



This cartoon, from *The Irish Times* of 16 July 1981, comments on the visit of six senior police officers from 'riot areas' in Britain to the North of Ireland for a crash course in riot control from the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

PLASTIC BULLETS

A RECENT *News at Ten* news item presented the new paramilitary police "riot" gear like a fashion show.

The devastating effects of plastic bullets have never been broadcast.

On **Tuesday 28th January**, two members of the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets from West Belfast will speak in Nottingham at a Trades Council public meeting.

Emma Groves, blinded by a

rubber bullet in 1971, and Brenda Downes, widow of John Downes, will describe the use of rubber and plastic bullets in the Six Counties.

Could it/when will it happen here? Should we continue to allow it to happen there?

Venue and speakers from the mining and black communities to be confirmed. For further information:

**Ian Juniper** (582369 - work)  
Trades Council Ireland Sub-Committee Secretary

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN

A SCHEME to set up a "Computer Aided Design Bureau" for the local clothing industry has been backed by the City Council.

The aim is to make modern technology available on a shared basis to as wide a range of manufacturers as possible, particularly the smaller firms and young designer/manufacture firms who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

It would also enable larger manufacturers to assess the new system before getting their own. And it would help with training.

The scheme is in line with City Council policy to back whole sectors of the local economy rather than individual firms.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LABOUR PARTY COMPUTER GROUP

THERE is already in existence a national computer advisory group, and members of it have written programs for electoral organisation and keeping membership records.

Computers can also be effectively used in campaigning, fund raising, electoral analysis and party administration.

The group will also give advice on the Data Protection Act.

We wish to set up a local group in Nottinghamshire, to put some of our ideas into practice. If anyone, who need not own a computer or be a computer expert, is interested in taking part, could they contact me at 38 Ebers Grove or telephone 609007.

Chris Clark



CONTRIBUTIONS to *On Yer Bike* are welcomed and should be sent to the editor: Nigel Lee, 51 Braidwood Court, Hyson Green (tel 788059). Priority will be given to items which are signed, less than 100 words, and relevant to the broad labour movement in Nottingham. Items longer than 100 words will be cut. Deadline is the second monday of the month (Jan 13 for Feb issue).

As a trial, from February onwards one page of each *On Yer Bike* will be offered to a group to describe their work in greater depth, as long as



**ACTION FOR BENEFITS**  
**What Future for Social Security?** Half day conference. **Sat 22 Feb, 1-4.30**, YMCA Lounge, Shakespeare St. Access for disabled. Creche provided. Organised by Nottingham Action for Benefits Campaign. **Help defend the Welfare State**

**BENEFIT FOR NICARAGUA**  
**Fri 31 Jan, 8 till midnight.** Hyson Green Boys Club, Terrace St. With 7 person latin american band **Compania Veinte Cinco De Agosto** comprising Mexicans, Colombians and Venezuelans. Tickets £2 (students £1.50, unwaged £1) (50p extra on door) from Nott'm Community Arts Centre, HG Boys Club, Mushroom Bookshop, 118 Workshop, Ourduboros Wholefoods.

CITY COUNCIL EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETINGS

**Sub-Committeemeetings** (7.30pm, Council House)  
**Women:** 4th Mon (27 Jan)  
**Lesbians & Gays:** Thurs 9 Jan (normally 1st Thurs)  
**Race:** Thurs 23 Jan  
**Disability Working Party:** Tues 7 Jan, 7.30. Venue to be fixed.

**Discussion Groups**  
**Asian Women:** 6pm, Tues 14 Jan. Venue to be fixed.  
**Women & Work:** 7.30, Wed 8 Jan, ICC, 61B Mansfield Rd.  
**Women & Racism:** To be fixed.  
**Lesbians:** (Thursdays, 7.30, ICC) 16 Jan - Lesbian Centre, 23 Jan - Lesbian Social Scene, 30 Jan - Lesbians and children.

