# NOTING-AM

September and October 1988

# PAPER OF NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST SOCIALIST GROUP

Issue No. 4

## SLAVE LABOUR? NO THANKS!

FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, all existing government training and employment schemes will be replaced by a horrific new slavelabour programme called Employment Training (ET).

First launched six months ago, using Nottingham as a 'pilot area', this new scheme, in the words of the TV ad, aims to 'train the workers without jobs, for the jobs without workers'.

But in truth, ET, like all the other government employment schemes, aims to shuffle the unemployed figures so that they appear to be going down.

The government claims that ET is to provide 'quality training', but training only takes up one day of a full-time scheme. The other days will be spent doing menial tasks only vaguely related to the chosen training: for instance washing

buses, when you should be learning to drive them!

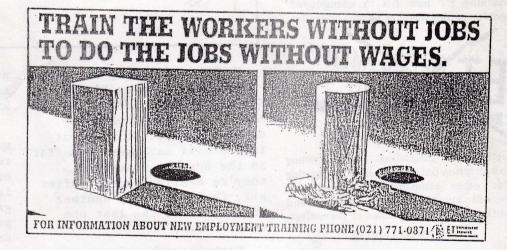
The government says that this is a way of making the scheme pay for itself—by working four days to pay for one day of training. But E'I' provides neither work

nor training—just another source of cheap labour for the employers.

And what do we, the unemployed, get out of this? We'll be forced to work a five-day week in some dead-end job, to earn around £10 more than the pittance we get on the dole. And all the talk of 'freedom of choice' as to whether or not you take a place on the scheme is a total lie: if you don't accept a 'suitable placement', they'll cut your dole. Freedom on the ET is freedom to 'work or starve'.

With the real unemployment figures going up and up, due to increased mechan-

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## MORE TRAINEES INJURED & KILLED

GOVERNMENT TRAINING schemes for the unemployed have an appalling accident and injury record — and new figures show that the number of deaths and injuries suffered by trainees has been increasing sharply.

The new accident report, just issued by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), shows that there were a total of 171 'major accidents' in-

cluding fatalaties on schemes such as the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) in 1987 - a big increase on previous years.

'Major accidents' included lost of sight, amputation, fractures of the pelvis, spine or skull. During the year, seven people were killed at their workplace.

This horrific casualty toll is set to get worse with the

introduction of the new workfor-dole Employment Training Scheme.

Thousands more unemployed people will be forced to take up placements in factories, offices and building sites, where eager bosses will be planning to get the most out of their new supply of slavelabour. (Continued page 2)

isation and cost-cutting, the government will do anything it thinks it can get away with to juggle the statistics, to cram the unemployed into useless schemes.

But don't think Labour would do it any different. Unemployment is an election issue, and they will work just as hard to trick the unemployed onto schemes, to hide the figures, to keep the rest of us quiet.

#### LABOUR

But, although governments may appear to be tackling the problem of mass unemployment, in truth they are quite happy with the way things are. With millions out of work, the threat of unemployment can be used as a lever to force the poor to accept low paid jobs and keep quiet about bad working conditions. How many times have you heard the line: "You'd better not complain, there's plenty more who'd be happy to have your job".

Some trade unions have said that they won't co-operate with ET, but not enough to make the slightest impact on the government's plans. Coming soon after the slashing of benefit levels in the Spring, ET is norrific news for unemployed people struggling to make ends meet. The only chance of wrecking ET now lies in unemployed people coming together to take collective



action for themselves: by resisting conscription onto the schemes, by fighting for other claimants threatened with benefit cutoffs, and by sabotage and strike-action on the schemes themselves.

#### REVOLUTION

As anarchist-socialists we believe that we shouldn't have to sell our labour in order to live. As long as the poor do the work and the rich take the profits, then the poor will always be poor and the rich will always be rich. We believe that a small class of people own the means of production—the factories, the land, etc—and that a much larger class of people—the working class—do most of the work, whilst taking only a fraction of what we produce.

The Employment Training Scheme must be smashed. But our ultimate goal must be a 'social revolution' that will overthrow this unfair distribution, and create a society which is run by, and benefits, everyone, and not just a small class of employers and property owners.

### TRAINEES INJURED & KILLED

Continued from front page-



Health and safety measures - like guards on machinery, and protective clothing - cost money, waste time and slow down productivity. They eat into profit margins, so as far as the boss is concerned, they're easily ignored. After all, there's always another trainee where the last one came from...

