

CITYWIDE
NOTTINGHAM'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

INSIDE:
Co-ops today
Miners day by day

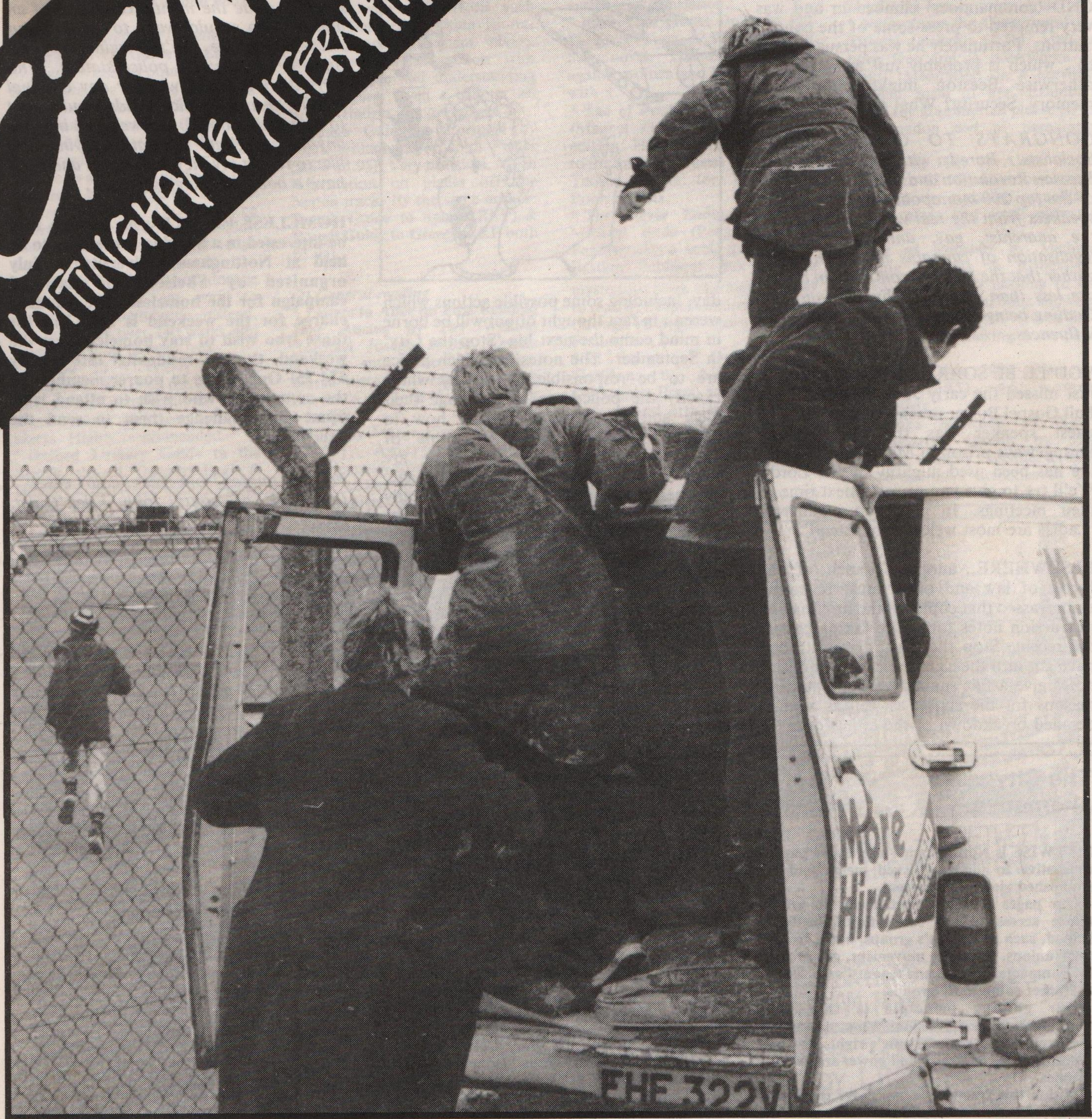


Photo by Mark Salmon

Over the top at Chilwell

JUNE-JULY 25p No. 6

BACKSTREET

COMMUTERS PASSING USAF Chilwell will have noticed big bright letters painted up on the inside of the compound inviting them to reclaim the place on July 1st. One team of painters, on one of their nocturnal visits, found themselves after wandering round the place for a while alongside some shiny newish-looking tanks. One of the CND 'commandoes' climbed in and was very tempted to press some of the control buttons. Fortunately he was persuaded not to, which is probably just as well, since otherwise Beeston might only be a memory. Security? What security?

CONGRATS TO Gedling Young Socialists. Bored with discussing the Russian Revolution and the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, they've invited speakers from the real world inhabited by the anarchist, gay, animal rights and legalisation of cannabis movements. We gather that the Militant comrades in the YS are less than impressed by the youth of Gedling being exposed to such 'bourgeois' influences.

YOU'LL BE SORRY to know that you've just missed the early June meeting of the Full Gospel Businessmen's fellowship. The guest speaker was the Chaplain of Strangeways prison in Manchester - where 'he has been used mightily by the Lord.' We'll try to give you warning next time of their meetings. In case you wondered, 'Ladies are most welcome to attend'.

ELSEWHERE, another branch of the forces of law and order must be rather embarrassed that copies of the briefing and instruction notes for police taking part in the recent 'Stop the City' demonstration have got into the right hands. The briefing notes give a fair summary of the political reasons for the action as well as a fairly detailed breakdown of the events over the



day, including some possible actions which weren't in fact thought of but will be borne in mind come the next big 'Stop the City' in September. The notes list which police are to be responsible to whom, where exactly the police are to exchange their meal and snack vouchers and how to process those arrested. A couple of humorous notes creep in. There are warnings that 'even in this computer age' cheques of over £10,000 are physically carried around the City, and that extra caution is needed at the London Guildhall for a royal visit as 'furs and Rolls Royces annoy our demonstrators'. Less humorous is the information that 'designated vehicles will carry NATO helmets', as well as the degree of plain clothes infiltration and the vast amount of police vehicles, horses, motor cycles and foot-sloggers available. The cancellation of all police leave (other than annual holidays) on the day and 12 hour minimum shifts can hardly have

encouraged a good feeling from the police side.

AGAIN ON POLICING, our roving reporters have noticed that the Meadows police station next to the Midland station is selling a book giving details of all the hangings which took place in Nottingham. Leaving aside the mental condition of an author who would want to write about such things, we can't imagine why the book is on sale at a police station. Who buys it? We doubt whether any criminal passing through police hands would want to buy such a book, and we can't imagine anyone going into the station saying, 'I'd like to report my bicycle is stolen and can I have a book on hanging please'.

HOMELESS PEOPLE who are rich may be interested in a housing conference to be held at Nottingham University in July organised by Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless. The standard charge for the weekend is £92. But for those who wish to stay homeless over the weekend, the non-residential rate is only £74.75! Our advice to poorer members of the community who wish to attend is to squat and challenge them to send the bailiffs in!

Famous quotes from recent court cases:
(a) Clerk of court John Friel: 'Quiet, please.' Miner at the back: 'Shurrup, yer muppet.'
(b) CNDer to magistrate: 'Why don't you resign, then you wouldn't have to sentence me'. Magistrate: '7 days.'

GEM - GAY EAST MIDLANDS magazine is now officially defunct after 9 months of the paper. It will be followed by an as yet unnamed gay paper in a different format. Full story next issue.

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

WHAT GOES PLOP every six weeks?

Answer - a subscription copy of Citywise on your doormat.

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

If you've missed the previous issues, we'll send you the last three issues at 25p each inc. postage.

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

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

ADVERTISING

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

SELLING

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

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 for Citywise no. 6 to our Mushroom address by 14th July. Please try to type contributions and include a word count.

'PHONE MESSAGES

until the next issue should go direct to Citywise on 788059 (evenings only).

OPEN MEETING

The next open will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 28th June at the TGWU offices, 259 Mansfield Rd.

NEWS

Feminist bookfair in Nottingham

MID-JUNE SAW the 1st International Feminist Bookfair. In Nottingham, the fair was celebrated by two meetings including readings and workshops by nationally known feminist writers and the first showing outside London of 'Tsiamele: a place of goodness' - a film about the dispossession of black people in South Africa.

W.H. Smith branches all over the country gave the Bookfair prominent window and shop displays. However, although the displays mentioned that there were events all over the country the shops were not keen on publicising local events due to a national directive allowing only uniform countryside window displays.

This meant the feminist displays shared their space with 'gifts for father's day' promotions!

Greens forced to flee Hockley

A SHARP RENT INCREASE has forced the Environmental Information Centre in Goosegate to give up their lease. Flitterman Investments, capitalising on the recent upsurge of commerce in the Hockley area, demanded that the rent goes up from £1,200 a year to a massive £10,000 a year.

Negotiations reduced the demand by a quarter but it was still too much. The Environmental Centre, home for many years of CND, Friends of the Earth and many ecological groups, will be leaving for much smaller premises on Mansfield Rd. There's no room there for CND who, as we go to press, have not been able to secure new offices.

Demolition call

TENANTS IN Hyson Green flats want to see the flats pulled down, according to a survey carried out by the tenants' action group. The survey is to be published in the near future. This follows another survey by the group published recently. This shows that 64% of tenants have damp, 84% have black dust coming out of the heating system, 79% are worried about asbestos and 57% suffer ill health.

Anti-racist move

by a Citywise reporter

THE CITY COUNCIL passed a motion on 4th June declaring its abhorrence to the racist regime of South Africa. Two days earlier about 60 people from Nottingham took part in a mass demonstration in London against South African Prime Minister Botha's visit to Britain.



200 beds to go in hospital sell-off

By Frank Turner

ONCE AGAIN the threat of closure hangs over the Nottingham General. Proposals drawn up by the Nottingham District Health Authority Management Team represent a virtual closure plan. The sale of all the doctors' residences, all the properties on the Ropewalk, Oxford St, Regent St and the Park, plus the sale of the Pay Bed Wing, the entire Out Patients Block and Thornton House reduces the site to a fraction of the original campus. Of the remaining buildings, it is intended to demolish nine wards along with the main entrance and administration blocks.

'What is really planned is the decimation of the General Hospital to a mere rump', says COHSE's Noreen Baker, Secretary of the Action Committee To Save Nottingham General. 'Combining their plans as already announced with the instruction from the DHSS to sell off the nurses' accommodation will leave Nottingham general as an open space for commercial grabbers. Only Trent Wing and four wards in the Medical Wing will remain. The Action Committee are convinced that what would be left would not be a viable unit and it would within a year be sold off for other uses.'

