

# What's Goin' Off?

## Forest Fields & Hyson Green

### Anti-Poll Tax Campaign

Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Indian Community Centre on Rawson Street (at the top of Noel Street, by the baths). These are planning Meetings, to organise the work of the campaign. Everybody is welcome - come along and get involved.

### S.N.A.P.T.

South Notts Against the Poll Tax meets every Monday at 7.30pm in the International Community Centre (ICC) on Mansfield Road - just up the hill and over the road from the "Yorker" pub. All community anti-poll tax groups are welcome. Meetings open to any number of observers, so if you're interested just come along.

### National Anti-Poll Tax Demonstration

Saturday October 20th, London. Coaches will be going down, with subsidised tickets for unwaged people - contact us for details.

### Court Hearings

Nottingham people are in court for not paying the Poll Tax on:

Thursday October 11th

Thursday October 18th

and most other Thursdays until Christmas. Hearings last all day, and we need a constant presence outside the court. So even if you can only spare half an hour, please come along.

### Rock Against The Poll Tax

Chumbawamba and other bands, October 12th - details below. Also November 9th, at the same venue/prices/time, a night of indie music. There will be another event in December too - no details of that at present.

### Forest Fields & Hyson Green

#### Anti-Poll Tax Campaign

Box 5, Basics, 42 Foxhall Road, Forest Fields or

Box 5, Hyson Green Wholefoods,

72 Radford Road, Hyson Green

ROCK AGAINST THE POLL TAX In Conjunction With Marcus Garvey Centre PRESENTS

# DON'T CHUMBAWAMBA POLL TAX PAY

JACKDAW WITH CROWBAR

Cool Is A Nation & SOUNDS BY DJ SHAUN from Leeds!

FRIDAY 12th OCT


At : MARCUS GARVEY CENTRE

LENTON BOULEVARD NOTTINGHAM 9 'til 2am

MEMBERS & GUESTS £4 / £3 / £2

Waged / Low Waged / UB40-NUS

Advance Tickets : Selectadisc, Forbidden Planet, Good Vibrations, Basics



# POLL-AXE !

NEWSLETTER OF FOREST FIELDS & HYSON GREEN ANTI-POLL TAX GROUP

Forest Fields / Hyson Green



Anti-Poll Tax Campaign

Issue 5

Oct / Nov 1990

## 73% AREN'T PAYING IN SCOTLAND

# 66%

## AREN'T PAYING THE

## POLL TAX

### Councils in Chaos

Figures leaked from the Department of the Environment recently show that non-payment of the poll tax in Nottingham is a massive 66%. Two thirds of people on the register had not paid any poll tax by the end of June. On the national "league table" of non-payment this puts us third, with only Gloucester and Selby (North Yorkshire) having more non-payers than us.

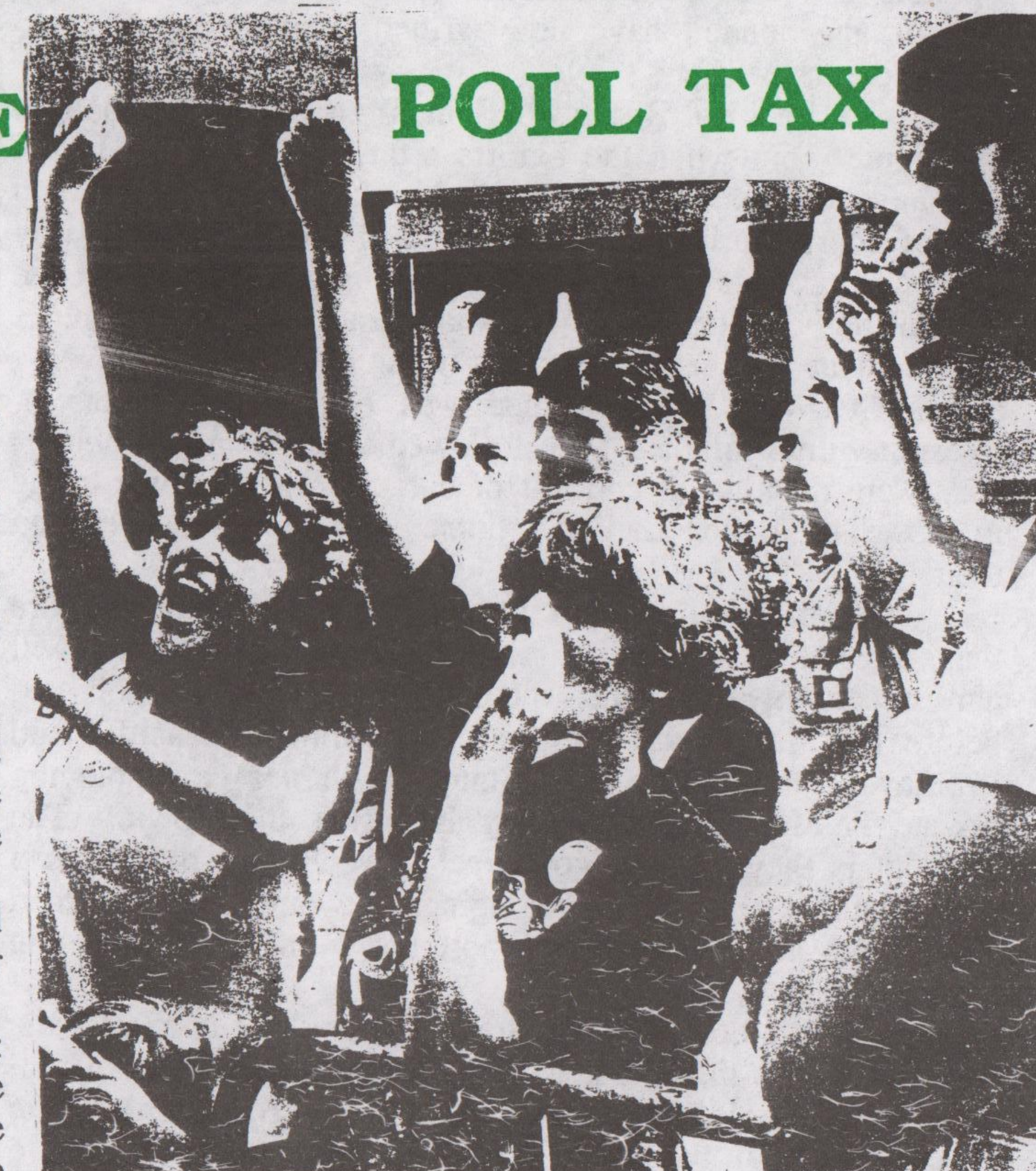
Our Labour council have been quick to deny this. In an article in the Evening Post they claim that the DoE figure is pure invention, since they have not worked out the level of non-payment in Nottingham for the period up to the end of June.

