

CITYWISE

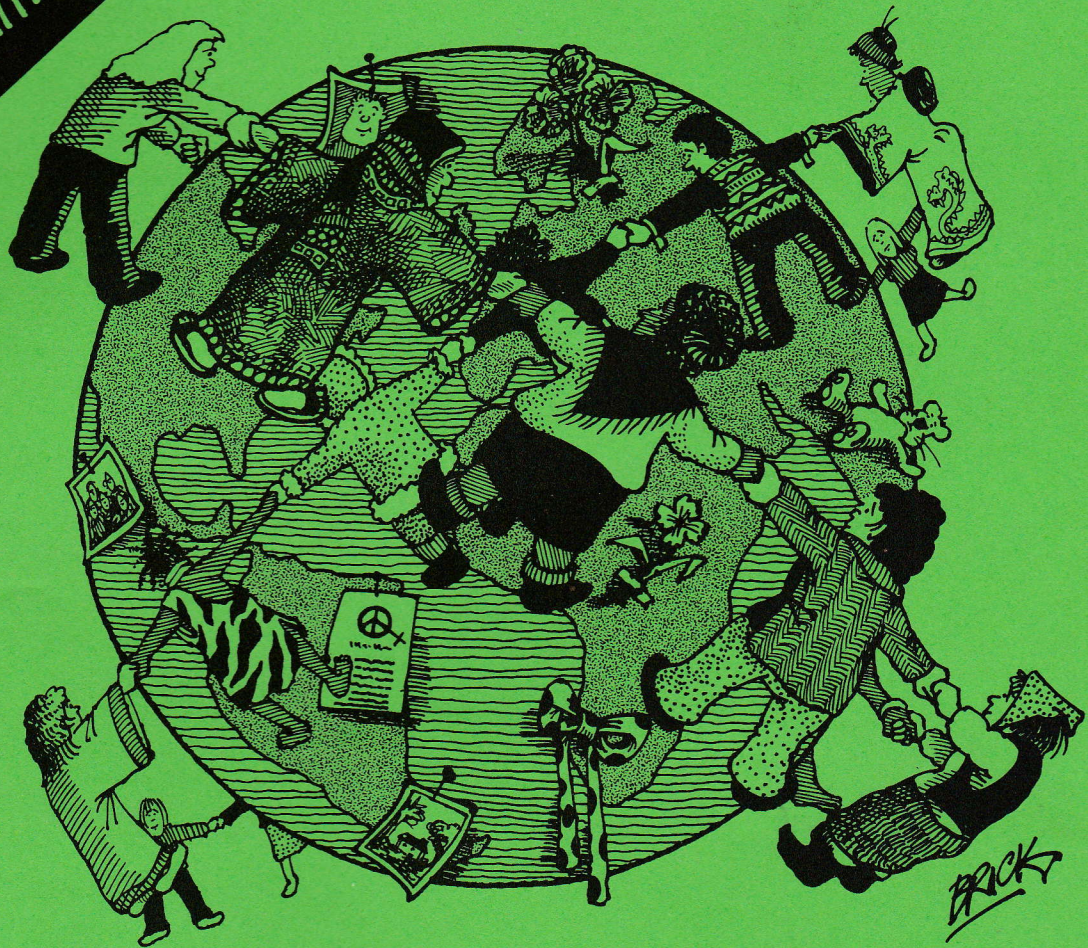
NOTTINGHAM'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

INSIDE:

Privatisation

Animal liberation

NUJ fights for life



PEACE WOMEN ACTION

News

Council declares war on asbestos campaign

by the Nottingham
Asbestos Campaign

THE CITY Council's Policy and Resources Committee, meeting on 22nd November, noted the adoption by the Health and Safety Committee of the recommendations of the Working Party Report on Asbestos. The main points were:

- A ban on the future use of asbestos products.
- A survey of all council property.
- A programme of removing and sealing asbestos.
- A committee of councillors, and union and tenants' representatives to supervise the programme.

Nottingham Asbestos Campaign

welcomes these recommendations but, good as they seem on paper, it requires a committed council to implement them properly.

NAC has asked Cllr Wood, Chair of Housing, these questions:

1. When will the survey begin?
2. How long will it take?
3. When will the committee be set up?
4. How will tenants' representatives be chosen?
5. How much money is to be allocated to removal?

A month later and we have had no reply - but the performance of the Policy and Resources Committee should concern everyone who wants to know the answers to these questions. Only the proposed committee was discussed. Two tenants' representatives are to be chosen from the

consultative committees, and NAC was attacked by councillors from both political parties.

NAC is an organisation of tenants' groups and union members, and has a better grasp of the asbestos problem than those councillors who attack it. We have repeatedly asked for meetings with councillors and have been refused. Now our letters remain unanswered.

Further, the Labour Group have delayed discussing the report until January (it was produced in August) and, in the meantime, DLO workers and council tenants are exposed daily to "asbestos incidents".

NAC held a meeting on Thursday 8th December to discuss the Council's attitude and its proposals. The meeting supported the steering group's actions over the last four months, and called yet again for the Council to meet the NAC●

CITYWISE!

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ALTERNATIVE
PAPER NEEDS YOU!!

**Buy it! And get your friends to buy it!*

**Sell it! (at a discount!) in your group, workplace or trade union branch.*

**Use it! Tell us about your meetings, campaigns, demonstrations, publications, performances, exhibitions (deadline for next issue: 20th January).*

**Keep us informed! Stories, leads, rumours - anything you think needs exposing or investigating.*

**Join us! Writing, research, illustrations, typing, layout, collation, distribution, accounts, office work. Even a couple of hours an issue would help.*

**Give us financial support! We need about £200 an issue. Make a donation. Ask your group or union branch to make a donation (cheques to "Citywise", address below). Give regularly if you can. Fill in the banker's order. As little as £1.00 a month would help.*

**Advertise! Contact the address or 'phone number below and ask for our rates.*

**And please give us your comments, encouragement and support.●*

● Mail for *Citywise* can be sent or handed in to our mail-only address: *Citywise*, Box B, Mushroom, 10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham NG1 3AA.

● 'Phone messages should go direct to *Citywise* on Nottingham 865959 (contact for this issue only).

NEXT ISSUE
February 4th

OPEN MEETING
7.30 p.m.
3rd January
118 Mansfield Road

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Privatisation pays, says secret report County Tories plan jobs axe

CONSERVATIVE councillors on Notts. County Council plan to axe many council jobs and hand over the work to private contractors if they are elected in May 1985.

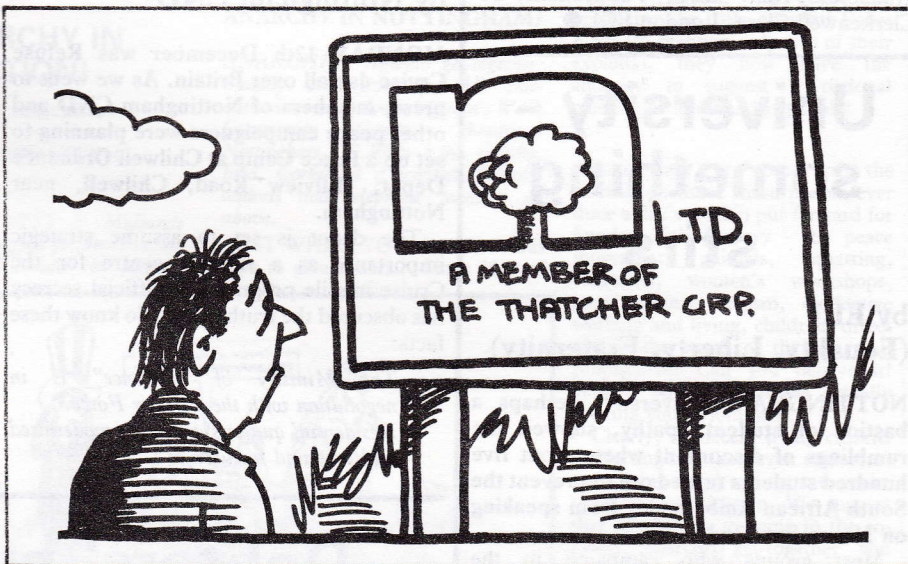
Citywise has obtained confidential working party papers which show what are called "a cross section of some of the possibilities". This report is only the first step in a series of policy papers which are due to be prepared "in the coming months". It sees the following advantages in privatisation:

1. Just proposing privatisation can lead to a "fundamental reconsideration of the nature and extent of the service."
2. Threatening privatisation can "produce economies and increase in efficiency without the proposals for privatisation ever having to proceed".
3. It means that "it will force elected members and officers alike to consider afresh the services for which they are responsible and not take them for granted".
4. "The private sector is likely to be much more flexible." (See later for the contradiction!)
5. "In many other Authorities where privatisation has succeeded (and it is not the case that they have all succeeded) there has been a substantial saving of money."

Some problems

The working party does agree there are some problems with privatisation:

- "There has to be anxiety about the ability of contractors to comply with the terms of their contract... If a contractor were to go, for instance, into liquidation... it would be very difficult for the County Council to produce a replacement service at virtually a couple of days' notice."
- There are some areas where "the expertise and professional knowledge and judgement of a Council's own officers is such an important part of the input that it would be very difficult to expect the right level of service from rather less well-informed people outside the Authority" (e.g. CLASP).
- There "will be a loss of authority and control over a section of service put out ..."
- There can, in fact, be "a loss of flexibility as a result of privatisation, where it was



necessary to enter into a long term contract for the provision of a service in the private sector ..."

● "The experience of some authorities shows that an attempt at privatisation costs more money rather than saving money."

● If a contractor is not making a profit "there will undoubtedly be a tendency to increase substantially the cost of providing that service upon the next renegotiation of the contract".

The actual areas that the Tories have already considered privatising are:

- a. Getting rid of architects for new building works.
- b. More highway maintenance.
- c. Some legal work, in particular debt work and court work.
- d. Cleaning of County Council establishments.
- e. Catering at some Leisure Services facilities, e.g. country parks and sports centres.
- f. Grass cutting.
- g. School cleaning.
- h. Some of the physical maintenance of County Council buildings.
- i. Catering in the Police Service and Fire Brigade.
- j. School meals.

