

# Must've been a dream

By Juris Jostins

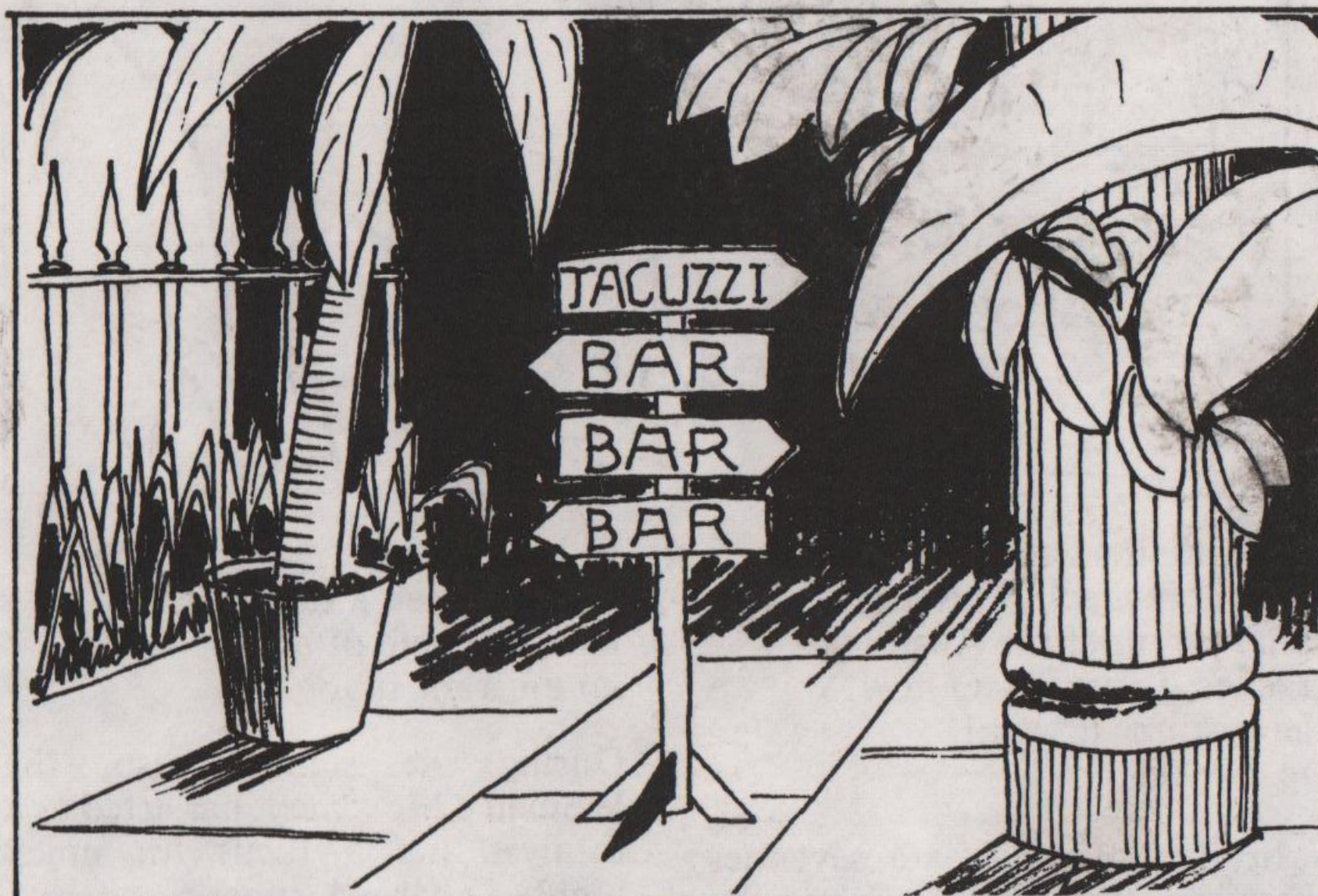
FIRST the good news. The jacuzzi is free! If you part with one hundred notes a year to join the Royal Hotel Leisure Club.

That's about it for the good news. Why did they build that huge hotel and multi-storey car park when they could have built a car park twice the size? Verily, the workings of capitalism are strange.

Initial impressions are favourable - there is a choice of doors to enter the Royal Hotel: "revolving" or the more conventional "hinged" variety. Great, in we go. The entrance lobby is pleasant enough - if you like red. It's very red. Onwards past the young men dressed as bouncers and up the stairs in search of a bar.

Stop. Restaurant bar? Steak bar? Coffee bar? Wine bar? All we are saying is give us a pint. The bar is behind bars - people caged in to stop them overflowing into the central aisle. However, there are no free seats, so we have to sit in the aisle anyway.

After paying what we expected for a glass of ale - too much - we find a spare plant pot and sit



down. A chance to take it all in; and there's a fair bit to take in.

A huge windowless corridor conveys the impression of a subterranean film set, the sort of place baddies in Bond films tend to hang out in. It's as if the designer attempted to be as ridiculous as possible just for the hell of it. It may be someone's idea of a joke (in which case it's mildly amusing) but either way one is struck by the senselessness of it all.

Opposite our brick plant pot is a little Mediterranean house: white walls, red tile roof. "They're not real tiles." "Yes, they are." Check it out. They are. What about these huge stone pillars down the aisle (are they to stop roller skating?). They look real. Knock knock. Wood. Oh, look. There's a little balcony. It's only big enough for Juliet, and anyway, it's decorative. There's an overkill of foliage (real). But what about the people.

Are they real?

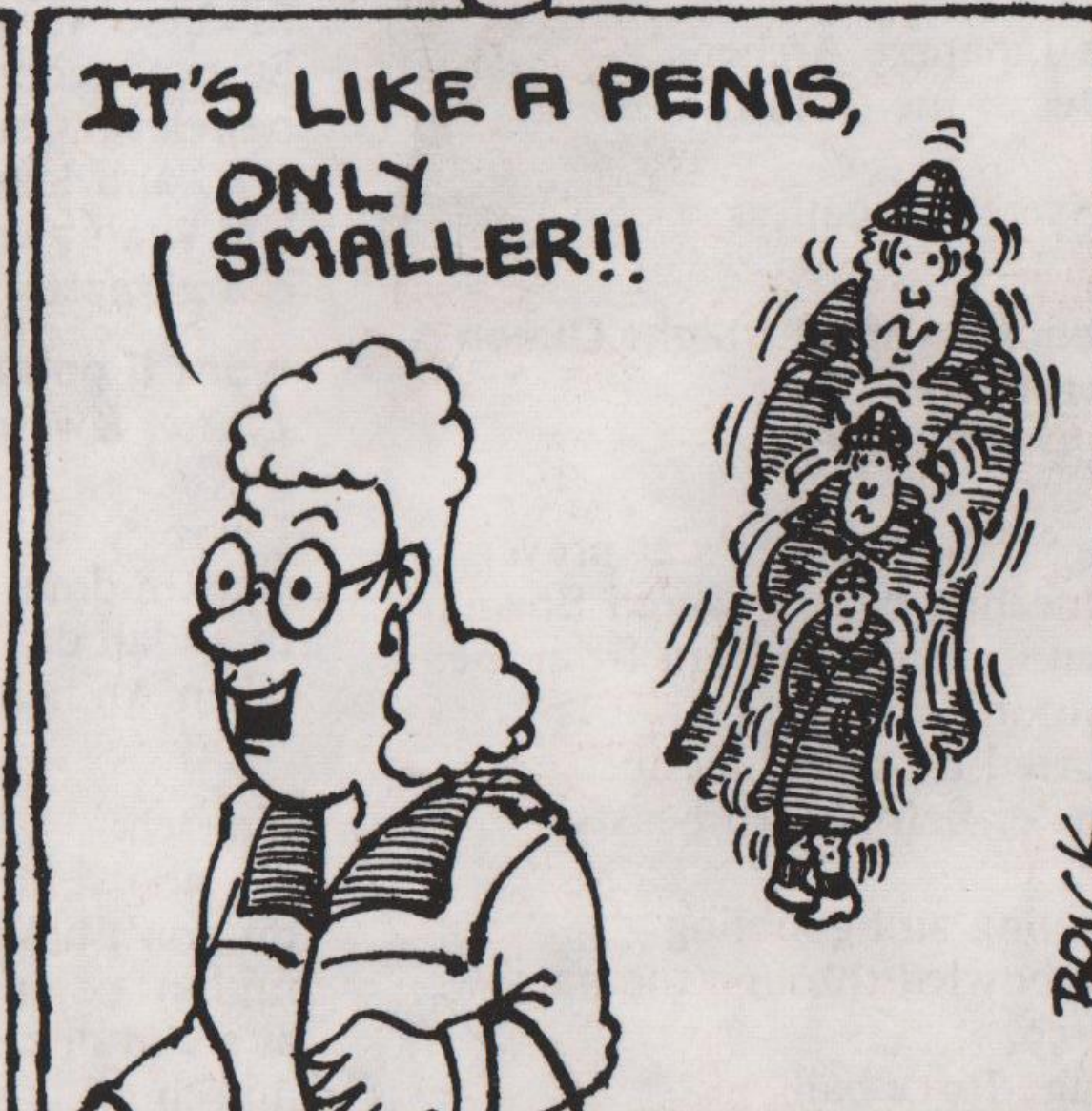
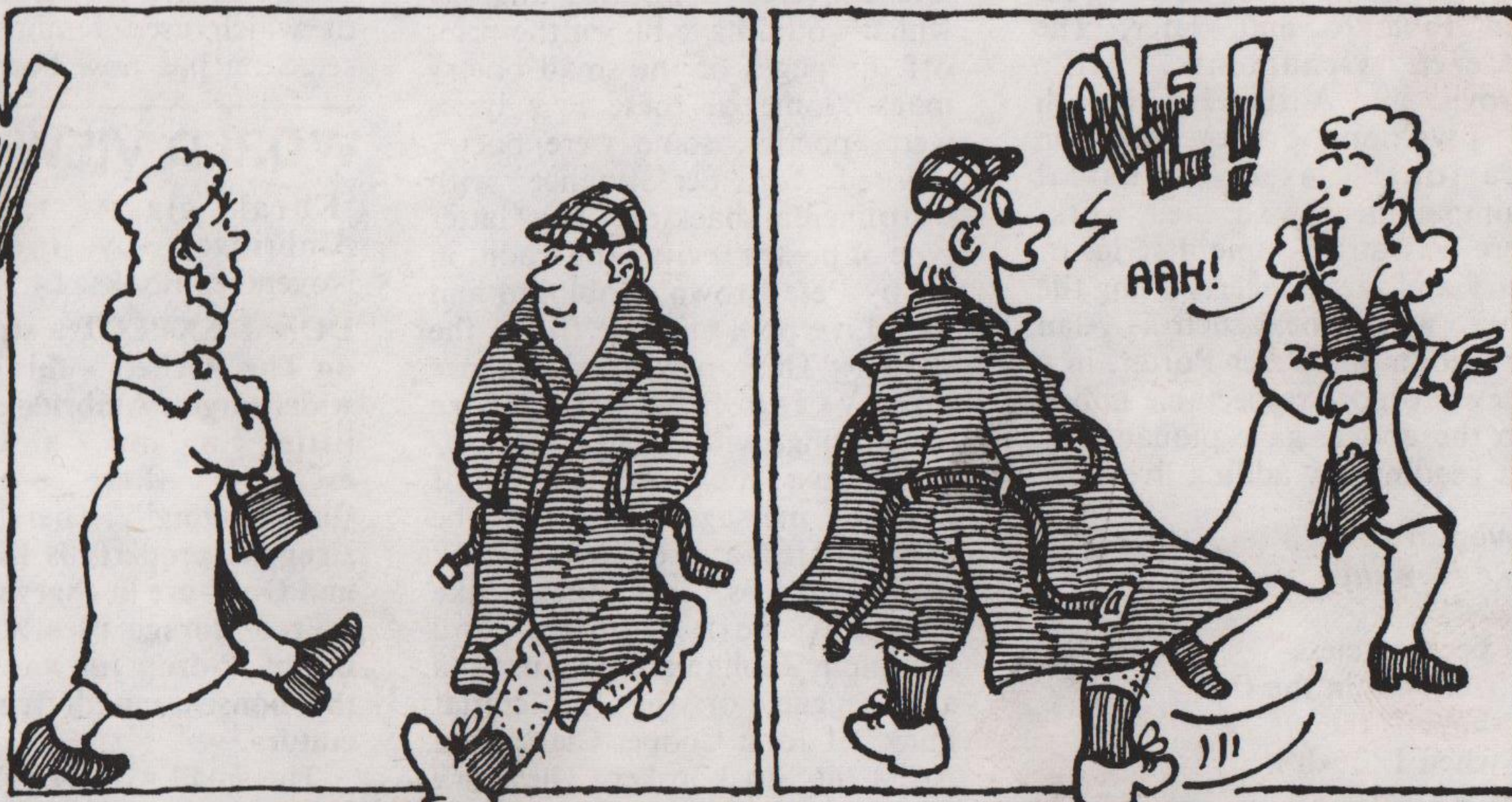
Well, they can certainly afford real soap. The smell of a million dead animals assails the nostrils. Everybody is so clean and wholesome. It's not really a "posh" dive, but prices tend to exclude non-earners. Here are Mrs. Thatcher's "working people of this country" - work like a slave for 5 days, then blow it in an evening of consume, consume, consume. Freedom of choice, I think it's called.

Periodically, a voice comes over the public address to Mr So-and-so (nearly always Mr) that his table for however many is ready. It's like at the DHSS, everyone can see who rises up to face the enemy next.

There appear to be two types of clientele. The older ones look as if they're going to make a night of it - perhaps a meal, a celebration. There's a higher turnover of young people. They enter in packs, and half an hour later they're passing in the opposite direction. Being young, we join them, to wake up from the dream; yegads, there's no dartboard. ●

Bad night out rating: \*

INDECENTLY EXPOSED



CITYWISE  
NOTTINGHAM'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

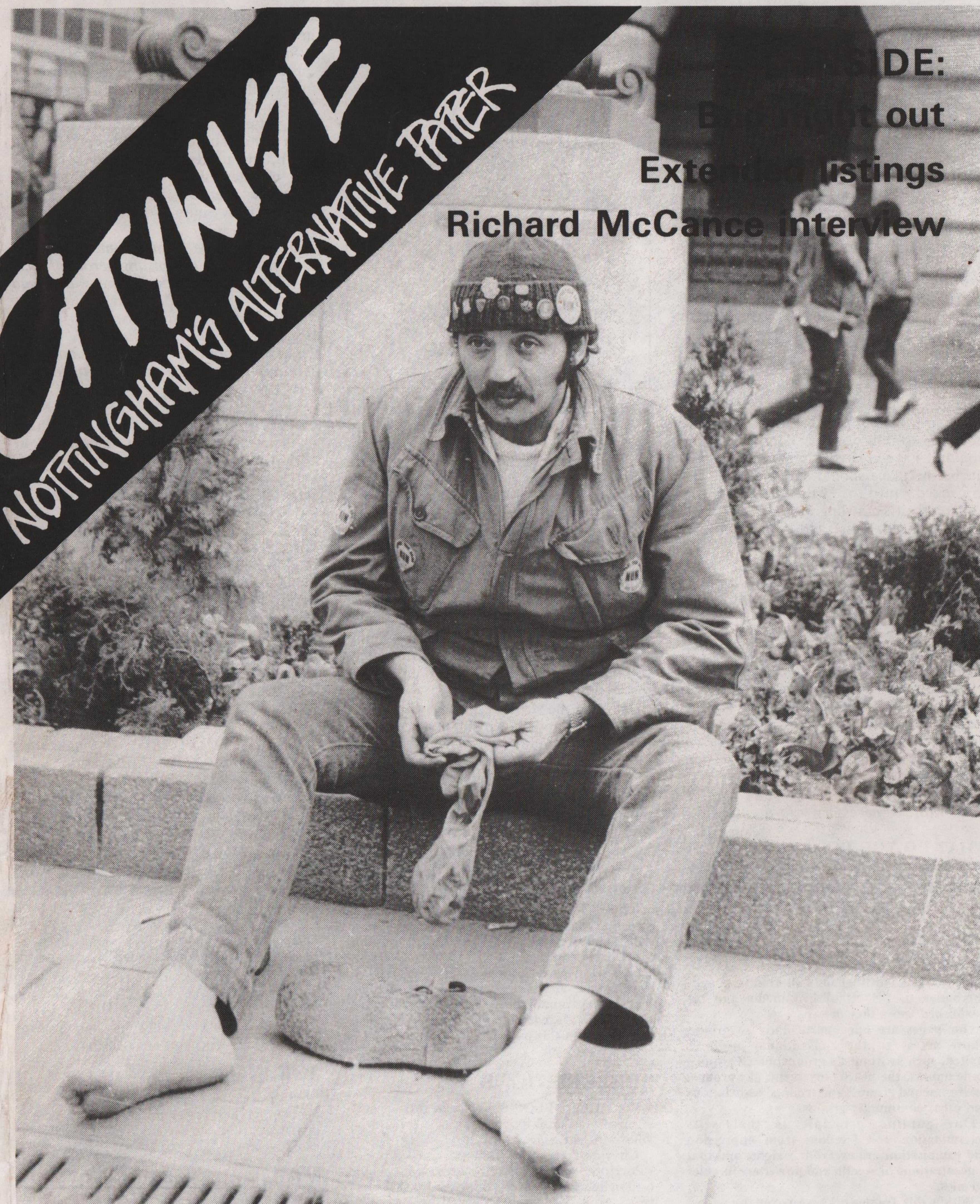


Photo by Mark Salmon

Why Kent & Yorkshire came to Notts.

MAY-JUNE 25p No 5



AS THE GIGANTIC peardrop smashed into the wafer-thin walls of Valhalla-on-the-Hill, the assembled congregation observed a minute's silence and then cheered, ecstatically. At last Balloon Wood was coming down!

Despite this exhibition of instant destruction, the removal of this blot on the landscape is proving somewhat difficult. For a start, the bloody place is oozing with damp, and if you've ever tried flattening a soaking wet cardboard box, you'll understand the sort of problem Balloon Wood poses. Every time that concrete peardrop smashes into a wall, there's a dull thud, it buckles and great gobs of green water come splurging out the other side!

Since demolition by explosives is out of the question (Wollaton having the highest concentration of cardiac pace-makers in the City), the Council have a problem on their hands.