Our council say that 66% non-payment is a wild over-estimate. The real and up-to-date figure for Nottingham, they say, is "only one third".

Of course, "only one third" is still 70 000 people: a third of all the adults in the city. It doesn't include the many thousands of people who were missed from the register. It also ignores the thousands more who have moved since it was compiled and "forgotten" to let the council know.

So why the confusion? How can the DoE - or Nottingham Council - make a mistake like this?

In fact, this level of confusion is typical. All over England and Wales, councils are in chaos. The government can't get accurate information about the level of non-payment because councils can't provide it. And councils



can't provide it because they are in such a mess.

There are two estimates for the level of non-payment nationally in England and Wales. The low estimate is that only 10 MILLION people are not paying their poll tax. The high estimate is that 14 MILLION aren't paying.

Obviously a tax based on people, who move around, (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

# DON'T PANIC - DON'T PAY !



(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

will always be harder to administer than a rates system based on buildings, which don't. So the poll tax was always going to be a nightmare for councils, even if we didn't fight it. But with at least ten million people not paying, the poll tax is collapsing under the weight of its own inefficiency.

Meanwhile, in Scotland over 1 MILLION people still haven't paid last year's poll tax - eighteen months later! That's nearly a quarter of all the people on the register.

Attempts to recover poll tax debts have failed. In eighteen months not one warrant sale - the Scottish equivalent of bailiffs - has been carried out.

The latest figures (late September) for non-payment of this year's tax in Scotland are staggering. Six months into the financial year, an amazing 73% of 1990's poll tax has not been paid! This is a massive increase over last year and hopefully shows what is likely to happen in Nottingham, and the rest of this country, over the next year.

In England and Wales, the media are making a big show of the efforts by some Tory councils to squash the non-payment campaign by sending in bailiffs. They don't mention that, by and large, bailiffs have been unsuccessful.

In South Wales, residents have blockaded whole villages to keep the bailiffs out. In Northampton, their office was fire-bombed only three days after their first failed attempt to seize poll tax arrears.

Closer to home, the bailiffs sent in by Rushcliffe Council in West Bridgford failed to recover any poll tax at all, and the council have now written asking non-payers to "make them an offer..!"

In Beeston, Broxtowe Council served bailiffs notices on people - but when the bailiffs returned they failed to get into anyone's house. They picked a day when we had two sets of court hearings to cover - one of them 20 miles away in Bingham. Yet we still managed to mount a watch outside the bailiffs headquarters on Hucknall Road. When the bailiffs left there at 9.15 a.m. messages went out all over the city, and a SCUMBUSTERS squad was out on the streets of Beeston within minutes. We followed them for a few hours - they were ducking in and out of car parks and estates trying to "lose" us - then they ran home with their tails between their legs.

In the Nottingham city area, bailiffs are still no more than a remote possibility. Nottingham City Council will almost certainly use other methods to recover the poll tax, before they try to use bailiffs. And unlike Rushcliffe and Broxtowe, Nottingham City Council will not be employing private bailiffs - they will only be using their own. The problem is they've only got three! Even if we didn't resist their attempts to steal our belongings, it would still take them 23 YEARS to collect 1990's poll tax from all 70 000 non-payers!