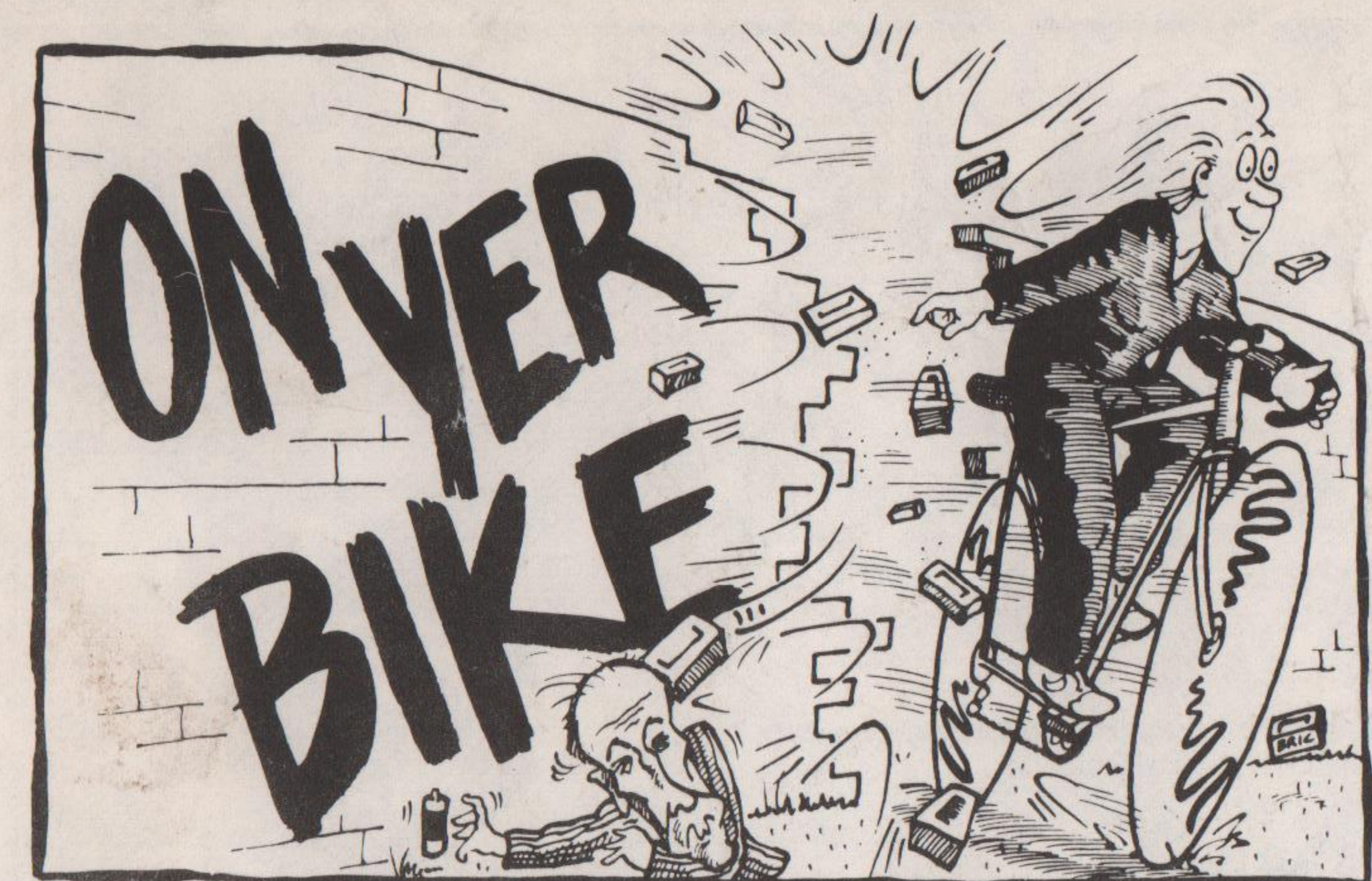
**Gay Men:** Thurs 30 Jan, 7.30, ICC.  
Further details from Equal Opportunities Unit (418571).

this is of broad relevance within the Greater Nottingham area. Contact the editor for further details.