Initial sales of hospital property are intended to fund the relocation of the General's Radiotherapy Unit to the City Hospital. However, the Action Committee doubts if the money raised would be sufficient. Further, the proposal

contradicts decisions made by the Health Authority last year which looked towards extending Radiotherapy at the General.

Alf Parker is NUPE Branch Secretary at the General Hospital and chair of the Action Committee. '800 staff will be affected by these proposals. No way are they going to be able to assimilate them into other jobs. The number of beds at the hospital will be more than halved, from 460 to 200.'

'We will be calling on the public to support our campaign to maintain this hospital and to extend facilities for the elderly. There are 6000 aged in the City of Nottingham alone who suffer from pre-senile dementia. It is an outrage that they should even think of reducing beds available to the elderly in this city.'

Many services at the General have already been transferred to the Queen's Medical Centre, two and a half miles from the city centre. There have been no accident and emergency facilities at the General since the Eye Hospital was relocated at the QMC earlier this year. Other services would find it difficult to remain on the General Hospital site if the Radiotherapy Unit was transferred.

The Action Committee intends to step up the fight to oppose the run-down of health care facilities in Nottingham through petitions and leafletting in a bid to win public support for the campaign. A further decision on the fate of the General is expected on 12 July when the Nottingham Health Authority next meets.

NCP: turmoil and change

by Nigel Lee

NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY PROJECT is to be broken up, and the Director of the project, Roger Smith, is to be stripped of all management responsibilities, if a recommendation from the Project Council is accepted by the County Social Services Committee. Two senior workers on the project have already resigned during a top level County Council inquiry.

NCP is the largest community work project in the country with a £200,000 a year budget and 17 workers. It was created four years ago by the County Council (under Tory control) in partnership with the national Home Office funded Community Projects Foundation (CPF) and Nottingham Council for Voluntary Services. All three agencies seconded workers to the project and were represented on the management. The project has only 18 months left to run.

The original intention when NCP started was to set up five neighbourhood bases with two workers in each working with local groups. However, once Roger Smith was installed as director he proceeded to reduce neighbourhood work to its present level of only four neighbourhood workers (in Radford, Hyson Green, Forest Fields

and Sneinton). Instead, resources were put into a Policy Unit, which aimed to work closely with local authority decision makers, and an Employment Unit which initially aimed to set up community businesses.

NCP management has been in turmoil for the last 18 months. Trouble started in 1982 when the Head of NCP's Policy Unit Jerry Smith advised the Director to remove a respected neighbourhood worker from Broxtowe estate. A second worker on the estate resigned in disgust and ACAS was brought in by the unions. Other professional workers on the estate, including even the community constable, protested and warned of NCP's loss of credibility. This removal of their established workers undermined NCP's ability to contribute to the 'Broxtowe Development Plan' - which was the Policy Unit's main piece of work. Jerry Smith resigned recently during a top level County Council investigation by Deputy Director of Social Services Barry Newell and Management Services chief Terry Gorman.

The Employment Unit also ran into trouble. They started off with fine ideas of setting up community businesses. But their main project, Green Umbrella Enterprises Ltd, failed to live up to its promise of being 'Hyson Green's community enterprise'. In the best tradition of footloose capital, it moved out of Hyson Green and made no attempt to build a base in any particular community. The Head of the Unit, Chris Collinge, resigned early last year when Green Umbrella went into liquidation only 6 months after receiving a £13,000 loan from the County Council. His successor Chris Cobbold resigned recently during the Newell-Gorman inquiry.

Following these problems, an internal inquiry was set up within NCP early last year. But it proved to be a major cover-up. Allegations of management incompetence made by all the neighbourhood workers and the local groups they were working with were ignored and management control over the project was just increased.

Mounting frustration within the project led to a 6-page expose in the national Community Action magazine last summer. This forced another cover-up organised by CPF trustees who took evidence from a large number of people last December. They refused to discuss their findings and just declared their support for the project and its Director.

However, the Community Action article was taken up by several trade union and Labour Party branches, and the County Labour Party called for an investigation into 'alleged management incompetence' in NCP. The resulting Newell-Gorman inquiry into community work in the county will not report officially until September.

On top of all this, the County Council's accounts for 1982/83 have been held up for the last nine months while auditors

have been investigating alleged irregularities in payments to NCP. The local Law Society has now recommended that these matters be referred to the Local Government Ombudsman who investigates maladministration.

NCP management will now be completely broken up. The Council for Voluntary Service has already pulled out its Student Training Unit, at the request of NCP. And County Councillor Paddy Tipping, chair of NCP's Project Council, told Citywise that the Social Services Committee on 27th June will be discussing a recommendation to split the rest of the project into three parts:

1) The neighbourhood unit would get a new management but may still only be allowed four workers.

2) The Employment Unit and Policy Unit will be merged under a small high powered management committee to 'provide social and economic development initiatives'. In spite of the failure of these units, this side of the project is likely to be strengthened!

3) The Director of NCP would be moved sideways to a 'Demonstration Unit' and would lose all management control over other NCP workers. His job would be to write up the lessons he has learned from running what is probably the worst community work project in the country!

Tories in trouble

TORIES ON THE CITY COUNCIL have had a bad time recently. At the June full Council meeting they eventually gave up and went home, leaving Labour in sole charge of the council chamber.

First they failed to stop Labour renewing Nottingham's links with Minsk in Byelorussia. Then they failed to take the teeth out of an anti-apartheid resolution. Finally they failed in an attempt to divide Labour over the miners' dispute. Tory leader Bill Bradbury had tabled a motion supporting miners' 'right to work'. But this was amended by Labour's John Hartshorne, a striking miner, to call on the government to allow a similar right to work to the extra 3 million people made unemployed by the Tories since 1979.

The crunch for the Tories came when new councillor Dennis Jones stood up to make his first speech following his victory in the Bulwell West by-election when he trebled Labour's majority. He put forward a policy statement from Labour's National Executive Committee condemning the way the government was trying to starve the miners back to work, and calling on the NCB to stop the programme of pit closures and revert to the Plan for Coal agreement.

'We've had enough,' said Bill Bradbury as the Tories marched out. Jones was left preaching to the converted and won the vote 27-0. ■

Political challenge

By Nigel Lee

RACISM in housing policies must be challenged politically by the Labour Party, says local Community Relations Officer Alan Simpson. Anti-racist policies can't just be left to council officers, he says.

In a new book published by the national Labour Housing Group Alan has contributed a section on "Race Equality and Council Housing". He argues that the Labour Party should build alliances with black groups and the wider labour movement to challenge racism in housing.

He makes a particular attack on the sale of 11,000 council houses in Nottingham since the sales blitz launched by the last Tory administration. He argues that this has meant "indirect discrimination" against black people - because a disproportionate number of black households are on the waiting list wanting to rent the sort of decent homes with gardens which have been sold. This is illegal, he claims, and urges Labour councils to get themselves prosecuted - and then plead guilty! This may not succeed in blocking sales but it would publicly show up the government's responsibility for structural racism.

Right to a Home is published by Spokesman at £3.95. It is essential reading for any socialist with an interest in housing. ■

Co-ops making comeback

ONE OF THE FEW positive results of mass unemployment has been a revival of enthusiasm for worker co-operatives. In the first of two articles, Ross Bradshaw looks at their history and the background to new initiatives in Nottinghamshire. The second article will report on the local scene in more detail.

THE LAST FEW MONTHS have seen a large increase in the number of worker co-operatives in Nottinghamshire. Seventeen co-ops are now registered covering every occupation from laundry services to residential care for the elderly. There are other groups, including a print co-op and a vegan cafe, in the making. Just four years ago there were only four registered co-ops: Workcon Building Co-op, Ouroboros Wholefoods and the Home Insulation Project, all of them still going, and the ill-fated Nottingham News.

In these articles we look at why there's suddenly been such a rash of people prepared to risk abolishing their traditional role as employee and try their hand at workers' control.

But first a bit of history. Co-ops trace their origin back to the Rochdale Pioneers setting up their own trading company in 1844 (though the co-operative spirit traces its origins back still further to the Levellers and the Diggers of Cromwell's time). Retail, consumer-controlled co-ops grew. But, despite the efforts of Owenites and anarchists, who believed that capitalist

campaigners for peace, maternity rights and birth control, the Co-op Women's Guild has virtually disappeared and the Co-operative Party (which works alongside the Labour Party) has become an ageing right-wing appendage. To be fair, the Co-op retains in varied fashion links with the Woodcraft Folk (an anti-militarist youth group) and with the occasional theatre group, as it does in Nottingham - but the superstores and megastores of today are a far cry from the Co-op's support for the miners in 1926! *

In the fifties the Industrial Common Ownership Movement was formed and in the seventies interest in worker control became widespread, with the occupation of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and the quite large government funding of Triumph Motorcycles and the Scottish Daily News. However, what could have been a major step forward in large scale worker co-ops was lost as many of these industries were in decline, the co-ops were undercapitalised and the workers had little experience of running their own firms. Largely, these big efforts went bust.

Came the recession of the eighties and co-ops won all-party support - as a means of combatting unemployment, and for reasons as diverse as the Conservative desire for any form of trading outside the public sector and the Labour wish to convert companies to trade union and worker control.

This, then, led nationally to a trickle of co-ops, and in Nottingham in 1979 the Home Insulation Project was set up after a similar government-funded job creation scheme had ended, and in 1980 Workcon Building Co-op was formed.

Two earlier co-ops, Ouroboros Wholefoods (formed in 1977) and Mushroom Bookshop (formed in 1972, but not registered formally as a co-op) were more the product of the "alternative society", combining commercial trading with collective working and radical politics. Not surprisingly, the one co-op set up as an "emergency" - Nottingham News, established by journalists sacked by the Evening Post - did not thrive, and it remains the general experience that only where workers genuinely seek co-operative ventures are they likely to succeed.

Recently, there's at last been money available to co-ops. The City Council and the County Council sponsored Co-operative Development Agency have been able to provide a degree of background assistance and money for feasibility studies, etc.

Major doubts remain, though, about the Notts CDA. Mirroring the sort of society most co-ops want to get away from, the CDA was set up with effective control remaining in the hands of the County Council and local capitalists. The CDA workforce is hierarchical with men in the top jobs and a woman as the lower-paid



secretary - but all paid more highly than any co-op would aspire to. The existing co-ops, to whom the words "workers' control" meant more than the odd person being taken off the dole, rejected participation in the CDA management and still do.

There remains a feeling that - as with so many official schemes - whilst those in power may have some useful money, their way of handing it out leads to dependency or co-option. This has developed into an open split in the co-ops movement between the CDA professionals and the more radical co-ops who are committed to a non-hierarchical and non-sexist approach to their work: they're usually the last ones the money's made available to.

Next issue: Worker co-operatives in Nottingham.

* See Claude Bartholomew's "Leen Valley" for details of the local Co-op's early history.

