

## BAD NIGHT OUT

# A belittled woman's revenge

By Lizzie Mint

YES, IT'S... 'MADISONS' - horrendous 'nitespot' of Nottingham.

I can not actually describe to you the theme or design of the interior, how clean the toilets were, or how sexist the DJ was, for the one time I attempted to pursue enjoyment on the premises I was not allowed past the inner door. How, then, can I write on 'Madison's'? Very easily.

It was an extremely cold

Winter's night. Trent Polytechnic student union, via one society within that union, had hired 'Madisons' for a 'do'. It was on impulse that I decided to go along with some friends who already had tickets. Inside the vestibule I asked the blonde moustached bouncer guarding the inner door why I was expected to purchase a normal evening ticket priced over double the S.U. price when I could provide all the necessary proof that I was indeed a student. The answer I received was entirely unsatisfactory and had something to do with the house policy (i.e. ripping-off the unwaged). The bouncer pushed me roughly towards the pay desk. I bought a ticket getting angrier by the second. By the time I approached that man again I was seething.

On presentation of the ticket which I had begrudgingly bought I asked the bouncer not to shove me about again, for I thought it only fair that one of the people whose wages I had contributed to should not throw me about in return. How naive. He told me to get my coat from the cloakroom (which I had paid the involuntary 20p for) because there was no way I was going into the club.



By this time the vestibule was full of muggins students and the faces of the students at the front of the queue (which by then reached the Theatre Royal) pressed against the polaroid-type door as they waited to be rudely and patronisingly let in two or three at a time by the rough bouncers.

My anger knew no bounds. I told the bouncer that unless he came up with a good enough reason for my expulsion I was going nowhere. He said he didn't have to, it was within his power to

throw me out if he so desired. When I pursued my question repeatedly he finally volunteered that I was 'lippy'. I suggested nicely that perhaps I had offended his silly macho pride. As by then I had offended it more, he offered with chivalry to carry me off the premises. I told him that this was precisely what he would have to do.

By this time a few other smart heavies were towering above me and, with the exception of one, all were impolite. In the midst of my distress they collectively restored my ticket money (not the cloakroom money, though) and hustled me out of their stylish vestibule.

Once outside I complained that one of my friends inside had my key, and that I would be locked out until three unless I retrieved it. Those considerate men made me wait until I could get it via one of my other friends in the queue. (This took another half hour in the cold).

I spent the walk home and the whole night plotting how to mutilate that blonde moustached bouncer who had considered me too unimportant (young, female and a student) for respect.



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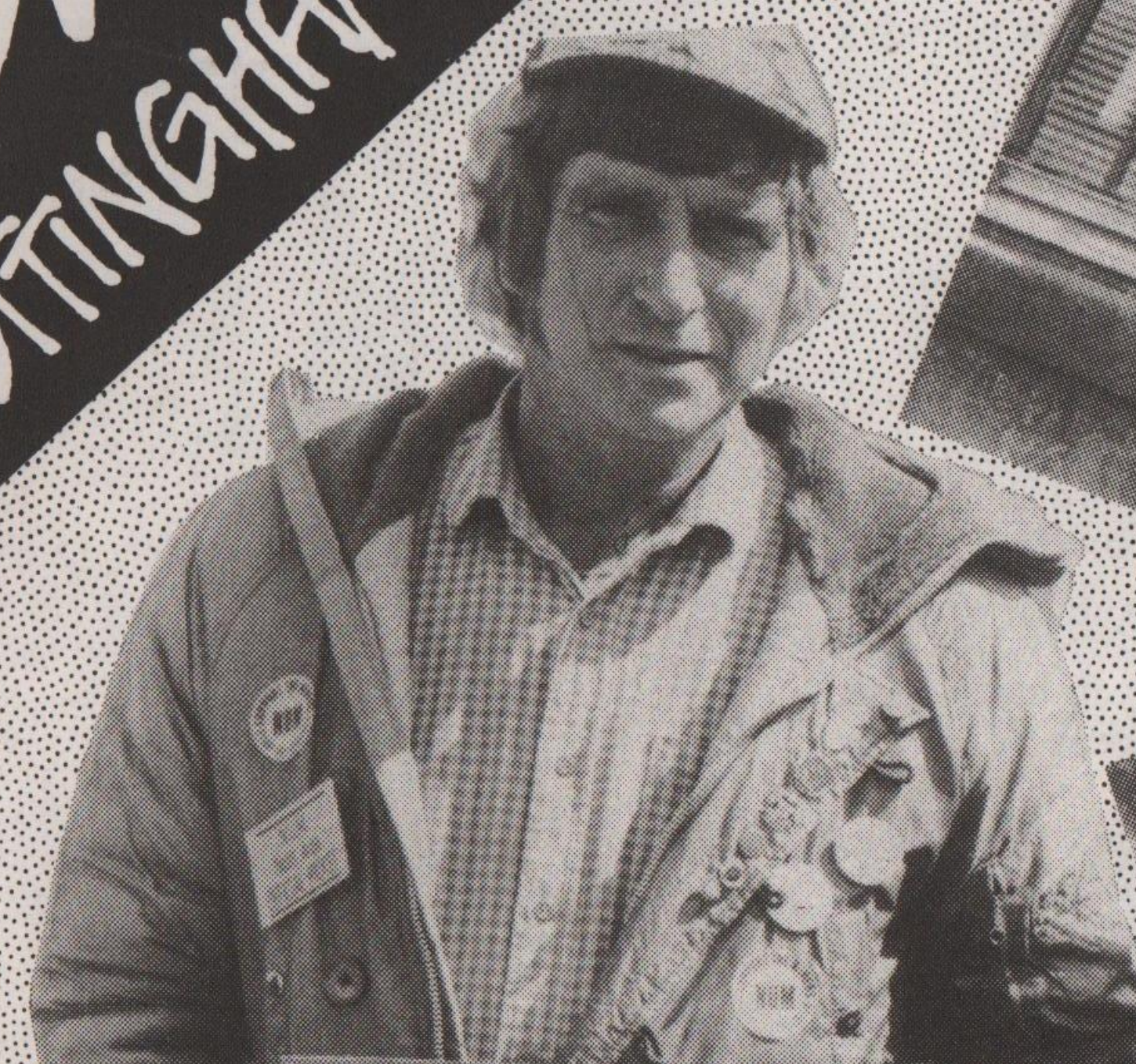
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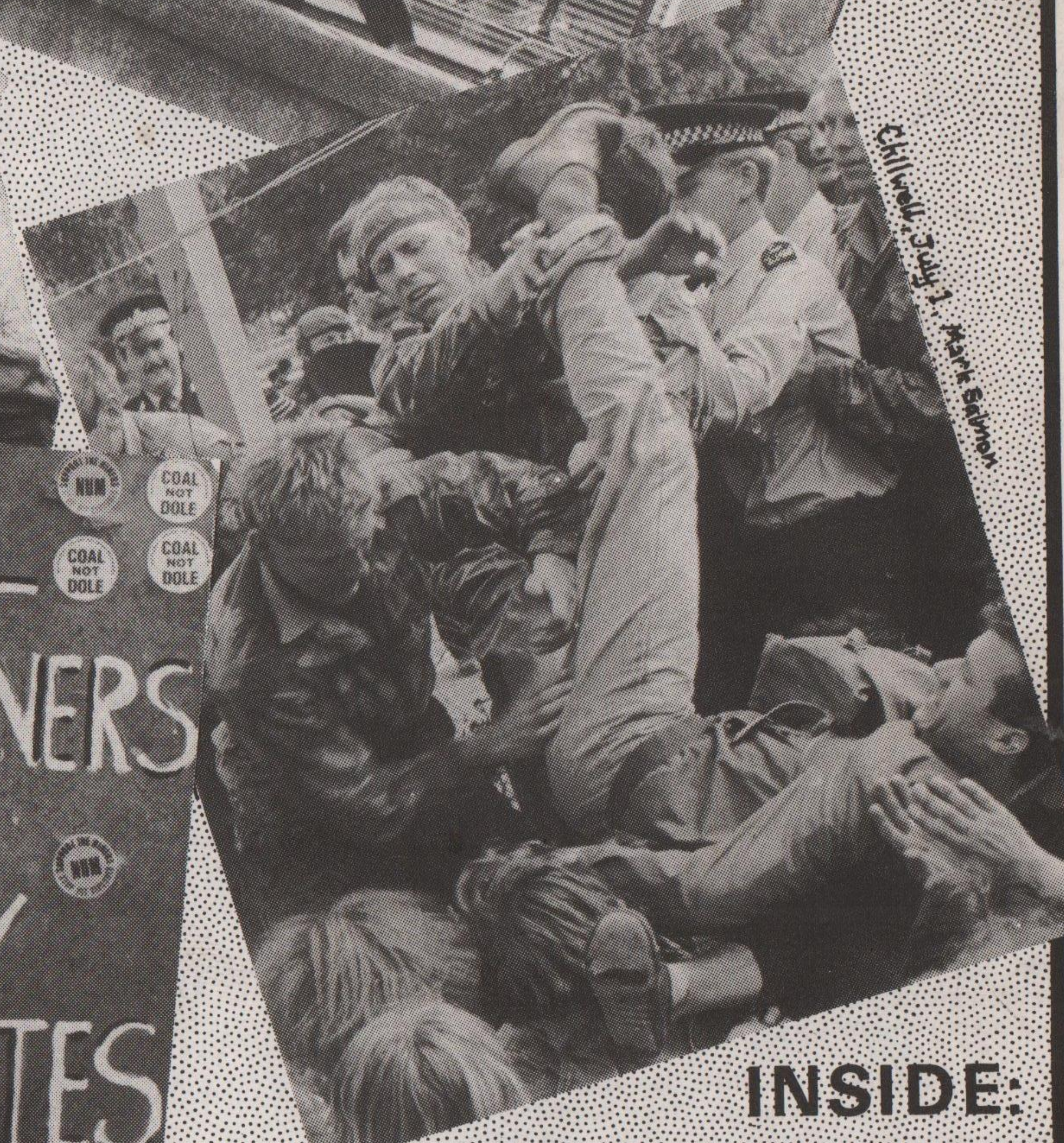
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CITYWISE  
NOTTINGHAM'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER



NOT ALL  
NOTTS MINERS  
ARE  
SCABBY  
SPENCERITES



INSIDE:

Watch out for Rabbits!  
Youth Service scandal  
News & listings

AUG 25p No.7



## BACKSTREET

FIRSTLY, LET'S START with a story which isn't about 3,000 CND rioters laying waste to Chilwell. And where better to start than the banking profession? The story is simply this: one of the workers at a local bank left, and as a going away present to the rest of the staff a small house plant was handed over and gratefully received. For some time now the staff have taken time off to make with the Baby Bio, and in the hothouse conditions of a bank this plant grew and grew. Noone knew exactly what it was, but it did look a bit like a tomato plant without the red bits. And then people started thinking it couldn't possibly be...not growing in a bank...one of those plants, could it? Off went a junior to check the likeness and yes, it was. Backstreet won't stoop so low as to name the bank; not unless we're given really big drinks.

AND SO TO USAF Chilwell. All the queen's horses and all the queen's men and they still couldn't keep the CND vandals out. Let's face it, the police blew it. Firstly they just couldn't keep the place secure. The mass of barbed wire was easily cut through or covered by the vast quantity of carpets bought up the previous day from all the charity shops (the PDSA did very well!)

Eventually the police did give up at many points along the wire. One policeman took off his helmet and joined in with a protestor practicing aerobics. Another was heard jokingly offering passage through the hole he was guarding for 50p, while a third was directing people to larger gaps in the fence. Another officer was seen happily lifting up the fence for anyone wanting in.

DID YOU NOTICE that July 5th was a

### 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

national TUC Day of Action? This was in support of the NHS on the occasion of its 36th birthday. You may be forgiven if you missed it, as it was even more pathetic than the usual TUC offering. Celebrations were held in many hospitals. But for the massed ranks of the working class outside the NHS, what was on offer?

