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NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP MEETS REGULARLY. INTERESTED? \$ /6 MUSHROOM.

INMEMORIAM

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

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"THEY WILL RISE AGAIN!"

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

NUMBER 23 DECEMBER 1977

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From the Leeds-based "Futures Studies Centre Newsletter":
"IF YOU DON'T..." REVIEWED!!

(The) magazine claims it is the "only credible publication in the struggle against the forces of international capitalism". Based in Nottingham, it is parochially international, giving a forum for the local groups - such as anarchists and women's rights who are concerned about national and international matters. For such a radical, activist stand, it is amazingly "sit-down-and-let'ssee-what's-going-on" rather than "get-up-and-do-somethingabout-it" without debate and publicity. It has articles on the National Front, the Criminal Trespass Law, Ireland's National Union of Students. Free, though donations requested. (sic to the whole lot (last sentence excepted!))

These are some of the thoughts I have on the issue of rape. I hope it will provide some kind of starting point for women to think/ talk about it.

Rape is a threat to all women - whether they acknowledge it consciously or not. A woman can be raped irrespective of her age, her class, her sexuality. Therefore I cannot agree with the Women against kape/ Wages for Housework analysis that the problem is an economic one - that if women were economically independent they could afford taxis etc. and so avoid rape. Male taxi drivers have also been reported as rapists! Over half the number of rapes take place in the home. That a woman might be a grandmother, a lesbian, or financially independent is no guaranteed defence against a rapist. All women may be raped.

Rape is the end of the continuum of humiliation and assault with which we live. Much of society's attitude towards the rapist and his victim is based on an individualistic approach. This minimises the causes, the effects, and the degree of rape within the society. It tries to place the blame on the individual man and woman and not on society itself.

Rape is a learned response - it is not instinctive. It is the inevitable result of the sexist teaching/socialisation procedures of society. This individualistic approach ignores the connaction between rape and other forms of violence experienced by women eg. battering (There is a strong connection between the battered woman and the raped woman - the attempt to concentrate on individual cases is the old tactic of compartmentalisation - a much used and deviously effective liberal form of control).

This continuum of humiliation and assault is something which we have all experienced and still do experience. We experience much of it as we walk along the streets in daytime as well as at night. The verbal abuse, the kerb crawlers, being followed, fondled or approached, being whistled at, called out to (helio darling), the bloody penetrating, assessing, devouring starcs as though we were goods for sale on a shop counter - no, not e a for sale but as a free take-away. The restrictions on our novements. The stares and the initial silence when we walk into a pub on our own. The shop windows scream at us,

the television and radio assault us with their sexist assumptions, the media of advertising capitalising out of and reinforcing our passivity. the actual pain of this humiliation in its incessant attempt to hammer us back to submissiveness. In short - to state the obvious - awareness is fucking painful! Who has not walked along the streets alone at night clenching their fists, being ready to run, listening for the sounds of the street, wondering whether that person walking behind is male or female, whether he is following or not ... and so it goes on, the continuing everyday hassles we experience as women. The ideology behind this patriarchal humiliation being that we are women, that therefore they (the men) have a RIGHT to intrude - in any way - upon us, and then we should feel pleased, flattered and validated even by their intrusion. Rape is the final and most violent, and equally the most inevitable result of this deeply ingrained and learned right of men to intude upon women. Society fosters and reinforces this right in millions of ways every day. And we too have been conditioned to accept this intrusion as part of our lives. One of the main reasons we don't retaliate is because we doubt our physical strength and because we are not accustomed to expressing our anger (our anger is not 'feminine'). In Bristol we had an afternoon of body exercises which showed us that we were much stronger than we thought and as for being 'feminine' - we have every right to be angry and to express our anger as the s'tuation de ands. We realised that we had our own strength - that it is not the same as men's - that we cannot punch like they do - that we have a different strength - our own that we can know that strength and then develop it.