Buy Keighley
Co-operative
COAL
The dividend swells the saving
BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT
ADVANCED OUR PRICES
BUY YOUR WINTER COAL NOW!

ownership could be replaced by common ownership, the producer (and worker controlled) co-ops did not thrive. Throughout this century the number of producer co-ops declined from over three figures at the turn of the century to a mere handful in more recent years.

Retail co-ops (consumer-controlled, at least in theory) grew, merged and multiplied. At one time a major part of working class life, they have become as alienating as any Tesco supermarket and an embarrassment to those seeking genuine co-operation. From a high point of 70,000

Fifteen words and a box number

By Ross Bradshaw

BEING AN INVETERATE reader of lists and small print, I seem to spend half my reading time staring at the lonely hearts columns whenever I pick up a newspaper. Apart from a recent article in the Guardian, these small ads seem to be almost unstudied. I wonder why? It might be because no-one ever admits to putting in an ad or replying to one. Have you ever done it?



I can't really blame people for being reticent because the lonely hearts scene does seem to have a mildly sordid reputation. It probably stems from those seeking 'fun and friendship' which would appear to be a polite expression for something else. There are a number of these jargonish words - 'discrete', 'a.l.a.' (I eventually worked out that means 'all letters answered'), 'sincere'. I thought everyone was sincere, but never mind. The other confusing thing is that most heterosexual males want women who are younger and smaller than them. Are older women so terrifying?

There's also a certain class distinction in these ads. You don't get divorced weekend-parent and theatre-going SDP lecturers turning up in the Trader - the *New Statesman* is full of them though, thereby also proving that the SDP does still exist. The Trader is more the place to find cosy evenings, outings and no objection to children. That's not to say there's a lack of nurds there either: 'Overlooked male makes final appeal to women of Nottingham. Is there anyone there?' Hopefully there won't be.

At the start of the columns there's always a selection of introduction agencies. This is obviously a profitable service and is very specialised - Christian, Jewish ... there's no escape. Even in the Vegetarian there's people specialising in trying to get us vegies and vegans together. There's also a number of private tragedies being played out, in the case of the Trader in front of 172,000 households. In the past people used to talk to or shout at each other. These days you might get better value at 10p a word of cold type.

Where does this lead us? I know not. There never seems to be anyone advertising for a balding Scotsman with a chip on his shoulder, and I certainly wouldn't reply if ever there was. To understand it all I'll probably have to wait on a definitive sociological pundit to research it. Only then will we see why our natural desire for companionship gets reduced to fifteen words and a box number. Or will lonely hearts, like the state is supposed to, wither away after the revolution?

Reclaim Chilwell

By a Citywise reporter

THOUSANDS OF PEACE protestors from all over Britain are expected to converge on Chilwell army base on July 1st. The Reclaim Chilwell group expects many of them to take part in a mass trespass on the base in protest against its now confirmed handover to the United States air force. The group feels that the buildup of Chilwell - now the 136th US base in this country - is an escalation of American plans for a 'limited' nuclear war, in which Chilwell could play an essential backup and servicing role.

The July 1st event has the full backing of the national and local Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Nottingham Women for Peace are holding a separate women's action on the site and the action has won the support of several local trades unions. The Transport and General Workers Union offices are to be used on the day as a back-up office, and the Tobacco Workers' Union has provided money for transport.

Reclaim Chilwell will be the largest peace movement civil disobedience ever in this area and the police and the Ministry of Defence have admitted the impossibility of keeping protestors off the base with its extensive 4 mile perimeter. The police also admit that arresting thousands of people

LOCAL MOD POLICE have been devoting an increasing amount of time to the Reclaim Chilwell Group of Nottingham CND. In late April, two plain clothes officers were spotted outside a Nottingham resource centre while Reclaim Chilwell activists were inside printing. Then, on June 6th, they were sighted in the Environmental Factshop underneath the CND offices, browsing through leaflets, magazines and posters. One of them was recognised as Detective Sergeant John Maude based at Chilwell Depot. When asked what he was doing, he grinned and said he 'liked to keep his ear to the

would not be possible.

The last 4 months have seen a series of protests at the base since the initial rumour of a US takeover. Before Christmas a peace camp was set up outside Chilwell for several weeks, several small scale trespasses have taken place and many of the buildings on the site have been spraypainted. The most recent action, on the night of May 31st, led to 7 members of Nottingham CND being arrested on the base, but they were released without charges.

Reclaim Chilwell emphasises that people taking part in the trespass must be totally nonviolent, and it hopes for a large and visible presence outside and inside the base.

Writing in CND's newsletter, Pete Strauss from the Reclaim Chilwell group said: 'Half my own family died in Hitler's death camps...watching the films I felt the familiar rage and pity and horror and grief rise within me... people waiting patiently to die. And I realised we were just like them, Dachau, Auschwitz, Belsen... Greenham, Upper Heyford, Chilwell. The only difference is that these days the holocaust is delivered to its victims rather than the other way round. We can't just wait patiently for them to build nuclear death camp Chilwell. We have to do something. We have no alternative...'

ground'. He went on to brag about his detailed knowledge of his questioner's personal life, and holiday movements.

On June 7th the two officers returned to the offices accompanied by an officer in uniform, and bringing with them summonses for seven members of the Reclaim Chilwell Group. These relate to a small incursion into Chilwell base by peace activists in early June. All seven were summonsed to appear at Nottingham Magistrates Court on the 28th of June...just two days before the mass trespass.

OUROBOROS

37a MANSFIELD ROAD
OPPOSITE YORK HOUSE

WHOLEFOOD

TELEPHONE:
NOTTINGHAM 419016

COLLECTIVE

WHOLEWHEAT PASTA

VEGETABLE OILS

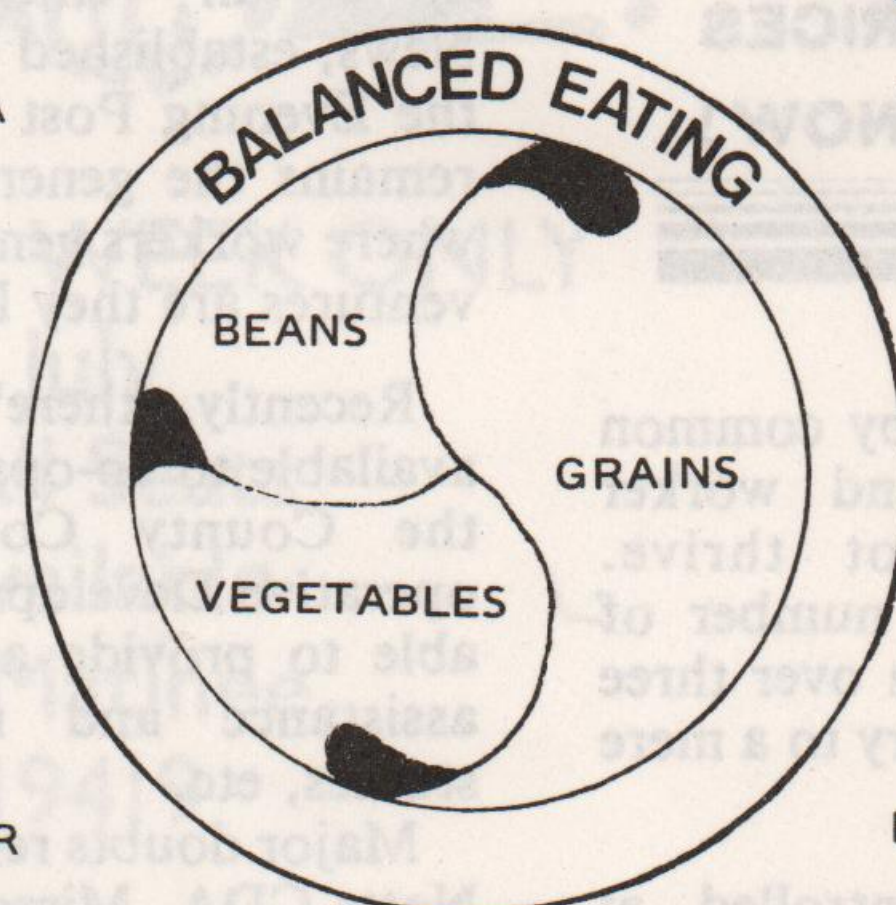
PORRIDGE

HONEY

BROWN RICE

NUTS AND SEEDS

WHOLEWHEAT FLOUR



WHOLEWHEAT BREAD

PEANUT BUTTER

DRIED FRUIT

MUESLI

GOATS MILK

SEA VEGETABLES

RENNET-FREE CHEESE

PLUS A WIDE SELECTION OF JARRED HONEYS, HERBS AND SPICES, BREWING MATERIALS AND COOKING UTENSILS.

**WORKERS' CONTROL NOT
CONTROL OF WORKERS**



ouroboros



DIARY OF A DISPUTE

Continuing our chronology of the dispute in Notts. from issue 5.

Compiled by John Batchellor.

Tues 24 April

Sheffield Policewatch team ordered out of Notts.

Wed 25 April

Scargill visits Berry Hill for talks with Notts. NUM leaders.

Thurs 26 April

County police authority considers package of £2m cuts including withdrawal from Regional Crime Squad. Notts. chief constable Charles McLachlan 'gravely concerned'. County council leader Dennis Pettit: '...by the end of June there could be no police force left.'

McLachlan attacks 'intimidation' (by pickets). Tories demand cut in leisure budget instead.

Fri 27 April

1000 pickets at Ollerton, where Scargill calls on Notts. miners to join the strike. Day shift stopped. His second visit to Notts. in 48 hours. 4 pickets jailed for alleged breaches of no-picketing bail conditions imposed by Mansfield JPs. Banged-up twenty three and a half hours a day, taunted by warders, denied clothing and soap parcels brought by wives.

Coal supplies to Ravenscraig halved.

NCB claims only 1000 Notts. miners are on strike rather than 12,000. Claims production is 200,000 tons a week against the normal 240,000; figures later released by NUM indicate 96,000 is the real figure.

Sat 28 April

Mass rally in Worksop. NUPE donates £25,000 to NUM strike fund, joining NALGO's decision to give £10,000.

Sun 29 April

Scargill appeals to Notts. miners at Sutton in Ashfield not to cross picket lines.

Mon 30 April

450 pickets at Ollerton; 4 arrests at Warsop.

Tues 1 May

Spencerism revisited: Notts. scabs hold anti-strike rally at Berry Hill NUM delegate conference, Mansfield, with employers' approval and pay. Police allow anti-strike rallyists free movement, but turn back thousands of strikers attending a counter-rally; even so, 1500 make it. Mounted police wedge the 2 sides apart. 1 arrest, plus another 6 around the county. Police baton charge pickets at Pleasley.