Would you believe that the only action organised by the entire East Midlands TUC for the whole of Nottinghamshire was a tiny gathering on the Council House steps? Three nurses dressed up in Victorian costumes, three NUPE full time officials, and a dozen Labour councillors who had to be dragged out of meeting to make up the numbers. They all sang happy birthday to the NHS and that was it. And which was the only organ of the local media that took any interest? Yes, you've guessed it. This intrepid band of committed socialists posed politely - for a photographer from the Evening Post!

BUT THE REAL historic event on July 5th was hardly noticed. This was the first time the City Labour Group had ever displayed a political banner on the front of the Council House - saying 'Defend your National Health Service'. It's a pity it was dwarfed by the much bigger banner on Debenhams announcing 'Great Sale Now On.'

It was Tory leader Bill Bradbury who predictably provided the event with its greatest publicity by attacking the banner, claiming 'they'll be putting up a banner supporting the miners next'. Little did he know that it nearly happened! Believe it or not, Labour leader Betty Higgins had completely outflanked the increasingly soggy left on the City Labour group by proposing the NHS banner went up on

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?

Answer - a subscription copy of Citywise on your doormat.

Citywise comes out 12 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 the last three issues at 25p each inc. postage.

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

July 5th and a banner about the miners' 'Food for Victory' rally went up the following day, subject only to the exact wording being acceptable. And it would have happened if the self-styled keeper of the City's socialist conscience, Richard McCance, had not scored an own goal. He refused to let it through on the nod and demanded a vote. The group backed their leader on the NHS banner, but not the miners.



Conversation overheard at the Nottingham Peace Festival: Policeman to First Aid person: 'We're keeping a low profile today but we've got some plain clothes men keeping an eye on things'.

### ADVERTISING

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

### SELLING

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### JOINING US

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...

### MAIL

Mail for Citywise can be sent or handed in to our mail-only address: Citywise, Box B, Mushroom, 10 Heathcote St, Nottingham, NG1 3AA.

Copy and letters for Citywise no. 8 to our Mushroom address by 18 August. Please try to type contributions and include a word count.

### 'PHONE MESSAGES

until the next issue should go direct to Citywise on Nottingham 413347.

### OPEN MEETING

The next open meeting will be at 7.30 pm, Thursday, 2 August at the TGWU offices, 259 Mansfield Road.

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## NEWS

### Trouble on't bins

TROUBLE IS BREWING on the city's bins. Residents around the city have suffered a marked deterioration in the refuse collection service over the last year. Just before the last city elections large staff cuts were forced on the unions and the number of rounds was cut from 31 to 26 meaning a 20% increase in workload.

Crews are now expected to carry a large plastic bin into people's gardens and empty their dustbins into it. This saves a double journey taking the bin back. But it means that refuse is tipped all over people's gardens and often in the street as well.

Because of the extra workload, up to half the workers are off sick at any one time. At one point last year, private contractors had to be brought in to pick up some of the backlog! Regular Saturday overtime is having to be done to try and catch up on the work not being done during the week. This helps the vicious circle of overwork leading to time off which causes even more overwork for those still at work.

Instead of bins being picked up every week, it is now up to 14 days between collections.

The workforce is extremely demoralised and it is not clear whether they are going to stand up and fight or lie down and get trampled into the ground.●

### Gay free sheet

GEM, THE MAGAZINE produced by the G.E.M. collective and which ran for nine issues, has now been replaced by a four page free newsletter known as the GEM Gay Freebie. A tenth (May) issue of GEM Magazine was attempted, but problems with printing forced it to be abandoned.

The magazine had always been fraught with problems, notably the demand for the full-time involvement of one or two members of the collective, and the reluctance of certain Hotel and 'largest-gay-club-outside-London' advertisers to pay for their adverts.

The Gay Freebie is open to contributions and comment at the GEM address: GEM Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

### Rail line to go

BR IS PROPOSING the closure of the Trowell link on the Nottingham - Sheffield main line. The effects could be devastating, with all longer journeys and London traffic routed through Derby. One NUR source put it like this: "Once Trowell goes it'll be like the Mansfield line. They'll cut it off and sell the land."

At the same time, BR management is undergoing a major shake-up, with the middle tiers being ditched and more power going to the regional centre in Birmingham. It all adds up to a poorer rail service, unless a campaign can stop it.●

## Army stunts disrupted

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of Reclaim Chilwell and the Peace Festival, anti-war nuclear activity continued throughout July with actions at the Forest Army display and against the Central Electricity Generating Board's testing of a nuclear waste container in Leicestershire.

Women for Peace, the Anarchist Group and Forest Fields Peace Group attempted to protest against the Army recruitment gala on the Forest. Demonstrators climbed on top of army lorries and sat down in front of tanks before leaving as the army display ended. The army tried to

encourage local Hyson Green youths to attack the protestors and rip down their banners.

On 17 July a small group went over to Leicestershire to protest against the £2 million train crash publicity stunt involving a nuclear waste container. Whilst the CEBG claimed the test a success, Friends of the Earth said that the staged crash did not alter the risk of leakage.

Nottingham protestors tried to rush on to the testing site but were caught and detained for some while, one being handcuffed to a vehicle. They were later released without charge.●



photo - Mark Salmon

## DHSS breaks the law

MANY PEOPLE have been illegally refused furniture grants by the DHSS over the past three years, says the Nottingham branch of CHAR, the campaign for the single homeless. Anyone who moved into unfurnished accommodation and was refused a furniture grant from 1981 up to April 27 1984 solely on the grounds that 'suitable furnished accommodation' was available was illegally refused and should have been paid, according to a recent decision of the Social Security Commissioner.

Such people may still be able to get the grant and should contact Hyson Green Law Centre (tel 787813) or a local advice agency for advice on how to claim, says CHAR.

The decision affected mainly single people and childless couples. But after the Commissioner's ruling the government changed the rules so that grants can now be turned down legally!

Nottingham CHAR is backing a

national campaign to get the law changed so that furniture grants can be paid purely on the basis of need.

The present system is doubly ludicrous, says CHAR, because not only does it force people to remain in insecure bed and breakfast or hostel accommodation, but it also costs the state a lot more money to keep them there as against the cost of an unfurnished flat.●

### People's bakery

THE PEOPLE'S BAKERY is scheduled to open in September as the first Afro-Caribbean bakery in Nottingham. It will be run as a co-operative with assistance from Notts Co-operative Development Agency, supplying West Indian breads as well as other types.

The co-op members are at present looking at shop premises in Hyson Green. The closest West Indian bakery to date is in Birmingham.●



## NEWS

### No cuts yet, say Health Authority

NOTTINGHAM District Health Authority has denied that a timetable has been drawn up for the rundown of the General Hospital. At a meeting with General Hospital management on July 19th, union representatives were told that no dates for cutbacks at the hospital could be given since the plans are at present only at the proposal stage.

The plans, which have been described by the Action Committee To Save Nottingham General as "a virtual closure plan", will reduce the site and 'he services available at the hospital to a fraction of their current level. 800 jobs will be affected by the proposals and it is likely most will not be transferred to other hospitals.

The first stage of implementing the cutbacks appears to be underway already. The sale of the doctors' residences will be completed by the end of August. Plans also exist to sell off all the properties on the Ropewalk, Oxford Street, Regent Street, and the Park, plus the Pay Bed Wing, the entire Outpatients Block and Thornton House. Of the remaining buildings it is intended to demolish nine wards along with the main entrance and administration block.

Meanwhile, Coppice Hospital was closed last month, while the future of Mapperley Hospital is in doubt. ●

### Common cause

**THE NOTTS MINERS STRIKE** Black Support Group has urged all Asian and Afro-Caribbean People to attend a public meeting to support the Miners' strike and to develop the common issues that link the miners' fight with those of the black communities.

In a letter to Citywise, the group wrote: 'We aim to start a Miners' Strike Black Support Group to help make visible the large scale support from within the Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities. We aim to organise collections, fund-raising benefits, arrange sympathetic picketing, and to help raise consciousness of the significance of the dispute within our communities. We also believe that black self-organisation and campaigning will be the best challenge to defeat white racism in the working classes.'

'Already, 60% of black youth are on the dole and half of all Notts. employers discriminate against our community's right to work. If the miners, as the best organised, strongest, and most determined union can be beaten and starved into submission, imagine what they will try to do to the black communities in the future? Only by developing solidarity between black and white workers can we win.'

The Public Meeting is to be held on August 13th at 7:30pm, Green Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. Details in Listings. ●

### Rabbit squads come to Nottingham Clampdown on claimants

**THE RABBITS ARE HERE!** They are the Regional Benefit Investigation Team, installed at Lower Parliament Street, Castle Boulevard and David Lane Unemployment Offices. From July 30th to September 7th they will be 'snooping' around Nottingham. Brian Scott, from Nottingham Unemployed Workers Group, focuses on their methods and the campaign that will greet them.

The RBIT's aim is to take the 'initiative' against fraud in the Department of Employment. In groups of twelve, they organise on a regional basis, carrying out 'exercises' in fraud detection. The teams are specially trained, and for many DHSS staff they are the only opportunity for promotion.

Their method of work is the following: six months ahead of a projected exercise the teams make a visit to the dole office they will be working from. They meet management, staff and unions, and get an impression of who they will be working with. Between this point and the arrival date certain cases will be put to one side by staff. The period for the investigation usually lasts between four and ten weeks, and in an average eight week period each member of the team will be expected to complete five cases a week.

The criteria for investigation laid out in Circ. FC30 is one thing that has brought the teams into disrepute with unemployed groups, claimant unions, welfare rights workers and civil servants. The following features are seen as warranting investigation: regular late signing, intermittent periods of work and claiming, claimants declaring unrealistically low part-time wages, or other information about particular claimants based on initiatives of regular D of E staff. Many see these guidelines as far too vague, leading to random investigations and unjustified intimidation of claimants which damage the often strained relationship between claimants and staff.

The RBIT exercise is supposed to be an 'economical' crackdown on fraud. The Specialist Claims Control Teams, the DHSS counterpart, claim to save £100m a year in unentitled benefit. The RBITs can not stop more, and the figure is probably less. But £800m worth of claims are left unclaimed each year by claimants unaware of their entitlements. At the same time, between £3bn and £4bn are lost through big business tax fraud. The Government, while cutting DHSS and Job Centre staff, and Customs and Excise (tax fraud), have expanded the RBITs and snooper squads. They are continuing to look into ways to make them more effective after some disappointing returns on their investment.

RBITs have been the subject of numerous campaigns all over the country; there is currently a similar anti-snooper campaign in Hull. The teams are widely



unpopular with trade unionists. The Civil and Public Services Association has a national opposition to the RBITs and the Specialist Claims Control Units. In Nottingham, staff at Castle Boulevard Benefit Office have refused to co-operate in any way with RBIT officers. In Birmingham, the CPSA joined forces with unemployed groups to inform claimants of their rights, and many staff have refused to co-operate with the teams. A recent one day conference, organised by the Civil Servants Unions in Leeds and drawing in unemployed and welfare rights groups, came out clearly opposed to the teams, with a number of tales of intimidation and harassment from their regions. Information on the teams is covered by the Official Secrets Acts and leaks can be punished by disciplinary measures. Hence the patchy and disorganised nature of some of the information groups receive, with CPSA staff putting their jobs on the line to help claimants.

The RBITs arrive in Nottingham on July 30th and will be concentrated at the Castle Boulevard offices. It is also possible that the Super Snoopers (SCCUs) will be in Nottingham. The Nottingham Unemployed Workers Group has begun a campaign against the RBITs in Nottingham. This takes the form of a leafletting campaign to inform claimants of their rights and where they can get help and advice.