Many men, including those on the left, feel threatened by women in the movement and on the left itself, by strong women. On the other hand, the media etc. try to convince us of our weakness, of the fact that we cannot change things on our own, that we haven't the necessary skills and powers. They try and contain us by trying to make us believe that we are not strong enough. They are Whong and they can only be right if we not believe them. WE MOST NOT. What is it they fear in us? Whatever it is, 'violence against women is definitely on the increase' (TV). Don't you think it rather paradoxical that as we become less passive they attack more. Are their attacks a mailfestation of theur need for defence?

This then is the situation. What can an anti-rape group do about it?

In Nottingham there appears to be, from some women, a feeling against campaign groups. Whilst many of their criticisms are valid there are equally valid reasons for women working together around the problem of rape or whatever.

I see such a group working on many levels. I DO NOT see it as a reform group. The attempt to change the laws on rape is but a small part of the whole - to expend lots of energy on reform in this way is non-productive and easily contained by the state and the media - eg look at NAC. If we accept that rape is part of this continuum then that whole continuum must be continuously fought and challenged - this being as painful as it is the support and strength of other women is an absolute necessity. Any good campaign group must be a consciousness raising group and a support group if it is to maintain and perpetuate the energy of the women in that group. Consciousness raising is not something which stops when we leave a CR group: it is a never ending process and we must accept it as such if we are not to become complacent with our individual lives; if we are not to develop efficient blocking mechanisms against the pain of awareness. We ourselves must acquire skills to enable us to help raped women - demystification of the legal and medical professions. We must learn how to be supportive to raped women without being at all judgemental (for if they've reported it then they've had quite enough of being judged anyway - the police; the police doctor and then the judge and jury itself, without saying anything of the media, acquaintances etc). We must help them make their own decisions - take control of their own lives (the techniques of c -counselling are very useful for this). In order to be effective at helping raped women we will need a structure of some kind. A Rape Crisis Centre will need a lot of woman power but it is within our possibilities to run a Rape-Line a couple of times a week. Also, because all women may be raped, it is an issue which crosses many of the so-called barriers which operate with the movement itself - age, class and sexuality.

PARTICIPATE OF THE PROPERTY OF



This piece was taken from the Nottingham Women's Liberation Newsletter Dec.-Jan.

ACTION AGAINST RAPE

This group has mat twice now, and at present there are seven or eight women involved. We have decided that our priority for the time being is to set up a rape crises telephone line, and our activity at present is directed towards that end.

We have begun to establish links with sympathetic doctors and solicitors, and are genning ourselves up on the things we'll need to know.
We are also monitoring newspaper reports of rapes and sexual assaults
and court cases, so if you see anything, please cut it out and bring
it to the women's centre for our file.

We are hoping to go down to London for a days 'training' in counselling at the Rape Crises Centre - date to be fixed. Please let us know if you'd like to come, because it may be before the next newsletter is out.

Hopefully the line should get off the ground early in the new year - initially for a couple of nights a week, but hopefully we'll be able to extend this if we get more support.

A benefit disco took place on Friday 2nd. December at the I.C.C. We hope more women will want to be involved now that we're actually DOING something.

NEXT MEETINGS :

AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE SUNDAY 11 DEC. 7.30 SUNDAY 8 JAN. 7.30 SUNDAY 29 JAN. 7.30



SPAMISH WOMEN IN STRUCCUE

Only in the mid-1930's has the women's movement in Spain been as strong as it is today. Then, women were fighting on all fronts to defeat fascism, in her "barrio" (neighbourhood) as well as with the gun.