Henry Richardson, Notts. NUM secretary to working miners: 'You're the only friends Ian

McGregor has got. It's about time you acted like bloody men and showed your solidarity with other miners.'

Merseyside councillors refuse to pay policing bill.

Wed 2 May

10,000 picket Harworth pit, avoiding passport control by walking across fields; 200 scabs cross picket line (Harworth worked even in 1926); 40 turn back. 21 arrests. There have been 1479 arrests nationally.

Hampshire police chief John Duke denies wasting police money by whisking 127 men to Notts. in a 737 jet airliner.

Plea incentives applied by Swadlingcote JPs against 40 miners accused of blockading the A38: 4 pleading guilty are bailed without anti-picketing conditions.

Retford joins the list of trades councils boycotting 'police-community liaison' talk shops - others already include Nottingham, Chesterfield and Worksop.

5 arrests at Ravenscraig.

Bolsover council withdraws its invitation to Derbyshire police chief Alf Parrish to attend council meetings and agrees to give £10,000 to striking miners. Joined a week later by Chesterfield council which gives £50,000.

Secret instruction to dole offices to deduct local authority loans to miners from payments is leaked.

Thurs 3 May

400 strikers march from Linby to Hucknall. 2500 picket Cotgrave, taking police by surprise. Lorry damaged; 3 arrests.

Police break up 250 pickets at Welbeck; truncheons used.

700 police swamp Ravenscraig pickets to allow 60 lorries through.

Fri 4 May

TGWU tells members to respect miners' picket lines.

Hucknall targeted for second day running; 2,000 pickets and 19 arrests.

Notts. NCB historian Alan Griffin complains to McLachlan of clicks and 'studio' crosstalk on his telephone.

CEGB cuts back coal consumption; Aberthaw and Didcot (2 GW) stations already closed down.

5 Welsh miners arrested for distributing pro-strike leaflets containing Jack London's definition of a scab. Area president Emlyn Williams says they were handcuffed and beaten up.

Sat 5 May

Times leaks secret Cabinet sub-committee discussions on building a new generation of super profitable privatised pits. Denied by Treasury minister John Moore.

Sun 6 May

ACPO police chiefs demand extra powers to disperse and arrest demonstrators.

Mon 7 May

Mansfield: May Day rally addressed by Scargill who praises NUR and ASLEF, calls for support from other unions and denounces McGregor's folly 'which has cost taxpayers £1.35bn... We are winning.' Clipstone colliery band refuses to play, so music is provided by Nottingham women. Police keep away and there is no trouble.

Tues 8 May

Police clash with 2300 pickets at Pye Hill; 13 arrests on border with Derbys.

Mansfield Labour council blocks stall collecting for miners' families.



Wed 9 May

4,000 pickets try to stop Creswell. 1,000 police rushed in.

Striking miners' wives sit in at Rainworth protesting at NCB plans to evict their soup kitchen.

Large increase of sabotage at pitheads.

CEGB now generating 27% of its power by expensive oil (normally only 4% maximum at surge periods).

Notts. police bill now £13.25m a month.

NCB simultaneously threatens closure of 4 North Derbys. pits and denies such a closure threat exists.

Thurs 10 May

Strathclyde police arrest 292 Fife miners on their way to Ravenscraig.

2500 picket Bevercotes, 35 arrests.

Worksop magistrate Dick Hassett turns down bid by 4 Yorks. miners to remove oppressive restrictions in their bail conditions, to boos from 50 assembled miner observers. Shouts of 'Fix' and 'We are treated worse than Lech Walesa.'

Fri 11 May

Dennis Pettitt criticises Home Office offer of 90% payment of policing bill as 'inadequate'.

Back-to-work move by Worksop miner Robert Taylor flops despite advance media build-up. No support from colleagues at Manton pit.

McGregor offers a pay rise to any miner working who breaks the overtime ban.

There have now been 1903 arrests nationally.

Sat 12 May

Police admit their demands for greater powers on public order are connected with the miners' dispute.

Notts. Law Society criticises the arrival of '1984' in the form of a preprinted statement issued to police officers for use as part of their court testimony.

10,000 women march through Barnsley backing the strike.

Mon 14 May

Mass pro-strike rally in Mansfield, the largest in NUM history. Numbers vary: 45,000 (NUM), 20,000 (Evening Post), 15,000 (Guardian). Police disown their stated 8,000 as too low. Arthur Scargill says they could win in 2 months if all Notts. came out, but if a stop out to December is needed, it will happen.

Police deny march organisers their planned route to Berry Hill, sending them on a 3 mile circular route round the town instead. March shadowed by two police helicopters. Turnout so vast that the back of the march almost reaches

Continued on p-10.

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CITYWISE

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, Smeeton, Clarke & Thompson. Bell Inn: Omega Jazz Band. Hearty Goodfellow: Pop and Rock. Narrowboat: Folk. Yates': Personal Touch.

TUESDAYS: Bell Inn: Society Five. Running Horse: Teddy Fullick Quintet. Yorker: Pop and Rock. Jacey's, Heathcote St.: Andy, Boris and Keith. Old Maltcross: Jacob's 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).

NB: Coop Arts Theatre and Film Theatre close for summer from end of June.

June 16
'Nostalgia' (15), (film; USSR) - Film Theatre, 5 & 8 pm.
'The Prisoner of Second Avenue' - Nottingham Playhouse until 7 July.
June 17
'Nostalgia' - Film Theatre, 5 & 8 pm.
June 18
'27 Stitches of Love' (Resident band) - Old Maltcross.
'The Bluebells' - Rock City. £2 in advance.
'Pictureframe' (rock band) - Hearty Goodfellow, 50p.
'Spot the Zebra' - Vino's. £1.
June 19
'Graham Goodman' (Bowie music) - Old Maltcross.
'All the President's Men' - Charlie's Barn, Beeston.
'Paula Rego/ Masterpieces' - Midland Group until June 30.



'Gold Diggers'. Midland Group. 19 - 21 July.

June 20
'Chaingang' (rock band) - Old Maltcross.
'Temlia Theatre Co.' - Marcus Garvey Centre, 7.30 pm.
'Don Giovanni' (film PG) - Midland Group, 7 pm.
June 21
'Temlia Theatre Co.' - Marcus Garvey Centre, 7.30 pm.
'Don Giovanni' (PG) - Midland Group, 2 & 7 pm.
'Wazoo' - Vino's. £3.
June 22
'Brass Construction' - Rock City. £3 advance.
'The World According to Garp' (15), (film, USA) - Film Theatre, 7.30.
'Pinski Zoo Club Boring' - Midland Group, 8.30 pm.
'Olivia' (18), (film) - Midland

Group, 7 pm.

June 23
'The World According to Garp' (15) - Film Theatre, 5 & 8 pm.
'Olivia' (18) - Midland Group. 7 pm.
June 24
'The World According to Garp' (15) - Film Theatre, 5 & 8 pm.
June 25
'27 Stitches of Love' - Old Maltcross.
'My Fair Lady' - Cooperative Arts Theatre. £2.75, £2.25 OAPs and children. Until June 30.
June 26
'Dave Mitchell' (electric blues guitarist) - Old Maltcross.
'Turlio Black Arts' - Midland Group, 7.30 pm.
'Madchen in Uniform' (PG), (film) - Midland Group, 7 pm.
June 27
'Charmaine' (rock band) - Old Maltcross.
'Girlfriends' (15), (film) - Midland Group.
June 28
'Seeing Red Cabaret' - Midland Group, 8 pm.
'Parsifal' (PG), (film) - Midland Group, 5.30 pm.

July 3
'Graham Goodman' - Old Maltcross.
'American Hotel'/'East of no West' (film) - Midland Group.
July 4
'Dealer' (rock band) - Old Maltcross.
'X-Mal Deutschland' - Rock City, £3 advance.
'Sydney on the Wupper - Dream Time'/'West Village Meat Market' (film) - Midland Group. 7 pm.
'Sleep Cycle' - Vino's.
July 5
'Normalstaz' (film) - Midland Group, 2 & 7 pm.
July 6
'Jarome' - Hearty Goodfellow, 50p.
'The Waking Hour' (film) - Midland Group, 6 & 8 pm.
'All the President's Men' - Midland Group. Benefit gig for Projector Project. £1.50, £2.
July 7
Rope Garrard: 'Between Ourselves' - Midland Group. Reclaiming traditional images and paintings, particularly regarding definitions of women. Until Aug 4.

'Heartbreakers' (film) - Midland Group. 6 & 8.15 pm.
July 12
'Paula Rego Gallery Day' - Midland Group. Tour at 11.30 am, slide talk at 2 pm.
'Heartbreakers' (film) - Midland Group. 6 & 8.15 pm.
July 13
'All Electro night' - Rock City.
'The Tragedy of Carmen' (film) - Midland Group. 6 & 8 pm.
July 14
'The Tragedy of Carmen' (film) - Midland Group. 6 & 8 pm.
July 16
'27 Stitches of Love' - Old Maltcross.
July 17
'Graham Goodman' - Old Maltcross.
'S.O.B.' (film) - Midland Group. 7 pm.
July 18
'Red go Red' (rock band) - Old Maltcross.
'Red Skirts on Clydeside'/'Carry Greenham Home' (film) - Midland Group. 7 pm.
July 19
'Gold Diggers' (film) - Midland Group.
July 20
'Raider' - Hearty Goodfellow.
'Gold Diggers' - Midland Group. 6 & 8 pm.
July 21
Carl Robinson Gallery Day - Midland Group. 11 am - 5 pm.
'Gold Diggers' with speaker - Midland Group. 6 & 8 pm.
July 23
'27 Stitches of Love' - Old Maltcross.
July 24
'Dave Mitchell' - Old Maltcross.
'Victor/Victoria' (film) - Midland Group. 7 pm.
July 25
'Naked Prey' (rock band) - Old Maltcross.
'Paul Robeson Presentation' (film) Midland Group, 7 pm.
July 26
'Sans Soleil' (film) - Midland Group.
July 27
'Sans Soleil' (film) - Midland Group.

DIARY DATES

LOOK, THIS PAGE is free advertising. We've got about 3000 readers and we've still got to chase organisations to submit their events. Gold stars to those who sent in entries, slaps on the wrists to those we had to chase, and if your group isn't listed here and only 3 people turn up at your next meeting they've probably gone in the wrong door 'cos we couldn't find any publicity for what you're doing. There must be more going on in Nottingham than this! Also - where's the stuff about creches and disabled access then? (This job makes you really grumpy.) Next time, what's on in August - tell us early please!