It's now being suggested that if God had meant us to pull down Balloon Wood he wouldn't have created capillary action, so maybe the place should stay erect and be converted into a wildlife preserve. Apparently it's crawling with all manner of exotic bacteria, fungi and swamp culture and is mentioned in Bellamy's 'Botany' as an ideal environment in which to breed alligators and an obscure specimen of leech. And we're told people used to live there!

*REPLYING TO a letter from NUI Nottingham Branch, condemning the police search of investigative journalist Duncan Campbell's flat while he was in hospital, Nottingham North MP Richard Ottaway wrote:*

*"I have to confess that I am not familiar with the case of Duncan Campbell - is he a constituent of mine? Perhaps you could fill me in with the necessary information."*

**WHAT DO YOU DO at the weekends if you're a police chief and you've got half a**

## BACKSTREET



million coppers in your area to deal with the miners? Well you can't send them out to the pits 'cos there's not much picketing at 3.00 a.m. on a Saturday morning. You can send them on a walkabout to scare the wits out of city centre petty criminals (it's no fun flyposting when three quarters of the late night population are blue ones).

Alternatively, if there was a 'race riot' ... and this led one hopeful police officer to tell a city councillor that there'd be no problem drafting in a goodly number to Hyson Green on the weekend that the Cricket Players (a popular haunt for young West Indians) closed down. Unfortunately for the police, people didn't hang round the area much, so, reluctantly, it was back to walking the streets.

A well-known Nottingham evening paper pointed out the low level of crime at weekends. What they didn't report was how difficult it was to get a police presence when the pits went back. One local business, reporting a break-in, was told that police couldn't come out for several hours because too many were away at the picket lines. They couldn't spare any to

carefully. We also ask readers to let us know if they find inaccuracies - we prefer to get things right, and we are always willing to publish corrections.

Citywise is run collectively and informally. New people are always welcome, though of course they should be in sympathy with our aims. Readers are invited to our open meetings, announced on this page in each issue.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

WHAT GOES PLOP every six weeks? Answer - a subscription copy of Citywise on your doormat.

Citywise comes out 8 times a year - a postal subscription is £3.25. We're also asking people to donate. Selling, as we do, over 1,000 copies, we're still dependent on advertising and donations to break even. For the extra donations you get nothing extra - just the knowledge that it's all for a good cause. And you can tell your friends how generous you are!

If you've missed the previous issues, we'll send you issues 2, 3 and 4 at 25p each including postage (issue 1 sold out).

Please subscribe by sending the appropriate amount to our postal address: Citywise, Box B, Mushroom, 10 Heathcote St, Nottingham NG1 3AA.

If you wish to donate regularly, a banker's order is available on request.

investigate crimes.

Speaking of police and miners, it was quite touching that at the funeral of the miner killed on the picket lines, there was a wreath from the Notts. police. Any good the gesture might have done had already been lost at Thoresby. On the day after the death, the picket line there was holding two minutes silence in memory of their colleague when they were charged by the London heavy mob of police...

*NOTTINGHAM'S Environmental Health Department are the unsung heroes of local government. Their duties are widespread including, as their current leaflet says, "canal boats, rag flock, disposal of certain dead persons, chimney heights", and so on. And "zoonoses". What are zoonoses? All queries please to the Department, not Citywise.*

**MEANWHILE**, back at Greenham Common... In the last month, four Nottingham women have gone to jail for Greenham "offences". Three have served short sentences at Risley for refusing to pay fines for minor offences like obstruction and are back in action again. Ceri Walters will be coming out of Holloway around May 8th (assuming full remission), having been sent down for 30 days for criminal damage after Greenham Common fence had a run in with her wire-cutters. Shortly, two more local women will be sent down for refusing to pay Greenham fines when they were arrested for trying to keep the peace. Write your own last line to this paragraph.

*IT WAS UNFORTUNATE that during the national NUM demonstration in Nottingham there were a number of cases of sexual and racial harassment. Although the harassment came from only a small group of miners, it caused distress to those involved and will not have increased support for the strike.*

## ADVERTISING

Our advertising rates are very competitive - we reach an estimated 3,000 readers. Please ask for our rates.

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We're run collectively and we're open to new people. Writing, research, illustrations, typing, layout, distribution, accounts - all are skills that can be learnt...

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## 'PHONE MESSAGES

until the next issue should go direct to Citywise on 864655 (evenings only).

## OPEN MEETING

The next open meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 17th May at the T & GWU, 259 Mansfield Road.

## MINERS' DISPUTE - SPECIAL REPORTS

Writing and research on miners' dispute by Frank Turner, Graham Banks and Stan Wells.

## Labour fails to condemn police

**A BARE HANDFUL** of Labour councillors are opposed to the police outrages in Nottinghamshire. About 7 were prepared to support a move by Mick Warner (Beeston S) that all spending on the operation must come out of the existing police budget, without increases.

They included George Miller (Stapleford N&W), John Heppell (Basford), whose position has improved since last year when he told the county council he thought Our Police were Wonderful, Arthur Palmer (Carlton C), who still supports the Notts. County Council Bill, Ian Clark (Radford) and Fred Riddell (Bulwell W), chair of Education, whose budget has been drastically cut. Not normally deviating from right-wing positions, Cllr Riddell has been concerned at police behaviour and is currently prepared not to ignore it. The position of Viv Bell (Byron) is uncertain.

The rest are opposed outright to Mick Warner's proposal, or just keeping their heads well down. Warner and Palmer hold seats vulnerable to the Tories, but they show more guts than Michael Cowan (Bilborough). His constant theme is that opposing violent acts by police loses votes (though he knows better ways of doing that). ●

## Notts. not 100% scab area

**STRIKING NOTTS. MINERS** are angry at the way the media have presented the county as a 100% scab area. The NCB itself, despite claims of normal working, now admits that 6,000 miners are out, and Arthur Scargill puts the figure at nearer 12,000. Production has been severely disrupted at more than half a dozen pits, such as Bolsover, Cotgrave, Creswell and Ollerton.

At Cotgrave pit, where the majority are now out, the Coal Board has upped bonus payments. Miners who were getting £8 a week bonus now find themselves on as much as £30. But despite these desperate carrots by the NCB, workers are coming out of Notts. pits at a slow but steady rate. At the time of writing (28 April), nearly half of Bevercotes is out. Those coming out are mainly face workers, leaving too few going in to work the coal properly.

"They're stopping the night shift at some places, taking the scabs going in off that and putting them on to the day shift in order to make up a full team at the face," explains Bevercotes NUM branch secretary Paul Whetton. "Creswell's already been doing it for some time. If the Coal Board's arguing pits are working normally, how come they're knocking off the night shift in order to make up a full team?" ●



Kent miners arrive in Nottingham on April 13th. Photo by Mark Salmon.

## Police probe politics of Yorkshire pickets

**PICKETS ARRESTED** in Notts. in March were grilled about their politics by CID personnel who refused to identify themselves. The miners, from Kellingley pit near Castleford, were arrested by Cleveland police near Teversal colliery for alleged "obstruction". They were taken to a car park near Silverhill pit, each held between two police officers and photographed by polaroid camera. Each picket was snapped between a different pair of officers.

They were taken to Mansfield police station where they were refused 'phone calls ("we'll come round to that"). The men were then probed closely on their financial commitments. They were asked to list bank loans, rent and mortgage payments, HP commitments, any debts, incomings and outgoings, a line of questioning which has suggested to the pickets that their interrogators were trying to piece together an assessment of how long miners could last on strike before McGregor could starve them back to work.

What paper did they read? They read the local rag. What about the Young Socialist or the Morning Star? "Then he says, who did you vote for in your local NUM branch?" The picket said he was not telling. "Then he says, do you go to all branch meetings?" "Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't." The interrogators were also obsessed with conspiracy theories, asking, "Who gives you money to come picketing?" and "Who sends you?" "No-one sends us." "Then how do you know where you're all going to go?"

The pickets were held in three cells marked "NUM charged", "NUM processed", and "NUM unprocessed". The processing in question was remarkable. "What do you reckon to Scargill?" "He's alright." The detectives then attempted to stir up resentment. "You know you're an idiot. You could probably be here for the next 24 hours. Scargill won't be here. He'll be in a plush office or some plush restaurant. What do you think about his big plush Jaguar?" And so it continued. "Did we class ourselves as left-wing or extreme left-wing? That was another question," recalled the pickets. "They said to one of our lads, Did you vote for that Davy Miller, our branch secretary?"

Each picket was subjected to about 25 minutes of political questioning, conducted in a separate room and by other personnel than those doing the routine questioning. Mansfield Police Station is the county headquarters of the 40-strong Special Branch, which has been very active in the miners' dispute.

Rumours have been put about, unattributably, that charges against the Yorkshire pickets would be dropped if they returned to work. This sort of crude tactic has only stiffened their resolve.

Notts. police are now carrying out "an investigation" into the Kellingley pickets' objections to their interrogation, on the instructions of Home Office Minister Douglas Hurd. The independence of this has to be open to question, especially as an unnamed Notts. police spokesperson, on March 29, called political questioning "routine" in industrial disputes. ●

## The Citywise alternative

CITYWISE is Nottingham's alternative paper - alternative to the established media and the established views they present.

Our pages are open particularly to groups whose access to the conventional media is limited, such as women's groups, black groups, trade unions, the peace movement, gay groups, environmental groups, and tenants' associations and other community groups.

Our guiding principle is that self-determination and freedom from oppression and exploitation are everyone's right, and that concentrations of wealth and power are its chief enemies.

Within this framework, we cover the widest variety of action and opinion. Where possible, groups and individuals are asked to speak for themselves, and editing is kept to a minimum. However, we reserve the right to reject or amend anything libellous, racist, sexist or inaccurate, and to edit down articles which are too long. Contributors should give an address and, if possible, telephone number, so we may consult them about alterations.

We prefer articles to be signed (by an individual or group), though we accept that sometimes there are good reasons not to.

We ask contributors to check their facts



## To the women of Nottinghamshire

By Jean Harrison, Kippax, Leeds 25, the wife of a Yorkshire NUM Official (and, incidentally, ex-policeman)  
(Reprinted from Leeds Other Paper)

I AM A COALMINER'S daughter, my grandfathers were colliers, I had one uncle killed and two others crippled as a result of colliery accidents, and my two youngest sons work at Ledston Luck.

I grew up listening to tales of the "bad times", and talk of how the struggles of my father's generation had ensured that never again would the miners "eat dirt".

What would those men think of today's situation?

Some of you will have your origins in different parts of the country. Perhaps, like my own grandfather, some of you travelled from the old coalfields in search of work. Can't you see a time when your "long-life" pits are the only ones left in the country? How secure would your men be then?

What price job security when my sons, and those of other dispossessed families, move to the only area with the possibility of work in the pits?

For, make no mistake, the men you have been passing at the pit gates, the 'rabble', the 'bully boys', these are not a race apart, they are hard-working lads, from families who wish to remain independent, and not have their men labelled by a biased media. (If Mr McGregor gets his way, I suppose the next label will be Social Security Scrounger.)

What a pity that the first impression of your county experienced by my sons has been the hostility of men they had the right to look upon as colleagues and brothers. A lad with a Yorkshire accent couldn't buy a cup of tea or a packet of cigarettes.

In the name of goodness, what are you allowing to be done to you? Because, however much you isolate yourselves, this is your struggle too.

Ask yourselves, what will eventually happen to the coal remaining in the so-called uneconomic pits? Is it too far-fetched a notion that, in the not too distant future, these 'white elephants' will be sold for a song to provide a fat profit for some speculator with the ability to exploit the abundant cheap labour now being created?

Have a care. Your turn next. There is no loyalty to 'faithful servants' in a capitalist regime. Falter in this instance, and you will be so much the easier to 'take out' when your time comes, and where will you look for support?

Defend your children's future, whilst there is still something left to defend.

Have you not more in common with the woman who sees her men off at five o'clock, lies worrying whilst her sons 'go down' on the night shift, than with the woman whose only worry is the state of the Stock Market?

We working class are an endangered species. Let us not hurry our demise by becoming cannibalistic.

We are The People. We matter. ●

## Police authority back 'stop-on-whim'

IT'S NOT JUST MINERS who are being stopped by police. Subjects of false stops include amateur football teams, a red fire car (with fire tender behind it), a vicar, a district nurse at Shirebrook whose blankets had become dangerous weapons, the mild-mannered Labour county councillor Florence Price and a 12 year old girl from Creswell walking to the St John's Ambulance track who was asked where she was going and told to "F\*\*\* off".

Under a variety of laws, police can stop (and search) people if they can claim "reasonable suspicion" that an offence may be planned. There are no practical sanctions against unreasonable intervention. The nearest to an objective test for vindicating a stop, by showing an offence was planned, would be the carriage of offensive weaponry (like the welded nails police were so keen to publicise).

In practice, police have been stopping miners for being miners, non-miners travelling from mining areas, and Labour and left-wing party members for being themselves. Most notably, they have been stopping the victims of previous stops (all meticulously computer-filed). Stopping the stopped becomes a self-justifying process, creating "suspicion" where none reasonably existed before, and it has backfired on the police. Miners working at Newstead walked out after their NUM branch secretary got stopped for the fourth time.

Multiple stopping, rife in Belfast, is now rife in Notts. In numerous cases, court appearances of those stopped have been

thwarted by further stops, police taking no notice of explanations.

The East Midlands forces are specially assisted in the stop process by a system which supplements the Police National Computer (PNC), the "Consort II" whose introduction into Notts. in 1979 was not opposed by Labour. It is an electronic licence to harass. Consort extends rapid access to the PNC to police in vehicles, providing details about the "keeper" of a vehicle under observation literally within seconds.

Whatever the intentions of Parliament, police have in practice granted themselves the right to search on whim. Stop on whim is a logical consequence. The county's police authority is prepared to oppose the current Police Bill, which will extend speculative searching, but it supports the current operation of speculative stopping, being performed "rightly" (26 April resolution).

No Labour or other councillor has asked formal questions at council meetings relating to any of the following important points: the number of stops made (and the tiny percentage, maybe zero, in which evidence of a planned offence was found); the number of PNC transactions (and PNC overload days) and the number leading to stops; a breakdown of the 800+ arrests so far by category of alleged offence or by category of arresting county force; or questions about any other aspect of police behaviour such as violence or other illegality. ●

## Claim and counterclaim

THE POLICING of the dispute has been beset by claim and counterclaim.

**1. Who sanctioned the national police operation?** Charles McLachlan, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, speaking to Gerald Kaufman on 7 April, denied having done so, and Ray Chadburn of the Notts. NUM said, "We asked the police to leave us alone, but they told us it was not their decision. It has come from a higher source - so that can only be the Government." On the other hand, the Daily Telegraph (19 March) said it was "at the request of the chief police officers of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire". So who granted the request? The government, who deny involvement? Some obscure Home Office official in F4 department? The Association of Chief Police Officers? The Police Federation is more specific in attributing responsibility for activation of the national system. An editorial in Police

magazine on 11 April said, "It was only the threat of mass intimidation and the reality of violence that persuaded the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire that police assistance on such a scale was required."

**2. Equipment of police** is a matter which has been hushed up. Police on duty look to be of normal enough appearance, but many are members of special riot-trained Police Support Units (PSUs) - which is why so many forces are involved. McLachlan told his police authority that police involved did not have "riot equipment or special equipment". The truth of the matter, as revealed in Police Review, is that on arriving at their billets police are issued with visored riot helmets, flameproof uniforms, riot shields, truncheons and even jock straps.

**3. Use of infiltrators amongst pickets.** The initial allegations, that they pushed selected miners towards the front row of a lobby outside Berry Hill NUM HQ at

## How Operation Mines is run

ONE OF THE MYTHS propagated during the dispute has been that "this country has no para-military riot force" (Guardian editorial, 20 March). In fact the policing of riots and picket lines involves the use of 36-strong Police Support Units (PSUs), all members of which work in the same division of the same force.

Virtually all the police brought into Notts. have been riot police, from as far afield as Cornwall and Cleveland. All but two of the 43 forces in England and Wales have sent PSUs out of their own areas at some stage.

The 3,000 riot police stationed around Nottinghamshire are co-ordinated from an operations room at Scotland Yard called the National Reporting Centre. Operation "Mines" is run from the NRC by David Hall, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Chief Constable of Humberside.

In April 1972, after the Saltley coke depot siege, the Home Office met with ACPO; the National Reporting Centre was the outcome. Following its first use in the 1974 miners' strike it has subsequently been activated during the 1980 Prison Officers' dispute, the 1981 riots, and the Pope's visit. The current operation is the first one in which it is being used to control pickets' movements as well as co-ordinate police deployment. Hall insists however that operational control in Notts. rests solely with Notts. police chief McLachlan, who told an emergency police authority meeting on March 23rd, "I am not under instructions from central government, local government or anyone else."

Mansfield to be snatched away by uniformed police, was laughed off by Leon Brittan on April 5 as "smear of the week". "You have fallen for a lot of nonsense," he told journalists boldly. But McLachlan's lips were sealed on the matter. The police chiefs waited four days until the last minute before a parliamentary debate before admitting plain clothes police had been amongst the lines.

First to come clean was David Owen, Chief Constable of North Wales, followed by Nottinghamshire Police Federation - who passed a motion from one of their detectives backing the use of infiltrators. In the debate, Leon Brittan reversed his line and the "smear of the week" became perfectly natural practice, with Brittan making no attempt to account for his earlier remarks and Labour not really probing the matter.

**4. Telephone tapping** has also received the "sneer of the week" treatment from Tories and police chiefs. Tapping was alleged by a Pontypridd bus operator contacted by Derbyshire police 10 minutes after a local NUM coach booking. "Absolutely ludicrous," claimed South Wales Chief Constable David East, demanding evidence. "There is absolutely no 'phone-tapping going on by this police

Under pressure, McLachlan defended the financial scale of his operation, saying he used "emergency authorisations contained within those financial regulations" (of the Police Act). However, Nottinghamshire's police caterers, for example, have gone way beyond provision of the legal minimum of service and are providing lavish levels of fare. Police Review has commented, "There are going to be a lot of overweight bobbies at the end of the miners' strike". Not to mention lean ratepayers. With the cost of policing rising at times to £1½m a day, the Council is concerned at footing the bill, and has asked the Home Office to pay.