All help with leafletting will be appreciated. The aim of the campaign is to force the RBITs to keep to the guidelines, and to expose any violations. In this way we hope to stop the RBITs being 'effective' and 'economical' and generally raise the question of whether this is the kind of government investment the unemployed require. Our overall aim is to drive the RBITs out of Nottingham and to see them disbanded. ●

## NEWS

### Housing benefit failure

by Claimants Action

**IN CONTRAST** to the reassurances issued by the City Treasury, Claimants' Action, in last month's issue of their free newsheet 'Downers', have revealed the true story behind the continuing history of delays in the payment of Housing Benefit.

According to Claimants' Action, since the shift in responsibility for Housing Benefit from the DHSS to local authorities was completed in April 1983, Nottingham has been one of the worst hit areas for delays. Many claimants on Supplementary Benefit have had to wait over three months for their first rent payment and in a survey conducted ten months after the changeover, not one claimant out of the 70 interviewed had received their payment within the fourteen day deadline set down by the regulations.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that though the situation has improved, Claimants' Action has doubts that the

fourteen day deadline is even now being met, despite claims to the contrary by Mr. S.H.E. Stares, City Treasurer. They further point to the failings of the Interim Payments scheme, which should provide help to those on Supplementary Benefit experiencing long delays, but which is both deliberately under publicised and made difficult to obtain.

Claimants' Action, based at the International Community Centre, is interested to hear of any further problems experienced by claimants. ●

### Call for inquiry

**NOTTINGHAM SOUTH** Labour Party is calling for an investigation into the running of the City Treasury's slow Housing Benefit system. The party's general management committee has invited City Treasurer Sidney Stares to explain the delays of several months. ●

### Water sell-off

**STAND BY** for even higher water rates. Ever mindful of the public interest, the bureaucrats at Severn-Trent have decreed that by 1986 at least a quarter of the authority's engineering design work must be farmed out to the private sector, whose profits will have to be paid for by the consumer. The basic idea is that feasibility studies for new projects, which take a lot of time and are loss makers, will still have to be done by in-house staff. Then the actual contracts will be dished out to consultants to make a fast buck or two. (Effectively it's a direct subsidy from residents to privateers via their water rates bills). A similar 25% rule is to be imposed on jobs that Severn-Trent contracts out to local council departments.

NALGO complaints that in-house contracts produced better value for money weren't denied by Severn-Trent management. 'We're only following orders', they said, 'cost is not a factor.' Only to the householder, for whom the only good news is that government ministers haven't yet worked out a way of privatising the atmosphere.

Consumers can complain about the instruction through the new toothless consumer committees, assuming they've got the orienteering skills to find them. ●

### DHSS confusion

**COUPLES COULD BE LOSING £11 a week** because the DHSS offices across the county are giving wrong information over their entitlement to benefits.

Last November, the Government

introduced complex new regulations supposedly designed to bring equity to the benefits system. In some cases, a couple could be up to £11.05 a week better off if the woman claimed instead of the man.

Clearly, most DHSS staff have been unable to interpret the new regulations competently enough to give accurate advice to couples. Each of the DHSS offices covering the County, plus the new DHSS freephone service, were telephoned on separate days with 2 cases, both clearly falling within the requirements of the new regulations. Out of the 10 offices contacted, only one gave the correct advice. In both instances it was the same office. Comments from the offices included: 'what they're getting will be the correct entitlement,' and that 'families will be receiving the maximum amount of benefit due to them.' Obviously this is not the case. ●

### Yet more militarism

**OUR** pacific politicians are at it again. This time it is to be an Army display in the Market Square by the Royal Horse Artillery on the theme KAPE - Keep the Army in the Public Eye.

If you want to join the rush for the glorification of killing power, pencil in 1st-3rd September. The big splash is on the Monday when "the display will be extended to include Army equipment such as weapons, signals equipment, a tent showing films and a small air-rifle range". Lovely. ●

### No basis to arrests

**AS THIS ISSUE** of Citywise is being prepared, a number of miners arrested at Babbington Colliery on April 9 are being acquitted of the charges brought against them. They include a man charged with assault for taking one step backwards and knocking a policeman slightly off-balance.

A survey of charges, verdicts and sentences of those convicted will appear in the next issue. ●

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## NEWS

### Knock 'em down

**HYSON GREEN** Tenants Action Group are pressing for a meeting with the Chair of the Housing Committee Malcolm Wood to discuss the results of their recently completed survey. The survey, produced with the co-operation of the tenants of Hyson Green flats, reveals the dramatic fact that over 79% of the tenants in the medium rise flats want to move out of the complex, although 72% would want to stay in the Hyson Green area - given the opportunity. The survey goes on to reveal

that over 54% are dissatisfied with their flat and a staggering 72% dissatisfied with the estate. The majority think that the flats ought to be pulled down and if they are, over 90% favour the site being retained for council housing.

Said Mrs Maureen Dawson, Chairwoman of the Hyson Green Tenants Action Group: "We now have a very clear mandate from the tenants in the flats to campaign to get them pulled down. The City Council also have a very clear indication of what people feel about living in the flats and what they want to see done. We shall be presenting the results of the survey to the City Council telling them that we want them pulled down and replaced by more traditional housing.●

### Equal opportunities

#### Black women and racism

A **BLACK WOMEN AND RACISM** working party has been set up to look at racism in the City Council and the way it specifically affects women as council employees and residents in Nottingham. The group has unfortunately had to spend frustrating hours debating as to whether or not Nottingham is a racist city. It now plans to get down to more constructive work.

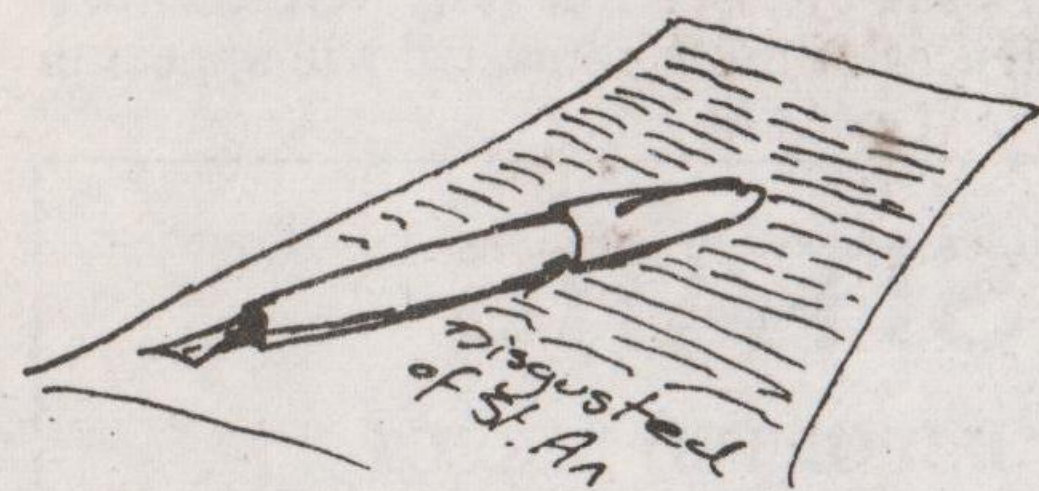
Its next meeting (open to all women, 7.30pm, Tues 31 July at the ICC) will look at the publicity and information material put out by the City about its services and events. E.g. are black women consistently shown as the drudges at the bottom of the scale with white women proudly holding aloft a tokenistic banner for the City's equal opportunities policies, or are the former simply invisible?●

#### Women and employment

**THE CITY** Council Equal Opportunities working party on women and employment is looking at application forms for City Council posts. Various alterations have been suggested and a revised application form will be discussed with the City Council after further consultation between other groups and organisations. It is hoped eventually that there will be no possible discrimination of potential employees because of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, number of dependants, etc. *B.M.*

*The group also intends to look at childcare provision and other matters specifically affecting women and employment. For details of future meetings, contact Wendy Young at the Guildhall (tel 418571 x207).●*

## LETTERS



*MANY THANKS to all those who wrote in on the subject of meat recipes. The vast majority of letters, and majority opinion on the collective, were against including meat recipes in Citywise. The Noes have it. How about some letters on other subjects?*

#### Tunnel vision

Dear Citywise,  
On Sunday I went to Chilwell to see the demonstration regarding the Americans. I agree with the demonstrators and find the Citywise booklet very interesting, but the map of Chilwell base does not show anything about these underground tunnels. In Long Eaton free papers *The Recorder* and *Trader* it stated there were twelve miles of such underground tunnels, or storage

places.

Well, I've always been interested in underground things such as passages going from old Manor Houses to Churches, etc., and I can well remember being told about underground tunnels when I was 16 - that's going back some years as I am now a pensioner of 70. But twelve miles sounds a bit exaggerated. Also a mate of mine who lives near Chilwell told me there's as much underground as there is on the surface. I read a book recently about the Explosion in 1918, but all through that book there's never a mention of underground installations. I'm just curious about it.

Yours truly,  
Mr L. Bennett  
27 Wortley Ave  
Trowell

#### CND used

Dear Citywise

In the last issue the Playhouse had an advertisement for their play 'When the Wind Blows' - an anti-nuclear black comedy. They also used the local CND group to help publicise the play - and then refused CND permission to have a stall at

### Smashed-up flat

**ANOTHER LEFT WING** candidate in March's University Students Union elections has been the victim of a puerile attack (see *Citywise* 4).

Four men, with stockings pulled over their heads and speaking with false South African accents entered the Beeston flat of black Irish student Joseph Harker. Whilst two of them held the only person in the flat, the others kicked down two doors and went into Joseph's room where they threw his hi-fi around, smashed his television and threw it out the window. After a minute they left, presumably afraid someone would investigate the noise.

Two Tory activists suspected of the March attack on a Socialist Workers Party candidate were seen drinking with two friends earlier in the evening. One of them was wearing a blue checked shirt similar to one worn by an intruder. The wearer returned home to Northern Ireland the following week, where he is known to have been involved in loyalist activities.

The police were unable to get any fingerprints, despite none of the intruders wearing gloves, and are not pressing charges.●

### NUJ fight

**THE FIGHT** against the Evening Post's anti-union management continues. The National Union of Journalists is mounting a day of action on 5th September in the city. More details in the next issue.●

the foyer.

Does this mean that when the anti-nuclear message gets on stage it becomes art not politics? Or was the Playhouse just abusing the peace movement?

In peace,  
Ron Green.

#### Waste of space

Dear Citywise,

Although your coverage of the miners dispute has been very good on the whole, I must complain about Matthew Collin's article 'Eating Grass Pie'. As a report on a march it might have been acceptable at a quarter of the length. But to give a full page to such egotistical and cynical rhetoric is a waste of space. The miners' strike is important for all of us, and it has raised many serious issues that *Citywise* can and must report constructively.

Particularly important locally is the position of Notts. strikers; four months into the strike, how about giving them a page?

Victory to the Miners!  
Yours Mike Burton.

### Will councillors grasp the nettle?

## YOUTH SERVICE SCANDAL

by Ted Romany and Nigel Lee

**A MUCH LEAKED**, but as yet unpublished, report of the management of the County Youth Service has uncovered a wide range of alleged overspendings, mismanagement and inconsistencies. So serious are the "unauthorised" overspendings, that a series of immediate cuts have been made and a hit list of 24 youth clubs has been drawn up for staff cuts.

When first written last November the intended timetable was for the report to go to the Leisure Services Committee in January and be implemented by April 1st 1984. However, its findings are so damaging that this timetable has been put back with committee discussion unlikely until September or October. Indeed, the original report has been rewritten at least twice to hide some of the more dramatic criticisms.

*The Report of the Working Group Concerning the Organisation and Staffing of the Youth Service* was written after one of the County's Expenditure Review Panels had found apparent overspending in the "Activity Leadership Budget" - a pool of money used to pay specialist instructors. The review was carried out by the County Council's Management Services Unit with help from an Area Youth Officer who had to be brought in to show the investigating team around the service. Much of the review team's time was spent interviewing the HQ staff at Trent Bridge House.