Today, one sees the growing emergence since the mid-70's of women fighting in the factory, at home, on the streets, outside courts, as well as in the barrios. But as women organise themselves so too have the parties of the left, and this has led to increasing arguments and divisions amongst the women themselves. Here is an extract from a bulletin from the Femenist Collective of Barcelona, called Women in the Neighbourhoods: "In fact, there is a greatly assumed tendency of various political parties to create women's fronts with the exclusive goal of getting women to participate in social problems, apart from her concrete problems which they regard as second place This way of looking at the problem is nothing more than utilising one part of the society, uptil now not appreciated, ... for party ends and which is no more than a new type of manipulation, this time by the political groups of the left which has found themselves oblidged by the development of the women's struggle, to include in their programmes, as another part, what to "them" is "Women's Liberation". And faced with this all women who are aware of our double exploitation in society should denounce this and fight it."

Grunwick Strike Committee (APEX B TGWU)

BULLETIN NO 63 Monday, 5th December

THE GENERAL COUNCIL LETS US DOWN

On Wednesday, 23rd November, the General Council of the TUC met and considered the position of action on essential services - water, post and electricity. Despite strong pressure from the Trade Union movement nationally and despite the efforts of our friends on the General Council, it was effectively decided to bury the prospects of official action on essential services.

We had made a dramatic last minute plea for action in the form of a hunger strike by four of our members outside of Congress House. The response of the APEX Executive was to suspend the four for four weeks without strike pay. But, on Friday, 25th November, in the presence of Roy Grantham, the strikers voted unanimously to support and express confidence in the far and our Chairman and Secretary, who had also been suspended. The suspensions were a savage act of censorship and we refuse to be gagged in this way.

Let us make our position clear. We believe in our movement. We have had tremendous support from the movement at all levels from all over the country. But, now, we feel bitter and betrayed. The General Council has not only let us down, it has let down the entire Trade Union movement. If we go down, history will judge who was responsible!

WE ARE NOT BEATEN YET

Now that we know the response of General Council, we are trying to get unofficial action on essential service. The House of Lords judgement on the ACAS report is also due within ten days. Even if we win the case, only the issue of recognition would be resolved. We will only win re-instatement if we get action on essential services because it is only such action that would compel Ward to re-instate or close. The TGWU Region No I strongly supports us in this view and does not accept the defeatist attitude of the General Council.

After the House of Lords case, we will meet with our Unions and then issue a further statement and bulletin.

MAGISTRATE OAKLEY BITES THE DUST

One of the Magistrates who have convicted four out of every five pickets to appear before the local Courts has herself come to grief. She made the mistake of broadcasting her views that more should be convicted and that the fines should be greater to a local Doctor and to the Secretary of the Brent Council of Social Service. Now, Willesden Magistrates Court has said that she will hear no further cases arising out of the dispute: We are also pressing for those she convicted to be pardoned or re-tried and we are continuing to campaign for a public enquiry into the police attacks on the picket lines on November 7th.

AN INJURY TO PE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

BRENT TRADES AND LABOUR HALL, 375, HIGH ROAD WILLESDEN, LONDON, NWIO

ABC DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

At Tottenham Magistrate's Court last month two journalists from "Time Out" magazine and a man they interviewed were committed for trial at the Old Bailey charged with offences under the Official Secrets Act. The trial of Crispin Aubrey, Duncan Campbell and ex-soldier John Berry (who left the army seven years ago and reached the sensitive rank of corporal) will probably not take place until late in 1978,

The prosecution admit that there is no question of spying involved, yet .

Section I of the Act (which a wies parallies of 14 years imprisonment, and under which the three have been charged) was specifically designed to counter spying. This bending of the law is seen by many as an attempt to stop investigative journalism and stifle all forms of opposition in this country. If successful it will totally underwise any effects of the Labour Party's committment (in their last Clerkon Manufesto) to abelishing section 2 information.

At a conference in London on Micomber 3rd, the National Council for Civil Liberties and the National Union of Journalists launched a campaign for the scrapping of the Official Scorets Act. Both this new campaign and the ABC Defence Campaign need strong support from as many individuals and organisations as possible to fight the repression that seems to be inching nearer.

