

BAD NIGHT OUT

Is that alright f'yars



GETTING into the Astoria is a real shock-horror experience to the dole cheque, with its steep £3 entrance fee. After that the cheapish drinks are little compensation.

Slip into the foyer - there the first piece of nastiness starts as my companion has her bottom smacked by one of the bouncers as we go in. It's THAT sort of place.

In the centre of the foyer lurks a massive triffid-like plant, kept in place by a ring seat circling it. On the walls there are large montage pictures made up from snapshots of people purportedly enjoying (read suffering?) previous nights out here.

Into the main part of the club, with its enormous dance floor ringed with beer-barrel tables - each sprouting a silly umbrella from its centre.

Around the top of the dance floor there's an upstairs balcony, with its own bar, tables and seats. It is there we retire to get a better look at the proceedings. The clientele consists mainly of the Club 18-30 set; given this we couldn't resist shouting "DEAD ANT" over the balcony to see what would happen. Nothing. We were drowned out in decibels (as was any attempt at conversation). Below, hordes of young men, in their Burton's/C&A/Jeff's suits and casual wear, were prowling, either singly or in pairs. Hungrily watching the women in their high-heels and handbags. There was even the compulsory medallion man, in leather, bleached hair, and a paint-on suntan.

You try to be human thinking that this just can't be true. But when the whole dance floor becomes a conga to something really nasty and at full volume by Black Lace you find it impossible to forgive. Are these people working miners, or what? The urge to lean over the balcony and throw up over the the

crowd below is a very, very hard one to resist. But you do so if only because the bouncers (the usual over-muscled gorillas in monkey suits) wouldn't appreciate such constructive criticism.

The DJs are certainly better than well protected behind their bullet-proof, bomb-proof, beerglass-proof; radiation-proof and request-proof glass screen, with enough controls and flashing lights for them to be able to man (person) NASA ground control.

There's a horrendously huge scaffold of disco lights firmly welded to the ceiling, and stacks and stacks of speakers everywhere. So that when clouds of smoke billow out filling the dance floor one gleefully supposes that it can only be the lights and speakers burning and fusing out, and that the whole place is about to burn to the

ground (as in all the best horror films). But not so - it's just another cheap disco gimmick.

In fact, the whole nightmare intensifies as they start to play an extended, mega-mix, Stars-on-45 medley of all the most unbearably naff and appalling pop music from the past twenty years. Oh, Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the DJ's neck..

There is even Astoria's own Burger Bar, offensive to vegetarians and even to meat eaters once they clock up the prices. But there is no escape - from the all-pervading music, the people, and, of course, the ubiquitous TV monitor playing pop-promo videos everywhere. It's just so unbelievably dire.

Hey Barry, what do you call a man with a hotel on his head? Norman Tebbit.

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WORKERS' CONTROL NOT CONTROL OF WORKERS

uroboros

CITYWISE
NOTTINGHAM'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

ALF interview
Council racist?
The Cancer of Spencerism

FEB-MARCH 30p No. 10

WELCOME TO issue no.10 of Citywise. Christmas has gone and we're still here, but as usual we need all the help we can get. So if you're interested in any aspect of producing a radical, disrespectful, and regular (hopefully) paper for Nottingham, this is your big chance.

There are many ways of getting involved. Researching and writing stories, typesetting, layout and graphics, taking photos. Citywise is run on a collective basis, so the more people involved, the wider the range of views expressed and the more varied the content.

Even if you can't commit yourself on a regular basis, you can help by advertising, putting us on to stories, or giving us information on local events.

Come to our next open meeting, details on this page, or drop us a note... a phone call... telegram... and keep on keeping on...

PHONE MESSAGES

MAIL

CITYWISE HAS A NEW OFFICE. WE CAN NOW BE PHONED, WRITTEN TO AND GENERALLY HARASSED AT 182 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM, NG1 3HU. (NOTTM 582561). ALL PREVIOUS ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, ETC. SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN (AS WE WON'T BE THERE!)

ADVERTISING

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

SELLING

Can you take a few to sell within your group or at a meeting? Discounts are available.

OPEN MEETING

The next Citywise open meeting will take place at our office at 182 Mansfield Rd. (above Earthwise), on Monday 25th February, 7.30 pm. Everyone welcome.

The next issue will appear at the end of March, so copy to us by mid-March, please.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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TEBBIT
TEBBIT



A TYPICAL TORY VOTER.

DURING a recent University Student Union Council meeting an announcement was made giving details of the stabbing of two socialist students by a working miner. On hearing this news two Tory students, including the reptilious shit Steve Hayes, who hopes to be elected NUS secretary, stood and clapped. Such behaviour is not totally unexpected from members of a Tory organisation noted for its fascist tactics. In the meantime the university continues to persecute left-wing students.



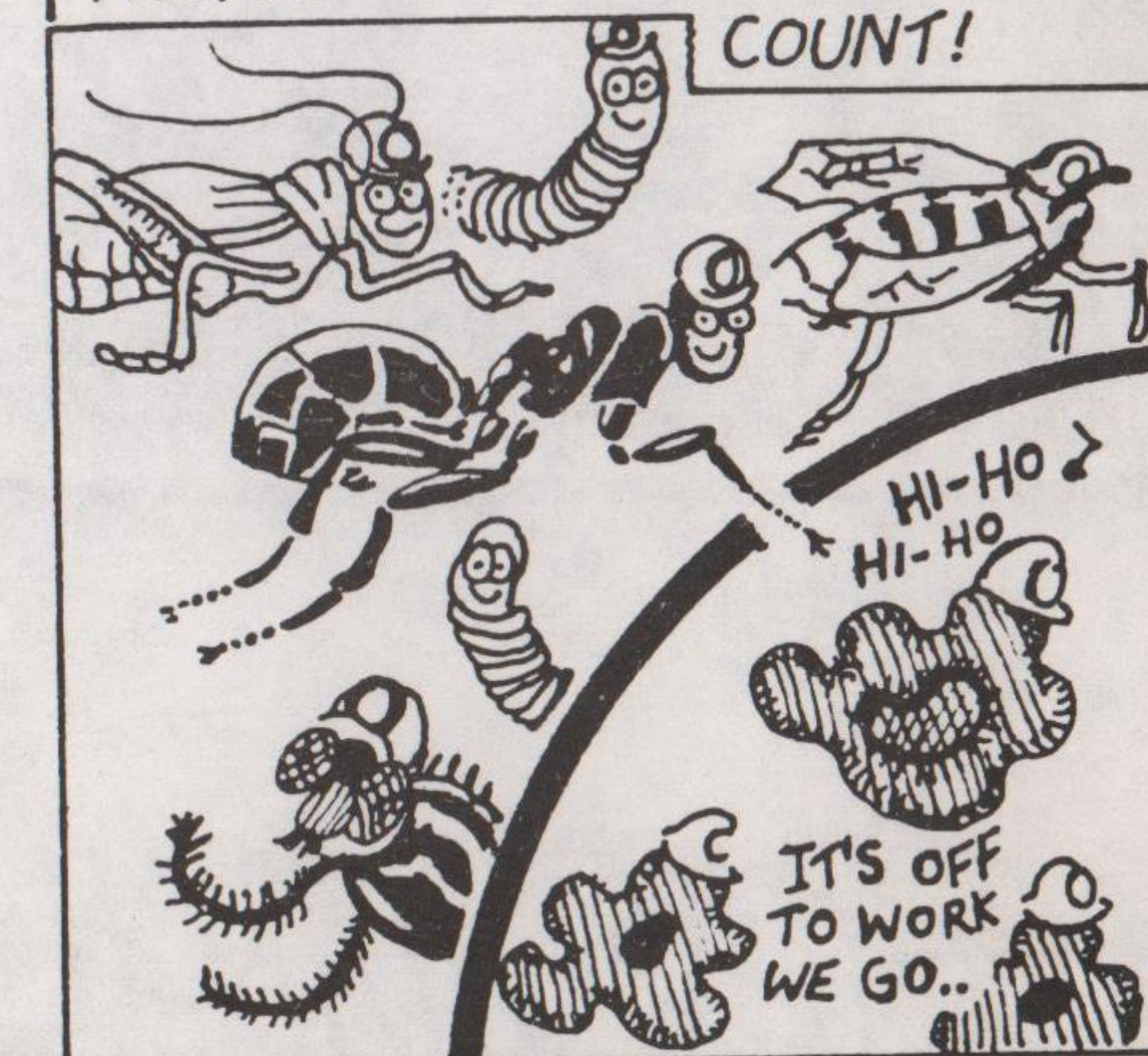
N.C.B. OFFICIALS TODAY DECLARED A RETURN-TO-WORK OF 5 BILLION, 6 THOUSAND, AND TWELVE STRIKING MINERS.



BUT SINCE IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT THAT THIS FIGURE IS MORE THAN THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE WHOLE WORLD....



N.C.B. OFFICIALS THEN ADMITTED THAT A FEW INSECTS, MICROBES, AND THINGS MAY HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTLY INCLUDED IN THE COUNT!



Hundreds of screaming thugs

SINCE CITYWISE reported to you the victorious picketing of the Coal Minister, David Hunt, in October, the university authorities have taken a series of retaliatory measures against students involved in the demo.

After the incident at the university, an article appeared in the Times by Roger Scruton, a leading 'intellectual' of the New Right. In this pompous and wildly inaccurate article, in which he laughingly described the demonstrators as "hundreds of screaming thugs", Scruton jabbered on at length about Democracy, Free Speech, and various other codewords for Thatcherite tyranny. The net result was a long-winded call for something to be done about "campus yobs".

Apparently, someone up in the commanding heights of the Education Department (possibly Sir K. himself) read the article, contacted the university authorities and demanded that something be done. Heads were bowed and forelocks tugged, and the fact that those who were handing out orders about university affairs were also the ones ruthlessly slashing the education budget was obviously not grasped.

So, abandoning all pretence of independence from political interference by government, James Carr-Archer, an ex-student and SWP member, was issued with a court order banning him from campus. Several other students were disciplined and warned not to repeat their actions when Hunt returned.

David Hunt duly came back on January 18th, protected by large numbers of police, and inside the meeting demonstrated his belief in free-speech by avoiding all the difficult questions. Free speech was also (c)ensured by the university authorities by trying to limit tickets to bona-fide students with the correct credentials. Miners

School picket to go ahead?

WILFORD Meadows school could be brought to a standstill by a mass black picket within two weeks.

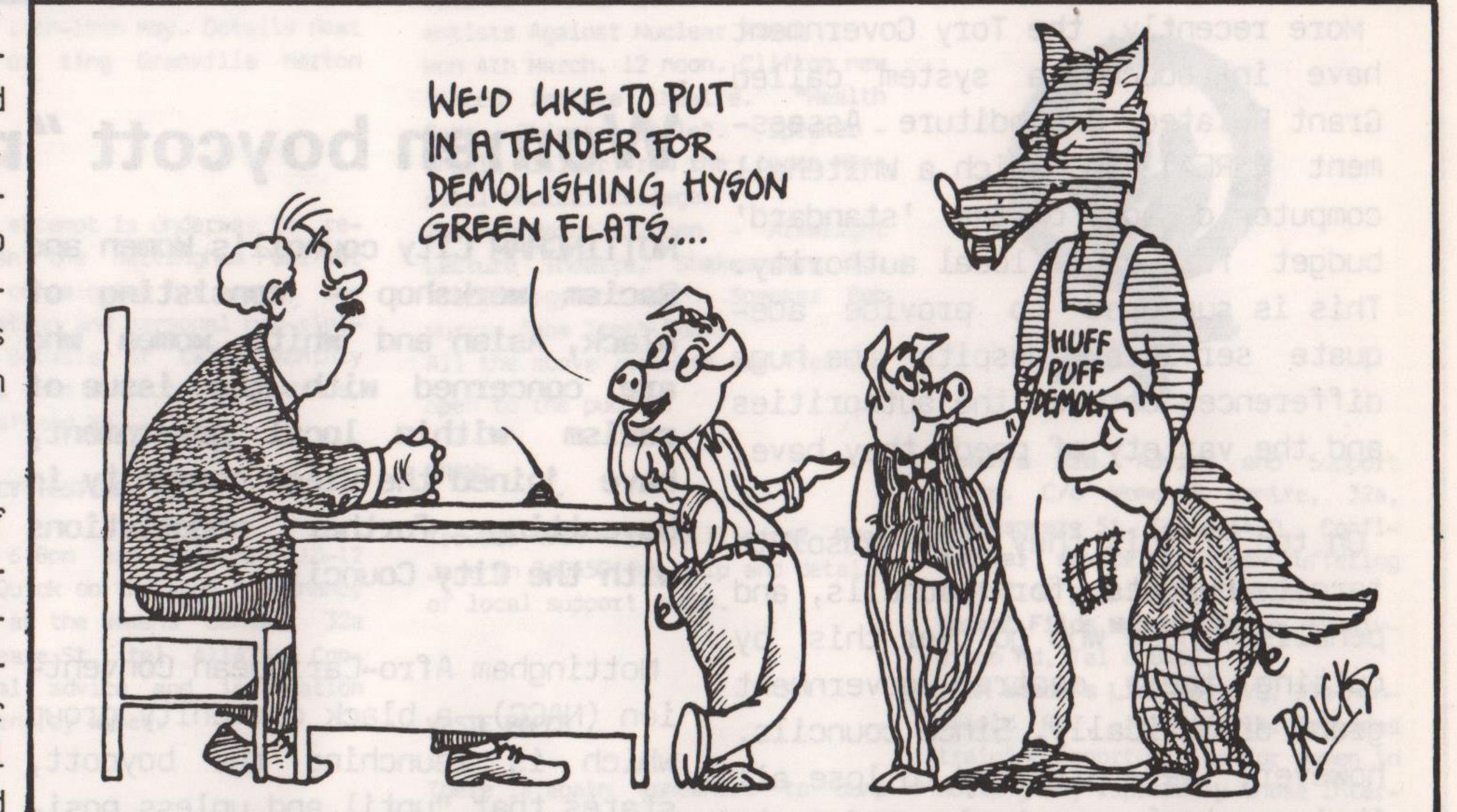
The black community will also adopt a policy of non-co-operation with the County Council Education Dept. if there is no action on a series of resolutions relating to the suspension of black pupils from city schools.

