

Nottingham Anarchist News

10p
No. 12
FEB/MAR



TRADER DISPUTE WOMBOURNE 12
RACE CHECKS NEWS & EVENTS

EVENTS

Please please please CHECK that these events are still on before you turn up. N@N accepts no responsibility for missed busses, rotten nights out, failed revolutions or burnt chips. Thank you.

February

- Fri 13th: Support Silentnight Strikers benefit, at the Yorker. 8 till late. £1 & £1.50
- Sat 4th: NCCL Conference on Public Order laws. Russell Road Family Centre, Russell Road, Forest Fields. 10.30am.
- Sat 4th: Union Combine meeting about the voluntary sector at the ICC
- Mon 6th: Meeting to discuss arrangements for Mayday this year.
- Wed 18th: Benefit for the Wombourne 12 at the Garage.
- Fri 20th: Vegan Cookery video, demonstration and talk. Theosophical Hall, 7.30pm Organised by the Vegetarian Society.
- Tues 24th: Meeting to discuss the NIREX lecture being held on the 2nd March. Rainbow Centre, 7.30pm
- 23rd/24th: Trial of the Wombourne 12 at SSiesden Magistrates Court. (See page 8) Busses available from Nottingham & actions planned at the court - please get in touch & support.
- Fri 27th: Forest Fields Peace Group disco. Hyson Green Boys Club, 8 till late.

March

- Mon 2nd: Public Lecture at Clifton New Tiered Lecture Theatre. "The Safety of Radioactive Waste Disposal" (!huh! - come and radiate all over him. 1-2pm
- Tues 3rd: Support Silentnight Strikers organising meeting. All who wish to support the stike are welcome. 7.30. I.C.C. Women's "Reclaim The Night" March. Contact: 608348
- Thurs 5th: Wintex Civil Defence exercises happening all over the country. Plan your opposition now. Contact NCND, King St.
- Fri 6th: Public meeting with prospective parliamentary candidates from the major parties, about their attitude to the nuclear issue. Give them shit! YMCA Shakespear St. Organised by CND.
- Fri 6th: Women's FEstival International Day at the new wo'wen's centre. Women only.
- Fri 6th: Women in Struggle in South Africa, Ireland and Central America. Meeting and Social. 7.30-12pm, the Yorker Mansfield rd. Contact Mary 623426
- Sat 7th: Women's Festival Dayschool on women in struggle, women and anarchism and women in Ireland. Workshops, Video, Creche. 10am to 4pm, New Womens Centre, Women Only. 50p or £1.
- Sat 7th: Mixed Social, following on from Womens Dayschool events. Bring an instrument. 75p £1 or £1.50. The Yorker.
- Tues 10th: Women Working For A Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific. Discussion and Video. 7.45 pm at the Women's Centre Chaucer St..
- Fri 13th: Roll Up! Roll Up! For the social event of the year! A BENEFIT GIG FOR YOUR VERY OWN N@N. Bands, Food, Black Raven Bookstall, Raffle, Celebrities and and much more. &.30 The Yorker.

- Fri 13th: Women in Nicaragua. Film, Speaker and Exhibition. 7.30-9.30. At Women's Centre
Tel: Heather 82
Tel: Christine 606909.
- Sat 14th: Aisian Women's Social. 6.30-10.00. Pakistan Centre, Woodborough Rd. Tel: Noreen 586650. Admission £1.
- Sun 15th: Lesbian Film Day. 11-7.00pm at Women's Centre. Screenings of various Lesbian films. Tel: Jo 418571 ext 4520.
- Mon 16th: Women's Experience in Mental Health. 1.00-4.00 at Women's Centre. Open meeting organised by MIND Women's gx group. Tel: 502931. Admission 75p, 50p.
- Fri 20th: "Living without cruelty" with the director of Animal Aid. 7.30pm, Theosophical Hall. (Veg Soc).
- Tues 24th: Black Women's Health Day. 10.00-4.00pm. Tennyson Hall, Forest Rd, Radford. Tel. Janet 700896.
- Thur 26th: The experience of Black Women. ICC. Tel: Chroma 473868.
- Fri 27th: Exploring Images of Black Women. Visual arts workshops, fashion display. ICC, details tel; Chroma 473868
- Fri 28th: Resources for Women. Displays & info on support, training etc. available for women. ICC 10am - 4pm, tel; Val on 413279

