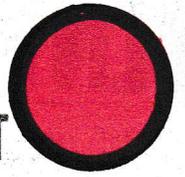


# Nottingham Anarchist ★ News ★

No. 15  
AUG SEPT



CLASS WAR  
MEETS  
EASTENDERS



OUR ADDRESS: BOX A, RAINBOW CENTRE, 180 MANSFIELD ROAD.

TRADER - LAURA ASHLEY - CLASS WAR  
LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE - IRELAND - NICARAGUA

# EVENTS

If we missed your event this time 'round, you should have told us about it. Trekking around town scouring leaflets and notice-boards is tedious and time-consuming. Ensure a place in history (and N@N) by telling us what's going on; through Box 'A', Rainbow Centre, or come along to a SMASH meeting, Wednesdays at the ICC.

## AUGUST

- Sat 8th. Animal Accident Rescue Unit Summer Fair. Sherwood Community Centre (opp. Woodthorpe Grange Park) 2p.m. Stalls, disco, food. Details tel; 706080  
Animal Accident Rescue Unit social in evening. Details; Patrick on 585666
- Sat 8th. Leicester Lesbian & Gay Strength rally & carnival. Highfields Community Centre, Melbourne St. Details; (0533)530491/531595.
- Sat 8th. Anti-internment March (Irish Freedom Movement). Coaches leave Salutation, Maid Marian Way, 1p.m. Tickets £5 waged, £3:50 unwaged.
- Sun 9th. South Africa Women's Day celebration. The Yorker strikes a rock at 7:30. Speakers from ANC and SWAPO, Betty Heathfield from Women Against Pit Closures invited. Music from Flaming Nerve and Staffs. Miners' Wives. £1:50 waged, :75p. un.
- Tues 11th. Lesbian & Gay Youth Organisation disco at L'Amour, St. James St. £1
- Mon 17th. Nottingham Lesbian And Gay Youth Organisation disco at The Garage. 10 til 2. £2 waged, £1 unwaged. Money badly needed to pay for "Pride" coach.
- Tues 18th. A meeting for anti-imperialist women to plan an open day, 7:30 at the Women's Centre, Chaucer St.
- Fri. 21st. Prevention of Unwanted Pets flag day, St. Peter's Gate and around the city centre. Give!
- Mon 24th. Free kids' day out to Sherwood Forest. Details; Nottingham Centre for the Unemployed, 66-72 Houndsgate. Tel: 413881
- 26th-29th "Working Girls" at Midland Group, Carlton St. Hockley. Second film from anarchy-feminist director Lizzie Borden, of "Born In Flames" fame. Essential viewing. Details; 586100.
- Fri 28th. Forest Fields Peace Group disco. Hyson Green Boys Club.
- Sat 29th. "Movement for compassionate living - the vegan way." Talk on compassionate living & vegan-organic gardening by Kathleen Jannaway at Glossop. Transport details; Tony Maggs. Long Eaton 727138.
- Sun 30th. Animal Rights Confederation Mtng. 7:30 at the Narrowboat, Canal St.
- Mon 31st. Medieval market in Slab Square. Pointy hats with bells on optional.

## SEPTEMBER

- All month Great British Meatout Campaign. Contact Animal Rights Confederation, 180 Mansfield Rd. Nott'm for details.
- Tues 1st. Anti-imperialist women's meeting. 7:30 at the Women's Centre, Chaucer St.
- Sun 6th. Spitz Cabaret. 7:30 at Old Vic. Fletch-ergate.
- Tues 8th. "Women In Struggle" at Midland Group, Hockley. Programme of four films including "Tiger's Milk", introduced by Alta Hooker, member of Nicaraguan Health Workers Union and involved in research for "Tiger's Milk" the book.
- 12/13th Anarchy-feminist weekend in Sheffield. Videos, workshops, food, creche, fun & games. Details; Box B, Rainbow Centre, Mansfield Rd.
- Thur. 17th Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group educational. "Ireland; National Liberation or Socialist Struggle?" 8pm. at ICC.

## OCTOBER

- Sat 3rd. Freedom and Education Conference in Leicester. See boxed advert elsewhere.
- Thur 15th. Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group educational. "Racism & Ireland." 8pm. at ICC.
- Sat. 24th Anti-Apartheid Movement national demo. Assemble 12 noon Embankment. March to Hyde Park For rally, 3pm.

## REGULAR EVENTS

East Midlands first Drop in Lesbian & Gay centre. Leicester.  
Saturdays: 10-5, Mixed.  
Tuesdays: 8-10pm, Women only.  
Telephone Leicester Gayline: (0533) 550667. Between 7pm and 10pm. for details..

EVERY SATURDAY:  
BLACK RAVEN BOOKSTALL at Peters Gate. 11-2pm.  
ARC STALL: Peters Gate. 10-3pm.

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
SMASH GROUP MEETING AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, MANSFIELD RD. PLAY 'SPOT THE FACTION'. 7.30pm.

FIRST THURSDAY EVERY MONTH.  
Irish Solidarity Group organising meetings. 8pm at ICC..

LAST SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH:  
Animal Rights Confederation (ARC) meet at the Narrowboat Pub on Canal St Nottingham. 7.30pm.

## SOME COURSES FOR 87/88 AT WEA

- Mon. 14th Sept. - "Contemporary Anarchist Thought." 8-9:30. 1st of 12 meetings.
- Tues. 15th Sept. - "Our Bodies Ourselves; a self-care health course for women" 8-9:30. 1st of 9 meetings.
- Wed. 16th Sept. - "Political Theatre in the 30s: Sectarianism vs. Stalinism?" 1:30-3pm. 1st of 18.
- Mon. 12th Oct. - "Holistic Health for Women." 10-11:30. 1st of 18.
- Details; WEA Shakespeare St. (473022)

