

IF YOU DON'T HIT IT IT WON'T FALL

NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION SHEET

3-17 DECEMBER 1975

Phone: 71756

WHAT'S THIS FOR?

This newsletter is intended to provide an opportunity for various groups and individuals to announce campaigns, meetings, demonstrations, and other goings-on and to explain what they are trying to do. In short to open up another channel of communication.

If you find this newsletter useful please mention it in your group. If you want to advertise and/or explain what you're doing, write down what you want to say and ring 71756.

How this newsletter develops will depend on how much, and in what way people use it. Join us. Come along to meetings - next one ...

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER at 11 a.m. 41 COPE STREET, HYSON GREEN.



T H I S I S T H E N E W S or rather some of it.

This section is a summary of some of the news taken from the Evening Post. This is obviously a very poor source but at the moment the best available. The date the item appeared - all in November - is marked like this: (19) i.e. 19th November.

PITS

NCB to sell off 13,000 surplus houses in Nottinghamshire to the local councils (7) ...while coal production targets are met NUM consider a £6 per week pay claim (13). Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners leader criticises dishonest union leaders who oppose wage restraint from the Tories but accept it from Labour. (21)

HOSIERY AND KNITWEAR

With a background of redundancies, strikes are taking place and the union (National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers) plans action. 130 employees at Newark firm of Cooper and Co Ltd receive redundancy notices (7). About 100 half-house knitters at Sutton-in-Ashfield factory of Simpson, Wright and Lowe Ltd have stopped work over a wage claim (4). 12 women workers at Meridian's Ilkeston Junction factory stop work over piece work dispute. (21)

The union call a series of one day a week strikes from Monday 1st Dec. against employers offer of 10% rise and for £6 across the board. The call to 40,000 East Midlands workers is to ban overtime, refuse to co-operate on work study. First such action for 40 years. Employers raise a Rent-A-Picket scare. (21)

OTHER INDUSTRIAL

The situation remains poor at Plessey with shop stewards meeting delegates at Liverpool. (8) Strike at Castle Brewery (Newark) settled after victimised workers re-instated. Croda Glues (Newark) threaten 50 redundancies. Dispute at Prudential Insurance of £6 pay rise (6). Some menswear shops workers are planning pre-Christmas strikes if the employers refuse to give up idea of opening on December 27th. (26)

ABORTION CAMPAIGN

A picket of the Catholic Cathedral challenging the hypocrisy of holding an International Womens Year Service in a church which oppresses women (against contraception and abortion) attracts 70 people. It also attracts the police whose neutral mask slips when a street theatre portraying womens roles is prevented from carrying a cross. (19) Methodists follow the Catholics and condemn abortion on demand. (24)

BITS AND PIECES

POLICE spending ought to rise by £220,000 to £6,353,000 says Chief Constable. (24) Ex-paratrooper Harry Read becomes commander of North Division of Salvation Army. (5) Nottm Fed for Self-employed accuse Tories of jumping on their bandwagon (5) and have a large turnout for a rally in the Square (15).

HOUSING

Salisbury St clearance should be over in 18 months, clearing 600 properties. Some for an industrial estate. Some for housing. (18) 1,000 long petition opposes the demolition of County Hotel. (19) At a stormy meeting, Gedling Rd Area Action Group protest about danger to children of traffic. The scheme for a multi million pound Kodak devt at Annesley is furthered as Environment Dept. of Govt. see 'no reason to intervene'. It would upset 200 acres green belt and provide 6,000 jobs.

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"We want to revolutionise our own lives, not as an answer in itself, but to help us develop a sense of what we are fighting for and to have some kind of foretaste of the possibilities life could have after capitalism. The struggle is long and hard, and we need to be reminded that this life, which the capitalists make us hate, can be beautiful." Big Flame Journal 1

MUSHROOM — 15 Heathcote Street, Nottingham

(off Goosegate - where the 77 bus stops - at the back of the film theatre.)

MUSHROOM, Nottingham's non-sectarian alternative bookshop, opened in 1972 near Trent Bridge and moved to its present premises near the end of 1974. This is an attempt to explain our views and to relate them to what we're doing.

We want to live in a free and equal society, and believe that this can be achieved not by violent revolution but by taking control of our own lives to create alternatives to the present system, which will eventually make obsolete today's authoritarian and unjust institutions. When we are living our own lives and caring for each other we will not need outside authorities to tell us what to do: when we no longer give credibility to the rulers, they will have no-one to rule.

MUSHROOM wants to become one of these new alternatives, and there are several ways in which we are trying to do so.