The Nottingham ABC group will be neeting on Jamany 11th to discuss the feasibility of holding a public neeting on the Official Scorts Act and the ABC case in Nothingham, as well as planning fund-raising activities and discussing recent developments. The most argent need is for the involvement of more people, so please make the effort to come. The place has yet to be decided - please contact Mushroom nearer the days

Background information on the case is available from Mushroom, as are leaflets which perhaps you could help distribute? There are find-raising badges (17p), carrier bogs (17p), christmas casels (12p) and posters (10p) too. If you want to find out more or could Ifer help in any way please contact NOTTINGHAM ABC DEFENCE GROUP To MUSHROOM, IO HEATHCOTE ST, NOTTINGHAM TEL SE2506 (MESSAGES ONLY)

CHILD CARE

This started out as some notes on how to organize a creche for a political meeting. It developed into a pamphlet, and then we decided to make the pamphlet the first issue of what will hopefully be a regular bulletin (though this depends on feedback from readers). We're calling the bulletin "Child Care" because that is a large part of what we are concerned with, and because we couldn't decide on a name which covered other areas we are concerned with as well, such as: contraception, illegitimacy, population, housework, families and communes, etc. "Ye are class-conscious anarchists and anything we publish must at least relate to this viewpoint, even if it's to disagree.

CRECHES AT POLITICAL FUNCTIONS

We have helped with, or our children have been at numerous creches. Some were so disorganized that it was clear that the adults involved had given very little prior thought to the matter and didn't have the welfare of the children uppermost in their minds during the time they were actually responsible for them. As a result we have been thinking about how to organize creches, and would like to pass on our thoughts on the matter. We welcome criticism, suggestions and discussion.

WHY THEY ARE NEEDED

First of all, what is a creche for? We're not talking about creches in industry or the local community. It is of course essential that all social groups should make provision for the children of the adults in them, and we would like to see "non-political" groups showing more interest in this. But we are concerned here specifically with political organizations.

Why are they needed? The most obvious reason is so that no member of a group is barred from taking part in its activities. We feel that a particular organization/group's activities cannot be worth becoming involved in if it does not make child-care facilities one of its first considerations, if not the first, instead of the last, which is so often the case at left-wing functions. If parents (especially single parents) are not going to continue to be discriminated against by lack of provision for their children at political events, then we must try and do something about it now. When viewed in this light it is hardly surprising that political groups these days are predominantly childless people, a disproportionately large number compared with the working class as a whole.

If left-wing political groups are of an urban guerrilla nature there might be a case for excluding people with children on the grounds that "camp followers" are a liability. But most groups are not engaged in urban guerrilla warfare, and indeed the fact that such a case could be made is proof that urban guerrilla outfits are by their nature alienated from the working class, and in the unlikely event of their revolution succeeding it would be an elitist revolution.

BABYSITTING" v. CHILDCARE & CRECHES

I any people will say here, well, why don't people arrange their own babysitting instead. There are several arguments against this that have to be discussed.

orticle is taken from: CHILD CARE BULLETIN

First of all can we get rid of the term Babysitting. Anyone who has had babies will tell you that you don't often have time to sit when caring for a baby - it is hard work both physically and mentally and young babies require repeated attention every 2-3 hours 24 hours a day. Young children and toddlers will sleep somewhere between 10 and 14 hours at night but during that time the persons caring for them will likely have to be doing some attendant housework and in any case will be 'on duty' so to speak in order to meet the child's needs should it wake up in the night with teething pains, nightmares or feeling hungry, and so on.

The reasons against getting a "babysitter" or can we call them child-minders or child-carers are

- (1) they usually want payment which means of course that it adds to the parents' expense for their time-out and would easily be a discouraging factor to parents on the bread-line;
- (2) people willing to child-care without payment will more often than not be parents themselves. We don't see why we should make extra work for them, together with the added responsibility:
- (3) children are part of the event/meeting organized, in that their parents are part of it and it becomes a chance for people to get to know their comrades' children.