**ADVERTS:** Small ads free to labour movement and voluntary groups. Personal ads 1p per word. Display ads on request.

**BULK RATES** are available on request - from only 2p per copy. Orders must be received by the second monday of the month and will normally be printed by the fourth monday.

Printed by NUSU Printshop, NG7 2QH.



No 6 January 1986 5p  
FOR THE NOTTINGHAM LABOUR MOVEMENT

ON YER BIKE is a monthly information service aimed at members of the labour movement in the Nottingham area. It is edited independently. 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.

RALEIGH MANAGEMENT CHALLENGED BY STAFF

II RALEIGH management have been slammed in an open letter from technical staff at Raleigh and Sturmeys Archer. They say the II Raleigh Board over the past years has:-

1. Replaced the managers who led by example and knew how to instil discipline and pride into the workforce.
2. Failed to plan ahead and update plant and machinery.
3. Adopted a policy of "buying in" components instead of manufacturing on site.
4. Bought in outside "expertise" when the true cycle experts already work on site.
5. Thrown away lucrative overseas markets by failing to maintain quality and adequate after sales service.
6. Failed miserably to consider the needs of Raleigh employees. When a joint working party, forced on management by technical staff, showed up glaring management inadequacies it was immediately shelved.
7. Sacked thousands of employees and lowered the living standards of those remaining.
8. Drastically reduced the intake of apprentices.

The statement says: "Japanese strategy is simple. Management works closely with employees, fully trains them and provides up-to-date technology, equipment and environment."

But in the new situation with Raleigh: "Management does not work effectively with its employees and therefore has little credibility with them. Managers and departments are shuffled and changed regularly, policies are constantly altered and reversed, redundancy phase follows redundancy phase. There is no clear stated plan, no genuine attempt at a teamwork approach. The result is division, low morale and laissez-faire attitudes."

The letter is signed by Jack Kirkham, Alan Withnall, Derek Kinnear and Phil Limbrick for the Joint Office Committee TASS(AUEW) Representing Technical Staff. It was written before the eight day lay off announced by Raleigh over Christmas.

**RALEIGH**



BLACK GROUPS CALL FOR SUSPENSIONS INVESTIGATION

FOR the past three years black organisations have been campaigning against the unfair treatment of black children in local schools.

This campaign has centred primarily on what they see as the racist suspension pattern of black pupils who are less than 6% of the school population locally, making up 42% of overall suspensions.

After three years of trying to get the Education Authority to take positive steps aimed at reversing this disturbing

trend and consistently having their efforts thwarted by stubborn refusal of the Chairman of Education to enter into serious negotiation with representatives of the campaign, the group has decided to invite the Commission for Racial Equality to conduct a formal investigation of the procedures used by the Authority which continues to allow black pupils to be suspended at a rate of seven times more than their overall proportion in the school population.

Leroy Wallace

UNEQUAL UNEMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT in the city for October varied from 6.8% for Wollaton Ward to 42.2% for Lenton Ward.