The expenditure involved is totally disproportionate to the scale of the alleged public order problem - in over 500 arrests charges of actual violence are conspicuous by their absence.

**"Kellingley produces 50,000 tons a week. Silverhill produces 5,000 tons a week. Who are they going to shut down first?"**  
Davy Miller, Kellingley NUM Branch Secretary

The County Council police authority has no "operational" control, which legally rests with McLachlan. However, it can (but is choosing not to) table debates, hold enquiries and ask questions about police behaviour. Under the Police Act it can call for special reports on any aspect of policing and need not accept what the chief constable presents. There are also parts of the police budget which it may legally withhold. Legally, Notts. County Council

force. Perhaps the Derbyshire police have got a mole in the NUM." Derbyshire's police chief Alf Parrish called tapping charges nonsense too but declined to explain how his force knew.

Other evidence of tapping, before this allegation, has included repeated blatant cut-offs, which happened at Harworth, interruption of NUM conversations by the Ministry of Defence and by Sheffield police, and the sending of police on wild goose chases by inventing non-existent pickets over the 'phone. Citywise knows of Nottinghamshire telephone engineers withdrawn from their normal duties to instal extra lines for the police more than a week before the dispute was public (which in itself raises questions about how the advance knowledge was gained and also points to a remarkable level of pre-planning in the national operation). Some of this work is believed to have involved installing extra payphones in barracks to enable billeted police to 'phone their families.

Leon Brittan called the tapping allegations "absurd", but his junior Douglas Hurd, whilst panning what he called a "bogus" campaign against police in order "to conceal the real facts", declined to comment on the specific matter of tapping. ●

has a "fiduciary duty" to ratepayers to ensure that money is spent wisely, efficiently and without wastage. But there have been scenes where as few as two pickets have been surrounded by over 100 police and where PSUs have drawn pay to stand idle. Miners entering Calverton Miners' Welfare were staggered to find the bar packed with riot police watching a pornographic video.

The County Treasury is throwing money in the direction of the police like confetti (at the time of writing this is under review by councillors). The County Council has adopted a low media profile since council leader Dennis Pettitt's single "Notts is under siege" complaint on 19 March. A male PC with 15 years' experience gets £203 basic pay from his home county. Notts. residents shell out for all overtime at time and a third (an extra £135 a week for a 12 hour shift) and any police taking their rest period on coaches get paid for sleeping as well, at overtime rates. It can all add up to £600 a week, whilst for senior ranks the lucre is showered on them at the rate of £150 per day.

The County Council's concern, however, is not to stop or reduce the handover of payment, but merely for the Home Office to pay instead. And the resolution passed by the police authority on March 23 hoped that the operation would be scaled down as soon as possible, but only when the chief constable thought the time was right. Charlie's Angels rule OK as far as the Notts. police authority is concerned. As the old maxim goes, "Silence gives consent." ●



**"CAPITALISM recognises no law but the maximisation of profit. Kid gloves are advantageous at the moment. The moment they cease to be, economic determinism will shut down those pits in Notts. which lose money."**

Davy Miller, Kellingley NUM Branch Secretary



# Pits at risk

(\* denotes high risk or more immediate risk)

## NORTH NOTTS. AREA

\* **Blidworth:** Loss of £5.10 per ton (1981/2).

**Mansfield:** Profit turned to loss by massive subsidence compensation, and claimants getting more organised.

\* **Sutton:** Certain closure within 6 years (or less due to subsidence problems). Losing £4.90 per ton (1981/2).

## SOUTH NOTTS. AREA

**Annesley:** Losing £3.10 per ton (1981/2).

\* **Babbington:** Another lossmaker - £20m last year - where jobs have gone already (coal now processed at Hucknall). 20 years' coal left, but may well go before then.

**Bentinck:** Loss of £3.50 a ton (1981/2); likely to merge with Annesley.

\* **Moorgreen:** Lossmaker; closure within 3 years reasonable on exhaustion grounds.  
\* **Newstead:** Loses £8.90 a ton; some 600 jobs gone (coal preparation plant closed).  
\* **Pye Hill:** Certain closure within 4 years reasonable on exhaustion grounds.

**Hucknall:** Analysts allege vulnerability, and railworkers know that doubled tracked lines to Annesley are due for singling up.

## THE NUCLEAR TROJAN HORSE

Other pits not listed are at long term risk because of Department of Energy intentions to slash CEBG coal consumption in coming decades and go nuclear. This inescapably affects pits whose sole or main output is coal only suitable for steam-raising in turbines. These include Sherwood, Bilsthorpe and Cotgrave. Sherwood and Bilsthorpe make respectable profits now, but that won't help them when the market for their product is being nobbled - especially in competition with more profitable pits in the expanding Selby field when the only surface worker is one man who fixes the microchips. ●

# Divide and rule

THERE IS A COMMON BELIEF, not least locally, that the Nottinghamshire pits are somehow 'safe' from closure.

The refusal of many Notts. miners to resist the politically motivated rundown of their industry is not because their pits are safe. It is the result of the NCB's carefully planned strategy of divide and rule. The introduction of area-based incentive schemes has led to those miners working 'easy seam' faces such as those in north Notts. earning more than those at older, more difficult pits.

The NUM decisively rejected incentive schemes by a 60% vote in a 1977 national ballot, but this decision was unilaterally defied by some areas, notably Notts. It was correctly predicted at the time that this would split the NUM nationally, setting area against area. Only recently, and for a different purpose, have Notts. full-timers Roy Lynk and David Prendergast discovered national ballots to be sacred. ●

# Privatisation

THE FIRST BARRIER to Government schemes to smash the unions is the NUM. Imposing reprivatisation would be a fantastic victory - older miners still quiver at the hair-raising memories of how private mineowners used to treat their employees. Tebbit's indiscretion about reprivatising being "a thought" points to the aspirations of many Tories. Tebbit was responding to a motion tabled by 6 right-wing MPs led by Tayside MP William Walker.

Privatisation is already happening to a part of British Steel (McGregor's previous patch) which is being hived off and made into a new company. 12% of this (£1.7m worth) is being bought by the sister company of McGregor's Lazard Freres investment bank in New York - small world, innit? ●



# Police harass

THE SORT OF HARASSMENT strikers in Ollerton are getting is illustrated by what happened to Colin Dixon on 26 April. Out from day one of the strike, Colin seems to have been singled out by police as a ringleader. He had already been arrested outside Berry Hill NUM and in the car park of the Plough (an Ollerton pub opposite the pit), but this time things went several stages further.

Driving past picket lines with his 16 year old son, Colin was stopped by police. He was pulled out (without even time to undo his seat belt himself), handcuffed behind his back and thrown face down into a van. His son objected, so he got the same treatment; there were cuts and weals on his wrists from the tightness of the handcuffs.

A crowd went to the police station - there was so much concern that Henry Richardson and Ray Chadburn turned up - and the Dixons were released an hour later. Colin had to go to hospital with a suspected fractured arm, which turned out to be 'merely' badly bruised, alongside certain other parts of his body. The charges slapped on were dropped in court the next day, but the Dixons are not letting the matter rest there. ●

Feb 1981

Unofficial strikes against NCB plan to close 24 pits. Thatcher backs off with £230m time-buying subsidy.

1981-82

11 pits closed.

Jan 1982

Strike ballot — 30% in Notts. for, 45% nationally.

1982-83

7 pits closed.

Oct 1982

Strike ballot — 21% in Notts. for, 39% nationally.

1983-84

22 pits closed or merged.

March 1983

Strike ballot — 19% in Notts. for, 39% nationally.

June 1983

Monopolies Commission demands 10% cut (10m tons) in coal output.

Sept 1983

Ian McGregor appointed chair of NCB.

Autumn 1983

NUM introduces overtime ban. Nearly 25,000 jobs have gone since 1979.

1 March 84

NCB announces 1984 programme of 20 closures and 20,000 job losses. Cut in coal mined of 8m tons. Surprise closure of Cortonwood pit, Yorks.

5 March

Yorkshire NUM comes out.

8 March

NUM Executive votes 21-3 for strike against closures using Rule 41 (the "domino" method).

10 March

Notts. NUM Executive decides to ballot members, recommending strike.

Tues 13 March

Creswell, Harworth and Bevercotes brought to a halt by picketing. Police step up surveillance of picket movements.

Wed 14 March

300 picket Ollerton early shift (15 cross picket lines); 4 arrests. Hundreds of riot police from 5 outside forces swamp afternoon shift. Several pickets hospitalised by police who draw batons and use flying wedges. Yorks. NUM leader Jack Taylor alleges Special Branch involvement behind arrests.

NCB secures 2 High Court injunctions against picketing.

Evening clashes between Greater Manchester police and 500 pickets at Ollerton. Davy Jones, a picket, dies:—

- (i) after being struck by a half brick (pickets, Police Review)
- (ii) of a heart attack (Notts. police, Don Concannon)
- (iii) from haemorrhage after collision with post or vehicle (pathologist)
- (iv) after being crushed in the chest (Coroner).

Thurs 15 March

300 picket Thoresby — pushed through fence in police attack, 2 pickets hospitalised.

Notts. NUM Executive calls strike until

# DIARY OF A DISPUTE

end of ballot (6pm next day). Home Secretary says 3,000 police from 18 counties will be sent to Notts. 29 pits working normally out of 176.

Fri 16 March

Notts. votes 26.5% for strike. Pit results vary from 46% (Blidworth) to 13% (Pye Hill No 2).

Sun 18 March

3,000 riot police from 16 forces now installed at Proteus army camp, Ollerton; Beckingham camp, Newark; Prince William Barracks, Grantham; Police Training School, Epperstone Manor. Equipped with visored helmets, flameproof uniforms, jockstraps, shields and truncheons.

Notts. NUM president Ray Chadburn lambasts police for turning Notts. into "an island within an island". 18 cars illegally turned back at Dartford Tunnel.



Mon 19 March

Dennis Pettitt complains county is "under siege" by police; national police chief David Hall denies they are being used as political pawns or as a national force. 8,000 police now deployed nationally, with same number again in reserve.

Early shifts cross pickets at Thoresby and Bentinck, most turn back at Ollerton, half turn back at Creswell (as do all lunch shift).

Tues 20 March

NUM injunction against Kent police road blocks rejected by judge McNeil.

Bolsover afternoon shift honours picket line.

Wed 21 March

Bolsover miners lobby Notts. NUM for all-out strike. Blidworth honours picket line. Police shackle pickets to fencing at Thoresby — 8 arrests.

South Yorks. councillors call for ban on police overtime payments.

Thurs 22 March

Police smash windscreen of picket Frank Slater with truncheon near Thoresby pit, arresting occupants for obstruction — 10 arrests.

Jack Taylor denounces police tactics — tying pickets' hands, searching "for drugs", photographing bus drivers. Scargill: "The police are clearly acting as a paramilitary force."

Notts. councillors meet Patrick Jenkin and Douglas Hurd — Notts. will not be given central grant for policing; it must pay itself and will also suffer further overspending penalties. (Decision amended 29 March.) Notts. NUM leaders demand national ballot; Chadburn alleges death threat against him.

Fri 23 March

Police have been deployed in a "persuasive and positive role", McLachlan tells police authority. "The command and control

rests with me." "We fully accept that the chief constable has acted properly... there can be no criticism by the police authority of the police" (authority chair Frank Taylor). Motion passed seeks scaledown of operation as and when McLachlan deems fit. No discussion of allegations about police conduct, nor of the official complaint received.

Notts. now billeting Police Support Units from 34 forces; there have now been 100 arrests.

Newstead miners walk out in protest at police saturation.

Sun 25 March

Hundreds of pickets blocked at Notts. border on pain of arrest if they cross. Tony Benn attacks "South African pass laws".

Mon 26 March

British Steel halves Scunthorpe production (coke shortages).

Police used nationally down to 5100 (3 per picket). 2 new barracks for police: Chilwell and RAF Newton.

Tues 27 March

Police sealing of M1 exits answered by 100-vehicle strong blockade travelling northbound from junction 30 at 5 mph, also on A1(M). 18 arrests.

Nottingham ASLEF agrees not to move coal; BR sends one driver home.

17 miners arrested at Tversal questioned for hours about their political views. Notts. NUM refuses to make Bolsover miners' strike official. (The pit voted 59-41 against striking and many are still working).

Wed 28 March

M1 blockaded again.

Police block 3 Warsop men getting to job interviews arranged with Mansfield Hosiery Mills. Company fixes new interviews, but men have been told to stay away or face arrest. Notts. police "unable" to comment on incident.

Labour Party slams police actions against picketing. "It's the duty of the police to uphold the right to picket, not to be indifferent to it, not to suppress it" (Jim Mortimer).

Thurs 29 March

Notts. MPs and councillors meet Leon Brittan. He promises penalty exemption for rates contribution to the extra policing, and a partial central contribution to the extra cost at a level he declines to fix.

6 unions black coal and oil movements (NUR, ASLEF, TSSA, NUS, TGWU, ISTC).

4 miners arrested without charge after leaving Dog and Duck pub, Clipstone. Photographed, fingerprinted, held for 3 hours before release from Mansfield Police Station.

Unnamed Notts. police spokesperson tells BBC that political questioning is "routine" in industrial disputes. McLachlan attacks "faceless agitators" (not believed to be a reference to his Special Branch).

Fri 30 March

Picketing switches to power stations.

Police authority meets again.

A third of Cotgrave miners come out.

Mon 2 April

Home Office minister Douglas Hurd asks McLachlan to "investigate" pickets' objections about political questioning. Some coal merchants now out of stocks, and CEBG running its big 55 expensive reserve oil-fired stations (normally used only in peak surges).

Notts. NUM secretary Henry Richardson arrested on Ollerton picket line; bundled into van. Police quickly release him on learning his identity. "Had I been an ordinary miner, I would have been arrested for nothing."

Tues 3 April

Notts. NUM executive tells members not to cross picket lines. Decision attacked at once by right wingers Roy Lynk and David Prendergast who work to undermine it.

Wed 4 April

Gedling morning shift stopped by pit winders' action. Afternoon shift goes ahead; branch secretary tells members to work after pressure from above on his future as a union officer.

Privatising the mines "is a thought, is it not?" (Tebbit).

Thurs 5 April

600 Cotgrave miners out.

Notts. NUM Area Council special day conference votes 186-72 to reject executive recommendation to honour picket lines. Chadburn renews national ballot demand.

NUM says plain-clothes agents-provocateur pushed certain miners to front row of lobby outside day conference, to be snatched away by arresting police.

In Nottingham, meeting of 70 called by Co-ordinating Committee against the Police Presence hears list of police atrocities.

Fri 6 April

'Phone tapping alleged by Pontypridd bus operator contacted by Derbyshire police 10 minutes after a local NUM coach booking.



Sat 7 April

Gerald Kaufman (Labour Home Affairs spokesperson) meets chief constable McLachlan who denies having asked for the national reporting centre to be set up.

Mon 9 April

Chief constable of North Wales admits plain clothes police were amidst pickets. At least 3 were used.

2000 picket Babbington colliery. PSUs are rushed in and make violent arrests of 45 pickets, kicking and punching them.

Thatcher rebuff to victims of police: use the police-run complaints procedure. (This line is also adopted by police authority vice-chair Chris Winterton 6 days later).

1000 pickets at Creswell night shift.

Tues 10 April

Commons debate on policing the dispute. Declaration of strong support for the police and something called "law and

cont. on page 19



# Stopping the City

By Ian Pegg and Ross Bradshaw

**MORE THAN 120 people left Nottingham in the early hours of Thursday 29 March to take part in the second Stop the City action. On the day the City reckons up its annual profits, several thousand came from all over the country to protest against the companies and financial institutions which have their headquarters in the City part of London.**

During the day protesters gathered around the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange, Barclay's head office, fur trade offices and a dozen other sites in the City to make the connection between profit and worldwide poverty and exploitation. Protesters attempted to slow up work in the area, leaflet and talk to City workers, and create a celebration of life in the streets.

Groups and individuals represented on the day included claimants, conservationists, feminists, those opposed to the arms race and arms trade, and anti-vivisectionists, as well as stockbrokers against the bomb, a local youth club, a group of nuns, and many more. A number of musicians attempted to inspire a carnival atmosphere with drums and whistles, while another group handed out vegan food to passers-by.

Despite the number of protestors, a massive police presence, made up of City of London and Transport police and officers drawn from other areas, meant that the City functioned reasonably as normal. Police made between 390 and 490 arrests, depending on which report you believe. Twelve people from Nottingham were charged, mostly with obstruction and



Photo by Mark Salmon

breach of the peace. Eleven of the cases have yet to be heard. The last protestor, who refused to give his name, was awarded an absolute discharge.

Traffic was slowed for much of the day and occasionally halted, sometimes as the police brought in further support. A bank had its doors chained up, tampons were raided from a branch of Boots and thrown around, and a number of windows were broken in one of the few violent incidents during what was intended as a non-violent protest.

Those who went to the City described the methods of the police as heavy-handed and often brutal, but particularly effective.

In places, people were prevented from making contact with the City workers, were hemmed in, pushed around and arrested for the slightest actual or perceived offence. Many of the arrests

Judas' fee. His defection may well depend on what they have to offer. He is said to fancy the chair of Leisure Services, recently refused him by the Labour group.

Meanwhile, the councillor for Strelley is giving no guarantees as to his future allegiance. He declined to comment on whether he would have been elected if he had stood as a Conservative - nor on whether resigning would be more honourable than changing parties. "This is not the Labour Party I joined," he has said. He did not say whether Thatcher's Tory party was. ●

## Pass laws in Nottingham

By a Citywise reporter

**PASSPORT CHECKS in DHSS offices are excessive and widespread, says Prem Singh, Welfare Rights Officer at Nottingham Community Relations Council.**

The Social Security Act 1980 authorised officers to ask for a passport from a person

were carried out with brutality that was at once astonishing and a confirmation of what we can now expect from this sort of major civil disobedience.

A few examples.

"A young protestor pulled down a piece of plastic covering the Stock Exchange coat of arms. Within seconds he or she - it happened so quickly I couldn't tell - was at the bottom of a pile of kicking punching police. A friend rushing to assist was beaten to the ground. A young punk had his pony tail pulled up and then his head was smacked against the ground. I could go on. At times, City workers were looking away in disgust, and at times other police were too. Anyone trying to intervene was promptly arrested."