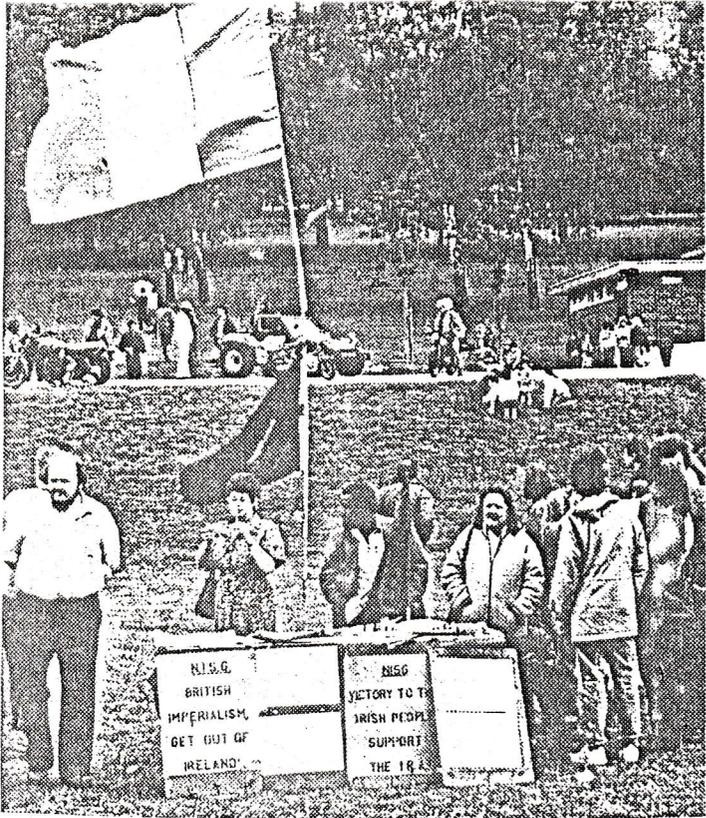
STOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESS

"Normal Heart" on stage at Nottingham Playhouse 3 Sept-24 Oct. Box Office (0602)419419

"Prick Up Your Ears" on screen at Phoenix Arts, Newarke St. Leicester 25-29 Aug. Details & booking; (0533)554854.

IF YOU DON'T CHECK THAT THE EVENT IS STILL ON BEFORE YOU SET OUT: DON'T BLAME US IF YOU HAVE A LOUSY TIME.





## ROCK AND REGGAE.

For some people this years Rock and Reggae Festival on the Forest was the best yet: Lots of music, lots of people and lots of rain. Anarchists competed with the beer tent in an effort to make lots of money. They wern't helped much by the fact that the wine looked like a mixture of orange juice and soya milk. But it did get you pissed!

Good humour was further enhanced by the fact that the Revolutionary Communist Party were in London 'Preparing for Power'. Ha Ha Ha. That left only Militant selling their tired old paper.

One bad point of the weekend was an attack on the Irish Solidarity stall by what were described as "young drunken proletarians". After turning over the table, and a failed attempt to piss on a comrades car (that wine?) the youths burnt a red flag in the middle of the proceedings. No one intervened, but its not clear whether the audience thought it was all part of the event, or just wern't too bothered about burning red flags. Now, if it had been a black one... Any way the Irish Group turned up in strength the next complete with mega-big Irish tricolour to show they wern't going to be intimidated. They wern't!

The Headmaster

## 1987 CHATEAU HYSON GREEN

MADE FROM GENUINE FRUIT GARNERED ON THE SOUTHERN SLOPES OF SUN-DRENCHED HYSON GREEN, THIS WINE REACHES PARTS-



THE WINE DID ITS JOB AND IT HAD A GOOD LABEL

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

## T.V.'S OR POLITICO'S- THE SAME OLD STORY.

The Thames T.V. team has been and gone. The shit stirred up by "Witness" has all but settled, but the scum floats to the surface. The City Council are not best pleased with the end product, fearing it may damage their plans to attract tourists and business to the city. Neither are many of the residents whose home areas were featured in the series.

When will we learn? T.V. gives nothing and takes all it can. Time and time again people let camera crews into their neighbourhoods, even into their homes, only to find themselves reduced to helpless camera fodder. How much control did those filmed for "Witness" have over the making of the programme? Sweet F.A.

Yet television is so seductive a medium, so secure in its mystique and self-importance that Dimbleby can get away with this;-

"It is very difficult on film to capture reality, and anyone who thinks it is easy should try it. The images we filmed happened. We simply observed. We did not distort the kind of problems the city faces." (Evening Post, 16/7)

And when Hyson Green Forum wrote to the mighty Dimbo, asking if they could "please" (oh, dear!) have his unused footage to present an alternative view, he said no, giving the excuse that the film was redundant and would not make sense. Forget the shovel, this is bullshit of bulldozer dimensions.

CHALLENGE No. 1;- the Nottingham Video Project is based at 110 Mansfield Rd., Tel: 505434. Don't sit back and winge about T.V. Do it yourself!

As for the politicians, they have exhibited their customary dynamism and respect for the people. Chew on this;-

"We see local authorities as having a supporting rather than a dominating role. We take the view that, to succeed, industry and commerce has got to be left to get on with it within the usual planning constraints." (Martin Suthers; E.P. 15/6.)

Or this;-

"Nicholas Ridley at the Environment Ministry has an Urban Development Corporation to speed up planning decisions, and we will have to see whether or not he selects Nottingham." (Kenneth Clarke; same paper, same day.)

What was that about "constraints" Martin? And all this talk about 'support' and 'domination' in reference to 'local authorities' and 'industry and commerce'. Where do we fit into this cosy little cartel?

CHALLENGE No.2;-

"One of the reasons that attracted us to Nottingham was that we are looking for places where there were signs that the population would be receptive... Nottingham has no base in political militancy, and for that reason I expect the same (favourable) reaction in Nottingham (as in Handsworth, Birmingham.)"

(Clarke again; E.P. 15/6)

Accusations like the above demand a carefully formulated and appropriate response.

In the meantime, we shall be keeping a close eye on the activities of Clarke, Bradbury, Suthers, Tipping, Higgins and their cronies (one hesitates to say partners in crime) in the newly created Nottingham Development Enterprise. Watch this space.

Seth Torpor.



# MAY DAY ROW RUMBLES ON.

Readers may remember the lively contribution to this years MayDay march by Anarchist and the Irish Solidarity Groups. This resulted in apoplexy among the Communist Party and its authoritarian cronies. True to form they put a motion to the Trades Council condemning high spirits and calling for tougher discipline. The outcome was a letter sent to the Irish Solidarity Group (ISG) by the Trades Council. Some Anarchists were a bit miffed that they didn't get a letter, too. Better luck next year, comrades. Ron Wood (rightist secretary of NUPE General branch) did his best to include the Anarchist Group in the mail shot but found himself totally isolated. At a previous union meeting he had said that he would not allow the branch banner to go on next years march if the Anarchists and 'their silly black flags' were on it. Now there's a man with a good grasp of democracy!