So the non-payment strategy is working in exactly the way we always thought it would. Depriving councils of poll tax payments is creating a financial crisis which the government will be forced to solve, and an administrative crisis which makes the poll tax completely unworkable. The poll tax will be beaten - stand firm, and we will win!

### TRouble WITH BAILIFFS?

Don't let them get you down - call  
**SCUMBUSTERS**

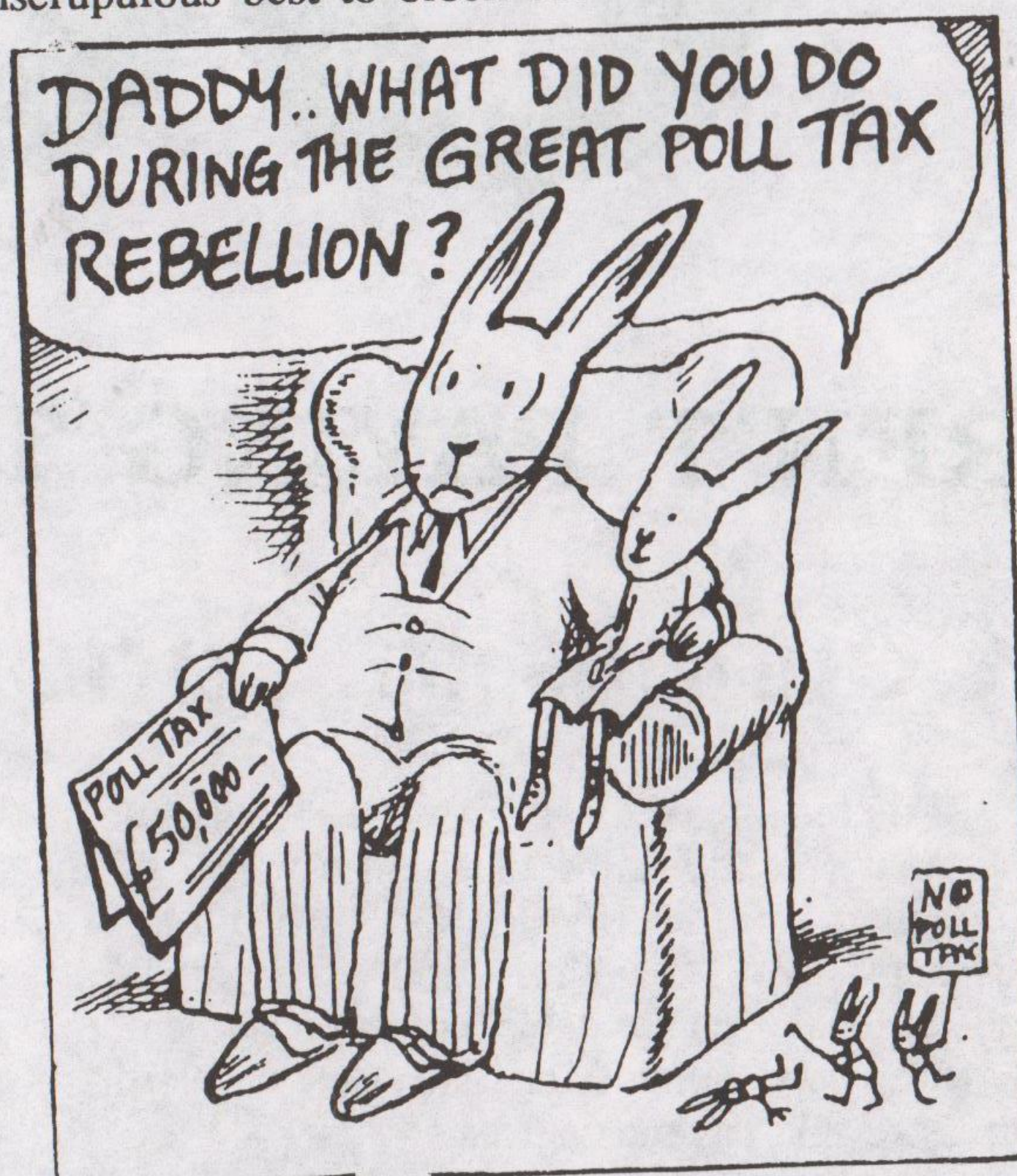
## Workers Can Win !

Now that the liability orders are being slapped on us, the fear of the council trying to make wage arrestments - direct deduction from your wages at source - is a real one.

At the moment we don't know what the council's policy will be - they probably don't either! So it's crucial for us to make up their minds for them..

An important step in this direction is to set up a workplace anti-poll tax group. Its worth trying to get your union - if you have one - to state its complete opposition to the poll tax by passing a resolution that says so.

To be frank, this isn't always easy: the loyalty of many union committees to the Labour Party means they may try their unscrupulous best to block such motions.