1. By the books we stock. Of course most of the books we have are not alternative to the degree that they are produced by straight publishers, but at least if you buy them from us you are not supporting commercial interests at the retail stage. Also, most of the books do not relate directly to a libertarian analysis of society, (or we wouldn't have enough customers to keep going!) but we do avoid the "Confessions of a Window Cleaner" syndrome. Basically, we try to sell books that are 'useful' personally (self development, mysticism etc) and socially (analysing society as it is, how it could be, how to change it), and those which we considered a 'good read' and think you would enjoy. We particularly like to sell literature that will help other people to create their own alternatives. All this applies to magazines, papers, pamphlets etc as well. The fields we cover include fiction, the arts, anarchism, alternative culture, radical education, psychology, the women's movement, ecology, food and health, mysticism and the occult.
2. By our structure. Two of us run MUSHROOM and we both have an equal say in it. As yet, we have not been able to take enough money out of the shop to live on and have to survive on the proceeds from part time work, but it is our aim that once we can make a living out of it (and what we would need as a living wage is only about £10 a week each) we will donate any surplus to alternative and community projects. We don't ever want to open 'branches' - even if it were financially feasible - but would like to encourage other people to set up alternative bookshops elsewhere. We can give advice and information on this.
3. By our other services. MUSHROOM has a 'free cupboard' - put in it what you don't need, take from it what you do. (It's not a swop system - you don't have to give anything before you take something.) We also have a free noticeboard to help people contact each other. As well as books, we also sell what can be loosely described as craftwork. There's some mass-produced stuff - joss, badges, posters, cards - which we sell at a lower mark-up than other shops, and which we're slowly trying to replace with things that are handmade locally. If we receive local craftwork on a sale or return basis we charge no commission at all on it. We want to encourage people to make things themselves, and there are not many places that sell craftwork without adding on an extortionate mark-up.

We would like more people to use MUSHROOM. Obviously it helps if we sell more books - remember we can order practically anything in print that isn't in stock - but there are other ways in which you can use the shop too. Bring in pamphlets and magazines you want to sell, advertise on the noticeboard, take from/give to the free cupboard, sell your craftwork through us. MUSHROOM can only work if you support it

N.B. MUSHROOM is a member of the Federation of Alternative Bookshops, a group of independent, radical bookshops run on non-commercial lines.

INSTANT INFORMATION

- 5 Dec. Sheila Macgregor, editor of Women's Voice talking about "Womens Struggle Today". Nott'm University Portland Building 7.30 p.m.
- 5 Dec. The Daughter-in-Law. A play by D.H. Lawrence about a pit strike presented by Emma Theatre Co. at the Adult Education Centre, 14-22 Shakespeare St., at 7.30, 6Op.
- 4 Dec. Discussion on Music and Sexism at the Women's Centre, 26 Newcastle Chambers Angel Row.
- 6 Dec. Solidarity with the Spanish and Portuguese Workers, Nottingham Iberian Solidarity Committee, are picketing travel offices to demand "break all links with Spain" 10a.m. outside the council house. Also street theatre in the Market Square at 12. For further details phone 601588.
- 6 Dec. (Sat.) DEFEND the Clay Cross 11 organised by the Clay Cross Labour Party at 1.0'clock at Holingate Community Centre. There will be a coach to Clay Cross. Want to go or know more? phone 601409.
- 1-5 Dec. Third World Week of ACTION at the University Union. Talks, discussions, films, etc. on Apartheid, trade and aid, U.N., Cuban Medecine, Latin America, India and Pakistan, Imperialism, etc. Contact Uni. Union 55912.
- 10 Dec. Film on Spain, "Dreams and Nightmares", at 7.30 at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd.
- 13 Dec. GAY LIBERATION FRONT XMAS Bizarre and Jumble. 3-6p.m. Small Hall, International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. Jumble, white elephant, fortune teller- any contributions gratefully received at 115, Waterloo Cres. Also Mother Xmas to appear and homemade stall. It'll be nice to see you all.

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DEFEND THE 14+ meets every week to oppose the trial of 14 pacifists charged with Conspiracy to help soldiers leave the army. Tues. 2 Dec. leafletting outside the Guildhall. Interested? Contact Jules- phone 74963.

ALTERNATIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES If anyone is interested in setting up workshops/projects in these areas contact Kevin Marchant, 9, Gregory Ave., Lenton and via Pathfinder Bookshop, phone 45689.

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY, contact Jan or Dave, Grange Farm, Cottage, Oxtou. info.

### WOMEN'S GROUPS

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN meets on Tuesdays at 8p.m. at the Women's Centre, 26, Newcastle Chambers, Angel Row - off the Square. For more details phone Rose 45689 (daytime) or Mary 42808 (evenings).

WOMEN'S GROUP meets on Thursdays at 8p.m. at the Women's Centre (address above).

If you're interested come to a meeting, or contact the newsletter collective, 41, Cromwell St., phone 75<sup>98</sup>55.

NUSERY CAMPAIGN has regular meetings. If you're interested contact Margaret Purdy, 21, Edward Rd, West Bridgford. phone 865894.

NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGN FOR A REFUGE FOR BATTERED WOMEN holds meetings at the People's Centre every Monday evening. Phone Chris 35 5440.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, W. Lane, 3, Wilton St., Old Basford, Nott'm.

### GAY GROUPS

GAY ALLIANCE have meetings at the People's Centre every other Wednesday. Next one- 3 Dec at 8p.m., the next the 17 Dec.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT have meetings on the other Wednesdays at 8p.m. at 115, Waterloo Cres.. Next one- 10 Dec. Check out this address by phoning 75985.

LESBIAN LIBERATION GROUP meets every Monday evening. For details phone 75985.

NALGAY, the Nalgo Gay Group meets can be contacted care of, Howard Hyman, Flat 2, 108, Foxhall Rd., Forest Fields, Nott'm.

GAY BEFRIENDLY & INFORMATION GROUP at the People's Centre, Thursdays, 5.30-9p.m., phone 411227.

bring it to 36, Kenilworth Terr., off Raleigh St.  
GAY SHOP During the next 2 weeks we are hoping to open a shop to raise funds for the fight against gay oppression. We need help. If you have anything we could sell