

IF YOU DON'T HIT IT ^{free}....IT WON'T FALL

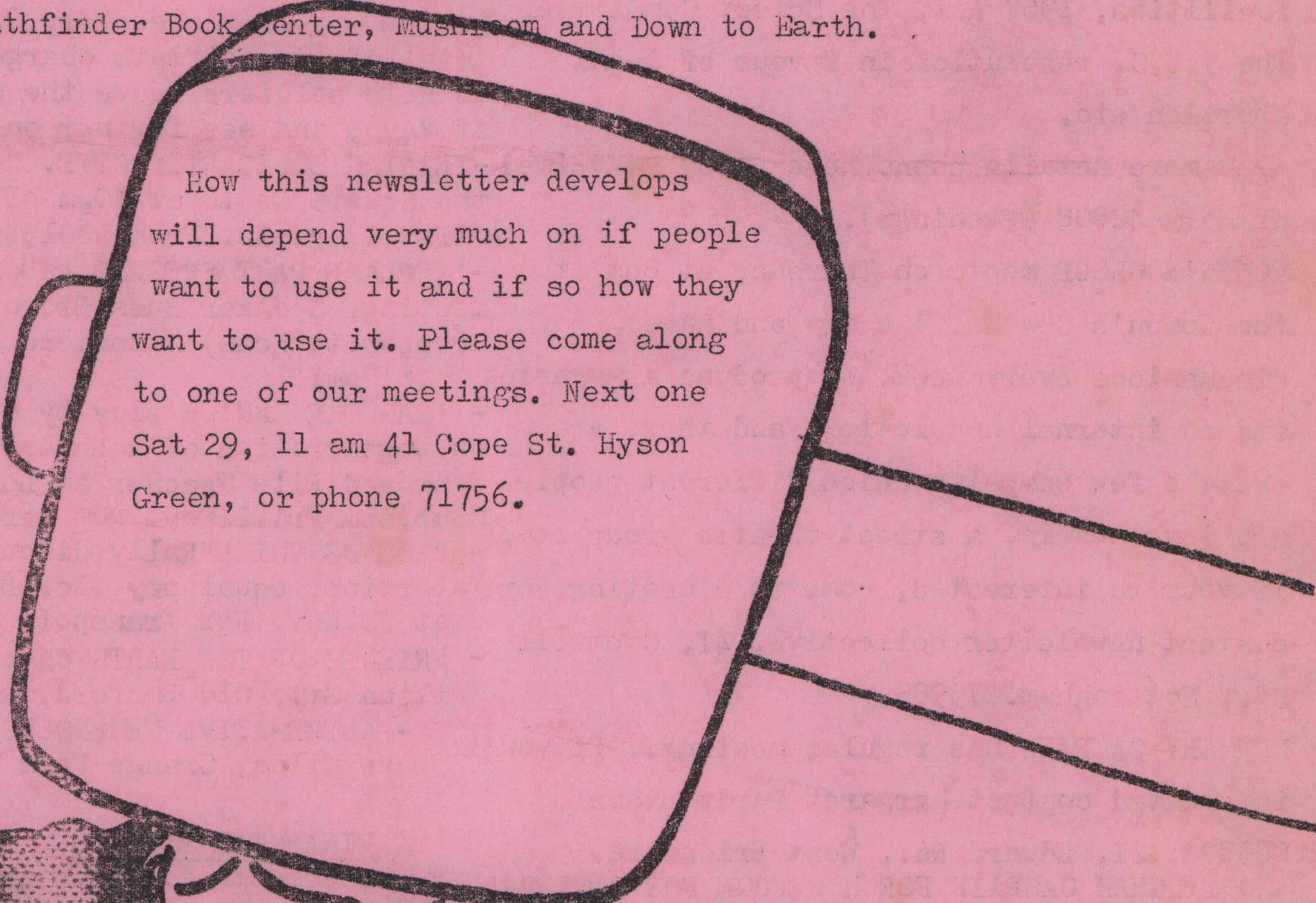
newsletter and information sheet
no.2. from Nov 18 - Dec 2. Phone 71756.