The letter received by the ISG accused them of supporting the Irish struggle to the total exclusion and in direct opposition to the other themes of the march (The Trader, Defend Jobs and Services). The ISG were also accused of shouting down other sections of the march and haranguing and barracking the invited speakers. None of this is true, and it is perhaps worth quoting at some length from the reply sent back to the Trades Council:

...it was not made clear to us that Jobs and Services was to be the sole theme of the MayDay march. Furthermore we are not opposed to support for the sacked Trader workers. On the contrary some members of our group have been very active in the support group for those workers. We suspect that what really caused offence to some people was the slogans we shouted, among others, criticising the Labour Party's pro-imperialist policies and actions on Ireland. For this we make no apologies.

Far from being the aggressors on this occasion we were subject to chauvinist and racist abuse and threats of violence from some other people on the march, including some members of the NGA and IRSF. These people seemed to be totally oblivious of the fact that above all else May Day is an occasion of international solidarity among workers and other oppressed people. It is precisely this lack of internationalism among sections of the working class in Britain that makes it easy for British Imperialism to pursue its aims abroad, in Ireland among other places, unrestrained by strong opposition at home. It is our firm belief that backward sentiments of this kind are more likely to be undermined if they are directly confronted rather than if the issues are avoided for the sake of appearing to achieve a spurious unity. True unity comes through struggle.

In the light of these observations we are pleased to hear that the theme of next year's march is to be international solidarity. This is very good and we certainly want to support and participate in this event.....

We'll send the full text of both letters to anyone who wants them. Roll on next year!! COLIN



On Saturday 1st August members of Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group and the Irish Freedom Movement held a street meeting at St Peters Gate. The purpose of the meeting was to talk openly about the British repression in Ireland and to publicise a march the following Saturday on the theme Free Irish Prisoners of War! As soon as the megaphone was used, the fun started. Discussion, some may say arguments, sprang up all over. Many people gathered round as voices were raised, points were made and fingers pointed. The meeting ended with the second intervention of the boys in blue. They pointed out that the council did not allow loud hailers and that was that. For over an hour, though, there was much interest as the pros and cons of British army presence were discussed. Hopefully this type of meeting will flourish as politics is brought off the T.V. screens and the realm of the 'experts' into the streets where it belongs.

The Headmaster.



Women and Ireland are a new group who formed themselves at the end of June when a dozen or so women came together to view a showing of the video 'Strip Searching - security or subjugation' about the degrading and humiliating practices carried out in Armagh women's gaol (& now Maghaberry). There is in fact a network of women's groups on Ireland in existence around Britain already but nothing of the sort in Nottingham - until now.

We as a group want to concentrate on the perspective of the Irish women in struggle as they wage their own war against not only the British enemy occupying the 6 counties but also with the problems they face in the form of the patriarchal and oppressive catholic church, poor healthcare, no abortion, no divorce or contraception (in the south). In the 6 counties it will also be made even more difficult for women to support the nationalist/republican movement headed by Sinn Fein who only recently refused to support a motion to back a call for abortion and women's freedom to choose.

The need for a group of this sort was made clearer to us as we considered how the British occupation is still largely ignored by most lefty campaigners and activists here and many feminists still remain ignorant of what women face daily in Ireland.

However, the group does not aim only to draw attention to the women's angle - it would be useless to remain ignorant of the struggle in its wider context. Much of the groups activities will be directed towards combating anti-irish propaganda and racism and helping to make women (and of course others) aware of this long forgotten war.

An open day is planned for September and women involved in all aspects of women's struggles worldwide are invited to a planning meeting on August 18, 7.30 pm. Women's Centre on Chaucer Street.

# HOW JOE PUBLIC DID IT ALL BY HIMSELF.

Recently the News of the World carried another in a series of gutter press exposes of the Anarchist group Class War. It tells of how CW have around 20 thousand followers, including an 'active service' section whose "street fighters have been ordered into every kind of confrontation that occurs - like Wapping, the Miners Strike and the Brixton riots." The Animal Liberation Front turns out to be but a CW front, and Ronnie Lee and Viv Smith (currently serving 10 and 4 years respectively for ALF activities) two of Uncle Ian Bones most trusted lieutenants.

Exposes like this always lie halfway between distortion and fiction. Surely even the most gullible News of the World reader can't be taken in by the writers creative fancy. Take this gem: when not moving "repeatedly from safe house to safe house ... Class War leaders dress up in pin stripe suits, trilbies and overcoats to hold meetings in respectable pubs and restaurants where no one would expect to find them." And there's more: "They've even met in the hated McDonalds just to put the Special Branch off the scent." Under our very noses these artful conspirators are hatching plots that will unleash social chaos. Who can we trust when even the local vicar may be party to their cunning subterfuge. Only the agents of Law and Order stand between civilisation and the jungle. Friends, draw your own conclusions.

To date their most heinous crime has been to hassle the cast of Eastenders for aiding the yuppyfication of the East End. For instance 'Michelle' and 'Lofty' have both opened new housing estates. Yuppyfication is proving a goldmine for the speculators who are 'developing' the area for the City whizzkids - which leaves little room for the ordinary people of the East End

History, we are taught, is the history of great men. With the exception, that is, of Boedicea, Elizabeth 1, and Margaret Thatcher. This theory of 'the great and the good' has its opposite: the conflicts marring our history are the work of malevolent agitators and troublemakers stirring up discontent for their own ends. Never is social conflict thought to be endemic in a hierarchical and exploitative society. And its certainly not about ordinary people resisting a shared exploitation or oppression.

Opposition to East End yuppyfication; the Brixton Riots; the School students strike; Confrontations in the miners strike or wapping; the shoplifting and the fiddling; They're all the work of evil conspirators! This 'personalization' of conflict has two effects. Firstly it helps preserve the myth that, for all its problems, capitalist society is basically on an even keel, when in point of fact its torn by conflict and increasingly fragile. Secondly it helps prevent people who find themselves in similar situations to miners, rioters etc from making the connections and taking similar action.

The church once held sway because it created a fear of the devil. Likewise Capitalism and the state need their demons. But social conflict isn't the result of Arthur Scargills manipulation or Ian Bone and Class Wars intervention. Resistance, opposition and conflict are born out of the exploitative, oppressive and utterly iniquitous nature of capitalism itself. That's the truth that unrelentingly asserts itself, whatever the ponces from El Vinos say.