Training schemes are supposed to be checked out by government safety officials. But while the accident rate has been climbing, the number of schemes shut down for safety reasons has fallen.

#### SLAVE-LABOUR

So we end up stuck doing some boring, repetitive and pointless job, on a dead-end scheme, working for a greedy boss, in a workplace that isn't even safe.

Of course, dangerous workplaces and fatal accidents aren't limited to government schemes. Over 700 people are killed at work every year.

The issue of safety at work is a class issue. The reason that so many workers are injured and killed at is because production is organised to maximize the bosses' profits, not look after our safety.

#### PROFITS

Even in workplace that are 'safe' we are still exploited and ripped-off by that same class of people.

The only way to make the places where we work 'safe', is to rid ourselves of that whole system of exploitation.

For as long as bosses are allowed to use our labour to make their wealth, we will continue to suffer.

It's time we made life very dangerous for them.

## Poll Tax fight grows

THE FIGHT AGAINST the poll tax is entering a crucial phase in Scotland.

And as suport for a campaign of collective non-payment of the new tax gains momentum, attempts by the Labour Party to sabotage the fight have been reaching new and desperate levels.

The poll tax—or "community charge"—is set to replace the current system of domestic rates with a flat rate charge that will savagely hit all poor, working class people. Due to be introduced in England in 1990 the poll tax will mean a company director paying exactly the same amount as an assembly worker in his factory.

The deadline for returning completed 'poll tax registration forms' in Scotland recently passed, with thousands of households still refusing to register themselves with poll tax authorities. Early estimates suggest that a minimum of 100,000 Scots have joined the boycott. In Glasgow alone 43,000 forms have not been re-

turned. In some areas 90% of residents have joined the refusal campaign.

#### INSPIRING

The determination of thousands of ordinary Scottish families to defy the authorities and show their willingness to refuse to pay is an inspiring example, that puts paid to the defeatist myth that a militant anti-poll tax campaign is "unrealistic".

But while the groundswell of community anger continues to spread, Labour Party and trade union leaders are stepping up their efforts to stamp out an effective fight.

#### CYNICAL

In a cynical attempt to 'soak up' anger about the poll tax and give the impression that they are 'doing something' Labour and union leaders have called a token 11 minute stoppage in September to "demonstrate our opposition to this most unfair and unjust tax". This absurd 'teabreak against the poll tax' is supposed to divert attention away from the fact that the Labour Party Scottish Executive has only recently reaffirmed it commitment to demouncing a non-payment campaign and any talk of 'law-breaking'.

Labour controlled Lothian Council is a fine example of what working class people opposed to the poll tax can ex-



pect from Kinnock and his party.

Lothian have just sent out 50 'penalty letters' fining the first of 8000 people in the area who've refused to register for the tax. Strathclyde Labour Council has banned students from setting up anti-poll tax stalls on local campuses to even raise the issue with other students.

#### BANNED

They denounce us, they fine us and they try to silence us: that is the reality of Labour's 'opposition' to the poll tax.

Whatever the Tories and the courts, or the Labour Party and union bosses; try to do a co-ordinated community campaign of non-payment now seems certain to take off in Scotland. In Nottingham we should now be preparing ourselves to follow this example.

## Gold medal for hypocrisy

THE 'OLYMPIC IDEAL' is meant to symbolise friendly competition between nations. A four-yearly gathering where atheletes do their bit for their country in a spirit of 'healthy rivalry'. It is supposed to be the taking part that is important, not the winning, and an international panel of officials ensure that fair play is maintained: a sort of cultural United Nations!

In a world divided into rich and poor, exploiter and exploited, all this is total hypocrisy.

#### MYTH

The idea that better understanding is reached between countries taking part, or that a country's people somehow benefit by their competitors' success, is a myth. It is farcical that countries openly hostile to each other should put on a charade of 'good sportsmanship'.

alloted territories is a natural human impulse. The Olympics are seen as a friendly outlet for this impulse —as opposed to war, which our politicians have us believe they loathe. In fact, the reason the likes of you and I live in the countries we do is that, historically, competing aristocracies laid claim to areas of land around the world and divided them up amongst themselves, so that they could exploit the labour and produce of the people living in 'their' area.

#### EXPLOITERS

Working class people the world over are today exploited in similar ways, and the people 'ruling' us (Royalty, capitalists, generals, etc) still benefit by keeping areas of the world for themselves and making us work for them.