For long periods of the day, hundreds of people were easily contained between ranks of police officers. Occasionally snatch squads picked people out of the crowd at random. It is expected that several of those arrested will plead not guilty in court as a result. It is certain that everyone in the City on the 29th can claim to have had first-hand experience of the sort of treatment handed out to miners in recent weeks.

Stop the City occurred on the same day as the Democracy Day demonstration elsewhere in London, allowing some of the media to concentrate on comparisons between the 'loonies against everything' and the more decent and responsible left wing on the march. For the most part, the media found it difficult to report a protest that was neither a march nor a picket, had no obvious organisation or spokesperson, and was directed simply against profit. In the end, it was lucky that someone took a photo of a policewoman throwing a smoke bomb. The picture appeared in almost every paper. (Incidentally, the missile hit and injured one of her colleagues.)

Finally, financial and political support will be needed for the twelve people from Nottingham who were arrested. Please support any fundraising events for them. ●

of foreign appearance to establish entitlement for benefits. Its supposed targets are those disqualified from state benefits because of their immigration status. "In effect, it is discriminatory and divisive," Mr Singh says. "It is black people who are required to show their passports, whereas in a similar situation, a mere statement from a white person is sufficient.

"Passport checks are part and parcel of the policy of this Government to control immigrants living in the UK. At the same time the policy of internal control is pursued alongside the institutionalisation of racism, a process which is almost complete.

"Black people have accepted that wherever they go, the production of a particular type of identification is necessary - in other words, a passport - for education, health care, social security, with the police or probation. This situation has meant that black people are forced to lead their lives in a similar way to black people in South Africa.

"The only way we can fight this situation effectively is to unite the people at large, both black and white, who are

genuinely committed to eliminating racism."

Nottingham Campaign Against Passport Checks has recently been formed. They advise black people that they are not obliged to show passports on demand and that they should resist abuse of their civil rights.

The group has reason to believe that information acquired through passport checks may find its way on to Home Office files. ●

## CND decorate the fence

By Kev and Oddsox

**ON SUNDAY APRIL 15, 1,000 people demonstrated at USAF Chilwell as part of National CND's Easter protest against US bases in Great Britain.**

The demonstration started with a conventional CND march from Beeston recreation ground, with a cycle convoy from Slab Square. The main event was colourful, with music, singing and an impressive and imaginative array of banners, placards etc. The fence running along the Nottingham Ring Road was decorated with balloons, ribbons, coloured paper, string and wool.

At about 2.00 pm we marched to the recreation ground at Toton where we heard speakers including Martin Harvey, a mother from Beeston Mums against the Bomb and County Councillor John Heppell. It was here that a group of about 30 people got together to plan an occupation of the US base. After five minutes, we all decided that a march back past the base and decorated fence was the best idea - the march creating a diversion for the action.

We left the march at the pre-arranged point, pulled the fence away from the ground - surprisingly easy - crawled underneath and headed for the rusting tanks that had been painted two nights earlier on Friday the 13th.

Amid cheers and shouts of encouragement, we reached the tanks and stayed for about 20 minutes until the MoD Police arrived. We were asked to stop 'messing around' and told that we would be arrested if we refused to vacate the base.

After a quick discussion, about 20 people decided to withdraw, leaving nine of us, who stayed until we were carried from the tanks and thrown into an army laundry van commandeered by the MoD Police. We were then driven about 10 or 15 miles away from Nottingham where the police intended dumping us in the heart of the Derbyshire countryside; that is until we blocked their van by splitting into two groups, one sitting behind the van, the other in front. There were three police officers (two of whom were superintendents) and nine of us, so what could they do? They didn't even have radios. After three quarters of an hour they decided to take us back to Beeston.

Quite a successful action, and, like the five other actions at Chilwell, no arrests. ●

# More Fawltly Towers?



Photo by J. Birdsall

By Roger Critchley

**BALLOON WOODS going, Basford soon, Hyson Green getting near, Willoughby Street flats after that?**

There are increasing signs that demolition decisions are not over in Nottingham. Tenants in Bison flats have just completed a successful week of action aimed at bolstering local campaigns throughout the country. A special Bisonbus visited 14 different estates in one week and is pictured above in Hyson Green before it left. The Bison system was used at Basford, Hyson Green and Willoughby Street.

In February, Director of Technical services John Haslam proposed that consulting engineers should look at Bison tower blocks in the city at a cost of

£35,000. He did not specify what would be done for this princely sum and councillors rejected his report, demanding tighter specifications for such an inspection.

If the job was done correctly, the findings could be controversial. For only last month the chair of Newham Housing Committee agreed to evacuate tenants from the notorious Ronan Point flats (remember the explosion and progressive collapse in 1968?). An independent architect has consistently argued that flats like these are potentially unsafe and claims that bowing of panels has effectively broken their back. The Bison system is very similar to the Larsen Nielsen system used at Ronan Point. Certainly there are internal cracks and water penetration in Willoughby Street. So what would an inspection find? ●

## Why Mayday?

By Ross Bradshaw

**THIS ISSUE of Citywise comes out in Mayday week. In common with other progressive groups, we are celebrating international workers' day.**

This special day has its roots in the great strike of 1886 when 800,000 workers from the mines, factories and fields of America struck for the 8 hour day. In Chicago, the stronghold of immigrant labour, 300,000 struck, and in a rally on 4th May protesting at police violence against strikers, police opened fire on the crowd, killing several, and a bomb was thrown back killing one policeman.

Several anarchists, some of whom had spoken at the rally, some of whom didn't even know it was taking place, were

convicted of the bomb throwing. Five were condemned to death and on the 11th November four of them were judicially murdered, the fifth having committed suicide the previous day.

These men - the Haymarket Martyrs, as they became known - were later proved to have had no connection with the bombing. It was never found out who was responsible. August Spies, as he waited by his gallows, said, 'The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today.'

In memory of his death, and those of the other Martyrs - Albert Parsons, Louis Lingg, George Engel and Adolph Fischer - and in memory of that strike, the International Labour Congress gave voice to that silence by proposing 1st May as a workers' holiday and a day of international solidarity.

All over the world Mayday is now celebrated, in some countries, where workers remain unfree, by protest or by



clandestine meetings, in the Soviet bloc, where workers also remain unfree, by sickening displays of military might.

And here? Where once we claimed Mayday as our own and took it as our day, we have a government-supported extra spring bank holiday which is not on Mayday. Some of us might be marching with the Trades Council - some few hundred - the majority will have a spring break, or get up the allotment or get the washing done ...

Parsons, Spies, Fischer, Engels and Ling of Chicago died for more than this. Almost a hundred years on, and many of us are condemned to work more than an eight hour day of useless toil to make ends meet whilst others cannot even get that.

Perhaps it's time to launch a campaign for a real Mayday.

## NUJ puts future on line

By a Citywise correspondent

THE NATIONAL UNION of Journalists has put its financial future on the line in its fight with the anti-union company, T. Bailey Forman. It has reimposed the strike instruction to journalists in Richmond who have refused to work on newspapers

owned by TV personality David Dimbleby since he transferred printing to TBF (Printers) last autumn.

The NUJ's decision to make the strike official again is in defiance of the House of Lords' judgement which ruled that the strike was unlawful. It could lead to the union facing a series of escalating fines for contempt which could ultimately bankrupt it. The case parallels that of the NGA's dispute with Eddie Shah, a dispute that cost the NGA £675,000 in contempt fines before it bowed to the court order.

Dimbleby journalists were delighted with the NUJ's decision, announced shortly before its annual conference in April.

"It is a very constructive step forward," said Joanna Davies, Mother of the Richmond Chapel (office). "Although support from members has been tremendous, it is a great boost to have the full weight of the union behind us again."

It is unlikely that David Dimbleby will go to the courts immediately to try to beat off the union's challenge. His position as a political presenter at the BBC has already been threatened by his involvement with TBF. Labour politicians and leading trade unionists boycotted the budget programme after he was chosen to present it, and it took a court order to prevent his colleagues

at the BBC from refusing to work with him.

Should he resort to legal action against the NUJ, it is thought that BBC journalists would black him in defiance of the court.

**THE DIMBLEBY DISPUTE, now more than six months old, stems from an even longer dispute between the NUJ and T. Bailey Forman.**

**TBF and its managing director Mr Christopher Pole-Carew became the bête noire of all trade unionists after sacking 28 journalists on the Nottingham Evening Post during a strike in 1978, despite a national agreement that striking employees would not be victimised. Five of the 28 are still receiving victimisation pay from the NUJ.**

**Since the dispute, TBF has been effectively a non-union company, blacked by the NUJ and other print unions and shunned by the trade union and labour movements as a whole.**

**Although the NUJ's dispute with TBF is entirely lawful, the courts held that the dispute with Dimbleby over his association with TBF was not. By a technicality which the Appeal judge found 'regrettable', TBF (Printers) and TBF were held to be separate legal entities under the employment laws, thus rendering the Dimbleby dispute illegal. ●**

## Smoking - more than a nasty habit

By Ross Bradshaw

(with help from Peter Taylor's book, "Smoke Ring: The Politics of Tobacco", published last month by Bodley Head at £9.95)

OF THE MANY boring things in life, two take some beating. The first is being a smoker, the second is being a non-smoker. We all know the first lot. Fifteen minutes into a meeting (or anything else for that matter), the twitching starts, then the clubby sharing of fags, matches and then the smell and the mess.

Non-smokers become equally boring, either through the over-polite, "no I don't mind" (when they do really), or the smugness which exudes from anybody on a health kick.

But, as being boring has never stopped me before - and 'cos I think there's a good case - I'll stick up for the non-smoker. I do object when people smoke at me! This "second hand smoking" can endanger health in smokers' children, cause respiratory diseases in non-smokers, and worsen the condition of those already affected by heart and lung diseases. In other words, smokers are making a physical attack on the non-smoker as clearly as (if more slowly than) a punch in the mouth. Now, if I wanted cancer I'd go and live near Windscale and if I wanted my clothes to smell stale I'd burn old socks in the airing cupboard at home. I resent people foisting such things onto me.

Smoking is a personal and a political issue. Starting from a history of small family employers, it's become very big business, netting for this Government £4

## SPEAKING OUT

billion tax revenue each year. Meanwhile, third world countries remain dependent on the multi-national tobacco companies (and therefore less able to grow food crops) which sell back to them an image of western sophistication achievable in part by smoking the right brand of tobacco.

Fortunately, for the sake of our health, it's an industry starting to decline. Most of the multi-nationals are diversifying hard. Imperial (who own the local Players factories) also own Ross frozen foods, Golden Wonder Crisps, HP Foods, Courage and John Smith beers, and the Howard Johnson chain of USA hotels.

And Imperial knows where its friends are. In the past, it's given money to the right wing anti-union group the Economic League. This reflects a general involvement of the tobacco companies with the right wing. BAT Industries, another leading manufacturer, has supported the right wing Aims of Industry and the Tory front group Centre for Policy Studies. Not surprisingly FOREST (no connection with Clough's team!) which "sticks up for the rights of smokers" is bank-rolled by the big companies, and its first full-time director formerly worked for the exceedingly right wing paper "Free Nation".

As lobbyists the tobacco companies are expert at the gentle touch. What MP would refuse a night out at the Glyndebourne Opera (sponsored by Players), or the London Philharmonic Orchestra (sponsored by Players), or a day at the

cricket (John Player League), or at Brands Hatch (watching the John Player Formula One racing team). And it's at places like this you'll find MPs like Martin Stevens (chairman of the Appeals Committee of the Cancer Research Campaign) as guest of the companies. The industry puts £25 million into sport and £1 million into the arts each year - that's cheap publicity when you consider that John Player Special's advertising budget for its relaunch was £13 million. This form of free nights out for MPs works wonders - tobacco is one of the few known killers on public sale.

Other MPs worry about jobs. For example, Kenneth Clarke, MP for Rushcliffe and government minister for destroying the health service, says "... the well-being of the area which I represent is very much affected by the well-being of the tobacco industry". Quite so - lots more of his constituents would still be alive it weren't for that industry.

The TUC has in its policy at least attempted to take on the smoking lobby. A report of the TUC Social Insurance and Industrial Welfare Committee outlined a comprehensive anti-smoking policy including "... to establish the right of the non-smoker to clean air". And it's this health and safety issue which is the nub of any argument about smoking. Knowing that a smoke-filled atmosphere is unhealthy, what right do smokers feel they have to impose their smoke on other people? It's time for non-smokers to defend their health and to refuse to be seen as being anti-social for complaining. If smokers continue to assault us, let's respond with water-pistols! ●

## CITYWISE - LISTINGS - LIST

Peace will gather from 11 am at a 'peace camp' in the Market Sq. which will be used as a focal point for actions throughout the day. All women welcome.

**Women for Peace** meet every Tues. at St Andrew's Church Hall, Mansfield Rd at 7.30.

### ANTI-APARTHEID

May 16; 8 pm: Nottingham Anti-Apartheid discussion meeting on Zimbabwe at Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon St.

### POLICING

May 19: National demonstration against the Police Bill. Transport and details of local events from 586515.

### GAY LIBERATION

**Lesbianline** - advice and info for lesbians. Tel 410652, Mondays 7.30-9.00 pm.

**Lesbian disco** - every Tues 8-10.30 at the Heary Goodfellow, Maid Marian Way.

**Lesbian Group** - new group meets every Monday 7.30-9.00 pm at the Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare St.

**Gay Youth Group** - new group being set up for lesbians and gay men under 26. Further info. from Michael on 721248, Sat/Sun mornings between 9 and 12 noon.

### AFRICA LIBERATION DAY 1984

The Organisation of African Unity sponsored African Liberation Day this year spreads over 3 days: May 26, 27 & 28 at the Marcus Garvey Centre and is a major political and social event for African people. Tel Pan-African Congress Movement on 583173 for more info.

### SPORT

**'Sport for the Unemployed.'** Noel St baths/Indian Community Centre, Rawson St. is offering swimming, weight-training, table tennis, badminton, keep-fit, body-popping on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for men and women and Friday mornings for women only. All equipment, free coaching and child care facilities provided at 25p a session. Tel 787161.

### BIRTH

May 10, Jun 14 and Jul 12: Nottingham Homebirth Support Group meets at 7.30 at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd. If unable to come ring Angie Mindel 622829 or Wendy Murray 625775.

**La Leche League** (group encouraging breast feeding) - South Nottingham contact is Sarah Gill, 9 Chaworth Rd, West Bridgeford. Tel 815696.

### COMMUNITY

**Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre** at 69 Wiverton Rd,

Forest Fields. tel 626582. Bookable rooms include meeting rooms, kitchen/dining area, creche room, woodwork workshop and typing and duplicating facilities. Regular events include:

Mondays; 1.30-3.30: Asian Women's Project (for advice on welfare rights, immigration etc. inc. accompanying Asian women to DHSS offices as interpreters). Tuesdays; 7.30: Forest Fields Women's Group. Childcare provided.

7.30-9.30 (Every 2nd & 4th Tues. only of each month): City and County councillors hold 'surgeries'.

10.30-12.30: Welfare Rights Advice.

2nd Wed of each month: Forest Fields Peace Group.

4th Thurs. of every month: Forest Fields Peace Group.

Saturdays; 11-12.30: Welfare Rights advice.

Also meeting at the Centre: Forest Fields Traffic Action Group. F.F. Community Toy Library. F.F. Residents Association. Summer playscheme.

### THE EARTH

Every Tues. at 7.30: Friends of the Earth meet upstairs, Environmental Information Centre, Goosegate. No w/chair access.

### FEMINISM

Nottm City Council Women's Sub-Ctee - discussion groups meeting in May and June to discuss the Women's Centre, Black Women and Racism, Women and Employment and Women at Home. The meetings are on May 16, May 22, May 24 and Jun 5, at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd - free creche, disabled access. Ring 418571 ext. 214 (the Equal Opportunities Unit) to find out which group meets when and the times of the meetings. All women welcome.

**Nottm Women's International Group** - a new group of women sharing information about women involved in struggles worldwide, creating links and supportive actions internationally. Next meetings May 10 and Jun 14, both starting 7.30 at 118 Mansfield Rd and thereafter every second Tues evening of the month.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH INFORMATION CENTRE

Worried about your health? Your health problems not being taken seriously? Pills not the answer? Nottingham Women's Health Information Centre are a group of lay women who can give information on a range of health issues. Open Thurs. 12-2 pm and Sat. 10 am - 12 noon at the Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare St, Nottm. tel 414873. No w/chair access.

### PARENTS AID

New group of parents with children in care to support and

help each other. Do you know your legal rights, are you happy with your social worker, has everything got you down? Tel Linda on Mansfield 795206.

### ANARCHISM

**Nottingham Anarchist Group** meets every Friday, 8 pm at the Nottingham Community Arts and Crafts Centre, Gregory Blvd. or tel Chris 582506/624742.

### OVER 60s THURSDAY CLUB

New members welcome at Russell Rd Family Centre, Forest Fields, every Thurs. 2-4 pm.

### WELFARE RIGHTS

Every Monday 9.30-11.30 am. Every Thursday 9.30-11.30 am and 6-8 pm at Blue Bell Hill Community Centre, St. Anns.

### TRANSPORT

**The Inland Waterways Association** local branch has two early summer meetings:

May 18: The Work of the River Police

Jun 15: Two films presented by the Narrowboat Cinema. Both meetings at 7.30 pm at St. Lukes Church Hall, Leahurst Rd, West Bridgeford.

**Pedals** - the local cycle campaign group celebrates its 5th birthday this month, old and new members are welcome to the birthday party in the Salutation Inn, 7.30, May 21.

On your bike for the 3rd great Nottingham bike ride - advance warning that the biggest bike event in the city is to be on Jun 17. This year the theme will be always be 'FUN', and you may ride in fancy dress. Starts 10 am at the Goose Fair site and ambles to Rolleston for the Rolleston village fair. Tel Dave Law 609340 for details.

### WRITERS' GROUPS & WORKSHOPS

**Mansfield Writers' Group** meets at the Arts Centre, Leeming St. on Thursday mornings 10.30-12.00.

**Asby and Swandlincote Writers' Group** meets on the 1st & 3rd Tues. of every month at 7.15 at the Ivanhoe Community College, Asby de la Zouch.

**CHROMA (Chronicle of Minority Arts)**, have brought out a new publication. Their 'Writers' Club - Book One' is £1.50 and contains poems and short stories by Afro-Caribbean writers. Excellent value direct from CHROMA or bookshops.