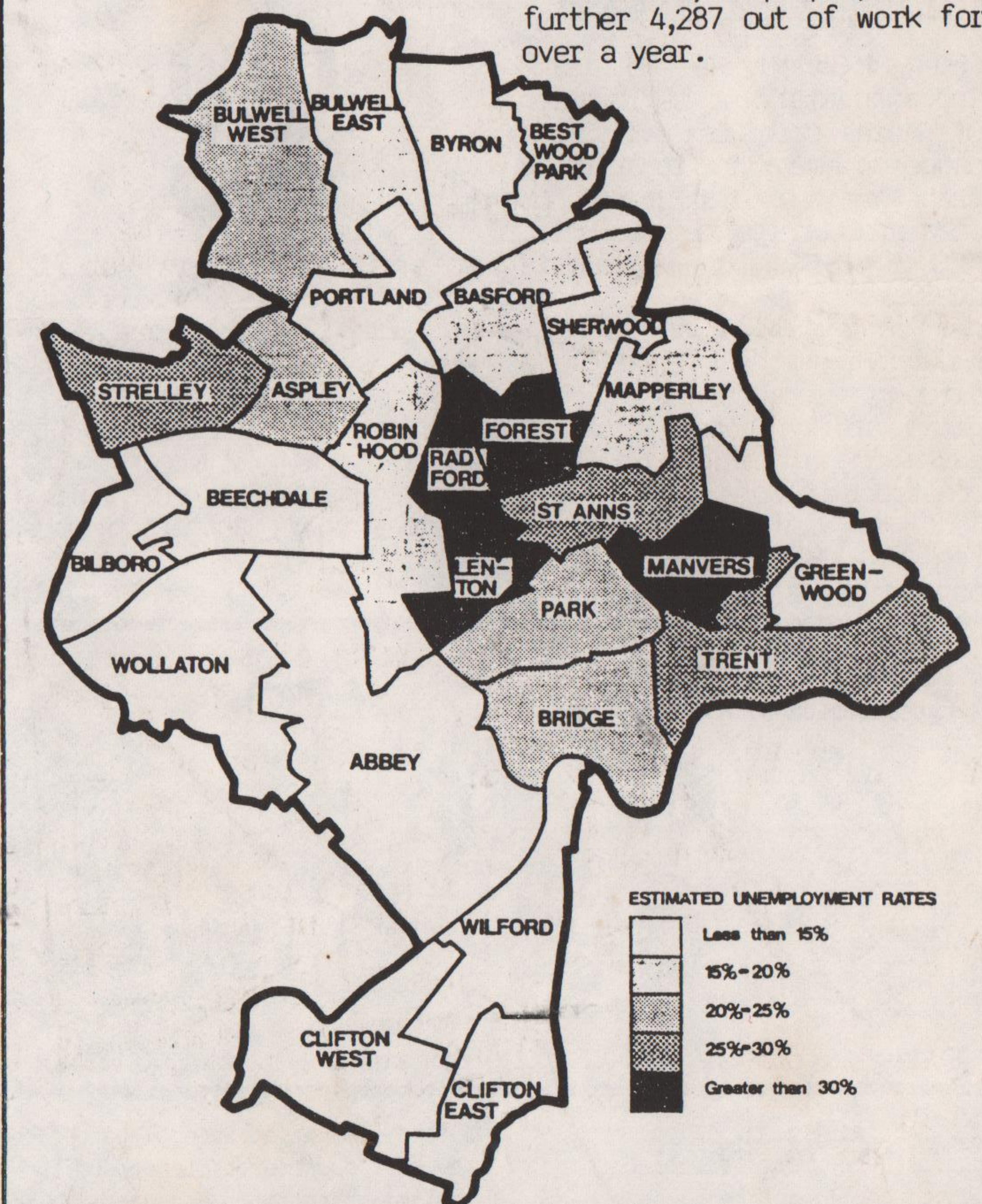
Other wards with high unemployment were Radford (40.8%), Forest (35.3%), Manvers (32.0%), St Ann's (26.9%), Trent (28.7%) and

Strelley (26.9%).

In Lenton Ward, male unemployment reached 51.1%.

These figures were prepared by the City Planning Department from data purchased from the Manpower Services Commission.

They also show that 30.1% of the city's unemployed had been out of work for over two years - that is 7,042 people, with a further 4,287 out of work for over a year.



HOUSING MALADMINISTRATION

THE CITY'S Housing Department speaks with forked tongue. That is the conclusion to be drawn from an ombudswoman's report presented to the December meeting of the Housing Committee.