DISARMAMENT

Sunday 1 July
1.00 onwards. Reclaim Chilwell (see centre pages and news stories). Can you help sell Citywise? Name/phone please to our address or see other sellers on the day.
Friday 6 July
7.30 to 11.30: Bop against the Bomb, Forest Fields Peace Group. Disco at Italian Community Centre, Sherwood Rise. Tickets £1-75.
Sunday 8 July
Noon to 8.00. Fourth annual Nottingham Peace Festival on the Victoria Embankment. Jazz, reggae, womens' marquee, Bruce Kent (who?), CND cakes, Reclaim Chilwell post-mortem, rangers, co-operative games, aerial runway, creche, childrens world, folk singing, poets, clowning, exhibitions, food, childrens theatre, Morris dancing ... free ... visit the Citywise stall!
Friday 6 July
7.30 at Hyson Green Community Centre, St Pauls Ave, off Radford Rd: 'Britain must get out of NATO,' says the Nottingham Committee of the People's Democratic Front.
Mon 6 August - 9 August. From Hiroshima Day to Nagasaki Day. Nottingham CND will be mounting exhibitions about the 1945 bombings and the current arms race in their usual spot outside St Peter's Church, above the Broad Marsh.

GREENERY

Broxtowe Ecology Party was formed after the last election, following a big increase in support at the time. Since then the group has grown further, working with the other 'green' groups in the area. Next in their series of public lectures is:-
Thurs 28 June
Chilwell Methodist Church Hall - a talk by members of Ourboros Wholefood Collective. Contact: Martin Love, 37 Lower Rd., Beeston.

ANARCHISM

Nottm Anarchist Group meets every Friday, 8.00 at the Nottingham Community Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard or tel. Chris 582506. The NAG can also be found in police custody after most anti-nuclear demonstrations.

LABOUR MOVEMENT

7 & 8 July: 'The right to political action: keeping the links between the unions and the Labour Party' - a special conference at Nottingham University organised by the Institute for Workers' Control and the Labour Coordinating Committee. Speakers include Harriet Harman, Peter Hain, Audrey Wise and of course Tony Benn. Conference fees start

at £6 (excluding food), creche available. Contact IWC on 784504.
Tues 19 June
7-30 at International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd:
First meeting of a new trade union combine for voluntary workers - cooks, community workers, typists, play assistants, welfare rights workers etc. involved in the voluntary sector welcome. Meeting called by NALGO, ASTMS, NUPE and ACTSS unions.
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. The Womens' Group are meeting weekly, 3-30 to 4-30 at 118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Rd.

GAY YOUTH

Nottingham Gay Youth Organisation. For all young gay people under the age of 26, lesbians, homosexuals, and bisexuals of whatever race or colour. Social and leisure; support; education. Ring Michael on 721248 (Sat, Sun mornings) or Ben c/o Nottm Gay Switchboard, 31a Mansfield Rd.

ANTI-APARTHEID

Tues 26 June
Consumer Boycott relaunch: don't buy South African products, ask your friends not to. Contact Nottm AA c/o Geoff Morris, 11-04 Victoria Centre.

FEMINISM

Wed 20 June
New Nottm group on Women in Prisons meeting. Ring Chris on 582506 for venue etc.

Thurs 28 June
Women for Peace training session for Reclaim Chilwell, creche available. Ring Maggie on 412098 for details.

Tues 10 July
7-30 118 Mansfield Rd. Nottm Womens' International Group monthly meeting.

November
Very advance notice of Grantham Womens' Festival in November. Particularly requested re anti-sexist men to run the creche - contact Claire, 8 Carlton Rd., Sudbrook, Grantham.

Greenham

Many camp women are in prison as a result of actions and the constant evictions, but the camp remains. The camp urges women to take personal responsibility for its survival by coming to Greenham for a while - 'plenty of things to do and you can have fun doing them - all women welcome.' Contact Nottm

Women for Peace or telephone 01-833 2831 or 01-833 2832 for latest info.

ANIMAL LIBERATION

Sun 24 June
7-30, Narrow Boat pub, Canal St. Animal Rights Confederation monthly open meeting. Speaker from International Fund for animal welfare and showing the film 'Warm blood on cold ice'.

Sun 29 July
7-30 Narrow Boat. ARC monthly open meeting.

Every Saturday
ARC stall outside Marks and Spencers, Broadmarsh - contact Pat Giddings. Tel. 811995.
Compassion in World Farming are working on a new list of shops selling free range eggs:

contact Tina Grundy, 12 Thorney Hill, Thorneywood, Nottm.

TRANSPORT

Thurs 21 June
'Round the houses', a ten mile cycle and walk round the highways and byways of Nottm, including Sneinton and Lace Market - meet 7.00 at Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, finishing in time for an orange juice/pint. A full list of guided summer rides organised by PEDALS and Cyclists Touring Club should now be in libraries and cycle shops.

Malcolm Griffin of the Erewash Valley Cyclists Club would like to hear from anyone in the Beeston, Stapleford and Chilwell areas

interested in helping with Adult cycling or in Adult Road Safety Training.

Dave Law, tel 689348, is looking for companions for a cycle / camp weekend based in the Rutland water area.

BIRTH

Thurs 12 July
7.30 Nottm. Homebirth Support Group meets, International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd.

WRITERS

Nottm Writers Workshop meets every Tuesday at 7.00 on the 2nd floor, Central library, Angel Row - for all potential writers.



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JUNE 16

JULY 27

the front. As marchers disperse they are charged by mounted police. Missiles thrown. Some 80 arrests; several pickets bleeding or unconscious.

Tues 15 May

700 picket Blidworth; 13 arrests.

Riot charges slapped on 57 miners arrested at the end of Mansfield rally. Special court sits for 3 hours.

Notts. police chief McLachlan calls press conference to denounce pickets in emotive terms. Given a minute of prime time by BBC and ITN without any questions or reply by miners.

Pye Hill no.1 and Sherwood NUM branches issue writ against Notts. NUM executive.

Tyne and Wear County Council planning £100,000 donation to strike.

Wed 16 May

Anne Scargill is one of 4 women arrested at Silverhill pit; another 10 are arrested at Sherwood. Held 10 hours at Hucknall cells. 'We believe that some of the women were kicked in the groin, one who was arrested was pregnant and another was taken to hospital with facial injuries.' - Notts. NUM.

Unnamed Mansfield JPs order Anne Scargill to give police finger and palm prints, to boos from public gallery.

Blidworth: Police intruders found in home of 'Women Against Pit Closures' organiser Doreen Humber in the early hours of the morning; another 250 police marching in the street banging on doors. McLachlan's 'anti-intimidation' squad has arrived.

Thurs 17 May

Police 'defend' fingerprinting Anne Scargill on the grounds that her charge (obstruction) carried possible imprisonment. Home Office, however, denies such a yardstick exists.

Chesterfield JPs bar Markham NUM branch secretary from picketing his own pit (a legal right).

N. Derbys. NCB boss Ken Moses offers strikers £150 holiday pay if they go back to work on Monday.

Police intimidation of Blidworth residents so bad that 40 Yorks. miners being put up by local strikers decide to leave.

N.E. Derbys. council votes £50,000 to striking miners' families.

Fri 18 May

NCB rejects strikers' claims of slashed production ('due to Easter'), but admits a 9% drop due to strike.

Dennis Skinner slams special police squads to protect scabbing miners as an insult to miners protecting their livelihood; Don Concannon welcomes them.

Police break down doors of Blidworth village hall and storm the canteen then leave without explanation.

Coalville DHSS office admits questioning Bagworth miner Bob Girvan about the days picket lines were in operation and why he did not cross them. Told it is a 'test case'.

Douglas Hurd issues written denial that armed services are involved in the dispute.

Sat 19 May

Paris: Scargill seeks ban on foreign coal coming to Britain.

Sun 20 May

Len Murray denounces Yorks. and Humberside Day of Action in support of the miners on the eve of its occurrence. He in turn is widely condemned.

Probation officers describe conditions imposed on 5 Yorks. miners by Mansfield bench as 'extremely harsh and almost unparalleled... we are moving towards house arrest.'

Mon 21 May

Kent NUM president Malcolm Pitt jailed for breach of his bail conditions (i.e. picketing).

Scots striker who nailed himself to the floor for 24 hours in protest at scabbing goes to hospital. Joe Ashton calls for electricity price cuts at Worksop rally.

Wed 23 May

McGregor-Scargill talks fiasco collapses.

McGregor claims he never put his name to 20 pit closures and the axing of 20,000 jobs.

Fri 25 May

NUM strike has cost £1.3bn after 11 weeks, estimates ITN.

Judge Megarry grants injunction to ratting officers Clarke and Liptrott restraining Notts.



NUM from telling members to strike.

Tues 29 May

Mounted police charge at 7000 pickets at Orgreave coking plant, S. Yorks. 82 arrests. 28 pickets injured, mainly from truncheon blows and punches. Supt. Tony Pratt, in charge, says police acted 'positively'.

Wed 30 May

Peter Heathfield says miners won't accept closures during the current financial year.

35 arrests and more mounted stampedes at Orgreave. Arthur Scargill, one arrestee, bailed unconditionally by Rotherham JPs, overriding prosecution application.

Thurs 31 May

Scargill talks with NCB (minus McGregor) for 2 hours.

Yorkshire NUM report 'State of Siege' concludes a national riot force is in operation.

Fri 1 June

19 arrests at Orgreave coking plant; charges by mounted police. Police trick miners into moving back so that the injured can be treated, then police ranks surge forward. The worst of the 9 police injuries is a dislocated shoulder; 2 pickets who 'fall' (BBC) need the kiss of life - one has a fractured skull.

2000 pickets heading for Calverton turned back. 2 arrests.

Neil Kinnock denounces violence on picket lines; police not included.

BBC programming director Brian Wenham notes increasing tendency for 'those in authority' to 'head off the camera and to manipulate the (news) process by exclusion'.

3 Derbyshire scabs seek court order preventing their expulsion by Area NUM.

Sun 3 June

Welbeck striker Bryan Spooner beaten up by scabs - cuts, bruises, neck injury needing support collar.

Probation officers criticise use of dubious charges and special midnight courts where primary aim of police is not eventual conviction but immediate securing of restrictive bail conditions.

Mon 4 June

Road blocks in north of county turn back 500 cars; 6 arrests. Scargill at Newstead.

Left-winger Steve Abbott defeated 695-90 in Calverton pit elections, as he expected. 67% poll. Right wing now controls Notts NUM executive.

NCB defers 1984/5 pit closures.

Sutton miners join SDP, contract out of Labour Party levy.

There have been 2950 court charges during the strike.

Tues 5 June

2000 picket Creswell. Police van overturned, windows smashed. 28 arrests.

Staffs. police send pickets' empty coaches back to Durham, leaving them stranded.

Wed 6 June

Daily Mirror reveals Downing St correspondence showing close Government intervention in dispute - something repeatedly denied by Mrs Thatcher over period concerned. Thatcher avoids attending Commons.