This represents the latest development in a long-running saga starring the Education Department and the black community organisation UKAIDI Community Link project. The findings of a year long council monitoring exercise on black suspensions were not released to UKAIDI as agreed over one year ago. Discussions on the problem were then to have followed in order to find a solution. The council withheld the ethnic statistics, claiming for over six months that "no

useful purpose would be served" by their release. When challenged, council officers revealed that politicians were behind the decision.

Resolutions passed at a January meeting attended by over 200 black people included demands for the statistics to be released, for a public enquiry into the disproportionate numbers of black children suspended, and for the dismissal of persistently racist teachers.

The County Council's so-called 'Equal Opportunity Policy' is wearing a bit thin with UKAIDI, whose report "Suspensions and the Black Child" details blatantly unacceptable treatment of black children in some Nottingham schools. One source at UKAIDI issued a warning to the Labour Party not to count on automatic black support in elections if they do not pull their fingers out as regards racism in the education system.



were definitely not allowed in to ask questions about the future of their industry and communities, although a small number did manage to slip in.

It has to be made clear that James Archer and the other students disciplined by the university were picked on for political reasons. A blind eye would have been turned if Tory members of the rugby club had, for instance, been harassing fem-

inists or damaging university property. If your actions are political, your target is a senior conservative minister, and what's more, you are successful, you are instantly a target for political victimisation.

Finally a date for your diary. Leon Brittain will be at the university on March 15th, at 1pm. Tom King may also turn up at some time in the future.

Local say, the only way

THE DETAILS of rate-capping are complex but the basic principles are simple. Either you believe that central government should decide what level of services are provided in every area of the country, or you believe that the quality and quantity of services and the level of rates are matters which should be decided locally.

For many years central government has been cutting down their grant contribution to council spending. The Tories' spurious argument for this is that by shifting the burden of raising money from the taxpayer to the ratepayer they are making local councils more accountable. (Nice to have someone accountable to the electorate!). They have also stopped councils from raising a supplementary rate which could make up for cuts in government contributions.

More recently, the Tory Government have introduced a system called Grant Related Expenditure Assessment (GREX) in which a Whitehall computer decides on the 'standard' budget for each local authority. This is supposed to provide adequate services, despite the huge differences between the authorities and the variety of needs they have.

On top of this they set absolute target budgets for councils, and penalise those who go over this by cutting their central government grant dramatically. Since councils, however, were prepared to lose all their central grant in order to keep their services up to the levels they thought necessary, the government is introducing the dreaded 'rate-capping'. This means that central government now has the power to fix a top limit to the rates which councils may raise, in line with Whitehall's view of the expenditure needed for local services. Under this system both Nottingham City Council and Notts County Council are massively overspending. They are maintaining

their spending at present levels by using their general reserves. But when these run out they will have to cut services (the City Council by £3 million; the County Council by £38 million); or raise the rates dramatically. However, if they decide to increase the rates, central government can rate-cap the councils (i.e. make it illegal for the councils to raise the rates), and enforce these cuts.

The City Council is horrified at the prospect of such cuts and is planning ahead. It has set up a local democracy campaign team (composed of councillors, officers, trade unionists, and voluntary sector representatives.) The campaign aims to produce information on the situation for the people of Nottingham, and to give them their chance to tell both local and central government their views. There



will be a free open conference - 'The Local Say, The Only Way', on March 2nd at the Council House, open to all residents.

The County Council's response to the issue is so far veiled in mystery. At the moment they are "fulfilling their statutory obligations" to consult with local businesses and unions, and talking to select voluntary organisations, about the level of expenditure for 1985/86. In February, they say, they will start public consideration of the implications of rate-capping. Bearing in mind that this is election year, it may be a good idea for them to get out and start informing the electorate of the situation as soon as possible.

Women boycott "racist" council

NOTTINGHAM City council's Women and Racism workshop - consisting of black, Asian and white women who are concerned with the issue of racism within local government, have joined the Black community in boycotting further negotiations with the City Council.

Nottingham Afro-Caribbean Convention (NACC), a black community group which is launching the boycott, states that "until and unless positive steps are taken to develop a process of meaningful negotiation with the black community under the banner of Equal Opportunity, there will be no further negotiation".

The group has found that certain members and officers are promising diverse and conflicting rewards to different groups in order to create divisions and conflicts. This, they stress, is unacceptable, and will not be tolerated. NACC further re-

jects the process where white, so-called liberals sit down in their secluded parlours and attempt to direct the affairs of black people. That, the group says, is racism in an extreme sense.

A spokesperson from the group added: "In summary, we are saying that all we expect of the City Council is a definite statement of will. The rest should be left to the black people to decide for themselves. Additionally, we do not want to discuss issues of race with issues of sexual orientation, disability etc. Race to us is a different matter and should therefore be viewed and handled separately".

So far the following groups have refused further negotiations with the City Council: NACC, Women and Racism, Nottingham Black Women's Group, and the Race and Housing Working Party.

From threat to reality

PRIVATE contractors are moving from threat to reality within Nottingham's health service. As the Queens Medical Centre awaits the result of the in-house tender which will govern the future of domestic staff working in the hospital departments, Basford Hospital, its future already decided, enjoys its last few months of cleanliness at its present level.

The first hospital in the area to put its cleaning contract out to tender - lost by the health service - these services at Basford will soon be the responsibility of Hospital Hygiene Services Ltd. When they take over, jobs will be lost and the standards of cleaning will inevitably fall. The present number of 12 full-time staff will be reduced to four - just one per ward. Instead of the present seven-day cover, the remaining full-time workers will be employed 9-5, Monday to Friday. Apparently domestic services are no longer necessary at week-ends!

Hospital Hygiene Services Ltd. have been cited in a recent Labour Research document for the appalling standards of the service at High Royds Hospital in Leeds, where staffing levels were cut by half, resulting in floors being inadequately cleaned and rubbish not being cleared. Merton Council rejected an application by the firm which they considered unable to do the job. Yet this firm has been appointed to provide cleaning services at Basford Hospital.

QMC faces similar problems. A decision due to be made on January 25 was delayed until further details were available from tendering contractors. But the NHS is in no position to compete with firms who pay low wages and offer archaic conditions of service to their workers. In an equal competition they would undoubtedly win, but NHS staff are protected by national agreements and are considered ex-

pensive in comparison with the cheap labour offered by other employers.

Already the "gold star" service at QMC has been curtailed for financial reasons. Yet the cuts are proving over and over again to be a false economy. The present staff are part of a team which works together to provide the best possible patient care. The understanding and consideration of ward routine, vital for the smooth running of a hospital, will be lost as contracted workers take over. Good will and mutual co-operation which now exists and has kept hospitals running for so long will be lost - who will cover the grey areas of responsibility presently shared by nursing and domestic staff? Wards must be cleaned, but will, as a recent West Midlands TUC Newsletter asks, nurses have to clean up after the contractors?

How far must we go towards Mrs. Thatcher's concept of "Victorian values"? - are we to return to the days when nurses cleaned the wards themselves? Already there is a return to child labour, supposedly illegal, morally unacceptable and, in terms of the work done, inadequate. A recent television programme showed how one firm, Office Cleaning Services, which already has many contracts in Nottingham, is employing 14 year olds to clean hospitals. Could this happen here?

As yet the contracts which have been put out to tender concern only those departments where patients come during the day and cleaning takes place in the evening - minimising the adverse effects privatisation will have on patients. This in itself was an extension by the government of its original request simply for a cost-comparison exercise, yet the government decided that the district health authority was being unreasonable and has insisted that it must go out to tender on all catering and domestic



services by 1986.

Private contractors are actively encouraged to ignore national pay rates. They offer less hours of employment and so the workers lose annual leave, sickness entitlements and so on. The only people who gain from privatisation are the contractors and the government.

Privatisation of the National Health Service must be stopped now before it is too late. It is not enough to rely on active trade unionists to make a stand - everyone is likely to be affected in one way or another and therefore should protest in whatever way they can. A campaign is being planned by Nottingham's Health Strategy Group and NUPE which will include high level publicity drawing attention to the benefits of the National Health Service. Funding is now being sought for an Information and Action Pack which will be launched in April and will encourage active participation in the fight against privatisation by community groups, organisations and individuals.



ANYONE wanting national health glasses is advised to get them now, before stocks run out. From April this year DHSS specs will no longer be available to hundreds of thousands of those who now choose to wear them. The average state subsidy of £5 per pair is to be withdrawn along with the NHS complaints structure which now allows faulty NHS glasses to be replaced free of charge.

Black team kicked out

THE Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) is investigating allegations of racism in Nottinghamshire sports Leagues.

The Brazilian Colts, a black team in the Nottingham and District Spartan Football League, have complained to the CRE of racial abuse during matches; of being forced to replay a match that their opponents would not finish; and of finally being expelled from the league for no reason.

The Colts had previously gone 21 games without defeat, and were almost certainly the best team in the league. Councillor John Taylor, their chairman, has claimed that the teams colour and ability provoked resentment amongst other, white clubs, although the League chairman, Frank Lancashire, denies this.

The Colts are not the only team to claim that racial discrimination has been happening in Notts sports.

The CRE are also investigating complaints by at least ten other sides, including Jinah F.C., a Pakistani team, who were attacked by a white man with a golf club during a game, and the Russell Youth Netball team, who were told that they had forfeited a number of games by using an unregistered umpire, although the league forgot to tell them this until seven games had been 'lost'.

Army violent surprise.

THE Ministry of Defence has at last responded to complaints of alleged violence by soldiers at last summer's Reclaim Chilwell event. An internal investigation is to be made into claims that one peace protester, Boris Dempsey, was thrown onto a roll of barbed wire and injured by troops on duty at the Chilwell base. Despite photographs of the incident and statements by several witnesses, no charges have yet been made against the soldiers involved.

Meat show arrests

IN JANUARY two local animal rights protesters - Barry and Gail Pilkington - came to court following their arrest at the Smithfield Show just before Xmas. The Show is one of the foremost exhibitions of live and dead animals by the meat industry and attracts a sizeable protest by vegetarians. One of the two arrested was charged with threatening behaviour, the other with obstruction.

In evidence the police claimed that the first defendant 'lunged' at a woman in a fur coat waving his fist at her, while the second defendant tried to prevent his arrest. This evidence was contested but the Nottingham people were found guilty and then - astonishingly, as the police had alleged violence - given an absolute discharge.