John Brown

## T & G SELL OUT ARDBRIDE STRIKERS!

In the last issue of N.A.N we reported on the strike at the Ardbride Products in Ardrossan, Scotland. People at the two factories involved worked in sweatshop conditions: workers have fainted due to glue fumes. There are no safety guards on the machines and the extractor fans don't work properly, leading to six times the legal limit of silica dust in the air, with top wages at only £1.70 an hour. Their union - The Transport and General Workers Union (T & G) - have once again attempted to cut away the ground from workers in struggle. Initially the T & G encouraged strike action but took nine weeks to make it official, refused to give the workers strike pay, and only after action by the strikers themselves offered hardship pay. Despite the T & G's lack of action, the strikers organised their own pickets. In addition supporters of the strikers mobilised pickets of Laura Ashley shops (the biggest customers of Ardbride Products). All this forced Ardbride boss Stuart Ross to make concessions. April saw Ross offering re-engagement of the strikers and partial union recognition. Acceptance of this offer was recommended by the T&G but refused by the strikers because they feared they would be laid off shortly after returning to work. In effect, the agreement would amount to nothing more than a negotiated defeat. A ridiculous state of affairs in the face of the mounting pressure on Ross which had brought him to the table in the first place. The result of this was that the T&G decided to withdraw from the dispute. The strikers therefore decided to continue the fight alone. However, due to the loss of the strikes official status, lack of money and therefore declining numbers on the picket line in Ardrossan, the

workers have been forced to end the strike. The T&G's treacherous attitude to the strikers has not stopped here, though. The T&G took it upon themselves to inform the DHSS that the strikers had refused work, ie to go back under the same appalling conditions and without even the security that their jobs would last. This action of the T&G means that the strikers face 13 weeks without unemployment pay. The cynicism of the T&G leadership has been demonstrated at it's sharpest during the course of this strike. The union bureaucrats always find self activity on the behalf of their member members more threatening than they do the action of bosses like Ross. Donations can be sent to: Anna Druggen (Ardbride strike committee) 28d Montgomerie St Ardrossan. KA22 8EQ. Scotland.

GAEETH.

Lightening DOES strike twice!

### Finger stitched

A man whose finger was bitten off during a brawl at a sales conference for condom makers was satisfactory after an operation to sew it back on. Lynn Elias of the London Rubber Company was taken to the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton, after the incident at the Grand Hotel.

### Court shooting

A US circuit judge, a lawyer and his client were shot dead yesterday during a hearing in the Gulf County courthouse in Florida. A suspect was immediately taken into custody.—AP.

# LOOKING BACK AT THE TRADER DISPUTE

TOM WORKED AT TRADER WEBB OFFSET FOR OVER 10 YEARS. HE WAS SACKED LAST DECEMBER. NON REPORTER, JOHN BROWN CHATTED OVER BEER AND SANDWICHES TO HIM AND WIFE, ANN.

(N.B. TOM AND ANN ARE PSEUDONYMS)

NON: The course of a dispute will be influenced by the relationships and so on at work beforehand. Can we start there?

TOM: There was a division between the origination side, the comps. etc, and the press crew: mainly through not working together. I'd been there over 10 years and some people I'd never said more than 'Good morning' to. We'd never really discussed anything and we didn't know each other. The comps on nightshift were on permanent nights and they seemed more isolated than anyone else and more worried about the developments as the year went on.

Most of the scabs were from the nightshift and we think, with hindsight, that this was because of their isolation. Attempts were made to bring them more into the union organisation, but it didn't seem to work that easily given the shift patterns that operated in the factory.

The scabs were either departmental managers or nightshift. With two exceptions, those who went back in the first few weeks were from that shift and that's due to their not identifying with the rest of the chapel.

NON: Were these problems overcome amongst those who were involved?

TOM: Yes, it was quite remarkable. As the weeks went by you got to know people who you'd worked with for years and found out things you'd got in common but never realised.

NON: For most people this was their first dispute like this. What was it like?

TOM: After a couple of weeks you start to sort out your finances and you realise that your house isn't going to disappear, and that it's more a long term thing. When I was at work I tended to think you could last a month and that'd be it. But as time went on you realised that you could manage much longer, and on less.

But positively, there's the great feeling of comradeship with your workmates and with others who come to support you. A lot of help is just there for the asking. Which is something I've not really experienced before, even though it wasn't my first dispute. But the Post dispute was nothing like this one. Then the NGA was very strong and it was more or less controlled by the national officers. Whereas in this dispute we ran it ourselves. We had to - else it wouldn't have lasted 4 weeks, nevermind 7 months.

ANN: The main thing we got out of it was comradeship. Getting to know a lot of people and being happier when with everybody in the same boat as yourselves than you are at home on your own. I hope you get another job soon, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

TOM: A couple of scabs were personal friends and I learnt something about them that I hadn't found out in 10 years of working with them. That they were more interested in themselves than they were in their workmates and their families. And it really was their fault that we didn't win. I don't accept that we lost, but we didn't win. It's something that people who scab on their workmates never seem to learn. It's their fault, not the bosses: the boss instigated the action, but if the workers won't stick together it cuts down the chance of their winning.

But it's a fantastic experience of solidarity with your fellow workers when you're in dispute. It's a great feeling. We spent Christmas and New Year on the picket line, and it was really good. I probably enjoyed it more than I would have done if I'd been at home under normal circumstances. You find out there's life outside the factory walls.

NON: One of the main issues was, of course, the union.

TOM: Before we were locked out, the national officer, Bob Tomlins, came to see us and made a lot of promises. Once we found ourselves outside, those promises seemed to evaporate. Most of the work needed to finance the dispute, we did ourselves. In the first 3 weeks we were sitting back waiting for the national officers to run the dispute for us. This help never materialised and we found that the only way to get support was to go out and ask for it ourselves, on a worker to worker basis, and not leave it up to the national union to do it for us.

In the event, the only thing we ever got from them was the dispute pay, which to be honest we couldn't have managed without. But we were expecting some leadership from them which didn't seem forthcoming. In fact, within 4 weeks they were talking about it being lost even though we were just finding our feet. Because they didn't think that we could win.

**FREE GIFTS**  
**NOTTINGHAM CENTRE**  
**for the Unemployed,**  
**Houndsgate, is giving**  
**away 30 disc cameras and**  
**35 "Hands Across Brit-**  
**tain" T-shirts to local un-**  
**employed folk.**  
**To pick up a camera**  
**and T-shirt pop along to**  
**the centre with a copy of**  
**the Trader and proof of**  
**unemployment.**

This gem appeared in the Trader on 4th August. The dispute is hardly over, with many workers losing their jobs, and the Unemployed Centre (sponsored by the Trades Council) is kicking them in the teeth by promoting the Trader. It is this lack of solidarity and caring that loses many disputes. Scumbags.