2000 police guard scab deliveries from Orgreave coking plant.

Thurs 7 June

Parliament debates strike; Thatcher absent for second day. 120 arrests at mass lobby outside including Labour MP Dave Nellist on way to debate.

Lessons of positive action

By Audrey, for Nottingham Women Miners' Support Group

Not many national papers care to talk about the action of women's support groups during this miners strike. They would rather present women as anti-union or uninterested or as page three pin-ups! Hence a daily paper in March announced: "PIT WIVES SMASH PICKET INVASION", describing a handful of women who argued with flying pickets from Yorkshire outside the Harworth Pit in Nottinghamshire.

But, working and organising in the Nottingham Women Miners' Support Group, we can present another, we think, more accurate picture. A picture of a great and

determined mass of women who are growing daily in number and who are in full support of the strike and its cause. These are the women who have formed the twenty or so Miners' Wives Support Groups throughout the county.

Women who are prepared to "sit-in" for days if necessary in order to win local facilities for a soup kitchen and centre from which to organise as women. Women who have gone around the country gathering support at meetings and rallies. Women who have organised and spoken for the first time to large audiences. Women who have written their own publicity and who are determined through the limited

sources open to them to let people know they do exist. Women who have responded to the miners' leaders' call for women to come out and join men on the picket lines, at once exploding the myth that women in mining communities are confined to preparing food.

This is the picture we are seeing and it is not the one the press and media care to put forward as a reality.

It is not hard to imagine what the results of all this activity are likely to be. It is unlikely that women in the strike areas where support groups have formed will ever be quite the same again. Women who have "sat-in" and obtained what they have wanted

have learned the lesson of positive action and demanding what they need. Sharing work in the soup kitchens could be proving the merits of collective activity. Organising and speaking at meetings is giving women the opportunity to build the confidence we all need to become effective and make our voices and opinions heard. It is also pushing us to inform ourselves more fully about the current dispute and the issues at stake so that we can argue with those who are not yet persuaded.

In our group we are witnessing women joining the struggle to preserve their families and communities in a real way, and it is a far cry from the stereotyped image most of the media and press would have us believe.

Come and join us and see for yourselves.

EATING GRASS PIE

SPEAKING OUT

By Matthew Collin

A view from the Mayday and NUM Freedom marches in Mansfield.

'HERE WE GO, here we go, here we go!'

Indeed we do ... and what better way to start than with the chant that encapsulates the whole spirit of the striking miners' marches in Mansfield. Let's not get diverted into irrelevant questions of numbers, here was enough bitter determination for a million. And an atmosphere charged with power, through Mansfield town centre on the Freedom March with Colonel Bogey blaring from the brass band, the bass drum going straight to your belly and resounding under a railway bridge ... I have never seen a demonstration with such concentration of purpose.

In the Leisure Centre car park, the rally's barren terminus, it's clear to see who's in control - 'King Arthur', 'The Arth', NUM President Arthur Scargill. The strike has whipped his support up to a high fever pitch. 'We'll support you evermore', they sing, and the man who has been called 'the young people's hero' and 'Son of God' (God Himself being, apparently, Brian Clough) starts to speak. There's no messing here. He puts his opponents in their dung-fouled places: he cuts through the flab. 'Arthur Scargill walks on water', they sing. To the striking miners, Arthur Scargill is a real hero, and, if he can keep hold of it, he will soon be a Historical hero. Even now, he cannot be discredited by the combined propaganda power of newspapers, television and government.

Scargill finishes his speech to massive applause, but no-one expected any argument here. These are his people. There are other speakers too, from the NUM's executive committee and, from the Labour Party, Dennis Skinner and Tony Benn. However, despite the presence of the latter, the parliamentary opposition to the Tories seems distant and irrelevant to what is going on in Mansfield on these two days of protest and on the picket lines. Here is where the real power in opposition lies, not with some neutered baldpatch Welshman in London who's been sitting on the fence so long he's got an armchair up there.

And that's why I don't mind saying that I like Arthur Scargill. He stands out amongst the compromisers, the wishy-washy, the arse-lickers and shit-swallowers to whom 'fudging the issue' is a way of life: these deserve no quarter and get none from Scargill. He's not in this for a peerage. To paraphrase his own words from the platform in Mansfield, when you've got a Conservative government against you, along with the Daily Express, the BBC and ITV, then you've got to be doing something right. Will he eventually cop out? Well, perhaps; that's how it usually is. But for now he's taking them on and even the most hard-boiled cynic has got to admire that.

After the Mayday march, the doors of the Stag and Pheasant in Leeming Street are closed to anyone wearing an NUM sticker. On the march, one particularly determined banner reads, 'We'll eat grass pie'. 'There's thousands of them!', gibbers the woman behind the bar,



Photo by Mark Salmon

obviously jolted into terminal neurosis by the thought of two thousand starving miners descending on the pub demanding grass butties.

Matthew Parris. The clean-cut young Tory MP who made a speech saying that life on the dole should be made harder as an incentive for the unemployed to find work and was challenged by the World in Action TV programme to actually live on the dole for a week. He thought it'd be easy but he ran out of money before the end of the week. It didn't change his mind. No wonder. A hardline 'new breed' dogmatist Tory yes-man like Parris wouldn't acknowledge the truth even if it was rammed into his brain on the end of a pickaxe. Which wouldn't be such a bad idea...but no-one's laughing when Parris slithers onto the screen to say that he's trying to stop striking miners' children in his Derbyshire constituency from getting free school meals. People like Parris and Rhodes Boyson personify the dark side of the DHSS.

The insidious sexism is alive in our midst too, and according to a particularly bizarre story in the Guardian, there was a naked woman bearing NUM posters on the roof of a taxi outside the Scargill public meeting in Nottingham ... not so unlikely perhaps when remembering the row over nude pin-ups in the NUM newspaper ... and on the Freedom March, any female human watching from window or pavement was exhorted to 'get 'em off!' 'But I suppose if there's any chance of them bringing down the Tory government...' said one woman. Exactly. And there's many sane people who'd go into partnership with the Devil to bring down this government.

The spectre of Police is omnipresent. No high-profile policing on either demonstration but they're here. In scores of buses parked in the town's backstreets. In the car park used by the marchers, presumably taking car numbers. In plainclothes, on the bonnets of cars taking photos of the marchers. In helicopters overhead. And everyone knows they're here and what they're up to. And no-one likes it at all. 'Seig heil, Seig heil!' is how the strikers greet

police nowadays.

But in the absence of a force of numbers to oppose them, the police power seems to be ever encroaching, even to the extent of bursting uninvited into Blidworth miners' homes in their absence, threatening people with arrest if they cross a road or leave a garden. Pure paranoia thirteen weeks ago is pure realism now and as Anthony Arblaster wrote in a recent Guardian article, 'Authoritarianism is growing month by month, week by week, even day by day ... most moderate commentators wouldn't recognise a police state if it loomed up before them with a label on its chest ... the police know that such operations - however doubtful their legality - will be tolerated, even positively encouraged, by this government.' Right. And when the strike is over we'll find the police more powerful than ever. And a lot of people will never believe in the Friendly Bobby myth again.

There is a creeping evil, a slowly spreading darkness here which calls to mind a phrase used by Tory energy minister Peter Walker to describe the miners' strike: 'There can be no future down that particularly dark road.' This succinctly sums up authoritarian Britain as it stretches out before us to 1987 and beyond ... there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

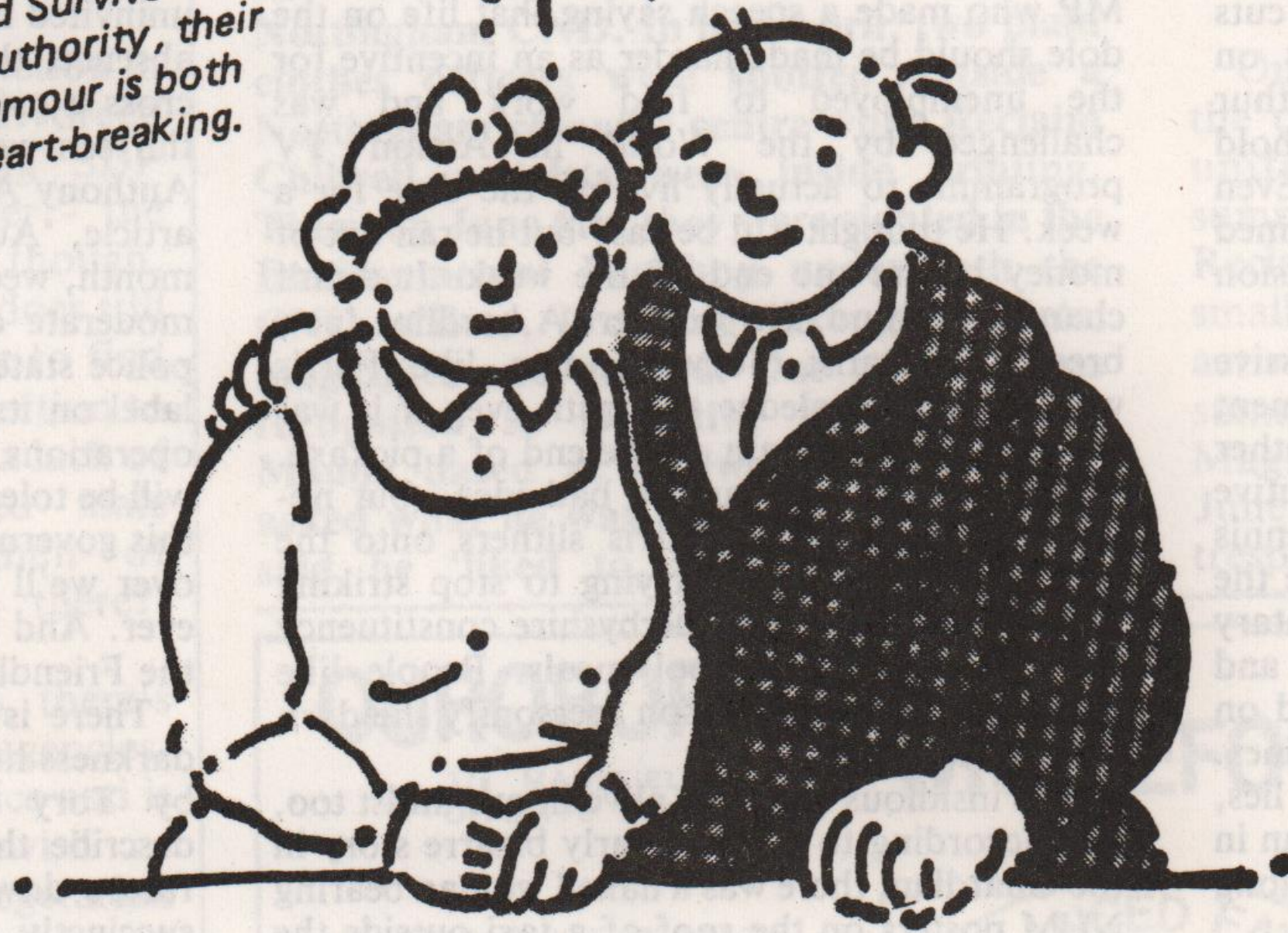
And if this is all coming out bitter and twisted, that's how it should be. Shit, where will it end? This is, as I see it, a desperate battle to determine who holds the deciding power, unions or government, and only the most stubborn and ruthless bastards can win. From here it looks like the government are going full tilt and screw the consequences, launching shit trains from all sides - media, police, courts, DHSS, 'moderates' ... with the army eternally waiting in the wings. Because this strike is based on the idea that there is more to work than profit, an idea which is alien and abhorrent to Thatcher-style conservatism, my cynicism sadly suggests that it can't end in an all-out victory for the miners as the Tories are so dug in now they will go to any lengths to avoid defeat and can't afford to lose. But what the hell ... at least the bastards are getting a run for their money.