This is roughly what happened in my own case. As a council worker I am in one of the most vulnerable sections of the workforce, especially when redundancies could be imposed to keep next year's poll tax bills down. But NALGO City Branch would have nothing to do with an anti-poll tax campaign, so we had to organise outside of them.

So far this has been very successful: we managed to get the NALGO banner to the first court hearings anyway, and defeated an insidious attempt by the City Treasurer to "monitor" individual council workers who aren't paying, so as to "help" them make their poll tax payments - voluntary wage arrestments, in other words.

So if you can't do it through your union, that's no reason not to do it at all. Try your union first, though - people will at least have to talk about it. And raising the issue within the union first makes your task easier, because it helps you to identify sympathetic workers.

Remember that most employers don't want to waste their time sorting out employees wage arrestments, no matter how much the council threaten to fine them. Just a little resistance from workers themselves, pledging to take whatever action they think necessary in defence of their livelihoods, in defence of their right to decide for themselves whether or not to pay the poll tax, should turn this reluctance into outright resistance.

## Women Against the Poll Tax

For the past few months a group of women have been meeting together under the title of "Women Against The Poll Tax". We're all actively involved in our local anti-poll tax groups, but we think that more needs to be done to get women active in the campaign - after, they're the ones who are probably going to face the bailiffs!

We've organised a dayschool for women, with sessions on preparing for court, setting up new groups or meetings, and how to use the press. The dayschool is important to try and bring women together - not only women involved in the campaign already, but those who perhaps haven't been along to their local group yet. We're hoping that an ongoing women's group will come out of the dayschool, which will be able to make our publicity and material more accessible to women, and encourage them to get more involved in their local groups.

## Women Against The Poll Tax

### dayschool

**Saturday  
6th October  
International  
Community Centre,  
Mansfield Road**

Women from Sherwood, West Bridgford and Forest Fields are already contributing. With more groups regularly attending meetings we can plan events, raise funds and push women to the front of the struggle, where they belong.

If you have any problems getting along, or want more information, phone Meg on 621229

Twelve months ago (doesn't time fly - Ed.) we highlighted the plight of students facing the poll tax. Now it's that time of year again.. and their prospects are worse than ever.

This year's grant level (for those who get one) will be frozen, to be replaced gradually by the Student Loans System - a deeply unpopular idea which, like the poll tax, has been pushed through by a government deaf to all protests.

Many people don't realise that grants are means-tested and parents are expected to make up the shortfall. But the income levels they use are completely unrealistic, what with high mortgage rates and so on: the result is many students having to survive on a fraction of their grant (which in real terms is already 30% less than ten years ago).

Added to this, students can no longer claim any housing benefit, and cannot claim dole over the summer whether or not they can find a temporary job. This makes it virtually impossible to stay out of serious debt - unless you're lucky enough to have rich parents.

The poll tax is a double burden on top of all this.

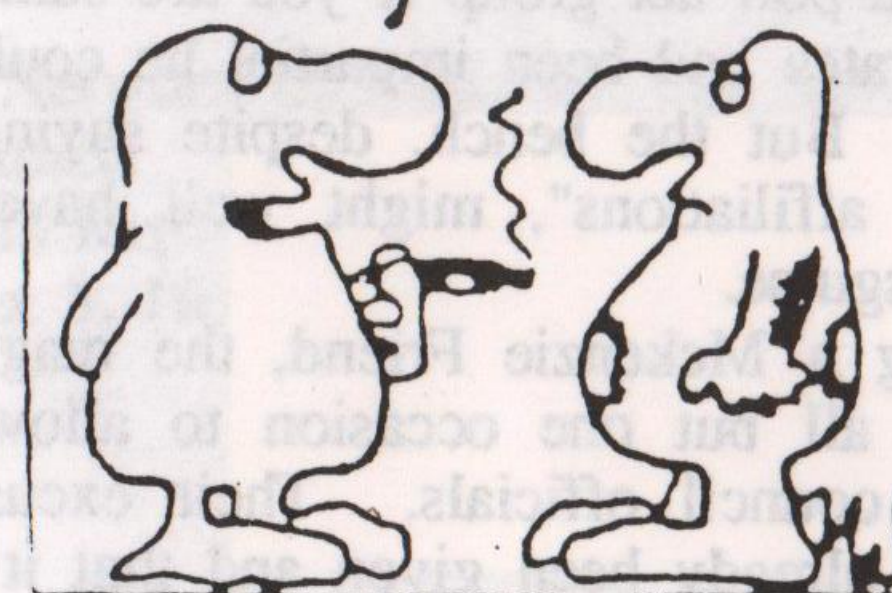
First there is the £78 a year to be found - students are compulsorily registered for the poll tax by their colleges.

Second, since most private rents used to include rates and weren't reduced to take account of this when the poll tax came in, housing costs have shot up. Like the rest of us, students have no protection against excessive housing costs, in a market which is geared to favour the owner.