There is no mention in the report of the effect on jobs, on the quality of employment and employment conditions, and on wage levels, or of what happens to present County Council employees. Nor is there any discussion about the quality of service

available, how users of the service might be treated by private contractors, or how their service might need improving.

This is not surprising, for privatisation could not succeed if these essential issues were considered. Privatisation is a political attack. It is a means of plundering public sector assets and services and redistributing wealth to the wealthy and to private industry and commerce. But it is more than an attack on public spending and workers' conditions: it is also an attack on trade unionism.

And the County Council workforce will hold the key to any successful fightback against privatisation. There are a lot of lessons and experience in fighting privatisation now. The seven point strategy developed by NUPE London Division, assisted by SCAT, begins to outline the work involved (see box). But the organising

1. Developing alternative ideas and demands to improve services.
2. Education and propaganda.
3. Building stronger workplace organisations and links with workers in other boroughs.
4. Developing joint action and organising user committees with PTAs, tenants' groups, etc.
5. Tactical use of industrial action and negotiating machinery.
6. Direct action by workers and users.
7. Counter offensive against contractors in public services. ●

News

will have to start in 1984. To wait for the elections will be too late.

Further ideas on action, organising, contractors and new threats can be found in *Public Service Action*, the national anti-privatisation newsletter, at 30p per copy, incl. postage (10 per year). Bulk rates are available. **From:** SCAT Publications, 31 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1.●

University - something stirs

by ELF
(Equality, Liberty, Fraternity)

NOTTINGHAM University, perhaps a bastion of student apathy, showed the rumblings of discontent when about five hundred students turned out to prevent the South African Ambassador from speaking on November 22nd.

Most groups who campaign in the University were there, along with many concerned individuals, and as a result a meeting was held to see what possibilities the strength of feeling could lead to. Lack of organisation at the demonstration, and the resulting verbal violence, suggested that better means could be employed at future events.

What emerged was that a common news-sheet was the best way in which communication could take place. The aim was not to enable one group or another to dictate what should happen, but that any group or individual could publicise what it intended to do, and how possibly to be most effective. By sharing ideas openly, it was hoped a common strategy could develop.

First news-sheet

So ELF was born, and the first news-sheet produced, summing up the basic ideas and containing a few bits of information. Within days, a dispute over the so-called "resignation" of one of the Students' Union's employees erupted, and as a result of a factsheet produced by ELF, calling for a meeting, the Students' Union declared an emergency debate, with a motion put forward that would bring the dispute to a close.

Links with the town and Polytechnic are as important as links within the University. ELF is only what concerned groups and individuals feel and express, whether it be prose, poetry or information. Contributions are welcome and necessary.

Contact: 26 Belper Road, Hyson Green.●

CND fight Cruise at Chilwell

by Nottingham CND

MONDAY 12th December was Refuse Cruise day all over Britain. As we went to press, members of Nottingham CND and other peace campaigners were planning to set up a Peace Camp at Chilwell Ordnance Depot, Hillview Road, Chilwell, near Nottingham.

The depot is set to assume strategic importance as a support centre for the Cruise missile programme. Official secrecy has obscured the truth but we do know these facts:

*The Ministry of "Defence" is in negotiation with the US Air Force.
Residential quarters are being modernised and prepared for use.*

Places have been booked in a local infants' school.

Security at the depot has been tightened.

Why do the Americans need 78 acres in the centre of England with a rail link and easy access to the M1 and M6?

The camp is an attempt to open up the secrecy which surrounds nuclear weapons and their deployment by spotlighting Chilwell. There are currently 102 US bases in Britain. Is Chilwell to be number 103?

As well as a protest against the machinery and mentality of nuclear war, the camp will be a celebration of peace and life.

STOP PRESS. Friday 9th December. New wire fencing has been erected at Hillview Road to prevent the camp from succeeding. But we have other ideas!●

Debtors' prisons make a comeback

by Phil Solomons

NOTTINGHAM Magistrates are sending more and more people to prison for failure to pay fines. Many of those imprisoned were originally fined for very trivial offences, such as non-payment of a TV licence fee, or minor motoring offences. Frequently they are under twenty-one. Always they are poor.

Harry Fletcher, press spokesman for the National Association of Probation Officers, referred to the situation in Nottingham as being like "a return to the days of debtors' prisons". Local courts are attempting to recoup the huge backlog of unpaid fines, which was caused in the first place by unrealistically high fines being imposed. The function of fine default courts is to deal with this. Imprisonment, which cancels any outstanding debt, is supposed to be used as a last resort to deal with cases of wilful non-payment. But sentences of up to two months are being handed out with shocking frequency.

In a recent case in Nottingham, a mother of two young children was sentenced to seven days in gaol for non-payment of £42, part of a fine originally imposed for not having a television licence. Her account of her circumstances showed quite clearly that she hadn't paid because of genuine hardship. But this was ignored by the

magistrates, who seem determined to send as many people down as possible. Even the Home Secretary has said that fewer fine defaulters should end up in custody.

Fine default courts are not covered by the Legal Aid scheme, which is supposed to be available whenever there is risk of imprisonment. Since fine defaulters are almost invariably very hard-up, the presence of a lawyer in court is almost unknown.

Questioning

The only official present with legal training is the clerk of court. It is his job to conduct the questioning of the defendant, and also to advise the magistrates as to sentence. Defaulters have no right to call witnesses, so this is the only opportunity for them to explain to the court why they have not paid. It's essential that the questioning is fair and sympathetic. But now that a clampdown has been implemented, clerks are often very aggressive, combining most of the functions of prosecutor and judge.

The length of any gaol sentence is related to the amount of money left outstanding, and the defendants can "buy themselves out" from the sentence by paying off the fine. Sometimes the money which will avert a spell behind bars is "found", but usually this does no more than lead the debtor into further money troubles.●

NUJ fights for its life

by a special correspondent

AT FIRST SIGHT, boyish David Dimbleby appears an unlikely ally for one of Nottingham's leading anti-union campaigners, Christopher Pole-Carew.

Now he's at the centre of moves which could wreck the National Union of Journalists and encourage other bosses to take similar action against other unions.

Until recently, Dimbleby was best known as his father's son... a smooth performer on BBC heavyweight TV shows like *Panorama*.

Dimbleby the newspaper boss only became a story when "Mr David", as he's known in his Richmond-based newspaper group, went into dispute with the big print union, the NGA.

He inherited his weekly papers from his father and ran them as an entirely separate entity from his television career.

The current trouble began when Dimbleby decided to make two printers redundant. NGA members at his paper walked out... and Dimbleby decided to try to break their strike by having his printing done by TBF Printers... which is run by the same people who run the *Nottingham Evening Post*.

Five-year dispute

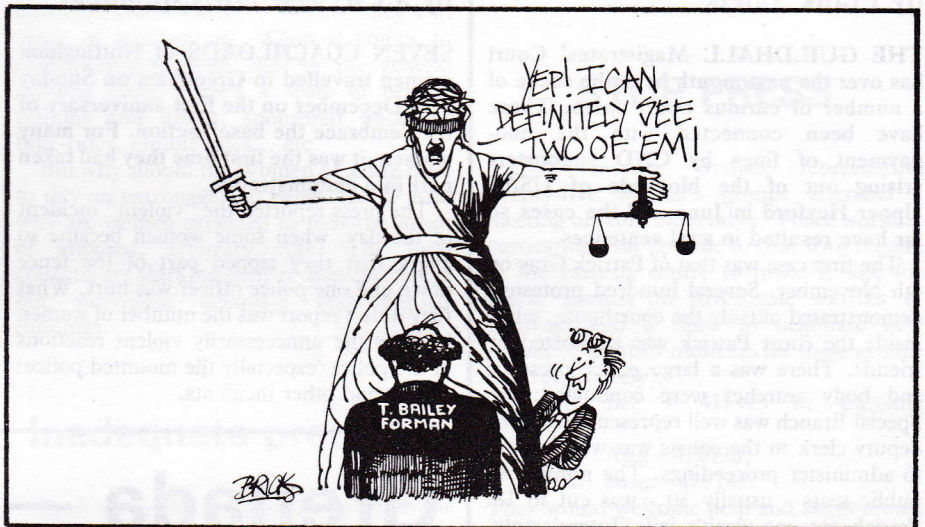
Dimbleby must have known that by going into a deal with Pole-Carew, the managing director of the *Nottingham Evening Post*, he was walking into a five year old dispute between the journalists' union and the *Post*.

It was in December 1978 that 28 *Post* journalists went on strike with other NUI members on provincial papers over a national pay dispute. The *Post* journalists were sacked. Five of them are still on victimisation pay.

Since the sackings, NUI members have refused to work for the *Post* or have anything to do with companies involved with it.

So when thirteen journalists on Dimbleby's papers heard about their boss's arrangement with Pole-Carew, they went out on strike in line with a union instruction.

While David Dimbleby is not a member of the NUI, many of his colleagues at the BBC's Lime Grove studios are... and they've been considering whether they will



be prepared to work with Mr David when he returns for his next current affairs stint.

Readers at this stage may be wondering: what's all the fuss about? Why doesn't the NUI settle its differences with the *Evening Post*? The answer is simple - the attitude of Pole-Carew.

Here are some extracts from a speech Pole-Carew gave to executives of Portsmouth and Sunderland newspapers in 1980.

"If you are going to fight a battle you have to have loyal troops. We bribed people to stay in during the strike... money is a weapon - a very potent weapon - and it should be used."

"I have always tried to drive a wedge between union officials and their members. I have always done my best to humiliate and discredit union officials."

"In no circumstances would I accept a union member as a manager."

"We vet all new staff, who go through at least three interviews and normally five. The primary question is: Is this person a security risk?"

There is absolutely no sign that Pole-Carew has changed his views.