BACKSTREET LETTER

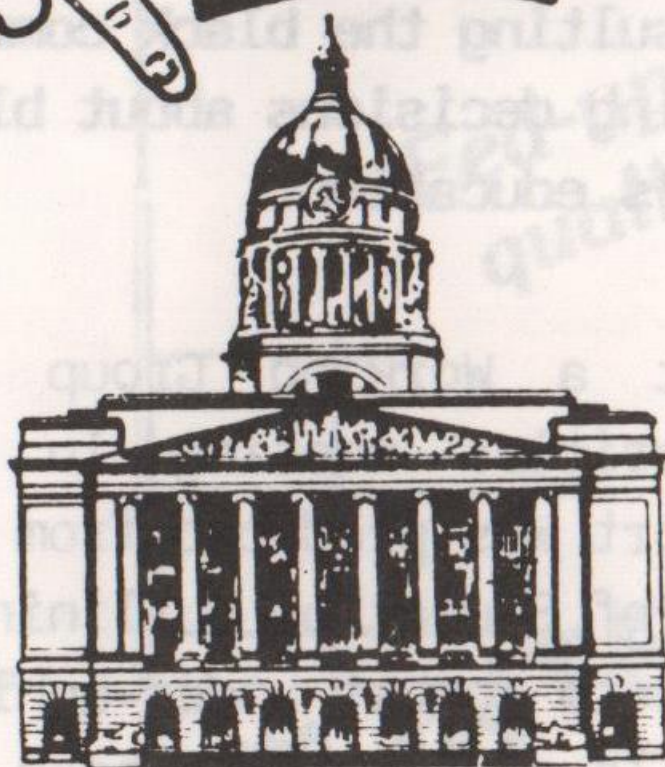
THAT GREAT hub of Nottingham social life - Rock City has altered its Friday Jazz-Funk night to yet another Student night. The change is reportedly due to the black Jazz-Funk clientele (Rock City Crew and all) not spending enough on booze for George's liking. Could it be that George has sussed out the fact that students are more stupid than the black populus?

Having experienced the appalling new student night where DJ Jonathan has the uncanny knack of making every record sound like the last: mix, remix, megacitymix, scratch extended 12" dance version of a drum-machine, I can wholeheartedly recommend that nobody waste their time or money on the new George Akins rip-off (unless you want to do us a "Bad Night Out").

IN THE last edition of Citywise it was reported that "Bias", the university student paper had made an unexpected swing to the left. This, we are sad to report, is no longer the case and amidst allegations of "unprofessionalism and ineptitude" the paper collapsed to be reformed under the new banner "Impact".

The new rag is hardly likely to live up to its name in view of the fact that as soon as "Bias" achieved any impact it was closed down to be replaced by a boring and biased "Impact". No surprise there.

THE WOMEN'S Centre pregnancy testing group are pissed off that more and more doctors are sending women to them, rather than providing tests on the NHS. This group is run on a voluntary basis and provides a service for women who prefer not to go to their own doctor. The chemicals used are expensive and the women who go to the centre are asked to donate any money they can afford to keep the service going. Now GPs are exploiting the service by sending women to the group instead of testing them free of charge. Pregnancy tests are available at the centre on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings.



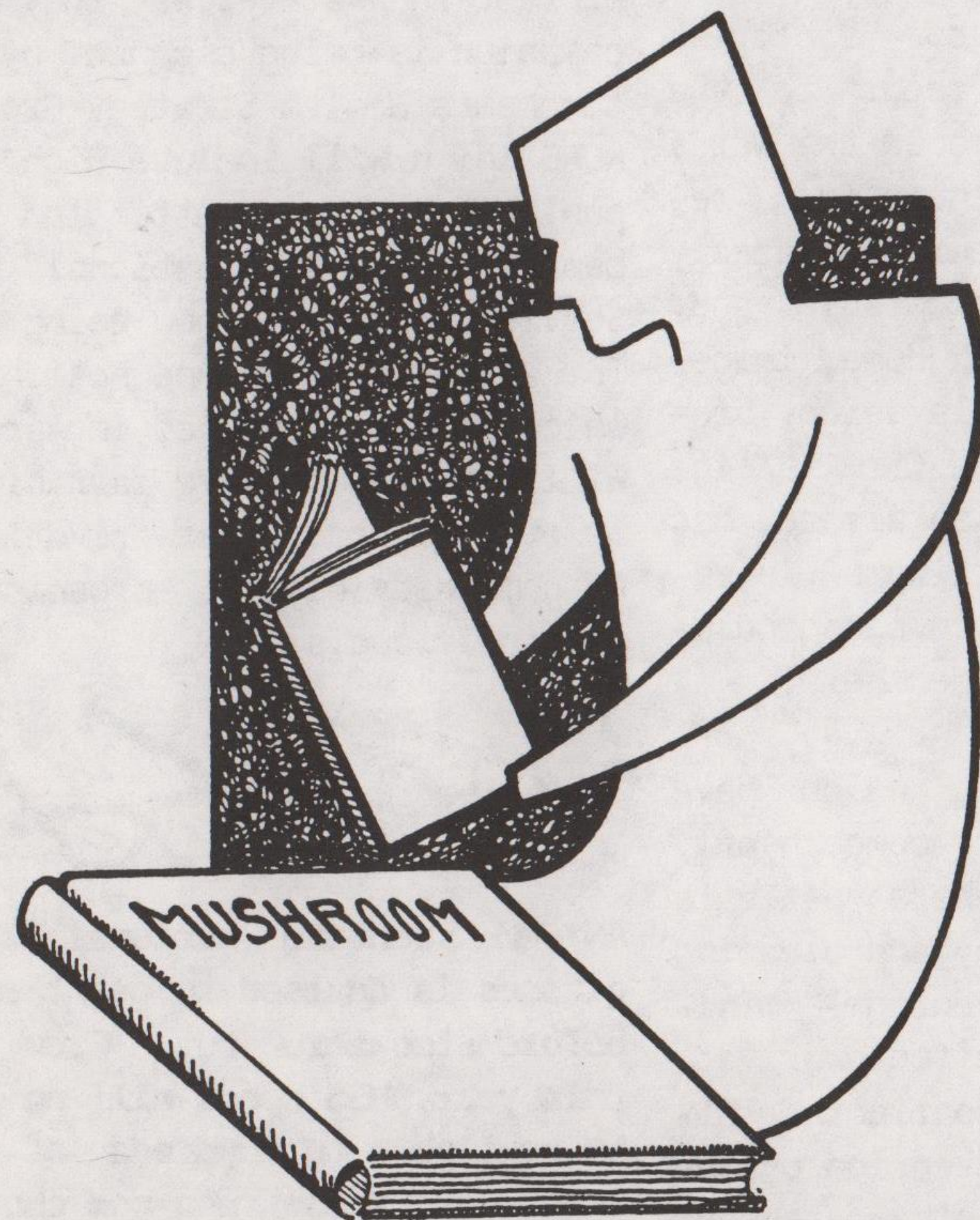
sult I have made some enquiries and they reveal that the County Council has had nothing whatsoever to do with the matter which you raise. I should be grateful if you would arrange for an appropriate correction to be included in your next edition.

I think you will find, on further investigation, that the creditor concerned was the Nottingham City Council.

Yours faithfully,
M. Suter
Deputy Clerk of the County Council and Deputy Chief Executive.

We apologise to the County Council for this error. Unable to pay arrears of £120, striking miner Mr. Hamilton was allowed to pay it back to the City Council in £1 per week instalments. Falling behind to the tune of £4, Mr. Hamilton was taken to court and gaoled.

The person responsible for the article has since been shot.



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Burger off!

ON JANUARY 19th, as part of a national day of action against McDonalds, some local anarchists, vegans and environmentalists staged a protest against the local branch.

In the leaflet given out the protesters drew attention to various aspects of McDonald's work, such as their anti-union policy, their destruction of South American rain forests for cattle grazing, and their overpriced and unhealthy food

The protesters called on people to boycott McDonalds. Of the two uniformed police on duty - watching the demonstration - one was a vegetarian and the other only ate meat! Two Special Branch police were also noticed taking a keen interest in the demonstration.

Council change course

THE POWERS that be in the County Council Education Department appear to have had a change of heart over consulting the black community when making decisions about black children's education.

At a Working Group on Ethnic Minorities meeting in October a report was produced from the Director of Education outlining a "Project to combat under-achievement by pupils of Afro-Caribbean descent". Objections were raised to the "racist" tone of this report and questions as to what consultation had taken place in its preparation. Consideration of the report was deferred to the next meeting to allow for more consultation with the ethnic minorities.

In the meantime, voluntary groups prepared proposals for the establishment of a Working Party on Multi-Cultural Education to allow black groups a genuine say in their children's education. This was rejected along with suggestions for further discussion before the implementation of the Director of Education's report. Black community representatives walked out of the Working Group. But they continued to press for the establishment of the Working Party and this year it has been approved. Sources suggest that the original refusal had perhaps been due to "misunderstandings".

There is apparently some anxiety amongst Labour councillors about the forthcoming county council elections.

Co-op milks workers

MEANWHILE, down at your caring, sharing Co-op, milk bottling employees at the Beechdale Road dairy complain of intolerable work practices. Workers claim that the union isn't leading a fight against Victorian management extracting excessive overtime.

Since the new year the dairy has been bottling Northampton's milk in addition to the earlier quota. Although workers' contracts stipulate a 39-hour 6 days on, 2 days off week, (not many weekends at home per year), overtime is practically impossible to avoid. The basic wage is £83-£90 - basically not enough, and 12-hour days are sometimes needed to make this up.

Workers are allowed to leave after contract hours if they sign up to do so early in the day, but they often find themselves penalised by being put on shitty jobs the next day. Warnings are issued if your

machine isn't clean at the end of the day - three warnings and you're out. Any complaints to management about conditions are met with the standard reply: "If you don't like it you can go down the road." Workers reckon that the Union shop

steward has been put on a cushy job by management and isn't willing to jeopardise his position by campaigning for a fair deal.

"We're treated like pigs, it's worse than being at school", one employee told Citywise. "If the steward came round at 4pm and said: "right, you've done your hours, go home", everyone would go, but as it is there's no leadership".

Gay committee formed

BARRING any last minute problems, the city's Equal Opportunities Committee will establish a Lesbian/Gay sub-committee from this month, making it one of the first authorities outside London to do so.

Discussions within the Lesbian and gay communities began back in 1983 after the adoption of the District Labour Party's manifesto as policy by the first meeting of the city council after the May elections. Some of the authors of the manifesto were sceptical about the progress that would be permitted on

the lesbian and gay commitments, but were highly delighted when council leadership agreed to a first consultative meeting, and, at short notice, 50 lesbians and gay men turned up to a long and interesting meeting at the Council House.

Almost 18 months later, the forum for regular consultation should be in operation, in the form of the lesbian/gay sub-committee. Elections to the sub-committee will take place in late February or early March. See Citywise next month for more details.

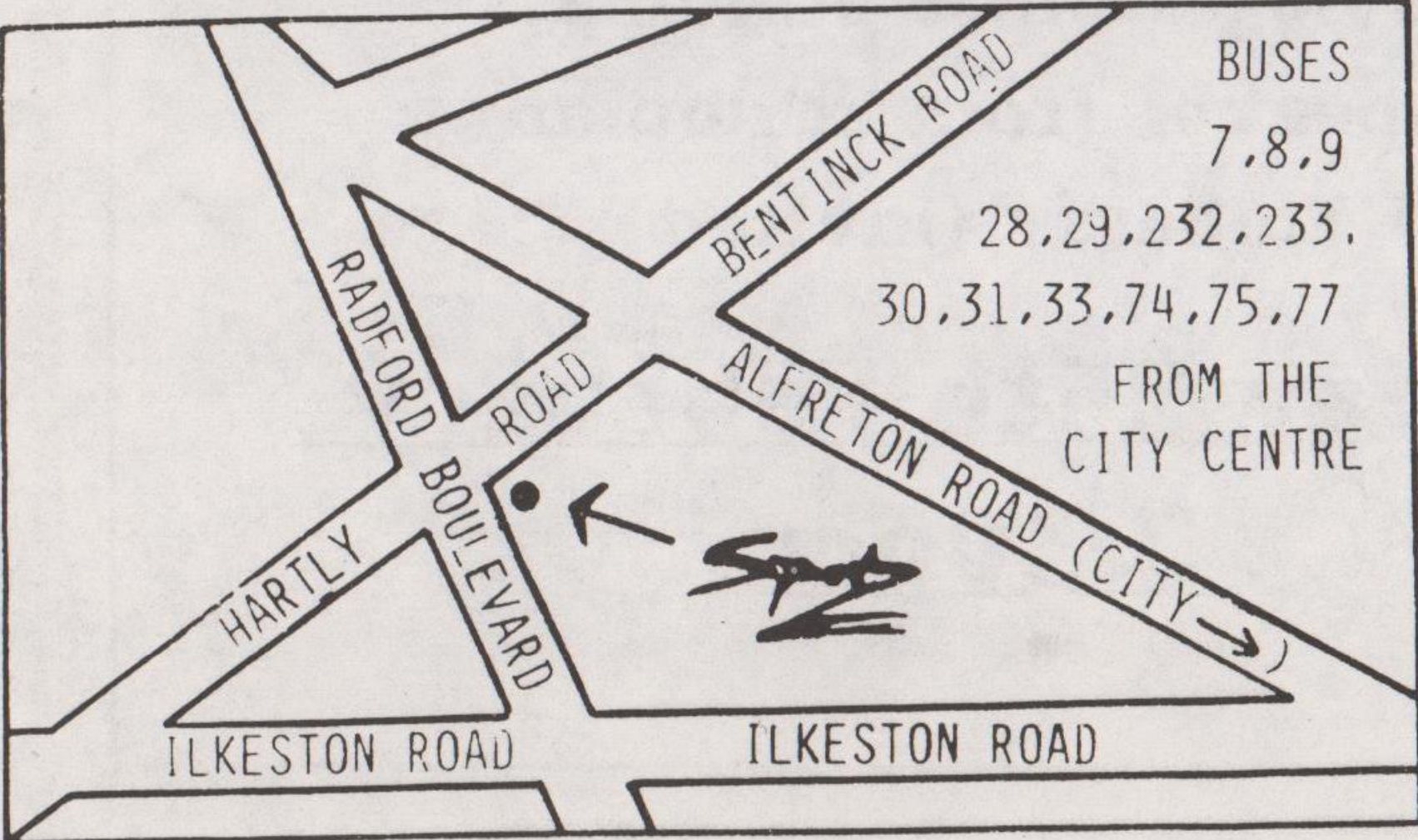


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Railworkers support miners

By Steve Morley, Toton NUR, In a personal capacity.