**Nottingham Writers' Workshop** (linked to Your Own Stuff Press) meets every Tues. at 7 pm on the 2nd floor, Central Library, Angel row.

### ARMS TRADE

May 21-27: Campaign against the Arms Trade 'Bread not Bombs' week of action to draw attention to the links between third world poverty and the international arms trade. Local contact is David Lane on 816049. Outside Nottm ring 01 278 1976.

### ANIMAL LIBERATION

May 12: National demonstration - the animal rights movement's biggest mobilisation of the year - in London - against the government's White Paper on Animal Experimentation. The government's proposals will not stop the use of animals in experimentation concerned with cosmetic, tobacco, alcohol or warfare research and will legalise the use of animals to practise 'surgical skills'. Every six seconds an animal dies in a British laboratory...Coach tickets £3 from local British Union for Abolition of Vivisection. tel 811995.

May 27; 7.30: **Animal Rights Confederation** monthly meeting at Narrowboat pub, Canal St.

### UKAIDI CENTRE

UKAIDI Community Link, 9 Marple Sq. St. Anns. Tel 583173...Problems? Housing, employment, education, family, social security advice available Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm (Wed to 7.30). Ideas? Art & Craft Workshop, Drama/Dance, Skills/Talents/Time? UKAIDI wants to hear from you!

### INTERNATIONAL

**The New Jewel Movement (Support Group UK)** has launched an appeal fund to organise their work in this country in coordinating opposition to the US invasion of Grenada. The story has vanished from the headlines but the destruction caused by the invasion remains. Donations urgently needed - send to the N.J.M. Relief and Defence Fund, 4 Windus Walk, Stoke Newington, London N16. (01 806 9112).

The local Campaign for Human Rights in Grenada has a public meeting on May 14, 7.30 at the UKAIDI Centre, Marple Sq. Woodborough Rd. Speaker Carol Davis from NJM UK Support Group. All welcome.

### ICC COURSES

If you're reading this early enough in May, there's still time to join one of the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd. day or evening classes. £8 for 8 weeks, free for UB40s etc.

### ALTERNATIVE

### MEDICINE

Clarendon College are running an alternative medicine evening class in September. Dallas Simpson, course coordinator (tel 618139) is trying to contact people working or interested in the field (herbalism, homeopathy, acupuncture etc) to discuss the course.

### COMMUNITY ARTS

May 15; 7 pm: **'The Future of Community Arts: Ways Forward.'** Open meeting at the East Midlands SHAPE Community Project, 27a Belvoir St. Leicester.

MAY 5 - JUNE 16



# ISTT - LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LISTINGS

**CITYWIDE**

THESE LISTINGS are a free service. Please help us to make them as comprehensive as possible by handing in or sending details of your events to Box B, Mushroom, 10 Heathcote St., Nottingham. Better still, please put us on your mailing list - don't be one of those groups which craves anonymity and is terrified of new members! To guarantee entry, take out an ad., write for details.

Most of the events don't say whether a crèche is available or whether there is access for wheelchairs etc. Nag, nag.

The next issue covers the period from 16th June. Let's be hearing from you. 3,000 readers are desperate to find out what you're up to...

## VENUES

Boulevard Hotel, Radford Blvd, Radford.  
Carlton Folk Club: Duke of Cambridge, Woodborough Rd, Mapperley.  
Co-operative Arts Theatre, George St. 476096.  
Film Theatre, Broad St. 46095.  
Garage, St. Mary's Gate, Lacemarket.  
Hearty Goodfellow, Maid Marian Way.  
Indian Community Centre, Rawson St, New Basford.  
Marcus Garvey Centre, Lenton Blvd, Lenton.  
Midland Group, Carlton St. 586100.  
Narrowboat, Canal St, Nottingham.  
Nottingham Playhouse, Wellington Circus, 419419.  
Old Maltcross, St. James St, Nottingham.  
Rock City, Talbot St, 412544.  
Running Horse, Alfreton Rd, Canning Circus.  
Tennyson Hall Youth Club, Forest Rd, Radford.  
Yorker, Mansfield Rd.

## EXHIBITIONS

Gillian Ayers' Paintings - University Fine Art Gallery.  
Ends May 19: Edward Allington (Sculpture) - Midland Group.  
Ends May 26: Survival Programmes/ Photography and the City - Midland Group.

May 7 - Jun 1: Edward Curtis, photos - Trent Poly, Burton St.  
May 26 - Jun 7: Race Attitudes and Beliefs - Nottingham Community Arts Centre.  
May 26 - Jun 30: Paula Rego, paintings - Midland Group.  
May 26 - Aug 5: Sculpture in the Grounds - Nottingham Castle.  
May 29 - May 31: Eat Your Art Out (edible art) - Midland Group.  
Jun 1 - May 1985: The Divine Comedy - Sculpture in Victoria Railway Cutting.  
Jun 7-30: Masterpieces - Midland Group.

## FILM

May 5 & 6; 5 pm: Lianna (18) - Film Theatre.  
May 5; 7 pm: Kagemusha (PG) - Midland Group.  
May 8 & 9; 7 pm: Frozen Music (uncert.) - Midland Group.  
May 10; 7 pm: Return Journey & discussion - Midland Group.  
May 11; 7.30 pm: Honeysuckle Rose (PG) - Film Theatre.  
May 11 & 12; 6 & 8 pm: Ghost Dance (15) - Midland Group.  
May 12 & 13; 5 pm: Honkytonk Man (15) - Film Theatre.  
May 15; 7 pm: Model (uncert.) - Midland Group.  
May 16; 7 pm: Julia (PG) - Midland Group.  
May 17; 2.6 & 8 pm: Almonds and Raisins (U) - Midland Group.  
May 18; 6 & 8 pm only: as May 17 - Midland Group.  
May 18; 7.30 pm: First Name Carmen (18) - Film Theatre.  
May 19 & 20; 5 pm: as May 18 - Film Theatre.  
May 19; 7 pm: The King of Comedy (PG) - Midland Group.  
May 22; 7 pm: Underage/ Housing Problems (uncert.) - Midland Group.  
May 23; 7 pm: Juvenile Liaison/ Who Cares? - Midland Group.  
May 24; 2, 5.45 & 8 pm: Diner (15) - Midland Group.  
May 25 & 26; 5.45 & 8 pm only: as May 24 - Midland Group.  
May 25; 7.30 pm: Tom Jones (15) - Film Theatre.  
May 26; 5 pm: as May 25 - Film Theatre.  
May 27; 5 pm (part 1) & 8 pm (part 2): 1900 - Film Theatre.  
May 29 & 30; 6 & 8 pm: Family Business (uncert.) - Midland Group.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Ashes and Diamonds (18) - Film Theatre.  
May 31; 7.30 pm: Bonnie and Clyde - Film Theatre.  
May 31 & June 1 & 2; 8 pm: International Super 8 Film Festival - Midland Group.  
Jun 1; 7.30 pm: Missing (15) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 2; 5 pm: as Jun 1 - Film Theatre.

Jun 3; 3 & 7 pm: Ivan the Terrible (PG) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 5; 7 pm: A Night at the Opera (U) - Midland Group.  
Jun 6; 7.30 pm: It Happened Here (PG) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 6; 7 pm: Messidor (PG) - Midland Group.  
Jun 7; 7.30 pm: Robin and Marian (PG) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 7; 2 & 7 pm: Personal Best (18) - Midland Group.  
Jun 8; 7 pm only: as Jun 7 - Midland Group.  
Jun 8; 7 pm: Seven Samurai (PG) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 9; 7 pm: La Luna (18) - Midland Group.  
Jun 9; 5 pm: Mephisto (15) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 10; 3 & 7 pm: Reds (15) - Film Theatre.  
Jun 12; 7 pm: Women and Apartheid, films & discussion - Midland Group.  
Jun 13; 6 & 8 pm: Friends and Husbands (15) - Midland Group.  
Jun 14; 2, 6 & 8 pm: Toute une Nuit (uncert.) - Midland Group.  
Jun 15 & 16; 6 & 8 pm only: as Jun 14 - Midland Group.  
Jun 15; 7.30 pm: Colour of Pomegranates (U) 1 Film Theatre.

May 10; 8 pm: John Cooper Clarke/ No Tears - Vino's. £3.50, £3.  
May 10 & 11; 7.30 pm: Teatr Maja present 'The Land of Laughter' - Midland Group. £1.75, £1.25.  
May 14; 7.30 pm: Mikron Theatre Co. present 'Manchester-Super-Mare' - Steamboat Inn, Long Eaton.  
May 15: as May 14 - Canal Museum, Canal St.  
May 17-Jun 9: The Price of Coal, by Barry Hines - Nottingham Playhouse.  
May 17; 8 pm: Circus of Poets/ Doctor G - Vino's. £2.75, £2.25.  
May 18; 8 pm: Spotz opening night presents 'Desperate Men/ Martin Glynn/ The Old Contemptibles' - Boulevard Hotel. £1.50, £1.  
May 18 & 19; 7.30 pm: Theatre Babel present 'He Wasn't Entirely Himself...' - Midland Group. £1.75, £1.25.  
May 24; 8 pm: Attila the Stockbroker/ Seething Wells - Vino's. £2.75, £2.25.  
May 26 & 27; 7.30 pm: Takeaway Theatre present 'Sus' - Hyson Green Community

May 30; 11.45 pm: Tony Allen's 1984 'Meaning of Life Crusade' - The Garage. £2.50, £2.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Captain Webb and his Dancing Bear Entertain - Queen's Walk Community Centre. FREE.  
May 31; 8 pm: The Liverpool Poets - Clinton Rooms, Thurland St. £3.50, £3.  
May 31; 8 pm: The Basement Group present 'The Touring Exhibitionists' - Midland Group. £2, £1.50.  
May 31; 7.45 pm: Nottingham Women's Theatre Group present 'In Sickness and in Health' - Playhouse.  
Jun 1 & 2; 8.30 pm: House Performance Co. present 'Fog' - Canal Towpath off Carrington St. FREE.  
Jun 1 & 2; 6.45 pm: Duncan Whiteman - Midland Group. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 1 & 2; 8 pm: Forkbeard Fantasy present 'Springtime' - Midland Group. £2, £1.50.  
Jun 1; 7.30 pm: Mirage present 'Inflatable Accessories' - Playhouse. £1, 75p.



Night At The Opera, Midland Group, Jun 5

## PERFORMANCE & THEATRE

Every Fri. from May 18 at 8 pm: Spotz - Alternative Cabaret. Local & national acts. - Boulevard Hotel. Normally £1.50, £1.  
Ends May 12: Blood Brothers - Nottingham Playhouse.  
May 5; 7.30 pm: Prospect Players present 'The Caretaker' by Harold Pinter - Bonnington Theatre, Arnold Leisure Centre.

Centre, St. Pauls Ave. £1.50, £1.  
May 26; 2 pm: 'Mushaira', Asian Poetry Gala - Pakistan Centre, Woodborough Rd.  
May 28; 7.45: Whale present 'Deadly Dames' - Nottingham Playhouse. £1, 75p.  
May 29 & 30; 7.30 pm: Impact Theatre Co-operative present 'Songs of the Claypeople' - Midland Group. £2.25, £1.75.  
May 29 & 30; 7.45 pm: Takeaway Theatre present 'Sus' by Barry Keefe - Playhouse. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 2; 3.30 and 7.30 pm: Tara Arts Group present 'A Cabaret for all Seasons' - Indian Community Centre. £1, 75p, 50p.  
Jun 3; 7.30 pm: CHROMA present Nottingham Black Theatre & African Dawn - Marcus Garvey Centre. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 3; 8 pm: Alistair Davidson and Monica Spear - The Park Derby Rd tunnel, Park entrance. FREE.  
Jun 4-9: The Happiest Days of Your Life - Coop Arts Theatre.

May 30; 7.30 pm: Lithuanian Songs and Dances - Ukrainian Hall, Bentinck Rd. £2, £1.50.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Laurie Booth presents 'Animal (Parts)' - People's College, Castle Rd. £2, £1.50.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Lancel African Arts. African dance & music. - Tennyson Hall Youth Club.  
Jun 2; 8 pm: Phoenix Dance Company - Tennyson Hall Youth Club. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 5: Morrison School of Dancing - an evening of dance - Rainbow Rooms, Broad St.  
Jun 7; 7.30 pm: Suraya Hilal (pro Islamic dance) - Music Studio, Nottingham University.  
Jun 8; 7.30 pm: Ekom present 'Unity' - Marcus Garvey Centre. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 9; 7.30 pm: Lurching Darts (contemporary dance) - Music Studio, Nottingham University.

## MUSIC Regularities

SATURDAYS: Yates': Sam the Man. Beechtree Lodge, Beeston: Robin Hood Folk Club. Old Maltcross: Brendan Kidulis and guests (lunchtime).  
SUNDAYS: Old Maltcross: Redrunners. Bell Inn, Long Row: Footwarmers (lunchtime). Hearty Goodfellow: Dawn Trader. Jacey's, Heathcote St.: Hammer and Tong (lunchtime). Boulevard Hotel: Coop Folk Club. Dixie's Arms, Bagthorpe: Folk Workshop. Yates': Sam the Man.  
MONDAYS: Old Maltcross: Mitchell, Smeeton, Clarke & Thompson. Bell Inn: Omega Jazz Band. Hearty Goodfellow: Pop and Rock. Narrowboat: Folk. Yates': Personal Touch.  
TUESDAYS: Bell Inn: Society Five. Running Horse: Teddy Fullick Quintet. Yorker: Pop and Rock. Jacey's, Heathcote St.: Andy, Boris and Keith. Old Maltcross: Jacob's Soberpeak Blues and Folk Night.  
WEDNESDAYS: Hearty Goodfellow: Pop and Rock. Three Horseshoes, Beeston: Beeston Folk Club. Gladstone, Loscoe Rd: Carrington Triangle Folk Club. Yates': Sam the Man.  
THURSDAYS: Yates': Hotshots. Old Maltcross: Disco. Old Hart, Lenton: Live Jazz. The Mechanics, off Huntingdon St. Irish folk session. Hearty Goodfellow: Colin Staples' Breadline.  
FRIDAYS: Newhouse, St. James St: Traditional music club. Yates': Sam the Man. Old Maltcross: Brendan Kidulis and guests (lunchtime). Disco (evening).



Lancel African Arts Coop. Tennyson Hall, May 30.

## DANCE

May 26; 7 pm: Ukrainian Dance, Songs & Music - Ukrainian Hall, Bentinck Rd, Hyson Green. £1.50.  
May 27; 6.45 pm: Gujarati Festival, music, songs & dance - People's College, Castle Rd. £1.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Lithuanian Songs and Dances - Ukrainian Hall, Bentinck Rd. £2, £1.50.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Laurie Booth presents 'Animal (Parts)' - People's College, Castle Rd. £2, £1.50.  
May 30; 7.30 pm: Lancel African Arts. African dance & music. - Tennyson Hall Youth Club.  
Jun 2; 8 pm: Phoenix Dance Company - Tennyson Hall Youth Club. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 5: Morrison School of Dancing - an evening of dance - Rainbow Rooms, Broad St.  
Jun 7; 7.30 pm: Suraya Hilal (pro Islamic dance) - Music Studio, Nottingham University.  
Jun 8; 7.30 pm: Ekom present 'Unity' - Marcus Garvey Centre. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 9; 7.30 pm: Lurching Darts (contemporary dance) - Music Studio, Nottingham University.

May 7: China Roque - Hearty Goodfellow.  
May 7: Alan Taylor - Narrowboat Folk Club.  
May 8: Engine - Yorker.  
May 9: Tippet-Dunmall Quartet - Vino's. £3, £2.50, £1.50.  
May 9: Untouchables - Old Maltcross.  
May 9: Bruce Foxton - Rock City. £3.  
May 10: European Toys - Yorker.  
May 10; 8 pm: Vin Garbutt, folk singer - Bonnington Theatre, Arnold Leisure Centre.  
May 10: Singers' Night - Carlton Folk Club.  
May 10: Marc Riley (ex Fall) - The Garage.  
May 11: Bad Axe - Hearty Goodfellow.  
May 13; 8 pm: Allegri String Quartet - Cripps Hall, Nottingham University. £2, £1.  
May 13: Electro Funk and Jazz All-day - Rock City. £3.  
May 14; 2.15 pm: Allegri String Quartet - Music Studio, University. FREE.  
May 14: Magpie - Narrowboat folk club.  
May 14: Aswad - Rock City.

May 15; 7.30 pm: Allegri String Quartet - Music Studio, University. £2, £1.  
May 15: All the President's Men - Lyrics Wine Bar, Maid Marian Way.  
May 15: Prefab Sprout - Rock City. £2.  
May 16: James Moody - Vino's. £3, 2.50, £1.50.  
May 16: Big Dream - Old Maltcross.  
May 16: Death Cult - Rock City. £3.  
May 17: Hi-Jinx. (Women's dance band. Afro-caribbean influences) - Marcus Garvey Centre. £2, £1.  
May 17: Frontier - Yorker.  
May 17: Paul Metsers - Carlton Folk Club.  
May 19; 7.30 pm: East of England Orchestra - St. Mary's Church.  
May 21: Tony Trishka's Skyline - Narrowboat Folk Club.  
May 22: Black Flag 1111 - Zhivago's, Victoria Centre.  
May 22: Blancmange - Rock City. £3.  
May 23; 7.30 pm: New Arts Consort - Midland Group. £1.75, £1.25.  
May 23; 8 pm: El Salvador benefit with 'Ssura' - Old Maltcross.  
May 23: Michael Garrick - Vino's. £1.50.  
May 23: Tones on Tail (ex Bauhaus) - The Garage. £2.50.  
May 23: Psychedelic Furs - Rock City. £3.  
May 24: Mass of Black - Yorker.