World leaders would have us believe that the global population needs to be divided along national boundaries and that defending our countries—to keep their national boundaries safe and keep us believing our enemies are the people of other countries, nationalities or races, rather than the ruling class and the capitalists whose power exploits us internationally.

Constantly exploited by capitalism and under the threat of war, we are lied to that the 'Olympic Ideal' is proof that the world is a stable, just and prospering place.

The people of Korea, where the 1988 games are to be held, would not agree.

#### SILENCED

The superpowers assisted the division of the country into the 'communist' North and 'capitalist' South—but all Korean people are exploited and lied to in the same way, and the national prestige for South Korea in holding the games will only benefit their leaders and bosses, who'll also be raking in the tourists' money.

But the most effective way they keep their wealth and power is to force us to hate and fight other Thousands are losing their homes so that the 'Olympic Village' can be built, and any opposition is being ruthlessly silenced.

You may have seen 'tear-gas' being used on the streets of Seoul to silence demonstrations recently—well any demonstrations during the games will be fired on with bullets, so as not to affect the air being breathed by the atheletes and tourists!

#### INTERNATONALLY

International goodwill surrounding the games is a myth. There will no doubt be some excellent atheletics to be seen, but the 'show-biz' way the games are portrayed is just to divert us from the fact that we are exploited internationally.

Whatever 'understanding' is reached over the games, whoever boycotts them in protest at another country's action, and in spite of the banning of the racist South African regime, the games still symbolise the ruling classes hold over us.

The best international sport we could have would be getting rid of them. We may have a long distance to go, but let's get set to show them they they are for the high jump!

## PAGE THREE: HARMLESS FUN AND MALE VIOLENCE

IN JULY, THE THEATRE ROYAL staged 'Page Three Girls'.

A nightly picket opposed the play because it was sexist, insulting to women and pornographic.

Evening Post writers claimed that the play wasn't pornographic because it conained no violence against women, and was just a bit of harmless fun.

This 'harmless fun' depicted women in a degrading an humiliating way, as easily manipulated sex objects, available to anyone, 'anytime. anyplace, anywhere'. It was pornography.

As women, we have to live with these images, at work, walking down the street,

#### DECISION

Papers, TV and plays like this, encourage men in thinking women want their attentions and if we don't there's something wrong with us. Nowhere are there examples of men accepting a woman's decision. And when we do protest, men claim that when we say 'NO', we really mean 'YES'.

These attitudes towards women provide the ideology on which men choose to rape and exploit us.

According to the media and men's lies. a woman wants men's advancesshe enjoys them, she wants to be controlled by a man.

This is a myth.

Men claim we cause rape. We don't. MEN CAUSE RAPE. In the same way that an elderly person does not cause mugging, women do not cause rape-EVER!

#### STEREOTYPE

Another myth is the stereotypical rapist, who is sick, perverted and wears a mac-therefore being easily identifiable. He is not someone who'd go to see 'Page Three Girls'. So it is claimed there's no connection between this and rape.

But rapists are usually seemingly 'normal' men. Judges, doctors, labourers, police, factory workers have raped. The popular portrayal of the rapist allows men to feel that they are not capable of rape and therefore not responsible.

Over 50% of adult rape survivors were raped by male relatives or friends of the family, and more rapes occur in the home than anywhere else.

The rapist practices the domination and humiliation of women as encouraged by pornography, capitalism and the media.

#### **EXPLOITATION**

Pornography and rape are sexually oppressive, causing women to be seen as, and feel, inferior to men.

This encourages women's economic exploitation because we're 'not as good as' men and don't deserve to be treated, or paid, as equals.

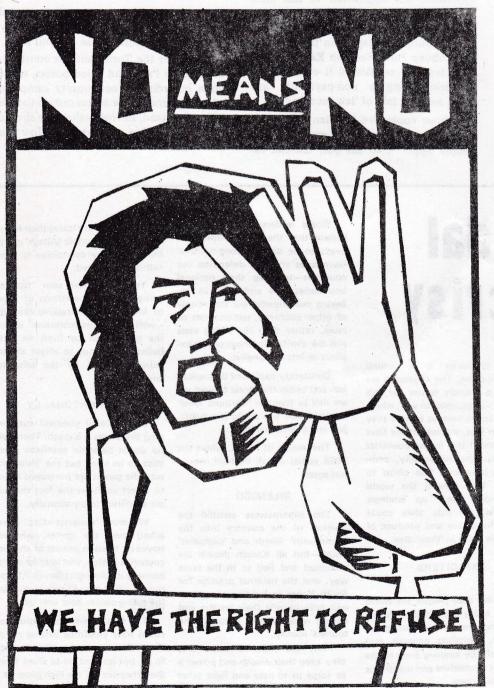
And no censorship laws passed by the predominantly male ruling class are going to help us. We need to support eachother and not look to men and their laws for protection.