NON: Why do you think that the national union acted like this?

TOM: I think in the NGA case because they'd not won a dispute for ages. So I think they were trying to protect the members funds, instead of the members interests by trying to win a dispute for a change. It was said that if we did win there'd be problems because they hadn't won one for such a long time that they didn't know how to approach a victory. But once we decided we decided we couldn't actively picket any longer, we were getting into the realms they *did* understand: They knew how to wind up a dispute but not how to win one. It seemed a policy to protect the marble and the officers and their lifestyle, probably. National officers with a job for life tend to sit in the office and it's a bit nasty to get out and stand on the picket line in the cold and they don't want to do it. They're too far away from the shopfloor - that's generally the problem.

I would think that the people who hadn't been in a dispute before would be disappointed with the national officers. In 7 months they never attended anything we organised. Those who expected to be led are disappointed and would probably think twice about getting involved in a dispute again. Those who didn't expect too much, it makes people want to take more power in the union. Get away from having 'job-for-life' officials and get them more answerable to the membership by being elected every 3 or 5 years. And if possible get away from having paid officials altogether. One of our slogans was 'Rank and File Unite'; I think that's a good thing, to try and get the power of the union devolved to the actual workers and away from the wheeling and dealing politicians. The interests of the paid officials and those of the workers don't exactly lie in the same direction.

NON: Looking back, what might you have done differently?

TOM: I think that instead of trying to keep talks going between April and August when the agreement was signed, I'd have been more willing to take some action, to institute an earlier overtime ban. Whether the outcome would've been any different, I doubt it. But they might not have been quite as ready for us then. We might have got away with it in '86, but they'd have made sure they got us next time. I think they were aware there was a

Cont. on next page...



Twenty thousand people maybe more, took to the streets of London for a jubilant, defiant and fun march.

People came from everywhere, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, England (including a coach and two mini buses from Nottingham.), Europe and even Australia. Loads of strikingly colourful banners - from S.M.s to Bi's groups.

Decorated floats followed the march, overflowing with drag queens in amazing costumes and colours. One bus threw condoms to people on the march.

The mood was great - people knew what they were about and what they wanted. With the recent homophobia crisis surrounding A.I.D.S., people weren't going to sit at home in the closet. Other campaigns supported the march, including Anti - Apartheid and Viraj Mendis group.

The police presence was surprisingly low - compared to previous years. The numbers that turned out must have surprised them a bit. Most looked embarrassed or disgusted. Lesbian strength march a few weeks earlier, was not so lucky. There were lots of police and a rather nasty incident involving a maniac who drove his car in-

to the march. Three guesses who got nicked - women who told him to fuck off.

Loads of ace slogans -  
"2,4,6,8 is that copper really straight -  
3,5,7,9 who cares, he's still a swine"  
"No rights, We want riots"

"Lilly get out off the Dilly  
leave the rent boys alone" nearly brought Picadilly circus down - police have been hassling male prostitutes in a recent nasty purge.

A much welcomed rest, drinks and music were provided at Jubilee gardens. As usual the rip-off merchants were out in droves to rack as much money out of people for food, drinks and all the same shit they flog.

An appeal has gone out from Nottingham's Lesbian and gay youth organization. Due to a half empty coach down to London, they lost £90 and also have a few debt which could force them to fold.

Any donations will be welcome at:  
NLGYO,  
Box 11,  
118, Mansfield Rd,

OFFER'S DYKE.

## LOOKING BACK AT THE TRADER DISPUTE

Continued...

majority wanting a quiet life who were prepared to bend over backwards to get an agreement on almost any terms. Which was what they offered in the end, but they still decided to lock us out. We gained nothing in the long term.

NON: What about after the dispute started?

TOM: Because we expected the dispute to be settled in a matter of weeks we didn't really want to do any heavy picketing. We thought, well we'd have to work with these people again. 'Scab' rolls off the tongue quite easily after 7 months, but not after a few days. Standing in front of cars is something you're not used to and you don't really want to do because you think you're going to work with these people in a few weeks. By the time you realise that it's going to be a long affair, most of the chapel are set in their ways and the tone had been set. The anger never really showed itself.

NON: What would you say to others in the same situation?

TOM: Get involved! Don't side around and expect people to do things for you. A lot of people at the Trader, the more militant faction in the factory, faded away when we actually had to get out and do something. Those who were prepared to do something were a different bunch of people. The committee changed completely with the exception of 4 people. The more people who are involved the better you can organise, the more places you can go, the more people you can see and the more support you can get. And, as I've said before, you're not at home feeling miserable.

NON: A lot of disputes are finding themselves in a similar situation as regards the union. How do we get around this problem?

TOM: I don't know that there is a way round it in the short term. It's got to be a long term view from people that they've got to try and take control of their own futures. Make sure they go to the boring meetings and get the rules changed so that the union operates in the members interests. Initially the only way to do this is from the inside. I can't see of a way of breaking the union bureaucracy from the outside because of the power they hold.

Obviously the ultimate, most ideal thing is that workers take control of their own factories and run them for the good of themselves and their communities. Whether that's possible, I'm not sure. Obviously the state and the unions are going to work against that. I think the union bureaucracy see their niche in society is to mediate between the workers on the one hand, and the government on the other. And because of that they tend to get drawn into the system, which isn't really in the interests of the workers, ultimately.

ANN: The main problem is between people wherever they work, and the competition between different departments and different wage scales. There's a certain snob value in whatever job you do. As a general picture, the comps looked down on the pressmen, who wore overalls and got dirty and greasy. In the Trader, if there'd been more places where people from different departments could have come into contact with each other, there'd have been more cross-contact and views would have been more widely expressed.

TOM: One of the things that I've always said is that when I get another job, I'll make sure that there isn't this division between people.

ANN: It's more important than the union organisation or anything.

End

# THE MORE WE STRUGGLE... ... THE MORE WE LIKE IT

Having seen and experienced the anger (if not the activity) generated by events such as Wombourne, we in Lesbian and Gay Noise feel it important to emphasise that the chief weakness of the response to lesbian and gay oppression is not the lack of organisation, but the lack of a class perspective. There is no shortage of lesbian and gay organisations representing every brand of reactionary under the sun - from pink vicars to pink cops! It is not a unity based on sexuality that we seek, but a unity in struggle, and if this struggle is to develop, lesbians and gays must recognise the reality of their existence in capitalist society.