May 24: Singers' Night - Carlton Folk Club.  
May 25: Badger - Hearty Goodfellow.  
May 25: Cameo live from USA - Rock City. £3.50.  
May 26; lunchtime: Betty Smith - Running Horse. FREE.  
May 26: Ken Collyer (skiffle) - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
May 27: Predator - Yorker.  
May 27: Spot the Zebra Tentet - Browne's Wine Bar, Goosegate. 50p.  
May 28; 7.30 pm: Dharambir Singh and Friends (sitar and tabla recital) - Indian Community Centre. £1.50, £1.  
May 28: Singers Night - Narrowboat Folk Club.  
May 29: Ken Wood and the Mixers - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
May 29: Teslaroom - Charlie's Barn, Beeston.  
May 30; 12.5 pm: Music in the Arboretum - Arboretum, Waverley St. FREE.  
May 30: Jackroes - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
May 30; 8 pm: 'The Art of the Minstralsye' with Philip Asthe and Paul Williamson - Wollaton Hall. £1.50.  
May 31; 8pm: Jamie Crofts' Long Tailed Piano Music - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
May 31: Static Dance - Yorker.  
Jun 1: Bad Axe - Hearty Goodfellow.  
Jun 2; lunchtime: John Barnes - Running Horse. FREE.  
Jun 2: Paul Hollis Quintet - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
Jun 3: Roaring Jelly - Coop Folk Club, Boulevard Hotel.

Jun 3: Spot the Zebra - Browne's Wine Bar, Goosegate. 50p.  
Jun 4: Singers' Night - Narrowboat Folk Club.  
Jun 4: Band Competition - Rock City. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 4; 7.30 pm: Concert of Gospel songs by the Nottingham Black Church Choirs - YMCA, Shakespeare St.  
Jun 5: Sed Smith and Sweet Chorus - Running Horse. FREE.  
Jun 5: Tribute to Alexis Corner - Palais, Parliament St.  
Jun 6: Bill Cole Band - Running Horse. FREE.  
Jun 6: Maythorne - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
Jun 7: Singers' Night - Carlton Folk Club.  
Jun 7: Paris Pavement Band - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
Jun 7: Redskins - The Garage. £2.  
Jun 8: Kate B Aacs Trio - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
Jun 9; lunchtime: Danny Moss - Running Horse. FREE.  
Jun 9: Donna Smith - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
Jun 9; 8 pm: Spanish Guitar Concert - Church of St. Augustine, Basford. 50p.  
Jun 10; 7.30 pm: Asian Music Gala - Pakistan Centre, Woodborough Rd. £1.50.  
Jun 10; 8 pm: Dan Weaver/ Rash Heart/ 10 Minutes to Buffalo. - Old Maltcross. 50p.  
Jun 10: Six Hands in Tempo - Coop Folk Club, Boulevard Hotel.  
Jun 11: Tundra - Narrowboat Folk Club.  
Jun 13: DC 10 - Old Maltcross. FREE.  
Jun 13: John Stevens' Folkus - Vino's. £3, £2.50, £1.50.  
Jun 14: Dab Hand - Carlton Folk Club.

## EXTRAS

May 26; 2-4 pm: Costa del Meadows Procession - Starts Queen's Walk Community Centre. FREE.  
May 27; 3-6.15 pm: Gujarati Folk Culture displays and workshops - People's College, Castle Rd. FREE.  
Jun 2; 10 am - 4.30 pm: Electronic Music Open Day - Midland Group. FREE.  
Jun 2; 10 am - 3 pm: Aspects of Indian Life (inc. cookery demonstration) - Indian Community Centre. 50p.  
Jun 3; 2-5 pm: All Saints Community Carnival - Raleigh St. FREE.  
Jun 3; 2-5 pm: Costa del Meadows Carnival - Queen's Drive Recreation Ground. FREE.  
Jun 7 & 8: All day Video Festival - ICC, Mansfield Rd. FREE.  
Jun 8; 2-4 pm: Ekom Dance and Drumming Workshop - Midland Group. £1.50, £1.  
Jun 9; 2-4 pm: Lurching Darts Dance Workshop - Midland Group. £1.50, £1.

MAY 5

JUNE 16



# nottinghamshire nalgo

NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

## MAY DAY GREETINGS

## UNITY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR

## PEACE AND JOBS!

**Notts. Nalgo would like to take this opportunity to thank all trade unionists who supported the residential social workers in our dispute last year**

### Irresponsible

To Citywise

We felt that the cover of Citywise 4 was:-  
VOYEURISTIC - 'Looking in' without any reference to the child as a named person with a real life and a real history.

PORNOGRAPHIC - the portrayal of a young vulnerable helpless female, very reminiscent of some porn images.

CONTEXTLESS - there is no obvious link between this photograph and any text in the paper.

RACIST - the 'helpless suffering native' image used to shock in a patronising one-dimensional manner.

There is no background information, nor link by words or other images, so that the viewer is left to make up her/his mind from her/his assumptions. Given the racist and sexist nature of our society, we feel that it is totally irresponsible to use such anonymous images.

**Nottingham International Women's Group,**  
c/o The Women's Centre,  
32a Shakespeare Street,  
Nottingham.

### Bill opposed

Dear Citywise,

I have consistently opposed certain aspects of the County Council Bill and I did persuade the Labour Group to reduce the period of notice regarding demonstrations from 72 hours to 24 hours. At that time, I did not have the support of the County Labour Party or the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL); nor was there any evidence available that other county councils had withdrawn demonstration clauses.

When the NCCL did produce documented evidence of such withdrawals, I got the matter discussed again within the County Council Labour Group and was defeated, but there was still no support from the County Labour Party.

Mainly because of John Batchellor's efforts and changes in political balances on some Constituency Labour Parties, the County Labour Party did finally discuss the County Council Bill and decide to oppose the clause on demonstrations.

I first raised objections to the Bill in the summer of 1981 and I still find much of its content of a dubious nature, but I think it needs to be recognised that the County Labour Group, as Dennis Pettitt is reported as saying, 'have debated this subject on 4 occasions'.

I can fairly claim that I organised and co-ordinated many of the objections for the NCCL at the end of 1982. I made many 'phone calls and I wrote a lot of letters. An NCCL official met Dennis Pettitt and others with myself before the County Labour Group discussed it on the last occasion.

Dennis Pettitt has never opposed my efforts and as a good leader has honoured his responsibility to reflect Group views. There is a limit to how many times you can raise a matter without exhausting the patience of other people to listen and both

### LETTERS

the NCCL and I recognised that another spokesperson for the anti-Bill cause would have been preferable to me, but no-one could be found.

There is opposition to the Bill within the County Labour Group, hence the fact that it has been debated 4 times. No other issue has received similar attention by the Group.

The article by John Batchellor in the last issue of Citywise fails to acknowledge the opposition to the Bill within the County Council Labour Group, even though he knows of its existence.

The record of the Labour Party in Nottinghamshire in opposing the Bill is hardly one to be proud of and the Labour County Councillors have, in my opinion, merely reflected the views of the Party as known to them at the time the decisions were made.

Many Labour County Councillors have opposed the Bill since 1981. The trouble is the Labour Party has taken its time in giving us its support and now it may be too late.

**Yours sincerely,**  
**Robert Howard**  
(County Councillor)

*On Cllr Howard's last point, we hope that Labour Party constituencies and branches (and any other body) who have not sent written objections get moving before time runs out. Objections should be sent to Barbara Cohen, NCCL, 21 Tabard St, London SE1 4LA, with a copy to Don Concannon MP, House of Commons, SW1, who claims that the Labour Party supports the Bill. (Eds)*

### Snide remarks

Dear Citywise,

I am writing in response to a couple of points in the last issue.

Firstly there is the letter from Claimants

## Council in meat market

By Sally Jobling

**IN 1983 THE LABOUR City Council pledged to pioneer the fight against sexual discrimination. Amongst other things, they promised to 'recommend good practice', 'campaign on behalf of women' and 'support women's rights initiatives in the City'.**

Turning words into action, they have unanimously given the go-ahead to the 'liaison with (one of) those voluntary organisations who are concerned with the promotion of equality and welfare of women' - i.e. a local nightclub promoting 'Miss Nottingham 1984'.

According to the rules, 'competitors are at liberty to emphasise their personalities by the use of make up, head decorations, shoes; one or two piece bathing costumes may be worn...' After two heats we are still awaiting the revelation of what ornate g-strings have to do with personalities. At least one is assured that only 'real' women may apply: 'Costumes MUST NOT INCLUDE ARTIFICIAL AIDS'. One

Action attacking CPSA (Civil and Public Servants' Association) for taking strike action and making their support for CPSA conditional. CA seem to have forgotten that the DHSS does not exist to look after the interests of claimants but to look after the interests of the system. DHSS distributes "economic valium" in the form of dole cheques with the object of keeping claimants quiet.

An all-out strike thus exposes this system and should be welcomed. Strike action is the last resort for any group of workers, but once forced to it they are entitled to make it as effective as possible. "Emergency cover" has been exploited by management in both DHSS and NHS to weaken strikes, hence CPSA no longer provide cover. CA should look to how it can organise claimants both to look after their interests and support the strikers, in the event of future action, which, given the Tory attacks on civil service jobs and trade union rights, is becoming more and more likely.

The second point is the remark, "we instinctively rejected that ethos", in connection with picketing, which appeared in the report by Women for Peace. It is a shame that those who are developing alternative forms of action cannot do so without making snide remarks about other people's forms of action. The tragedy is that this remark represents an attitude prevalent in CND, the reaction of Greenham women to the Daleside strikers being another example. This has led to CND divorcing itself from mainstream trade union struggle. This is seriously weakening the anti-nuclear campaign.

In conclusion, I'd ask the CNDers, militant vegetarians, claimants groups etc. to get on with whatever they are doing without continuously carping against what trade unionists are doing.

**Mark Stevens,**  
Shop steward, NUPE,  
Nottingham Centre for Unemployed  
(personal capacity)



# McCance - in the firing line

Richard McCance is the first openly declared gay to be elected as a Nottingham city councillor. In the local elections last year, he received two votes fewer than the other Labour candidate for Forest Ward, and both beat the Tories into third place in this former Conservative stronghold by a comfortable margin of over 500 - a swing of 13%, the only swing to Labour in the city. In March this year, Richard McCance was the object of intense scrutiny by the Evening Post when he temporarily upset the ruling Labour group's slender majority of one by voting against the group in what he regarded as a "cuts" budget. In this Citywise interview, he discusses some of the issues raised by his dual role as left-wing politician and campaigner for gay rights.

**Citywise:** What made you stand in the local elections?

**Richard McCance:** Any oppressed group has to rely first on its own struggle. Ten years of involvement in the gay movement gave me my pride, my self-respect and my anger to translate into positive action. I began to learn that the only real vehicles for change in improving the quality of life for people were the trade unions and the Labour movement. Outside of these we can only make cosmetic adjustments. I was involved in campaigns centred on the sacking of lesbian and gay workers, simply because they were gay. I decided it was time to join the Labour Party and link into the existing struggles which were indivisible from our own, for the majority of lesbians and gays are working class and also members of other disadvantaged groups, e.g. black and gay.

**Citywise:** You were selected to stand for the City Council as an openly gay candidate. How did this go down in your local branch?

**Richard McCance:** Our local election campaign last year was being planned in the wake of Peter Tatchell's defeat in Bermondsey and this increased fears from some waverers in the Labour Party branch, who thought that mentioning gay rights would be bad news and lose the Labour Party this winnable seat. But I made it clear from the outset that I expected the same rights as any other candidate to describe my personal lifestyle, or they would have to re-select another candidate. I obtained a majority of one in the branch for my stance. Some people were not honest enough to say they opposed my stance but instead said "public opinion" was not yet ready for this. But we know from research that public opinion is not always quite so easy to identify as is sometimes assumed. On any one issue "the public" is likely to hold many different and sometimes conflicting opinions with degrees of conviction ranging from apathy to zealotry. Often, I think, the opinions of the majority are not heard. In fact, as far as public opinion has



Photo by Mark Salmon

## INTERVIEW

been tested by polls, a growing majority of the public is shown to be at least tolerant towards lesbians and gay men (although tolerance is far from acceptance). Also opinions are often open to change through education and the increased efforts of lesbian and gay people to challenge them. Public opinion is usually cited in support of caution and conservatism; seldom is it quoted in support of bold and radical initiatives.

**Citywise:** The Evening Post recently implied that you simply arrived in Nottingham two years ago out of the blue, got yourself elected by some magical means and have been a great embarrassment to your Labour colleagues since.

**Richard McCance:** Yes, well, of course, the Post is as usual inaccurate. I came to Nottingham five years ago from London, having worked for a council-funded gay agency, and when the funding was cut, I was made redundant. My lover lived in Nottingham, so it was that I arrived here. My shortlisting and eventual selection followed the usual pattern of most candidates. I think many of my Labour colleagues are embarrassed when I raise lesbian and gay rights issues because they believe the time is not right and it will rock the boat. But we must seize the time and that is now. At times I get fed up with being a 24-hour gay. One of the best things that happened recently was when a heterosexual comrade, outside the council, reminded me that a gay rights resolution ought to be raised at a certain meeting and that he was quite happy to sponsor it. But that is still quite rare for non-gays because

of their fear of being identified or thought to be gay or lesbian. There is an expectation that I will "deal with it". Yet you don't have to be black to support black equality.

**Citywise:** What sort of opposition have you encountered inside or outside the council to gay rights?

**Richard McCance:** Some disadvantaged groups have plainly stated they don't want to be lumped together with lesbians and gays, as if the problems we experience were all the same. Some blacks have also said that the gay community has not yet earned its spurs, i.e. while blacks were defending their community against police attacks during the 1981 disturbances in Nottingham and elsewhere, the gays and lesbians were nowhere to be seen. This raises an important point about visibility. They did not see us because we did not have green noses, but black and white gays and lesbians were involved in this struggle alongside black and white heterosexuals. Also certain council officers were lethargic in obtaining information on what other local authorities were doing on gay rights. Again there was an expectation that I would get the info., but to actually print the words "gay" and "lesbian" on council official notepaper was a big leap into the unknown for one or two! Of course there has been the usual hysteria from the less responsible media like the Evening Post about "sex on the rates", which is one way to marginalise and confine the issue when people quickly forget that we are ratepayers and voters, too, and have a right to a place in the sun.

**Citywise:** You received extensive coverage in the Evening Post recently over your stand against the City Council's budget.

**Richard McCance:** The Labour Group on the City Council does not talk to the Post because it is a scab newspaper and is anti-trade union. At the time I was coming up for election last May, I took the wind out of the Post's sails simply because I was out as a gay from the start. There was, therefore, no news in my being 'out', as opposed to being 'found out'. The Post usually defines me as 'gay councillor' Richard McCance rather than for the area I represent, as if that is my sole characteristic. When members of the Nottingham City Labour group including myself had earlier opposed rent increases for council tenants and voted against the group, the Tories had been caught on the hop and by mistake also voted against the rent rises. But the Evening Post screamed in banner headlines, 'Labour rebels vote with the Tories.' And when I opposed what I regarded as essentially a cuts budget and voted in line with the City Labour Party, the Post portrayed me as a wrecker, infiltrator and nutter, and also hinted that in order to buy my vote the Labour Leader would have to do a deal with me. This was simply an attempt to discredit me by

concentrating on personalities rather than issues and in turn discredit the Labour Party. Would the Post have bothered to mention my sexual preference if I had been heterosexual? I am a Labour councillor who happens to be gay rather than the other way round.

**Citywise:** Do you think councillors should keep away from national issues and concentrate on their wards only?

**Richard McCance:** Ideally it is necessary to achieve a balance. I think there is a danger of becoming preoccupied solely with local issues to the exclusion of the wider concerns. But each councillor has to sort out their own priorities. Right now I am spending more time supporting the miners' struggle and making time for picketing because as trade unionists we must win this fight. But I make sure I wear a gay badge so that the arguments can be carried forward to the picket line, and why a 'poof' is linked in struggle with them.

# Over the top at Yates's

By Bill Loach & Bob Blatchford

IN THE LAST 12 months the Nottingham drinking scene has suffered a number of set-backs with the gross 'gentrification' of some of its oldest and most traditional pubs. The Clinton Arms, the Exchange and the Hand in Heart have all been altered beyond recognition. Yates's, it seems, is next. Even the Evening Post was moved to comment on the changes proposed for Yates's...

Yates's feel that they have been given a bad press and that conservationists have over-reacted. They wish, they told us, to 'retain the tradition and improve levels of comfort'. They have learned from their mistake in completely destroying the character of the Yates Bros. pub in Blackpool ('We went over the top') and regard Yates's in Nottingham as the 'jewel' of their remaining establishments.

They do, however, wish to improve profitability and turnover. As seasoned Yates's drinkers, we were somewhat surprised that it was conceived as a possibility that they could pack any more in on a Friday and Saturday night. However, Yates's we were told, have to think of the 'next 20 years' (with Cruise arriving this year, it seemed to us that they were being unduly optimistic!).

Tempted as we were to accept their assurances at face value, we decided for form's sake to have a look at the plans. They told a slightly different story. Comfort seems to have overtaken tradition to the extent that the proposed changes amount to a gross exercise in trendiness.

The familiar facade of the building will undergo some unwelcome changes. It will no longer be Yates's Wine Lodge but 'The Talbot', and the name will be picked out in gilt letters and illuminated by spotlights.

**Citywise:** Are there any special pressures on you as the only openly gay councillor?

**Richard McCance:** I just wish that the other gay people on the council would come out as gay. I do not feel any special pressures, other than those which affect the other councillors of having so much to do and so little time. However, taking a stand over the budget was not easy with opposition from within the Labour Party as well. I suppose I am well used to being marginalised and in isolation. I enjoy a healthy amount of paranoia, sometimes it's over the top, but just because I'm paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get me. Support from comrades off the council and in the gay and lesbian movement is crucial to my survival.

**Citywise:** A year after your election do you see any change in attitudes to lesbian and gay rights, both locally and nationally?

**Richard McCance:** Locally it's hard to tell because we haven't yet pressed

Nottingham City Council for anything concrete on gay or lesbian rights. So far it's been all talk on both sides, but once we start to campaign and things get onto provision, then I think things will hot up. Last week, the Scottish Sunday Mail ran a queer-bashing article on a leading Labour Party activist and out gay who had previously stood in local elections. This time he was selected as election agent. The paper seized on his editorship of 'Gay Scotland' and that he was a council employee. Unfortunately, his local Labour Party refused to support him and forced him to resign as party agent, which is disgraceful. So at the moment the commitment by sections of the Labour Party to civil liberties, never mind radical and sexual politics, seems to be paper thin. So it is often two steps forward, one step back. But it's all part of the dark age we are now in - it may be lesbians and gays in the firing line today but it will be the trade unionists tomorrow. So we must break the chains and form the links. ●



Carriage lamps at the front of the building and 'daylight fluorescent tubes with opal diffusers' will illuminate the old cast-iron pillars which will be 'improved' by a coating of 'marbilised' paint. A new staircase will ascend to the first floor from where the Bottle Department is currently sited. Other refinements on the ground floor include a split-level seating area (in fact three different levels) creating a main standing area of two open-plan 'nooks'.