In short, the poll tax makes us all poor together. If you're a student in Nottingham and don't like the poll tax, then get involved with the anti-poll tax campaign. Contact us via your student union office, or use one of these phone numbers:

UNIVERSITY ST  
Beeston APTU -  
Lenton & Dunk  
POLY S  
Forest F  
Hyson C  
Clifton -  
Meadow

I'M RICH AND GETTING  
RICHER... YOU'RE POOR  
AND GETTING POORER  
.... SEE, I TOLD YOU THE  
SYSTEM STILL WORKS!



THE POVERTY OF STUDENT LIFE  
REVISITED



# INSIDE THE COURTS

*This account of how the courts twist legal procedures makes grim reading for those who want to believe that we live in a democracy. But don't let it put you off coming to court if you get a summons. It IS worth turning up and wasting their time, and we're always thinking of new legal tricks to try that make it harder for them. There are demonstrations outside the courts, and helpers inside the courts, at every hearing - you will not be alone. If you get a summons, contact us straight away.*

I arrived early for the Poll Tax court hearings in Court No.2. The magistrates and the council representatives were already there - were they rehearsing their lines?

The farce began with the (Labour) council representative outlining the "evidence" to prove that all the payment books, reminders and summonses had been correctly sent out. He called as his witnesses two council officials, who were obviously well briefed on how to answer his questions without giving away any details of the methods they use to check the register or send out reminders.

The clerk then wanted to go straight into hearings, until some people in the public gallery - whose voices were continually repressed by the magistrates - pointed out that many people had requested adjournments. The clerk denied that any had been received, even though some had been delivered by hand! If the postal service is so bad, how can the council be so sure that its letters and summonses got through (especially since we know that a number of postbags full of payment books were "lost" by saboteurs..)?

The upshot of all this was that the magistrates had the people who brought this fact to their attention ejected from the court.

The first person to have a personal hearing was denied a "McKenzie Friend" -an unqualified legal advisor -on the grounds that "poll tax law is too straightforward!"

This is blatantly untrue: its a new law, the procedures are complex, and most people have never been in the hostile environment of a courtroom before. Our Labour council had earlier assured everyone that McKenzie Friends would be allowed - now they refused to instruct the courts to comply with this basic right. So much for their reluctance to implement this vicious tax ..

So, Mr. Eric Laverick had to struggle on alone. But his efforts were exemplary, and showed just what can be done. They also illustrated the importance of getting advice from your local anti-poll tax group if you are summonsed.

If the magistrates had been impartial he could have held out all morning. But the bench, despite saying that they had "no political affiliations", might well have been poll tax officers in disguise.

After refusing a McKenzie Friend, the magistrates went on to refuse on all but one occasion to allow Eric to cross-examine the council officials. Their excuse was that the evidence had already been given and that it was relevant to every case, because the council only had to show that in all

probability the correct procedures had been followed!

So the evidence presented by the council wasn't examined, even though the law clearly says that it is up to the council to prove that a liability order is justified in each case.

Don't forget, these are the same magistrates who said that poll tax law is too straight forward for us to need legal advisers in court with us - its a shame they couldn't get some accurate and unbiased advice themselves.

So, the fact that - for example - the council have sent out thousands more bills than there are people on the register was not allowed as evidence that the council's poll tax collection procedures might be less than perfect.

Eric worked hard to make this point, but the magistrates tried to intimidate him by talking him down, asking him just to answer yes or no, had he received a reminder? This is a clear breach of legal procedures, since we are not under any obliged to give information - **WE ARE NOT CRIMINALS, AND WE ARE NOT ON TRIAL.** However, this was clearly not the opinion of the bench.

Finally, all legitimate channels having been denied to him, after 50 minutes Eric had to let a liability order be imposed.

The magistrate's final salvo was to suggest that if Eric didn't leave quickly enough, he would be in danger of getting charged with contempt of court! And the public gallery's applause for Eric's brave efforts resulted in us all getting thrown out!

The hearing was repressive, intimidatory and biased, and shows just what a sham our so-called "democratic" legal system is. In a public hearing, we were denied all

support and representation, and all rights to proper legal counsel. We were consistently deceived and misled, and finally excluded altogether.

For the rest of that morning, liability orders continued to be passed in Court No.2. ALL members of the public were barred from the public gallery - not just those who had been noisy earlier. No-one was allowed legal advice, and no-one was allowed to cross-examine the evidence brought by the council -even though it is their responsibility to prove that they have carried out the correct procedures.

When the oppressed people of Eastern Europe look to the West and envy us our political freedom, our "democracy", when they say that they'd like to see a Western-style democracy in their own countries - do you think that this is the kind of thing that they have in mind?

Perhaps like most people in this country they only see the official story, where all trials are fair and everyone is equal before the law.. except Ernest Saunders (the rich ex-chairman of Guinness), the Birmingham Six, and the Guildford Four, that is.