When the Wind Blows

By Raymond Briggs

'A devastating black comedy'—*Guardian*

Too topical to miss this play compassionately describes the effect of nuclear holocaust on James and Hilda — an ordinary, elderly, suburban couple. Faced with disaster they pin their faith on the Government's "Protect and Survive" pamphlet. Their total trust in Authority, their love for each other and their humour is both funny and frightening — and heart-breaking.



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CAMPAIGNS



Here we go

By the Nottingham Women Miners' Support Group

"WOMEN are no longer staying at home - they are making new experiences and showing the strength of organised women. We are fighting for the four million unemployed as well. It is our duty and our right to take a part in the struggle."

The welcome words of a well-applauded woman who spoke at the huge, 10,000 strong, miners women's rally at Barnsley this May.

It was with thoughts similar to these that several women from Nottingham came together in April to form the Nottingham Women Miners' Support Group. Women who were not miners' wives but who desperately wanted to contact and build support for the women in Nottinghamshire whose husbands had come out and joined the national strike and who themselves were busy building women's support groups in their own pit villages.

Since that first initial meeting in a small front room in Forest Fields where some six or so women were present, the group has grown rapidly and now many Nottingham women are supporting our group activities. Chief amongst these so far has been fundraising for the striking miners' families throughout Nottinghamshire.

Some ten thousand miners are on strike in this area, and as the strike enters its fourth month the material effects are beginning to bite hard. Responding to this desperate need for finance and food provisions, our group has

been leafletting in the City Centre each Saturday at St Peter's Church, Listergate. So far donations have come to nearly £700.

Just last Saturday one young woman donated £50. We have been dividing the donations between the Miners' Wives Support Groups, which have increased rapidly in number since the strike began. Twenty groups now exist and public donations to us have been handed on to groups at Cotgrave, Retford, Gedling, Annesley, Clipstone, Calverton and Rainworth.

We have found all types of people offering support and concern. Some are now giving a weekly donation. Others have offered food parcels to prevent the miners being starved back to work.

Members of our group have also attended local demonstrations, rallies and meetings. They are also giving support on women's picket lines at the invitation of the various wives support groups.

We now have the use of an office which is crucial for our supporting and co-ordinating work. The office is "womaned" daily by members of our support group and is fast becoming a busy organising centre where people can drop in for information or contact us by telephone.

(The office is based at NUPE, 6 Sherwood Rise, tel 603522.)

Boycott products of apartheid

By Nottingham Anti-Apartheid

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, the Anti-Apartheid Movement has for many years been associated mainly with the campaign to

persuade people to avoid buying things like Outspan oranges, Cape Fruit and South African pilchards. It has been such a major part of AAM activity that the reasons behind the boycott campaign have become obscured.

1984, being the 25th anniversary of AAM, presents a useful opportunity to reassert the origins of this campaign. Twenty five years ago, Chief Albert Luthuli - leader of the African National Congress - made a major speech calling on the people of the world to boycott the products of apartheid. The Anti-Apartheid Movement was founded in response to this call.

Since then, many, many people in Britain have indeed been persuaded to boycott South African goods, and their combined effort has brought home to the racist regime the abhorrence of apartheid and conversely boosted the morale of the black South Africans. The consumer boycott has also presented an opportunity to raise other issues around Southern Africa - such as the continued imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, British breaches of the UN Arms Embargo, the attempts to destabilise the independent states of Southern Africa and the continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

Primarily because of the determination of the people of Southern Africa to rid themselves of apartheid, but also because of the campaigning work of organisations such as AAM, the apartheid regime has been forced to increase its repression both internally and externally, and to strive to establish itself as a member of the international community.

Such is the seriousness of the challenge that the Anti-Apartheid Movement is relaunching the Consumer Boycott this year on the 25th anniversary of the first appeal by the African National Congress for the total isolation of apartheid South Africa. The Consumer Boycott has assumed greater importance, since it is not just food that South Africa imports to Britain now (though it is still a major earner for their economy), but recently other products have started appearing on the British market. The Ford P100 pick-up truck has been taking an ever-increasing share of the commercial vehicle market - very many can be seen around Nottingham. Of importance to Nottingham are the textile and hosiery products finding their way to Britain. Reports indicated that South African manufacturers were only exporting high-quality up-market articles, though this appears to be contradicted by the vast numbers of cheap, mass-produced products to be found, say, in Tesco's and Fords.

It is vital that not only individuals take this up, but local and national organisations as well, both with their members and with other organisations they come into contact with. In this respect, the sympathetic attitude of Nottingham City Council is to be welcomed. They have already instructed all council catering points to avoid purchasing goods of South African or Namibian origin and are currently considering displaying posters on the Consumer Boycott in all those council buildings used by the public.

So remember, the next time you do your shopping - check that that item isn't from South Africa!

Soon come

'ROCK AND REGGAE'

Sat 28 and Sun 29 July; 12 - 10 pm; Goose Fair Site, The Forest. If you want a relaxing weekend, listening to the best bands in town with plenty to eat and drink, then get yourself down to the Forest for two days of wallowing around in the sun. It's become the musical event of the year, attracting crowds in their thousands, with five bands each day, poets, performers and dance groups to keep you entertained. For the youth there's an ever increasing 'Kid's Stuff' area and for those with a taste for back-beat, there'll be a marquee with Quantro sound. Sponsored by both City and County Councils and Radio Trent, this event is organised as a statement that the multiracial community around Hyson Green is alive and creative despite the clampdown, and it's hoped other community groups will make full use of the captive audience to fund-raise, by holding stalls (contact Jenny Fleming on 476714). Keep your eyes on bill-boards and ears to the radio for who's playing.



LETTERS

Should Citywise carry meat recipes?

The case against meat-eating

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

Some are vegetarians because they simply don't like meat, some for health reasons (many arthritis sufferers turn successfully to a vegetarian diet). Some don't eat meat because it's difficult to find.



Should Citywise continue to publish a food column which includes meat recipes? No, say some members of the Citywise collective and some of our readers - It causes offence to a significant proportion of our readership. To resolve the question, we have asked both sides to write articles setting out their point of view. Before reaching a decision, we will publish both views.

Laboratory Animals' (print the firm which prints Citywise) recognises two important points about animal politics. First, the problems will not go away by adopting extreme viewpoints. Second, that, to a policy of viable alternatives to be developed, animal rights must be central to the issue.

Warrior fad

Dear Citywise,

We appeal to *Citywise* to most definitely not print meat recipes. There's no place for them in an alternative paper.

We cannot understand anyone purporting to be for human rights whilst still eating meat. 370 million tons of grain are fed to farm animals every year, while 320 million children go hungry. The food they should have is given to imprisoned farm animals, or to swell the EEC intervention stores. It takes 10 lbs of grain fed to livestock to produce just 1lb of meat. Feeding plant food to animals to produce meat is throwing it away! In the West, much of this is imported - soya beans, cereals, oil seeds and other proteins, from hungry nations - while most of Britain's agricultural land is used for livestock.

Meat is a complex protein not easily digested by humans. Meat and dairy products are loaded with cholesterol, saturated fat and used up by lecithins. Their consumption is linked to many diseases including cancer, heart trouble and arthritis. It's no accident that the highest meat-eating nations have the highest incidence of cancer. Plant products contain all the protein, vitamins and nutrients you need - lifelong vegans and vegetarians are proof of this, and our societies review and sponsor research into all the medical and nutritional aspects of our diet.

Meat-eating is a fad created by Europe's warrior aristocracies. Humans are built like other vegetarian animals - our tongue, teeth, long intestines. Unlike omnivores or carnivores we are not easily able to consume raw meat; a vegetarian diet is our natural heritage.

Those animals humans do eat are chemical-ridden with antibiotics, hormones, steroids, preservatives and additives, produced in slaughterhouses and dairies in conditions akin to laboratories.

There is no need for the horrors of factory farming, torrents of 'agrichemicals' or deforestation. We don't want a countryside of impoverished communities adrift in featureless prairies of heavily fertilised, monotonous rye-grass cultivated for cattle. We desire meadows again abounding with wildlife, with crops grown in

sound rotation.

Let's free the human race from dependence on butchery. We cannot build a more compassionate world on the foundation of the slaughterhouse.

Yours for human and animal rights,

C and T Harral,
Wigley Close,
St. Ann's.

Tolerance

Dear Citywise,

After reading the articles for and against meat recipes being published in *Citywise*, both excellently compiled and very clearly stating their point of view, we found ourselves in the happy situation of agreeing with just about everything that was said in both.

We are sure (at least we hope) that no reader of *Citywise* would support needless slaughter or ruthless exploitation of the animals that share our planet with us, and the Animal Rights Movement's motto - 'One Struggle, One Fight: Human Freedom, Animal Rights' expresses beautifully the way any thinking/feeling person would see the issue.

However, we Humans have many ways of seeing the 'eat meat' issue, and each must draw his/her own conclusions as to whether or not to be a vegetarian, taking all the things mentioned in both your 'for' and 'against' articles into consideration.

Tolerance, we feel, is the key word on this issue, and while 'Love Thy Neighbour' seems like a near impossible thing to do nowadays with things like factory farming and vivisection going on (not to mention the countless things we read about every day in our 'straight' daily newspapers), then at least 'Tolerate Thy Neighbour' seems like the best (and the least) we can do.

We feel that *Citywise* should publish both meat and vegetarian recipes, leaving the reader to decide which to use. (Or perhaps a meat dish with an alternative variation omitting the meat alongside it?) As we see it, this is what an alternative paper is all about.