The first floor is where it is really going to be happening. Settees and potted plants are to be liberally sprinkled around, the balcony is to be moved, although, interestingly, the piano retains its

traditional place. The bar is being moved and a 'Food Servery' is being created. The first-floor is also split-level, but the crowning glory of this creative re-planning exercise is a conservatory structure which has been dropped in to the first floor balcony (eat your Hand in Heart out!). This structure comprises large glass panels with aluminium frame finished with polyester powder coating.

The original plans were vetted by the Conservation Committee, which comprises representatives of the Society of Architects and the Historical Society, amongst others. They were so impressed by the attempts to 'restore Yates's in Victorian style' that they urged the City Council to apply to the Department of the Environment to have it made a listed building, which would give some degree of statutory protection. This Committee can act only in an advisory capacity but our City Council, to their credit, made the necessary representations and the outcome is still awaited.

Footnote: As we go to press, we hear that Yates's has just been listed. Cheers! ●

## Doughnuts

A 'LOW-SUGAR' Farley's rusk contains as much sugar as a doughnut, according to Channel Four's Diverse Reports programme.

The reporters accused Farley's, as well as other baby biscuit manufacturers (such as Liga), of deceiving parents about the amount of sugar in their rusks. The low-sugar variety in fact contains no less sugar than the ordinary biscuit, though it contains less sucrose.

A representative from Farley's confirmed that the programme's findings were accurate. ●



**'Coming Out' doesn't always happen when you're young. It doesn't always happen 'according to plan'. And sometimes it's the people who are very close to you whom it's hardest to tell.**

# Coming Out

This article originally appeared in the August 1983 issue of GEM (Gay East Midlands), whose permission to reprint it is gratefully acknowledged.

I have a great fund of excuses for not telling my mother I am a lesbian - she is old; she is not in good health; she is a widow and lives on her own; she is the child of strict, authoritarian Ulster Protestants and, therefore, cannot be expected to understand. All these reasons masquerade under the biggest lie of all - I do not want to upset her. These deceptions and fantasies have coddled me for nearly five years. Until last week, when I was placed in the position of having to say to my mother, 'I am a lesbian'. Even that is a lie, really. Neither of us used the word 'lesbian' or 'gay', although my mother did refer to 'freaks'.

My mother had been staying with us for nearly a week when a caller at the door inadvertently revealed the truth I had been concealing for so long. Mother said very little, after her bald statement that she had overheard the conversation and now 'knew'. She walked out of the door and across the park. I could see her walking about, her hands clasped together, winding a handkerchief in and out of her fingers. I stood for a long time, all thought suspended, until fragmented scraps of placatory phrases began to assemble. I would go over to her and tell her not to think too badly of me, that no one at home need ever know, and above all, beg her to keep coming to see me.

Not very noble, these first thoughts, but years of self-deceit breeds a straight-jacket of self preservation. I did go to her, eventually, and walked helplessly along behind her, mentally joining in with her hand-wringing. I waited until she spoke. 'I wish I was dead', came first, closely followed by, 'I wish you were dead'. Couldn't she see I was happy? 'How can you be happy when you aren't right in the head?' I frantically tried to recall all the positive things I had ever seen written about lesbianism, or to think of a 'respectable' person who was also a lesbian, in order to convince her that my lover and I were not the only 'freaks' she knew. 'There are thousands of women like us,' I offered. 'No.' Defeated by her stony refusal to listen to anything that I had to say, and numbed - not yet hurting - from her rejection of my very existence, I retreated to the kitchen to begin the evening meal.

When I was twelve years old, I once failed to see my Mother in the street and she accused me of ignoring her. Nothing I could do could convince her otherwise, and I was reduced to begging her to forgive me for something I hadn't done. Now, I tried to tell her I loved her, only to be met with the same implacable obstinacy. My lesbianism, like the non-existence snubbing all those years ago, had been interpreted as a rejection of my Mother. And it was at that moment that I faced the unpalatable truth - that I had been lying to myself for years about the reasons I did not tell my Mother I was a lesbian. The true reason is that I knew I would meet this brick wall of prejudice and I was unwilling and afraid to face it and cope with it. I did not want to admit that my Mother, whom I love dearly, would not be unselfish enough to be glad for my happiness.

I would like to say that the realisation of the truth about the relationship between my Mother and myself brought me strength and courage, but it didn't. When J., my lover, arrived home from work I was still dithering around in the kitchen. Instead of telling her what had happened, in the presence of my mother, I signalled frantically to attract her attention and dragged her into the back yard, where I subjected her to jumbled, whispered explanations and importunings, presenting my Mother and myself as tragic, star-crossed figures and asking for J.'s collusion in my self-abasement. To my everlasting relief, I did not get it.

Although appreciating that the revelation of my lesbianism had come as something of a shock to my Mother, J. nevertheless refused to fall into the role of 'freak' and second-class citizen which was emanating from the rigidly erect figure of my Mother. I took courage from her strength and love and, for the remainder of the evening, we chatted and tried to act as if it were just another evening at home, in an effort to demonstrate that this was how we lived and we were not ashamed or guilty in any way. My mother ignored J. completely and spoke to me only when

necessary and in the tone one would use to a deranged person who had caused deep offence.

Before she left our home the next day, I tried once more to reassure my Mother that I was the woman I had always been, and that J. and I were ordinary and quite dull people. By this time, however, she had progressed to blaming J. for my 'corruption' and swore she would never return to see me as long as I remained living with J. I looked at her for a long time. I thought of all the lies I had told her over the years and how often I had longed to be truthful with her. I thought of the times I had tried unsuccessfully to please her by conforming to norms which I rejected internally. I thought of her own inner unhappiness, and the long evenings she would spend at home, agonising over my 'sickness'. For just one moment, I wanted to throw my arms around her and plead with her for 'forgiveness' - old habits die hard - but then, finally, the frightened, self-doubting little girl died and I was free of my Mother's domination. Perhaps she doesn't see it as such; perhaps she still thinks she loves me honestly. If so, then I can no longer live with that kind of love. My mother and I took our leave of each other later that morning in silence, the air full of unspoken pleadings and promises. I don't know what sort of relationship, if any, we will be able to establish in the future but at least it will be built on honesty on my part. And, perhaps, one day she will come back to see J. and me. We will be here. Together.



● Readers may like to know of Parents Enquiry, an organisation which offers counselling for the parents of gay people. Write to:

Rose Robertson,  
16 Honley Road,  
Catford,  
London SE6 2HZ.

cont. from page 7

order" (undefined) by Gerald Kaufman. Benn: "The police and the magistrates are working hand in hand to butcher the coal industry." Compares with Northern Ireland. Brandon - Bravo, in press statement, denies existence of "excessive police violence". (Just the normal level?) Brick thrown through window of Station Hotel, Creswell, which had annoyed some locals by serving pickets.

North Notts. strikers form Joint Strike Committee.

NUM executive votes 21-3 to recall delegates' conference. Ballot ruled out of order.

**Wed 11 April**

Police intercept Gedling-bound pickets on M1; force them back into Yorkshire by police convoy.

**Thurs 12 April**

National NUM delegate meeting. Henry Richardson criticises scabbing.

**Fri 13 April**

MORI poll of miners shows 68%

favouring a strike.

6 pickets arrested at Hucknall - they were "too noisy".

**Sat 14 April**

40 miners arrive in Nottingham after walking from Kent.

4000 miners march through Nottingham against police behaviour during the dispute. Rally in Market Square: Lynk and Prendergast condemned. Packed rally in Albert Hall.

**Sun 15 April**

Emergency meeting of Notts. Labour Party calls for public inquiry into police activities; condemns "police state" imposed on county; calls on county council to assist striking miners' families with free school meals, to refuse to pay for the policing and to push for withdrawal of all non-Notts. forces from the county. Police Committee stance viewed "with alarm".

**Mon 16 April**

First meeting of Thatcher's strike - breaking 'War Cabinet'.

**Tues 17 April**

Notts. NUM branch delegates vote 24-7 against proposed rule change allowing a strike with 50% support rather than current 55%.

Co-ordinating Committee against the Police Presence lobbies county council meeting.

**Wed 18 April**

14 arrests in Notts., mainly at Warsop.

**Fri 20 April**

National NUM delegate conference, Sheffield, overwhelmingly approves proposed rule change and decides the ballot question is now dead. Outside, police baton charge men returning to their coaches. 70 pickets injured, one with a severely gashed head, another with "a heart attack", 60 arrests. Most media coverage goes to the 10 police who "had to" go to hospital, though all were released quickly afterwards.

**Mon 23 April**

Scargill: Dispute has cost taxpayer £1000m so far, including £75m for policing Notts.

## NUTGW

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National Union of  
Tailors & Garment  
Workers

Area Officer: K.W. Simpson  
Office: 5 Church Drive,  
Daybrook, Nottingham.  
Tel. 208488

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Nottingham District  
Committee  
of the  
Transport & General  
Workers Union

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continued campaign  
for the return of a  
Labour government,  
and fight against  
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Transport House  
259 Mansfield Road  
Nottingham. Tel. 476784

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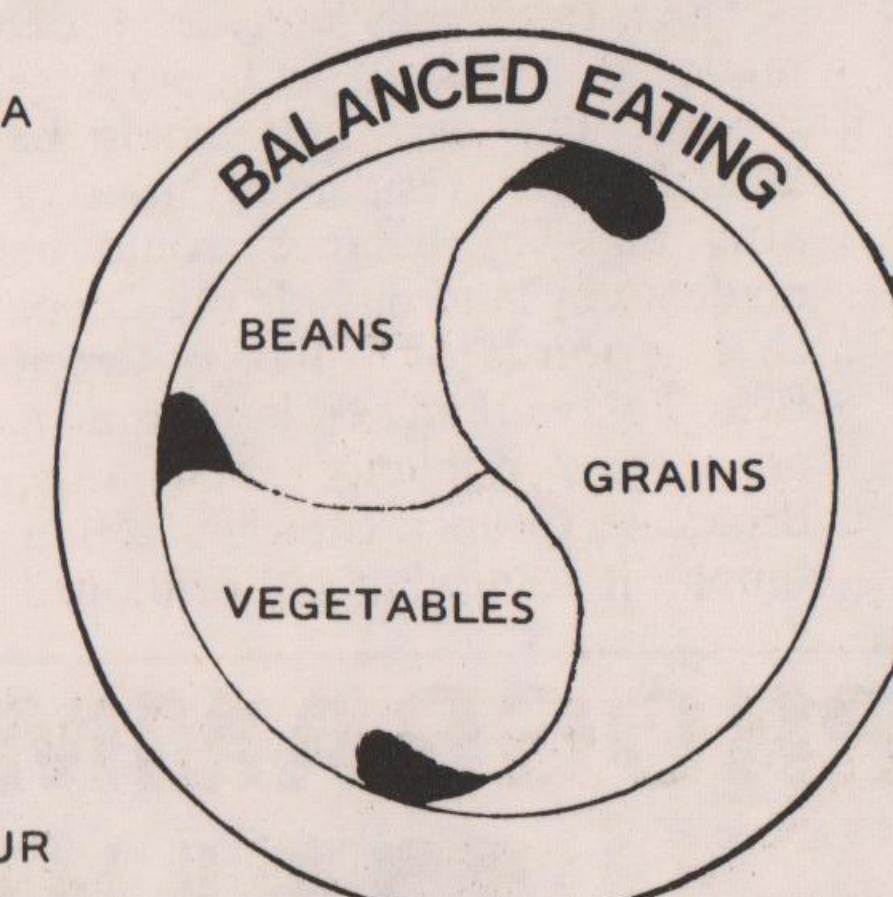
PORRIDGE

HONEY

BROWN RICE

NUTS AND SEEDS

WHOLEWHEAT FLOUR



WHOLEWHEAT BREAD

PEANUT BUTTER

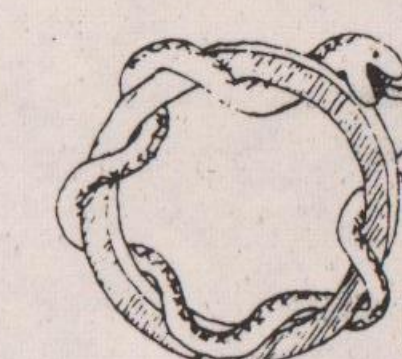
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## Reclaim Chilwell: July 1st

By Pete Strauss

*What they've been up to (or Any Damned Lie Will Do)*

ON FEBRUARY 14th, the Ministry of Defence announced that part of the Chilwell Ordnance Depot would be leased to the United States Air Force, 'for vehicle storage and maintenance'.

The Evening Post published a front-page 'exclusive' which revealed that 'about six USAF full-time personnel will be stationed at the new base'. However, when questioned, Post reporter Peter Loweth admitted that this story had come from an anonymous and unattributable source at the MoD.

More recently, CND have learned from reliable sources that about one thousand US personnel are to be stationed at Chilwell. Either way it shows Michael Heseltine, Minister of Defence, to have lied when he wrote to local MP Jim Lester saying "I was astounded to hear the rumours ... about the possible American use of Chilwell depot."

Interestingly, with regard to the possible use of Chilwell, many of these US personnel are coming from Canada where the American Air Force test and practise their ground-launched Cruise missiles. In a written parliamentary answer on 20th February, Mr Lee from the Ministry of Defence told Jim Lester that Chilwell would be used

## CAMPAIGNS

to store "normal airfield support vehicles such as fuel bowlers and tractors". Peace activists are now suggesting that Cruise missile launchers could be stored and maintained here, and that the Canadian link is further evidence of this.

The authorities have also had problems getting their story straight with reference to housing at Chilwell. Under the Broxtowe Development Plan, approved on June 29th last year, 66.7 acres at Chilwell Depot were designated for residential development, and a small area for educational use.

After February 14th, when the MoD made their announcement, almost all of the land was withdrawn by the Ministry. Waiting lists for council houses in Nottingham are up to 18 months long, and it was this question of housing which provided powerful fuel to the peace movement's campaign. The stark contrast between homes and jobs, and bombs, was being continually and effectively made by Nottingham CND.

Then, two weeks later, the MoD made a sudden and surprise U-turn. Just over half would be available for residential housing after all. The balance would be made up by land outside the Depot ... two thirds of which is Green Belt. To avoid any embarrassment or adverse publicity about this, Broxtowe Council came up with a simple, if somewhat old-fashioned

solution. They redrew the boundaries of the Green Belt.

*What we've been up to*

**RECLAIM CHILWELL** Group was formed in January. It sees Chilwell as the 103rd USAF base in Britain.

The first of 64 new American bases in the pipeline and the first ever in Nottinghamshire, in defiance of the County Council's clear Nuclear Free Zone Policy. Whether there are 6 personnel or 6,000; whether they mend tractors or Cruise launchers ... whatever they do at Chilwell, it will be part of NATO's nuclear war build-up.

On Sunday July 1st there will be a Mass Trespass at Chilwell - a day of non-violent protest. Peace activists hope it will be one of the biggest demonstrations ever seen in this county, and one of the biggest peace actions of the year in Britain. CND groups from all over the country are invited to take part, as are peace groups in Europe. The northern perimeter of the base has been chosen by Nottingham Women for Peace for women's action. A particular effort is being made to involve as many people as possible from the local community and labour movement.

There is an awful lot of work still to do in preparation for the Mass Trespass. Anyone who would like to help should contact: Reclaim Chilwell, c/o Nottingham CND, Environmental Factshop, 15

Goosegate, Nottingham NG1 1FE, tel. (0602) 581948. It is estimated that the action will cost approx. £2000 to organise, and donations are desperately needed (payable to Reclaim Chilwell Group). ●

### Book the date!

**NOTTINGHAM** Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament are calling on every individual and group in the city to book July 8th to come to their biggest ever peace festival.

CND representative Kate Marsden says, "This will be our fourth festival and it looks set to be the best yet. We're expecting at least 5,000 people to the Embankment on July 8th and we're looking to have 200 stalls. Four marquees are being booked - a women's marquee, an exhibitions marquee, a performance marquee and a children's marquee."

CND are already taking bookings for stalls and are encouraging all sorts of community groups to come as "peace means disarmament and creating the conditions where nuclear war is impossible - any group trying to make the world a better place is welcome." The festival will have lots of music and theatre and a separate festival-within-a-festival for children with a separate children's programme. Less emphasis will be put on the main stage, though CND's national secretary Bruce Kent will speak and the festival will kick off with a parade through the Meadows.

Contact: Kate Marsden, 623182. ●

## Should Citywise carry meat recipes?

### The case against meat-eating

**BETWEEN 5 AND 10** per cent of the UK population don't eat meat; a smaller amount - vegans - eat no dairy products (or eggs) at all. With that number, it's difficult to speak for all of them.

Some are vegetarians because they simply don't like meat, some for health reasons (many arthritis sufferers turn successfully to a vegan diet). Some don't eat meat because their religion forbids it; for some it's their morality; for some, vegetarianism is a political act...