She said that two senior housing officers had given different statements about how the Department's allocations system works. She found the Department guilty of maladministration.

But the Director of Housing rejected the charge, saying that their computer prints out applicants' names in the order expected by the Council's policy. (But this is not quite the same as the policy quoted by the ombudswoman!)

\*The Labour Party's 1983 manifesto committed the City Council to adopting a points system so that people could clearly see where they are on the waiting list. That commitment has never been acted on.



ABOUT THIS BADGE

THE spanner and spade represent the workers and farmers who are leading the struggle against imperialist rule and capitalist exploitation in Latin America. The rifle represents the armed struggle, the only road to freedom. VENCER O MORIR means Victory or Death. The volcano represents the rebellion of the people. Red and black is the banner of the FMLN of El Salvador, and the FSLN of Nicaragua.

All proceeds from this badge will be used to enable two sacked miners to join a national Trade Union Delegation to El Salvador, organised by the El Salvador Campaign in January 1986.

Please help us to distribute this badge by ordering as many as you can quickly sell from Nottingham Central America Solidarity Campaign on 582369.

Sarah Goff

ASPLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

ORGANISATIONS working in the Aspley area are meeting regularly as the Aspley Community Forum.

Two meetings have been held, chaired by Labour County Councillor Florence Price, attended by over eighty people representing over thirty organisations.

Further details from Aspley Resource Centre (780852).

VERSES ON THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT

Margaret your name is mud  
You don't act like a Premier should  
Our North Sea oil is our bonus too,  
You have squandered it, what are we to do?

We could have built for future years,  
Instead we'll live in a vale of tears.

Riven in two the nation stands  
A piteous sight to happier lands,  
Divided miners, ruined pits,  
While the new elite lives off its wits.

Grossly their income rises high  
While poor folk beg just to get by.  
Dearer transport, dearer heating,  
Yet you say that Inflation's got a beating.

Deluded people believe your story,  
"There's no alternative once you've voted Tory."

Band Aid saves the African starving  
While Government here our aid is halving.

Marjorie Brown



## INQUIRY CALLED FOR AT CRISIS HOSPITAL

STAFF organisations at Saxondale Hospital have demanded an immediate inquiry by the Health Authority.

They say there has been "an outcry from staff who object to the way that elderly patients' care and comforts have been inhumanely abused", and "nurses are extremely concerned for the well-being and dignity of elderly patients who cannot speak out to defend themselves."

"The Saxondale closure is being mismanaged", said Peter Mycroft, secretary of the staff side. "The staff do not accept the closure and feel that a hospital should be retained on the site to serve the local community. But if the hospital is to be de-commissioned it should be done responsibly, with due regard to the humanitarian aspects."

Details: Bingham 37816 (home) or Radcliffe 2911 x204 (work).



## LABOUR WOMEN ORGANISE

LABOUR Party women met in Nottingham recently to establish a regional structure for meeting on an informal and more frequent basis than the regional conferences allow.

Women want to unite around women's issues and to have a strong regional voice. This includes supporting the demands of the Women's Action Committee (WAC) which seeks to strengthen the power of the

## CND TO BLOCKADE MOLESWORTH

FEB 6 1985. Michael Heseltine led a military style invasion of Molesworth to evict the peace movement and to start to transform the quiet grasslands into a US cruise missile base.

FEB 6 1986. To mark this anniversary National CND has called a day of action. It will take the form of a sitdown blockade at all the gates of the base, with the aim of disrupting the construction work.

Our non-violence will show that we want to build a peaceful world by peaceful



means. Through civil disobedience we will be upholding international law which decrees that the mass killing of civilians is a crime. We will also be upholding majority opinion.

Nottingham CND are organising coaches and preparation days. Details: 581178.

Karen Winfield

Despite the greater stress,  
new technology is much more - fulfilling.



