

BLACK CONSULTATION PLANS REJECTED

PROPOSALS by the City Labour Group for consultation with the black community have been rejected "out of hand" by a unanimous decision of the Afro-Caribbean and Asian Forum. The Forum claims to represent virtually all of the major black organisations in the city including the Pakistan Centre, Indian Centre and West Indian Nationals Association.

The Labour Group had proposed equal representation from the Forum and the Nottingham African-Caribbean Convention.

The Forum says in a letter to Labour Leader Betty Higgins that "speaker after speaker expressed real anger and frustration, not only at the very idea of a split system of consultation but also about the bizarre basis on which you suggested it. We believe that your Group seriously misunderstands the whole picture of black organisa-

CENTRAL AMERICA CAMPAIGN

THE US militarisation of Central America has plunged the region into a crisis that is worsening by the day.

Nicaragua is now under threat from direct US invasion. All resources budgeted by the Sandinista government for social and economic reconstruction has had to be diverted towards the defence of the country.

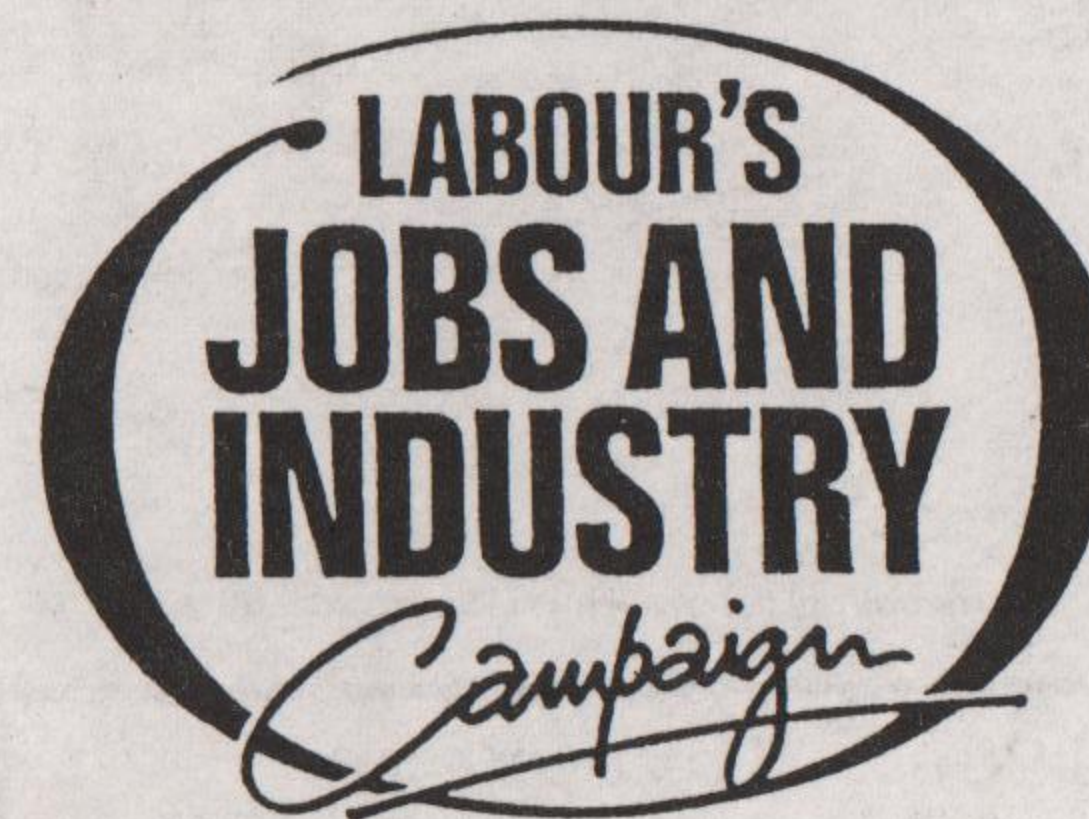
As an act of solidarity we are asking members of the Labour Party to support the twinning of the Nicaraguan city of Juigalpa with Nottingham and to raise funds to buy urgent medical and educational supplies for Nicaragua.