Yet despite all this, I can't help seeing the funny side of it all. For after all the fuss, all the manoeuvring and aggression, the courts succeeded in awarding the council a couple of hundred liability orders. But not one penny of poll tax had been retrieved. If we stick together in this, turn up in force and ensure that the many poor and frightened people who are being abused by this vicious tax receive our full support and encouragement, then this is the way it will stay.

## Ask Your Local Councillor About The Poll Tax

Forest Fields and Hyson Green is "served" by four local councillors. All are Labour.

John Taylor and Mohammed Ibrahim "represent" Forest Fields, and Meg Munn and Issan Ghazni "represent" the Radford Ward, which includes Hyson Green.

All four voted (reluctantly, no doubt) to implement the poll tax. All four have recently

received an open letter circulated by the "Labour Against The Poll Tax" campaign, which called upon them:

1. Not to apply for extra time or special courts to take action against poll tax non-payers
2. Not to use bailiffs against non-payers
3. Not to take action against anyone receiving Income Support or awaiting a rebate
4. Not to consider jail as a means of enforcing the poll tax, and to publicly say so

Not one of the four councillors have replied to this letter. Maybe more people should start to ask them questions about their attitude to the poll tax? Here's how you can get to speak to them:

John Taylor, 3 Alexandra Mews, off Sherwood Rise - phone 625663

Mohammed Ibrahim, 5 Albany Road, Hyson Green - phone 704399

Their "surgery" is on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, from 12.00 to 1.30 at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, Wiverton Road.

Meg Munn, 68 Liddington Street, New Basford - phone 785964

Issan Ghazni - phone 482270

Catch them at Hyson Green Community Centre, St. Paul's Ave (off Radford Road), on the first Wednesday of every month between 7 - 8pm.

## FEDERATION GAME

BRUCE'S



It'll be nice to see you for an evening of games and quizzes. Open to ALL anti-poll tax groups. Teams of 4 £3, spectators 50p each. Come on down to:

the YORKER  
(Mansfield Rd, near the Vic.  
Centre clock tower)  
WEDS. 10TH  
OCTOBER  
starts 8PM

ALL PROCEEDS  
TO NOTTINGHAM  
ANTI-POLL TAX  
FEDERATION

"Didn't he do well !"

## ANTI-POLL TAX GROUP CONTACTS

Communication is vital in a campaign like this one. There will be all kinds of reasons why we might need to speak to people from other poll tax groups: to warn them about bailiffs, or ask for their help; to tell them about socials, pickets or other actions; to ask their advice on something we are planning to do. Here is the most complete list we have of anti-poll tax groups in the Nottinghamshire area. If you have friends who want to contact their local anti-poll tax group, this list might help them. If you spot any mistakes, or if your group isn't included, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Thanks.

Arnold  
Aspley  
Basford  
Beeston  
Bestwood Pk  
Bilboro'  
Broxtowe  
Bulwell  
Carlton  
Central  
Clifton  
Forest Fields  
Hyson Green  
Gedling  
Hucknall  
Ilkeston  
Lenton  
Meadows  
Netherfield  
Radford  
Sherwood  
Snapewd.  
Sneinton  
St Anns  
Stapleford  
Top Valley/  
Rise Park  
West Bridgford

Nottingham De  
Fund

South Notts Against the Poll Tax (co-ordinating anti-poll tax action in the Nottingham area): contact the acting convenor, Stuart, on Nottingham

Nottinghamshire Anti-Poll Tax Federation:

Secretary: Gary Freeman  
Publicity: Simon Harris

3D National Network of Anti-Poll Tax Groups:

National Contact:  
East Midlands Rep:  
write to: Box 5, Hix



# LABOUR against the POLL TAX

A campaign has been set up inside the Labour Party to support poll tax non-payers and exert pressure on local Labour councillors.

The Labour leadership nationally has been a disgrace on the poll tax. The local Labour council has been no better - not one of "our" councillors voted against implementing the tax.

However, many ordinary Labour Party members are not paying their poll tax. Both Forest Fields and Radford Labour Party branches have given money to their local anti-poll tax campaigns, and both have issued thousands of leaflets calling for non-payment. Many of us in the Labour Party are determined not to let Neil Kinnock - and his supporters on Nottingham City Council - have it all their own way.

We don't want to paint a false picture. The Labour Party nationally is against a campaign of non-payment. Recently (the Guardian, 28th September) Brian Gould said that a future Labour government will not use the "poll tax capping" powers created by this government to penalise so-called high-spending councils. We thought that the Labour Party were going to abolish the poll tax, not reform it...

But as is usually the case, the ordinary membership of the Labour Party are much more in touch with the mood of the people than are the party leadership. *Anybody* who supports non-payment of the poll tax is welcome to get involved with the Forest Fields / Hyson Green group. If you're a Labour Party member who doesn't like the poll tax, and would like to know more about the "Labour Against the Poll Tax" campaign, contact Steve Battlemuch on Nottingham 705788.