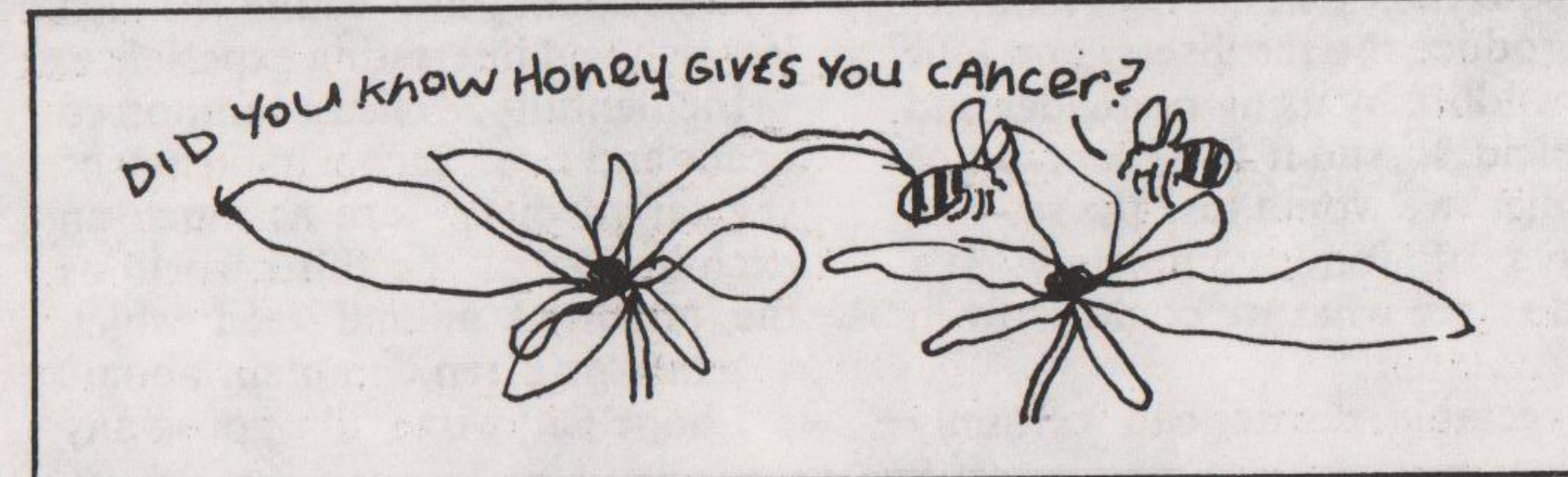
The vegetarianism that unites us takes no extra time to practise. These days it's fairly easy and is hardly cranky (though it does take a crank to start a revolution!). If your image of vegetarianism is a couple of lettuce leaves and a tomato, you couldn't be more wrong. We eat well, but in this article we'll stick to why we choose to avoid meat, not what we'll have for dinner tomorrow.

We will also avoid other animal rights issues such as vivisection which, although very important, are not relevant to the current debate.

To these writers, vegetarianism is a political demand. This involves campaigning against the vested interests of the rich and powerful men who divorce the consumption of the end product from the cruelty which precedes it. Meat-eating means the slaughter of animals, many millions of which were reared in factory farms or battery units for which both the meat industry and the consumer must take collective responsibility.

Raising these animals takes a lot of land, as, to produce 11lbs of edible meat, you need several pounds of feedstuff. In any circumstances, that is pretty bad economics, and in today's world it is absurd. By being vegetarians we are not only struggling for animal rights but expressing our concern for people in the underfed world. Many more people could be fed if the land used to grow animal feeds were used to grow food directly for human consumption. Often, to feed our animals, we in the well-fed world import grain from countries where people are starving.

Whilst often vegetarians refer to the cruelty of the meat industry, you'll find that we understate it. A visit to any slaughterhouse or factory farm will show this to be true. No one should have to work in the horrifying and brutal conditions of the slaughterhouse. Working amidst the blood and excreta is foul enough, but the demands of big business mean there's 'a definite incentive not to comply with personal hygiene regulations if this means slowing down the kill-rate' (as the Assistant Editor of The Meat



Should Citywise continue to publish a food column which includes meat recipes? No, say some members of the Citywise collective and some of our readers - it causes offence to a significant proportion of our readership. To resolve the question, we have asked both sides to write articles setting out their point of view. Before reaching a decision, we would like to hear what readers think, and will publish any letters in the next issue.

Hygienist puts it).

There is now nothing natural about meat-eating and the advertising pictures of happy chickens queueing up to be made into stock is as 'sanitised' as the language of the generals who talk of 'collateral damage' when they mean lots of people ending up dead. It's time we stopped accepting the language of the meat industry and started calling a corpse a corpse.

Vegetarianism is something most of us see as being part of a generalised struggle against the abuse of animals, but the concept of animal liberation has only rarely been seen as part of the accepted canon of left politics. Tariq Ali (one of Britain's best-known socialists) has said, 'One is just so involved in fighting for a solution to the problems of humanity that to start taking up issues involving animals is not one of our priorities.'

This leaves us wondering what exactly it is that they are doing for humans that compels them to support the wasteful, ruthless exploitation of farm animals. Their pooh-poohing of our cause is very like the views of those who put down feminism or gay rights as 'secondary' issues.

The animal rights movement has chosen the slogan 'one struggle, one fight - human freedom, animal rights', and you'll find us in CND, in the Women's Movement, on the picket lines and outside the vivisection laboratories and factory farms trying to put our slogans into practice.

We would be delighted to see wholefood recipes in Citywise, but as vegetarians we have asked the collective to exclude meat recipes from its pages. We find their inclusion is at worst supporting slaughter and at best hardly radical or alternative, which is presumably one of the criteria for selecting articles. Roast lamb is about as radical as a fashion show and as alternative as a new chemical weedkiller, and we doubt there's a place for any of these in a radical paper.

We don't think we are asking more than minority groups have a right to ask. We are not asking that the paper be editorially vegetarian, but that there be a recognition that

the meat-eating majority is well enough catered for elsewhere, and that we be allowed a small 'meat-free' space in our lives.

After all, in the wider society we have meat metaphorically shoved down our throats whether we want it or not. We realise that the majority of Citywise readers do eat meat but feel that they/you will be able to understand our objections even if you won't/can't share our diet.

Our opposition has had little to do with sentimentality or being animal lovers - some animals are hardly lovely. We are campaigning for simple justice and consideration for those species who will never have a vote or a voice to raise in objection.

We do not see ourselves as intolerant extremists. We are simply up against the might of agribusiness whose worst excesses are seen in the factory farms where 'cows don't need legs any more' (as the Alfa Level company put it). Vegetarianism and veganism are a radical cause, and we cannot see why anyone outside the Meat Marketing Board should want to have meat recipes in a radical paper like Citywise.

**ROSS BRADSHAW  
CAROLINE CLEIREN  
CHRIS COOK  
KEITH LEONARD  
KATE MARSDEN**

### Eating animals isn't wrong

**THE ATTEMPT** of some of the vegetarians associated with Citywise to ban the recipe column may be well-intentioned but is totally misguided. And not only misguided, but counter-productive to the overall aim of a sensible 'alternative food policy'.

I hope that all Citywise contributors can agree that cruelty to animals, whether in the form of the mass cruelty of factory farming, individual ill-treatment or the use of cruel or unnecessary animal experiments, is wrong and our aim should be to reduce and, where possible, end it.

To one of these ends, a scientific journal, 'Alternatives to

Laboratory Animals' (printed by the firm which prints Citywise), recognises two important facts about animal politics. First, that the problems will not go away by adopting extreme viewpoints and tactics. Second, that, to succeed, policies of viable alternatives need to be developed, because some animal experiments are going to continue. Who can seriously say that life-saving new medicines should not be tested on animals - but rather on humans. Or that new medicines should not be released if they cannot be tested at all. We must have the moral courage to assert that, while animal rights should be protected, human rights come first, in food as well as medicine.

I have tried in the food column to promote the cause of unprocessed, natural foods that contribute to the health of both the individual and the ecology as a whole, and to attack the dominance of the large international food combines and the idiocies of EEC food policies. My themes so far have been yoghurt, oats and fresh vegetables, as well as a sensible balance of meat, fish and dairy produce.

The column has tried in its limited way (for its limited size) to campaign against processed food of all sorts. To castigate meat-eating for the economic and social ills caused by capitalist methods of production and ownership misses the target. Some of the worst aspects of international capitalism show up in processed cereal and sugar products - biscuits, breakfast foods, canned foods, sweets of all kinds - which are known to be main contributors to the current appalling standard of diet.

If vegetarians wish to show their concern, where are their exposés of farm cruelty in Nottinghamshire, where the articles on sources of uncontaminated, factory-free produce? There is much to be said on the subject of food in an alternative paper - after all, it is such an integral part of everyday life that how could it be otherwise. The pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers whose overuse threatens the very existence of the countryside are applied to vegetable crops - not animals. EEC policy encourages excesses in both dairy and grain production to mollify the European farming electorate. Vegetarianism will not stop this, but simply swing the production to grains.

A vegetarian policy makes these fights all the harder, for it is much easier to construct a sensible and ecologically sound policy, based on smaller, non-intensively run units, by using traditional mixed farming techniques. Ask any gardener why he buys in horse muck. And, although vegetarians say meat is expensive to produce ecologically (the same argument applies to dairy produce for those who are not vegans), this ignores

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the contribution of animal rearing to the overall balance of the ecology and the far greater dietary value (especially in B group vitamins and proteins) of meat and fish.

Furthermore, there are vast areas which are totally unsuited to switching production to vegetable. To advocate this is to make the same mistake as the EEC, which subsidises grain on hill farms, meadows and wet flatlands, depleting the land, monotonising

the landscape and destroying wildlife. Generally, much more harm is done to the ecology by growing vegetable crops than by grazing stock, because it depletes the soil, uses vast energy resources to produce the fertilisers, and kills off wildlife by using pesticides and herbicides. And if fish is cut out of the diet, we would lose the sea as a source of food completely. It's hard to see what we could grow in the Atlantic!

Vegetable dishes can certainly

make a contribution to the collective diet. But to abandon meats and fish would certainly worsen the dietary problems of the vast majority of people as well as make cooking and eating a much less rich and interesting experience.

Incidentally, cheap imported beans and rice - such a mainstay of vegetarian diets - are as much an exploitation of the third world as the imported animal feed which vegetarians often complain about.

I hope Citywise will oppose any

imposition of editorial policy by a small group. This kind of dispute can seem ridiculous to the outside world (that world we seek to change). Look no further than the recent Nottingham Trader article, 'Veggies have a beef over meaty recipes', on this very controversy.

Within Citywise there is a diversity of views. This is one of its strengths. We must not let intolerance drive any of these views out. That can only serve to weaken the magazine.

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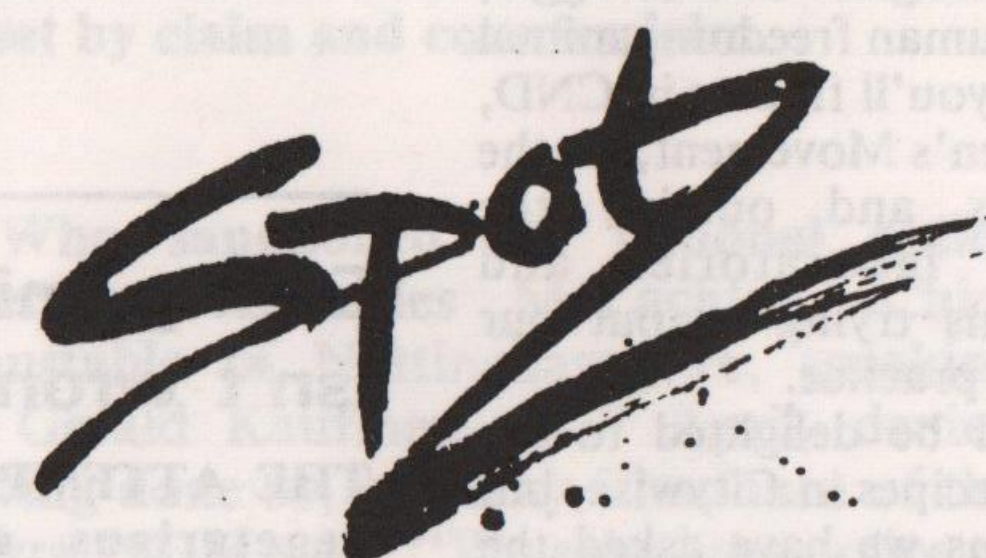
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### Performance poetry - two decades

By Roy Exley and Chris Cook

"MOST PEOPLE have ignored most poetry because most poetry has ignored most people." (Adrian Mitchell)

But there has been, and is, poetry which speaks to ordinary people, which communicates directly and doesn't hide behind literary cleverness. In particular, there have been two waves of performance poetry, one in the sixties and now one in the eighties, which are full of energy.

This is poetry which you can go along to listen to; which is fun and entertaining and a good night out. It looks at life from new angles and can provoke new thoughts and feelings about everyday experiences. It accepts, and puts into words, the importance of emotions, ranging from anger to joy.

During the mid-sixties, in parallel with developments in popular music and art, new inspiration and new poetic forms arose. This poetry did not set up a 'school' or 'movement', but was merely a tendency nurtured by live performances and a flourishing small magazine scene. Among those who shared this tendency were Libby Houston, Pete Brown, Spike Hawkins, Mike Horovitz, Brian Patten, Roger McGough and Adrian Henri. Pete Brown veered from raw poetic outbursts to the more integrated lyrics used by his band Piblokto and, later, The Battered Ornaments. Mike Horovitz and Adrian Henri (with the Liverpool Scene) also on occasions used musical accompaniment with their work. There was at this time a series of poetry and jazz concerts doing the circuit, when poets such as Alan Brownjohn and Peter Porter, in a somewhat more respectable milieu than the above, gave piquancy to their readings by adding live jazz:

**Gloveparrot**  
Spike Hawkins

I've been careless  
I left my hat in the fire  
the shape is there  
but when I touch it  
I am burned  
The Japanese Archer  
Stares at me from the hill  
I drive away hatless.

**Debate in the Straight Queen's  
Oratory**  
Libby Houston

The Straight Queen's at prayer  
& kneeling by her Sacred Box  
when in leaps the Man from the Moon!  
escorted by a jostling host  
of ne'er-before-seen beasts;

Nuzzling and gobbling  
they bowled through the narrow  
arch,  
a huge furry ball  
(& a great smell withal)

The worker is the  
subjective mani-  
festation of the  
fact that capital  
is man wholly  
lost to himself, just  
as capital is the  
objective mani-  
festation of the  
fact labour is  
man lost to himself,  
Doris.



Some ate the candles  
some crouched on her train,  
some captured the Austere  
cracked Triptych - O how  
she gestures in vain!  
etc.

In the mid and late seventies there was a marked decline in the publication of small poetry magazines and consequently 'fringe' poetry lost its voice. The sixties tide of performance poetry had long since ebbed, and 'poetry for the people' went into cold storage. The sixties poets were still around but no new voices emerged until punk culture burst out with a brand new form of poetic statement, carried mainly through music. The raw lyrics of punk music shouted more vehemently and delivered a distilled anarchy which would have blown the print off the pages of the small poetry mags. Some of these new lyrics were 'poetic', some were poetry tailored for performance with instrumental backing. This latter type of poetry revived the tradition set by Pete Brown's Piblokto and the Liverpool Scene from the sixties. This new performance poetry is, however, more penetrating with a harsher gut-feeling to it. It carries the thrust of a strong message, which may be the affirmation of Black Consciousness, by poets like Linton Kwesi Johnson and Benjamin Zephaniah, who use ska and reggae, or the 'proletariat punk' of John Cooper Clarke and Attila the Stockbroker. The work of these writers has, of course, to be experienced in performance to be relevant and to meet the poets' aim, and loses a lot of its impact and vitality when printed, but here is a glimpse:-

**want fi goh rave**  
Linton Kwesi Johnson

I woz  
waakin doun di road  
di addah day  
when Ah hear a lickie yout-man  
say

him seh:  
y'u noh si mi situation  
mi don't have no accamadaeshan  
mi haffa sign on at di stayshan  
at six in di evenin'  
mi seh mi life gat noh meanin'  
Ah jus' livin' widout feelin'

## BOOKS

in a book called 'In the Pink'. The verses below are from this book:-

**Penelope**  
Dorothy Parker

In the pathway of the sun,  
In the footsteps of the breeze,  
Where the world and sky are one,  
He shall ride the silver seas,  
He shall cut the glittering wave.

I shall sit at home, and rock;  
Rise, to heed a neighbour's knock;  
Brew my tea, and snip my thread;  
Bleach the linen for my bed.  
They will call him brave.

**Miss Rosie**  
Lucille Clifton

When I watch you  
wrapped up like garbage  
sitting, surrounded by the smell  
of too old potato peels  
or when I watch you  
in your old man's shoes  
with the little toe cut out  
sitting, waiting for your mind  
like next week's grocery  
I say  
when I watch you  
you wet brown bag of a woman  
who used to be the best looking gal  
in Georgia  
used to be called the Georgia Rose  
I stand up through your  
destruction  
I stand up.

Another poet whose work deals with feminist issues is 'Joolz', who, along with Roger McGough, Adrian Henri, Brian Patten, John Cooper Clarke, Benjamin Zephaniah, and Attila the Stockbroker are appearing in the 'Hockley Poets' events, details of which can be obtained from Mushroom bookshop. ●

### WORLD VIEW

'Rural class struggles in Ambridge,' by Fred Borage. November Books. £4.50.

**DON'T EXPECT a straight satire on The Archers - this book has a wider target. Ambridge is mythical little England, a culture of escapism where everything is "unchanging". There's no class struggle, property is safe and Dan and Doris are in charge. Until now - Fred Borage uses Ambridge as the back-drop for an exposure of the nonsense underlying Western culture.**

The small world of Ambridge is revealed as an absurdity, a part of our ideological blinkers which hides us from the reality of the lives of two thirds of the world's population. In this work, Ambridge is a creation of imperialist culture - part of a nation built on an empire of mass murder, exploitation and theft of the third world's resources. Ambridge is the Western world revealed as a culture of murder and nonsense. Doris as Hitler, sustained in decreasing power only by the Americans' policing of the world.

Despite a lot of comedy, including some ridiculous drawings such as "Shadow the Sheepdog and Doris lay in wait for terrorists on the Borchester Road", this is a difficult book to

read. The writer's style is developed from James Joyce's - the book is a collection of short fragments which jump from topic to topic, telescoping the world of Ambridge into the whole world and the whole of history.

A sentence about Dan Archer becomes a statement about atomic science, followed by ironic theorising about the relationship between God and Ambridge. Ambridge becomes one thread in a nightmare of disassociated ideas that force the reader to recognise the chaos in our culture; language becomes confusing because our culture is not grounded in the real world. Philosophy is specialising in ideas which don't mean anything in total. Our western ideologies are absurd in the light of imperialism and its effect on the third world.

Out of the absurdity, a few very strong political and artistic statements shine out: "Even the River Amb, the Bull, defended by Napalm, Free Fire Zones, Body Counts, South African Massacres everywhere the CIA is in acute contradiction". In this world, our "everyday life" is a sick joke and our culture is a nonsense which conceals mass murder. Reality is elsewhere, in the nations struggling for their freedom from us. Our reality needs to be won - kick out Doris and Dan, take over Glebe Farm!

NICK BEDDOW