Please send donations to the "Container for Nicaragua Appeal", Central America Solidarity Campaign, c/o Box 2, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

John Truscott



tions within the City". The District Labour Party agreed early in 1984 that the City Council should open formal consultations with the Forum. This was agreed at one stage by the Equal Opportunities Committee but never acted on.



JOBS AND INDUSTRY

A LOCAL working party has been established to develop the Labour Party's Jobs and Industry Campaign. It is intended to stage a number of events leading up to a one-day Jobs and Industry Festival in October.

The Festival will consist of local and national speakers, workshops, theatre, stalls and music. The aim will be to involve local party members and supporters in the campaign and to provide an opportunity for them to have an input into a sound jobs and industry policy. For further information contact Peter Totterdill (783417).

Andy Muter

14 DAY WAR

A NUCLEAR WAR will be over in 14 days, according to the government. This emerged when the County Public Protection Committee agreed to replace the emergency generator at County Hall.

"Why do we need to ensure 14 days supply of fuel?" asked the Labour members. "In order to comply with the government's regulations for war planning", came the answer from the Emergency Planning Officer.

BENEFITS FOR WOMEN

A CAMPAIGN to encourage women to claim all the benefits due to them will be run this summer by the County Welfare Rights Advice Unit. Leaflets will be produced in several languages for distribution to a wide range of women.

PUBLIC SAFETY

ALL major public sports grounds in the County are being contacted following the fire at the Bradford football ground and the deaths in Brussels. The County Council is asking for details of improvements needed to ensure public safety. When the costs are known a bid will be made for grant aid from the government, following Mrs Thatcher's statements of concern on the subject. The Tories opposed the idea of asking for money from central government!

COHSE



SAVE

SAXONDALE HOSPITAL

For speakers contact: Pat Withall (211958) Alan Marshall (335825)

CRISIS IN GUATEMALA

Mon 1st July, 7.30pm, 118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Road. Video and discussion. Monthly meeting of Nott'm Central America Solidarity Campaign.

SUMMER SALE

Saturday 13th July
Jumble, Tombola, Toys, Books, Refreshments. At Queen's Walk Community Centre, The Meadows. 2pm. Admission 5p. (Bridge Branch Labour Party)

PEACE FESTIVAL - July 14th

Victoria Embankment 12-8pm Free.

Music - Jazz, Rock, Folk
Speakers: Pat Arrowsmith (Labour CND), Paul Johns (Christian CND)

Children's Festival - theatre, clowns, cooperative sports and games (details - Cathy 623601)
To run a stall - contact Celia (604968 - evening)

Leaflets/posters/general inquiries - Ross (582506 - day, 623182 - evening)

8,000 people expected, 150 stalls.

Sponsored by Nottingham City Council.

POLICING THE POLICE

National Council for Civil Liberties

Public meeting on police accountability. Wed 24th July, 7.30pm, International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road. Details: Julian Griffiths, 71 Forest Rd E. (703396).

CITY COUNCIL EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETINGS

WOMEN AND WORK Discussion Group

2nd Wed of month, 7.30pm, International Community Centre. Disabled access. All women welcome.

July 10: Sexual harassment and what can be done about it

Further details from Wendy Young 418571 x4513.

WOMEN'S SUB-COMMITTEE

Mon July 29th, 7.30pm, Council House. All women welcome. Half hour open discussion at end of meeting.

GAYS AND LESBIANS SUB-COMMITTEE

1st Thurs of month, 7.30pm, Council House. Half hour open discussion at end of meeting.