If NUI members went back to work for him, they would be subject to the same regime.

As for Mr Dimbleby? At the time of going to press, his injunction against the NUI had been upheld in the Court of Appeal. The judges ruled that TBF Printers is a separate entity from the *Post*... therefore under the

government's Employment Act the NUI's strike instruction was illegal.

Next, the NUI could face huge fines and the seizure of its assets. Already other unions, including the country's biggest, the Transport and General Workers' Union, have offered financial support and accommodation. The NUI is fighting for its life. ●

PICKET AT THE EVENING POST

IT IS now five years since the *Evening Post* sacked 28 journalists for joining an official national strike. Five of these journalists are still receiving victimisation pay from the NUI. To "celebrate" the fifth anniversary, the NUI was holding a picket on December 10th to remind people of the issues.

Support for the NUI case came from Betty Higgins, the Labour leader of the City Council. In the council chamber on December 5th, she pledged the continuing support of the Labour Group until the *Post* agrees to reinstate the five journalists who are still without a job and grant normal rights to the NUI and print unions.

The Labour Groups on both the City and County Councils have refused to speak to the *Evening Post* since the dispute started in 1978, in line with a national labour movement boycott. ●

News

Peace protestors jailed

by Frank Shiels

THE GUILDHALL Magistrates' Court has over the past month been the scene of a number of curious court cases. These have been connected with the non-payment of fines by CND supporters arising out of the blockade of USAF Upper Heyford in June. All the cases so far have resulted in gaol sentences.

The first case was that of Patrick Gray on 4th November. Several hundred protesters demonstrated outside the courthouse, while inside the court Patrick was supported by friends. There was a large police presence and body searches were conducted; the Special Branch was well represented and the deputy clerk to the courts was wheeled out to administer proceedings. The number of public seats - usually 30 - was cut to 18. Patrick got one week's jail. (Interestingly, his case appeared before Nottingham's most hard-line magistrate, Ronald Pell.)

At the second appearances of Alan Shirley and Isabella Smart, on 6th January, the public seating was cut further to 12 places, most of which were occupied by uniformed and Special Branch police officers.

Alan Shirley was refused permission to be accompanied into court, although there were two free seats available. Isabella Smart gained access for two friends only by demanding vocally from the door of the court to be accompanied by them. Two seats were then hurriedly discovered to be available. There were no demonstrations outside the court at the time, though the police informed Central TV that extra precautions were due to "an anti-vivisection demo".

After numerous complaints to officialdom on the 6th December, the court cases of Mark Salmon and Chris Cook on 9th December took another turn. The deputy clerk of the courts was solemnly wheeled out again, police presence was greatly reduced and the number of public seats rose to 28. The courts that day were extremely lenient and the two defendants were each given five days' gaol for £25 fines. The previous three defendants had each received seven days' gaol for £15 fines. Cynics might think this had something to do with the publicity the cases have received and the fact that the press gallery was packed.

We can only wait and see how the last two cases will proceed. The next is that of Frank Shiels on the 16th December, and the final case, of Pete Strauss, has yet to be announced. ●

Greenham women 'embrace the base'

by a Citywise correspondent

SEVEN COACHLOADS of Nottingham women travelled to Greenham on Sunday 11th December on the first anniversary of the "embrace the base" action. For many women, it was the first time they had taken part in a demonstration.

The press reported the "violent" incident of the day, when some women became so angry that they ripped part of the fence down and one police officer was hurt. What they didn't report was the number of women hurt by the unnecessarily violent reactions of the police (especially the mounted police) in that and other incidents.

For most of the 30,000 or more women, it was a peaceful and moving demonstration. Once an hour, we all raised our voices, and banged and blew instruments in a cacophony of protest. In between, we talked and lit fires and decorated the fence. Nottingham women stood together between the trees and the fence singing protest songs to the music of a women's band.

From four to five p.m. in the dark and falling snow, women placed thousands of candles along the fence and around the gates. As we left the "blue" gate to go home, hundreds of women were still singing and chanting in the presence of many police and soldiers. ●

Grenada — impotence behind the rhetoric

by Ross Bradshaw

JUNIOR FORBES, from the Pan-African Congress Movement, speaking on December 1st at a Nottingham protest meeting on Grenada, summed up the decline in public influence of the left. He remarked that, years ago, such a meeting, following such obvious US aggression, would have attracted five or six times the people at the meeting.

Despite having the (nominal?) support of the mighty Transport and General Workers' Union, and many Labour Party and other groups, the rally was attended by only 150. He also made the telling point that, realistically, supporting Grenada now meant major financial and political support for the hundreds of Grenadians abroad who must now seek political asylum and face permanent exile. (Though he perhaps spoilt his case by arguing for British people themselves to take up arms. Where do we get them? Who do we shoot?)

Many of the groupuscules at the meeting were more concerned to get their own line across than to seek information and offer genuine support for Grenada. *Militant*, perhaps unnerved with Grenada having no 250 monopolies to nationalise, suggested that Grenadian workers should have been seeking support from the Coca Cola workers in America - not perhaps realising that Coca

Cola plants in Grenada (or in the US) are a symbol of colonialism, not to mention capitalism!

More interesting were the two contributors from Grenada. A representative from the New Jewel Movement described the process leading up to the invasion and the lies used to justify it. Of particular local interest was the airport being built with Plessey assistance - whereas the US had said a military base was being built, Plessey pointed out the obvious differences between the civilian airport they were building and one for military use. A local man described how his family had been unable to find out what was happening to their relatives. Had they disappeared, were they dead? These feelings of fear and helplessness are the consequences of war, and are a feeling perhaps we have to experience to understand.

Ken Coates said that what we have to face is not organising meetings of mourning after the event but becoming strong enough to prevent the invasions beforehand. This particular meeting was little more than an expression of our impotence to do so. I regret that the meeting caused only despair, which unrealistic talk of creating our own revolution does nothing to dispel.

But shall those who turned up learn about how much we have to do, or shall we continue to waste time with empty rhetoric? ●

Letter

From Wyn Williams, Chairperson, CRC.

I WELCOME CITYWISE, which judging by the first issue intends to expose weaknesses and deficiencies in bureaucracies and organisations and seeks to support and develop campaigns on critical issues like 'Asbestos kills' and Raleigh Jobs.

Can I also offer to provide information on stories where I am personally involved or a member of an organisation mentioned. It only takes a 'phone call.

I pick up on two separate stories in the last edition which could have been strengthened by a bit of checking.

1. The Community Relations Council was indeed consulted by the County Council about the proposed Black Community Development Project. Under Section 11 of the 1966 Local Government Act we have to be approached.

What the article doesn't make clear is that:

(a) We made clear to them that any proposals had to be discussed directly with Black groups.

(b) We made the draft proposals available to all Black organisations in the City.

(c) We expressed, both at the meeting and in a subsequent letter to the County Council, CRC's strong reservation about the proposals as they stand.

(d) The County Council did not claim to my knowledge that they had our approval or indeed anyone else's for their proposed Project.

(e) The elected representatives of the Afro-Asian Forum have been instructed to discuss the proposals with the County.

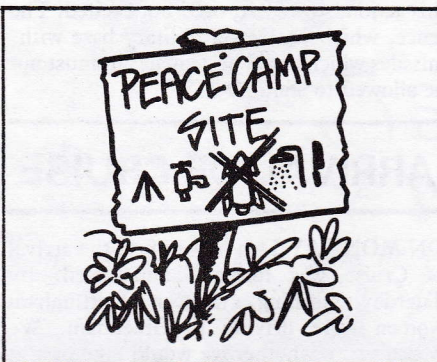
As to the story about Nottingham Community Project. It is indeed true that the CRC Executive were asked to consider accusations made by the Chairperson of NCP against two of our workers. It is also true that our own response to that letter not only defends our workers but also details NCP's failure to develop an anti-racist strategy and tells her that we are accepting the County Council's invitation to submit our views to the Review Group looking at community work and NCP's record.

Can I suggest in conclusion that both stories would have gained from being more fully documented.

However, if this is the Coronation Street technique for keeping interest alive by leaving enraged actors to reveal all in your next edition then I suppose it's just good journalistic practice overcoming the need for accurate reporting at the time.

Whatever the explanation - more strength to your elbow - and yes I will read the December edition to see if you carry this letter. ●

Back street



NEWS THAT Uncle Sam won't be storing bits of nuclear missiles at the Chilwell Army Depot has brought a sigh of relief from local residents. Shopkeepers, on the other hand, are outraged.

In a survey published tomorrow, 48% of traders thought the siting of nuclear spares would bring much-needed employment and investment to the area, and were angry that the Ministry of Defence had seen fit to overlook their parish in this way.

A spokesthingy from the Chamber of Commerce said, "We estimated there would be a 17% increase in gross trade from journalists alone, not to mention all the tea and firewood we could flog the Boys in Blue."

Signs offering "Ideal Peace Camp Site" have now been removed from the gravel pits opposite the depot. ●

IN CASE YOU hadn't noticed, what was YOP is now YTS, or it was at the time of writing. Of course, it has always been YUK, but continually changing its title is just one of many ingenious devices used by

the MSC to encourage young people to be alert and observant in preparation for future life.

And you've got to be quick these days, or you miss all manner of pearls. Like the circular sent round all YTS this September regarding "political activities" on the schemes ...

There simply won't be any, says the Minister, neither will there be any union activity or any education about the "systems" that make this country creak. In fact, extending youth's understanding of life beyond the four square walls of their allotted task is a total No No.

To be fair, the same circular looks forward to a time when "political education" will be taught as an integral part of YTS (or whatever they call it by then). Lecturers are to be drafted in just as soon as sufficient troops can be released from active duty. ●

WE HAVE BEEN asked to inform male supporters of the Law and Order lobby that they can already obtain tickets for next year's Police Ball either from the corner of Noel Street/Berridge Road or from Forest Road East, price £20.

(Ignore the prowling pandas. They're just someone's idea of a joke.)