#### 'Unorthodox practices'

The most serious accusations made in the report revolve around a lack of financial control. More specifically, the report alleges:

- \* a major part of the staffing budget is funded on a "hit and miss" basis.
- \* "unorthodox practices in relation to the use of staffing resources".
- \* management control "appears to have been neglected".
- \* "resources are being under utilised in one area and over committed, sometimes without prior authorisation, in another".
- \* "the concept of resources allocation is admitted as being in accord with the 'big pot' approach, on the basis of providing maximum flexibility between budget headings". I.e. money saved on some parts of the budget is used to create a slush fund to pay for unauthorised spending on other areas.

The basic problem of the Youth Service in recent years has been a huge expansion in the variety of services offered without an increase in mainstream resources to match. Much of the new development in the service has been financed by MSC, Inner



Area Programme, or "Section 11" funding for work with ethnic minorities. Officers of the service at HQ level have diverted funds from one area of the budget to another in order to finance favoured projects or clubs. This has been done mostly through keeping full time posts vacant for longer than needed and diverting the salary saved into activity leadership sessions. The report discovered that the "big pot" approach was so out of control that:

- "(a) Commitments to the Activity Leadership Budget for 1983/84 if realised would result in an overspending of £40,000.
- "(b) Approximately 200 part time leadership sessions in excess of the staffing records maintained by the staffing section have currently been established.
- "(c) The Youth Service employees budget would be over committed by £143,000 for 1983/84 if all vacancies were filled.
- "(d) Inner Cities initiatives finance is not always allocated to the appropriate budget heads within the wider Youth and Community Budget."

#### Management failures

The favouritism approach is clearly outlined in the report's comment that: "There is obvious discrimination against some areas compared with others and no recognised feedback system exists to ensure that allocations are in fact used for the correct purposes." Indeed, the allocations of activity leadership hours made in April 1983 for the following year show that Arnold Redhill Club, open only on a part time basis, received 930 hours whilst the whole of Broxtowe District received only 950 hours and city clubs open five nights a week averaged only 250 hours each.

The most serious result of this mismanagement is that severe cuts have been made in the resources available to clubs in order to cover up the expected overspendings. Instead of rooting out

those responsible for the mess, the service has passed the problem on to young people who will have to pay the price for management's failures. Since last October the following cuts have been made:

- \* A package of cuts designed to save £47,000 was made in October 1983 causing a 10% cut in activity leadership and 100 part time sessions being kept vacant.
- \* All equipment grants to voluntary clubs were stopped in November 1983.
- \* A 48% cut in activity leadership hours was made for the period March to August 1984.

In addition, proposals were made in June 1984 to reduce grants for running costs for voluntary clubs from 75% to 66% and for salary costs from 100% to 90%. The voluntary sector of the Youth Service is already financially at risk with at least one club, Meadows Boys, technically bankrupt while Aspley Boys and William Olds (Bestwood) are heavily in debt. The hard hit voluntary sector is being asked to bail out the Council's overspending.

#### Incredible events

It would be nice to think that the problems of the Youth Service were confined to financial control, but this is only part of the story. In recent years there have been a series of incredible events each of which might warrant a review of its own.

Last January, Principal Youth Officer Graham Hedworth was awarded a retrospective honorarium of £1,070 for looking after the work of a colleague who had been made redundant! A further £730 was paid to a part time clerical assistant who had to assume responsibility for duties "beyond her normal duties" such as "grant-aid processing", "monitoring of training", and "routine personnel matters" which meant she had to work "additional hours".

Last month the ill named Youth Service YTS agency "Springboard" was cut from 400 to 200 places, taken out of the Youth Service and placed under the Clerk's Department. Springboard, nicknamed "Gangplank", saw a national first recently with a half day strike by the supervisors in protest at 18 redundancies.

Meanwhile, nothing has yet been done to implement the review team's recommendations to sort out the management of the Youth Service. Indeed, consultation has only just begun with the trade unions. Youth workers around the county are starting to demand that it is those who are responsible for the mess who are made to carry the can. But it looks as though it could be the service provided to young people which suffer the most. We wait to see whether the Leisure Services Committee will finally grasp the nettle.●



# ISTT - LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LISTINGS

**CITYWISE**

WELL FOLKS, not much going on in August at all. The Film Theatre, Playhouse, Co-op Theatre and Midland Group (from Aug 4) are all taking their summer breaks. Remember though, the Odeon and ABC cinemas have reduced admission prices at certain times for UB40 holders. There should be more events in September; in the meantime make your own entertainment!

## ADDRESSES

Cooperative Arts Theatre: George Street. 476096.  
Film Theatre: Broad Street. 46095.  
Garage: St. Mary's Gate.  
Marcus Garvey Centre: Lenton Blvd.  
Midland Group: Carlton Street. 582636.  
Nottingham Playhouse: Wellington Circus. 419419.  
Old Maltcross: St. James' St.  
Rock City: Talbot St. 412544.  
Vino's: Victoria St.  
Yorker: Mansfield Road.

## 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, Smeaton, Clarke and Thompson. Bell Inn: Omega Jazz Band. Hearty Goodfellow: Pop and Rock. Narrowboat: Folk. Yates': Personal Touch. First Monday of every month at Astoria, Greysfriar Gate: Gay Night.  
**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 Soberspeak 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).

**July 28**  
'Sans Soleil' (film) - Midland Group, 6 & 8 pm.  
'The Show's on the Road' (Exhibition) - Midland Group until Aug 4.  
**July 31**  
'Rue Cases Negres' (film, PG) - Midland Group, 4, 6 & 8 pm.  
'Vermir' - Hardy's Wine Bar, King Street.  
**Aug 1**  
Film as July 31 - Midland Group.  
'Ssuraea' - Old Maltcross.  
**Aug 2**  
Film as July 31 - Midland Group, 2, 6 & 8 pm.  
'Faction' - Vino's.  
**Aug 3**  
Film as July 31 - Midland Group.  
**Aug 4**  
Film as July 31 - Midland Group.  
'The Show's on the Road' closes - Midland Group.  
**MIDLAND GROUP CLOSSES UNTIL OCTOBER 2.**

Rue Cases Negres - Midland

**Aug 5**  
'Jazz Funk All-Dayer' - Rock City.  
'Northern Soul All-Nighter' - Palais, 2.15-9.00 am.

**Aug 7**  
'Buffalo Men' - Horse and Jockey, Basford.  
**Aug 8**  
'DC 10' - Old Maltcross.  
'Radio Trent Local Bands Night' - Rock City.

**Aug 15**  
'Chain Gang' - Old Maltcross.  
**Aug 17**  
'Rock City Crew' - Nottingham debut show at Rock City.

**Aug 19**  
'Buffalo Men' - Royal Oak, Long Eaton.

**Aug 22**  
'Attica' - Old Maltcross.  
'The Armoury Show' - Rock City, £3.  
'Pendragon' - Vino's.

**Aug 27**  
'Tyrone Taylor' (reggae) - Astoria, Greysfriar Gate.  
'Alternative All-Dayer' - Rock City, 4 pm to midnight.  
'Reggae All-Nighter' - Palais, 12.01 am to 8.30 am.

**Aug 29**  
'Buffalo Men' - Old Maltcross.

## DIARY DATES

THANKS TO ALL THE GROUPS who are now sending in details of their meetings and other events for this issue. Most groups are planning their autumn programme - make sure you let us know what you're doing! However, only a tiny minority of people bother to state whether there's a creche or disabled access at their meetings (something which Citywise has never done

for it's open meetings...). Let's see some letters about this! Next issue, events from the end of August.

## MINERS STRIKE SUPPORT

If you want to raise funds, give a donation or find out about events supporting the strike, contact either the NUM Strike Centre at the AEUW office, 218 Mansfield Road, (tel. 609626) or the Women's Miners Support Group, Room 29, NUPE offices, Sherwood Rise (tel. 603522). There are also strike support groups in Sneinton, Dunkirk, Sherwood, Lenton and Forest Fields. The Forest Fields group meets every Wednesday, 8.00pm at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, Wiverton Rd. Also, Sat August 11th (provisional date) a national women's demonstration in support of the miners strike is planned in London. Contact the Women Miners Support Group to check date and transport arrangements.  
Mon 13th Aug. 7.30. A public meeting (at the Green Community Centre, Gregory Boulevard) to set up a Nottm. Miners Strike Black Support Group. Speakers include a member of the South African Miners Union, a Notts. Asian Miner, an Afro-Caribbean Derby Miner and a Black Sister from the Womens Support Group. All Asian and Afro-Caribbean people welcome. Creche, wheelchair accessible.

## GUIDED WALKS

The Notts. County Council guided walks continue Group, 31 July-4 Aug.

throughout August. They are free and cover anything from Old Sneinton to Bullcote Trail. Nature walks led at a gentle pace by an expert in the field. Leaflets should be available from libraries or ring 824824 ext. 375. Many congratulations to Nottm. County Council for this excellent series.



## WOMEN AND PRISON

New group forming, contact: Chris Cook, 604 Woodborough Rd., Mapperley. Tel. 582506/624742

## ANTI-APARTHEID

Contact: Geoff Morris, 11-04 Victoria Centre for details of local anti-apartheid activity.

## ANIMAL LIBERATION

Sun 26th Aug. 7.30 Nottm. Animal Rights Confederation meeting at the Narrow Boat. Contact the ARC at their Saturday stall outside Marks and Spencers, Broadmarsh or ring Bernard on 585871 or Jenny on 201839.

The contact for the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection is Pat Giddings, tel 811995.

Also the Hunt Saboteurs Association are alive and rested after their summer break and are getting revved up for the start of the fox-hunting and cubbing season in late September/early October. Contact the HSA through Robina Varley, 37d Forest Road East by the Arboretum. Tel. 412209 (evenings)

## UJAMAA

The African shop is opening shortly. Books, crafts, records etc. on sale, reprographic equipment available. UJAMAA is at 14 Radford Rd., Hyson Green. Tel. 780058.

## BLACK HEROES DAY/MARCUS GARVEY DAY

Sun 19th Aug 2.00 to 11.45pm at the Marcus Garvey Centre, Lenton Boulevard, the Pan African Congress Movement invite black people to celebrate their heritage. Poetry, films, drumming, dance, food, quiz and games, Back-a-Yard live broadcast. Admission £1.00 (half-price children and elders).

## CO-OPS

The Nottinghamshire Cooperative Development

Agency Ltd, (CDA), Dunkirk Rd., tel 705700 have brought out their report on their work in developing workers co-ops so far. Free.

## PORK FARMS

Sun. 30th Sept. is the Robin Hood Marathon; to counter the event being sponsored by Pork Farms many vegetarians and vegans are running in the half (13 miles) or whole (26 miles) marathon. More runners, support leafletters, caterers are needed to take part in vegetarian activities in keeping with the spirit of the 'fun-run!' Contact Patrick Smith, 23 All Saints St., tel. 474976.

## LISEZ-VOUS LE FRANCAIS?

The Cercle de Carabosses (does that translate as a witches' coven?), a women's bookstore and cafe, has written inviting those who would like to read French women's writing to subscribe (65F a year) to their newsletter and catalogue and to join their mail-order club. Contact Carabosses, 58 Rue de la Roquette, 75011 Paris. Tel 7001306.

## DISARMAMENT/EATING OUT

Sun. Aug 12th, 3.30. Forest Fields Peace Group fund-raising picnic on the Forest. Check details in advance (tel. evenings 788655)



## DISARMAMENT/RIDING OUT

Tues. July 31st 6.00pm and Wed. 1st Aug. 9.00 am at the Pavillion, Forest Recreation Ground: 'Cycles for Peace', London to Barrow cycle ride being met on the Tuesday and sent-off on the Wednesday. The Beeston Dragon, food, kites, balloons etc. at the welcoming.