CONTRIBUTIONS to ON YER BIKE are welcomed and should be sent to the editor, Nigel Lee, at 51 Braidwood Court, Hyson Green (tel 788059) or c/o The Council House (tel 474331 - messages). Please send news, views, details of meetings, etc. Anything will be published, subject to space, if it is of interest to the broad labour movement in Nottingham, and is not sexist, racist, or libellous. All articles must be:

- 1) signed (please give name, address and tel no)
- 2) less than 100 words
- 3) received by the second Monday of the month.

The editor reserves the right to cut any item longer than 100 words. All unsigned items are the responsibility of the editor.

Advice on writing

- 1) Use short easy words
- 2) Put your main point first
- 3) Answer the questions: WHO WHAT WHERE WHY WHEN
- 4) Don't use abbreviations

BULK COPIES are available from the above address at 6p each for 20 or more copies, 5p each for 500 or more. Yearly bulk orders: 11 issues for the price of 10. Orders must be received, with money, by the third Monday of the month and will be printed by the fourth Monday.

ON YER BIKE is published by Nigel Lee and printed by Bromar Press, 48 St Mary's Gate.

ON YER BIKE!

FOR THE NOTT'M LABOUR MOVEMENT No 1 JULY 1985 10p

ON YER BIKE is a new monthly information service aimed at members of the labour movement in Nottingham. It is edited independently and is open for anyone to send in news, views, etc. Contributions are particularly welcome from women's,

black, lesbian/gay, disabled and other disadvantaged groups; campaign groups; and from organisations and individuals within the labour movement. For details see back page.



POLITICAL FUND BALLOTS

ALL trade unions have until March 1986 to ballot their members if they wish to have a political fund. Without such a fund unions will not be allowed to assist a political party or produce literature which expresses an opinion for or against a party's policy.

A number of unions have already voted in favour of a political fund including SOGAT 82 (printworkers), ISTC (steelworkers) and FTAT (timberworkers).

Local Labour Party members are urged to join in their union's campaign at their own workplace. A local committee has been established to coordinate support for the political fund campaigns in and around Nottingham. Further details from Andy Muter (585977) or Trudi de Haney (708597).

Andy Muter

APOLOGISE RIDDELL!

BLACK groups are still waiting for County Education Chair Fred Riddell to apologise for comments he made on Radio Nottingham in January, a National Council for Civil Liberties meeting was told in May.

Diane Skerit, from the Black Women's Group was explaining the problems faced by black schoolchildren, who are six times more likely to be suspen-

ded than white children. She asked Labour Party branches and councillors to press Coun Riddell for an apology.

Riddell had claimed that black children are more likely to be suspended because of social conditions in the black community.

NCCL agreed to back demands for the Education Department to release the facts about suspensions.

FREE NELSON MANDELA

BOTH City and County Councils gave their support to a national demonstration in June against the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, the black South African leader who has served 21 years of a life sentence.

The County also intends to adopt an anti-apartheid policy boycotting South African goods and investment in companies with South African interests. The City adopted a similar policy last year and named the sports hall in the new John Carroll Leisure Centre in Radford after Nelson Mandela.

EILEEN HEPELL FOR BASFORD By-election - July 11th

HELP needed for by-election for City Council seat caused by death of Tory councillor Cyril Swift.

The Labour candidate is Eileen Heppell. Basford was won for Labour in the County elections in May by John Heppell.

It is a crucial seat. If Labour win it will in-

crease the Labour majority from 1 to 3.

For details of how to help the Labour Party campaign, contact Ron Stevenson (418087) or Eileen Heppell (205502).



MEETING FOR WOMEN WORKERS

WOMEN who work for the City Council will be encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss a Council report on Employment of Women. Two women-only meetings will be held to explain progress on the Equal Opportunities Policy, to get the views of women employees, and to encourage them to get involved. The Tories opposed these meetings.

Figures presented to the Equal Opportunities Committee over the past year show that only one out of the Council's top 177 officers is a woman, and only 59 out of the top 675. Most women are concentrated in the lower clerical grades.