"Labour Against the Poll Tax" also urges all non-payers to ensure that they register to vote. Next year, the city council is up for re-election, and there will very likely be a general election too. They remind people not to throw away their chance to get rid of the Tories for good!

But don't forget that putting yourself on the electoral register automatically puts you on the poll tax register. We never were mounting a non-registration campaign against the poll tax, but we are aware that there are thousands of people in Nottingham who are evading the poll tax simply by not being registered.

Even if you're not on the register, chances are they'll catch up with you sooner or later. If you claim any type of benefit, this will certainly happen eventually.

But there are other arguments. Many people don't believe that we'd be any better off under a Labour government than we are now. Whoever you vote for, they say, the government always wins. On moral grounds, many of these people refuse to vote in elections.

So, you have to decide for yourself. Don't forget, if they prove that you deliberately didn't register they can fine you. However, nobody at all in Nottingham has been fined for this; the council obviously don't want to create "martyrs". But bear it in mind when you make your decision.

## Notts Anti-Poll Tax Federation Annual General Meeting, 15th September 1990



"So I wasn't dreaming after all," Alice said to herself, "unless - unless we're all part of the same dream. Only I do hope it's my dream, and not the Red King's! I don't like belonging to another person's dream," she went on in a rather complaining tone: "I've a good mind to go and wake him, and see what happens!"

Alice Through the Looking Glass

This group sent three delegates along to the Notts Federation AGM, but other group members were also present as delegates from their unions, or as observers.

We had put forward a number of motions to the meeting: one on trades unions, one about setting up a co-ordinating committee to organise anti-poll tax action in the city area, and one about women and the poll tax. We also had two candidates for officers posts: Meg Jepson for Women's Officer, and Jaz Singh for Black Officer.

The meeting began with speeches from last year's chair, Richard Wheildon, and Dave Nellist - the Labour MP from Coventry who isn't paying his poll tax.

Then, down to business. The first few motions were uncontentious, and everything went smoothly. Then it came to our motion on setting up a trade union forum. An amendment to it was put forward, which we decided to accept.

So it came to the vote, but just as people began raising their hands the chair added "...and the officers recommend you support this motion".

At this a whole block of people - who are almost all supporters of the same political faction - suddenly raised their hands to vote for our motion.

This set the scene for the rest of the day. This block of people - who were by far the largest single group there - voted for or against every motion according to "the officers" recommendation.

Not surprisingly, by the end of the day many people were beginning to wonder just who these officers are, and exactly what it is they are officers of...

On their recommendation Meg failed to get elected as Women's Officer (Jaz got the Black Officer's post since no-one else was standing), and all of our motions except the one on trades unions were either rejected or, in one case, amended so drastically that we were no longer able to support it.

That motion, on women and the poll tax, committed the Federation to providing creche facilities, and helping with transport costs for women on low pay to enable them to attend meetings. The motion also called for a women's group to be set up.

An amendment - supported, amazingly enough, by the newly-elected Women's Officer Chris Goodman - was put forward which removed all these demands, and further

called upon the organisers of the "Women Against the Poll Tax Dayschool" to make the day a mixed event, on the grounds that women-only meetings are divisive.

The officers recommended that we "support" this amendment, so naturally the meeting accepted it - and we were then forced to vote against our own motion.

This was an incredible turn of events. Women's groups have been an integral part of every major struggle for the last two decades. They came to prominence most recently during the 1984-5 Miners Strike, when "Women Against Pit Closures" played a vital role in raising funds and organising community support for the strike.