THE RAILWAY strike that took place on the 17th January clearly revealed the widespread support for the miners that exists within other sections of the working class. Although only the Eastern and Midland regions were called out, railway workers in many London depots took unofficial action in solidarity with their fellow workers.

The strike was called by the Rail Federation (NUR and ASLEF), over the harassment and victimisation of railworkers blacking coal. The centre of the victimisation is Coalville depot in Leicestershire. Despite being surrounded by working miners, railworkers at Coalville hadn't moved coal from April. That is until management replaced a signalman who was blacking coal by

declaring him to be "mentally unstable"!

This was the last straw for the Coalville workers who decided to take matters into their own hands by organising a lobby of the Federation meeting and forcing the union leadership - who up till then had done nothing - to take action. This shows what can be done when rank and file members organise together and act independently of their leadership.

The strike also reflects a growing realisation amongst railworkers that their future - and that of every working-class person - is bound up with the outcome of the miners strike. That is why railway workers are now busy building links with striking miners.

The matter does not necessary end there, though. The British Rail

Board have yet to concede our demands. They have also threatened to use the Tory anti-union laws against us. The use of these laws is a direct attack upon trade unionism and needs to be met with a class-wide response.

RSPCA shock

FOLLOWING publicity on Central TV about the RSPCA electrocuting dogs at their Radcliffe premises, the 'execution chamber' was attacked by members of the Animal Liberation Front and the equipment destroyed. (See interview on pages 14-16 of this issue, which took place before the incident).

As we go to press we hear that two animal rights activists have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage, though we understand that those arrested have no connection with the ALF attack or the ALF itself, but had taken part in a legal picket of the RSPCA following the Central TV programme.

The politics of AIDS

Richard McCance takes a look at the AIDS scare and the media treatment it's received.

AIDS or Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is spread by sexual contact and attacks the body's resistance to disease, most commonly occurring as a skin cancer and a particularly virulent form of pneumonia. It takes up to three years to incubate, and promises no more than two years life expectancy after diagnosis. Of the 109 known cases in Britain, 49 have already died, and as the disease spreads, a climate of fear and panic has been engendered by the media, sections of which still call it the "gay plague", because the majority of sufferers have been gay men. So much so that in August 1984 the Equality council of the National Union of Journalists was concerned enough about the coverage on AIDS to state bluntly that "journalists should not inflate the problem". But this has made little difference.

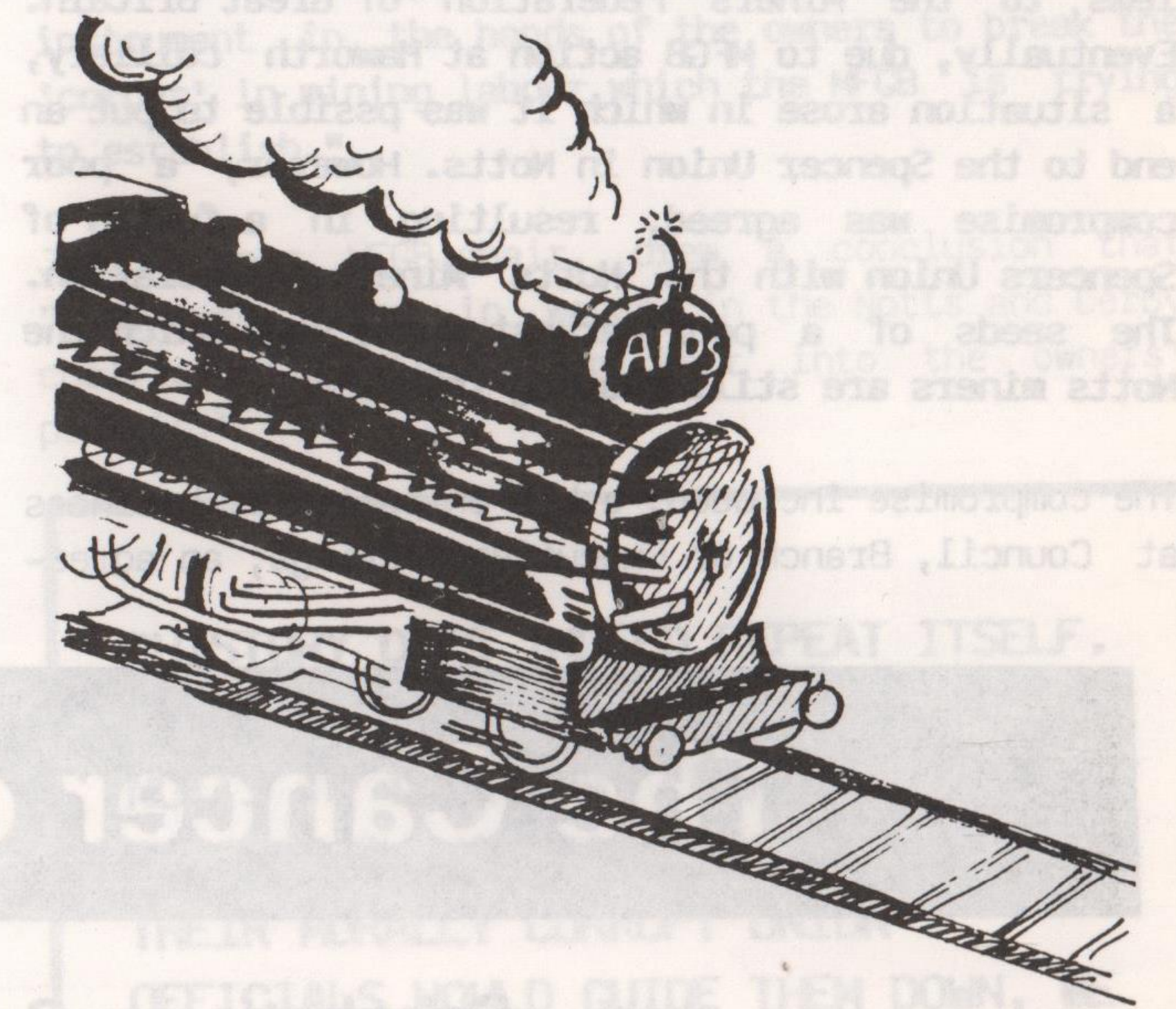
In November 1984 the media reached new heights of inaccuracy with the news that 13 Australians, including 3 babies had died of AIDS. But 10 of the 13 had died, after receiving transfusions of AIDS-contaminated blood, from the original conditions that required the transfused blood in the first place. Meanwhile in Britain, The Guardian, Sun and Times, and even BBC Radio 4 all managed to convey the impression that "wicked, irresponsible" homosexuals were killing "innocent" heterosexuals by their licentious lifestyle.

But the (heterosexist) media has ignored the gays suffering and dying of AIDS and the psychological pain which the disease is causing within our communities. They ignored the valiant efforts of organisations like the Terence Higgins Trust (named after the first British victim to die) and London Gay Switchboard who between them have offered counselling to patients, their lovers, families and doctors. They also ignored the gay community's not insignificant fund raising efforts and own attempts to limit the spread of the disease.

The Times advocates "strict questioning of blood donors and rigorous exclusion of all practising homosexuals". Whilst many gay men will wisely refrain from giving blood, others, fearful of being labelled gay if they stop donating blood, will continue to do so. What do you say when challenged at the Blood Transfusion Centres in the factory or large office, in front of queues of other workers who are likely to be anti-gay? In Queensland the rightwing Conservative government has taken panic measures and set fines and terms of imprisonment for anyone giving blood without disclosing their their homosexual experience. It seems on the one hand that society wants us to 'own up' when we attend donor

centres to protect heterosexuals, and on the other hand to 'shut up' when we ask for equal rights like job protection and freedom from harassment.

AIDS is clearly a grave public health problem that can potentially affect anyone. What is clear is that self-sufficiency in blood-clotting products is of paramount importance, to prevent further deaths of haemophiliacs and others from contaminated blood supplies. (At present we import most of our blood-



clotting agents from America, which means they carry a degree of risk of infection.

As cases in Britain double every six months, and costs of patient care increases, a plethora of AIDS-related research projects have emerged in the past few months. (A cynical medical researcher commented that this has led to a sometimes opportunistic approach, more in a bid to raise the otherwise low status of venereology in the medical profession). Researchers have now discovered a process which would make all donated blood in Britain safe, and most recently the structure of the AIDS virus has been identified at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, which means that a vaccine could be developed.

The inertia of the British health establishment is illustrated by North West Thames Health Authority (whose catchment area includes 75% of all AIDS cases), who still have not allocated any funds to fight the disease.

Meanwhile the disease can be compared to a locomotive hurtling silently forward at uncontrollable speed, carrying a time bomb. But still the government refuses to make the necessary funds available to eradicate this killer disease.



Dave Watson, of Moorgreen NUM, discusses the lasting legacy of Spencerism in the Nottinghamshire mining industry and NUM. He writes in a personal capacity.

The problems we find today within the Notts area of the NUM can be traced back to the 1920's and the formation of a breakaway union by George Spencer - the Industrial Union, with its policy of co-operation with management, no strikes, and non-political unionism. This union was supported by the coal owners and eventually branches were established throughout the British coalfields causing many problems to the Miners Federation of Great Britain. Eventually, due to MFGB action at Haworth colliery, a situation arose in which it was possible to put an end to the Spencer Union in Notts. However, a poor compromise was agreed, resulting in a fusion of Spencers Union with the Notts Miners Association. The seeds of a poor harvest were sown which the Notts miners are still reaping today.

The compromise included: a ban on political business at Council, Branch or Executive meetings; an agree-

policies of non-political unionism and agreement with owners prevented large-scale withdrawal of labour to gain better wages and conditions for the miners - no strikes, independence from the MFGB and the retention and, therefore, strengthening, of the butty system.

The Notts breakaway never did the Notts miners any good. Badly beaten after the 1921 lockout, they were forced back in 1926 by hunger, deprivation, and the divisions in their own ranks - divisions which must have confused and frustrated as many men as now. The struggle between the two unions in Notts seems to have resulted in a 'couldn't care less' attitude amongst the rank and file - no doubt fostered by Spencer supporting coal-owners, who had the advantage of good, profitable pits and looked to Spencer's union to provide for themselves a defence and a weapon in their struggles against the leaders of the MFGB. Frustration and apathy, non-attendance at branch meetings is a legacy Notts has inherited to this day, due to an absence of any inspired guidance and leadership based on sound, well-thought out Socialist principles which had a direct bearing on

The Cancer of Spencerism

So what's new? A historical background to the Notts NUM and its relevance to the current strike.

ment not to take part in any national stoppage or to support any dispute in any district from 1938-43; a 5 year extension of the agreement with Notts owners which had been due to expire in 1938; and the retention of the Notts Industrial Union's accountant by the amalgamated body.

Spencer and many Industrial Union officials retained positions of power within the amalgamation. Thus the cancer of Spencerism was absorbed into the newly formed Nottinghamshire and District Miners Federated Union. Its legacy and influence has continued to eat away at the National body of the union ever since.

Spencer was able to build his union on a ready-made foundation provided by Joseph Birkin, a Notts Miners Association official who operated in Eastwood and ignored the instructions and guidance of the union whenever it suited him. Through this influence the NMA at Moorgreen dealt with the owners directly and acted as a company union long before Spencer. A central committee was formed, consisting of representatives from Moorgreen, High Park, Brinsley, Underwood and Lodge. By 1926 this and similar others provided Spencer with the basis of his union. The

the relationship between miners' aspirations, their working environment and the wider communities in which they lived, played and died. Remember that 12-15,000 men originally came out in 1984. I believe many more would have had not the legacy of Spencerism been so prevalent amongst many of the union officials.