#### SILENCE

Male myths about women must be exposed as the lies that they are.

And women's silence about male violence, caused by fear of not being believed, must be broken before we can get a clear picture of what we're up against.

This exposure is vital in the fight against our oppression and rape.



# the Orange Order



ONLY THREE MONTHS after the rightwing Orange Order were prevented from marching through Chesterfield by a counter-demonstration, the Order and National Front sympathisers are planning another march for September 17th in Exeter.

It is vital that this event is also stopped—that communities are prepared to prevent a fascist presence on the streets, and voice their objection to the British presence in Ireland and the Protestant supremacy that the Order symbolises.

#### OCCUPIED

The march is supposed to be a historical celebration of the landing of William of Orange 300 years ago. In fact, to right-wing Protestant organisations, it symbolises their war against the Catholic community in Ireland.

It comes one year before the 20th anniversary of Northern Ireland becoming a 'country' occupied by British troops, leading to the deaths of many people and the persecution of the Catholic community.

The Order also serve the purpose of dividing the working class in the North of Ireland—convincing people that Protestant and Catholics must always be enemies and stopping them from seeing their true enemy—the ruling class (of which the Orange Order is comprised) and in particular the British ruling class.

The Protestant working class is bought off by some small privileges (eg better housing) over Catholics, to further convince them of their supremacy and keep

communities divided rather than united against a system that keeps all of us poor, exploited and without a voice.

However, many of the people that have worked for the overthrow of the British occupation are Protestant. The working class can not be blinded or bought off as easily as the likes of the Orange Order and politicians whould like, even though the likes of the both churches and trade unions join in to prevent the army from being kicked out and real social change from being achieved by all ordinary people.

The working class in the North of Ireland is fighting back against the centuries of tyranny and exploitation symbolised by the Orange Order. The British ruling class is responsible for the war in Ireland, and only action taken by the whole community (not leaders—left or right— or paramilitary elites) can end it and bring about a changed society.

#### SINISTER

It is vital that English people oppose the occupation of the six counties and the seen and unseen influence of bodies like the Orange Order. They are the equivalent of the Free Masons and play a sinsiter role in politics, the law and the security forces.

It is vital to oppose the William of Orange celebrations in Exeter and all over the country, and—as letter to Exeter Council are unlikely to stop anything—we must be physically present to do this.

(Contact us for more details of the march, transport, etc, or write to: Plymouth Anarchists, PO Box 105, Plymouth, Devon.)

## Social Fund misery

THE SOCIAL FUND introduced by the DHSS in April to replace 'single payments' is causing extreme distress and hardship for people.

Three days after being refused a Social Fund "Crisis Loan", a man was found dead from exposure outside Marks & Spencers in Nottingham.

A young woman moved from a hostel to a Family First flat because she was pregnant. She applied to the Social Fund for maternity expenses and a "start-up" grant for furnishing the new flat. The woman has a miscarriage. This resulted in no payments at all

from the Social Fund. She also received a drop in her Income Support because she had moved and the move was not "neccesary" as she had lost her child. Living in the unfurnished flat she had a nervous breakdown.

These are only two of the thousands of tragic cases which are a result of the Social Security changed introduced earlier this year.

Many people have been unable to get rent and deposits in advance, even in the form of loans, which has caused problems for people trying to find rented accommodation.

And, of course, to actually get a loan you need to be "credit worthy". This is absurd in itself, for people would not apply for a Social Fund loan if they were "credit worthy". Those who need the money most are those who are least likely to get it.

Because the amount of money available is limited, the DHSS are prioritising claims. Applicants who are refused loans or grants feel resentful towards those who do get them.

The Social Fund divides the poor of this country — it does not help us. And as long as we remain divided, we are incapable of creating a truly free and equal society.



## The great housing sell off

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to have yet another sell-off. It wants to get rid off all council housing within ten years!

Not only do the powers that be want us to be without enough to live on - social security cuts - and without adequate health care - NHS cuts - they also want us to live in expensive, badly maintained accomodation, or better still have no accomodation at all.

These will be the effects of the Housing Bill legislation.