(Evans cartoons reprinted from Trentsider: Notts NALGO News)

## NO TO THE UDM! STOP THE SPLITTERS!

DON Concannon and Frank Haynes MPs have made clear their support for the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. In return the UDM promise sponsorship at re-selection.

Concannon's party branch voted against UDM recognition yet this was deliberately left off the Mansfield party's agenda. Ashfield refused to discuss a similar resolution which appeared on the agenda as from Women Against Pit Closures although from a branch!

Meanwhile the party's

National Executive Committee say UDM members already in the party can remain, but deny new membership. According to the constitution eligibility for membership depends on membership of a TUC affiliated or a bona fide union. The UDM now has official (NCB) recognition. Does this make them bona fide?

The issue is political not constitutional.

MAKE SURE YOUR LABOUR PARTY/TRADE UNION BRANCH IS CLEAR ON WHERE IT STANDS!

More information: Nottm Women Against Pit Closures (703671).

Tina Yemm

## WOMEN'S AID

WOMEN'S AID is a voluntary organisation offering practical help and sympathetic support to women suffering physical/mental violence.

Its independence from statutory bodies means that women tend to find it more approachable than social services institutions, but women's aid is in desperate

need of secure funding. Grant is only given for one worker and small running costs.

Two new refugees are about to be open to all women and funds and resources are desperately needed. An application for two workers, one for each refuge, has been made and this needs



your support. Details on how to support our resources campaign on 476490.

Alex Meade

women's organisation in the party through the reform of internal structure.

A regional WAC organisation will be set up to fight for women's demands in the party.

The next meeting will be March 1st 1986, venue not yet known. Any interested women contact me on 604659.

Margaret Davies

## NURSES EVICTED

IT SEEMS the season of goodwill does not cover Nurses and Hospital Workers.

Everyone is totally confused. First the District Manager said he was appalled to see Nurses protesting in the streets against losing their homes, but then qualifies this by saying he understood their anger as there had been no consultation, just notice to quit.

Still more notices go out, and management say No to Unions being involved in talks.

First advice get on your bike, no not you Nurse, you get your hiking boots on, you will need them to astound the Manager once again when he sees you marching the streets looking for some place to live.

Eric Boon

## ANIMALS' CHARTER CAMPAIGN

THE Nottingham Animals' Charter Group is campaigning to persuade Nottingham City Council to set up a Working Party to consider ways of outlawing cruelty, and gross exploitation and abuse of animals.

The Group has drawn up a Charter which looks at 'six areas where reform must take place. These are: Companion Animals, Experiments on Living Animals, Factory Farming, Slaughter, Wildlife, and Performing Animals.

The final section looks to Education to enhance knowledge of, and compassion and responsibility towards animals, so that the intolerable suffering which many endure may be lessened.

If you support this Campaign, please telephone 280337, or write to Earthwise, 182 Mansfield Road.

Pat Ball

## NEWS ON SUNDAY

NEWS ON SUNDAY will be a new national paper on the left, to be launched in October 1986. It will be a quality paper but with the liveliness of a tabloid.

It will aim to make left wing, feminist and anti-racist ideas open to a far wider audience.

A mock-up was recently produced for comment. A meeting of the Nottingham NoS group in November discussed several points - e.g. the need to put into practice the commitment to a feminist perspective throughout the paper, better use of photographs and cartoons, etc.

Support is wanted from local trade unions and other groups. Further details from Juris Jostins, Flat 1, 63 Gregory Boulevard, or Duncan Robertson 585111 (9-5).

## CORRECT DECISION

JINNAH SOCIETY and DAWAT-E-ISLAMIA are Muslim groups in Sneinton with almost similar aims.

Both are members of a Union of Pakistani Organisations. Both applied for grant aid. County asked them to work together. DAWAT accepted the suggestion, JINNAH rejected it.

DAWAT itself had raised funds and purchased a building. A third group - Sneinton Muslim Group - which had previously applied unsuccessfully for funding to buy the same building had joined DAWAT.