The Notts area pension was negotiated by Spencer, as was the holiday pay agreement. These have an influence on the area not always apparent to outsiders. Notts miners also need to ask questions about the rumours surrounding the so-called Notts Miners Allocation Fund - said to be another Spencer legacy - and its influence on Notts area activity which may or may not be in the interests of the members it purports to represent.

Notts stands at the crossroads. If the Notts executive continue to refuse to discuss rule changes regarding rules 30 and 51 and we are expelled, the membership should learn the lessons of the past and refuse to follow the same path. The strike was and is an area strike under rule 41, and Notts area decided not to strike. This does not appear to contravene rule 51. The issue concerning rule 30



"REMEMBER THAT 12-15,000 MEN ORIGINALLY CAME OUT IN 1984. I BELIEVE MANY MORE WOULD HAVE HAD NOT THE LEGACY OF SPENCERISM BEEN SO PREVALENT AMONG THE UNION OFFICIALS"

(the 'autonomy' rule) is another matter and should be judged by the rank and file in the light of the influence of the Spencer Union officials of the 30's on the union structure of the 80's. Men such as Spencer and Birkin would perhaps have much in common with the Notts Working Miners committee of today.

Today's so-called leaders of the Notts miners have misled their members with exhortations to cross picket lines, confusing the issues of the case for coal and thereby prolonging a strike which is crucial not only to the mining industry and communities but also to the whole working class struggle in years to come.

It is ironic that in 1985 we see an attempt by Notts officials to break away from the NUM - an attempt made, in my opinion, due to an overdose of Spencer-

ism, born at Moorgreen colliery in the guise of Joseph Birkin and the Central Committee. In 1985 Moorgreen will close prematurely with ten years of good quality reserves left. How many of the eleven collieries in South Notts will close before the Notts coalfield is exorcised once and for all? On Jan. 20th 1937, Arthur Horner issued a statement on behalf of the MFGB:

"We are trying to obtain the monopoly of the sale of mining labour in this country. We are trying to get into the position where we can say to the owners: 'You buy from us, for you can buy from no other, and you must pay our price. Industrial unionism is an instrument in the hands of the owners to break the 'corner' in mining labour which the MFGB is trying to establish."

Joseph Jones, MFGB chair, drew a conclusion that "what was saved in wages in the Notts and Derby coalfields by Spencerism went into the owners' pockets."

"HISTORY DOES INDEED REPEAT ITSELF. IF WE ARE TO CONVINCE THE MEN IN NOTTS TO TURN AWAY FROM THE PATH TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, WHICH THEIR MORALLY CORRUPT UNION OFFICIALS WOULD GUIDE THEM DOWN, WE SHOULD GET AMONGST THEM AND PREACH THE GOSPEL OF HONEST TRADE UNIONISM BUILT UPON A SOLID FOUNDATION OF SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES".

I sincerely hope that the Notts miners will, in 1985, learn from the lessons of the past. In 1936, in reply to a question on what the MFGB proposed to do to break the deadlock in Notts over Union recognition, Edwards, the general secretary said:

"Nottinghamshire cannot be won unless the people themselves are prepared to fight...Notts holds the key position in the industry: wages are high, conditions are good, and yet they are one of the weakest links in the Federation."

History does indeed repeat itself. If we are to convince the men in Notts to turn away from the path towards Industrial Unionism, which their morally corrupt union officials would guide them down, we should get amongst them and preach the gospel of honest Trade Unionism built upon a solid foundation of Socialist principles. They should be made aware of the lessons to be learnt from the legacy of the past. The Union in Notts needs to be rebuilt.

Talking to ALF

IN AN article in Citywise no. 2, we said: "...all credit to the Animal Liberation Front, who have done more damage and caused more financial loss to their opponents than the whole of the far left put together." Since that article, the ALF nationally has continually hit the headlines (remember the Mars Bar scare?), yet most people are still unaware what the motives and aims of the group are. For this article Citywise interviewed two members of the Nottingham ALF. During the day, 'John' works in a responsible local government job and is involved in several political groups. 'Janet' is unemployed and was converted to animal rights work overnight when she witnessed beagle dogs being used in medical experiments while she was a YOP worker. Their real names are not used for obvious security reasons.

CITYWISE: What is ALF, what are your aims?

ALF: The whole thing started several years ago when a group of hunt saboteurs felt it was time to move on from disrupting hunts to taking action so that the hunts couldn't in fact happen. Equipment was damaged, the direct action proved effective, and the group carried on under the name 'Band of Mercy' - a name taken from a group of RSPCA militants of the previous century. Some of the Band was caught and gaoled, but the idea took root and the ALF was formed. In Nottingham, various individuals had been taking action for five years or so, but since April 1984 there has been an active ALF group here. Our aims are quite simple - to end all animal abuse. In the short term we want to keep the pressure on Boots and other big concerns and cause as much financial damage as possible to fur shops, butchers shopetc. We want to drive them out of business. Whilst we'll continue to liberate animals and find good homes for them - and the public loves that - it's getting harder financially because of firms' increased security,

and it's more financially damaging to (for example) destroy equipment in a laboratory or a factory farm than to steal the animals, which can be easily replaced.

CITYWISE: Could you describe some of your actions?

ALF: Since April last year we've done about three or four dozen actions. These have ranged from smashing windows - Lafayettes, Skincraft, Boots, Pork Farms, various gun shops and butchers - plate glass is expensive. We've attacked Safepharm laboratory at Shardlow - a commercial firm that specialises in testing cosmetics on animals - we've caused them thousands of pounds worth of damage and taken animals from them. We've taken poultry from battery farms and burned down the empty buildings; animals from schools practising dissection; individual animals from cruel owners; freed foxes from a fox farm - we also found a good home for the farm guard dog - and we've stolen geese from the cattle market. All the attacks are carefully planned, usually involving several visits to check the place out. At Safepharm we had exactly two minutes to break in. We rammed the steel-reinforced doors to the laboratories, did as much damage as possible and got out with as many animals as possible. The companies take us seriously - at Safepharm we were shot at. The animals - guinea pigs as it happened - had been subjected to skin irritancy tests and had incisions in their necks. Some were still bleeding.

In all our actions we're careful not to risk animal or human life - though on one occasion one of us accidentally set fire to his own gloves while still wearing them! Usually we manage to set fire to the lorries or whatever... Things can go wrong - one time we were stopped from reaching our getaway car by the police arriving too quickly and had to walk off into the countryside. We got lost and

ended up accidentally returning to the scene of the crime, still carrying rucksacks full of small animals! But these are exceptions to our usual careful planning - when we're risking years in gaol we make sure we don't have ego-trippers, loud-mouths or the macho types.

CITYWISE: Most people are against cruelty to animals but put their energies into what they see as more important issues - CND, the miners, womens' liberation...

ALF: Well, we're all in this mess together - our slogan is 'Human freedom, animal rights - one struggle, one fight. We're opposed to the oppression of women, the nuclear fuel cycle, we all relate to other struggles - gay rights, striking miners. We're all against the people at the top of the pyramid, what we do is for a better society too, only our angle is animal abuse. The miners started fighting for jobs, now they make the connection and fight for freedom too. Hopefully, when they are questioning everything they will question animal abuse too. We also believe that those who would forcibly test drugs on animals would also ill-treat humans. Depo-provera (a long-lasting contraceptive, banned in many countries because of its side effects) has been tested on many third world and working-class women unaware that the 'whitecoats' were using them as guinea pigs.

CITYWISE: But the majority still eat meat and use animal skin. What gives you the right to attack what the majority thinks is normal?

ALF: The majority is only a majority because meat eating is the way you're brought up. But people can be educated out of it - most people wouldn't eat meat if they visited a slaughterhouse. At the moment it's not possible to live completely without animal products - every car or bicycle has a bit of a dead animal used in making their rubber tyres for instance. But it's so

unnecessary. Animals are not our property to kill at whim, or stick shampoo in their eyes. Perhaps it's worse if we effectively use mercenaries to do it for us. Is it?

CITYWISE: There's been some conflict between the ALF and some other groups in the animal rights movement, and with Peace News, because of the ALF using violence...

ALF: This group would never deliberately use violence against any individual, but we are not pacifists and would use self-defence if the alternative is being caught and sent down for a few years. But violence is a tricky area - is a woman wrong to use violence to avoid rape? Animal abusers don't respect pacifism. When animal rights people were trying to stop pet-trading at the Cattle-market they were threatened with all sorts of violence. We know of people there who have thrown live kittens to their dogs and watched them be eaten. Violence? - a broken window feels no pain, an animal does.

There are other disputes - we think that animal abuse will be ended by people acting against it not by lobbying those in power. Big demonstrations cost thousands and liberate nothing, and we totally reject the League Against Cruel Sports giving £40000 to the Labour Party. What a waste! But we do need groups like Animal Aid and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection to educate people - and they would mostly support our actions. The RSPCA is pretty corrupt - OK, they oppose the fur trade but locally they electrocute 'unwanted' animals in a very cruel and sometimes fallible way to save a bit of money and so that they can use the bodies, which they couldn't if the animals were given a humane lethal injection.

CITYWISE: What do they want the bodies for?

ALF: Ask the local RSPCA - but elsewhere the RSPCA sell the corpses for bonemeal fertiliser, or pet-food.



CITYWISE: More mainstream groups like the League Against Cruel Sports would say that you need more and better laws to protect animals.

ALF: We are anarchist, though not necessarily everyone in ALF is. But we recognise that an anarchist society is years away so, yes, we need better laws to outlaw hunting, but unless people change or unless the public as opposed to parliament outlaw hunting, blood-sports would only go underground. Killing is like a drug and the killer loses his or her sensitivity as well as losing lives. We have to break the habit.

CITYWISE: How can people help the ALF?

ALF: Be aware, don't shop at Boots, Cut down meat consumption, cut out meat consumption, find out if the drugs you use were tested on animals. Our direct action goes hand in hand with consumer action and it works. Just a couple of local examples - Marks and Spencer at Arnold now sells free-range eggs, Holland and Barret have stopped selling cruelty-based cosmetics. It's im-

portant to get involved in animal rights groups. ALF itself isn't for everyone. We need to know that everyone is reliable and can afford the risk of prison, and has the time to do unglorious work like watching the comings and goings at a factory until the small hours. The exciting bits are a good cure for constipation but mostly its just hard work. In Nottingham ALF has one fairly small inner cell and a larger periphery, not all of whom know each other or necessarily the exact nature of the action they take part in, and we work with similar groups all over the East Midlands. If you and your friends want to take your own action in the name of ALF, fine - just make sure no animal or human life is risked and never do anything unless you know you can get away with it. And don't boast about it in the pub afterwards.

ALF INTERVIEW

CONTINUES OVER...

...ALF INTERVIEW CONTINUED

CITYWISE: Finally, in view of the great Mars bar hoax, which gave ALF more publicity than anything else - can you give your views on that?

ALF: As a hoax it worked well -

Mars lost millions of sales and had to justify using animals in experiments to see if sugar causes tooth decay - everyone knows the answer to that one. We are concerned, though, that hoaxes remain hoaxes. In this group we are out to save the lives of the innocent, not to take them.

The Nottingham ALF supporters group can be contacted by mail at Box G, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St. Nottingham, and their quarterly magazine is also on sale at Mushroom and at Earthwise on Mansfield Rd. Note: this address is for the supporters group only, not the ALF itself.

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58:HSART

Women's Open Day Meeting on Equal Opportunities

Open Day Meeting
on Saturday 9th March 1985.

Registration at 10 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. start.

**At the International Community Centre,
Mansfield Rd.**

The Meeting will discuss the work of the Women's Sub-committee of Nottingham City Council, and how women who have special needs can be more involved.

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Contact Wendy Young on 418571 ext 4513 for further information.