#### 'CHOICE'

Currently, the Housing Bill is being passed through the House of Lords and Commons. The government has claimed that the Bill will increase council tenants' 'choice' of landlord and that it will reduce homelessness.

These are lies.

The only people to benefit will be money-grabbing land-lords, who will greedily buy up the council estates and houses, to make huge profits, and the local authorities who want to get rid off "difficult" properties.

In Nottingham, the Council is already selling housing in Radford, Carlton, Bulwell and Sneinton.

Under the Housing Bill, landlords can put in offers for tenanted, and partly tenanted, properties and estates. Only one offer is considered at a time. If the local authority accepts the offer, tenants are then notified of the intended sale, and get to exercise their socalled "choice". They have a fortnight to vote 'yes' or 'no' for the new landlord. All abstentions are unjustly counted as 'yes' votes.

If more than half the tenants register objections, then the sale should not go ahead.

But the objections do not go to the council of an independent arbitrator, they go to the landlord so only he/she knows how many objections there are!

Tenants do not even have a choice of who they'd rather be exploited by! The Bill will increase the landlord's choice of tenants, not the tenants choice of landlord.

#### EXPLOITED

There will be no protection from rent increase under a new landlord, who will be free to charge above the Housing Benefir limit. So people will find themselves having to move out of their homes because they can't afford the new rent.

There will be no more 'fair renting' and landlords will be able to evict tenants when their rent is three months in arrears.

#### INCENTIVE

The Housing Bill is a clear economic incentive to over-crowd tenants, to exploit, to keep people in awful conditions and to throw them out when convenient.

## Strike at Beeston GPT

PRODUCTION AT THE GPT tele-communications plant at Beeston has been brought to a standstill in the first walkout by production workers at the factory in over 10 years. The 850 shopfloor workers have taken all-out strike action in anger at managment plans to introduce 'time and motion' studies on the assembly lines and to bring in a new 'grading' and pay system.

Workers know that any 'time and motion' study will only be used to justify job losses, 'speed-ups' and increased production targets, and that the new grading system is meant as a backdoor way to introduce wage cuts.

#### STRIKE!

Though the solidarity of the striking production workers show no sign of breaking, it seems certain that union negotiators for the AEU, TGWU and GMB are hoping to stitch up some sort of 'compromise' deal with Plessey bosses and organise a return to work.

From the beginning of the dispute, union officials have made it clear that, for them, the real issue is not one of

redundancies or wage cuts, but is over 'consultation' with the union.

It's a familar story. Exactly the same thing has been happening in the ongoing ferry dispute at Dover. It's a story that repeats itself every time and union leaders are allowed to tell it.

Union leaders are 'professional compromisers' who interest is in defending their own cosy position in the pecking order between management and shopfloor, not in protecting the 'interests' of their members.

If time and motion study officers were going to be brought in at GPT to peer over workers shoulders with their stop-watches and clipboards, then, damn it, this must be officially approved by the union.

But the dispute at GPT shouldn't be about the 'right' of union bureaucrats to 'rubber stamp' management decisions.

#### CONSULTATION

The strike should be about workers coming together to fight off an attack by

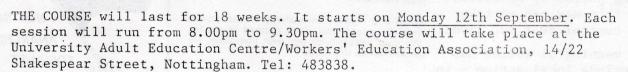
## HISTORY OF ANARCHISM COURSE

ANARCHISM IS over a century old. But its influence is often ignored. What did these anarchists believe in? Are its ideas still relevant?

This course aims to answer these questions by examining the ideas of important figures within the tradition.

The course will evaluate the criticisms levelled by the anarchists against contemporary social and political structures, their proposed alternatives, and strategies for political change.

Suggested reading: Anarchism by David Miller, and, The Anarchist Reader by George Woodcock.



COST IS: £6.10 for people on income support, family credit, housing benefit etc, or on a YTS, CP scheme, or Employment Training. £14.25 for students, people in receipt of a state pension, and people experiencing special hardship. £23.65 for those working. Please note: these fees can be paid in two halves over the 18 weeks.

OUTLINE OF SESSIONS: 1. Pierre-Joseph Proudhon; 2. Michael Bakunin (part one); 3. Michael Bakunin (part two); 4. The early Italian movement: 5. The terrorist wave of the late 1880s/early 1890s; 6. Peter Kropotkin; 7. Errico Malatesta; 8. Anarcho-syndicalism in Spain; 9. Individualism (part one); 10. Individualism (part two); 11. Leo Tolstoy; 12. Emma Goldman; 13. The Russian Revolution ("The Organisational Platform of the Libertarian Communists" and "The Synthetical Declaration of Principles"); 14. Gustav Landauer; 15. Video (probably "Jewish Anarchists in America"); 16. Situationism; 17. Modern anarcha-feminism; 18. Contemporary anarchism.

bosses eager for ever greater profits at their expense.