WHEELCHAIR HIRE

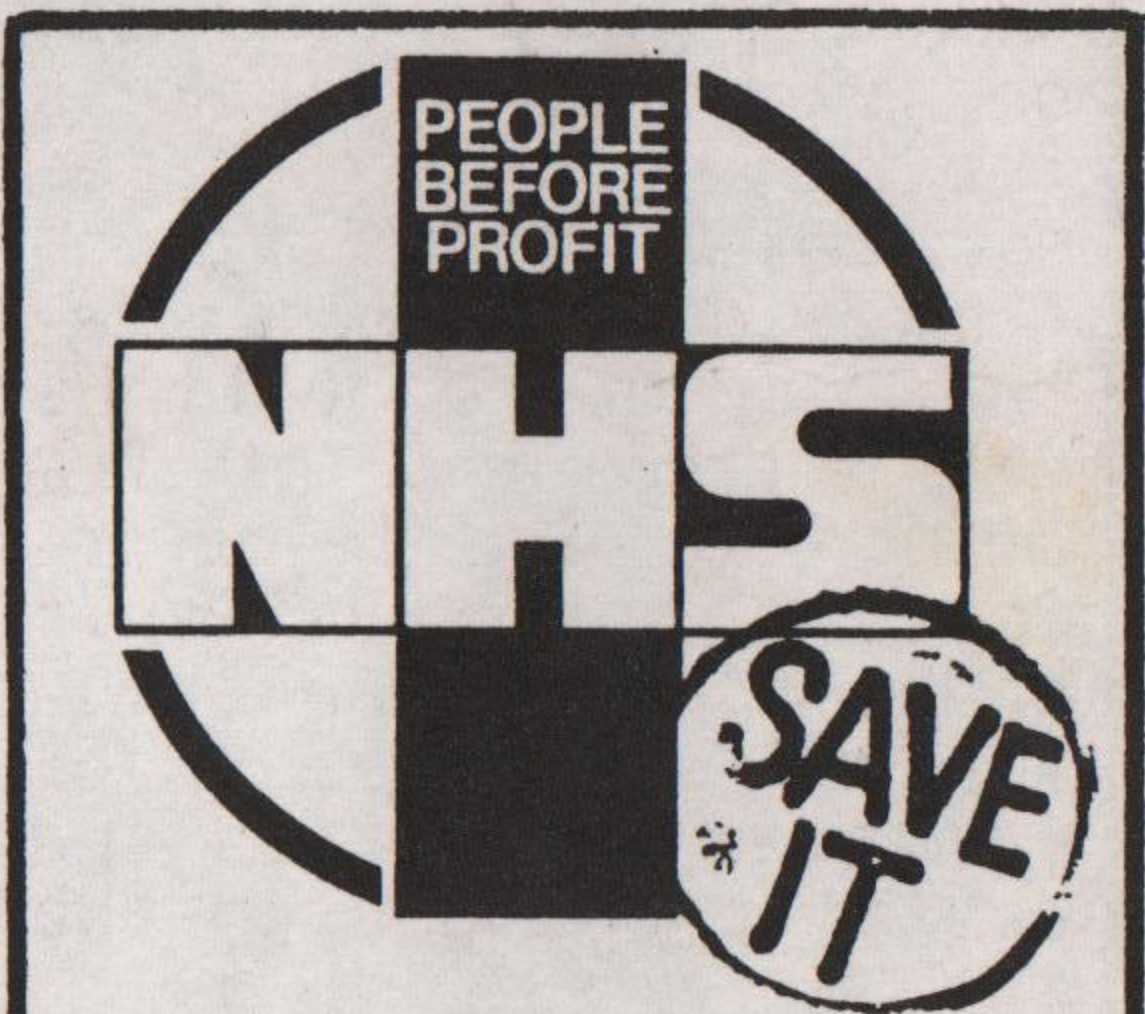
DISABLED people may soon be able to hire a wheelchair at the Broadmarsh Centre to help with shopping, etc. The City's Equal Opportunities Committee has backed a scheme to provide battery operated and hand propelled wheelchairs six days a week for hire free of charge.