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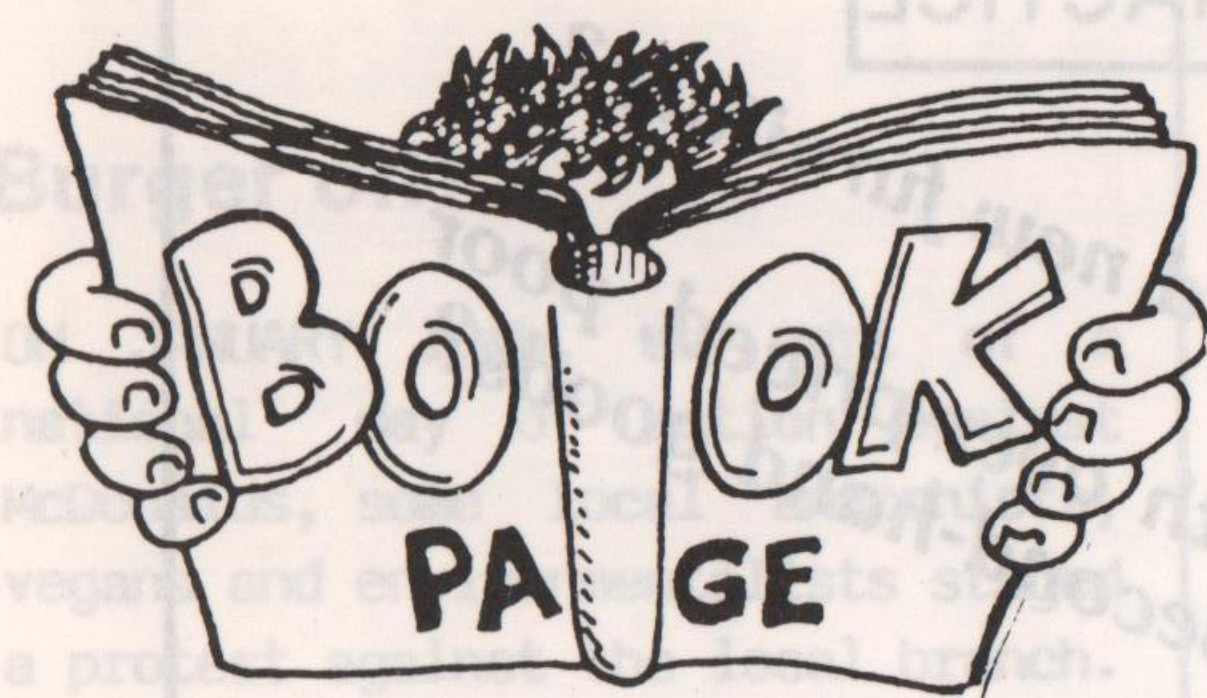


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In this issue we review a selection of books related to the miners' strike.

'THE MILITANCY OF THE BRITISH MINER' by Vic Allen.

THIS IS an invaluable book for anyone who wishes to understand the state of the NUM in its current dispute. The majority of the book is a history of the NUM since nationalisation. Vic Allen was close to the left leaders of the union in the sixties and gives a clear insight into the thinking behind the left's strategy and the problems it has faced.

From the victorious pay campaigns of the late sixties and early seventies, which culminated in the '72 and '74 strikes, through the fights against the unrepresentative, cynical and manipulative leadership in the mid-seventies; and into the beginnings of the fight against pit closures in the 80's, the struggle to improve the lot of the miners and to democratise the union is shown to go hand in hand.

Perhaps his clearest message in retrospect is that despite left leaders and a militant rank and file, the federal structure of the union has consistently been used by the right-wing minority to undermine the miners' unity. Possible failings in the left's strategy are only implied, but perhaps criticism should not be expected from an insider.

"A STATE OF SIEGE" by Jim Coulter, Susan Miller, and Martin Walker.

THE AUTHORS (one an electrician at Woolley pit in Yorkshire), spent time in Notts and South Yorkshire

during the first six months of the strike. Their collection of eye-witness accounts of 'incidents' as the police would call them, backed up with some political background and analysis is a book everyone should read.

From the illegal roadblocks at the Notts border through the police orchestrated 'riots' at Mansfield and Orgreave to the riot squad invasions of South Yorkshire villages, a picture emerges of the scale and intent of state violence against the miners that is awesome to behold. Awe into anger into action. Although we all 'know' what is going on, we are mostly removed from the action. This book goes beyond a purely academic presentation of the violence with accounts that leave a physical and emotional impact.

Nor are there any apologies for miners' violence in self-defence. Exclusively passive/non-violent resistance is not applicable.



The manipulative capabilities of the media are once again being demonstrated as the focus of attention is shifted to breakaway unions. Away from violence, but not ignoring the 'drift back to work'. As with the Falklands, potentially explosive issues are swept under the carpet and some people breathe a sigh of relief. Other issues such as Ethiopia are used in different but similar ways. Consider also the censorship of six-counties news.

Buy this book and lend it to people. Get your library to get a copy. Leave one on a bus. Books are weapons - arm the people!

"GERMINAL" by Emile Zola (Penguin Classics, £2.50)

PICKETS, scabs, hardship, sabotage, violence. Not all history is taught in schools.

"Germinal" was first published in 1885 and is one of a series (20 in all) of Zola's novels portraying working-class life in 19th century France. In it a miners' strike erupts and its course is followed to its bloody end. A jobless traveller arrives at the start, gets work in the mine, and becomes a popular leader. His thoughts and character are examined through his rise and (inevitable?) fall. A family fights and suffers. A village rises up and challenges the authority of capital to decide that people shall go hungry. Souvarine appears as 'the anarchist' - a melodramatically aloof zealot who carresses a rabbit and chainsmokes roll ups while dreaming of purification by fire. The bourgeoisie hover in the background - by turn arrogant, pitiful, cowering, patronising, conveying an ignorant self-assurance of security.

While comparisons with the present are unavoidable, tempting one even to exchange personalities, it must be remembered that this is a novel, and as such liberties are taken with historical accuracy to get across the humanity behind the struggle, which refuses to go away one hundred years later. Thought-provoking in places and eminently readable.

Dischord/accord

NOW THAT Nottingham's one and only "alternative" venue (like all the others) requires "style", a high entrance fee, consumption of pricey alcoholic beverages, plus exposure to deadly ad-nauseam scratch hi-tech disco, the time is ripe and rotting for volatile bands to create a counter-point.

Nottingham Music Co-op (currently a collection of enthusiastic individuals and members of local bands) recently formed out of a dissatisfaction with beer-consumption, style-orientated local pub/club gigs and their tight-fisted overseers (landlords and club owners).

The first meeting, on 23rd January, produced a plethora of

ideas ranging from outright fantasy to immediate possibility. Of the latter, a number of practical propositions are already taking shape. The first project will be a fund-raising gig taking place on:

Friday March 1st at Vino's Wine Bar, Victoria St.

Four local bands will be playing live: The Old Contemptibles, Urban Desolation, and two more line-ups yet to be confirmed. (Entrance around £1).

In the short-term any money raised will be ploughed back into funding more gigs, renting a rehearsal space, and, in due course, purchasing a collective P.A. system and van. There's also a long-term plan to set up an alternative permanent

venue in the city, but we need to build up members and make our presence felt before we can convert these fantasies into reality.

So, if you're in a band, play an instrument, or if you're simply 'mad' about music of the live kind - come along to Vino's on March 1st and help re-energise the local music scene. Who knows? You might even enjoy yourself, and have some change left out of your giro at the end of the evening.

*If you're interested in joining the co-op, pooling ideas and resources, meetings take place every other Wednesday (20th Feb., 6th March, 20th March etc) at 7.30 pm, upstairs at Earthwise, 182 Mansfield Rd.

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LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LIS

CITYWISE

WELCOME to the first listings of an already slightly tarnished new year. Old(?) readers will have noticed that events listings have a certain bias towards CND and veggie things - well I'm not going to change that. However, once again a reminder that these listings are FREE, and are in fact used by people especially those new to the city. I don't have the time to chase up groups that seemingly prefer to meet in secret, so depend on them writing in or putting Citywise on their mailing list (the same goes for any bands, artists, venues, etc - other listings person). In the ten issues lots of groups haven't been publicised, and I find it hard to believe that in over a year the Labour Party (for example) has organised nothing that they want us to know about... or then again... Anyway - listings next time from April please. (In by March 8th).

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

East Midlands Arts are running a day course on Sat. 23rd Feb. (10am-5.30pm, Mountfields House, Forest Rd., Loughborough) for actual or potential women playwrights. One session will look at the transition from script to visual presentation, and the other on working with a director. £6.50 (no reductions) includes course fee, lunch, coffee and tea. Details from East Midlands Arts at the above address.

ANARCHISM

Nottm Anarchist Group meets weekly, on Fridays at 8pm, at the Nottm Community Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard. These meetings are mainly 'business meetings and there is a separate discussion group. Contact Chris on 582506/623742

ANIMAL LIBERATION

Tues 12th Feb., 7.30pm, Theosophical Hall, Maid Marion Way. The Vegetarian society present their annual 'taste-in'. As much excellent veggie nosh as you can manage for (I think) 75p.
Sun 24th Feb., 7.30pm, Narrow Boat pub, Canal St. Nottm. animal rights confederation - working together for animals - monthly meeting. The Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group can now be contacted c/o Box G, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St., Nottingham.

ANTI-APARTHEID

In March the Anti-Apartheid movement are sponsoring a month of action on the theme of the consumer boycott of South African goods. Details so far:
Every Saturday in March, consumer boycott stall on St. Peters Gate.
9th-31st March, exhibition on the Apartheid war, in the central library.
18th-23rd March, consumer boycott bus on Market Square (literature, exhibitions etc.)
Also planned - a public meeting with speaker from the Dunne store strike in Dublin, where women workers have been on strike since August as a result of refusing to handle South African goods. - also a material aid collection for South African refugees. Contact Geoff Morris on 472440.

BESTWOOD ADVICE CENTRE

Now open 9 - 12am, Mon - Fri, at St. Matthews church hall, Padstone Road, Bestwood estate, tel 754275

C.N.D. DIRECT ACTION

Nottingham Peace Action Network (PAN) is a coalition of local affinity groups working for peace. PAN co-ordinates a rota of action at USAF Chilwell, does training in non-violent direct action and takes part in various direct actions. PAN meets first and third Mondays of each month, 7.30 at the CND office, 14-18 St. Marys Gate in the Lace Market.
Molesworth Defence Campaign co-ordinates local action at the proposed second cruise missile site. The campaign is planning to mobilise 1000's of people to protest and where appropriate physically stop

the construction of the base. Plans include an Easter March from Chilwell to Molesworth. Meetings are at the Nottingham CND office on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

C.N.D. EVENTS

Tues 12th Feb., 9-15am, support wanted at the guildhall for local peace protester in court for non-payment of fine following peace demo at Alconbury.
Tues 19th Feb., 8pm. Showing of War Game video at All Saints Community Centre, Raleigh St. Organised by Raleigh St. CND.
Friday 22nd Feb., 7.30pm Defend Molesworth fund-raising disco, at the Italian Community centre, Sherwood Rise. Tickets £1.25/75p unwaged.
Sun 3rd March, 7.30pm. CND monthly members and public meeting. Speaker: Lydia Merrill, convener of the nuclear-free zone network, will speak about what can be done as a nuclear free area. Local councillors have been asked to attend. Venue - Friends Meeting House, Clarendon St.
Sat 30th March, 11am. "Cycle-in" at USAF Chilwell - meet Chilwell Olympia.
Sat 30th March, 1-4pm. Raleigh St CND Jumble Sale at All Saints Community Centre.
Sun 14th April, 7.30pm. CND monthly members and public meeting on "Lobbying and the Military Industrial Complex." Speaker: Gary Donn of the Oxford Research Group, at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon St.



C.N.D. TRANSPORT

Nottm CND urgently need an empty garage! Contact Geoff Young at their office, 14-18 St. Mary's Gate, or tel 581948.

CULINARY SECTION

LA FONDA are a group of Chileans living in Nottingham. In the long-term they want to set up a Latin-American cultural centre which would include a restaurant, craft-selling, and music. In the meantime LA FONDA are offering a catering service of Latin American food (some animal, some vegetarian), for meetings, conferences, campaigns and parties. (Tel 781839 for details). Every Monday from 12-2 and 6-8, the group will be serving

meals at the International Community Centre on Mansfield Rd., music is free and you can bring your own wine.

VEGGIES - a worker co-op selling vegan food i.e. containing no animal produce, have been given a stall licence to trade from Clinton St West, off Lower Parliament St, and their wholefood snacks should be available by the time you read this. Their freezer service has started - veggie-burgers, non-animal sausages, etc available now, more coming soon. Ring Veggies on 582561 for details or pick up a leaflet at Earthwise, 182 Mansfield Rd.