## DISARMAMENT/CND

Mon 6th -Thurs 9th Aug, Hiroshima/Nagasaki days. CND will be remembering those who died in the first atomic bombings. Stall/leafletting/exhibition and a 'Book of Remembrance' each day outside St. Peters Church, Listergate.

Sun. 12th Aug. 7.30. Reclaim Chilwell open meeting - what now after the Mass Trespass? All Saints Sports Hall, Raleigh St. (near the Arboretum).

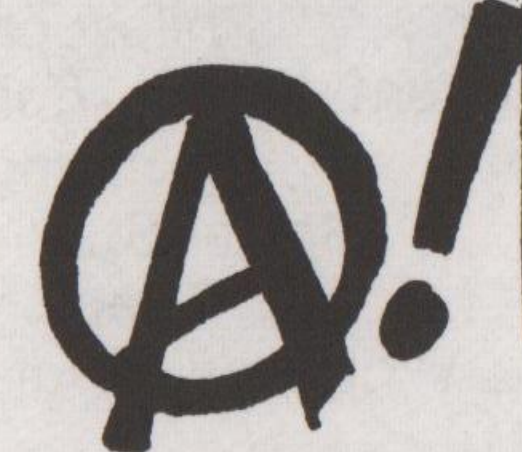
Tues. 14th Aug. 8.00pm. Beeston Anti-Nuclear Group meeting, Victoria Hotel, Beeston.

Fri 17th Aug. 8.00pm: Lenton

for Nuclear Disarmament meeting, Edna G. Olds School. Thurs. 30th Aug. 8.00pm Bestwood and district CND meeting, Top Valley Library. Nottm. CND office now at Unit B, 14-18 St. Mary's Gate, Lace Market. Tel. 581948

## ANARCHISM

Every Friday, 8 pm at Nottingham Community Arts and Crafts Centre, Nottingham Anarchist Group meeting. Tel Chris 582506/624742). Sun Aug 4th. Sheffield Anarchists picnic. Transport details from Notty Anarchists.



Thurs Aug 9 (Nagasaki Day). Stop the City in Leeds starts 10 am outside Arts Gallery off Headrow, Leeds. Transport details from Notty Anarchists.

## WOMEN FOR PEACE

Every Tuesday, 7.30 local meeting in St. Andrews Vicarage, off Mansfield Rd. Sat Aug 4. Women for Life on Earth walking through Hucknall on their way from Greenham Common to Menwith Hill. Welcoming events in Hucknall, and possibly in Market Square - details from 638108.

## CONSERVATION

Throughout August: landscaping, hedging, dry-stone walling at Charnwood, Sherwood Vale, Erewash, Leen Valley etc. Organised by the Conservation Volunteers, United reformed Church, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham. tel. 705539/705493.

## INTERPRETING SCHEME

The Asian Women's Project has launched an interpreting scheme to visit Asian women in the maternity and gynaecology departments at the University Hospital. The Project visits thrice weekly and the interpreters can help with problems such as food, breast-feeding, going home, etc. Contact Jeet O Saan (813628) or Parveen Mirza (584486).

## JOB!

The Rape Crisis Centre are looking for a half-time (well-) paid worker to work on counselling, administration, publicity etc.. One year contract initially, closing date for applications is 20 August. Further details, women only, from Rape Crisis Centre, c/o 37a

Mansfield Rd. Tel 410440.

## GAY LIBERATION

Gay Youth Movement: ring Michael (Sat/Sun mornings) on 721248.

Campaign for Homosexual Equality: c/o CVS, 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tel. Mike 55196.

Labour Campaign for Gay Rights: 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton. Tel Chris 780124.

Gay Welfare Workers: 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton. Tel. Richard 780124.

Gay Christian Movement: tel Charles on Derby 833294.

Information - Gay Switchboard: Nottingham 411454 or 476714 (Mon, Wed, Thurs. 7-10 pm) - confidential help and advice for gay and bisexual people.

Lesbian Link: Nottingham 410652 (Mon only 7.30-9.00 pm) for confidential help and info.

## NATIONAL

The Abortion Law Reform Association - a woman's right to choose campaign is launching a membership drive. ALRA tries to defend and extend the 1967 Abortion Act arguing that abortion should be easily available, safe, early and legal for women to freely choose. Contact 88a Islington High Street, London N1 8EG.

The Community Rights Project is campaigning for a Freedom of Information Act and especially for greater access to information and meetings at local government level they're seeking sponsorship from 1,000 community groups throughout the UK. Contact 157 Waterloo Rd, London SE1 8XF.



## LPYS

Nottm. South Labour Party Young Socialists open meetings are at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd. (town end), starting 8.00pm on Thurs. 9th August with 'British Leyland Cowley plant - were the workers sacked in 1983' 'moles' or militant trade unionists?' One of the sacked workers gives her view. Thurs 23rd Aug. 'Northern Ireland - why we call for troops out now.'

## UNEMPLOYMENT

'What now? An unemployment handbook.' This new, free, booklet is available from the C.V.S., 33 Mansfield Rd. 'What now?' is fairly good at explaining your basic rights on the dole, has

lots of useful addresses, especially the welfare rights offices in town. However, there's nothing on claimants organising as claimants, ie. without 'professionals', the cheery tone is mildly grating and the phrase 'show the staff at the Job Centres that you're keen and mean business. You'll soon have jobs to chase after!' will surely become a classic of the dole queue. Also available are details of the Nottm. Unemployed Volunteers Project. This project places unemployed people in voluntary (unpaid) jobs eg. transport, conservation, welfare rights, etc. The Nottm. Centre for the Unemployed is at 66-72 Houndsgate (near the Castle)tel. 413881. Open mon.-Fri., 9-5.

## KEEP ON RUNNIN'

Sunday 29 July, 2.30. Women's fun run in Wollaton Park. 1 mile run or 5 mile jog. registration forms from the Women's Centre, 32a Shakespeare St.

## FESTIVALS

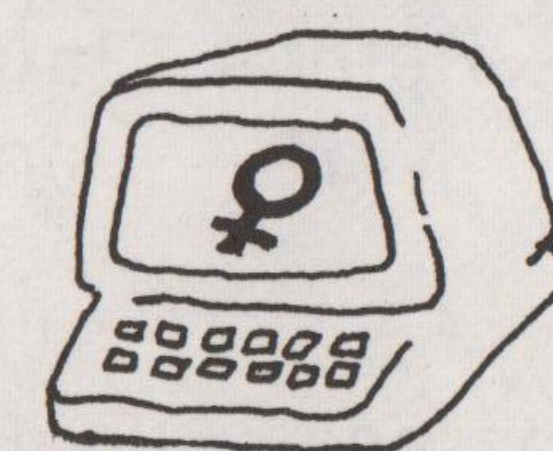
August 13-18, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. 'Roots of Peace' festival organised by the Peace Pledge Union to celebrate its 50 years working for pacifism. Co-operative games/videos/stalls/children's activities. Nottingham trip down - details from Kate/Ross 582506/623182 or Dennis 503587. Sunday 16 Sept, 12-5 pm. Newark Peace Festival, Scone Hills Park, Newark. Attractions include Bruce Kent, live music, exhibitions, children's activities, theatre. tel Newark 821635 for more information or to book stalls.

## RAINBOW CENTRE

Latest details on progress towards a Nottingham peace and freedom centre from 45 Teversal Avenue, Lenton. tel 472802.

## WOMEN AND NEW TECHNOLOGY.

1st and 2nd September at Sherwood Community Centre, Mansfield Rd. 'Women and new technology' national conference. Films include 'New Technology - whose progress?' and 'Electronics for Peace'. Practical and discussion workshops, video and computer equipment. Wheelchair access and creche. Conference fee £3 waged/ £2 unwaged. Details from Women and New Technology Group, Box 2, 180 Mansfield Rd.



## HISTORY

Advance warning that the 18th national History workshop will be on 16-18 November, in the east Midlands (probably Leicester). Sessions will include Charterism in Leics. and Notts., Spencerism and Company Unions, peoples history of the Midlands coalfields, George Eliot and the Midlands. Details from HW 18, Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough. Also: the University of Nottingham is running a course starting this Autumn leading to a Certificate in Local History. This is a 3 year part-time course with no educational entry requirements. This is a practical course but is exam-based. Details (early please) from: Centre for Local History, Department of Adult Education, Nottingham University. Tel 506101.

## WINEMAKING

Now that the main home wine-making session is close or started (depending on taste) - save money by avoiding kits and expensive equipment. Demi-johns are available from P & J Stores on Woodborough Rd (next to Hungerhill Rd) for a mere 50p and Ouroboros wholefood shop on Mansfield Rd are selling fermentation bins for 40p. (Citywise budget tip no. 1).

## ECOLOGY PARTY

Contact Broxtowe Ecology Group, Martin Love, 37 Lower Rd, Beeston.

## NOTTINGHAM WRITERS' WORKSHOP.

Meets every Tues. 7.00pm at the County Library, Angel Row (second floor). Contact Wendy Whitfield, tel 251587

## WANTED

Food,  
money,  
support  
for

## STRIKING MINERS

Strike support groups for the miners' strike can be contacted at the NUM strike centre, AUEW offices, 218 Mansfield Rd (opposite cemetery, a bit up from Gregory Blvd. island) - tel 603522.

JULY 28

AUG 31



## COURSES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

beginning September 1984

### University of Nottingham Department of Adult Education and Workers' Educational Association

Archaeology  
Architecture  
Art and Design  
Biology  
Geology  
History  
Language & Cultural Studies  
Literature & Drama  
Local History

Maths. & Science  
Media Studies  
Music  
Philosophy  
Politics & International Affairs  
Psychology  
Social Studies  
Theology  
Women's Studies

As well as offering courses in these subjects we also offer facilities such as a cafeteria, library and nursery.

For full details and details of all courses in the City and County please contact University Adult Education Centre, 14-22 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Tel: 473022.

# NOTTINGHAM CND

have moved to

**UNIT B**  
**14-18 ST. MARY'S GATE**  
**LACE MARKET.**  
**Tel. 581948**

Join us outside St. Peter's Church for Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigil - each day August 6th to 9th.

NCND membership costs £2.50 (£1 unwaged, £3 more than one person at same address).



