

DOLEDRUMS

WINTER OF DISASTER

NEED

Produced by
Nottingham Centre for the Unemployed

66-72 HOUNDSGATE TEL 413881

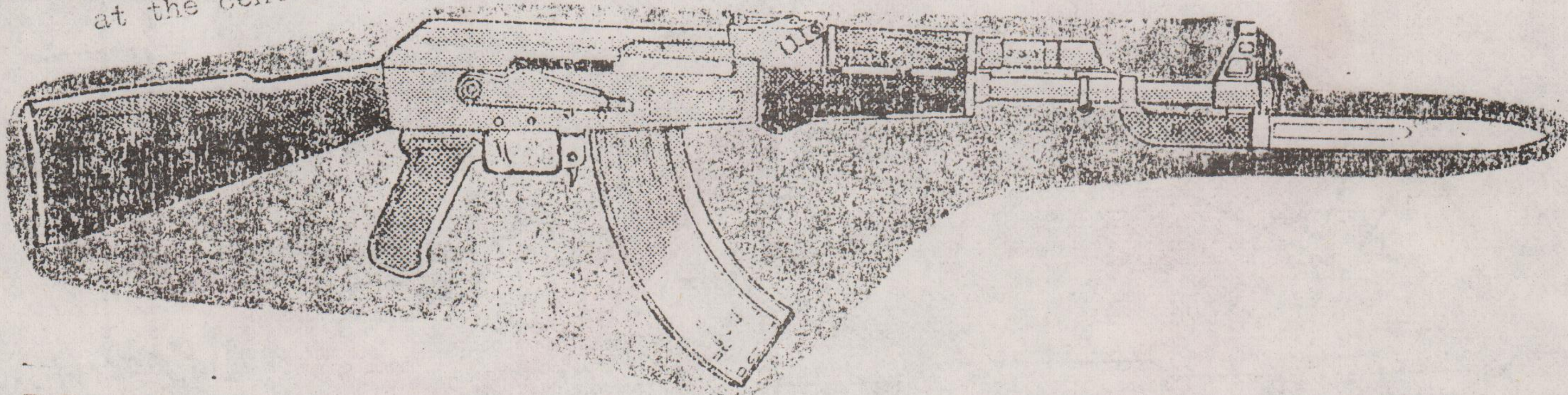
No 3

crash out completely

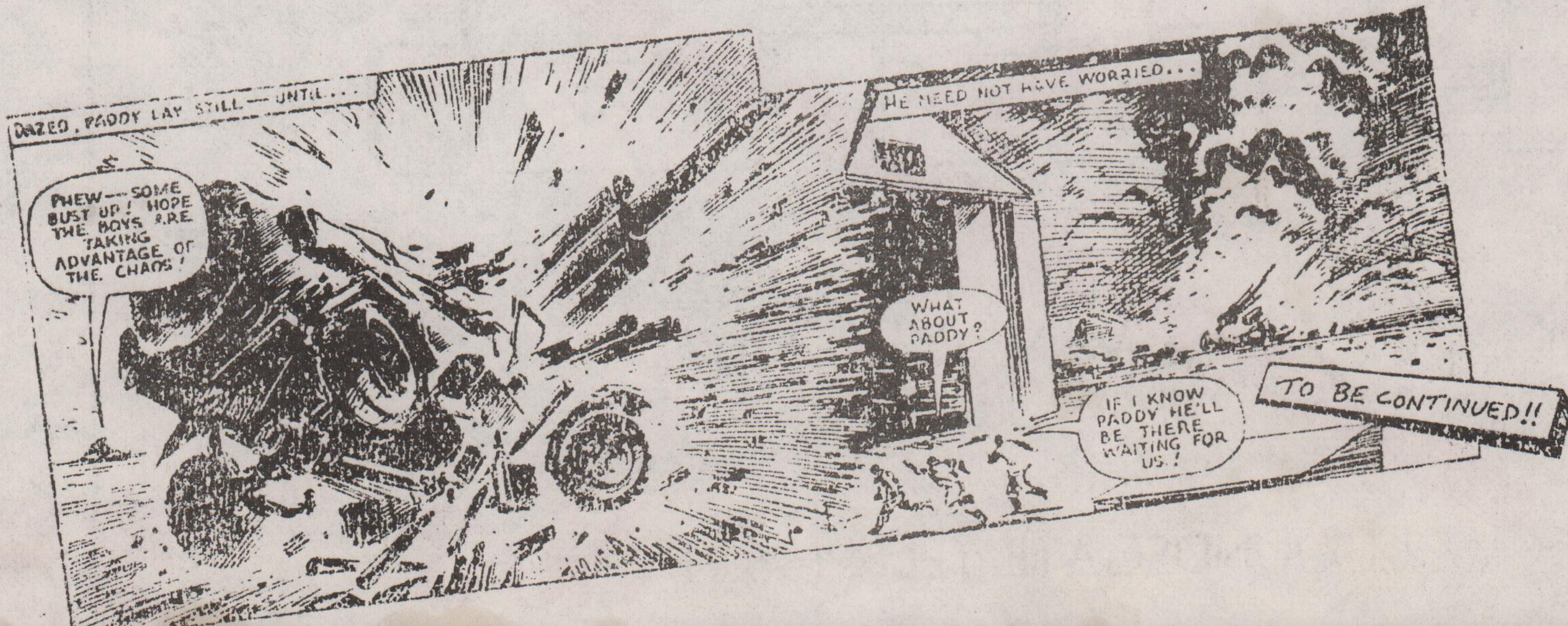
CRIME THINK

Well here it is the third issue of your 'soaraway' Dole Drums. It's a bit late due to equipment and staff problems at the centre and staff holidays, but never mind eh? We've contributions from a variety of people on subjects ranging from D.H.S.S. strikes to anarchist punk bands are we hope you find something to interest you. If you think there's something we should cover try writing on the subject for Dole Drums 4!

Getting Dole Drums off the ground has been a lot of work for the Publicity department. Unfortunately our contract will be ending soon. (This could be our last Dole Drums in fact) What's more there might be only one part-timer on this section after October. The point is that we need more people to be directly involved in Dole Drums if it is to continue. What this means is writing, chasing articles, lay-out, and perhaps printing. A greater involvement would have positive aspects as well, it might be possible to seek separate funding for a magazine independent of the centre for instance. If you're interested please contact the centre (in writing if possible). If we get enough people we'll arrange a meeting at the centre.



P.S. Views expressed in Dole Drums do not necessarily reflect those of the centre staff, Users, or Management Committee.



The following two articles arose out of a comment by C.A. in "Citywise" and my reply to it in the same publication, which explains the references in the articles. In essence C.A. and N.U.W.G. take opposite positions on strikes in D.H.S.S. and D.E., and support for the T.U. involved. We'd be pleased to hear from anybody with comments on either of these pieces, alternative views etc.

Mark

claimants action

This is a response to both John Panter's article in 'Citywise' No. 3 and Mark Stevens ridiculous letter in 'Citywise' No. 5. I must point out that this is a personal view, and not the policy of C.A. Due to the nature of the group, which does not aspire to policies or other shibboleths, a party statement is not possible. To take Mark's letter first, he alleges that, 'C.A. seems to have forgotten that the DHSS does not exist to look after the interest of claimants etc...'. Has HE forgotten That C.A. asked the C.P.S.A. to challenge the repressive nature of SS payments in the letter he is replying to? I would agree with his interpretation that the SS distributes 'economic valium', just as the M.S.C. distributes 'social valium' in the form of petty diversions to take claimants minds off their situation. However to assert that the exposure of this by an all-out strike should be welcomed by claimants who are forced to endure the full reality of their misery is patently absurd. Just as ludicrous is his remark that strike action is the last resort. A strike is only a temporary withdrawal of labour, the last resort of a group of workers is to create a situation in which they can destroy themselves as workers through a permanent withdrawal of labour. Not a Workers Revolution based on class war but a revolution of work based on pleasure. Mark also says that C.A. should, in the event of future actions, organise claimants to look after their interests; with what Mark? I don't know about you but I'm skint. Will money be available from CPSA/NUPE funds? Then there is the question of C.A. supporting the strikers, what would you like: donations?, food parcels? Has Mark forgotten that claimants are the most impoverished group in this society? One possibility would certainly be hunger strikes, this would utilise the negative effects of the strike, making them work for and not against the strikers. Hum, clever.

Lastly we come to the sickest and most degrading part of his letter. He says that claimants groups are 'continuously carping against what trade unions are doing' but I don't think he realises the full impact of this cheap, counter-revolutionary bullshit. I hope I never live to see the day when claimants stop carping and fighting against the state and its employees. I know what trade unionists are doing, the question is, do they? Trade Unionists are happy to push economic and social valium to the social security addicts that need their fortnightly/weekly/daily fix. The 'system' may distribute the valium, but who's licking the envelopes? Is Mark denying that there are people involved, people that have responsibility for their actions? As links in the chain of social control trade unionists have power over the livelihoods of millions of people in this country. That we should not interfere in this process is patronising crap, implying that the unions understand better than claimants what claimants needs are. 'Take what you're given?' - 'Unions know best?'. The sorry fact is of course that bureaucrats never suffer the effects of their actions and it is up to claimants to stand up for themselves.

Mark's letter certainly wasn't worth writing, but I hope the reply forms a basis for the second part of this response that opens the ground for serious dialogue with the C.P., S.A. and C.A., support for the C.P.S.A. must obviously be conditional because, as outlined above, the C.P.S.A. is in a position of power; how they choose to use that power will determine their relationship with groups like C.A. There is very little to disagree with in the substance of John Panter's article; yes the S.S. is stretching its resources to the limit and more staff would ease the burden on C.P.S.A. workers. What we find however, is no attempt to justify strike action. The 'agonised discussion' that has taken place was incestuously homocentric. There was no liaison with interested parties (i.e. claimants) to achieve a common front aimed at bringing solidarity to the aggrieved (claimants and workers).

John sees strike action as attempting to do two things; (1) to increase public awareness of the problem and (2) to increase government awareness of the problem. These are goals I too would like to see achieved, but the strike is also going to have other effects. This is undeniable and the majority of these negative effects will be felt by claimants. Is the C.P.S.A. aware of the negative effects? If they take strike action will they also take action to nullify these effects? My argument against C.P.S.A. strike action is that it will effect the wrong people. Rhodes-Boyson isn't going to lose any sleep over the strike, only claimants would be affected. No-one could welcome having their nose rubbed in their own oppression, least of all claimants.

There are clearly numerous options available to the C.P.S.A. As they perform functions that are not beneficial to claimants (often the exact opposite) they could refuse to carry out these functions. They include; giving information to S.C.C.U.N., R.B.I.T. and the Police. Reclaiming over-payments, snooping and maintaining unemployment reviews. The C.P.S.A. is a large union with members employed in many different fields (including Trident Missile bases and munitions factories). Surely, the C.P.S.A. members in the S.S. should be looking to these people for supportive (and effective) action.

Claimants have no possibility of strike action, we can't refuse to sign on, cash cheques, ignore bills, ignore store detectives etc., and for this reason we have to develop alternative forms of action. Direct if necessary. For example a mass occupation of the House of Commons by claimants and C.P.S.A./N.U.P.E. workers would be as, if not more effective than a strike, with more predictable negative effects (arrests) and with no loss to claimants (apart from those who are willing to risk arrest to secure a better deal). The fact is that strike action is a 'safe' option for C.P.S.A. they have a positive legal right to strike and it fits nicely into the framework of traditional labour action. But a strike is designed to force an employer to lose money, strikes by C.P.S.A. can only serve to save the government money. Is this the reason that C.P.S.A. won't consider other action because unlike the C.P.S.A. members, claimants have nothing to lose but their oppression?

Remember: union officials have only interpreted the world, the point is to change it.

V. Ulyanov.

P.S. Does the C.P.S.A. really give a damn what C.A. thinks about it anyway?.



NOTTINGHAM UNEMPLOYED WORKERS



With the growth of mass unemployment over the last five years the organisation and co-ordination of unemployed action groups and activists has become a priority. The key crisis facing the unemployed, further attacks like the housing benefits cuts or cuts in staff and therefore the service at the Dole office, also underlines another more ominous one: the division of unemployed and employed workers.

With correct policies and foresight by the labour movement leaderships such a crisis need never have arisen, but the strategy of the Thatcher government, one of massive attacks on workers wages and unions, local democracy and essentially jobs in the name of profitability, or rationalisation has met with no serious response. What eventually was forthcoming from the TUC was too little too late and in some cases downright harmful: support for YIS (slave labour), and other devisive MSC projects, not putting aside the practical and financial necessities for a serious campaign to recruit and organise the unemployed.

Despite all this, the unity of the unemployed and employed has to be built if any lasting and serious defence of unemployed rights is to be secured. Those who down-play, or ignore this crucial question can only be misleading in unemployed struggles.

The debate on how unemployed and employed can best unite is another vexing question. There are no easy answers. New strategies and ideas must be tried out, a divided potential workforce is a defeated workforce. It is because of the need to draw unemployed and employed together that the NOTTINGHAM UNEMPLOYED WORKERS GROUP campaign around the necessity for A JOB OR A WAGE, and a programme of socially useful jobs whenever we fight against attacks on the unemployed.

Recently, in the paper 'City Wise' an article appeared from the 'Claimants Action' a small group of claimants who provide advice and publications in Nottingham. The article was notable by one distinguishing feature, it's failure to recognise the fundamental need to build unity between unemployed and employed workers.

The article is a reply to a previous article by the CPSA in which strategies in response to cuts in staff were discussed, and the CPSA reluctantly concluded that strike action was the only effective weapon. CA say that because the action of CPSA, members delay the payment of giro's and cause hardship to claimants, no support can be forthcoming to unions taking such action. They also say:- "Few claimants will accept that more staff and a more smoothly run benefits system will really improve their quality of life". CA approach the DHSS (SS to unemployed activists) as an alienating and isolating body, and conclude:- "It is not until the CPSA develop a strategy that radically challenges the repressive nature of social security payments that they can count on the support and co-operation of claimants".

The Nottingham Unemployed Workers Group reject this approach. The repressive regime at the DHSS also effects the staff and trade unionists who support unemployed rights nationwide!. There are cases of CPSA members walking out on strike until Snooper Squads (government squads to harass unemployed claimants) left the area. The cut-backs in the DHSS are part of a systematic attack on employed as well as unemployed. The cuts in wages and conditions at the DHSS is a product of the threat of unemployment that hangs over every low paid worker. The CPSA is fighting for an improved service, a service without delays, which may improve the "quality of life" of the unemployed or may not, but will certainly be a help.

The major failing of the CA's approach is to fail to see that if the DHSS is dismantled, then there will be no service: strike action has been studied as one course of action, and it is the only effective action for the CPSA. It is the job of unemployed militants to support and develop solidarity amongst the wider layers of the unemployed for CPSA action.

What most unemployed people want is a decent benefit between jobs. Unemployed groups should defend this part of the welfare state, just like they would defend the rights of Nurses and Firemen to go on strike, as well as fighting for unemployed rights and jobs.

In many ways the CA's letter plays into the hands of the government -- a government quite willing to scrap the DHSS if it thought it could get away with it. A government that has already introduced no-strike clauses at GCHQ. Unemployed groups must be more vigilant and careful with their comments.

UNEMPLOYED EMPLOYED UNITE FOR A JOB OR A WAGE! VICTORY TO THE MINERS.

Brian Scott Chairperson -- Nottingham Unemployed Workers.



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NORMAN TEBBIT AN ~~OBITUARY~~ (wishful thinking) APOLOGY



Certain people (or close approximations thereto) have been upset by the picture of Norman Tebbit on the front of the N.C.U. leaflet. We are very sorry about this. It was never our intention to upset anybody, least of all the Chingford skinheads or the undead. As you can now see Norman has a perfectly respectable nose and is a wonderful human being. But then, Hitler was a vegetarian and liked animals by all accounts.

Review -- Good Beer Guide 1984

Riding through the country in search of Norman Tebbit's promised land can prove thirsty work. But out in the middle of nowhere the question is where to go and what you could drink when you got there.

Fortunately there is an answer!, 1984 sees the 11th edition of the campaign for real ale's Good Beer Guide. (For those of the opinion that it's "all the same any-way" i.e. devotees of fizzy Boozo Pop, Erztz Lager etc., read no further). So what's it got to offer?. Every regional brewery is mentioned along with their draught product, taste and being indicated along with gravity. National combines have separate listing as do Home Brew pubs. A complete set of maps is included with each place in the listings indicated.

The listings of pubs are arranged by county along with Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Islands. Each place has standard opening hours indicated along with it's map location. (Remote pubs also have O.S. references). Pubs have name, address, telephone, opening variations, and beers available. A general description is given along with a set of symbols to indicate various facilities including Public Bars, kid's rooms, meals, disabled facilities etc. A feature of this guide is pubs with real fires. Also mentioned are real ciders, if available, and some locations have points made about them. Various articles and Bill Tidy cartoons round out these vital aspects of the guide.

One way to check out the guide is to look at those places we already know. Nottingham's list includes; Golden Fleece, Magpie, Narrow Boat, Newmarket, Castle, Old Angel, Peacock, Running Horse, Trip, plus various others and the Real Thing off-licence. Other places seem to check out so it looks O.K. However I did in fact have the chance to further check the guide on a day trip to Lincoln. Cornhill Vaults was commended for it's food which proved justified. It was also an unusual setting, being underground in an old corn cellar. Lunch eaten and Sam Smiths supped your hero departed for the Golden Eagle, the only Batemans house in the city. This was close to the station according to the G.B.G. Frankly I'd say that was optimistic, however the "Long March" was rewarded with excellent beer in an acceptable pub.

Conclusions. If you plan to travel at all and like a pint (or two or three) and don't want to spend what little you've got on rubbish, then this guide is for you. Although it's specifically for 1984, it should be usable beyond that, and since the pubs are circulated through the guide only several can hope to give a complete listing, The Good Beer Guide costs £3.95.

LIVING ON THE FRONT LINE

During a recent weekend in July, Nottingham played host to a peace festival, with thousands on the Trent Embankment, also to a large striking miners gathering, with families on the forest.

The previous weekend saw thousands from all parts of the country march to Chilwell, and take part in perhaps the largest mass trespass since the war.

Seven weeks before that we had the largest demonstration this town has seen in over 20 years, with over 10,000 striking miners and supporters marching to the Square, with the Albert Hall overflowing with a rally in the afternoon. That weekend also saw the culmination of a march by Kent miners to our town.

Since this march, we have had the development of a miners strike centre in town along with a support committee centre. As a direct result of these developments, T.U.'s, factories, neighbourhoods, political parties etc., are collecting food, money and giving support in many ways.

The Unemployed Centre until recently had been able to play a role in many of these activities. The Users Committee, I understand, has donated money to the miners, and unemployed have stood on picket lines in support; arrests of unemployed have been made.

In other words, if you take account of the last few months, the anti-Tory forces are growing, the T.U., and political fight is increasing which means the class struggle is heightening. Because Notts has working miners along with strikers the issues are thrown up. It's in this situation that the stark realities of the class struggle are there for all to see. Massive demonstrations; police in occupation of roads, and whole villages; freedom of travel gone; thousands of arrests etc.

I would strongly argue, that our town and County, for the reasons stated are in the forefront of the class struggle. This is not arguing the largest left of militant forces, but rather the character of these forces is undergoing the biggest changes.

Remember the weeks of debate and indecision of the Notts NUM council and leadership; Trades Council, Regional T.U.C. have had to discuss the issues and come down on a side; all locals Trade Unions have had to do likewise, with the issues not lying down or going away, but demanding a decision. An increasing number of workers are coming to terms with class issues such as:- Jobs, the rights of a Union, democracy, the rights of government, use of the law, the Police, the Courts, right to picket, travel etc.

The C.N.D. locally had to discuss the implications of the 103rd U.S. base; whether to break the law by trespassing. During their campaign, contact was made with T.U.'s and assistance gained.

Bruce Kent - (Gen. Sec. C.N.D.) rightly said at the Peace festival "the miners case and that of the C.N.D. is one and the same, for if the pit closure programme goes through, by the end of the century we will have had to massively increase nuclear power in this country".

The connections between unemployment and Chilwell or the miners are many. When the U.S. take over the base it has been announced 1,000 will be made unemployed. If the land was used as was originally intended, and was the wish of the local council, thousands of houses could be built meaning thousands of jobs. If the miners lose, or the N.C.B. get their way, then as a start 20,000 would join the unemployed. If they lose, the T.U.'s will be weakened, meaning the threat to millions of jobs will become real.

Over the last few months, with a tremendous growth in working class awareness, I believe our centre and the unemployed have not developed proportionately in strength. Indeed in many ways our centre is weaker than twelve months ago. How can this be so?

Obviously there exists a whole number of reasons which Management Committee, staff, and Users have discussed.

An overriding reason, at the base of most I would suggest is the placing of the individual over and above that, which we are building. In other words, once the individual, or group of whether users, management committee, or staff sees themselves as more important than the centre itself, we will not develop the potential of the centre, or be able to take part as an organisation of the unemployed in the class history that is being written right now.

Chris Preston.



BARGAIN BASEMENT

WHEN ACCURACY
AND PERFECTION ARE A MUST...

Dry Photocopier for sale to Community, Voluntary group etc.
£50.00 (needs servicing)

must be seen to be believed!

ALTERNATIVE CULTURE (TEE HEE)

Crass at the Marcus Garvey Centre May 2nd, 1984

Revivalist bands have an inevitable tendency to be stereotyped, and Crass are no exception. In two sets we were treated to "Securicor" "So What?" "Mother Earth" "Batamotel" "Poison in a Pretty Pill" "Mother Love" etc., all delivered in that style which we know and love (if you don't know the style, rest assured you won't like it). An excursion outside that style "Sentiment" from Christ the Album didn't work, and just ended up sounding weak, which is a shame.

Despite the inclusion of those great historical relics "Banned from the Roxy" and by great popular demand "Do they owe us a Living", Pogo was uncool (sitting on the floor cross-legged was cool).

All things considered a tolerable gig, if a little dull, evidenced by M.G.C. supplying their awful expensive beer in real glasses and getting most of 'em back. Incidentally there were other bands there, but I find revivals of revived revivals particularly unmemorable. As to Crass it's a shame that the punk stereotype so over-shadows the rest of their output and therefore limits them, as a live band at least.

Mark.

Review of Black Flag at Zhivago's

Crap

Review of Fresh Claims Drama Group - Arboretum

Embarrassingly bad.

THE DOLE AND COAL



(Or what has the Miner's strike to do with the unemployed?).

Not all of Nottinghamshire's miners are in agreement over the present dispute, so why should the unemployed enter into it?

For a start, the fact that someone is unemployed should perhaps make them more concerned about industrial issues, which are likely to influence where and when (if ever) they are likely to find work agencies.

The current conflict between the miners and the government (which is what it is) is about jobs.

Notts is the second largest coalfield in Britain; and it is its good coal supply, comparative profitability, and hence wages, which are partly responsible for the "I'm alright, Jack" attitude of many of our miners who refuse to support their brothers on strike. Is this complacency justified? Surely not on moral grounds alone. But nor is it on the grounds of common sense. Job losses in the coal industry, as elsewhere, adds to the number of unemployed. For you who are already unemployed this means the number of applicants for the next job you go for is increased, and you are less likely to get it. Even if Notts pit jobs were safe for the immediate future (which cannot be guaranteed, unless the NUM wins this dispute) redundancies elsewhere in the country must lead ex-miners to take Tebbit's advice and seek greener pastures - such as profitable pit areas, like Notts. (as happened in the '50s and '60s)

Surely the unemployed in Notts should rally behind our miners on strike, who are fighting to save their industry, and thereby, jobs for us and our children.

You who know what it is like to try to exist on unemployment benefits or social security can understand what these brave and principled men are facing, when they are not allowed even that much for themselves and their families to live on. A striking miner with an unemployed wife gets £6.45 per week; one with a wife and two small children gets £11.75 from social security; a single miner gets nothing at all.

The strike centre at 218, Mansfield Road will be happy to accept donations of money or food, however small (or bring them to Nottingham Centre for the Unemployed). It is OUR fight.

Jackie Evans.



and now...

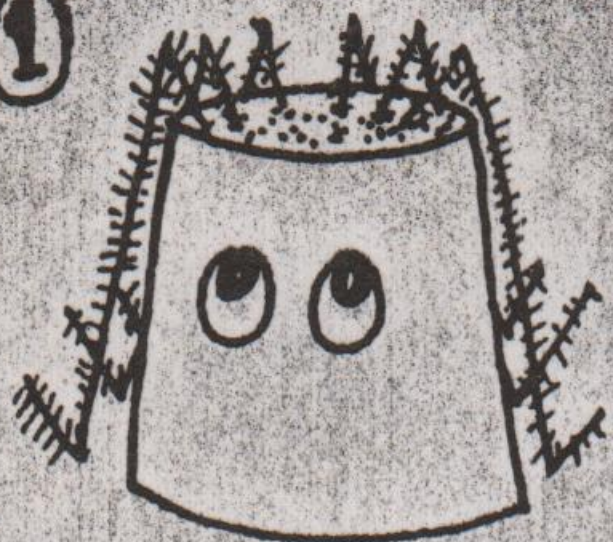
Kiddies Corner

by Jane.



Make a spider. why not?

①

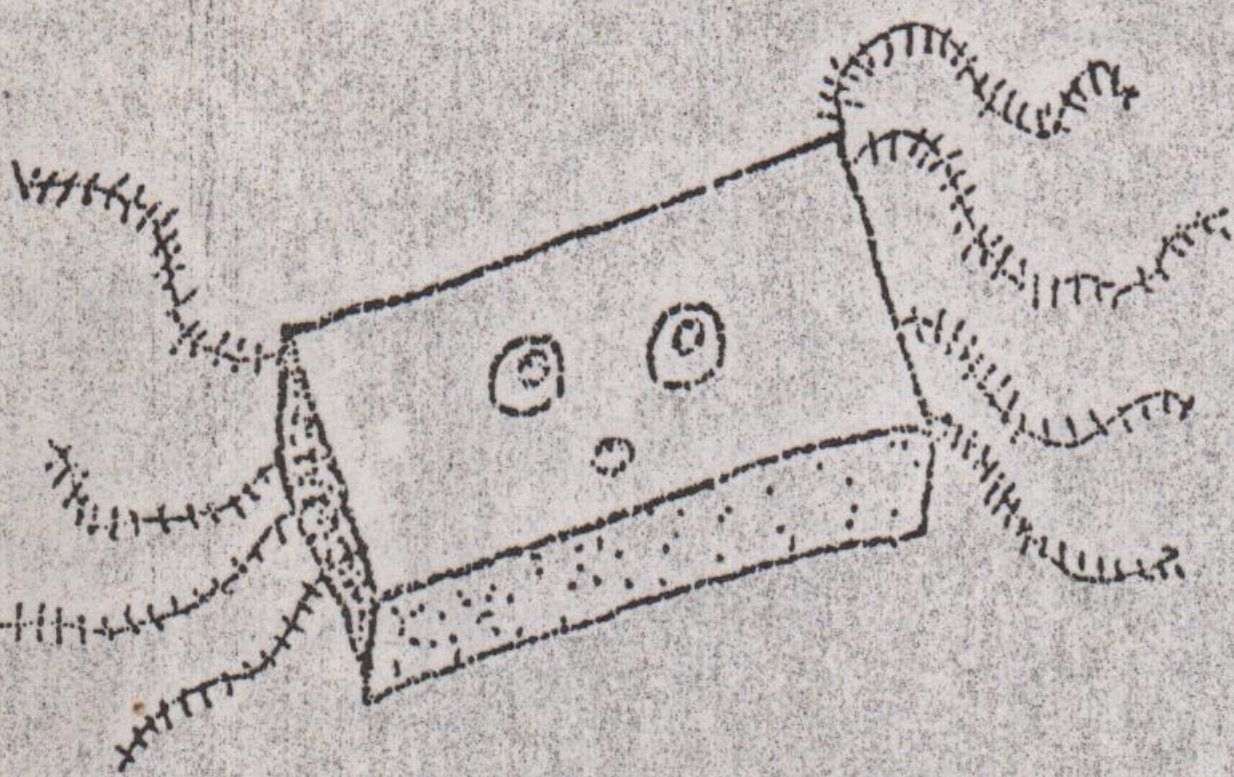


1. Cut a cardboard eggbox
2. Paint it black
3. Paint pipe cleaners black
Cut in half.
4. Make four holes in each
side of egg holder for
pipe cleaners.
5. Bend pipe cleaners into shape.
6. Glue on eyes 7. Hang on elastic.

A picture to colour



Make another spider.



1. Paint empty matchbox
black
2. Paint pipe cleaners black
and cut in half.
3. Poke pipe cleaners
through top of matchbox
4. Glue on eyes.

THESE SPIDERS CAN BE HUNG FROM ELASTIC TO GIVE A REALISTIC EFFECT!

Crossword



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| B | | |
| | use the picture clues to complete the crossword | |
| | | R |



DEMONSTRATE

Your opposition to soaring unemployment

Over 1,000,000 people out of work more than a year!

Over 350,000 out of work more than 3 years!

We call on those in work to join the unemployed in protesting against this appalling situation.

THIS AFFECTS YOU

The true figure for unemployment are disguised because of women not registered.

Youth unemployment is over 1¼ million. A rise of 505% since 1979. Many more are on Y.T.S. at unreasonable rates of pay.

Unemployment is higher among Afro-Caribbean & Asian people

The large pool of unemployed threatens your pay and conditions

7,000,000 people depend on inadequate Supplementary Benefits

We call on the whole community Men & Women, Black & White, Young & Old, Employed & Unemployed.

ATTEND THE PUBLIC MEETING

JOIN THE MARCH

COME TO THE RALLY

NOTTINGHAM TRADES UNION COUNCIL
with
NOTTINGHAM CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27th

Market Square Public Meeting 1.00p.m.

March 1.30p.m.

Rally - Arkwright Theatre, 2.00 p.m.

**Trent Polytechnic
Shakespeare St**

**Invited speakers include: Ray Buckton (TUC)
Tony Benn M.P.**

We call upon all unemployed, employed Y.T.S. trainees, Trades Unionists, and the whole Community to join together to protest against:

over 4,000,000 out of work

For further information contact

**Nottingham Centre for the Unemployed
66-72 Hounds Gate, Nottingham
Tel. 413870.**