Derby entrepreneur, George Smith, of the Amazon Artiste Agency, said the last gala was such a success the Notts. Constabulary would probably have to hire the Albert Hall (Methodist) to cope with the increased demand. He was delighted the police had finally put the venture on a firm commercial footing and were offering pimps 10% of ticket sales.

The guest list will not be announced. ●

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MUESLI

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PLUS A WIDE SELECTION OF JARRED HONEYS, HERBS AND SPICES, BREWING MATERIALS AND COOKING UTENSILS.

WORKERS' CONTROL NOT CONTROL OF WORKERS

ouroboros

Nottingham peace women in action!

by Nottingham Women
for Peace

CUTTING DOWN THE FENCE: OCTOBER 29th

NOTTINGHAM WOMEN for Peace is a varied group of women who meet together every Tuesday evening to talk about, and plan actions for, peace. We see ourselves as part of the wider women's peace movement, which is made up of the many women who, faced with the nuclear threat, have made the difficult transition from private anxiety to collective commitment. Most of our activities are focused in Nottingham, but we also take part in actions at Greenham Common Air Base in support of the Women's Peace Camp there.

On October 29th, eighteen local women travelled down to Greenham to participate in the "Halloween Party". Much planning, talking and buying of bolt cutters preceded our trip: the plan (which had been spread throughout the women's peace movement by word of mouth) was to cut down the perimeter fence at a pre-arranged time. We were all quite frightened and were very worried about the possible violence we might face from police and military.

As things turned out, to our amazement, the authorities hadn't found out our widely discussed plans, and were on the wrong (inside) side of the fence. They must have felt pretty foolish at times, when they were reduced to throwing stones, poking sticks through the fence and telling us to "go away", whilst we continued cutting from our side of the fence. But we weren't as well organised as we could have been either - a lot of our bolt cutters were taken off us within the first ten minutes. Our tools weren't entirely adequate for the job either.

We got more organised after dark, driving up to a section of fence in our minibus, leaping out, cutting - then back into the minibus and on to another section. We carried on like this for a while, not even resting from our efforts whilst the police searched our minibus for the bolt cutters which we were using across the road.

Nottingham women had been by a comparatively deserted part of the fence, and we had managed to cause quite a bit of damage and to help in pulling a section down to the ground. This was an exhilarating experience and helped to make up for our earlier feelings of frustration at losing so many tools so soon. We heard that long sections of the fence had been pulled down at other parts and were delighted by this news.

No Nottingham women were arrested at

this action, so we left, tired but excited. The fence, which protects a military base with missiles which could destroy us all, must not be allowed to stand. ●

ARRIVAL OF CRUISE

ON MONDAY 14th November, the arrival of Cruise was formally announced. By Tuesday morning, thirteen Nottingham women were driving to Greenham. We weren't sure whether we would take part in direct action that day, or get ideas for an action on another day. One thing we were certain of - we were going to 'un-welcome' Cruise.

This lack of centralised organisation and forward planning may seem foolish. However, large numbers of women everywhere are now experienced in direct action, so arrive at Greenham in organised groups which can either operate independently or join a larger action. This takes some of the responsibility for creating, planning and supervising actions away from the Greenham women, who are already under great strain because of their living conditions.

We arrived at the main gate just before a blockade was due to start. We decided to join it. Four women who didn't wish to risk arrest were our legal support. They had all our names and addresses, photographed our arrests, looked after our possessions, and met us when we were released from the police station. Being arrested is less of an ordeal with this support.

We linked arms with other women alongside the entrance, singing. We gradually moved into the road and sat down. This was difficult as four mounted policemen were shoving women back with their horses. The mood was calm but determined, despite our fear of the horses towering above us.

The police moved in quickly and efficiently to arrest us for obstruction. I think we could have prolonged the blockade by moving when asked, then running to the back and sitting down again. Of course, the police would have tried to stop us.

Within an hour, thirty of us were in a freezing cold garage in Newbury Police Station. They had arrested so many women that they didn't search us, and other women were being held in the minibuses ("no room at the inn"!). For nearly three hours we talked, sang, danced and played games.

As we entered the station to be charged, the police photographed us, which they aren't supposed to do. However, other women had warned us about this, so some of us covered our faces. Most women only gave their name, address and date of birth, although the police didn't tell us that we were only obliged to give our name and

address, and asked us for many other personal details.

By 6.30 p.m. we were all out, due to appear before Newbury Magistrates on January 4th.

We returned to the camp to drop off one woman who was going to stay. As we drove away in the dark we saw the powerful searchlights on the fence, and the police helicopter with its massive searchlight hovering above the base. It looked like something from a Second World War film, except for the women's shelters in the foreground, which made me think of the survivors of a nuclear war.

On the journey back, I wondered whether we had achieved anything. After all, we had blockaded for less than an hour, and only caused a minor hiccup. On reflection, I think it was worth it. We were making our opposition to Cruise known nationally and internationally. Also, every time women take action, more and more women decide that they can no longer stand and watch. Two women who sat down near me had never blockaded before. It was the first time that I had been arrested, and I think I speak for many women when I say that the threat of arrest, fines and imprisonment is not going to stop me from doing everything I can for peace. ●

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

OUR GROUP IS very active (and overworked!). We organised a peace camp at a base near Wellingborough to support the Greenham Women's American court action on November 9th. Some women swiftly organised a march and vigil in Nottingham city centre on November 19th to mourn the arrival of Cruise.

We are now compiling a programme of songs and readings for Radio Trent. We will be supporting a woman from our group who is appearing in court in Nottingham on December 9th for non-payment of fines from a blockade of Upper Heyford base in June. She will refuse to pay, so faces a prison sentence. We will also attend the Upper Heyford Support Group's action in the Old Market Square on December 10th at noon.

The next big *legal* action at Greenham is the "sound-around" on Sunday 11th December from one to five p.m. We have booked five coaches and hope that many women from Nottingham will come with us. Some women from our group will be involved in separate direct action that day.

We have recently received a letter of support from some women in Minsk, USSR (Nottingham's twin town). We have replied to this, and hope to start up a regular correspondence with them.



Mourning the arrival of Cruise, November 19th. Photo: Rentasnap.

We often give talks to interested groups, and sometimes run a stall in St Peter's Gate to publicise our group. The next one will be on December 17th.

Coming up soon are the non-payment cases of women in our group fined for blockading Greenham in July (to be heard in Nottingham), and the cases of the nine women arrested at Greenham on November 15th.

We have also discussed the situation at Chilwell, and are considering staging some sort of protest.

We feel that it is very important to take local action in Nottingham, and that every woman's contribution is important, be it running a stall, giving a talk, contacting the press, or cutting down the fence at Greenham. Women don't have to do something illegal at Greenham to be effective.●

Nottingham Women for Peace.
Tuesdays, 8.00 p.m., St Andrew's Church Hall (junction of Mansfield and Mapperley Roads). Contact: Chris - tel. 624742 (work) or 582506 (home).●

Equal pay at last? by Sharon McGuire

AFTER RECENT rulings on the inadequacy of the Equal Pay Act by the EEC, the government issued a draft order on equal pay. The new provisions laid down in the draft order will come into effect on 1st January 1984.

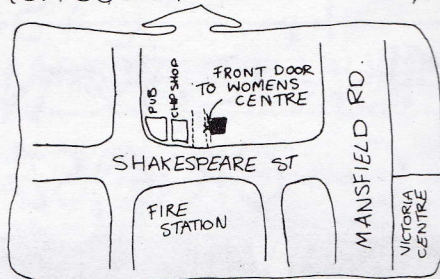
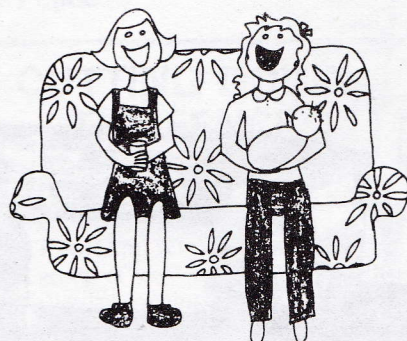
The new draft order extends the right for women to claim equal pay for work of equal value. Under the Equal Pay Act as it stands now, women can only claim equal pay for work of equal value if a Job Evaluation Scheme has already been undertaken. The draft order will allow women to claim equal pay for work of equal value where no such Job Evaluation Scheme exists. Industrial tribunals will be able to appoint independent experts to assist them in deciding whether a woman's job is of equal value to that of the man with whom she wishes to compare herself. ACAS will designate a list of experts who appraise the demands made on the workers in the two jobs being compared, though this appraisal will not necessarily amount to a formal job evaluation.

Although this extension to the Equal Pay Act is welcome, the actions taken by the government to stifle all debate on the question of equal pay must be criticised. By introducing a draft order, the government has avoided any debate on equal pay and so kept publicity on the new provisions to a minimum. Furthermore, these new provisions still do not amount to very much. A woman still has to find a man with whom to compare herself, in addition to which Job Evaluation Schemes tend to be biased, with women's skills being given less value than men's skills.

Whether the new draft order will make any difference will depend on the extent to which industrial tribunals allow employers to use the "material difference" clause as an explanation for the difference in pay, and the extent to which women are made aware of their rights. If women are to have equal rights at work, a much wider revision of the existing legislation is needed than the present draft order on equal pay, and much greater publicity to make women aware of their rights is also essential.●

THE WOMENS CENTRE

WE ARE OPEN AT: 32a SHAKESPEARE ST.
OFF MANSFIELD ROAD
(OPPOSITE FIRE STATION)



IF YOU WANT ADVICE, HELP OR JUST A CHAT
PLEASE CALL IN OR PHONE 411475
MONDAYS 7-9pm AND THURSDAYS 10-12am.
FULLY CONFIDENTIAL ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME

by Paula Brady

AS A WOMAN new to Nottingham, I wanted to find out about the local Women's Centre. I finally found it down a dimly lit alleyway. Apparently there has been a Women's Centre in Nottingham for over ten years; it has operated from the present premises for the last five.