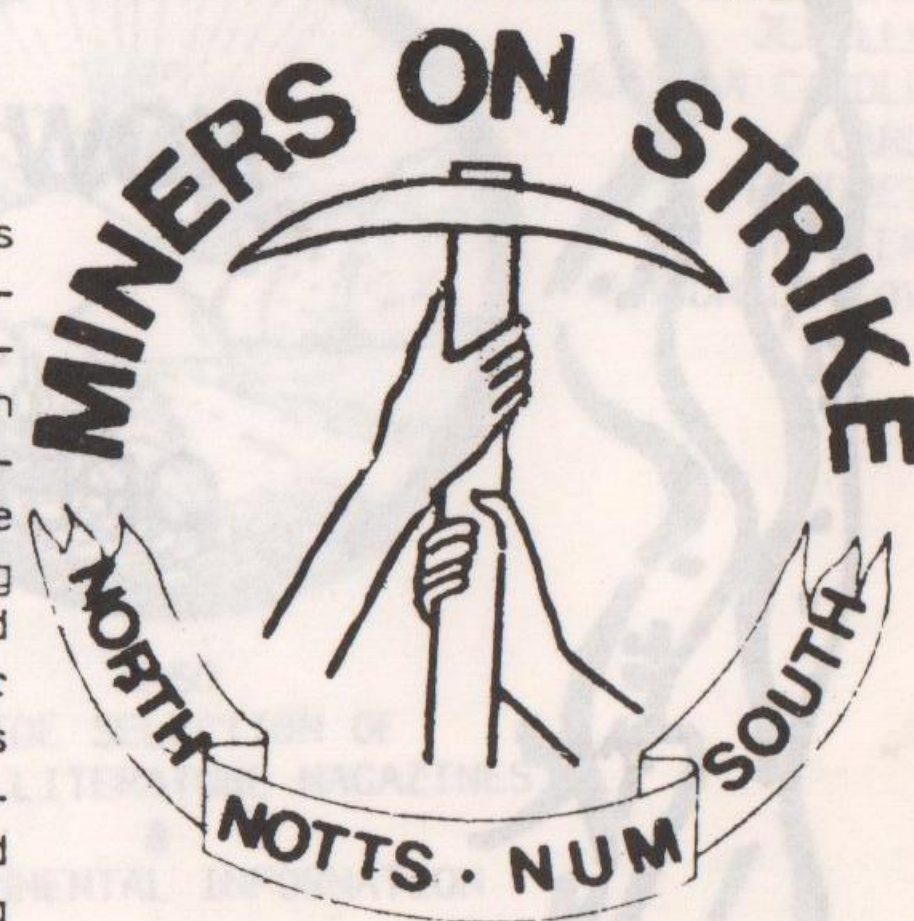
NOTTINGHAM VEGAN GROUP was formed in December and now meets twice monthly. Vegans avoid eating not only meat but also any other animal produce. The group welcomes current and potential vegans for mutual support and to campaign for a healthy diet, compassion for animals and helping starving people by ecological use of land and resources. Contact Boris Dempsey (811328) or Dave Crossland (606640).

GAY INFORMATION

Nottingham Gay Switchboard - 7-10pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday. 411454
Lesbian Line - 8-10pm, Monday only 410652.
Friend (Gay counselling service) - 7-10pm, Tuesday only, 476474.
Gayline (University based) - 8-12pm - Monday only. 580421.

MINERS

Nottm Miners Support Group meets every Sunday, 7.30pm, TGWU offices, Mansfield Rd. If you want to do more to support the miners here's your chance. Street collections, workplace collections, solidarity pickets are lots more organised each week.
Feb 11th - Day of Action in support of the miners. Called by various regional TUCs. Go on strike and join solidarity pickets called by Nottm Trades Council at Ratcliffe on Soar power station at 6am and 6.30 pm. Contact NUM strike centre, 218 Mansfield Rd. for more info.



INGS - LISTINGS - LISTING

MUNDI

Mobile Unit For Development Issues - MUNDI is a new development in Nottingham, a mobile resource unit taking slides etc 'to the masses'. Initially the project will concentrate on food and anti-racism. MUNDI hopes to be set up by July and be on the road by September. Funding is currently being sought and people interested in development issues should contact Sandie Maitland of Oxfam, (415477) or Max Webb of the Nottingham Teachers Centre (606237).

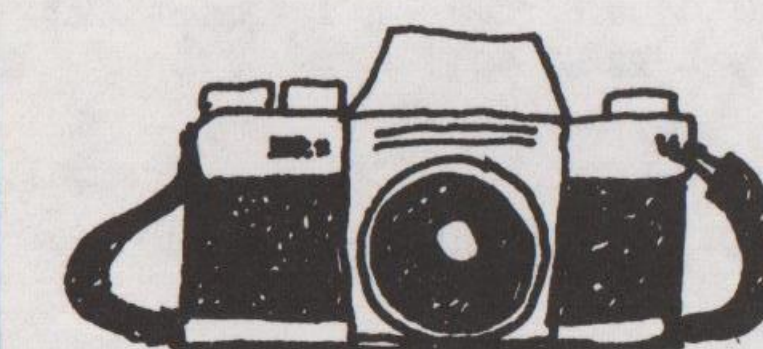
NATURAL HEALTH GROUP

The NHG are interested in learning about alternative approaches to health and healing (acupuncture, yoga, homeopathy etc), and strengthening the links between alternative medicine and more orthodox methods. Contact Dallas Simpson on 618139 or come to the meetings at the Teachers Centre, Cranmer St., on Wed 13th Feb., 7.30pm - Two registered osteopaths talk about their work; and Wed 13th March, 7.30pm - Local Therapy - what's available.

NOTTM CENTRAL AMERICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Now uniting individuals and groups concerned with Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, and Guatemala. Spring series of events being planned, contact N.C.A.S.C c/o box 2, 118 Mansfield Rd., or tel 582369 (Day) or 606909 (Evenings)

NOTTINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHERS



On Sat. 16th Feb, 10.30-1.30 at the Midland Group, Carlton St., there's a meeting of local photographers. The aim is to form a permanent photographic group that can canvass for darkroom facilities, find display space, arrange talks etc. Contact Paul Wombell on 582636 (day) or 0742-683743 (evening).

ON THE BOX

The BBC are offering us, the public, 30 minutes a week, 40 weeks a year, to present our own programme. So if you want to put on your own documentary, debate or stir - or if you think it's absurd that

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH



the rest of the time we have to watch middle-of-the-road pap - write to 'Open Space', Community Programme Unit, BBC TV, London W12 8QT.

ON YER BIKE

PEDALS - the Nottm Cycle Campaign - meet monthly on Mondays, 7.30pm, in the side room of the Salutation Inn, Maid Marion Way - new people welcome.
Forthcoming- 20th Feb, 'cycling to Schools' - Discussion with Neil Woodcock, Nottm Road Safety Officer
19th March - Annual General Meeting From early March leaflets will be available from libraries etc about daytime guided rides for the spring and summer. The rides are free and you can hire a bike for 25p. Ring Kevin Teigle (506271) or Stephen Jones (824824) for a copy.
Advance warning - National Bike week is 11th-19th May. Details next issue or ring Granville Horton (702616)

PACIFISM

Another attempt is underway to re-establish the Nottingham Pacifist Group - campaigning for peace, reconciliation and personal non-violence. Details of twice monthly meetings from Box P c/o Ouborobous, 37a Mansfield Rd.

PREGNANCY TESTING

Tuesday 6-8pm and Saturday 10-12 noon. Quick on the spot pregnancy testing at the Womens Centre, 32a Shakespeare St., tel 411475. Confidential advice and information for women, by women.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

If you have been sexually assaulted, need help, advice or someone to talk to, phone Nottm 410440 Monday to Friday, 11am to 5pm. Free and confidential.

SNEINTON RESOURCE CENTRE

Photocopier, duplicator, typewriter electric stapler, guillotine and other equipment now available at

the Sneinton Resource Centre, 26 Lyndhurst Rd., (584862). The centre is open daily, but the hours vary, so ring first.

SOCIALIST COUNTRYSIDE

Newark Socialist Countryside group meet monthly at the Wing Tavern, off the Market Square in Newark. Meetings begin at 8pm. with a short business section followed by a discussion and a speaker. Forthcoming meetings are: Friday 22nd Feb, with speaker from the Ramblers Association; and Wed 20th March, with speaker County Councillor Florence Price.

TRENT POLY OPEN PROGRAMME

Tues 12th Feb 11am-1pm. Drama Studio, Clifton Main Site - "Feminism and the Arts" - speaker Micheline Wandor, playwright and critic.
Tue 26th Feb, 11am-1pm. Drama Studio, Clifton Main Site - "The Glory of the Garden: The Arts Council and Regional Arts Policy". Speaker - Anthony Everitt of East Midlands Arts.
Tue 28th Feb, 12 noon - Arkwright Lecture Theatre, Shakespeare St. "The Arms Race - The Role and Responsibility of Scientists" - Speaker - Azzam Quaswari from Scientists Against Nuclear Arms.
Mon 4th March, 12 noon. Clifton new tiered lecture theatre. "Health Care Chinese Style". Speaker - Shiela Hillier from the London Hospital Medical College.
Tue 5th March, 12noon - Arkwright Lecture Theatre, Shakespeare St. "Technology and War" - Speaker Bob Murray from Trent Poly.
All the above lectures are free and open to the public.

TRANX

Trouble with tranquillisers? Ring Jane on 760550 for help and details of local support group.

WASTE PAPER

There is again somewhere to dump waste paper for recycling. Earthwise at 182 Mansfield Rd is collecting newspapers and will sell you recycled stationery, cruelty free cosmetics and bages, t-shirts and campaign material of an ecological nature.

W.E.A.

The Workers Educational Association spring newsletter promises some nice treats. Unfortunately we have

few details as we go to press - more info from the W.E.A. on Shakespeare St. Goodies so far announced include a New Orleans Jazz concert on March 22nd, a womens weekend sometime in March and a half-day school on Aphra Benn (the first woman to make her living as a playwright in the 17th century and generally an astonishing woman).

WILLIAM MORRIS STUDY GROUP

March 12th, 7.30pm at Dept of Adult Education, Shakespeare St. Meeting on Victorian treatment of Arthurian Legends".

WOMEN FOR PEACE

Meetings every Tuesday, 7.45pm at St. Andrews Church Hall (at the back of the church off Mansfield Rd.) Ring Susie on 473145 for details.

WOMENS GROUPS

This is a partial list - if your group wants mentioning next time, please send in details.
Asian Womens Project, 207 Berridge Rd, Forest Fields. Tel 786127. Practical help and support for Asian Women, English taught, help in contacting support services.



Women's Aid. Advice and Support Group. C/o Women's Centre, 32a, Shakespeare St. Tel 476490. Confidential advice for women suffering mental or physical battering.
Forest Fields Women's Group, 69 Wiverton Rd, Tel 608456.

ICOM Women's Link-Up, CVS, 33a Mansfield Rd., Tel 476714. Provides training opportunities for women in Nottingham, especially those interested in Co-operatives.

Nottingham Lesbian Group, c/o Womens Centre, Shakespeare St. A forum for discussion and a pressure group for lesbians.

Nottingham Black Women's Group, c/o UKAIDI, 9 Maple Sq., St Anns, tel 583173. Campaigns on issues of specific relevance to Black Women.

Asian Female Umbrella Organisation c/o International Community Centre, 68a Mansfield Rd. Pressure group for Asian Women.