WHAT'S THIS FOR ?

This newsletter is intended to provide an opportunity for various groups and individuals to announce campaigns, meetings, demonstrations, films bizzares, parties etc and explain what they are trying to do. At the moment there doesn't seem to be an easy way to learn about the ideas and activities of the various local groups struggling for change. If this newsletter raises discussion about the lack of communication between activists in Nottingham then it will have been worthwhile.

Please mention this newsletter in your group and consider if it can be useful to advertise and explain what you're doing. Then write out what you want to be included and phone up 71756.

We've produced several hundred and distributed them through friends, meetings, the colleges, Pathfinder Book Center, Mushroom and Down to Earth.



How this newsletter develops will depend very much on if people want to use it and if so how they want to use it. Please come along to one of our meetings. Next one Sat 29, 11 am 41 Cope St. Hyson Green, or phone 71756.

W O M E N S G R O U P S

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN meets on Tuesdays at 8pm at the Womens Center(26, Newcastle Chambers, Angel Row - off the square). A week of action starts on Sunday 16th November with a debate at 61, Mansfield Road, 2.30pm. "A Womans Right to Choose Abortion".

- On Tuesday Nov 18th the International Womens Year Committee in Nottingham are holding a church service (!!) in the Catholic Cathedral in Derby Rd. 7pm. Show your support in favour of safe, legal abortion at a picket outside the cathedral.

- Friday 21st Nov - public meeting at the International Community Center 7.30-9.30. with two women doctors as main speakers, a woman trade unionist, and a health worker. Come and make your views known on local facilities, 1967 Act, The Select Committee, the T.U.C. resolution in favour of legal abortion etc.

For more details phone Rose 45689 (daytime) or Mary 42808 (evenings).

WOMEN'S GROUP meets on Thursday at 8pm at the Women's Centre. 'We try and have discussions every week. We produce a magazine and an internal newsletter, and there are quite a few campaigns which different people are involved in, a street theatre group etc. If you're interested, come to a meeting, or contact newsletter collective, 41, Cromwell St., Nottingham. 75985

NURSERY CAMPAIGN has regular meetings. If you're interested contact Margaret Purdy phone

865894. 21, Edward Rd., West Bridgford.

NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGN FOR A REFUGE FOR BATTERED

WOMEN holds meetings at the People's Centre every Monday evening. Phone Chris 35 5440

See further on for a report about the campaign.

G A Y G R O U P S

- GAY ALLIANCE have meetings at the People's Center every other Wednesday. The next one is

GAY GROUPS CONT.

on 19 Nov 8pm

- GAY LIBERATION FRONT have meetings the other Wednesdays at 8pm at 115, Waterloo Cres., next one is 26th Nov.

- GAY LIBERATION FRONT XMAS Bizarre and Jumble. Dec 13th 3pm-6pm. Small Hall, International Community Center, Mansfield Road.

Jumble sale, white elephant, fortune teller-@ any contributions gratefully received at 115 Waterloo Cres, It'll be nice to see you

there. @ also Mother Xmas and homemade-stall

- NALGAY, the Nalgo Gay Group, can be contacted care of Howard Hyman, Flat 2, 108 Foxhall Rd, Forest Fields, Nottingham. See their report further on.

- LESBIAN LIBERATION GROUP meets every Monday evening-for details phone 75985.

-GAY DEFENCE AND INFORMATION GROUP at Peoples Center. Thursdays 5.30-9pm phone 411227.

DEFEND THE 14 meets every week to oppose the trial of 14 pacifists charged with Conspiracy to help soldiers leave the army. phone Jules at 74963 and see further on for report.

-IBERIAN SOLIDARITY CTTE. holds a picket in the Square Dec 16 at 10am of particular travel agents. Phone 601588.