DAWAT is ALREADY meeting running costs of its project. JINNAH could not function without revenue support.

With limited resources - small capital and no revenue - County decided CORRECTLY to help DAWAT not JINNAH.

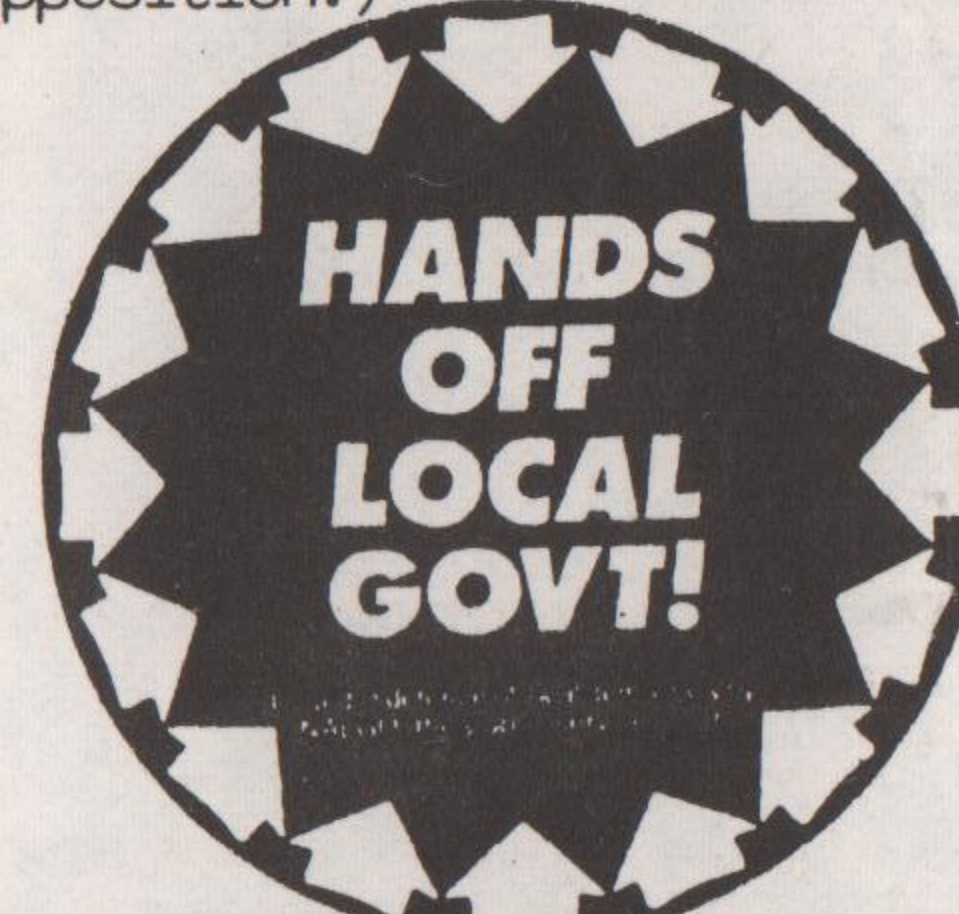
Cllr Mohammad Aslam

## OPPOSE PRIVATISATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

AT a recent national Social Services conference, Joan Taylor, Chair of Notts Social Services Committee successfully moved a resolution urging maximum opposition to Government proposals to privatise social services.

Part of the resolution stated "The consequences of such doctrinal policies are so appalling that this conference urges all Social Services Committees to mobilise the maximum opposition to fight

the Government's proposals." (taken from Trentsider (Notts NALGO News) which hoped that Notts County Council would now be in the lead in mobilising opposition.)



## CAN THE COUNTY FACE UP TO EQUALITY?

SADLY the present discussions in the County Labour Group indicate a resounding NO.

The manifesto commitments on Equal Opportunities were short but specific. On current intentions the Group looks set to fall at the first hurdle - there will not be a single high level Committee with responsibility for developing and implementing the policy; consultations will come after

decisions have been made and not before; in any case views submitted will be persistently ignored.