LATEST: The strike at Beeston GPT is over. Union officials have just signed a 'compromise' deal with GPT bosses, ending the strike

after two weeks.

As predicted, union negotiators have given way completely over both management demands. The time and motion study will now go ahead, fully endorsed by the union, and the new bonus, grading and pay schme will be introduced once the union has been 'approached'.

The union is, of course, claiming 'victory' for itself, after winning the 'right' to be 'consulted' over the

GPT bosses are naturally delighted at the news. "We're pleased that we've been able to give the union the assurances they felt they needed to guarantee their co-operation", they said.

### S.U.B.S.C.R. B.E!

#### SUBSCRIBE TO THE AGITATOR!

If you want to guarantee seeing all future issues of Nottingham Agitator, take out a postal subscription for £2 for one year/six issues. The £2 just covers costs.

Most copies of the Agitator are given away free on the streets of Nottingham. We

reach people who'd otherwise never see or read an anarchist-socialist paper.

If you support what we're doing, you could help subsidise the paper by taking out a "supporting subscription" of £5 for the year.

Payments to NASG at: Box 1, 15 Goosegate, Hockley, Nottingham.

## EDITORIAL

NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST SOCIALIST GROUP

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

ANARCHISM IS about running our own lives — instead of letting other people run them for us. It is about organising our world the way we want it.

Therefore it is also about organising now to overthrow capitalism and the state.

That doesn't mean forming political parties, or relying on their leadership, but standing together and taking action by ourselves. Only this way can we take back control over our lives.

But meaningful action has to include local action — in our own communities and workplaces. Resistance to the poll tax, for example, can only effectively be carried out locally — as we unite and make "can't pay, won't pay" our policy.

Nottingham AnarchistSocialist Group is a local
group which campaigns around
issues affecting the people
of Nottingham and surrounding areas. It includes
members of national organisations such as the DAM
(Direct Action Movement) and
the ACF (Anarchist-Communist
Federation), as well as
people in no national grouping - working together to
make a local impact.

We hold public meetings, video showings and debates, take action and make propaganda.

If you agree with our 'aims and principles', and you'd like to get involved in what we're doing - or if you'd just like more information about the group - please get in touch with us.

Our address is: Nottingham ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Hockley, Nottingham.m

Our goal is the creation of a free, equal, and classless society.

At present the State and capitalism ensure that wealth and power remain in the hands of a few. The workers produce the wealth that the bosses enjoy .The power of the State is controlled by a ruling elite.

This creates a class of people who are deprived of the power to direct their own lives and to shape their own environment.

Movements of reform have never fundamentally changed the nature of the capitalist system:power has continually remained with successive elites.

Consequently, our goal can only be achieved through an anarchist social revolution. This revolution will not replace one set of rulers with another but will destroy both capitalism and the state worldwide.

Rulers and leaders have always taken power from the people they have claimed to act for We must organise for our own liberation. No leaders can do this for us.

The system based on hierarchy and centralised power must be replaced with a society that is run by, and for, the people.

Because this is the kind of society anarchists want, we structure our group in the same way.

We actively support struggles in the work place and community (eg. against deportation, against discrimination and for better health care.). Whilst these may not be revolutionary in themselves, the common experience of struggle inspires revolutionary action.

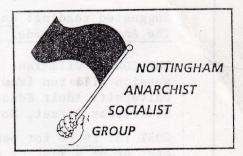
We will participate in these struggles as anarchists.

We oppose racism and sexism, acknowledging that all white people benefit from racism and all men benefit from sexism. We must fight against all forms of oppression on a personal as well as class level.

Because organisation is necessary for effective political action, and a formal structure allows for greater responsibility and accountability Nottingham ASG is a membership group.

Nottingham ASG is:

- \*A class struggle group
- \*Committed to organisation
- \*Opposed to racism and sexism
- \*A membership group



Nottingham ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.



BLACK RAVEN BOOKSTALL

Black Raven stocks Anarchist papers, pamphlets, books and periodicals. We can also order books on request.

The stall is usually at St. Peter's Gate on Saturdays.

We're also to be found at meetings, conferences, gigs and events.

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