Publishing meat recipes is not going to make people with strong vegetarian principles go rushing

out to buy meat, any more than vegetarian recipes are going to make people who love a good steak stop eating them!

Sharon Burton, Paul Sims, Andy McGruer, Irene Hitch, Carol Whitham, Steve Mixup
Good Vibrations,
119 Mansfield Rd.,
Nottingham.

Animal testing

Dear Citywise,

In the last issue, the article which advocated meat-eating included some references to vivisection. Whilst many of us in the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection are vegetarians, we'll reserve our comments to 'Inky' suggesting that 'life-saving medicines should be tested on animals' and that 'some animal experiments are going to continue'. On the last point it is certainly true that this government has little interest in stopping the use of animals to test cosmetics and cigarettes, or to perfect even more methods of killing humans. Assuming that 'Inky' doesn't want these things either, let's move on to medical usage.

Unfortunately for humans, animal testing doesn't work. Opren - the arthritic drug now stopped by the Committee on Safety of Medicines - killed more than 70 British patients and gave very bad side effects to another 3000. It was tested first on animals. We all remember thalidomide, again tested and approved for humans at the cost of animals' lives. The list is a long one. Even the Medical Research Council, no friend of the anti-vivisectionist, has said, 'Results using one species of animal are not always found in other species, or indeed in man. 'Inky' talks about 'moral courage' in accepting testing. In 1982, some 4,221,801 experiments were carried out on animals. 3,397,745 were carried out without anaesthesia. Acceptance of this and failure to protest seems to us more like moral cowardice, as the use of a pseudonym reveals the lack of courage of his convictions.

Pat Giddings,
98, Loughborough Rd.,
West Bridgford.
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (Nottm group).

No scorched corpses

Dear Citywise,

Whilst the case against the inclusion of meat recipes was put most forcibly and completely in last month's issue, I feel impelled to write to you in further criticism of those who advocate not only the acceptability of meat within the

human diet but also the backing of such by a supposed alternative newspaper.

The most striking notion expressed in support of the meat recipes is, for me, that of the 'sensible food policy' which implicitly suggests that some great trend towards the physical and moral advancement of humankind is being set back by misguided vegetarians. Apparently the way ahead lies in the construction of a sensible and ecologically sound policy based in smaller, non-intensively run units using traditional mixed farming techniques. Within this viewpoint it is undoubtedly the 'sensible' which makes me recoil the most. Sensible seems synonymous with 'more easily attainable' and begs the question, 'sensible' for whom? Such an alternative food policy would merely dilute the widespread present problems. Sentient creatures could not be treated with the respect so long denied to them - they would simply be treated less badly than before and then still slaughtered. Land could not be used to its maximum efficiency, rather it would be used less inefficiently. Humanity who happened to be in the right place at the right time would continue to exploit the rest - for who can seriously expect that this 'sensible' wasteful system could provide for such a diet to extend to all people.

There are still many myths to be dispelled in the demonstration of the value of vegetarianism to humanity and indeed to the ecosystem as a whole. Suggestion to the effect that vegetable crops are necessarily chemically contaminated whilst meat is otherwise needs to be shown up as the nonsense it is, as do claims that vegetarian and veganic agriculture are not ecologically sound.

Citywise is in a position to make a bold move towards a truly alternative, compassionate and entirely viable food policy. It is to be hoped that this opportunity is taken and recipes including the scorched corpses of animals are kept from its pages.

Boris Dempsey

Lunatics

Dear Citywise,

IS IT IMMORAL for pussy cats to eat mice? Or for lions to eat antelopes? So why is it immoral for human animals to eat meat?

I know that some lunatics do try to force their cats and dogs to eat vegetarian diets. I call that cruelty to animals and a denial of those animals' rights as carnivores.

People who oppose meat eating in the name of animal rights in fact show a complete lack of respect for the way things are done in the animal world.

Nigel Lee
51 Braidwood Court
Hyson Green

BOOKS

HOLIDAY READING

By D. Ashcroft

A small selection for those who want to explore - and those who prefer to stay in with a good book.

(1) For the inveterate traveller

* **Hitch-Hiker's Guide to Europe** by Ken Walsh (Fontana £2.95). Invaluable for anyone travelling cheaply. new revised edition.

* **Alternative London** (Otherwise Press £3.50). How to get the most for the least.

* **Discovering London for Children** by Margaret Pearson (Shire £1.25). If you are entertaining children in London you need this book. Where to go and short histories of places.

* **Walker's Britain** (Pan/Ordnance Survey £4.95). If you want to explore the countryside instead, this book has over 240 walks and advice on what to wear, etc.

* **Granta 10 - Travel Writing** (Penguin £3.50). For the armchair enthusiast. Travel easily to Italy, Borneo and a dozen or more places. Highly recommended.

* **Oxford Literary Guide to the British Isles** ed. Dorothy Eagle & Hilary Carnell (OUP £2.95). Needs a cosy chair or to be taken on

holiday. Baffle your friends with amazing literary facts.

* **Gaia's Guide Vol I** (£2.00). Guide book for gay women. Europe, Australia, New Zealand and other faraway places.

* **A Guide to Trekking in Nepal** by Stephen Bezručka (Cordee £5.95). Sensitive, well-written, for the few who can afford such places. Detailed trekking routes. Planning and equipment advice. Also discusses interaction with Nepali people and understanding their culture. Even a chapter on pronunciation and grammar.

* **Rough Guide to Portugal** by Mark Ellingham & John Fisher (RKP £3.95). Very practical. Much information on places off the beaten track. By the same author: **Rough Guide to Spain** (RKP) & **Rough Guide to Greece** (RKP both £3.95).

(2) General reading

* **Letters to Alice on First Reading Jane Austen** by Fay Weldon (Michael Joseph £8.95). Letters from an aunt to her green-spiky-haired niece who cannot see the relevance of Jane Austen to her own life.

* **Vida** by Marge Piercy (Penguin £2.50). America's radical underground from heady turmoil of the sixties to disintegration of the seventies. By one of America's

best-known authors.

* **Stand We at Last** by Zoe Fairbairns (Pan £2.50). Saga of five generations of women through the history of their emancipation.

* **The Joke** by Milan Kundera (King Penguin £2.95). Satirical love story by the popular Czechoslovakian novelist. New authorized translation.

* **Blow Your House Down** by Pat Barker (Virago £2.95). Powerful new novel. Theme is violence against women and how they cope with it.

* **Tao of Pooh** by Benjamin Hoff (Magnet £1.50). New paperback edition. How Pooh's Way relates to the ancient Chinese principles of Taoism. Great for Winnie the Pooh addicts.

* **The Never Ending Story** by Michael Ende (Penguin £4.95). Fantasy with a noble quest. When Bastian Balthazar Bux steals a mysterious book and hides it away to read it, he finds himself stepping through its pages into a world of Fantastica....

* **In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens** by Alice Walker (Women's Press £4.95). Essays, reviews and articles written over fifteen years about art, being black, being female and the need to acknowledge our earliest loyalties.

* **Running in the Family** by

Michael Ondaatje (Picador £2.95). A kind of travel book, witty, full of light and feeling. Spills over into poetry, fiction, slapstick and high class adventure. Partly about the heat, mountains and jungle of Ceylon, partly autobiography.

(3) Holiday fun and games for those long boring rainy days

* **Notes from the Underground** by Tiresias (Paladin £2.50). Man is born free and is everywhere in trains. Meditation on a horribly familiar form of life. Example: "Will the grammarian please go to the London end of paragraph 118".

* **Train to Hell** by Alexei Sayle (Methuen £2.50). Hilarious travel book by the stand-up comedian, writer, actor and small piece of cheese.

* **Bag of Roosters** by Michael Leunig (Angus & Robertson £3.95). Absolutely nothing to do with trains. Cartoon book showing a wonderful distorted view of life. Will keep you flicking from page to page.

* **Women Draw 1984** (Women's Press £2.95). 66 women cartoonists.

* **Games Manual of Non-Competitive Games** by Jim Deacove (Family Pastimes £1.65). 70 co-operative activities to tire you out.

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BAD NIGHT OUT

Nigel on the Damascus road

By Juris Jostins

NIGEL SWUNG HIS xr3 through a lazy arc off Castle Boulevard and over the canal. In front of Kermit coloured Sainsbury's stood avocado green Baltimore Diner, neon signs announcing the availability of cocktails.

After parking his xr3 near the door, blocking the exit of a Golf convertible (haw, haw), he glanced over to the outside tables and saw a group of his friends. He wiggled his fingertips in greeting and went in to the bar, pausing at the glass door to admire his cream suit in the reflection.

The bar was bustling pleasantly; across the room he glimpsed Cynthia and Jeanette. They were seated at a corner table smoking, two plates in front of them, on each a small lettuce leaf and a few french fries. Nigel smiled at the world and moved up to the bar. He found himself behind a seated couple, each periodically raising their glass and sucking at a straw. Next to them was the back of a young man, from in front of whom rose a wisp of smoke. His nose was on fire. Nigel noticed the



dandruff on his dark jacket. The staff behind the bar, attired in black and white, were rushed off their feet.

Glancing casually around the room Nigel noticed a few empty tables and a number of indoor plants. The sun streamed in through the west facing windows, catching the smoke in its rays. The man with the dandruff had received his change from the barwoman, who now turned away to pass comment to a barman facing the vast array of bottles. As two glasses, one orange, the other semen coloured, preceded the bedandruffed man past him, Nigel squeezed into the gap fractionally ahead of a rather disgruntled looking woman, whose ears

carried large turquoise earrings.

Whilst the staff were frantically scurrying about in every direction except towards him, Nigel investigated further the stockpile of illuminated bottles. Very colourful. He withdrew a five pound note from his pocket and started waving it about absentmindedly in front of his face. Turning back he saw his laughing friends outside and became aware it was becoming increasingly stuffy.

To his left and his right several other people were waving notes. He watched the staff at work. They seemed octopus-like in their activity - reaching out in all directions, splashing coloured liquids into shiny vessels. A quick

shake, pour out into a glass, bung in a skewered slice of orange, a tiny parasol, quick stir and there you go.

Nigel's note-waving rate increased and he took to mouthing a syllable every few minutes. He remembered his childhood and a royal visit to his town. His school had lined the streets, outstretched arms waving little flags, looking around, knowing this was something special, but not really knowing why. 'What's going on?' thought Nigel, 'a world recession and here I am, forty five minutes, can't even give away a couple of quid.'

Finally a barman took his order and mechanically mixed and served his drink. Turning to go outside Nigel saw the room had emptied, the hour had ended and cocktails were about to double in price. Reflecting later in the evening on this Happy Hour, Nigel became a committed communist dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system and the wage slavery it entails.

Bad night out rating: ***** (five)

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