Moral crusades and AIDS 'crises' are not the causes of our oppression or of the renewed attacks against us. They are merely a convenient excuse. Our rulers have always had to wage war against us in order to defend and maintain their power, profits and privilege.

Today this is truer than ever. Bad housing, unemployment, low wages, cuts in benefit and increasing repression are all evidence of the system in crisis. As this crisis deepens, our bosses, both East and West, are intensifying their attacks on all sections of the working class. As workers, consumers, and cannon fodder, we are as useful as any heterosexual. But as homosexuals we are scapegoated in order to divide our class and bolster their institutions of social and ideological control; the family, church and the nation. Playing on fear, prejudice and ignorance, they divide in order to rule. Our weakness is their strength, and our division is our weakness. In this respect, homophobia like racism and sexism is as much a weapon in their armoury to be used against us as are the police, the army and the courts. This then must be the terrain of our struggle - the struggle of the working class against our bosses, the state and capitalism, whose interests they serve. Social liberation is the only means of realising sexual liberation.

While we see the resistance to the criminalisation of our sexuality as much a part of the struggle of our class as is resistance to redundancies, wage cuts and persecution of class militants, we recognise that any call for 'liberation' without the revolutionary destruction of capitalism is merely a plea for toleration -



perhaps the most insidious form of oppression. For this reason we oppose on principle campaigns that call for reforms of the system and see these as the climax of our struggle. Those who call for reforms fail to see that changes in the law will only be made when it suits our oppressors, to create the illusion of progress and thus disarm our militancy without seriously challenging the basis of their power. Equality before the law is equality of misery. Those who already enjoy these 'rights' are not immune from poverty, unemployment, police truncheons, exploitation, pollution or the threat of war. These are the realities of barbarism, which is the only real equality we will ever share under capital.

As part of the struggle for social revolution, we seek to, and encourage, work with and within other revolutionary organisations against all aspects of capitalist domination - including capitalism's 'lefts' and 'radicals': the trots, vanguards, and all those who claim to lead or represent the working class or any part of it. However, we recognise that the foreseeable future, the reality of a homophobic society, require us to organise autonomously as lesbians, gays and bisexuals in order to guard ourselves against the danger of being dominated and marginalised by a heterosexist majority. This is not a separation we wish to maintain, but we can at present only foresee our integration taking place as rising class struggle and the process of revolution destroys traditional sex roles and exclusive sexuality along with the family and capitalist morality. Until such time we see our role as 1) uniting the struggles of lesbians and gays with the other struggles of our class. This is a unity that has already found (limited) expression in the actions of lesbian and gay miners' support groups during the '84 strike and the support and solidarity received in return from miners - not a traditionally pro-gay section of our class - at Rugby and Wombourne. And 2) attempting to introduce the politics of social and sexual liberation into the lesbian and gay movement. This includes challenging traditional loyalties to the 'gat ghetto', and recognising that the management of our social activities by the 'pink economy' is a key factor in our subjugation by capital.



Lesbian and Gay Noise can be contacted at the following address:  
Box LGN  
180 Mansfield Road  
Nottingham.  
L.  
c/o 70 High Street  
Leicester.

For some people

# NICARAGUA

can do no wrong

Nicaragua's national hero, Augusto Cesar Sandino, fought the occupying US marines from 1926 until he was killed in 1933. Previously he had been in Mexico working for oil companies. Here he was in contact with militants of the anarcho-syndicalist union, CGT, who were involved in large-scale strikes on the railways and other aspects of the Mexican revolution. This experience was vital to the formation of his class consciousness, and on returning to Nicaragua he devoted as much time in encouraging workers to join unions as in recruiting for the armed struggle. He also adopted the colours of the anarcho-syndicalists for his own organisation.



Augusto César Sandino

The present largest political group in Nicaragua is the FSLN, the Sandanista Front of National Liberation, which was formed in 1961 by disaffected middle-class youth and veterans of Sandino's guerrilla army who insisted on the inclusion of his name and black & red being kept as the colours. On the whole the FSLN has remained true to its libertarian roots, with dialogue being an integral part of their political development.

Without doubt, the greatest threat to the Nicaraguan revolution is the Reagan-backed 'Contra' terrorist offensive. Their aim is not to win support of the people, but to destabilize the country so that another American puppet can be installed. The danger to the revolution from this quarter is two-fold: Not only do the Contras pose a direct threat to the people and economy, but their actions are used by marxist elements in the government to put the brake on social revolution. A 'State of Emergency' has been imposed which limits many freedoms, bringing Nicaragua nearer to an Eastern European State with the 'external threat' being used as the excuse. Lenin used the threat of the White Russians 70 years ago in the same way - there was no loosening of the grip when the enemy was defeated. There has been a tendency to see all opposition to a centrally controlled Nicaragua as counter-revolutionary. For years the Miskito indians of the Northeast have been displaced from their homelands and many of them killed. They have fought back and their armed resistance has had an effect - the FSLN have at last agreed to the Miskito demand for autonomy, but peace is seen as a prerequisite. The government has made great play of admitting its errors with documents such as "We had difficulty in grasping the ethnic character of the Miskito problem".

Given their apparent acceptance of the rights and aspirations of cultural groups for autonomy, it seems strange that supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution should also support regimes in other parts of the world who are actively involved in genocide. TANA (Anti-imperialist Tribunal of Our America), great supporters of FSLN

has put on record its admiration of President Mengistu of Ethiopia. They have praised his work with the resettlement of drought victims and the 'construction of a free society'. The reality of the situation is rather different. During the years which brought Mengistu's marxist junta to power in the late 70s many thousands of people were shot, with the excuse that they were 'anarchists'. Mengistu has continued with Haile Selassie's murderous war against the Eritrean people, who have been fighting for the restoration of their autonomy since 1961. During the recent droughts there was an understanding among the government to 'let nature take its toll' and deprive these areas of food and other assistance, starving the guerrillas, punishing the people and depopulating the area.

The key seems to be expediency: Agree to the demands for autonomy of the Miskitos because their help is needed against the Contras, on the other hand negate the Eritreans because of support from Mengistu's paymaster, the Soviet Union. The Nicaraguan people need our help, especially against American interference, but that help MUST include criticism of them and their allies. The Sandanistas have, on their own admission, made mistakes in the past. They will make mistakes again. Solidarity demands that the working class of the whole world should be part of the resistance and part of the learning process. That resistance should include Nicaraguans, Eritreans and British. And no one, not even the Sandanistas, should be above criticism.