Welcoming

Several separately organised groups meet there. The first one I met was the *Women's Aid Group*. About ten women were chatting in a homely downstairs room of the Centre when I arrived; children were running around, and prams cluttered the room. The friendly, welcoming atmosphere made it easy for women to chat about their pregnancies, their children, the difficulties of coping on supp. ben. The room seemed to diminish in size as more women arrived and with them more children and more prams.

On the surface, it seemed like a friendly group of women meeting for a chat. Edna, a volunteer at the Centre, later talked about another important aspect of Women's Aid work, which is helping women who are physically and/or mentally ill-treated. Women who arrive at the Centre wanting to discuss problems of this nature are always offered the opportunity of being seen alone. Help of a supportive and practical kind is available: their home circumstances are discussed, options talked about and, sometimes, alternative accommodation arranged for them and their children.

Most women want to remain in Nottingham, but the Women's Aid Refuge can't - in theory - accommodate more than twenty-five women and children. Not surprisingly, it is usually full, often overflowing. A six-bedroomed refuge

serving a county with almost a million people expresses only token concern, given the extent of male violence towards women. Some women are forced into travelling to Leicester or Northampton, and two weeks before my visit a woman with three children had been forced to travel to Grimsby.

General inquiries

The next group I met was the *Information Group*, which, at any one time, has about ten members, all of whom work voluntarily. They deal with general enquiries from women - anything from health and debts to furniture grants and, simply, everyday problems. They also give talks to different groups on a variety of topics and will attempt to organise appropriate speakers in response to requests. A recent application for Inner Area Programme money has been made for two salaried part-time workers, but there doesn't seem to be much optimism about actually getting it.

Potential demand

The impetus for the *Women and Health Group* came from a 'Women and Health' event in May 1981 which was attended by some two hundred women. Two and a half years later, the group have information on a great variety of subjects - fertility, sexuality, post-natal depression, menopause, self-examination, self-defence etc. They can deal with most enquiries themselves... but the frustrations of the group were obvious.

They know there is potentially a great demand for such a service. With guaranteed funding, such a demand could be tapped and met but, understandably, they have reservations about generating interest and building up women's expectations if they are

not to be dashed when funding runs out. As a group they haven't advertised for nine months and they're still getting lots of enquiries. In August, they received £500 from the County Council, but it was made clear that it was unlikely that more money would be made available.

Lack of finance

The *Pregnancy Testing Group* suffers from the same lack of finance, which has led them to asking women for donations. They want to advertise more, and in several Asian languages, but need the money to do so. They rely totally on women volunteering to

The Women's Centre

The following services available for all women at the Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

Women's Health Information Centre

Information and support for women on all aspects of their health.
Thursdays 12.00-2.00 p.m. 7.00-9.00 p.m.
Nottingham 414873

Pregnancy Testing

Free, confidential pregnancy testing. Information and advice available on pregnancy, periods, abortion, contraception.
Tuesdays 6.00-8.00 p.m.
Saturdays 10.00-12.00 noon.

Women's Aid Advice & Support Group

Free, confidential advice and support on Welfare Rights, housing, legal matters etc. Can offer refuge if required.
Monday to Thursday 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.
Friday 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.
Nottingham 46490

Women's Aid Refuge

For mentally and physically battered women.
Nottingham 624547 or 624217 - 24 hour service.

Nottingham NAC (National Abortion Campaign)

A pressure group campaigning for adequate NHS facilities; and the legal right for women's choice of whether or not to continue a pregnancy, to be established in law. Booklets and leaflets with information available.

Lesbian Phone Link

Mondays 7.30-9.00 p.m.

Organisations & Self Help Groups

Advice, information and support is available covering many subjects where women's health can be under emotional, as well as physical pressure. For more information ring TxRx on Nottingham 411222.

cover their two weekly sessions and reckon they need a pool of at least ten volunteers; at present they have six or seven.

The Pregnancy Testing Group started four years ago, when a group of women perceived the need for a free, quick, confidential and caring service. They aim to break down the 'us and them' barriers erected by professionals to protect their own status. The simple technique of doing the test is explained to the woman, and she is always given the time and space to talk about the result - or anything else she may wish to discuss. The group itself has monthly meetings and these serve to give support to individual group members. It impressed me as a very cohesive, very caring group of women, amenable to new ideas and keen to attract new members.

There are, obviously, other groups based at the Centre: a *Lesbian Phone Line* operates on Monday evenings; *Nottingham Open Door* (a small housing association) is based there; the *Festival Group* too use the premises.

Finance - whose responsibility?

The Nottingham Women's Centre is, typically, under-financed and under-resourced, reflecting how women's needs are marginalised. No group has a guaranteed source of income, nor do any of them - with the exception of Women's Aid - have

salaried workers. *The Women's Centre would fall into almost total disuse if it were not for volunteers.* It relies on women, many of whom have children, giving up their time to provide a service and support a facility which surely is important enough to warrant regular funding.

As for running costs, each group takes responsibility for organising its own finance. They each rely on charities or the benevolence of the local authorities for 'setting up' grants and, thereafter, on handouts from whatever sources they can think of applying to. When it comes to contributing to rates, rent or the general running costs, there's a spate of benefit ceilidhs and discos, sponsored walks or bike-rides, jumble sales... etc.

But why should the Women's Centre have to rely on patronage and benevolence? And why are women expected to bear the brunt of imposed, arbitrary cuts? The local councils are shirking their responsibilities in not providing adequate and regular fundings.

Inadequate premises

Each and every group commented on the inadequacy of the accommodation. It's physically impossible to have a crèche, there's no hallway for prams, no access for women or children with disabilities, no hot water and only one toilet in the whole centre. Moreover, the size of the rooms - at a

push, some of the rooms could hold ten women - necessarily restricts numbers and activities. The Women and Peace group, for example, wanted to use the Centre for their meetings, but with thirty regularly attending meetings, it was simply not possible.

Ideally, the women at the Centre would like larger, more cheerful premises with a shop front, which would lend themselves to having playgroups, exhibition areas, a library and a café.

STOP PRESS

Over seventy women representing twenty-five women's groups attended a meeting on 10th November. Three working parties were set up, one to deal with repairs to the existing centre to make it safe for users, another to investigate sources of funding, and a third to negotiate new premises. Contact numbers for these groups are (respectively):

(i) Bee - 411475 or Caroline 598908;

(ii) Alex - 414130;

(iii) Susie - 473145.

They would welcome help and suggestions, as would any of the groups at the Centre.

If anyone is interested in a more detailed account of any particular service for women, or knows of a group or activity which may be of interest, please let us know. We'd welcome suggestions for future articles. ●

Gay rights discussed at city conference

by Stan Wells

A ONE-DAY council-sponsored conference on Equal Opportunities for lesbians and gay men took place over the weekend of 3rd December in Nottingham.

The conference, one of several called by disadvantaged groups in the city, met to discuss plans for setting up a permanent dialogue between Nottingham's lesbian and gay community and the City Council, to ensure that the needs of lesbians and gay men were acknowledged and met in the fields of housing, leisure and employment.

Conference-goers heard invited speakers from Islington Council Labour Group and the London Lesbian and Gay Centre, who outlined progress on implementing gay rights throughout Islington's council services, and the development of the £300,000 lesbian and gay centre, which will serve the Greater London area and will open shortly.

Among demands made were the setting

up of a training programme for all councillors and council staff (in line with the City Council's current training programme on race awareness), the setting up of a council-funded lesbian and gay centre, and a call for a review of the city's licensing laws, that allow pornographic films to be shown that continually misrepresent and exploit lesbians.

The Chief Executive of the City Council came in for criticism from Labour Councillor Richard McCance, who said that he had clearly exceeded his authority by censoring a conference leaflet in which it was stated that "the council leader accepted in principle that there was a need for a gay centre in Nottingham".

"The officers are there to advise, not to take political decisions; by doing this, the Chief Executive clearly contravened what is already council policy, laid down in the manifesto and approved by the full Council," said Cllr McCance.

Prior to the conference, a random survey

of nineteen local authority premises showed that only four of them had conference posters on display.

A decision to attend a conference in a public place as an open lesbian or gay can be a big step for many who might face harassment at work if it became known. It was therefore decided that the press and anyone not identifying themselves as gay or lesbian would be asked to leave after the introductory speeches had been made.

A further meeting has taken place to finalise the conference report, stating the preferred method of consultation between the City Council and the gay community. This report will be discussed at the Council's Equal Opportunities Committee meeting on January 18th. The meeting takes place at the Council House at 2.30 p.m. and is open to the public. Why not be there?

A lesbian group has been formed to develop priorities, and can be contacted via the Lesbian Link, c/o Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Tel. (Mondays only, 7.30-9.00 p.m.) 410652. ●

What's on

FROM THIS ISSUE, we're starting an events and announcements page which will cover local meetings, music, exhibitions, etc., and anything else of interest. As you can see, this section isn't a page! - partly because it was assembled at short notice, partly because we've found that most groups aren't publicising their January activities at the moment. We don't know why ...

If you want some free publicity in the next issue, drop a note to our correspondence address: Citywise, Box B, Mushroom, 10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham NG1 3AA. Please mark your envelope "Events".

*There are also a number of events previewed in the following pages.

Disarmament

PEACE LECTURES

- Mon. 16 Jan., 4.15. Social Science Building, University. "Can political power be morally justified?"
- Mon. 23 Jan., 7.30. Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare St. "Protest, power and the peace movement."
- Mon. 30 Jan., 4.15. Social Science Building, University. "Nuclear weapons in Europe." (Speaker: Field Marshal Lord Carver.)
- Mon. 6 Feb., 7.30. Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare St. "The 1930s - taking sides."

NOTTS. CND GROUP'S ACTIVISTS' DAY

- Sat. 28 Jan., 10.00-5.00. Lilley and Stone School, Newark. Day conference with workshops - ring 581948 for details of transport from Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM CND MEMBERS' MEETING

- Sun. 7 Jan., 7.30. Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon St. (Watch the peace movement fight over the correct policy on the nuclear "freeze"!)