It could be run by disabled people employed by the Council's Manpower Services Commission Community Programme Agency, and

would take telephone bookings. If it is a success it may be extended to the Victoria Centre and other places.

TEN GAY YEARS

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD is celebrating its 10th anniversary. This telephone advice service has been operating since 1975 and is now available 7pm-10pm, Mon-Thurs on 411454. It gives information on gay pubs and clubs, gay groups and organisations; help with legal problems, job problems, medical problems; advice on coming to terms with being gay, ending isolation, parental problems, transvestism and transsexuality, etc, etc. For further information write to the group at 31A Mansfield Road.



HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN

A CAMPAIGN against cuts in the health service was launched at the May meeting of the City Council's Health Sub Committee. 1,000 copies of an Action Pack have been produced with support from the City Council and labour movement organisations.

A workshop is being held at 2pm on Saturday 6th July to explain how groups can use the pack to get over the problems faced by the NHS to the public.

For further details contact the Health Defence Campaign, c/o Alan Hughes, NUPE, 6 Sherwood Rise (tel 603522).



CHAR

THE
CAMPAIGN
FOR SINGLE
HOMELESS
PEOPLE

STOP DHSS EVICTIONS

SEVERAL hundred young people locally are threatened with being made homeless as a result of changes in DHSS rules.

People under 26 in board and lodging are being given 28 days to find a flat, or their money will be cut and they will be evicted.

CHAR, the Campaign for Single Homeless, is asking all housing departments in the county, social workers, and DHSS to use loopholes in the rules to allow people to stay in board and lodging until they can be rehoused off a council waiting list.

Meetings for those affected are being held every Thursday at 2pm at the Centre for Unemployed on Houndsgate. Further details from Rita Alker, 32 Waterloo Road (788312).

10 YEARS OF NAC 1975-1985 TO YEARS OF FIGHTING BACK!

"OUR BODIES, our lives, our right to decide" is the key slogan of the National Abortion Campaign - the right to decide whether or not to continue with a pregnancy. This has meant defending the restricted rights available under the 1967 Abortion Act, but also pressing for improved facilities and positive changes in the law.

The last ten years reads rather like a war journal - with most of the fights being defensive of the 1967 Act.

Every attack must be taken up and challenged. Affiliate to Nottingham NAC and keep in touch with what's happening locally and nationally. Contact Jane Browne, 142 Holme Road, West Bridgford (822206).

Be forewarned. Our belated 10th birthday present from the government is likely to be wide-ranging restrictive legislation coming out of the Warnock report which they have promised us for 1986/87! The fight continues!

Margaret Davies

ECONOMIC STRATEGIES GROUP

UNEMPLOYMENT and the economy must be seen as the key issue for the Labour Party. Yet many areas of the Party's economic strategy remain undeveloped or ambiguous. And most party members have little opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experience to the development of policy.

The Labour Party Economic Strategies Group is currently being set up to meet these needs by providing a forum in which a cross-section of party members can be involved. The Group - which will be formally launched at a major conference in London on June 29th - will operate in a highly decentralised way with the bulk of the work being done by local groups to reflect local needs and priorities.

A local group has been set up in the Nottingham-Leicester-Derby area, and all party members interested in industry and the economy are welcome. Please contact:

Peter Totterdill
31 Cromwell Street (783417)

PAY HOSPITAL INTERPRETERS

INTERPRETERS should be provided by the Health Authority and paid a proper wage, says the Nottingham Health Strategy Group. The Group agreed to write to the Health Authority after hearing Parveen Mirza from the Asian Women's Project talk about the work they had been doing at the Queen's Medical Centre.