## CDA: we're enablers not dictators

# Taking control of work

*In the last issue Ross Bradshaw looked at some of the background to new developments in the local workers co-operative movement. Here, Charlie Cattell, an employee of the Nottinghamshire Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) replies in a personal capacity to some of Ross's comments. The promised second article looking in more detail at the new local co-ops will now appear in the next issue.*

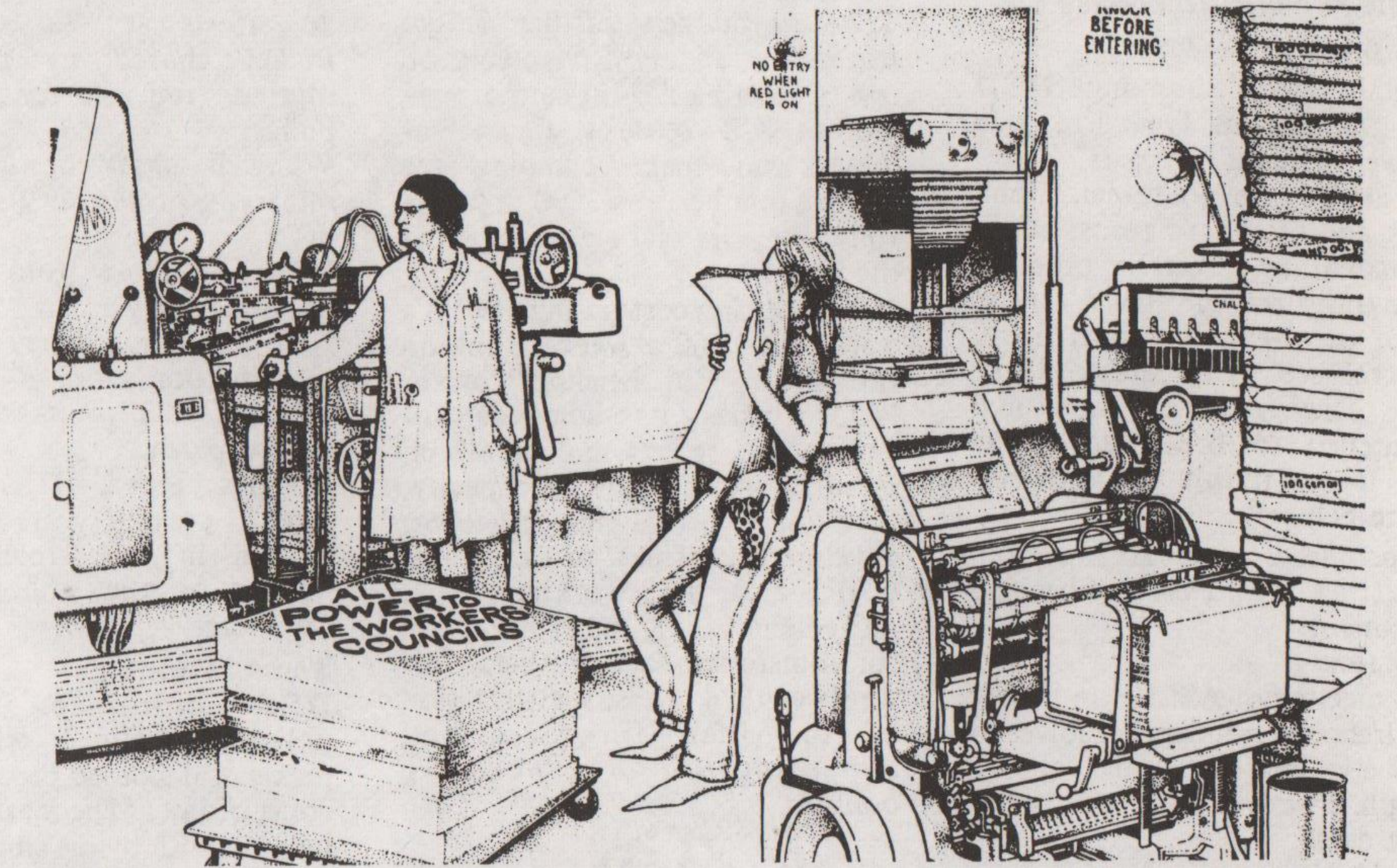
### FOLLOWING YOUR ARTICLE on workers' co-ops in the last Citywise I thought I would like to answer a few points and continue the discussion.

First, a few dull technical points. Four years ago there was one other registered co-op in addition to those you mentioned: Nottingham Printers Ltd. This was registered in 1895 and went under earlier this year. It suffered from many of the same problems as the other producer co-ops from that era, largely due to the fact that they were not workers' controlled (in your article you indicate that they were). One employee I spoke to wasn't even sure that they were a co-op and suggested that I ask the manager. I didn't bother. Secondly, it is stretching a point to describe the 'Benn' co-operatives (KME, Scottish Daily News, Triumph Meriden) as worker controlled in the sense that most people would now use the phrase. In fact, Triumph was owned and controlled by a small group incorporated separately from the main company.

Right - on to other matters. As for the hierarchical structure of the CDA, indeed it is hierarchical, in that there is a clear differentiation between 'management' and 'workers'. The CDA could not function as a worker co-op: a co-operative by definition is run for the benefit of its members, and the CDA workers are not here to benefit themselves!

The structure we have (which was designed by the County Council) allows for up to 100 members, 25 of whom may be appointed by the County Council as long as they fund us. The other 75 places are for co-operatives, and a few odd people and bodies who have some relevance. All registered co-ops in the county are members and when the number of co-ops exceeds 25 they will outnumber the Council nominees and effectively control the CDA. Similarly, when there are enough co-ops on the Management Committee (only 5 out of 14 places are reserved for the Council) the co-ops could dominate their meetings. At that stage, the CDA could conceivably be seen as a form of 'secondary co-operative', run by, and on behalf of, the co-ops.

The CDA workers operate in a more or less collective fashion, and we are doing our best to eliminate wage differentials which were there at the start. However, I disagree strongly with your comment that we are paid 'more highly than any co-op could aspire to'. We would like to see co-



op members aspiring to wage levels at least comparable to their counterparts in privately owned industry: with no shareholders or owners to cream off the profits that should be quite possible without ripping-off the customers. (And please note that the workers in Nottinghamshire CDA have between them over 20 years practical experience of working in co-ops).

The real split in the movement is not between co-operators and 'CDA professionals' but between those who see common ownership as a real alternative to conventional power and wealth structures and those who would seek to submerge the movement into nothing more than the 'respectable' small business sector.

Locally the relationship between co-ops and Notts. CDA varies a great deal. Some of the groups are dependant on us for a while as their practical skills are insufficient to keep them out of trouble, others simply use us as a resource. We monitor those groups who borrow from our loan fund, keeping an eye on their democratic control structures as much as commercial performance, as we neither want to lose unnecessarily our limited supply of money, nor have it abused by self-interested parties masquerading as co-ops. We try to encroach on their freedom of action as little as possible and with considerably more positive objectives than most others who do so, either directly or indirectly, e.g. competitors, bank managers, customers.

You also refer to what we 'CDA professionals' call the 'numbers game', i.e. the job creation angle of co-operative development. Certainly this is a primary, though not the only, motivation for the funders of local CDAs, but is not necessarily such a high priority for management or workers once established. However, one of the implications of people's taking control over their working lives is to have the freedom to choose to be in employment, and thus should not be discounted. Much of our work is with black groups (in Nottingham City), and, to

a lesser extent, with women's groups; frequently for such groups this particular aspect is of immense significance. Personally, I get a bit pissed off with articulate, middle class, well educated, well heeled exponents of the alternative society acting condescendingly (even aggressively) to people who are struggling to achieve some control over their lives in an alien and threatening environment. For sure, they may be inexperienced in identifying all the political and social ramifications of co-ops - but if they can summon the power and the energy they need to break out of the social role imposed on them, who am I (or anyone else) to judge them on the basis of their ideological soundness? We are enablers, not dictators - trying to provide people with an environment in which they can make decisions for themselves: what they choose to do with that is their affair.

Lastly, who gets the money? The implication in your article is that the co-ops already in existence when the CDA was created are 'too radical' to qualify for assistance. To date, the single co-op to receive the most from our fund is Workcon, with loans totaling £20,993.34 (of which all but £5,000 has been repaid), while HIP figure third on the list with £6,216 for two new vans. Harking back to the CDA's excessive concern with job creation, two of the largest grants handed out went to Purlin Housing Co-op and the Independent Fellows' Credit Union.

Having said all that, I understand the suspicions people have of establishment based CDAs. When the Northern region CDA was set up in Newcastle, we (members of established co-ops) fought a running battle against their 'taking over' the local co-op movement. But there, of course, the situation was quite different.●

*In the last article, due to a typesetting error, it could be read that the CDA was funded by the City Council as well as the County Council. This has never been the case and we regret any confusion caused (eds).*



# STRIKE DIARY - part 3

Continuing our chronology of the dispute in Notts. from issue 6.

## Sat 8 June

Discussion of scrapping HND mining courses at Trent Poly due to lower demand forecasts. Two Derbyshire policemen, John Monk and Graham Sevens, admit impersonating pickets in order to snoop on Creswell strike centre; one of them eating a meal there. Both refused to donate to strike fund. They returned later and 'threatened to break down the door if we didn't let them in' (centre helpers).

113 people charged arising from yesterday's mass lobby of Parliament.

## Sat 9 June

Joint meeting of ASLEF and NUR at Shirebrook rail depot resolves to block coal movements in Notts. Scargill promises there will be no secret deals.

## Mon 11 June

Association of County Councils reveals police had spent an extra £60m of public money on the strike operation by 7 June.

Leon Brittan calls for report from McLachlan about police excesses after complaints by MPs (not local ones).

32 railworkers sent home from Shirebrook depot for refusing to handle coal; 800 pickets assembled, 1200 at Creswell.

Striking branch secretary defeated narrowly at Bolsover pit in NUM branch elections (350-308). Gedling branch delegate also defeated.

McGregor declares he is preparing for a 25% increase in output by the year 2000, tougher management and closures of uneconomic pits. Scargill repeats that there will be no secret deals, any proposed settlement going before NUM delegate conference.

## Tues 12 June

Coroner's jury records open verdict on David Jones, the picket who died in Ollerton on 15 March after being injured in a crush with 200 police and later hit by a brick. There had been 20 minutes of Jones' movements unaccounted for.

McGregor attacks assumptions of 1974 Plan for Coal. 'The Coal Board will recover responsibility for managing the coal industry'.

## Wed 13 June

NUM-NCB talks broken off. McGregor had 'nothing new to offer'.

48 railworkers have been suspended from Shirebrook.

Parliament: Rhodes Boyson justifies DHSS treating strikers worse than prisoners - 'A prisoner can not come out and go to work'. 1300 pickets at Harworth colliery; 20 arrests.

## Thurs 14 June

NUM says it will boycott McGregor's proposal to impose a Coal Board conducted ballot of miners on the strike. 'The sinister

approach of Americanism' - Scargill. Treasury budgets further £120m for pit redundancy payments on top of existing £228m earmarked. Notts NCB releases figures of miners on strike claiming the highest number was 3500 in May - four times its claimed number at the time.

Notts policing costs rising at £2m a week; £200,000 a week falling on ratepayers - Cllr. Michael Cowan. NUM issues its demands for ending the strike: ending all pit closures, 40 MT new pit capacity, investment prolonging pit lives, development of new processes like CHP, a 4 day working week, retirement at 55, pay protection for transferred face workers, real wages at 1974 levels, reaffirmation of the Plan for Coal and consolidation of incentive bonuses.



Miner publishes photographic evidence of involvement by troops at the 7 June lobby of Parliament and accounts of the police attempts to destroy the film. MoD claim army presence there was coincidental.

## Fri 15 June

Picket Joe Green dies, dragged under a lorry at Ferrybridge power station, W.Yorks. Industrial production drops 15%, largely due to strike.

16 arrests in Maltby, S. Yorks, after community-police clashes involving abuse and stone-throwing at police station by 200 people. Widespread anger at police-imposed curfews.

## Sat 16 June

Further evening clashes in Maltby: 29 arrested.

## 51 injured

## Mon 18 June

51 pickets injured in police charges at Orgreave coking plant. 28 police claimed to be injured. 93 arrests. Police clap and cheer as ambulances collect their victims. Arthur Scargill hospitalised after: (1) being struck with a riot shield (Scargill) (2) he 'fell over' (Assistant Police chief Tony Clement) Eyewitnesses say Scargill was given 'a good leathering'.

Attorney General considering speeding up riot trials by removing them from jury trial 'if agreed' by defence.

## Tues 19 June

24 pickets from Orgreave charged with riot; no charges against police.

## Wed 20 June

Report sent to Director of Public Prosecutions concerning Northumbrian Police officer whose truncheoning of an

Orgreave picket was filmed by TV news crews and broadcast. 20 arrests at Warsop colliery. Picket chased by police and injured, 'ran into road sign', say police.

Whitwell shaft occupied by 5 miners in protest at 2 scabs going in.

Miners withdraw from occupation of Betteshanger pit, forestalling NCB injunction. They declare the pit condition more or less sound, belying NBC propaganda about dire jeopardy.

Douglas Hurd, H.O minister, reveals pickets' cars are being entered in the 'stolen vehicle' section of the police National Computer.