Cabaret

- Thurs. 22 Dec. & Fri. 23 Dec. at 8.30. Midland Group, Carlton St. "Alternative Cabaret 3." With Tony Allen, Sharon Landau and Roy Hutchins. Bar.

Animals

- Sat. 28 Jan. **National march and rally** at the Hazleton vivisection laboratories, Harrogate. Ring 811995 for seats on local coach.
- Sat. 24 Dec. **Leafleting:** a.m. at Nottingham Cattle Market; p.m. outside Marks & Spencers. Ring Animal Aid on 811995 for details.

Announcements

- The Claimants' Union is back! Every Tuesday at 2.00 in Room 20, International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. Meeting for unemployed, single parents, pensioners, people with disabilities ...

- **Lift offered** to London and/or Brighton, Oxford, Reading, Guildford. Every weekend. Share

petrol. Ring Steve on 782463.

- The 1984 **Women's Festival** urgently needs more women to help with organising. Ring Jan 864849 or Sue 0773 602262.

Contacts

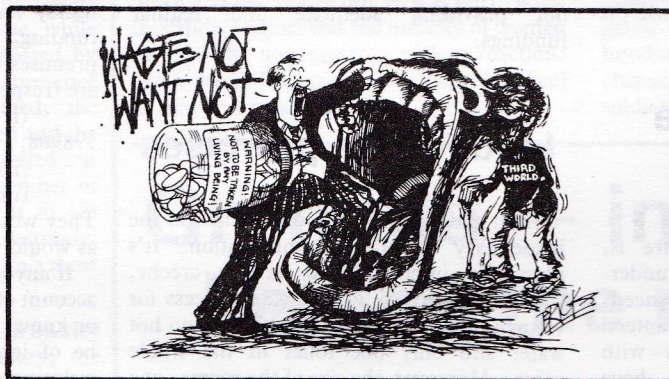
- **National Council for Civil Liberties:** Lisa Howard, 236

Queen's Road, Beeston. Tel. 253107 (evenings).

- **Nottingham Homebirth Support Group:** ring Angie Mindell on 622829 or Wendy Murray on 625775.

- **Pedals:** campaigning for better and safer cycling facilities in Nottingham. Ring 816206 for details.

Campaigns



DRUG COMPANIES AND THE THIRD WORLD - LOCAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

AT A PUBLIC meeting on 25th November, a local group was launched to support OXFAM's Rational Health Campaign and combat the activities of drug companies in the Third World.

Recent allegations that the NHS is being overcharged have highlighted the activities of drug companies in this country. But the situation is much worse in the Third World. With the lack of controls in most countries, companies are free to use marketing practices that would never be allowed here.

Doctors are offered inducements to prescribe particular drugs and unsubstantiated claims are made about products. In addition, advertising persuades people to buy unnecessary products which they can't afford when what they really need is better food and sanitation. Often dangerous drugs, or even ones that have been banned in Britain, are sold over the counter to anyone who wants to buy.

At the meeting on November 25th, Dianna Melrose, author of the book *Bitter Pills: Medicines and the*

Third World Poor, described some of the things she has come across in four years of researching all over the world.

In Peru recently, she visited a hospital where drug company representatives lined the corridors waiting to ply doctors with their wares. In Ecuador, she found the Swiss firm Hoffmann-La Roche selling valium at ten times the world price.

Although most of the problems can only be solved in Third World countries themselves by legislation and policies to help the poor, people in richer countries can also take action, as this is where the multinational drug companies, who control 90% of world production, are based.

Things which can be done include lobbying of the government and the companies. Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Health and MP for Rushcliffe, was due at the meeting to defend the government's policies, but he failed to turn up.

And there is much to defend. For instance, the British government has failed to give more than verbal support to moves in the World Health Organisation to introduce a code of practice for drug companies, and in Bangladesh it has joined the American government and multinationals in trying to undermine the introduction of an essential drugs list. This bans the import of non-

essential drugs and concentrates resources on those that are most needed.

The British government has leverage that it could use to influence the policies of British companies, being their main customer, and it also has expertise in testing drugs and drafting legislation that it could offer to Third World countries.

Nottingham's own drug company, Boots, is small in international terms compared with giants like Hoffmann-La Roche and Glaxo, and concentrates on a few countries, mainly former British colonies, and a narrow range of products.

Although it avoids the excesses of some companies, questions have been raised about some of its products. For instance, Betonin, a vitamin B12 supplement, is marketed in Sri Lanka and other countries. Many of the people who are encouraged to buy it can ill afford to do so and would be better off spending the money on food to give them the vitamins they need.

More details about the Rational Health Campaign and the local support group from: OXFAM, 72 Lower Parliament Street (tel. 581086).●

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN

by Nottingham CND

CND: THE NAME conjures up all sorts of images - dedicated, daft, doom merchants, dreamers. Call us what you will, we are here to stay, so we thought you might like to know more about us. Over the coming months we hope to let you know what we are doing to achieve our

aims and also what we have planned for the future.

CND activities locally are co-ordinated by Nottingham CND, who are based above the Environmental Information Centre on Goose Gate. We have been here for well over three years, formerly being known as Nottingham for Nuclear Disarmament (NND). Our membership is well over 1800 and growing rapidly, especially since the introduction of Cruise missiles and the recent events at Chilwell.

All policy decisions are made by the members at the monthly meetings (held on the first Sunday of every month) and carried out by the Executive Committee and the office volunteers. Funds are raised in a variety of ways: sale of badges etc., sponsored events, jumble sales and so on.

NCND is for administrative reasons split into 30 neighbourhood groups, who very often organise events in their own areas. They do, of course, get every help from the rest of the members.

So what exactly is CND? Well, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is opposed to all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and sees the abandonment of Britain's nuclear force as a first step towards a nuclear-free world. There isn't space to develop these arguments now, but we hope to do this in future issues of *Citywise*.

NCND event for your diary: a "dayschool" at Newark on 28th January - please come along and learn more about the movement (phone 581948 for more details). Details of events are in our monthly bulletin (free to members). ●

Health campaign

A CAMPAIGN Against Health Service Cuts has been set up in Nottingham. A programme of public meetings and demonstrations is to be planned for next year. The initiative came from East Nottingham Labour Party, which is already collecting signatures for a petition against NHS cuts. Support for the campaign has already come from a large number of local labour movement organisations.

Rushcliffe Labour Party organised a demonstration on December 10th in which they marched to lobby their local MP, Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health. The Labour Party's national NHS campaign ambulance recently visited Nottingham to leaflet people in the Old Market Square and lobby a meeting of the District Health Authority.

The Health Campaign is producing a newsletter to brief people about local NHS cuts. The first issue has an article by Eric Boon, NUPE steward at Highbury Hospital, who says that nurses are to be cut from 134 to 99, although they are already overstretched.

Local Tory MP Richard Ottaway had responded to the claim by

saying this was "not a result of cuts". The changes, he said, were "as a result of spreading nurses more evenly in the area."

For more details about the Campaign, contact the secretary, Chris Clark, 38 Ebers Grove (tel. 609007). Any organisation which opposes the health service cuts is urged to get involved. Money for the campaign will also be welcome. ●

ANARCHY IN ACTION!

by Nottingham anarchists

STOP THE CITY!

"STOP THE CITY 2: Midlands region meeting to plan for direct action in the City of London in March.



Queen's Walk Community Centre, Meadows, Nottingham. 10.30 to 5.00. Crèche, food, workshops. Social in evening. Details: Box A, Mushroom, 10 Heathcoat Street, Nottingham, or tel. 784963 or 624742.

ON SEPTEMBER 29th, in the financial heart of Britain - the City of London - about 1,500 people protested against war. We had come intending to slow up work in the area, establish a car free zone, communicate to people working there, and create a festive atmosphere.

The day surpassed everyone's expectations. Forty people travelled down from Nottingham to take part (eight of us were arrested) and some of us are now involved in the planning for Stop the City Two.

This second action is planned for Thursday 29th March: the day the City counts up its profits for the winter. Many national and international banks, companies and institutions are based there and will be calculating their gains from the arms trade and the poverty of people world wide.

We will be taking non-violent action to create a festival for peace. The day conference in Nottingham on Saturday 28th January at Queen's Walk Community Centre is one of a number of planning meetings which have been held round the country to enable people

outside London to take part.

"Stop the City" is based on decentralised planning and organisation. It worked on September 29th and we want to build on that experience for the next action. We'd welcome local groups and individuals who want to get involved - peace and anti-military groups, workers from Nottingham firms which have London offices, and those campaigning on the Third World. See you there!

ANARCHY IN NOTTINGHAM?

ANARCHIST regional get-together. Sunday 29th January. All anti-authoritarians welcome! Queen's Walk Community Centre, Meadows, Nottingham. 10.30 to 5.00. Crèche, food, workshops if wanted. Details: address and telephone numbers as above.

JUST WHEN YOU thought it was safe to give orders... Since May of

this year, some anarchists have been meeting in Nottingham and plotting the overthrow of the nuclear state, the abolition of poverty and the destruction of misery. They have dared to suggest that things could be just a little bit nicer, and even talked of a revolution of everyday life. Who are these evil perverts? Unemployed scroungers? Yes! Dirty peace women? Yes! Long-haired hippies or multi-coloured punks? Both!

Not content with fouling up Upper Heyford air base or producing the truly dreadful *Police News* (to mention only two of their exploits), they now have the audacity to suggest a regional meeting of like-minded people!

Just look at some of the workshops (have these people ever done a day's work?) put forward for Sunday 29th January - the peace movement, animals, squatting, claimants, women's workshops, men against sexism, collective working and living, children, direct action, the wrath of the law, and propaganda! Can you believe it! What's worse - they are actually inviting you to join in!?

Clearly, all decent living citizens of Nottingham (and even undecent, semi-living ones) will want to make their opinions known. We suggest that in addition to going to the so-called "Anarchist get-together" you find out about their weekly meetings from Box A, Mushroom, 10 Heathcoat Street, Nottingham. Be careful! Your life may never be the same! ●

Theatre

MANSFIELD'S Perspectives
Theatre Company is touring the area this Christmas with *Niddala and the Magic Lamp*. Wise in the ways of the street and the market place, the young Niddala finds herself in a contest of wits against the Wicked Magician who seeks to regain the lamp and its powers.