There's a chance to hear a Nicaraguan speak of her experience of revolution when Alta Hooker, a member of the Nicaraguan Health Workers Union introduces a film "The Tiger's Milk, women of Nicaragua" on 8th September. (See Events for details.) If you want to find out how YOU can be effective in helping the Nicaraguan people, or for more information of Nicaraguan speakers, films, bands and other forthcoming events, contact:

Nottm. Central American Solidarity Campaign.  
c/o 118 Mansfield Road

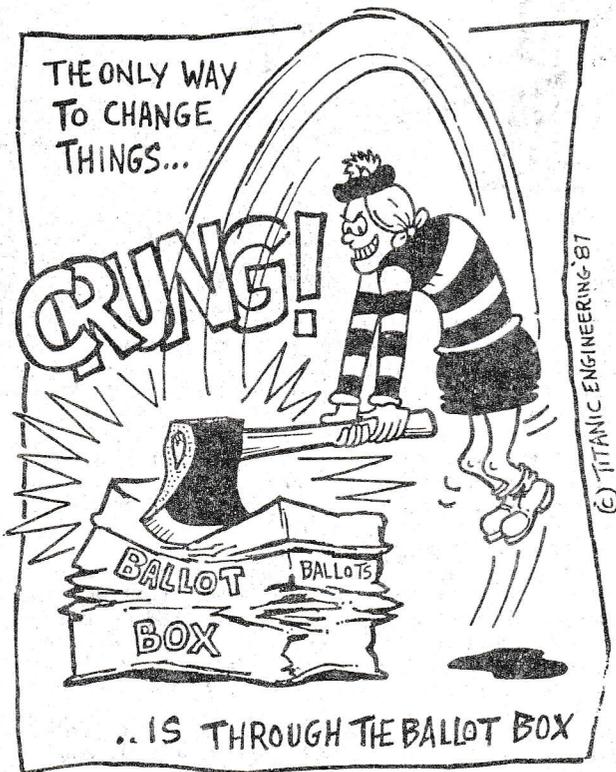
Support Nicaragua. But remain critical. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and the enemy is not only external. As anarchists we should have a strong grasp of the fact that all power has a tendency to corrupt. Even Sandanista power.



Jubilant Sandinistas ride into Managua's central plaza on July 19, 1979, as insurrection topples Somoza and destroys National Guard.

COM.

# SCUMBAGS



Yes, I know you're all bored to tears with elections. But you may like to know how homophobic Mohammed Aslam begged for votes from Nottingham's Lesbian and Gay community. At the count the pile of spoiled papers rose higher and higher; lots of them had a cross (which is allowed) and the legend "Lesbian and Gay Rights" (which isn't). Mr Aslam pleaded and the Returning Officer capitulated. The 40 or so votes weren't enough, though. Perhaps we can look forward to our Labour candidate pleading in the street for the pink vote next time.

Scumbags of the month? This cutting appeared in the Grauniad and was repeated in the Evening Post, both times with no comment. These papers would no doubt see themselves as responsible, but printing rubbish like this without pointing out what rubbish it is can only add to the misinformation and paranoia surrounding aids. For the record AIDS cannot be passed on by bare legs.

## Belgrade AIDS action

THE Barbers' Association of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, has instructed its members not to serve customers in shorts as a precaution against the spread of AIDS. The City's Committee for Health has ruled that AIDS can be transmitted by bare legs.

It's not often that I can report rumours or gossip concerning myself. But here's one. A scab at Mushroom was discovered by the DHSS and consequently had to leave. This prize scumbag, Gail by name has been putting it about that she was grassed up by myself and Chris Cook. This is completely untrue, and I would suggest that scabby Gail either produces her evidence (which of course she hasn't got) or shuts up. Opinions are one thing; if she wants to say I'm horrible, fair enough. But outright lies are another matter entirely.. Nothing different from what you'd expect from Mushroom, though.

Reliable sources report that a new Irish solidarity group is in the offing. Having failed miserably in their attempts to convince the existing Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group to toe their "don't rock the boat, the Labour Party is wonderful" line, members of Socialist Action seem to be striking out on their own. Some people insist on referring to Socialist Inaction as 'left wing' but this is believed to be a joke, based on the fact that the alter ego of this entrust group (to those in the know - the International Marxist Group) was once, many moons ago, on the left of British politics. What is strange is that, as the British section of the Trotskyist 4th International, you would have thought these people would have been pushing the publications of their sister group, People's Democracy, the Irish section of the same organisation. But perhaps that's just my naivety. After all, friends have been telling me for years that Socialist Faction are just a bunch of opportunists, merely using the credibility of Republican News to build up their own squalid little group.

## BLAST 'EM

DIRTY people should be blasted with a shotgun filled with soap pellets, says Nottingham city councillor Tom Harby (Lab).

His suggestion came at a meeting of the environment committee yesterday as a report on cleaning itinerant sites was being considered.

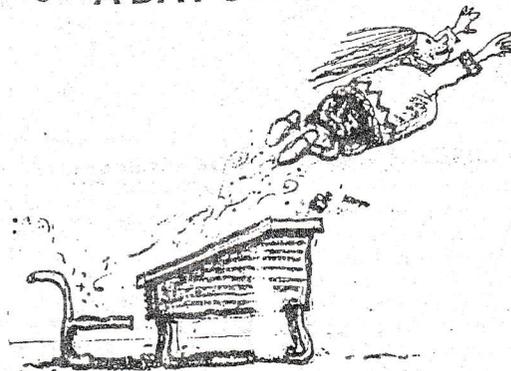
Coun Harby said: "We are the dirtiest nation on earth. Dirty people should be shot with a shotgun loaded with soap pellets."

Along with our justified anger at the victimisation of the Peace Convoy in recent years, we must never forget those travellers and their families who have suffered this sort of crap for generations. Any of our readers who suspect that they may be considered 'dirty people' are strongly advised to keep well away from Mr Harby. To make it easier for you: he lives at 32 Watford Rd, Aspley. Anyone requiring a clearer definition of a 'dirty person' can ring him on 789924.

BY THE HEADMASTER AND PUPILS.

## FREEDOM AND EDUCATION '87

• A DAY CONFERENCE •



SATURDAY, 3RD OCTOBER

COUNTSTHORPE COLLEGE  
COUNTSTHORPE, near LEICESTER  
FROM 10.6 PLUS EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Details from The Cottage, The Green, Leics, LE17 5HL

ADVERT.