The QMC relied on interpreters from their Project who were only paid expenses, said Parveen, while the JIPAC Ladies Circle was doing similar work at the City Hospital. (JIPAC is the Joint Indian Pakistan and Afro Caribbean project funded by the Man-



SMASH THE
WHITE
BENYON
CORRIE
BILL!

AND NOW POWELL...

power Services Commission.)

The Asian Women's Project had also worked hard to get the QMC to provide a range of Asian meals for patients, said Parveen. Many Asian women who had their children at the QMC had not been eating because they could not eat western food. The Project had got a lot of support from Liz Haggard at the Community Health Council and the QMC Nursing Officer.

They had not yet tackled the need for more women doctors.



"I'm sorry Mr Smith, it's just part of the NHS cuts."

WAITING LIST UP

14,907 families were on the City Council's waiting list for a council house in March 1985. This is an increase of 1,494 over the figure a year earlier.

But government cuts have meant that the number of new council houses started in the last year (1984/85) was only 111, with only 50 planned for this year. 766 council houses were sold in 1984/85 under the Tories' Right to Buy legislation.

Further details are contained in the Chief Executive's "Progress Report on the Housing Programmes" dated May 1985. These reports are produced every six months.

MEAL FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE

ENJOY an excellent 3 course Indian meal for only £2.75, and help to sponsor a youth exchange visit to South India. The EKTA Youth Club, based at the Indian Community Centre, is taking 16 young people in July to visit the Sri Ramana Academy for the Blind in Bangalore as its contribution to the United Nations International Youth Year. A return visit will be paid in 1986. The meals are being provided

LETTER FROM AFAR

Dear Editor,

Can I start off by welcoming the appearance of **On Yer Bike**. Since the demise of Nottingham Labour Briefing, information has depended all too often on pub gossip.

I'd like to finish by "providing information" on the City Council's response to the recent school students' protest against changes in YTS regulations. I gather (from pub gossip) that only two members of the City Labour Group were prepared to oppose the Leader's de facto decision to deny the students use of the Market Square.

I really think that there should be some concern that for many of these young people, their first taste of the Labour Party is that we've done our damndest to get them arrested.

All yours,
"Disgusted of Stafford"
(Eddie Ashbee)

ided every Friday until 19 July from 6.30-9.30pm at the Indian Centre, Rawson Street, New Basford, as part of EKTA's efforts to raise funds for the visit. Themes for the UN International Youth Year are Peace, Participation and Development.

PUBLIC SERVICES GROUP

A NEW national Working Group on Public Services has been set up by the Conference of Socialist Economists. The first meeting was being held in Sheffield on 22nd June.

"The government's attack on public services and the welfare state is intensifying", says the handout for the meeting, but "the labour movement's response has often been too little too late" and "there appears to be less and less debate on developing alternative policies".

The group will look at particular sectors such as the NHS, local government, nationalised industries, etc, as well as the common issues. Further details from Dexter Whitfield, 71 Bathurst Gardens, Kensal Rise, London NW10 (tel 01-960 5989 or 01-253 3627).

YOUTH SERVICE REVIEW

A MAJOR review of youth service management is being carried out by the County Council, following a damning report produced by senior officers last year. Drastic changes are expected.

HEATING PROBE DEMANDED

ST ANN'S Heating Group is demanding an independent investigation into their District Heating Scheme. Following a public meeting last November the group organised a postcard campaign asking tenants to report problems.

Over 500 cards were handed to the City Labour leader Betty Higgins in April showing 80% complaining about high costs and inadequate heat, and 26% about inadequate repair and maintenance.

The scheme has always had problems. The idea was that the city's rubbish would be burned at Easter-oft to produce hot water to heat inner city council estates. But there have been problems with the incinerators breaking down, heat loss from the hot water mains, too little heat getting to some houses, and the notoriously inaccurate heat meters used by Clorius Meters (now called Mainmet) to calculate people's bills.

The June Housing Committee referred the group's demands to the Eastcroft Consumers Committee which includes all the agencies who have conspired to produce such a lousy heating system.