FEBRUARY

MARCH

LISTINGS - LISTINGS - LIS

CITYWISE

THEATRE/ PERFORMANCE

FEBRUARY

FRI 15th - 8pm - SPOTZ with Lip Service, Nasty Habits, Removal Mime - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

FRI 22nd - 8pm - SPOTZ with Sally Wakeford, Nottm Arts Collective - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

SAT 23rd - 7.30pm - Roberta Graham in "Projected Rituals" - Midland Group - £1.50/£1

MON 25th - "The Boyfriend" by Sandy Wilson - Co-op Arts Theatre - £1.60

MARCH

FRI 1st - 8pm - SPOTZ - with African Calatash and Mellaneous - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

MON 4th-SAT 9th - 7.30pm - Educating Rita by Willy Russell - Lace-market Theatre - £2/£1/50p

FRI 8th - 7.30pm - In The Nursery - mixed media performance - Midland Group - £1.50/£1

FRI 8th - 8pm - SPOTZ with Skint Video, House Music - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

THU 14th/FRI 15th - 7.30pm - Gay Sweatshop in "Poppies" - Midland Group - £2/£1.50

FRI 15th - 7.30pm - SPOTZ with Steve Edgar, Jeremy Hardy, David Cohen - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

TUE 19th - 7.30pm - Clarendon College present "Wuthering Heights" - Midland Group - £1.50/£1

WED 20th - 7.30pm - Tamsin Griffin & Man the Bastion - Midland Group - £1.50/£1

THU 21st - Temba Theatre in Chameleon - Marcus Garvey Centre

THU 21st - 7.30pm - Halfway House Theatre and Jigsaw Theatre - Midland Group - £1.50/£1

FRI 22nd - 7.30pm - Temba Theatre in Chameleon - Midland Group - £2/£1.50

FRI 22nd - 8pm - SPOTZ with Desperate Men & Fieldwork - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

FRI 22nd/SAT 23rd - 8pm - Brimstone & Treacle by Dennis Potter - Lace-market Theatre - £1.50/75p/50p

THU 28th - 8pm - The Millies present "Cover Girls" - Midland Group - £2/£1.50

FRI 28th - SPOTZ - Womens Festival Event - Boulevard Hotel - £1.50/£1

MUSIC

ROCK

FEBRUARY

TUE 12th - Tue 1th - The Gift - Lyrics

WED 13th - Stormy Tempters - Old Malt Cross - Free

WED 13th - Killing Joke - Rock City - £3.50

THU 14th - Miners Benefit with The Membranes and A Witness - The Garage

MON 18th - King - Rock City - £3

WED 20th - Left Wing Rednecks - Old Malt Cross - Free

SAT 23rd - Miners Benefit with live group & disco - Huyson Green Boys Club MON 25th - Uriah Heep - Rock City - £3

TUE 26th - Microdisney - University - £2

WED 27th - Play Dead - Rock City - £3

WED 27th - The Catherine Wheel - Old Malt Cross - Free

THU 28th - Benefit for Young Socialists and The Miners with Family Of Noise, Art Vermin, Kit and Red Wood(poet) - compered by the Big O - The Garage - £1.50/75p

MARCH

FRI 1st - 8pm - Nottm Music Co-op with The Old Contemptibles, Urban Desolation & more - Vino's

WED 6th - Lovers Of Outrage - Old Malt Cross - Free

SAT 9th - Miners Benefit Disco - Italian Community Centre

WED 13th - Arctic Charter - Old Malt Cross - Free

SAT 16th - Miners Benefit - Italian Community Centre

WED 27th - Sisters Of Mercy - Rock City - £3.50

Thursdays - Colin Staples Breadline - Hearty Goodfellow

Sundays - Dawn Trader - Hearty Goodfellow

R & B and Blues at The Running Horse, Thursday - Monday

JAZZ/IMPROVISED

FEBRUARY

WED 13th - 7.30pm - Elaine Delmar, Quartet - Old Vic Tavern -£3/£2.50/£1.50

WED 20th - 7.30pm - District 6 - Old Vic Tavern - £3/£2.50/£1.50

WED 27th - 7.30pm - Dreamtime - Old Vic Tavern - £3/£2.50/£1.50

MARCH

WED 6th - 7.30pm - Jan Kopinski Trio - Old Vic Tavern - £3/£2.50/£1.50

THU 7th - 7.30pm - Music of Cornelius Cardew - Clarendon College - £2/£1.50

TUE 12th - 7.30pm - Barbara Thompson's Paraphernalia - Old Vic Tavern - £3/£2.50/£1.50

WED 20th - 7.30pm - Bobby Watson Quintet - Old Vic Tavern -£3/£2.50/£1.50

Jazz at the Bell Inn, Market Square every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday - Free

Nottingham Improvised Music Collective meets every Tuesday at the Newshouse - all welcome.

FOLK

FEBRUARY

SUN 17th - 8pm - Music from Rajasthan and Bengal - Hindu Temple, Carlton Rd. - £2.50/£1

INGS - LISTINGS - LISTING

FILM

Midland Group prices are £1.75 and £1.25 concessionary. Film Theatre prices are £1.60, £1.35 members and £1.20 claimants/students.

FEBRUARY

TUE 12 - 7pm - Rashomon (18) - dir. A. Kurosawa Japan 1951 83m - Midland Group

WED 13th/THU 14th - 6 & 8pm (&2pm THU) - Strikebound (PG)-dir R.Lcwe-nstein, Australia 1984 99m - Midland Group

FRI 15th/SAT 16th - 6 & 8pm - Cartoons - Midland Group

FRI 15th - 2pm - The Red Desert - dir. Antonioni - Film Theatre

FRI 15th - 7.30pm - The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez (15) - dir R.Young USA 105m - Film Theatre

SAT 16th (5 & 8pm)/SUN 17th(8pm) - To Our Loves (15) dir A.Pialat, Fr 102m - Film Theatre

SUN 17th - 5pm - Persona (18) - dir. I.Bergman, Sweden 1966 81m - Film Theatre

TUE 19th - 7pm - Hiroshima Mon Amour (18) - dir A.Resnais, Fr/Jap 1959 91m Midland Group

WED 20th - 7pm - Family Portrait - dir H.Jennings GB 1951 & Rosie The Rivetter- dir C.Field, US 1980 - Midland Group

THU 21st - Jake Thackray - Bonington Theatre, Arnold - £2.75/£2.25

MARCH

MON 11th - 7.30pm - Samulnori - Percussion ensemble from Korea - Willoughby Hall, Nottingham University - £2.50/£1.50

SAT 30th - Miners Benefit with Fieldwork - Italian Community Centre, Sherwood Rise

Folk Clubs - Narrow Boat - Mondays; Gladstone, Loscoe Rd.- Wednesdays; Boulevard Hotel - Sundays; News-house - Fridays; Beechtree Lodge, Beeston - Saturdays

DANCE/MIME

FEBRUARY

THU 14th/FRI 15th - 7.30pm - Animate Theatre (mime) - Midland Group

SAT 16th/SUN 17th - Contemporary Dance Workshop - Midland Group - £4 for weekend

THU 21st/FRI 22nd - Inside Out in "Les Enfants"(mime) - Midland Group - £2/£1.50

MARCH

FRI 1st - 7.30pm - Compagnie Waste Of Time - (Dutch Mime Co) - Midland Group - £2/£1.50

EXHIBITIONS

To Feb 23rd - New Perspectives on the Nude - Midland Group - Free -

To Feb 23rd - Rites Of Passage - Kate Whiteford - Midland Group - Free

To March 3rd - The Other Eden - British Landscape Photography - Castle Museum - Free

Feb 12th-March 6th - Power Must Not Crush - Photos by Gustavo Espinosa - Midland Group - Free

March 2nd-30th - Between. Here and Nowhere - Midland Group - Free

From March 2nd - Textstyles - Castle Museum - Free

March 12th-April 2nd - Jewellery by Kate Walker and Nick Aikman - Midland Group - Free

THU 21st-SAT 23rd - 7pm (& 2pm THU) - Le Bal (PG) - dir Ettore Scola - Fr/It/Alg 1982 112m - Midland Group

FRI 22nd - 2pm - Casanova - dir. Fellini - film Theatre

FRI 22nd - 7.30pm - Benvenuta (15) - dir A.Delvaux, Belg/Fr 1983 105m - Film Theatre

SAT 23rd (5 & 8pm)/SUN 24th (8pm) - Lonely Hearts (15) - dir P.Cox, Australia 1982 95m - Film Theatre

SUN 24th - 5pm - Senso - dir L.Visconti, Italy 1954 109m - Film Theatre

TUE 26th - 7pm - Les Rendezvous d'Anna (15) - dir. C.Akerman - Bel/Fr/WG, 1978 127m - Midland Group

WED 27th - 7pm - Terence Davies Trilogy - GB - 1974-83 101m - Midland Group

THU 28th - 7pm - For Memory - dir. M. Karlin, gB 1984 120m - Midland Group

MARCH

FRI 1st/SAT 2nd - 6 & 8pm - Cartoons - Midland Group

TUE 5th - 7pm - 3 Films By Local Filmmakers - Nicaragua, A Question of Democracy, dir. Isthmus Productions; Something is Happening, dir. Vicky Jones/Chris Andrews; Passing Time, dir. R.Urbanski - Midland Group

WED 7th - 7pm - Amacord (18) - dir. F.Fellini. Italy 1973 123m - Midland Group

THU 7th-SAT 9th - 7pm (&2pm THU) - Three Crowns Of the Sailor (15) - dir. R.Ruiz,Fr 1983, 122m - Midland Group

TUE 12th - 7pm - Germany, Pale Mother (15) - dir H.Sanders/Brahms, WG 1979 123m - Midland Group -

WED 12th/THU 14th - 7pm (& 2pm THU) - Muriel - di. A.Resnais, Fr 1983 116m - Midland Group

TUE 26th/WED 27th - 7pm - Les Grand Meaulnes (PG) - dir. J.Albicocco, Fr 1967 110m - Midland Group

THU 28th - 2 & 7pm - Gilda (PG) - dir. G. Vidor US 1946 110m - Midland Group

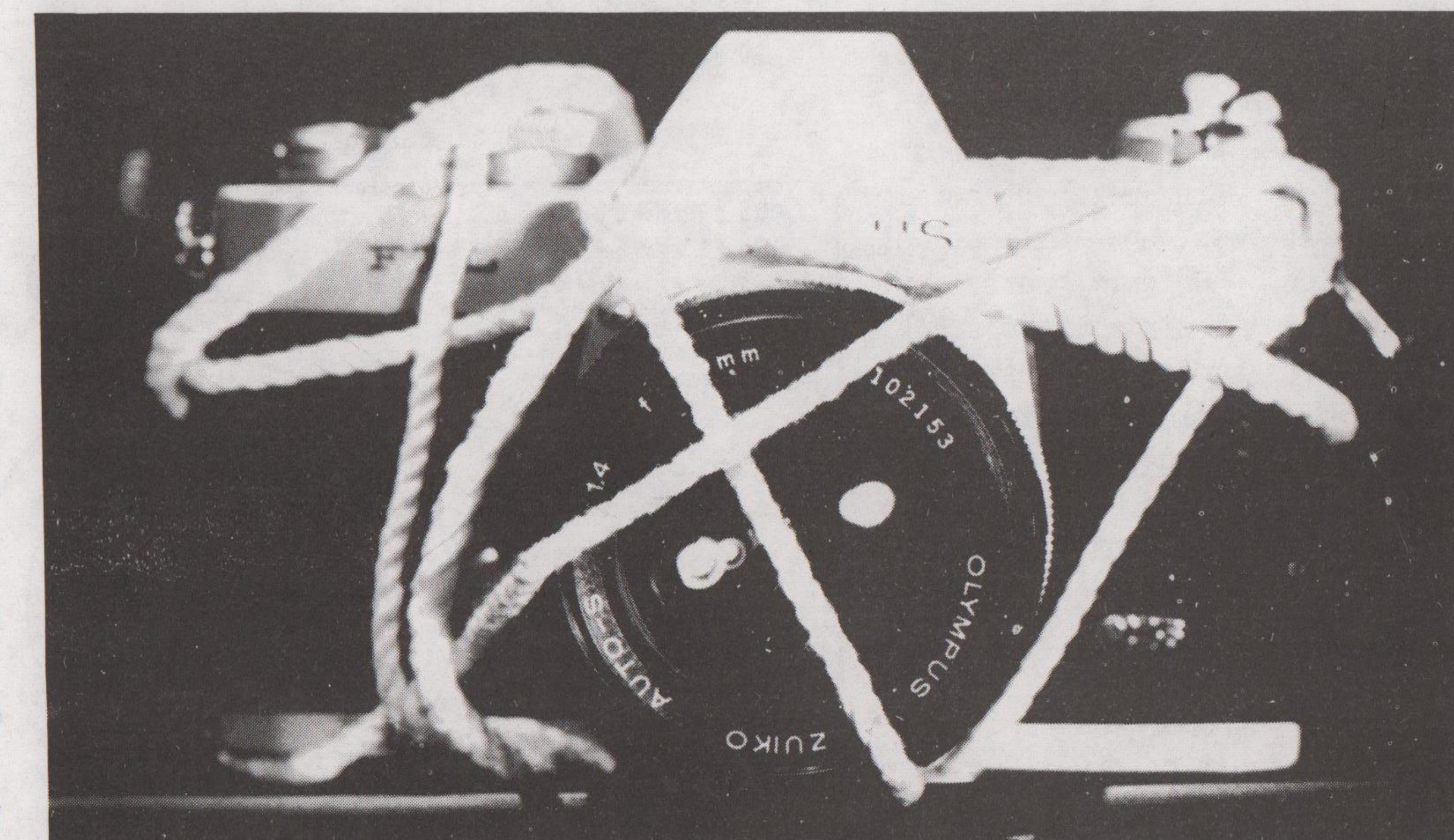
FRI 29th/SAT 30th - 6 & 8pm - Bad Timing (18) - dir. N.Roeg, GB 1980 123m - Midland Group

FRI 15th/SAT 16th - 6 & 8pm - Cartoons - Midland Group

TUE 19th - 7pm - Film Workshop screenings - Midland Group

WED 20th - 7pm - The GO-Between (15) - dir. J.Losey,GB 1970 116m - Midland Group

THU 21st-SAT 23rd - 7pm (& 2pm THU) - 1919 (15) - dir. H.Brody - GB 1984 99m - Midland Group



Roberta Graham

Projected Rituals

Midland Group

FEBRUARY

MARCH