## Thurs 21 June

DPP announces that the policeman filmed truncheoning picket will not be prosecuted in a court of law; 'The matter is one to be dealt with by his chief constable rather than the criminal law'; no reason given.

So far 3400 people (3200 of them miners) and 0 police officers have been charged with offences arising from the dispute.

Queen cancels visit to Selby Field. ISTC Bill Sirs says steelworkers will abide by any management decision concerning coal supplies. Roy Hattersly claims £2126 million has already been spent out of the government's £2750m contingency reserve on the dispute.

## Fri 22 June

NUM announces it will prosecute Orgreave truncheoner itself. Police turn back 1200 pickets entering the county.

NUM considering new disciplinary Rule 51 enabling expulsion of scabs.

David Owen demands court action against pickets.

## Mon 25 June

40 railworkers sent home from Shirebrook rail depot. BR admits coal movements are down.

## Tues 26 June

Maltby solicitor pursuing complaints involving the pouring of cold water over miners held overnight in police cells and the denial of insulin to an arrested diabetic.

Llanwern: 2 coal trains refuse to move.

500 picket Cottam power station. Newspaper production disrupted due to NUM strike.

## Wed 27 June

20,000 march in London backing the miners. Sheffield council donates £100,000 to strikers.

## Thurs 28 June

Rail deliveries of iron ore to Ravenscraig blocked.

## Fri 29 June

BSC starts iron ore truck convoys to Llanwern from Port Talbot.

## Sat 30 June

Four miners' supporters in London collecting for strikers arrested under 1824 Vagrancy Act. Police seize the food as evidence

while charges are considered for 3 weeks.

Nottingham solicitor Susan Gregson-Murray describes bail conditions for some miners as 'virtual house arrest'.

Rufford striker Richard Telford attacked in his own home by working miner with bow saw and carving knife. 100 stitches in head, neck, arms, chest. £2,000 damage to house. No publicity from 'intimidation' brigade.

## Sun 1 July

London print worker Douglas Shaw beaten up by 4 police while delivering food parcels in Notts. Anonymous police spokesperson issues stock reply about using the (police run) complaints procedure. Notts. working miners believed to be planning formation of a break-away union, 'Notts 84'.

## Slippery slope

Scargill warns of 'slippery slope' - 'we have police officers knocking on doors in the middle of the night to see if there are miners from other parts of the British coalfields inside.'

Freedom Association active in the dispute, says Scargill.

## Mon 2 July

Steel unions demand maintenance of 50%-80% production. 'Mr. Sirs sounds like a British Steel spokesman' - Financial Times.

## Tues 3 July

NCB approaches NUM for renewed talks.

## Wed 4 July

NCB starts multi-million pound advertising campaign in newspapers.

Attorney-General Michael Havers intervenes in South Yorks. police authority decision not to pay for policing the dispute, asking High Court to overrule decision.

1200 picket in Notts. No arrests. Coal stocks about 16m tonnes, says CEBG.

## Thurs 5 July

1500 pickets at Harworth colliery. 9 hours of NUM-NCB talks. TGWU bars 14 members who have crossed picket lines.

114 pickets appear Mansfield magistrates on obstruction and public order charges. Defence applications that the court require the police to explain why they detained 4 pickets on route to court turned down by presiding chair Lt.-Cdr. J. Antrobus.

## Fri 6 July

NCB announces £20m investment programme in Notts. fields.

## Food for Victory

## Sun 8 July

Convoys from Rotherham and Sheffield supply miners' 'Food for Victory' day on Forest attended by thousands. Supporting speakers include CND leader Bruce Kent.

## Mon 9 July

Occupation of Berry Hill NUM HQ by over 100 strikers successfully prevents new area council from meeting. 'They are disloyal to the NUM and have no right to participate in the decision

# Aim for clear objectives

by Barbara MacCarthy

**NOTTINGHAM City Council has taken another step in the implementation of its Equal Opportunities policy. Wendy Young (29) is the recently appointed Equal Opportunities Officer with special responsibility for women's issues.**

Until moving to Nottingham at the beginning of July, Wendy was active in the women's movement in Middlesbrough. For eight months she was a full-time worker at the Women's Refuge, but had been closely involved in it for over a year before that, as a member of the Women's Centre support group, its co-ordinating group representing the Women's Centre and Women's Aid on the local Law Centre's management committee.

Wendy helped set up a Rape Crisis Centre and was involved in campaigns around women and health, women and employment and women and children. She represented the group on Cleveland Council's Equal Opportunities Committee and also attended their Women's Consultative meetings.

Campaigning against violence against women has been one of Wendy's highest priorities. 'I helped set up a local branch of WAVAW, Women Against Violence Against Women, and took part in picketing and leafletting. I'm concerned with the politics of violence against women, largely because of my work in the refuge.

## DIARY OF A DISPUTE

making process' - Calverton striker Steve Abbott.

## Tues 10 July

Notts. working miners win High Court injunction banning national delegate conference from making its disciplinary rule change until the Notts. area council can meet. Judge Megarry orders the Notts. delegates to vote against the rule change.



TGWU orders national docks strike over use of non-registered labour to import iron ore. NUM-NCB talks adjourned for one week.

## Wed 11 July

Judge Megarry 'bans' NUM national delegate conference from voting on proposed Rule 51. 'He has complete jurisdiction' - Denning. Conference votes for rule change as planned, Notts. delegates voting against. Vote: 166,000 to 62,000.

Derbyshire has 'no intention of paying any bills' for police intervention, says council leader David Bookbinder, urging other councils to the same.

Anne Scargill and 3 others remanded on bail until 22 October.

'As a Labour Party member in Cleveland, I was very active in organising the setting up of a Women's Section, which was centrally concerned with policy. We organised things such as a day school on women and local government - making women more aware of why it is important for them to be councillors and so on. The Women's Section meetings were held in the Women's Centre, trying to bring together the strands of feminism and socialism.

There was also a separate group interested in equal opportunities, looking at what the County and District Councils were doing and putting pressure on them to get more women's representation, rather like what is happening in Nottingham now.'

Wendy sees that there may, unfortunately, be a conflict between her job and the pursuit of her interests in the women's movement and the Labour Party, but she intends to resolve them without diluting her own interests. She has some reservations about the immediate effectiveness of the work she will be able to do and is realistic about the gap between ideals and practical solutions.

'I don't just want to be an Equal Opportunities Officer. I've been involved in the practical side of the women's movement and for me achieving things is important. I don't want to just sit around talking about things, I want to take things as they are and change them, but it won't just happen overnight. I accept that

compromise is inevitable, but we must keep the goals in sight and stay clear about our objectives - and aim for them.'

Although Wendy has a specific responsibility for women, she feels it is vital to keep a perspective on all aspects of discrimination and is concerned with issues relating to the disabled, ethnic minorities and sexual orientation. As the council's Equal Opportunities Officer, she will be responsible for the promotion of equal opportunities, looking at the City Council as an employer and helping to overcome any, albeit unwitting, sexual discrimination.

Wendy will also be in touch with other groups and organisations concerned with the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for women and will be involved with the Women's Sub-committee which is being formed.

'My biggest hope and wish is to be able to carry on working with women. I think things must be achieved by working as a group of women. I'll feel isolated in my job so I'll be looking to women for support.'

*Individual women who would like to discuss any aspect of the Equal Opportunities Policy are welcome to contact Wendy directly at the Guild Hall, by telephoning 418571 ext. 207. Or get involved in one of the Women's Sub-committee working groups on employment, racism and the Women's Centre. Phone Wendy for details.●*

Tory transport minister Nicholas Ridley calls docks strike a political effort 'to overturn the Government'. Although claiming there are no plans to abolish the Dock Labour Scheme, he declines to give assurances that there are no intended changes within the lifetime of this Parliament.

## Fri 13 July

1,000 picket Warsop pit. 60 working miners cross picket lines, but remainder are turned away. 40 arrests after robust clashes. Tug operators join dock strike.

## Sat 14 July

2nd McGregor letter to miners.

## Sun 15 July

Government considering declaration of a State of Emergency.

## Mon 16 July

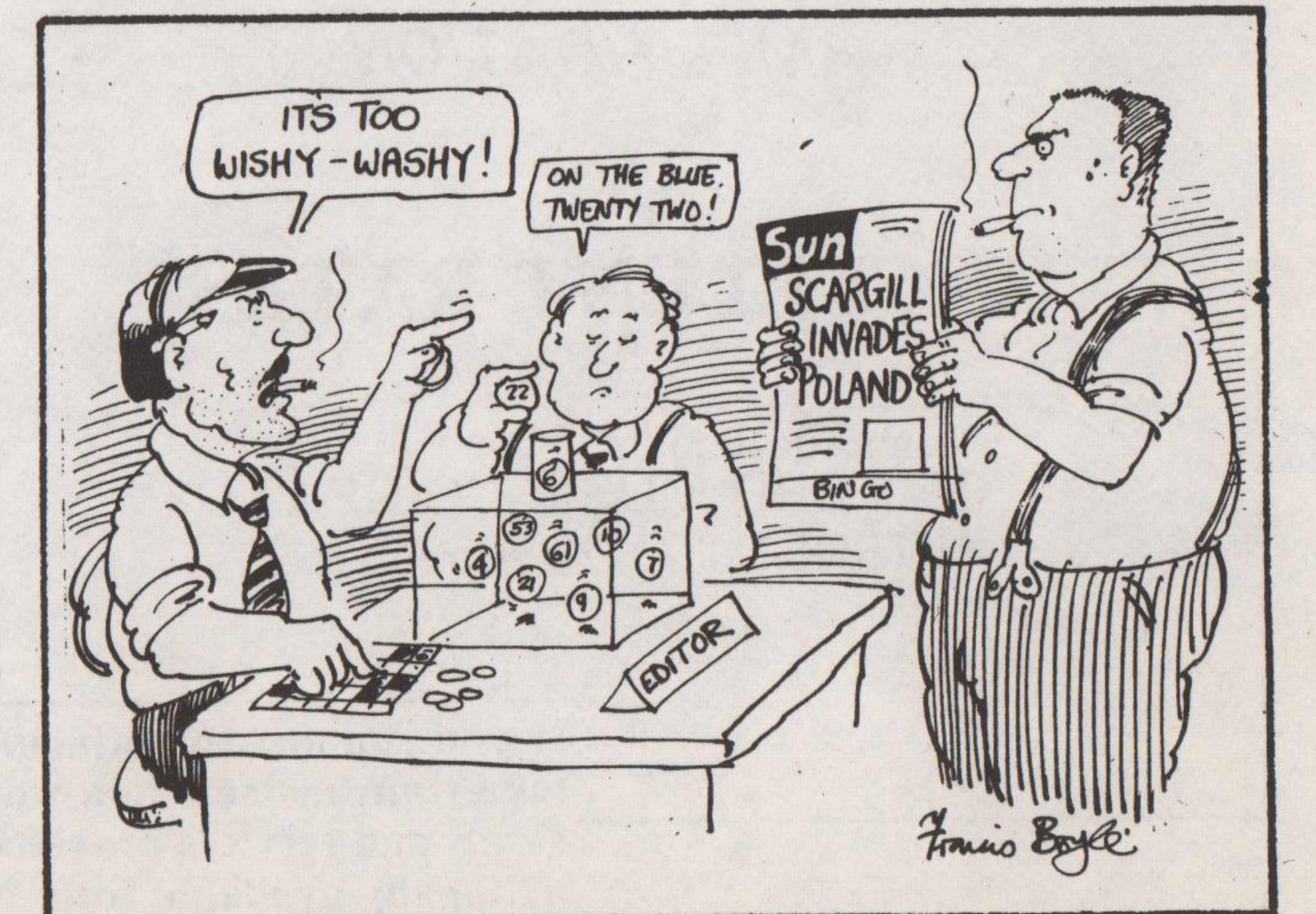
3,000 picket all 4 Trent Valley power stations - highest number so far. Largest pickets (1,200 each) at Cottam and High Marnham. 1,000 picket Ollerton pit. 1,100 pickets turned back by police from entering Notts.