REVERSE THE GILLICK RULING

MRS Victoria Gillick, mother of ten children, has been successful in her endeavour to outlaw contraceptive advice (given by their doctors or through sex education at school) or treatment for girls under 16 without

parental consent.

Prior to the Gillick ruling, under-age pregnancies and the number of under-age abortions had declined sharply as a result of DHSS advice to doctors allowing them to give treatment or advice. Now it is feared there will be a return to under-age pregnancies, abortions or unwanted children.

The legislation effectively makes under 16 year old girls the "property" of their parents. Yet another area for grave concern is incest.

On June 24th the DHSS was appealing to the Lords against the ruling. The National Abortion Campaign was organising a national demonstration for June 23rd and also a petition.

So what can you do? Write to your MP, sign the petition, join NAC, get your branch or trade union to have a speaker, support future demonstrations. For details: Jane Browne on 822206.

NO TO VICTORIA'S VALUES!
Tina Yemm

UNDER 16s
ARE
PEOPLE NOT
PROPERTY
REVERSE GILLICK

NEWS ON SUNDAY

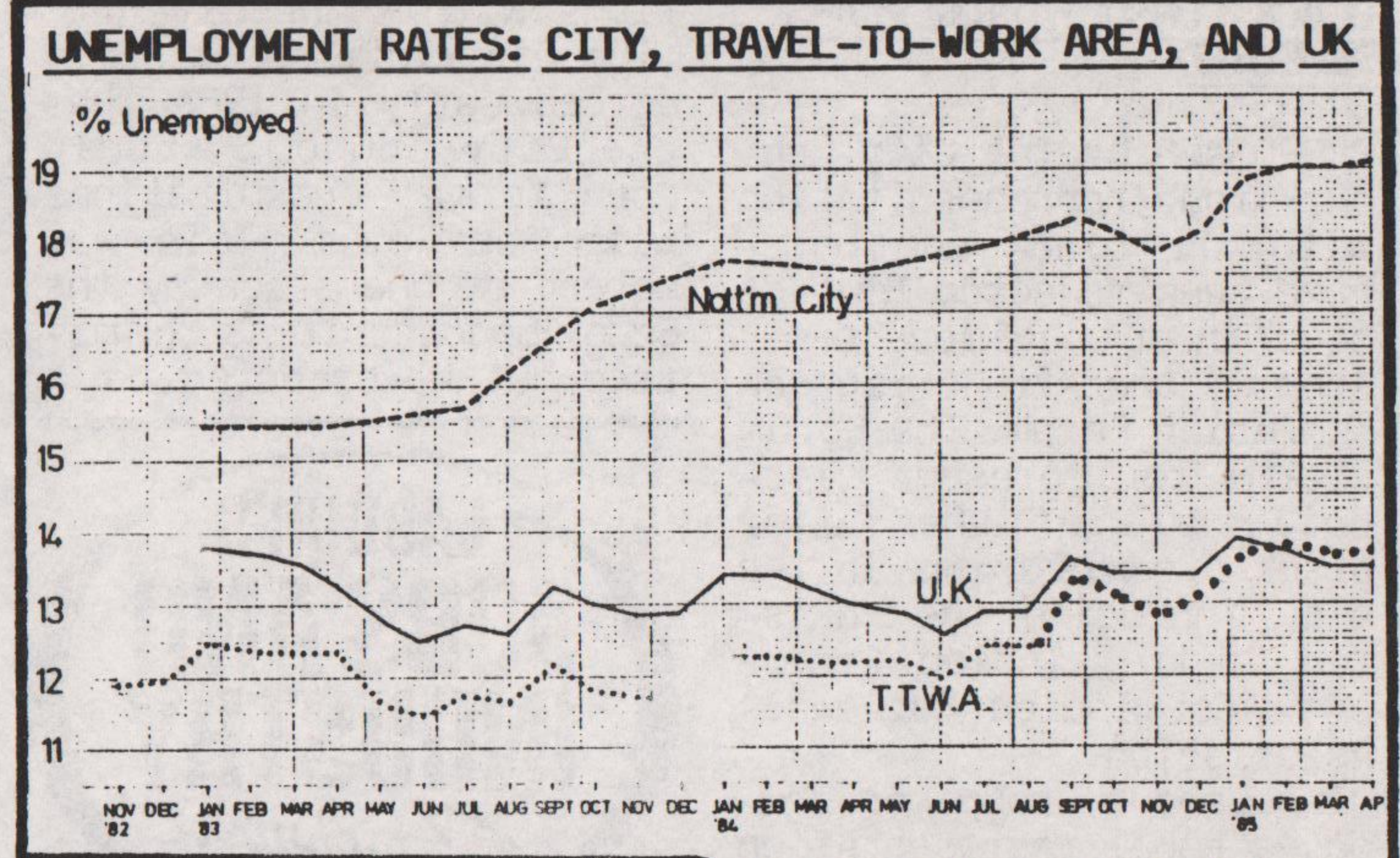
SICK and tired of reading lie after lie in the establishment press? An alternative is on the way.