Since leaders of the Group have repeatedly asserted their commitment to equality it is difficult to fathom why they are intent on a course which will make it impossible to deliver. Perhaps it is some kind of secret virility test!

Trudi de Haney

## NO DISCRIMINATION ON AIDS

"THERE should be no discrimination against those suspected of AIDS, either at work or in the community," concluded a report by City Council officers for the Council's Health Sub-Committee.

It also stated that: "The risk to staff and members of the public from normal social contact with an infected individual is nil."

The report was backed by the Sub-Committee which also agreed to a Thames Television leaflet on AIDS being circulated to all 5,000 of the Council's staff.

## PHOBIC ASSOCIATION

THE Nottingham Phobic Association gives hope and encouragement to sufferers of the highly debilitating nervous condition known as agoraphobia, and of other types of phobia, in many cases effecting a cure.

All are welcome to join. The self-help group deals with every phobic problem - e.g. bus, train and air travel; nobody is turned away.

Funds are a major problem and lack of them makes some important types of treatment unattainable.

A day centre in the city manned by phobics, to give relaxation therapy to sufferers who panic whilst shopping, should have top priority for any additional finance that can be found. Such a centre would be the only one in the world.

Carl Wardle

## WOMEN FROM ARMAGH VISIT NOTTINGHAM

IN November, two women who have knowledge about strip searching in Armagh women's prison visited Nottingham.

Linda and Margaret were able to give us a great deal of information about how strip searching is practised, and how it is used as a method of intimidating and harassing women prisoners - men are not strip searched, and its

Wendy Young

## NICARAGUAN CO-OPS VISIT

ON a tour organised by the Cooperative Development Agency, four members of Nicaraguan cooperatives visited Nottingham on 25th November. They met delegations from local coops, churches, trade unions and women's groups.

In the afternoon, Ernesto



## THE MEADOWS MUSLIM ACTION GROUP

THE MUSLIM community of the Meadows are deeply grateful to the Nottingham Labour Party and especially County Cllr Aslam, County Cllr Tipping and County Cllr Audrey Mullender for their support in helping us to obtain a centre in the Meadows for our social and cultural activities.

Those who opposed the formation of this centre either don't understand our needs or did so deliberately.

However we shall endeavour to make sure that the Meadows Muslim community gets the fullest benefit from this centre.

M Ishaq

security uses are limited in prisons which abound in sophisticated detection apparatus.

They asked us to write to MPs, MEPs and the Governor of the prison, and urge our Trade Union and Labour Party branches to pass resolutions of condemnation.

It is hoped that a discussion day on Northern Ireland will take place next year in Nottingham.

Hodgson from Bluefields also visited miners and their wives in Blidworth to talk about the year-long strike and Ernesto's role in the reconstruction of Nicaragua. Anna-Julia Pallacios from Matagalpa went to a Nottingham school to see a play on Nicaragua by the Roundabout Theatre.

At a Council reception, the Nicaraguans were greeted by Cllr Betty Higgins and members of the Labour Group. A very moving and informative public meeting ended the day.

Christiane Matthews

## LESBIAN AND GAY CO-OP

NOTTINGHAM'S newest co-op, formed in August to raise support and funds for a lesbian and gay centre, has now received City Council recognition.

The November meeting of the Equal Opportunities Committee received a report and approved a resolution from the Lesbian and Gay Sub-Committee instructing officers to report back within 3 months on ways the Council can support the project.

The Labour Party's manifesto, adopted as Council policy in June 1983, committed the City Council to supporting a lesbian and gay centre.

More details, and speakers for branches, can be obtained from: Nottingham Gay Peoples Centre Co-op Society, Box 11, 118 Mansfield Rd.

Chris Richardson



(One of a series of Christmas cards produced by the public employees union NUPE as part of its Anti-Privatisation Campaign.)