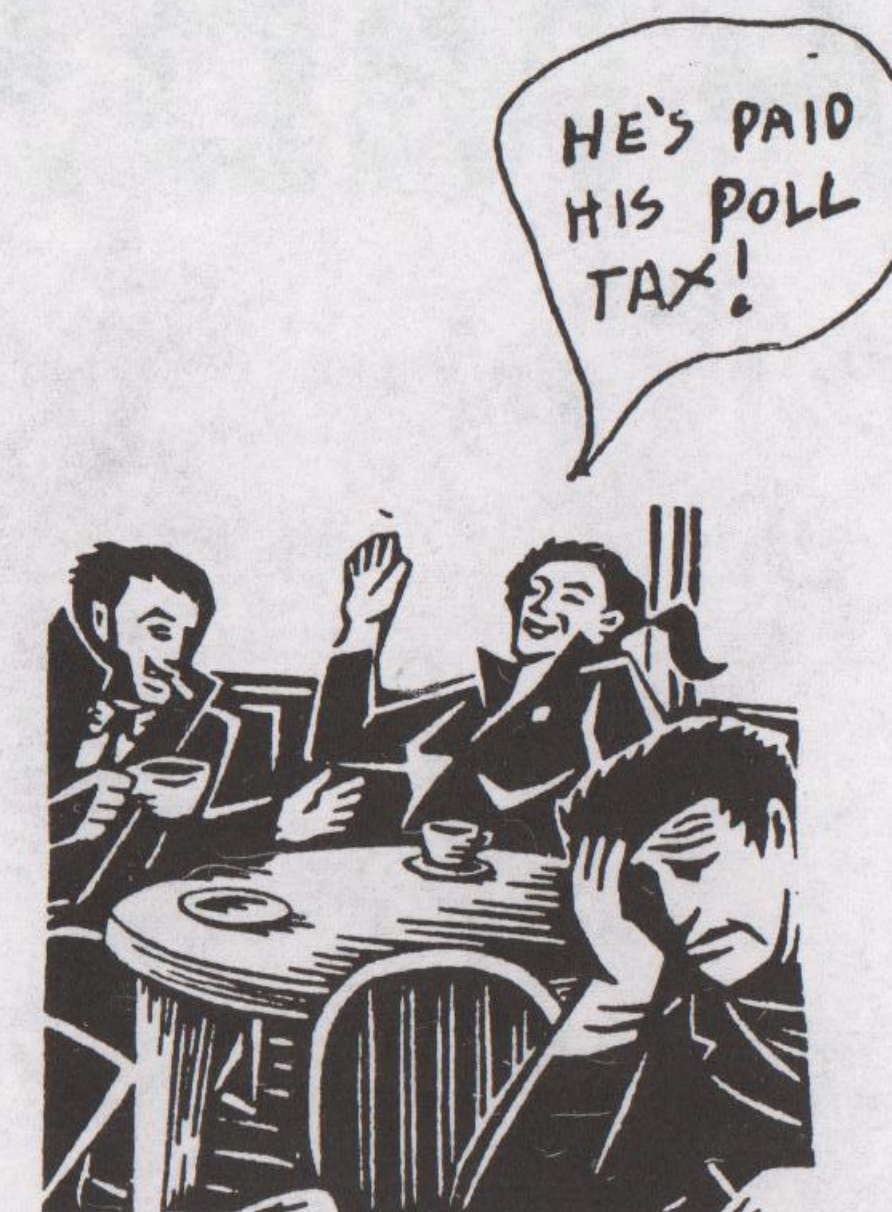
To say that women's groups are divisive misses the point. Women are often intimidated and sexually harassed by men in mixed groups. It takes a women-only group for many women to feel able to speak up, and experience shows that only a group of just women will consistently give women's needs the consideration they deserve.

Overall, it was a black day for the anti-poll tax campaign. The attempt to set up a co-ordinating committee within the Federation was presented by the mysterious "officers" as an attempt to split the Federation! Our explanation that such a group had already been meeting anyway to co-ordinate action against the bailiffs and organise demonstrations outside the courts, was presented by the "officers" - and the political faction which they are clearly members of - as proof of our sinister intentions.

But such a local committee is essential if we are to fight the poll tax effectively. Eleven anti-poll tax groups in the city area have now set up a group called "South Notts Against the Poll Tax" (SNAPT) to do this vital work.

No doubt "the officers" will use this as further proof that our aim is to split the Federation: but let nobody forget that it was their recommendation which has forced us to work outside of the Federation.

In just three weeks, SNAPT has already printed leaflets for workplaces and the court demonstrations, produced a citywide phone tree and a mailing list, and organised back-up phone trees to provide bailiff watches whilst the court demonstrations are happening. These are all very basic things that the Federation has failed to organise, which clearly shows the need for an open co-ordinating group such as SNAPT.



On a positive note, the number of officers on the Federation executive is now increased to 18, including two from our group, Amanda Bruce and Jaz Singh.

Also, the reports back from local area groups were encouraging. There are over 60 affiliates to the Nottingham Federation now, representing a total membership of about 14 thousand people. The anti-poll tax movement is growing all the time, and no political faction-fighting, local councils or even the government will stop it.

# THE PEOPLE'S MARCH AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Okay, so it was raining and Forest were playing at home - but where were you all?

Saturday 29th September, and the Glasgow to London leg of the People's March Against the Poll Tax limped and dripped their way into Bulwell. They were met by a grand total of 50 people.

The response from people who saw us as we marched from Bulwell to the city via Hyson Green was very good - but surely more people could have come along?



In fact, it comes down to poor organisation. There was no accurate information about the route of the march, so we couldn't possibly organise a greeting for it as it entered Hyson Green.

Publicity work was inadequate too - neither the local press, TV or radio mentioned the march going through - which is perhaps just as well, since it was so small.

This should have been one of the biggest anti-poll tax events of the year. Let's make sure that next time we do it better.

## S.N.A.P.T.

### South Notts Against the Poll Tax

The origins of SNAPT are explained in our report back from the Federation AGM. SNAPT meets every Monday at 7.30, in the ICC on Mansfield Rd - just up the hill from the Yorker pub, but on the other side.

All community anti-poll tax groups are invited to send two delegates along to the meetings, which are practical and aimed to get work done. Any number of observers are welcome too, and they can speak freely. We try and reach unanimous decisions, but if we have to vote on anything each community group only gets two votes.

Please send someone from your group along. If you want to know more, phone Stuart on 703549