# WHAT MARK MADE FOR THE REVOLUTION

A good revolution was certain, and everybody was happy and excited at the prospect. All arrangements had been made, and it now only remained to wait patiently for the day. As they sat together after their meeting, the boys chatted joyfully of past mass insurrections, and anticipated many pleasures to come.

"There's only one thing I don't like about revolutions," said Loader; "and that is stopping behind to do the cooking while the other comrades are out enjoying themselves. Of course, I know it is the only way."

"What do you think about it, Mark? You've got an idea, I'm sure," said Brooks. Everyone turned towards Mark Merridew, and waited for his reply.

"Yes, I have got an idea," he began. "I was just thinking about a thing my uncle told me about - a fireless cooker he saw in Norway. I will ask him about it tonight." Next evening Mark came up with all the details and some working drawings of the Norwegian hay stove, fig. A2.

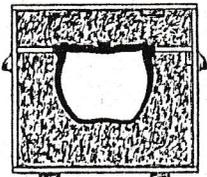


Fig. A2.

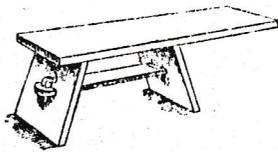


Fig. B1.

"How splendid for hot days," said Brooks. "I guess my mother would appreciate one of those."

"I'm glad you like it," said Mark, blushing just a little at the compliment. "And I'm sure there are many other necessary things that we could suggest and make for the coming struggle."

"That's true," said Scott. "Loader's problem just illustrates the big difficulty in any libertarian revolution of keeping individualism inviolate in a situation where organisation and co-operation are vital; I think if we all set to work thinking very hard during the next few days, we might have some splendid suggestions for our next meeting. What do you think?"

They all agreed, and that night each comrade went away intent on securing and offering the best idea. Wednesday rolled round, and as the comrades arrived, most of them revealed rolls of paper poking out from pockets. Scott's proposition had evidently caught on.

"Well, who's first?" asked Mark, as they sat down round a table. No one seemed anxious to commence, so Mark called on Johnson, a veteran of many revolutionary conflicts, who knew most of the difficulties and hardships.

"Well, I've thought out a combined stool and table," he began, and like most capable freedom fighters, he was rather nervous at first. "I don't know what you fellows will think of it."

"Well fire away," said Mark.

"It's like this. On wet days, and sometimes on dry ones, you don't want to sit down on the grass, and yet in all the spontaneous uprisings I've been in, there are no tables and chairs for meal times. It seemed to me that if I could work out a simple folding arrangement to act for both, I should meet a big need. Here is my idea, fig. B1."

"That is a very elaborate piece of furniture," said Mark, "and one on which Johnson is to be congratulated. Now I think we'll try someone who has never yet been behind the barricades, and see what novelties we can introduce. Fire away young Frankham."

The boy addressed thus suddenly was all confusion for the moment. "Mine's a very simple thing," he faltered; "I expect you'll all laugh."

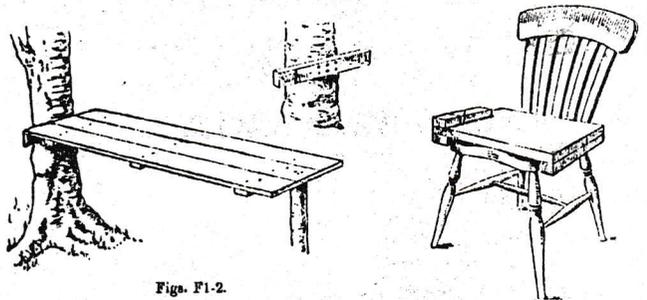
"That they won't," said Mark; "not while I'm here."

"In the first place," began Frankham, "my idea only works if the revolution takes place among trees. If it does, then it seems to me to be quite an easy matter to arrange a tree table..." and he showed them his drawing, figs F1-2.

"Capital!" said Mark.

"Bravo Youngster!" exclaimed several of the others.

"While we are talking about handicrafts, I don't see why we can't go on, and get another set of ideas for things that the proletariat can make after the revolution," urged Johnson.



Figs. F1-2.

Fig. M.

"Yes," said Mac, "I like that. I reckon every Anarchist ought to have a den of his, or her, own - a sort of combined study, sitting room and workshop. If his (or 'her' - gosh, sorry!) mother can't spare him, er... any of us, a room, either in the attic or the cellar, then he - they - ought to build himself (shit) themselves a substantial shed in the garden."

At the next meeting, Clements was bubbling over with class-based, revolutionary fervour. "Shall we start?" he said, as soon as everyone had entered. "I have got a good beginning."

"What is that??" asked Mark.

"A simple saw bench, one to fit on the seat of a chair," replied Clements. "My father told me about it the other night when I cut one of the kitchen chairs."

"A simple saw bench, one to fit on the seat of a chair," replied Clements. "My father told me about it the other night when I cut one of the kitchen chairs. Here is a sketch of it, fig. M."

"That should prove very useful to an Anarchist until he - or indeed 'she' - has been fortunate enough to set up a real workshop," said Brooks, smoothly.

"I was just thinking about Mac's statement regarding neo-platformist vanguardism and the 'den'," said Mark. "I agree absolutely with what he said. You can't imagine the comfort of having a place of your own, where you can do as you like - within reason. I fitted one up some time ago, as several of you know. One of my chief difficulties with neo-platformist vanguardism has always been the seating arrangements. By the time a couple of comrades have squatted on the bench and another on my chair, there is no room for anyone else to sit. So I got the idea for a bracket seat, quite simple things, which are arranged around the walls, and fold up into a small space when not in use. Here is a sketch of one, fig. N1..."

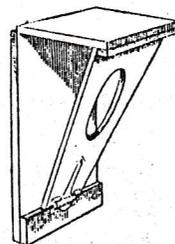


Fig. N1.

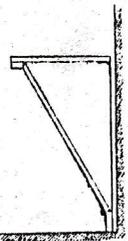


Fig. N2.

"I think we have now got a pretty good selection of models on which to try our skill," Mark continued. "Any comrade who sets to work to do the lot will have a nice task in front of him, one that will keep him from worrying about irritating political differences for months, and I must say I am very pleased with it all. I should like to say just this one thing, especially to the younger comrades: 'If a thing is worth doing at all, then it probably reflects the true aspirations of the oppressed classes.' I hope we shall all keep that in mind. Then we shall turn out strange, splintery, wooden things worthy of the group and worthy of the Anarchist Movement."

Bob, with some help from Walter Higgins in "The Complete Scout", 1923.