Although NEWS ON SUNDAY, a socialist national Sunday tabloid, is not due for launch until October

BLACK SECTIONS

Black sections are about more representation of black people at all levels in Labour Party organisation as well as in local councils and Parliament. They are trying to get a direct say for black people in the fight against racism and oppression. It is first and foremost a duty of every socialist to join the struggle of black comrades to put an end to the disadvantage and oppression of black people.

(Extracts from an article in **National Labour Briefing** by Hassan Ahmed, chair of Nott'm East Labour Party black section and national coordinator of the Campaign for recognition of Black Sections.)



1986, involvement is needed now from activists, trades unionists, journalists, photographers, and anyone wishing to see a paper reporting live issues either ignored or misrepresented by our free press.

Strong regional NoS groups are essential to ensure support and input from outside London. It is up to us to press for the political and editorial stance we want, to make sure NoS is, and remains, a radical different paper. For further information about the Nottingham group, ring Juris on 700335.

Juris Jostins

OUT AND ABOUT

A GUIDE for disabled people in Nottingham City Centre is to be produced shortly by the City Planning Department. It aims to encourage disabled people to use facilities by giving details of accessibility at a wide range of places which they may wish to visit.

It is hoped the guide will contribute to: (i) disabled people's ability to pursue an independent life style. (ii) the public's awareness of disabled people's problems. (iii) property owners' and developers' willingness to adapt their premises for disabled people's use.



AIDS EPIDEMIC

THE AIDS epidemic strikes at large inner city areas and has already claimed

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN CITY

UNEMPLOYMENT in Nottingham City is running at 5.6% higher than the national average. And in Nottingham East it is 11.7% higher, according to figures calculated by the City Planning Department for April.

These showed the rate of unemployment nationally was 13.5% compared to 19.1% in the city and 25.2% in Nottingham East. For men the rate was 30.6% in Nottingham East compared to 16.3% nationally, and for women 16.8% compared to 9.8%.

The official totals of unemployed in April were 23,632 in the city, 44,736 in the Nottingham Travel to Work Area, 59,026 in the County and 3,272,565 nationally.

the lives of 120 in Britain. Up to 400 cases can be expected before 1985 is out.

Current government policy is to direct growth money in the NHS away from the inner cities, the very areas where AIDS will hit the hardest. This crisis could be partly eased in the short term if available NHS growth monies were reallocated back to the inner cities to help fight this killer disease of the 21st century.

This was one of the messages coming from the European conference on AIDS which took place in London in early June organised by the Terrence Higgins Trust, named after the first British AIDS victim to die.

Further details: G.N., Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road.

Edward Nasmith

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

ASBESTOS is to be removed from public baths at Bestwood, Noel Street and Northern Baths at a cost of £20,000.