Of course some folk might say "But I don't want to get to know my comrades' children!"

We don't expect reasoned argument to bring about a change of heart in people who just don't like children. But there may be others who, while not feeling like this themselves, think that it is a rational point of view. So for their benefit - we are all products of this society, and there will be no little islands of Utopia this side of the revolution, but that should not be an excuse for accepting the status quo; in our relations with each other we should aim to move in the direction of the kind of society we would like to see. Anyone who doesn't accept this isn't trying to change society, they're just playing at revolutionaries. There can be no revolution without solidarity, and solidarity is not the same thing as charity - the point is that in giving it you strengthen it and make it more likely that you will receive it yourself. We don't all need solidarity in the form of help with kids, but we sure as hell all need it in some form.

Of course there are often occasions and reasons when it is not suitable for children to go to a creche, such as if they are ill, or need to be in an environment which they know or when they are old enough to make the choice and choose not to go to a creche. (But hopefully creches would be so improved that children would be demanding to go to them.) It would be ideal if creches could be organized so that there would be enough helpers to extend to this, or if some kind of child-caring network could be arranged.

Finally, creches, if well run, can provide children with a stimulating, communal experience with other children and give them some sense of involvement in their parents' activities instead of being left at home alone with an adult who they may not even know.

HOW TO ORGANIZE

We've tried rota systems and have found from experience that it's hopeless. It's bad for the group concerned, since the conference or whatever is disrupted at regular intervals by "changing the guard" and people are prevented from taking a full part in discussion. It's bad for the children, since they are just getting used to one person when somebody else takes over - and the new person may be in a bad mood because they had got involved in the debate-event.

We think that a good way of staffing the creches would be on an exchange basis with another group. Where organized political groups are concerned this could be formalized. Perhaps it is necessary to point out that the agreement should be worked out between the groups as a whole and not just amongst the parents. Just like men's groups staff Women's Liberation conference creches, so squatters could staff tenants' events/meetings and vice versa. (There are of course positive political advantages to such links being created.)

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS

What follows is a list of what we have found essential for a well-run creche. Some things are more essential than others. People should use their commonsense to figure out which and in any case should not be put off doing the job because they can't provide some of them. The costs of bought things should be added up, and we think included in the registration fee if it's a conference or charged to everyone if it's a meeting. This way parents won't have to meet the expense alone.

Registration

What we are talking about at present is essentially the organization of a creche for a large conference et cetera. We think that there should be creches for small meetings also, but obviously it would be totally impractical to expect people to lay on all the trappings of a major event; this would just result in them being demoralized and doing nothing at all about child care. The point is to do something about it where all political functions are concerned.

It seems to be necessary at large events like conferences to have some kind of registration well in advance of the event, for two reasons: (1) to assess the number of adults and children coming to it; (2) to distribute necessary information about the event and the creche. We would therefore suggest that an information sheet be sent out to parents/people with children containing information about the creche and what is provided in it, and how long it's to run, etc., and on the back of it a questionnaire on the child/ren to be completed and sent back with registration fee. See sample on page 4.

Duration

Conferences often extend late into the evening, either because they were planned that way or because the timing was wrong and the workshops were running late or because some kind of social was arranged. If parents are to take part fully in a conference from start to finish and not be excluded from any part of it then the creche should run for the whole of that time too, with overnight facilities laid on so that children who may be asleep are not disturbed, and the worry of getting

children home late at nig't removed. Even where no formal social has been arranged the people who have been at the conference do socialize and do continue discussion afterwards. This applies to some extent to meetings and should be borne in mind when planning creches for them.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS

It generally seems best for all concerned, parent, child and creche worker, that once the child is left in the creche the parent or person responsible for small children should not return until it is time to collect them. Children seem to find it very upsetting if a parent cor us and then goes away again.