- 'IRELAND PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE'. I.S. open meeting. Speaker; Russ Brown. Peacock Hotel (opposite Scan) Mansfield Rd. Thur 20th Nov at 8pm.

- 'SAM THE MAN' a play by Cast Theatre Group on Degeneration of a Labour M.P. Organised by Rank and File Teacher at Long Eaton Labour Club. 8pm Fri. 21 Nov. 40p bar and refreshments.

- "WOMENS VOICE" Rally discusses fight over abortion, equal pay etc. Belle Vue Manchester Sat 29 Nov. For transport phone 71803.

- FRIENDS OF THE EARTH contact W. Lane, 3, Wilton St., Old Basford, Nottingham.

- ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY GROUP contact Dave Wilde, Grange Farm Cottage, Oxtun.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

For one month, i.e. two issues our costs were;

1700 sheets of duplicating paper- £4.00
5 paper stencils - .85

GRAND TOTAL- £4.85

So far we've had two donations of 30p each. STOP PRESS-We've just had another quid.. This issue is bigger than the last one, but we've also found ways of getting cheaper paper so we're not too broke yet and we can still afford to hand it out free. We would however be very grateful for any contributions.

INTRODUCTION

There follows three articles in which Nalgay, Defend the 14 and the Battered Women's Campaign have taken the opportunity to explain some of the ideas and problems of what they have been doing.

I NALGO GAY GROUP

The NALGO Gay Group was set up last year and there are now 5 principles on which the Group is based:

- 1) To seek out cases of discrimination in the work situation and to fight them. To try and get employers to a comprehension of the oppression that faces those who are not heterosexual. To attempt to break through the Union on the issue of gay rights and to work towards a resolution for NALGO Conference 1976 - the motion to be worded so as to include other sexual minorities such as TV/TS.
- 2) To educate fellow members to a more realistic understanding of sexuality.
- 3) To be a support group for homosexual, bisexual, transvestite and transsexual people in NALGO and to act as a referral agency to various gay, TV/TS, counselling, befriending, activist and social bodies.
- 4) To work with the gay workers movement as a whole, other trade union gay groups, gay professional organisations, and various TV/TS groups towards our mutual liberation. To work with other groups campaigning through the T.U.C. for a sexual orientation clause to be inserted in their model clause for agreements.
- 5) To try and achieve mutual support with the women's movement in our battle against sexism.

A Steering Committee has been elected at our recent national conference and one of our main tasks is to formulate a constitution for presenting to the next conference which will be arranged as soon as possible, probably a few months. The founder of the group is one of the members of the Steering Committee and has been elected by Conference as the groups representative on the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's Employment Working Party.

All communications concerning NALGAY should at present be sent to:-

Howard Hyman, Flat 2, 108 Foxhall Rd.,
Forest Fields, Nottingham NG76LH

II DEFEND THE 14 GROUP

Schoolyard today, Belfast tomorrow....

As I write this the sound of an army cadet 'officer' drilling some army cadet 'privates' in a nearby schoolyard fills the air. It happens every Sunday morning. All of the boys are in their early teens yet one day some of them will Join the Professionals (!) to 'See the World', learn a trade and perhaps enforce British Government policy in Northern Ireland. Tomorrow at the Old Bailey, London, the trial of 14 pacifists, accused of conspiring to incite British soldiers to leave the army, continues.

A group hoping to defend these 14 has existed in Nottingham since early in 1975. One of the 14, and two people later accused of connected offences live in Nottingham. This article is the first of two trying to look at some of the problems the defense group has tried to face up to during its existence.

The charges brought by the Dept. of Public Prosecutions (D.P.P.) hang on a leaflet called "Some Information for Discontented Soldiers" which had been produced by the British Withdrawal from N. Ireland Campaign (BWNIC) and had been given to soldiers. The leaflet contained straight forward information for soldiers who had already decided to get away from the army; it was carefully worded not to incite, just to inform. However, the police swooped on several addresses late last year, sniffing for leaflets and mumbling about incitement and conspiracy.