If the plot sounds familiar, read the heroine's name backwards for an old story in a new "perspective". Set in the East, this is a musical pantomime working on different

levels to entertain all ages.

Performances in Nottingham are as follows (but confirm with Jessica Harris, tel. (0623) 35225):

- Weds. 21 Dec., 2.30. Six Ways Community Centre, Denton Green, Broxtowe.

- Thurs. 12 Jan., 7.30. Greyfriars Club, Beacon Hill Rise, St Ann's.

- Fri. 27 Jan., 7.30. British Rail Staff Association Club, 32 Wilford Lane, West Bridgford.

DIALLO FASHIONS

*Ladies and Children's Wear
Fashion Jewellery etc.*

**18-20 Hartley Road, Radford
Nottingham Tel. 702561**

A new and exciting selection of ladies' and children's wear, and Fashion Jewellery, together with a range of West African shirts and gowns, ladies and gents. (For the Ethnic look.)

Poems

THESE TWO POEMS are a selection from the T.U.R.B.O Black Art Press's forthcoming anthology, to be published in the near future.

WE ARE IN THE AUTOMATIC AGE
THEY CALL IT THE TERTIARY STAGE
A JUS NOBS AND NUMBERS TO GAGE
IN THE PLASTIC INDUSTRIAL MAZE

ROBOTICS
LOSS OF JOBS
CAUSING NEUROTICS
AUTOMATIC, AUTOMATIC
RUSH RUSH
NEVER STATIC

ON THE PRODUCTION LINE
ASSEMBLING PARTS TO COMPLETE THE PUZZLE IN
TIME
NO COMMUNITY SPIRIT WITH WHICH TO BIND
AS CONCERN IS ON BONUSES, AND NOT GETTING
LEFT BEHIND
FRUSTRATION
IN THE SITUATION
OF AUTOMATION
CORRUPTION
OF THE MORAL
EVALUATION

THE AIM, THE GOAL IS COMPUTERIZATION
BUT THIS LEADS TO STERILIZATION
THE ELITE REACH THE REALIZATION
AN ARMY OF UNEMPLOYED IN THE NEW AREA OF
INDUSTRIALIZATION

LEISURE
BUT NO MONEY TO USE FOR
PLEASURE
MISS SIR MISS SIR
THE HARM WE CAN'T
MEASURE

THE AIM OF THE EDUCATION COURSES
IS TO PRODUCE UNSKILLED WORKFORCES
BUT SOCIETY IS NOT USING THE RESOURCES
TO EMPLOY THE RICH DIVERSITY IN ALL ITS
SOURCES

UNSKILLED
THE VACANCIES QUICKLY
FILLED
THE PEOPLE
BILLED
AS THEIR DIGNITY IS KILLED

PERMANENT UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOW REALITY
FOR THE WORKING CLASS MAJORITY
GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED SCHEMES ARE NOT ON
PARITY
FOR THE WORK DONE IN EQUALITY

AUTOMATIC
ROBOTIC
STATISTIC
AUTOMATIC
ROBOTIC
STATIC

PROGRAMMED ...

DAMNED

A. Campbell

F.U.E.L.

FREEDOM
Is the right of all
Men, Women, and Children,
But is denied
By those who inflict
Enslavement,
Of the mind and body
For personal and material gain,
Those who have it
Take it for granted,
Having little or no compassion
For those who have not.

UNITY
Is the state of oneness
That exists,
When people combine
To combat forces of evil.

To give back
That, that was taken,
To remove the restriction
Once placed,
To replace disadvantage
With opportunity,
Giving peace and harmony
To all concerned.

EQUALITY
Is the realisation
That all races are,
And always will be
Children of the world,
Coming from the same family
And that we will
Be judged by our maker,
For the kindness
We show to others,
And not by prejudging
Those who happen to be
A different colour,
Too old,
A different sex,
Or slightly disabled.

It can only be achieved
By erasing ignorant attitudes,
In the hope of reinforcing
Positive feelings,
Towards those
On the receiving end
Of oppressive activities.

LIBERATION
Is the release from all constraints
And is essential,
For the survival
Of all civilisations,

But suppression
Can only result in conflict
And harm,
To people's lives
The wicked shall fall
And make way
For the righteous
Giving
"FREEDOM", "EQUALITY",
"UNITY", and "LIBERATION"
For all.

M. Glynn

Afro-Caribbean short stories
and poetry reading at
UKAIDI Centre, Sunday 27
November

THE SESSION "did ram" only goes part way to describe the amount of people which attended and enjoyed this event. A selection of short stories and poets excited a otherwise cold and boring evening. Highlights of the evening were performances by Christine, Andrew Campbell, Martin Glynn and Fred Williams who were all entertaining and spoke of reality, one of the main differences vis-à-vis other contemporary poetry. Martin Glynn was innovative and his published collection *True Reflection* was audience captivating.

The organisation sponsoring the session, CHROMA (Chronicle of Minority Arts), with its only full-time worker to cater for the needs of the ethnic minority art in the East Midlands, did a brilliant job in the circumstances.

A series of writers from all over the country will be giving talks regarding Black/Asian writing. B. Emecheta and F. Dhondy are to be the first in December and January. Listen to the local radio for more details.

LYRACEE

Pubs

The quality of the ale is not the only criterion for judging a pub, but it's certainly an important one and often reflects the tastes of the brewery or owner in other respects.

Nottingham is pretty fortunate in having two local real ale breweries - Shipstone's and Home - who churn out good quality, if unexciting, real ales.

The vogue among the pub owners for refurbishing continues unabated - although not all of the conversions are to everyone's taste. Gatsby's (formerly the Central Tavern on Upper Parliament Street) ranks along with Foster's (formerly the Criterion, Mansfield Road) as a 'pub' unlikely to survive its initial trendiness.

The Coach and Horses (Upper Parliament Street), although having had the treatment, has come out remarkably well - the handpumped Ind Coope Bitter is surprisingly good and the Burton Ale is for Sunday drinking only, as always. But they are obviously betting hard on the lunchtime food trade to pay the bills.

Another tragedy is lurking down in Castle Park Marina where the Baltimore Diner (haunt of off-duty nurses from the QMC, I am told) has only expensive keg beer to offer the beer drinker. The hamburgers I can't vouch for.

Back in the Lace Market, the potentially attractive County Tavern

(opposite the old Courts) continues to slide inexorably downhill while waiting for new tenants to move in during January. Let's hope they can give this sad old pub a bit of life - and do something about the draught bitter!

Mansfield Brewery are to extend their limited toe-hold in the City with four new sites. One of them is on the old Peel Street Hospital site - a bid for some of the Polytechnic trade, no doubt. We all hope they install handpumped 4X (Mansfield's only real draught beer). For several years Mansfield have been a keg-only brewery and have only in the last year reintroduced a real ale.

Meanwhile, medical experts flock to support the Real Ale cause - recent advice from Dr Terence Gibson is that gout is more likely to be caused by keg beers and lagers than real ale.

And even if landlord Tony Green (Newmarket Hotel, Parliament Street) has fallen out with the real ale buffs of the Campaign for Real Ale, he still sells probably the best and certainly the cheapest city centre pint of Home Ales. ●

Eat out

TRAMPING AROUND doing Christmas shopping the other day I called in Maxine's Salad Table (Upper Parliament Street) for a coffee. At least I intended just to have a coffee but found I couldn't resist the food once I was in there.

Tempting displays of fresh, home-made quiches and flans of all description, hot jacket-baked potatoes and a most imaginative selection of salads were just too much for me.

It's quite possible to have a generous slice of quiche and a portion of salad and still get change from £1, but not if your will power is as weak as mine. I simply could not resist trying the various rice salads, mixed salads, corn salads, etc., etc!

It was even worse when I reached the sweets section! How could I possibly walk past the trifle, the chocolate mousse, the fruit salad ...?

If you're not quite that hungry - or you're better controlled than I am - you can have a filled cob or cheese scone, or a slice of home-made cake or gâteau. All are to be recommended.

It does get crowded, though. It's ideal for shoppers and is popular amongst local workers at lunchtime.

Stools are functional, but not particularly comfortable and when it's busy you can find yourself shifting your position regularly as people find themselves places to sit.

And - unless you time your visit so that there's hardly anyone else there - it's very difficult to find anywhere for a small chair and a pushchair. ●

Eat in

Oats - and how to get yours.

WE'VE ALL heard how good roughage is for you - why, there's even a telly ad offering its benefits in pill form (which reminds me of Leon Brittan's recent comment on "organised anarchy").

The point is that roughage needs to be an integrated part of the diet - you can't go to a health farm and eat nothing else for two weeks once in a while and expect not to get bowel cancer.

And it has to be advertised as a "dietary supplement" because most natural fibre is removed from

processed foods - so the best way to put it back is as a natural part of the diet.

For those of you who can't stand porridge, the bad news is oats are the best source of roughage (with iron and vitamins) - the good news is you don't have to make porridge with them. Unfortunately, oats don't contain enough gluten to make satisfactory flour, but often you can use whole rolled oats.

FLAPJACKS (CRUNCHY OATMEAL BISCUITS).

Children can make them. Mix good 4oz oats (porridge, giant, quick-brew) and 3oz sugar (brown for preference). Add melted (not burnt) 4oz margarine/butter and mix thoroughly. Press down into baking tin to about ¼ inch thick and bake (moderate-hot oven) for 15-20 mins

or so (wait till they start browning). While warm cut into convenient sizes, and cool to crisp up.

HERRINGS IN OATMEAL

Watch out for good (bright shiny eyes/skin) and cheap herrings through the winter. Clean, split and scale (run the back of a knife *against* the scales), dip in seasoned flour, brush with milk, roll in oats pressing well in. Fry until crispy. Nice with lemon slices, bacon.