We think a good idea would be to have a children's bus to go on marches - provided of course that there is not a strong possibility of violence arising from the demonstration. (A children's bus was tried on a recent demo in London and found to be very successful.) The bus, if there was one specifically for that purpose, could double as a vehicle for carrying creche equipment to creches. An ideal solution might be to have a well-equipped nursery which would double as storage place for creche equipment and act as a nursery the rest of the time.

We regard creches for "political" events as just a start. The reason we put political in quotes is that we regard the oppression of parents as political too and think that anyone whose political philosophy includes collective working and living, and who opposes the nuclear family (opposes it, that is, as a compulsory norm rather than as a personal arrangement to be freely chosen or rejected among other possible ways of living), must include collective child care for all purposes as part of their life style. In all other forms of work, hours have gotten shorter over the centuries, but the tradition of preents being on 24-hour duty and being responsible for finding someone to fill in wen they want any time off at all remains, and is accepted universally. No one even recognizes it as oppression except when it's all dumped on women; then it becomes a feminist issue. But even when the father shares, there's still just too much work. People make joking remarks and draw homely little cartoons of parents giving night feeds and so on, but it's no joke when you have to do it, living without even adequate sleep, let alone any rest, for weeks on end. And it's no joke that children have to be cared for by people. who are nearly always tired and irritable and unable to take any positive interest

in the job. So eventually we want child care so that we can have leisure time, holidays without children, and rest during illness -- why shouldn't parent have these things the same as non-parents? -- but for the present, the least to the left organizations can do is provide creches for their own functions so the parents aren't barred.



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A five-page leaflet listing books in stock for christmas is available at Mushroom, Ouroboros and various other places FREE!

NOTTINGHAM ABC DEFENCE GROUP c/o MUSHROOM, 10 HEATHCOTE ST, NOTTINGHAM Tel 582505 Messages only.

The Nottingham ABC Defence Group all be meeting on 11th January to discuss the feasibility of holding a public meeting in Nottingham on the Official Secrets Act amd the Aubrey, Berry, Campbell case, as well as planning fund raising activities and discussing recent developments. The most urgent need is for the involvement of more people. Contact Mushroom for place of meeting.

PIRATE JENIN

PIRATE JENNY THEATRE COMPANY
'OUR OWN PEOPLE'
By David Edgar

The play is about industrial action in a Yorkshire weaving mill in which Asian workers strike against discrimination. The play centres on a Court of Inquiry into the disp te and asks questions about racialism in industrial the division of workers and management and the role of extremist organisations like the National Front. The play is a work of fiction based on actual disputes.

WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER 7.30pm CLARENDON COLLEGE DRAMA WORKSHOP PELHAM AVENUE.

Prices not known but thought to be cheap. Contact Chris Ryan Tel 607201

SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER 8.00pm
MIDLAND GALLERY, 24/32 WASER GATE
LACE MARKET. Tickets £1 from the
Midland Gallery or Malcom Knight
if you can find him.

This performance is believed to be a Socialist Worker Party recruitment presentation but dont let that put you off.

CHOSTHAS SOCIAL

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 'SMASH THE 10% LIMIT' Proceeds to the firemen. DISCO, FOOD THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 7.00 Onwards. CENTRAL TAVERN, HUNTINGDON STREET. 50p

WOMEN'S EVENTS We weren't quite clear what info the Women's Group would like included so this menth we are just including the contact point:

Women's Centre, 2 Newcastle Chambers, Angel Row, City Centre.

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE FORUM

January 26th Hilary Wainwright: Socialism and Feminism Febuary 16th Gunter Minnerup: The strong state in Western Germany

7.30pm ICC

March 16th David Edgar: Politics of the National Front

January 7th local area CHE Demonstration
March 9th Demonstration against Nuclear Fuels in London

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The Girocheque enclosed is the payment due to you.

Form BF 1000

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