A Coherent Conspiracy?

Later, when the 14 appeared in court together for committal to the Old Bailey it was the very first time some of them had met. This reflects a problem that exists in many trials - including the 'Stoke Newington 8', the Shrewsbury building workers, Trafalgar Square Post Office trial, bombing trials, and trials connected with rent strikes, demonstrations and so on. That is, the police push several people together and into the limelight and completely distort the political meaning of the whole thing.

Defense groups have to be careful not to do the same thing and use a defendant's plight as an excuse for a political campaign. At the same time trials are set up by the D.P.P. to undermine resistance. For reasons like these the local defense group began slowly and cautiously. The 'coherent conspiracy' which the D.P.P. believed to exist included people who weren't even in possession of a leaflet and people who didn't agree with the campaign.

The Personal is Political

There's been a lot of upset and distress; the local group has tried to offer personal support to the defendant involved in the defense group, we hope we have. Our meetings have often been fairly pleasant with each one of us taking it in turns to cook a meal for the others. In times like these when the State is doing its best to disrupt and confuse people it seems important to recognise that much of our strength lies with each other.

The next article will go into the background to the trial (British Govt. policy in N. Ireland, the attempt to check the increase in soldiers deserting, the general attack on activists) the Conspiracy Laws, what the defense group has been doing (leafleting, Benefits, picketing the Courts) and more.

PRESENT ACTIVITY includes a picket of Nottm Guildhall on Tuesday 18th Nov, a bulletin explaining what's happening at the Old Bailey and an attempt to get the trial discussed on local radio. For further information, including Posters and weekly meetings, phone Jules 74963

III BATTERED WOMEN CAMPAIGN

We began in February 1974. A few of us in the Women's Group contacted 17 other groups who were already close to this problem and asked them to join us. They all signed a letter to the City Council asking for a refuge for battered women.

21 months, a rally, a petition, and a public meeting later we are just about to get through to the Council. They agreed in June and although suitable house has been found since September it will not be put before the Council until December. We hope to be able to open in the new year.

You might be wondering why we have not squatted. Possibly, if we had known just how long it would take we might have done at the outset, although I doubt it. Whereas some of us might feel that squatting serves a useful purpose we all feel that the women deserve more than third rate accommodation and need to have a secure refuge. Their problems are too great for them to cope with with squatting difficulties, too.

The refuge will be communal and run on a self-help basis as far as possible. The women themselves will make the decisions for the general running of the house. However, we hope to have a full-time paid worker employed in an administrative capacity. Her job will be to liaise between the individual women and solicitors, doctors, headmasters, police, housing committees etc so that the women will have continuity of assistance as they weave themselves through the bureaucratic jungle which now confronts them. The worker will also collect information in order to help research and also represent the house in discussions with social services, social security etc.

We have been helped to decide in broad terms how the house will operate by comparing the experience of other groups affiliated to the National Women's Aid Federation. This organisation consists of 50 affiliated groups at present which have 57 houses in 33 areas. The objects of the Federation are to effect changes in the law where necessary, imitiate research, educate the public on the problems and causes of wife beating, and most importantly to help battered women directly by setting up refuges etc. The N.W.A.F. is closely linked to the womens movement and seeks to show that wife beating is linked to womens position in society.

As soon as we know that we will have a house then a tremendous amount of work will be needed. We will need many volunteers, especially those with any practical skills. The house will need to be furnished, decorated and may also need some minor alterations. If you are interested then keep reading this newsletter and we will advertise again nearer the time. If you would like to join the group now then contact me at Hucknall 5440

Chris

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For reasons including space and producing a decent summary 'the news' has been held over to the next issue.

p & p 'If you don't...collective'
16 Nov - 30 Nov.