## Tues 17 July

McGregor calls news conference to allay Government fears that the NCB is preparing a retreat from basic position.

NCB-NUM talks centring on future of 5 named pits. No progress.

Scargill: Strike has now cost tax payer £3.5bn. Thatcher denies directing NCB to





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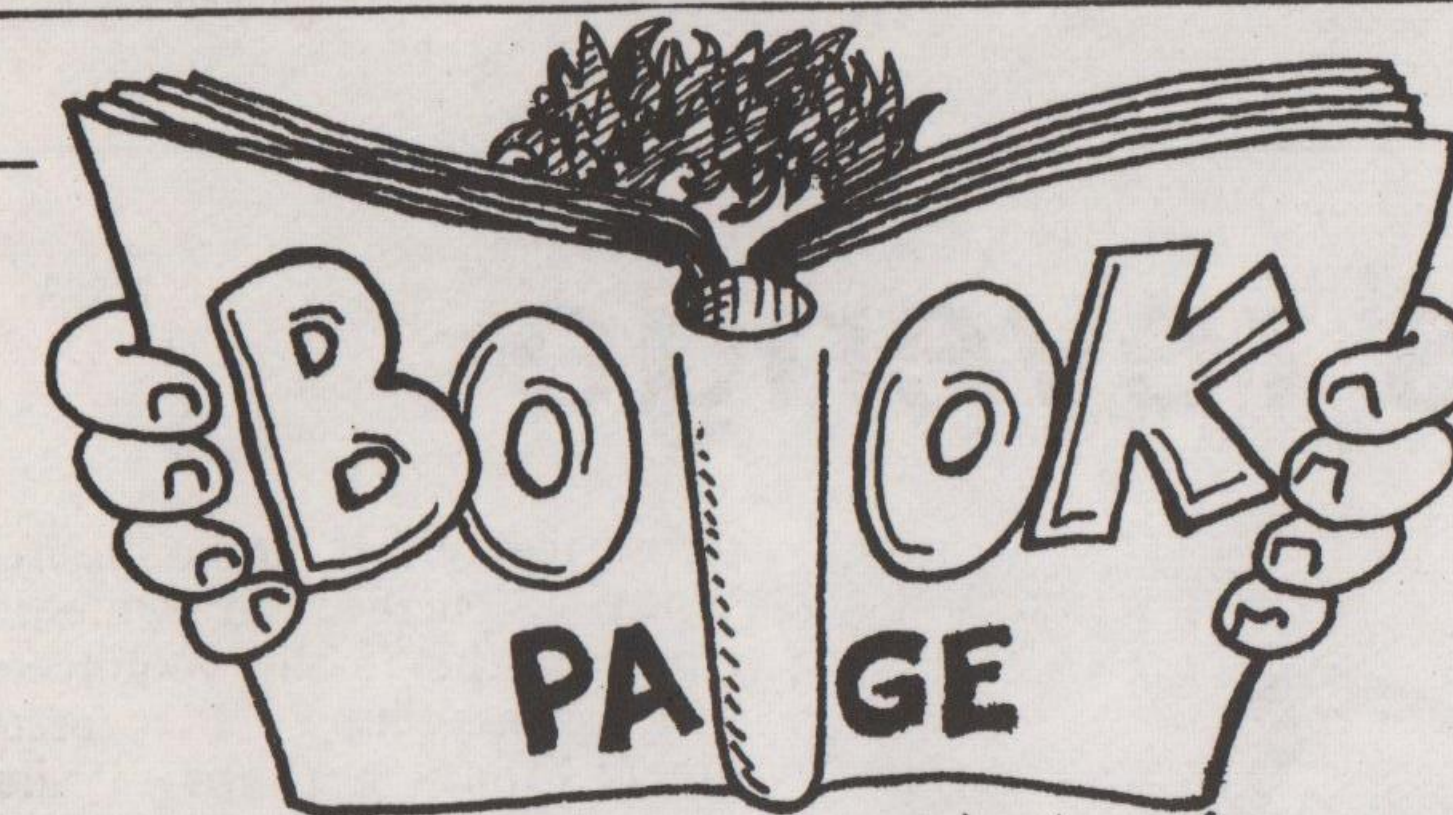
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**SOME TIME AGO** Gay Men's Press became GMP publishers Ltd. A move which has now led to some GMP publications being sold in W.H. Smiths, undoubtedly a national directive, and nothing to do with the staff in individual branches. Recently, GMP began a series of Gay Modern Classics, opening promisingly with 'Eustace Chisholm and the Works' by James Purdy, and 'A Domestic Animal' by Francis King.

**Eustace Chisholm and the Works** (GMP £3.50)

is a well written novel set in Chicago in the 1930's. The well drawn 'Ace' Chisholm and the 'Works' (a group of people gathered around 'Ace') are all surviving and searching for friendship, against the background of the 1930's depression. Atmospheric.

**A Domestic Animal** (GMP £3.50)

A Domestic Animal concerns Antonio who leaves Florence (Italy) to visit England. He stays with a novelist, Dick Thompson, who fancies him, yet he appears to be straight. A satisfying book with a very English feel.

**GREENHAM COMMON: WOMEN AT THE WIRE.** Edited by Barbara Horford and Sarah Hopkins. (Women's Press, £3.95)

This is the first book to explain what is happening at the women's peace camp at Greenham Common. It deals with the history of the camp, ideas, actions, and the community which has grown up in the three years of its existence.

Written by more than fifty women at Greenham.



**WARS I HAVE SEEN,** by Gertrude Stein (Brilliance Books £3.95)

An excellent autobiographical book, with a well written and illustrated introduction by Jacqueline Morreau. It is a sometimes strong, sometimes extremely witty account of Gertrude Stein's life as a lesbian and American Jew in Nazi-occupied France, 1st British paperback edition.

**SWEEPING STATEMENTS:** Writings from the Women's Liberation Movement 1981-83, by Hannah Kanter, Sara Lefanu, Shaila Shah and Carole Spedding, eds. (The Women's Press, £5.50)

A wide ranging collection of writings to record what has been happening over the last three years. The eight extensive sections include 'Violence against Women', 'Racism', 'Up Against the State', 'Sex And Sexuality' and 'Challenges'.

The Preface states 'Sweeping Statements, we hope, continues a tradition of radical collections from the Women's Liberation Movement that includes Conditions of Illusion, The Body Politic and No Turning Back'.



**SAPPHO - POEMS AND FRAGMENTS,** translated by Josephine Balmer. (Brilliance Books, £2.95)

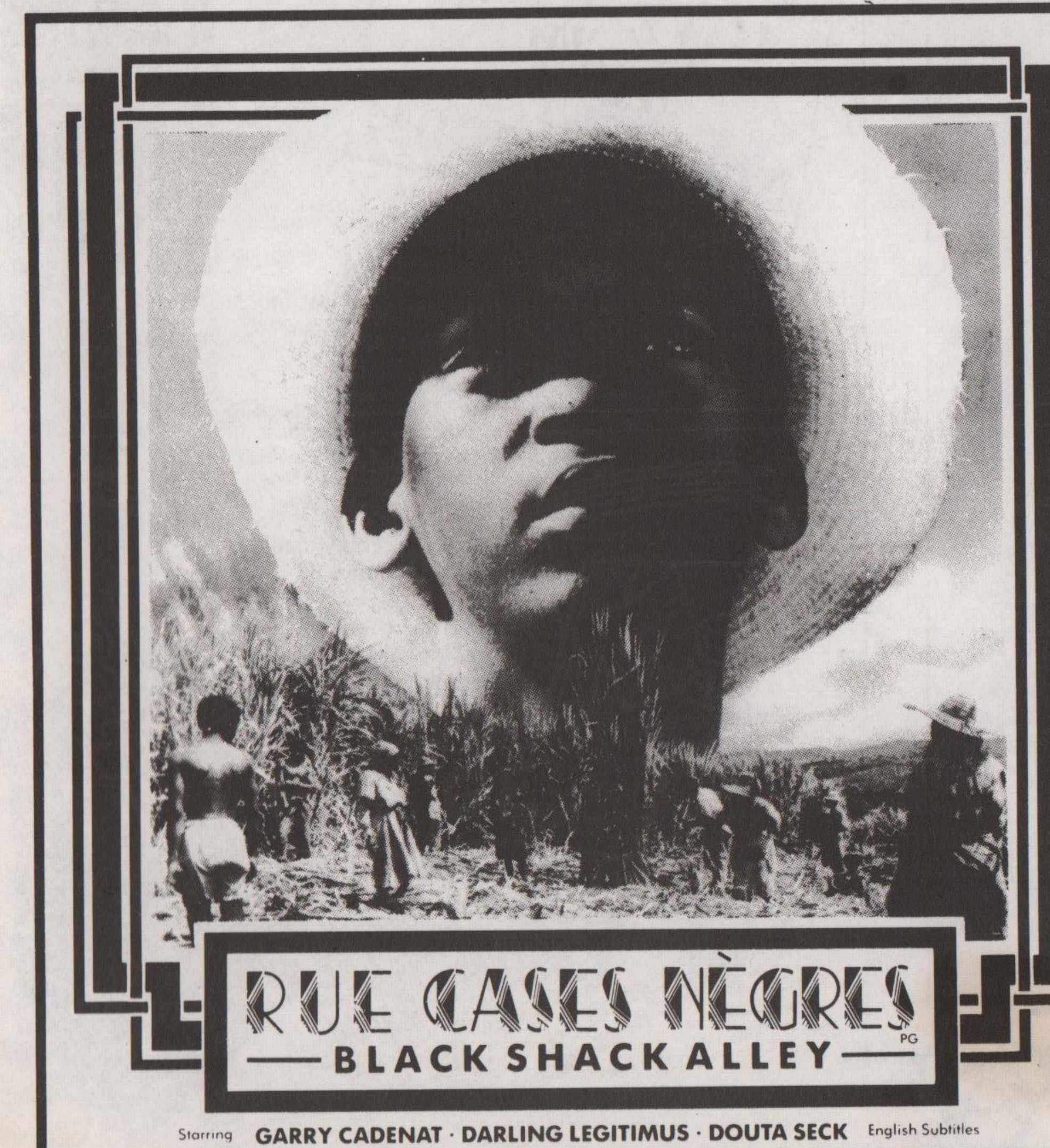
A sensitive new translation of fragments from the earliest known lesbian poet. The introduction by Josephine Balmer is both detailed and interesting including sections about Sappho and her critics, Sappho and Ancient Greece, sexuality, women and poetry. With illustrations by Sarah Baylis.



**Tik-Tok** by John Sladek (Gollancz £7.95)

A ROBOT with 'roots' and whose asimov circuits are on the blink (ask your SF friend what the Asimov Laws of Robotics are), Tik-Tok is thus free to lie, cheat, rob, mass-murder, and create art. His unwieldy adventures through 21st Century America lead him from humble slave to almost becoming the first robot vice-president.

Sladek is viciously funny in his demolition of modern politics, law, fast-food chains, private medicine, art-theory, Evangelism, and of several literary genres. This is the blackest and funniest of comedies. Highly Recommended.



**"Dazzling...Fine and touching. The most attractive and optimistic film in London"** Times

**"Sheerly enjoyable...a charm and liveliness that can scarcely fail with audiences...Wonderfully natural"** Guardian

**"Boldly affirmative, skilfully crafted...This wonderful film"** Observer

**"Dazzlingly confident and accomplished... Quite exceptional"** Sunday Telegraph

**"Remarkable...engages its themes with optimism and its characters with love...Potent, primitive magic"** Time Out

**"Bewitching...High enchantment...as strong on poetry as protest"** Financial Times

**"A heartening and absorbing power"** Daily Telegraph

**"A success story all round"** City Limits

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