... BELATED
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Firstly, apologies for the absence of newsletters recently, and the short notice for the regional gathering (leaflet enclosed). This newsletter editor has not been at full strength for some time - which is a problem we need to address as communication within the group is often in my (rather frail) hands. Absence of newsletters does not mean an absence of activity... Reports are below, do try to get to the regional gathering if you can, several workshops are being led by NAFA people.

SOCIAL

135 people attended NAFA/Night with No Name's Jazz night in mid-June, raising moderate amounts of money. A good night was had by all. Well done Ian. Booked for October is Leon Rosselson for a "Folk against fascism" night.

YOUTH ARTS DAY EVENT

The first day event organised by our youth arts committee took place on 11th June in Mansfield. Most of those who attended were youth workers and senior youth club members. Although only twenty uninvolved people attended (plus NAFA people, the drama team and some friends from Mansfield ANL) the event was very successful and most of the workshops over-ran. There is money in the kitty to run a similar event later and the youth arts group are meeting to discuss what to do now. If you would like to get involved, please contact the box number.

CAMPSFIELD

A small number of members went to a demonstration outside Campsfield detention centre in Oxford, where 200 detainees fleeing persecution are imprisoned without charge. These asylum seekers should not be treated like criminals but supported. Details from Campaign to Close Campsfield, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford. Following the demonstration some of the asylum seekers broke out of Campsfield and the centre was damaged. NAFA believes that asylum seekers should be fairly treated. It is ironic that while poor countries near Rwanda have taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees this government does all it can to keep out the few people who seek asylum here.

ANL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Finally responding to complaints that the ANL should have some input from its members the Anti-Nazi League had a national conference in June. Called at short notice this day event at £35 (no reductions for unwaged, food and travel extra) was too costly for us to attend. Some 230 or so did, all but about thirty seemed to be members of the Socialist Workers Party. No decisions were made other than decided by the SWP in advance. The outgoing steering

committee recommended that they all be re-elected en bloc and those present were happy to do so. Friends of NAFA who did attend felt that the exercise was a sham, as democratic as Communist Party conferences in the old Soviet Bloc. The main decision? Build the ANL...

MAY ELECTIONS

It seems a long time back now but it is worth noting that some members of NAFA did work hard to ensure a high Labour vote in Milwall to defeat the BNP. Whilst we can be happy with that, it is worth remembering that their vote actually increased by 600 and in neighbouring Newham the BNP almost won seats, with the Conservatives also fighting on a blatantly racist ticket.

COURT REPORT

The 16 charged with violent disorder following the raid on Mushroom in January have now had two remand hearings. At the request of Mushroom workers, following legal advice, the courts were not picketed but the situation was monitored. The next hearing is on July 15th, a committal hearing where the courts will decide whether there is a case to answer. If you wish to attend this hearing with the Mushroom workers please ring Ross on 582506. The final case will be at the end of the year. Nice to see BNP member Simon Biggs sent down for 4 and a half years for "glassing" a black man. Unfortunately his BNP boss Richard Edmonds only got three months. Edmonds is a man in a suit, Biggs is a skinhead with SKREWDRIVER tattooed across his forehead, which alone could explain the disparity of the sentence. Having once met and been threatened by Biggs I can confirm he is as thick as anyone would have to be to have such a tattooed forehead: he is dangerous but Edmonds is infinitely more criminal.

Nice to see our friends Remi and Spyder get off on the serious charges against them following a racial attack on them. Unfortunately the police accepted their attackers story, but Remi and Spyder successfully pleaded self-defence to the serious charges against them. NAFA gave the pair support over the months (they spoke at the February rally) - can we have our placards back now please? The YRE gave the pair outstanding support in court. Congratulations all round. One minor charge was upheld, which is subject to appeal.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

As a follow up to the TUC demonstration of last year the local TUC has set up a small sub-committee (all NAFA members) to organise a trade union conference in the autumn on racism, fascism and the economy.

NAFA MEETINGS

As always, on the second and fourth Monday of the month, 7.30 at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd.