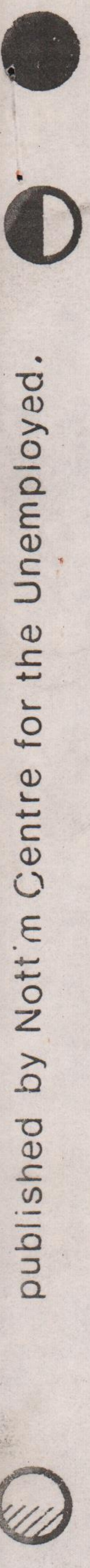


published by Nott'm Centre for the Unemployed.

PREPARE TO ENERGIZE



# VOICE Magazine

MAY '85

ISSUE 1



N.C.U.



this  
issue

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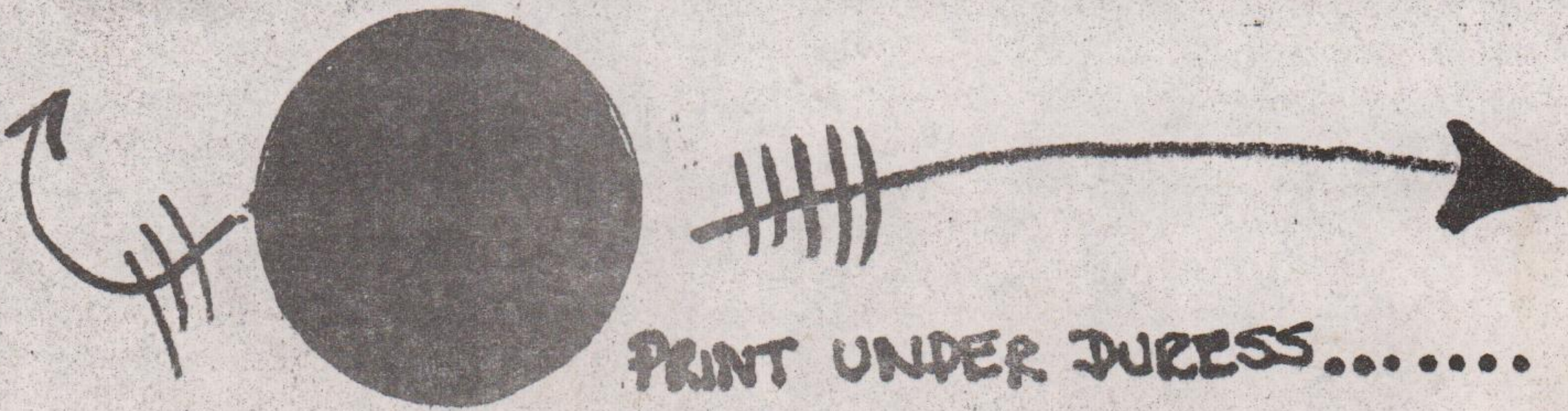
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welcome To the Leisuredome!



PRINT UNDER DURESS.....

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# Editorial

HELLO AND WELCOME.....

.....to the 4th Magazine from Nottingham Centre for the Unemployed.

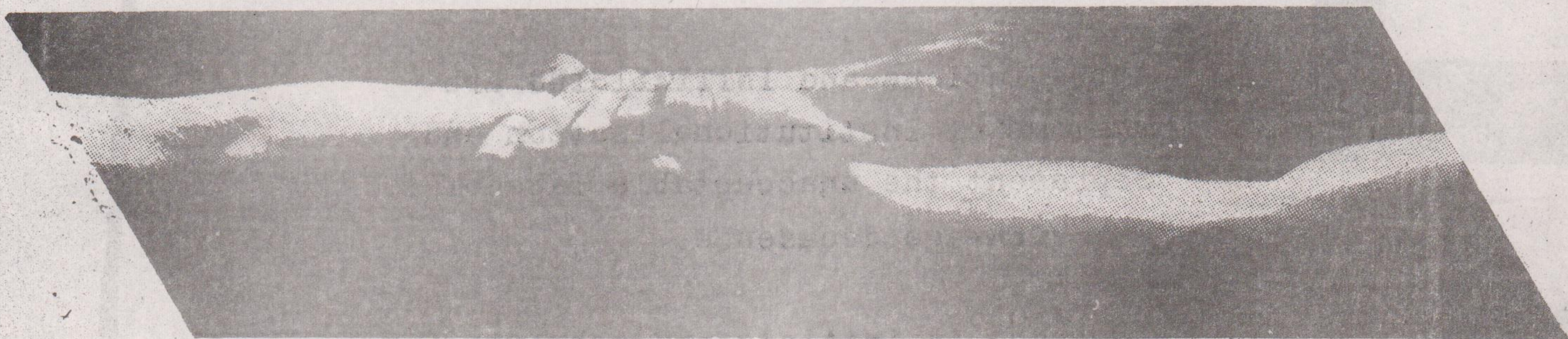
There are currently over 23½ thousand unemployed in the City of Nottingham, i.e. over 19% of the working (or non-working) population. For these people in particular we hope that our Magazine is useful, informative, and entertaining, and that you will feel you can use it to make your VOICE heard by submitting articles and letters or whatever for our next issue.

As we go to press information is coming in of the newly-formed Employment Institute and Charter for Jobs. What do we make of it? Well, personally, not a lot. The call for a 'massive increase in public spending' is fine, but it's been made before, and there is no reason to suppose that the government will take any more notice now; indeed it has already waved the proposal aside with the claim that they are already doing that. Instead of a demand for jobs for all, we have a wishy-washy proposal of extending the much-criticised Community Programme of temporary, under-paid, non-training jobs for those out of work for more than a year (unless you're a married woman, in which case you probably still won't qualify).

Perhaps it was Naive to expect that such a motley alliance as has come together could produce more than the ineffective compromises which are emerging from the Think Tank, welcomed neither by the Tory right, nor the Labour left, and leaving to conjecture the reaction from Trade Unions to the possibility of resurrecting prices and incomes policies.

We are anxious that the energies of those we look to to wage the fight against unemployment, at national and local levels, are not drawn off into futile 'window dressing' projects. The demand is for policies of full employment and decent wages.

Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the Centre or its Management Committee.





BLESS

THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

OR

why abbreviations are OBNOXIOUS  
and why linguistics is the only  
issue.

Given EVERYTHING. There is the  
choice of speaking or NOT speaking.

IF

we speak to each other (or behind  
each other's backs) we then have  
the choice of entertaining STYLE  
and MEANING

OR not.

given LANGUAGE;

BLESS; Vladimir

Nabokov, girls that can't stop  
talking, HANS ARP, noel coward,  
BECKETT, prose selavie, H A R P O  
M A R X, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY, being pale with  
weariness, et cetera.

BLAST; D.H.S.S., girls that WON'T  
stop talking, h.p. sauce, C.N.D.,  
a.w.o.l., O.T., o.t.t., P.L.U.,  
G.M.B.A.T.U., i.h.s., E.M.A., N.C.U.,  
journalists, N.V.P., s.d.p., etc.

Abbreviations and INITIALISING are  
symtoms of institutionalisation and  
represent the unacceptable face of  
COMPUTER-age decadence.

To speak in initials and abbreviations



is to condone social STAGNATION  
is to idiotise meaning  
is to STULTIFY words  
is to communicate only UNNECESSARY  
PRISONS.

99  
N

Why do we create things only to  
reduce them to meaningless and  
U N A T T R A C T I V E sequences  
of letters?

is it because these things are mean-  
ingless in the first place?

Is the birth of these things only a  
function of MIS-PLACED ideaologies  
alienated from all AESTHETICS?

And the people who speak like  
this - have they not the IMAGINATION  
to speak beyond their own in-group  
BIASES and professional INSULARISM  
...

7

Those 'activists' who are at their  
happiest using initials instead of  
words are contributing to the DE-  
humanisation of language and THUSLY  
the damning of the race.

LITERALLY

BLESS

the houses of parliament and TOMATO  
ketchup...

and B L A S T  
h.p. sauce.

X

mark stevenson.

99





**c + o + a + l**

**n o t**

**d + o + l + e**

A year ago the Nottingham Centre began producing information sheets on benefits for strikers, and the Welfare Rights team held surgeries in huts and soup kitchens in the pit areas. Throughout the year we were called on to speak to meetings of miner's women's support groups to explain the complexities of Social Security and FIS rules as they affected the striking miners.

Whilst these regulations were harsh enough, the draconian treatment of the miners has not ended with the return to work.

Those who were sacked or resigned during the strike, and have had P45s returned to them are finding that they are still not entitled to claim benefit in the normal way.

The regulations state that anyone affected by a trade dispute (which is defined as anyone who stands to gain by it, whether or not they support the strike, and including those laid off through industrial action by others) is barred from claiming. This is why those who were sacked or resigned during the strike were not allowed to claim as long as the strike continued (even though they didn't stand to 'gain' in financial terms as pay was not the issue).

When the return to work was agreed a discussion was made, at high level, that the miners were still 'in dispute' because an overtime ban was operating. It is difficult to understand, on a common sense basis, how a ban on overtime by miners at work, can affect the right to benefit of those who are no longer employed by the N.C.B. But those who have determined these unfair and punitive interpretations have gone even further.

Since the announcement of the ending of the overtime ban a most incredible decision has been made - that those sacked or resigned will still not be considered 'available for work' (the requirement of making a claim) until productivity levels are restored!. This is a bizarre interpretation, for which we can find no basis in law - and which is anyway a vague and subjective condition. The Department of Employment are assessing the conditions by writing to N.C.B. area managers. According to our information the reason why Notts. is still considered to be 'in dispute' and ex-miners still unable to claim, is because the managers have not bothered to reply to the Department of Employment's question.

Our advice to any ex-miners who are in the position outlined are advised to make an immediate appeal against Dole office decisions - as the regulations to be applied have no reference to the above interpretations, which are most probably not legal, and have obviously been politically determined.

Jacqueline Evans.





Three men were sat upon the floor  
And leaned against a wall  
The shadows that were cast for them  
Were equally as tall

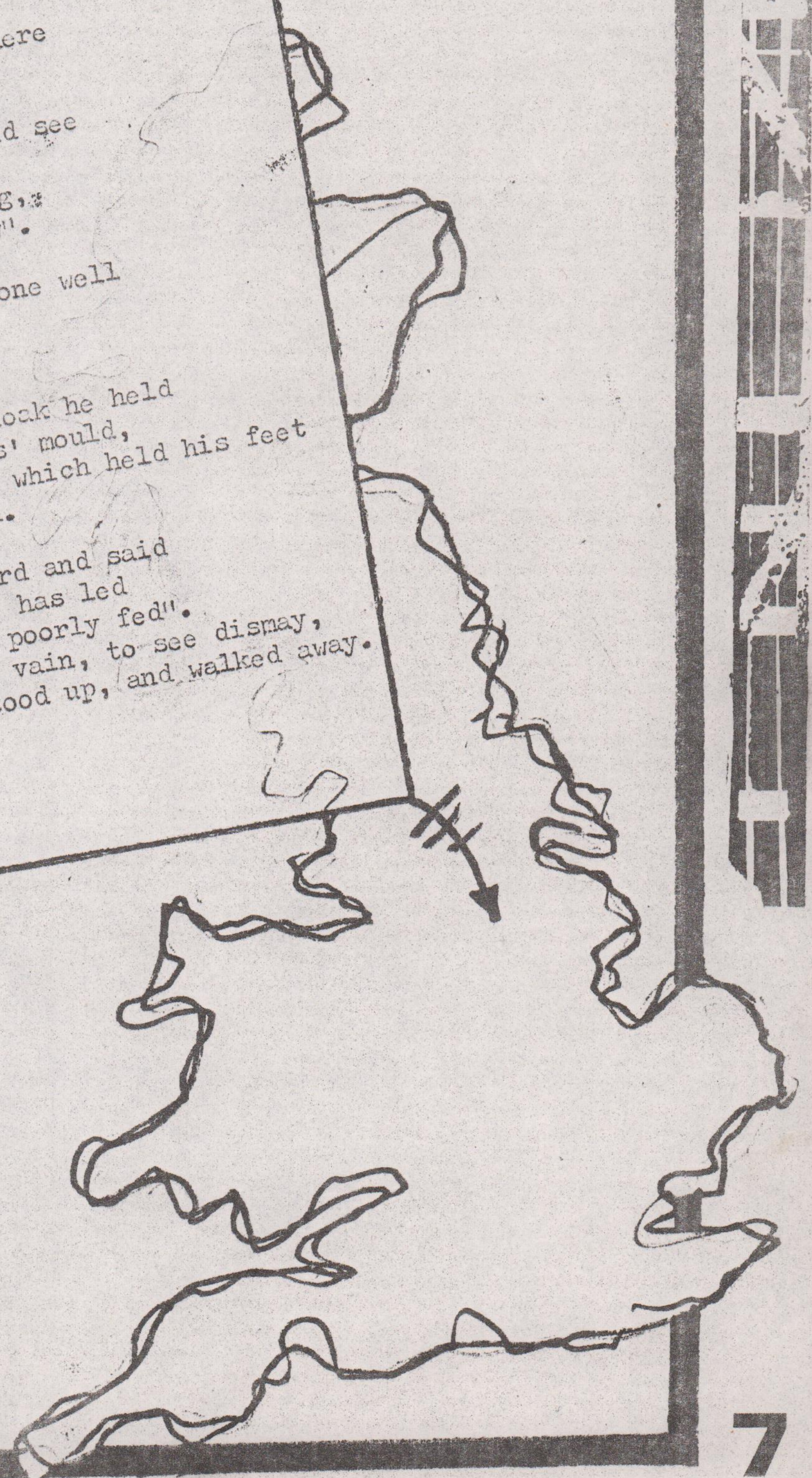
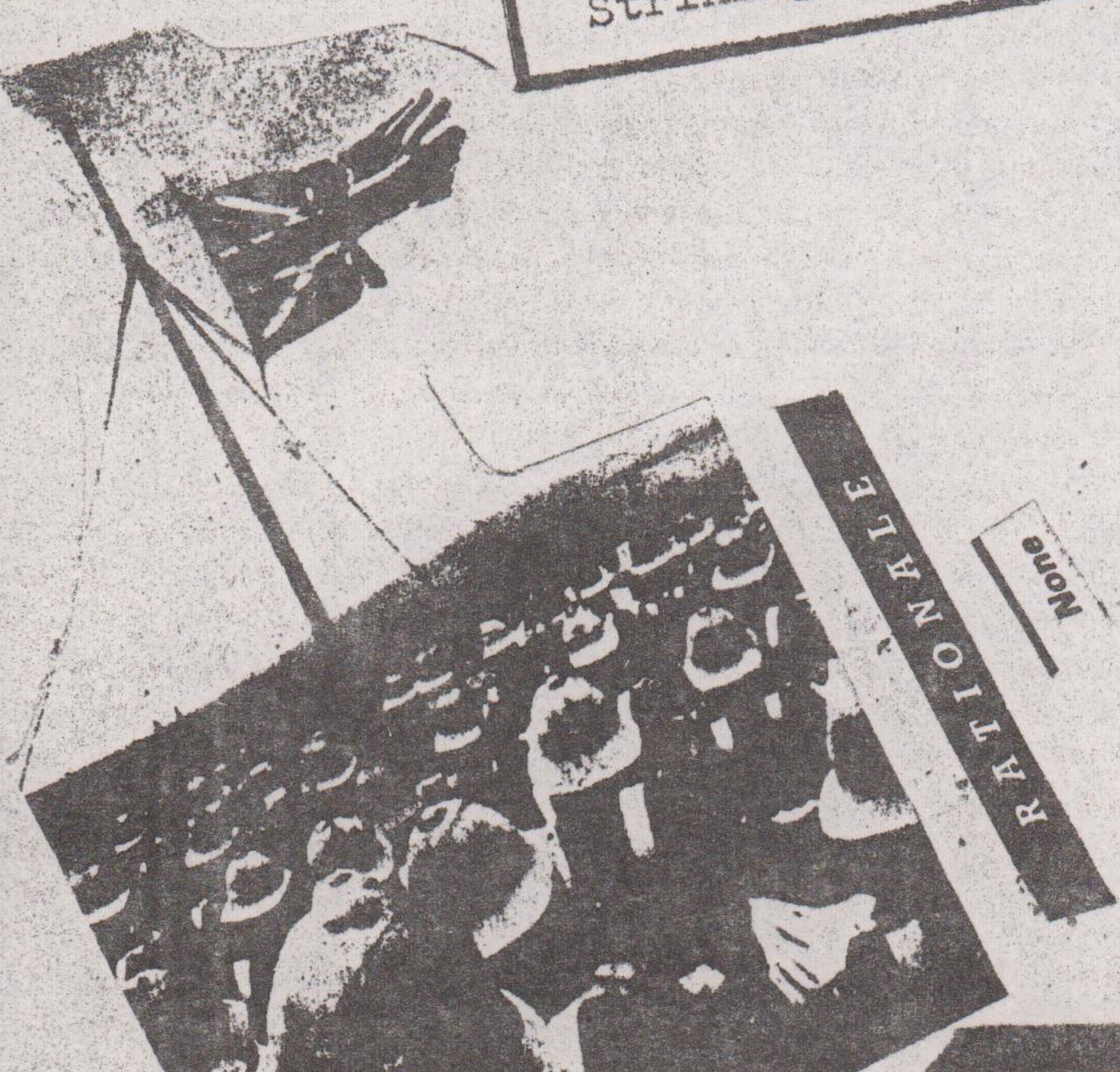
Said the first "How fine am I  
My Master keeps me well,  
The clothes I wear, the food I eat  
And the quarters where I dwell  
Are amongst the best that could be found";  
And he pointed to his feet,  
The fetters that were chained there  
Were polished

And white as sleet.  
He turned them over so all could see  
The craft that made them so  
And then he made his final brag,  
"They're solid silver you know".

The second said "Yes you've done well  
But not as well as me  
I live in my Master's house  
And eat the same as he".  
The shirt he wore and the cloak he held  
Were made from the silkworms' mould,  
And the shackles and chains which held his feet  
Were obviously made of gold.

Both now looked at the third and said  
"Pity for the life that he has led  
Ill-clothed, ill-shod and poorly fed".  
They searched his face in vain, to see dismay,  
But instead he smiled, stood up, and walked away.

Alan Preston  
Striking Miner.



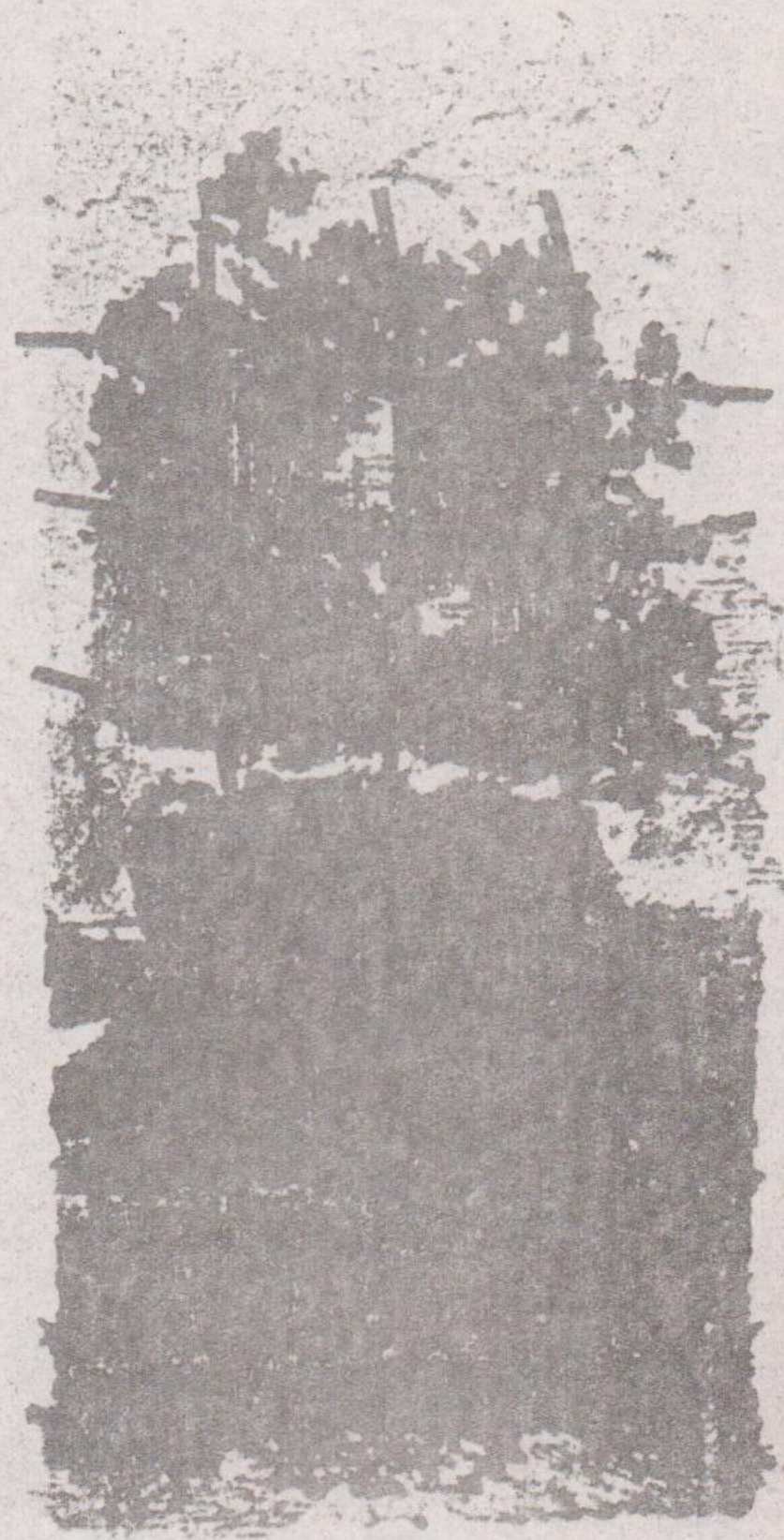


'ONE OF A KIND' - AN EXHIBITION OF UNIQUE PRINTED WORKS BY 16 BRITISH AND AMERICAN ARTISTS. MIDLAND GROUP - 8th April - 4th May.

In an effort to say something positive and constructive about 'one of a kind' - an exhibition of recent monoprints by 8 American and British artists, firstly one needs to consider that the medium of the monotype print is usually one of experimentation and always one of 'uniqueness'. With this in mind viewing this exhibition requires a lot of ones time and patience, because it's so easy to fall into the 'trap' of discussing technique, rather than the imagery itself.

The title of the exhibition suggests a similarity between the American approach and the British, yet it's interesting to note the differences in attitude towards both style and subject matter. For me, the Americans - notably Laurence Barker and Martha Zelt - are the more experimental, whereas the British, Anita Ford, David Taburn, etc. represent an 'inherent Englishness' in attitude to producing work. This 'Englishness' in approach to working methods, is best highlighted in John Hoyland's two pints, where his format to monoprinting, isn't that far removed from the subject matter of his canvasses.

It's hard to pick an outstanding piece of work, but if I were forced, I'd have to 'plump' for Peter Marcus's 'Faces of 1982', and Anita Fords 'Urban Sculpture of 1983' a beautifully atmospheric almost 'sculptural' piece using etching and hand-made paper, which reaffirms its 'Englishness' in its subject matter - an almost 'Dickensian' view of the urban landscape.



Anita Ford  
Urban Sculpture 1983  
686 x 330 mm  
27 x 13 in



What are your feelings about the Midland Group - is it doing enough for you?.. What improvements could be made for the unemployed?.. Write in with your points of view.

Are alternative exhibition spaces good - are there enough outlets for struggling artists to exhibit their work?..

Write to Steve at the Nottingham Centre for the Unemployed 66/72, Hounds Gate, Nottingham. NG1 6BA.



# A R T

'THE BRIDGE' - NEW WORK BY VICTOR BURGIN. MIDLAND GROUP 6th APRIL - 4th MAY.

Amid the growing debate over the recent standard of the Midland Group's exhibition programme, comes yet another controversial exhibition - that of Burgin's recent photographic images entitled, 'Lo Bridge'.

In his programme notes, Burgin goes to some length to point out the connections between 'Allegory' and his images, but above all that of the images throughout western history of women and water - which isn't so surprising when you consider that almost a third of us, is made up of the stuff in the first place!

I do take issue with Burgin's statement that the history of western representation is taken up by these water images with - and I quote, "countless bathing scenes in between". This I find an incredulous piece of thinking when one considers how many other artists have to be included within this statement - certainly Stubbs didn't paint images of water, neither did Van Gogh, Manet, Degas, Lautrec - the list is seemingly endless!

The images themselves are accompanied by heavy conceptual wording which detracts rather than attracts from the photographs. With this in mind, the images themselves are still very impressive, with the highspot for me - the photograph based on Millais's 'Ophelia', where instead of actual water, Ophelia glides within and over volumes of plastic sheeting. Burgin's images culled from Alfred Hitchcock's film 'Vertigo' - notably James Stewart and Kim Novak - are also highly impressive, and form the basis for the 'Bridge'. The 'Tales from Freud' are worth a look at, especially Manet's 'Olympia' series, but overall, I can't help thinking that the exhibition is clouded by too much intellectualism.



THE BRIDGE' VICTOR BURGIN



art

noise

art

0

ON THE TABLE! PAINTINGS BY BOB EVANS - NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE April 2nd - 25th.

From the more established exhibitive venues we move on to the Nottingham Playhouse, who have an 'under-rated' exhibition space which is to be highly recommended for artists who are establishing themselves. Indeed I'd like to discuss at some future date, the present situation in the locality of alternative outlets for practising artists to exhibit their work.

I found it very refreshing to view Bob Evans exhibition of 27 pieces of work varying from 'Cezanne' type still-lives, to the more overtly political pieces such as his imposing canvas's entitled 'Travelogue', and 'North of the Equator', where against a backdrop of the Middle-East, various 'symbolic' objects - tee-square, spirit-level, table-lamp, etc. - one used to separate the affluent western and eastern block countries, from the poverty-stricken third world.

I think some of the work suffered from over use of the symbol and worked much better when the symbolic use of imagery was slightly hidden such as in his 'Quinces and Plums', where although seemingly straight-forward, nevertheless invoked an atmosphere not akin to 'traditional' approach to the still life genre.



'TRAVELOGUE' BOB EVANS



'WINTERLIGHT' BOB EVANS



## THE ULTIMATE CLICHE

From out of the blue  
as a matter of course  
the nuclear deterrent  
put an end to all wars  
put an end to all life  
as a matter of fact  
gone for a burton  
blown clean off the tracks  
it seemed such a cliché  
THE END OF THE WORLD  
it's no surprise we were blaze  
as events unfurled  
it was just like the movies  
we'd seen it all before  
it seemed nothing like real life (or real death)  
we thought they'd call it off in reel four  
well I'll go to our house (except now I can't)  
well as I live and breath (except now I don't)  
it's like they've dropped a bomb on me  
well would you believe  
the ultimate cliché  
who ever thought it would happen to me.



# normal

CIRCUMSTANCES

*By Henry Normal.*

IN



# WORDS.

## EXPERIMENTS WITH WORMS

FREE FROM MENTAL or EMOTIONAL DISORDERS

**NORMAL.** *adj*

cut them in two

just above the thigh

and humans do not reproduce

both halves die;

• prove this yourself, take a human from the shelf.

Now here we have a vivisectionist,

it's difficult to tell the sex of this

because this species has no balls

and very little conscience at all

but for those of you still in doubt

earlier we cut this ones' heart out

still we're keeping it breathing

on a cigarette machine

no need to be squeamish

its clinically clean

and the end will justify the means

vivisectionists have no feelings

spray perfume in its' eyes;

sure it cries, but it never dies

here have a try

we've got to be cruel to be kind

and we just might find some medical advance

Sometimes by chance

you can be cutting up a specimen

and suddenly from the mess therein

you can make a great achievement,

so we're all in agreement

we can feed tubes into its brain

and record the scale of pain

as we burn acid through its face

it's for the good of the race

Let's make this world a better place.



*add + more + 3 =* **12**



# LOOKING FOR ADVICE *on welfare rights?*

open on:

MON

9-00am - 1-00pm.

TUES WED THUR

1-00pm - 5-00pm

FRI

10-00am - 5-00pm

open on:

MON

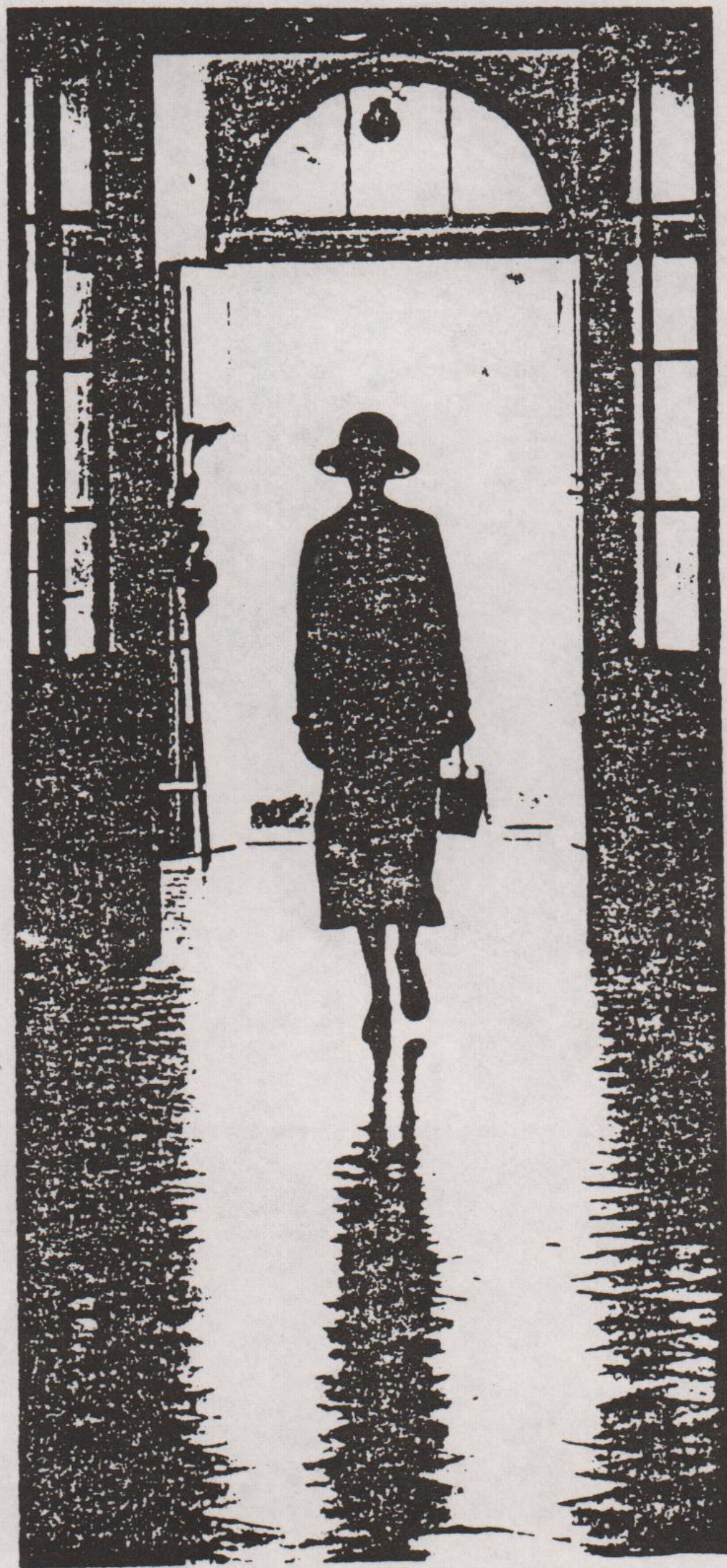
9-00am - 1-00pm.

TUES WED THUR

1-00pm - 5-00pm

FRI

10-00am - 5-00pm



*Then Come and Talk To Us At The*

*NOTTINGHAM CENTRE for the UNEMPLOYED*

66-72 HOUNDS GATE NOTTINGHAM NG1 6BA

tel. 413881

*" Let us be the light at the end of your tunnel "*







# ALL DRESSED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO?

a challenge match

\*

**unemployed**

vrs

**D.H.S.S. Staff**

Games Include:

\*

darts, pool, computer, dominoes, arm-wrestling, quiz, chess, card games, scrabble, and charades.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART  
**Contact Mike or Simon**

at **N.C.U** On NOTT'M: **413881**.  
66/72, Houndsgate Nott'm.

FRI **7<sup>TH</sup>** JUNE — 7.30pm!

# n Arrow Boat Inn

Canal st



d e b a t e

"Only one in five sixteen year-olds had a full-time job last year compared with more than three in five a decade ago.....Registered unemployment among 16 year-olds rose from 3% to 13% between 1975 and 1984. (This rise)... has been limited by an increase in numbers staying on in full-time education but, more significantly, by the Youth Training Scheme which involved one quarter of 16 year-olds in 1984" (Times Educational Supplement 12/4/85)

At the beginning of this year there were 365,000 youth on Y.T.S. Only 60% went on to full-time employment. The vast bulk worked a regular 40 hour week for £26.25 per week.

For the Tory government this is central to their plan to build a cheap-labour economy, as outlined in Chancellor Lawson's March budget. It is proposed that Y.T.S. will be extended to two years and will be made compulsory by disallowing unemployment benefit to 16-17 year olds. It is also likely that the weekly allowance will fall to the level of benefit, currently £17.30 for under 18s.

In the recently published Tory White Paper "The Challenge to the Nation" Tom King states clearly, "Jobs will be created to the extent that people are prepared to work at wages that employers can afford." The message is clear - accept slave wages or rot!.

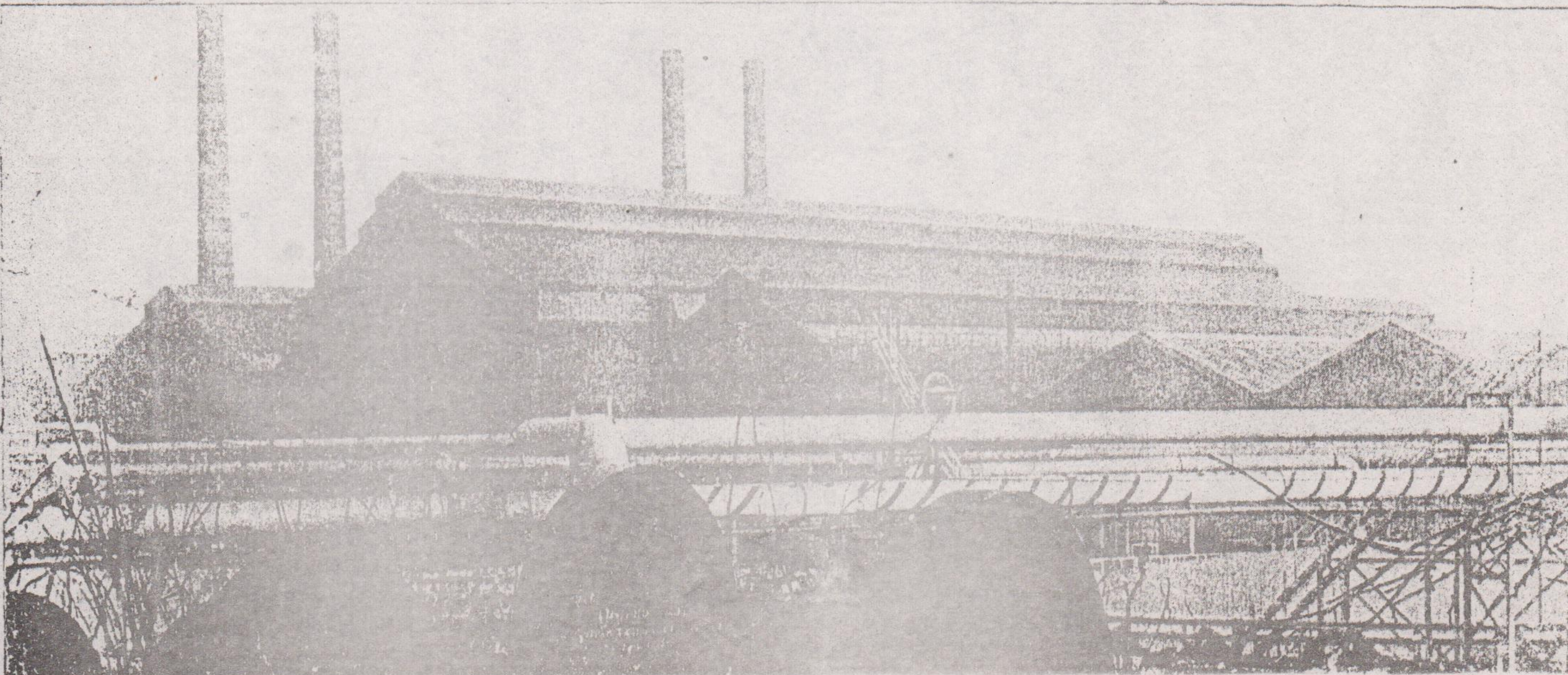
In order to further this aim, the Tories plan to scrap Wages Councils, weaken workers basic rights by changing employment legislation, and create conditions for increased speed-up and "flexibility".

It should now be clear to the Trade Union movement that Y.T.S., far from being a scheme which can be reformed by pressure from within, is in fact an essential part of long-term Tory aims. It should therefore be implacably opposed by the Trade Unions which should withdraw co-operation from the schemes, while at the same time build on the militancy of youth by going all-out to recruit them into unions.

This militancy was recently indicated by a 4,000 strong strike and demonstration by school students in Glasgow. If the Trade Union leaders haven't yet got the message, the Tories certainly have. They cleared the youth off the streets using police on horseback!.

P. Wilkinson.

W  
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## CREATING THE NEW HOMELESS!

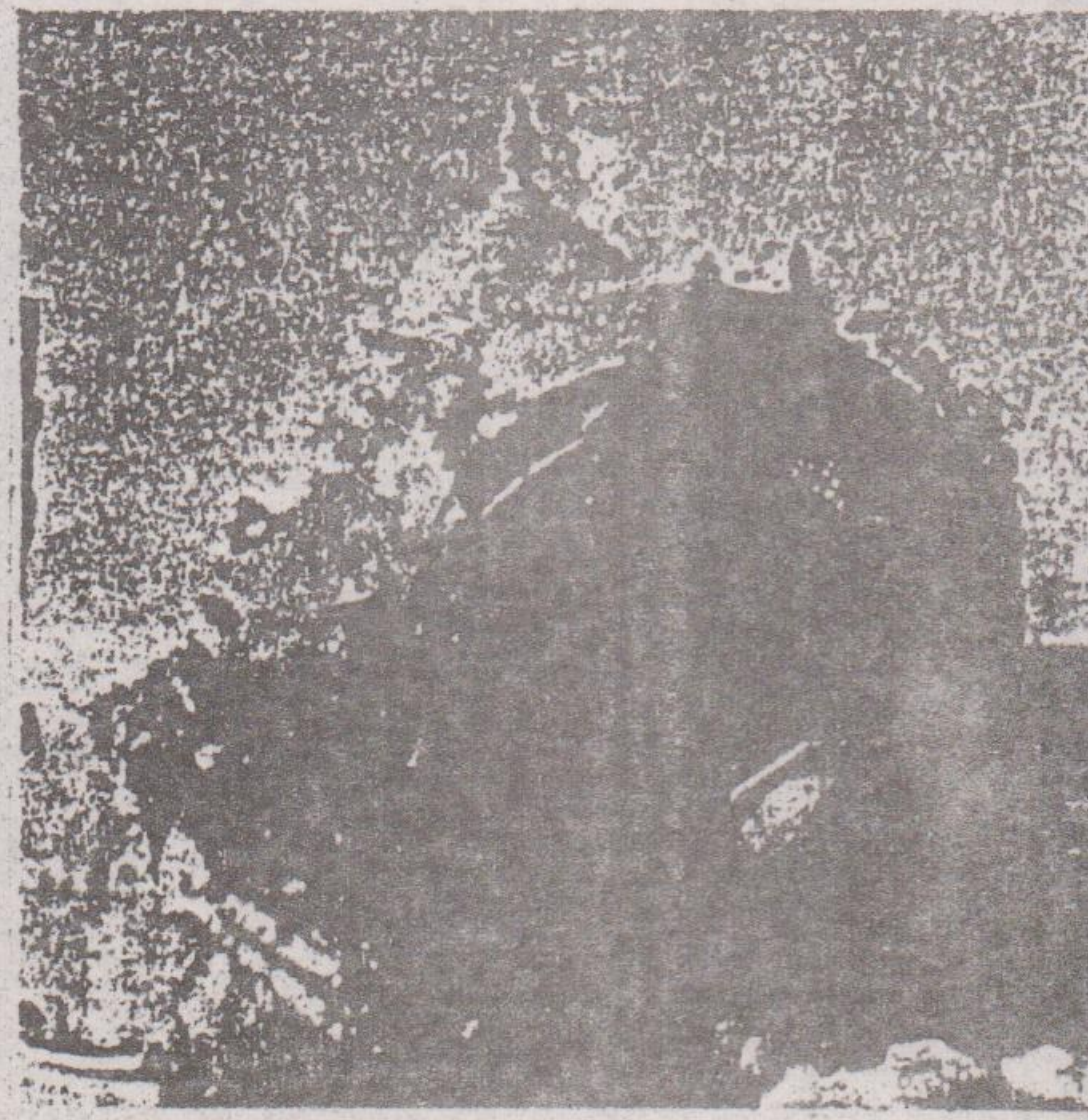
The government have introduced new rules concerning the payment of supplementary benefit to unemployed people under 26 and living in board and lodge accommodation. Previously the DHSS ceiling for full board and lodge was £56 per person; this is reduced to £55 for single people and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times this amount for childless couples (£96.25), - the "pocket money" allowance has also been reduced by nearly one pound per person. In addition, there will now be a time limit on the length of stay in board and lodge accommodation for single people and childless couples: in Nottingham this will be four weeks in any 26 week period; after four weeks benefit will be reduced to the amount payable to someone living with their parents (£22.45 per week for someone under 21 and £25.75 for those aged 21-25). The new rules became effective on 29.4.85, although there should be an interim period to allow the DHSS to notify all those people affected.

The new rules are being introduced to save money on the social security spending bill - the amount of benefit paid out to cover board and lodge charges rose from £205 million pounds in 1982 to £570 million in 1984. The government have also made vague and unsupported claims about young people abusing the benefit system in order to stay in South Coast resorts.

The government have chosen to ignore the evidence of numerous claimants organisations and advice agents as well as its own Social Security Advisory Committee, all of whom have stressed that the real problem is a shortage of rented accommodation forcing people into board and lodge.

This shortage will become tragically obvious to those young people driven onto the streets when they can no longer pay their rent - although there are some exceptions to the rules, having nowhere else to go is not one of them. Tony Newton (Junior Minister for Social Security) has said that he expects that some people will return home to their parents - the Social Security Advisory Committee, however, are concerned at "the possibility of creating a class of homeless and roofless young people who are unable to return to the parental home for whatever reason, and who cannot remain long enough in any one location to find permanent accommodation or a job".

Bill Hinds.



£\$ → 16



From the President of Nottingham Trade Union Council

Unemployment continues to rise. Government figures give 3½ million people registered unemployed and receiving benefit. The total figure of those seeking work is over 4½ million.

Schemes of part-time work, Y.T.S. etc. are being forced on people, further disguising the figures.

The government's latest budget, far from reducing unemployment, actively encourages further loss of jobs.

The Labour opposition recently stated that it will create 1 million jobs in its first 2 years of office. The present government has also claimed to have created more new jobs than any previous government. It must be remembered that apart from the steady rise in unemployment since 1979, so there was a rise, though in smaller figures, under the 1974/9 Labour government.

What we must look for is not bland statements by politicians, but at policies (from government or opposition) to see whether they make jobs a priority, or lead to further destruction. Who remembers the promise of 10 years ago from Tories, Liberal and Labour that entry to the Common Market would lead to new markets reaching 250 million, jobs and industry would expand as never before, etc.? The reality has been a relentless rise in unemployment, not just for us, but in all Common Market countries.

Apart from economic cause of unemployment, here in Britain we have politically caused unemployment. In other words ex government, which is deliberately causing unemployment for political ends. Millions out of work causes wages to fall, and has allowed the government to take the offensive in many areas; e.g. ending of wages councils, introduction of laws into Trade Union affairs and against Trade Unionists in dispute, privatisation, cuts in services etc. The callous and wilful use of millions of people out of work for this end is obscene.

Well over 1 million have been out of work for more than a year. For these people often whole communities, this means the ability to lead a decent life stops and families merely exist. For the young unemployed it means a whole set of new values being handed down by a society that doesn't care. For the older it means no longer being required, and readjustment to a different way of life.

The Bishop of Durham, along with other church representatives has questioned this government's ethics; those of a society based solely on competition, profits and material values.

If the present government; or a future Labour government; or any other, cannot base its policies on full employment, then perhaps it is not the particular government that is wrong, but the social and economic system that it attempts to manage which needs changing.

But meanwhile this government and all national and local politicians should be confronted daily with the massive issue of those out of work. This is difficult because of the many unemployed who think it is their individual problem. It is not. They are part of a wider political question that must be answered.

N.C.U. have the ability and potential to serve the daily needs of the unemployed. But just as important is the campaigning that is essential if we are to confront society with the political question.

The problems of campaigning are two-fold; firstly the individual nature of being unemployed and the difficulty of bringing people together, and secondly the desire of the government; the media and many sections of society to push the problem under the carpet.

→ **DEBATE** .... More!



However, in a recent poll 78% of the population put unemployment at the top of the agenda for the government - so this must surely be the campaign.

If the 'defence of the nation' (which the government clearly puts top of its agenda, by the amount of money and time spent on that issue) was replaced by an equal desire and resources to remedy unemployment we would be on the way to another tomorrow. The unemployed, the Trade Union and labour movement, and all progressive forces have a responsibility to stop paying lip-service to the problem of unemployment to start working towards getting the issue from the bottom to the top of the agenda.

C. Preston.





# poppy's

## PROBLEM

## PAGE



\* Anxious of Aslockton writes  
I would like to become an actress. What are my chances of succeeding?.

I spoke to an actress friend of mine about this, and she says "Don't think it's all going to be A Midsummer Night's Dream because it isn't. More likely to be a Comedy of Errors. However, if you are very lucky it may be out As You Like It, in which case it will be a case of Alls Well that Ends Well".

\*and from Excited of East Leake  
I have had 10 boyfriends in 12 days, is this a record?.

No dear. A record is a circular piece of black plastic with a hole in the centre.

\*Worried of Wollaton writes  
I fear I may have contracted Herpes. What can I do?.

Don't get upset, there are plenty of A.I.D.S. on the market to combat this.

\*Harrassed Housewife of Hucknall has this problem  
Last January I sent my husband to the local supermarket to buy some carrots. He never came back. What shall I do?.

Open a tin of peas.

\* A cry from the heart from Bald of Balderton  
I am only 24 years old, but I am losing my hair at an alarming rate. Do you advise me to buy a toupee?.

Save your money, in my opinion toupees are a nine days wonder and will not last. In fact, a case of hair today, gone tomorrow.

GOT A PROBLEM?

WRITE TO ME,

*Poppy Tremayne*

Nott'm Centre for the Unemployed.  
66-72, houndsgate.nottm



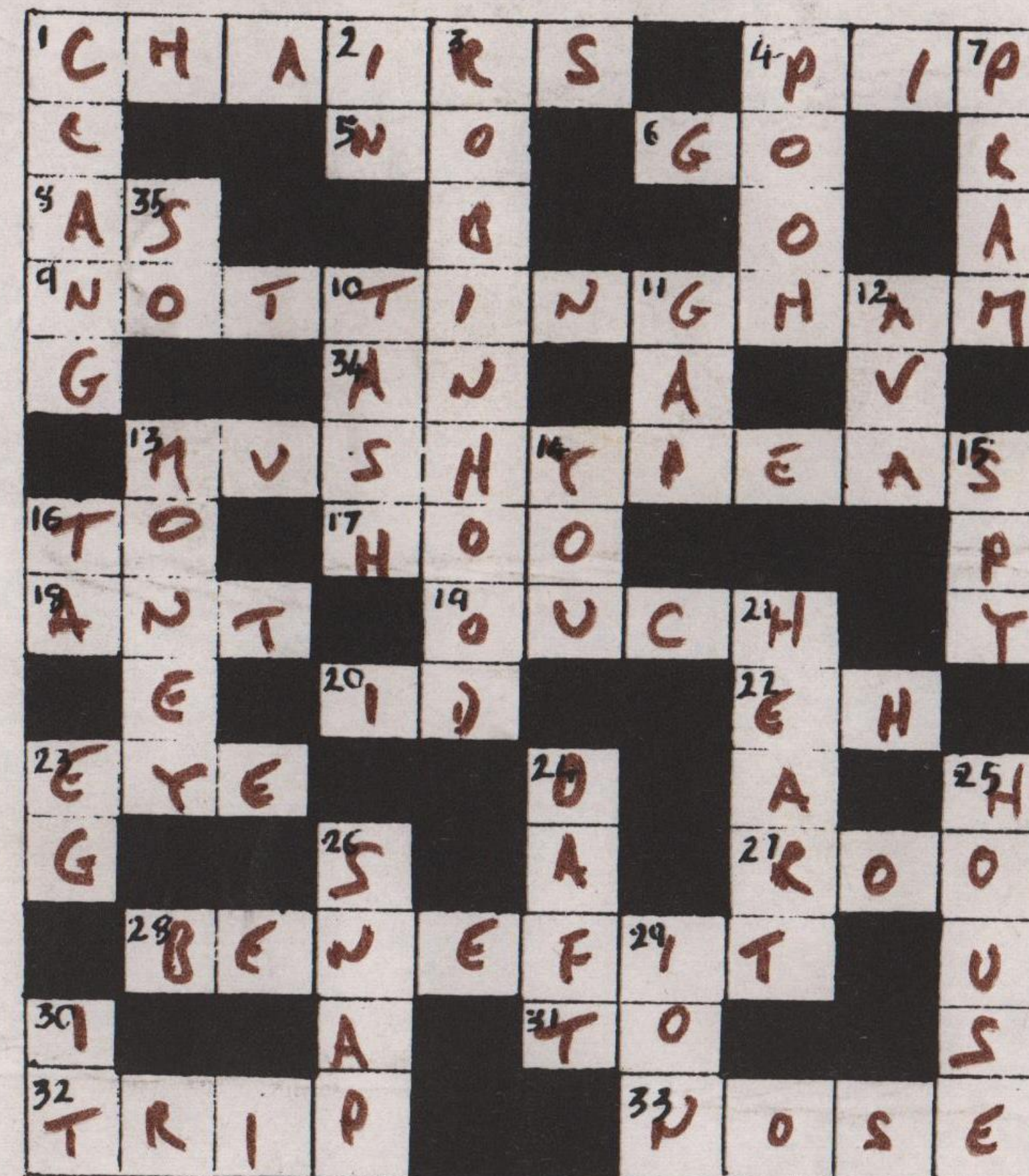
## ACROSS

1. sensible things to sit on. (6)
4. grow an apple tree from one of these. (3)
5. were you born on Mars (in a word).(2)
6. don't stop. (2)
8. very small aspidistra. (2)
9. big place in the middle of england. (10)
13. method of consuming mint sauce, 'ethnic', pale green and messy. (5.4.)
16. not the second number, not in excess or also. (2)
17. boo \_\_\_\_ (cry like a wimp). (3)
18. Dali's favourite animal (breathe heavily without a pee. (3)
19. polite expletive when toes are trod on etc. (4)
20. freudian term for the animal part of consciousness which forms super-ego with ego. (2)
22. Empty Headed, good idea \_\_\_\_? (2)
23. here's mud in yours (needling for camels). (3)
27. small australian jumping animal. (3)
28. comes in giros - often to supplement, may or may not be beneficial. (7)
31. in the direction of, 16 across. (2)
32. take a \_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem. (4)
33. short story by Gogol 'the \_\_\_\_', (dogs still smell without one). (4)
34. trouble without a capital T for this ant (indefinite article for vowels) (2)

## DOWN

1. big bells do this - partial mistake precipitated. (5)
2. not out (2)
3. owner of merry men, now an ugly statue in the castle grounds. (5.4.)
4. euphemism for faeces, also C.Robin's bear. (4)
7. abbreviated perambulator. (4)
10. moustache (abbreviation) (4)
11. a bit missing, cute (sometimes) between front teeth (3)
12. Nabokov's first hit novel (girl's name). (3)
13. you might like to lend me lots of this. (5)
14. not me (different for sheep). (3)
15. I (Callan and Ilya Kuriakin for example) with my little eye. (3)
16. colloquial thankyou, half a goodbye, (very small tarantula) (2)
21. I'll meet you for early doors at the Hand and \_\_\_\_ .(4)
23. small egg, for example. (2)
24. not sensible at all, begins in Duck, then all p.m. (4)
25. you may or may not live in one, use a ho. (5)
26. take a photograph flippantly, speak aggressively. (4)
29. to do with physics - little things with positive or negative charge. (3)
30. bit of bit, without the bit that buzzes. (2)
35. very short soporific, very so-\_\_ clue (2)

# X word



## NUMBER

# 1