MUESLI

Okay, so make your own - mix rolled oats, dried fruits and nuts of your choice, brown sugar and then add fresh fruit and milk to taste. But remember - this will be more filling than your average multinational breakfast mush. ●

Books

ANIMALS - WHO GIVES A MONKEY'S?

by Kate Marsden and Ross Bradshaw

'THE THING before you is no longer an animal, a fellow creature, but a problem.'

In 1896, H.G.Wells wrote *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, where the doctor, just quoted, cut up and joined together animals to make the vixen-bears, hyena-swine and so on in his 'House of Pain'.

In the latter-day Houses of Pain the end result is less fictional but more likely to be hideous experiments on unwilling animals to try out a new brand of shampoo or another exotic brand of lipstick. In this book, as in so many of his others, H.G.Wells was the fore-runner of later writers - in this case William Kotzwinkle with his *Dr. Rat* and Richard Adams with the *The Plague Dogs* (Penguin £1.95) have both written fictional accounts of modern vivisection.

Even if you've never heard of these novels, most people are vaguely aware that animal experimentation is going on - we've all heard the rumours about Boots' Pennyfeather Street factory. But what has brought this most to the public attention since the late 70s have been the spectacular raids carried out by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and *The Animals Film*, which has been on television and also toured the independent cinema circuit.

This film (albeit in an edited version on TV) has had perhaps the greatest impact, with the cool voice of Julie Christie taking us through animal abuse from the dog-control squads of New York to pig-farming. A horrific film; but then, virtually all human treatment of animals is horrific.

For many people - of good socialist or humanitarian views - the

This books page is put together by the Mushroom Bookshop collective. This issue looks at the arguments behind some of the new books on animal rights. Next issue will include a feature on current black writing in Britain.



ill-treatment of animals is something of little concern (perhaps to be sorted out 'after the revolution'). As Tariq Ali - Britain's best-known Marxist - said: 'One is just so involved in fighting for a solution to the problems of humanity, that to start taking up issues involving animals is not one of our priorities'.

In the recent flood of books on animal rights, two books in particular, Mary Midgley's *Animals and Why They Matter* (Pelican £1.95) and Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation* (Thorsons £4.95) refute this view. They remind us that people have had to struggle to have better attitudes to race, women and gays accepted as a priority. We now accept (don't we?) that racism and sexism are wrong - how long before speciesism (the exploitation of other animals by humans) is also a priority?

As Peter Singer says, '...there is nothing to stop those who devote their time and energy to human problems from joining the boycott

of the produce of agri-business cruelty. It takes no more time to be a vegetarian than to eat animal flesh ...when non-vegetarians say "human problems come first" I cannot help wondering what exactly it is that they are doing for humans that compels them to continue to support the wasteful, ruthless exploitation of farm animals.'

And it's 'down on the farm' and in the resulting slaughter houses that by far the most extensive cruelty exists - exposed most clearly in a new book *Assault and Battery* by Mark Gold (Pluto £3.95). Just to put things in perspective - whilst about 100,000 animals are killed in vivisection in Britain every week, some 13 million turkeys alone will be eaten at Xmas (incidentally, three-quarters of a million of these might be a bit tough as they're deep frozen carcasses left over from last year).

Most of these birds are reared in windowless sheds containing up to 20,000 turkeys. After growing for fifteen weeks they are stuffed into crates with little regard for breaking wings or legs. After transportation they get hung upside down for about six minutes before their throats are slit.

Modern farming - agri-business - is a veritable war against nature. Many of the new books on animal abuse fall into the trap of being too sensational or too emotional. The latest book on the subject, Richard North's *Animals* (Penguin £1.95) falls down on that, though it is very readable and has the advantage of bringing all aspects of animal abuse together.

Much writing takes up only one aspect of general abuse with the result that comparatively minor aspects may be highlighted. An example of this is Philip Windeatt's *The Hunt and the Anti-Hunt* (Pluto £1.95), though this has a valuable insight into the British class system - hunting, the 'sport' of the idle rich.

More valuable perhaps are those books which essentially argue for a

change in attitude towards animals, and here we come back to Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*. Sympathetically but not sensationally, he outlines abuse and how to end it, and works towards a definition of speciesism. This, amongst other things, doesn't mean going ga-ga when we see a cute animal (most animals aren't cute) or in necessarily surrounding ourselves with pets (Singer himself has none). It does mean a recognition that animals and humans share the same planet and that fellow creatures can co-exist.

In the meantime, all credit to the ALF, who have done more damage and caused more financial loss to their opponents than the whole of the far left put together. ●

New best-selling radical/alternative titles:

**The If... Chronicles*, by Steve Bell (Methuen £2.50). Cartoons from his *Guardian* column.

**Sex and Love: some new thoughts on old contradictions*, by Sue Cartledge & Joanna Ryan (Women's Press £4.95).

**It'll Make a Man of You; a feminist view of the arms race*, by Penny Strange (Peace News/Mushroom 95p).

**Europe's Folly*, by Owen Greene (CND £1.95). On cruise missiles.

**Beyond a Joke: cold war cartoons*, by Brick (Spokesman £2.25). Alias John Clark - graphic artist of renown and Citywise - with a collection of 70 anti-nuclear cartoons. Die laughing?

Bad night out



A Tale of Two Wine Bars

TELL SOMEONE you live in Nottingham and they'll mention Goose Fair or Yates's. The image of Yates's, for anyone from south of Newport Pagnell, is a faintly indecent spit and sawdust joint where it's really rather daring to go. And the oddest thing with Yates's is that all the stories about the place tend to be true. It's a little ironic to talk about 'unique charisma' in such a hole, but Yates's is the only city centre bar to be packed regularly by nine on a Tuesday night.

It certainly can't be the drink that pulls in the crowds. Mansfield Woodhouse is hardly the most inspiring brew in the Midlands (and that's saying a lot), and they do a very ideologically-unsound line in South African wines. The ground floor bar is popular with what the Christmas charities tag 'the unfortunates', i.e. poor sods who wouldn't get past the bouncers anywhere else.

Anyway, upstairs is where it all happens. Pick your evening right and the dynamic duo on piano and violin will cheerfully murder your favourite song with gusto. Drinking upstairs also keeps the

cost of the evening down, as at peak times it takes at least twenty minutes to get served. Watch out for the rugby clubs though - Yates's is a favourite haunt of theirs, and lobbing things over the balcony keeps them amused for hours.

Whatever it is that Yates's has got, take a five minute walk and you'll realize that Browne's will never have it. Browne's is in Hockley, which is being transformed week by week from a pretty good alternative shopping centre to a trendy spot for the local nouveau-riche to be seen. Needless to say, the last City Centre Plan wrote the area off as not having any commercial potential; hence the amusement arcade and the rather incongruous flats at the bottom of Carlton Street. Still, at least they didn't pull down the Lace Market (quite).

Back to Browne's. There are no bouncers (or at least you don't see them) but the clientele seem to operate their own discreet form of social control. Executive suits and textured hessians are all the rage and the scruffiest dressers are the bar staff in designer sweatshirts. The walls are a subtly-lit red,

plastic palm trees abound and the only music appears to be an endless Simon and Garfunkel tape.

At the bar we all play who can flash the biggest denomination note, though at 75p for a glass of house plonk perhaps it makes sense. I didn't see any signs offering half-price for the unwaged, but then if you were unwaged you'd be pushed to dress for this place anyway.

Seating is ludicrously sparse, but it can be fun to get up on one of the walkways and look out over a sea of affluence. On a good night you can see half of Mapperley. One plus point - ceiling fans keep the place merrily airy.

Overall, Browne's would probably be more at home in Islington, especially after an SDP meeting. Then again, Yates's doesn't pretend to be anything other than dire.

Verdict? Stick to Yates's: you might get a bottle bounced off your head, but you'll be in better company. ●

Bad night out rating:
Yates's **** Browne's ** ●

Galleries

Art in exile

THE WORKINGS of white imperialism in South Africa are illuminated in an exhibition opening at the Midland Group, Carlton Street, on January 7th (until February 4th). The artist is the South African exile, Gavin Jantjes, and paintings and drawings completed since 1980 will be on show.

Through beautifully colourful pictures, Jantjes shows how white imperialists have attempted to erase African culture and replace it with their own, robbing black Africans of their culture, their history and control of their own destiny.

In such paintings as "Hot House Nursery Men" and "Frightful

Knowledge", he shows how white imperialists have stolen cultural art objects and placed them, completely out of context, in ethnographic and "primitive" art museums in Europe. There, they are admired in a simplistic way without any inquiry into the history which led to their creation. Thus neither the art nor the artist is truly respected or understood.

● *Gavin Jantjes and Rasheed Areen will lead a seminar exploring these issues, organised in collaboration with Chroma, Nottingham, on 12th January, 7.00-9.00 p.m., at the Midland Group. Admission free.*

● *Also at the Midland Group from 7th January to 4th February: Photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe ●*

Print

New Citizens

NOTTINGHAM has a new paper for Afro-Asian communities. Called *New Citizens*, it is produced by an organisation called JIPAC (Joint Indian, Pakistan and Afro-Caribbean Centres), which has been created by three of the major ethnic centres in the city.

JIPAC is funded by the Manpower Services Commission and the County Council. As well as producing *New Citizens*, it has teams of workers providing help, such as gardening and painting, for the elderly, disabled, etc. It also has a welfare rights section and a "drop in" centre.

In an introduction to *New Citizens*, Mohammed Aslam, the Chairperson of JIPAC, says the topics to be dealt with will include:

● Nationality and

Immigration, "with special regard to the injustices, anomalies and irregularities of the new Act".

- Equality of Opportunities for all.
- DHSS forms requiring officials to state the racial origin of claimants - "to see whether it will produce adverse effects, what these adverse effects will be and how they can be combatted."
- The facilities and services available at the three centres.
- Welfare rights.
- Public education, especially health education with particular regard to children and the elderly.

JIPAC hopes to deliver the magazine to every Asian and Afro-Caribbean home in the city ●