April

- Mon 6th: Maternity Emergency national rally at Central Hall, Westminster, London. On this day maternity grants are to be abolished. A series of national & local events will be staged in the run up to the April demo, which will launch a campaign to give a fairer deal to mothers, fathers & babies.
Contact; 01 388 6337
- Tues 14th: Restaurant Fayre - sample food. Vegetarian Society. Congregational Hall, Castle Gate. 7.30pm £1.50
- Sat 25th: National CND demo

May

- Fri 15th: Sit down in Parliament Square to try to persuade MP's to be anti-nuclear. This demo will be illegal because our democratically made laws make it an offence to assemble near parliament. It's not a blockade as that might antagonise respecters of parliamentary democracy (????!!) Transport from Nottingham, contact Peace Action Network c/o CND office, King Street.
- Thur 21st: Vegetarian Society AGM, film show & Bring & Share supper. Theosophical Hall 7.30pm.

Regulars

Mondays:
Folk Club at the Narrowboat (pub), Canal Street.

Last Monday in the month:
Animal Rights Confederation. Tel: 585666

Tuesdays:
Wimmin For Peace, ICC 8pm.

First Tuesday of the month:
Hungry for Change, WEA, Shakespeare Street.

Alternate Tuesdays, inc. Feb 17th:
Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group. Contact Box 8, 118 Mansfield Road for details.

Every second Tuesday:
Lesbian & Gay Youth organisation benefit disco. 'L'Amour', St. James Street, £1.

HELLO

Welcome to issue number 12 of Nottingham Anarchist News.

This issue is so packed with up-to-the-minute local news and events, that's we've no room for a lengthy editorial -- the pieces in this issue will just have to speak for themselves.

Since last issue, anarchists in Nottingham have been actively involved in the Silentnight dispute, the struggles at Wapping, the Trader strike, claimants rights work, hunts sabbing, and Bloody Sunday, to name but a few...

See you next time. Keep at it....

Events continued:

Wednesdays:

Society for Mutual Aid and Self Help conspire at the ICC, 7.30pm. Come to discuss the weather, overthrowing the state, etc.

ALSO: Jazz at the Old Vic, Fletchergate.

ALSO: Non Violent Direct Action, (NVDA).WEA, Shakespeare Street.

Thursdays:

Lesbian & Gay Youth group working meeting. 118 Mansfield Road, 1pm.

Every Thursday:

'Recommended' - jazz, African & World music. Newcastle Arms, North Sherwood Street, 8.30pm, 50p.

Alternate Thursdays:

Anarchist Communist Federation meet, c/o Box A Rainbow Centre, Mansfield Road.

Every fourth Friday:

Forest Fields Peace Group discos.

Every 2nd & 4th Sundays:

NVDA meeting, Peace Act on Network meeting at the Rainbow Centre.

Saturdays:

Support Silentnight Strikers picket outside the Co-Op, Upper Parliament Street. 11am - 1pm.

Sundays:

Lesbian & Gay Youth social meeting. Queens Walk Community Centre, 2pm - 5.30pm.

Notes on Venues:

ICC = International Community Centre. An old school near the Vic centre end of Mansfield Road, where all yer right-on meetings are held.
The Yorker = A pub even further down Mansfield Road than the ICC is. Where all the right-on groups booze after their meetings.
Theosophical Hall = This seems to be on Maid Marion Way.
Hyson Green Boys Club = A large building on Terrace Street hidden amongst the flats. Has a mural of people suffering from St. Vitus' Dance on the outside.

A Bit About NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP...

Nottingham Anarchist Group works for an end to capitalism, privilege, state control and centralised power. For freedom for all and an end to tyranny. Therefore we oppose racism, imperialism, patriarchy, hierarchy and animal exploitation. Anarchists want a society of equals, free to organise mutually for their own needs.

Many people wrongly think that Anarchists are against all organisation. This has never been the case

Though we oppose the existence of government, anarchists are not opposed to organisation. We believe, for example, that factories should not be run by bosses, but by the people who work in them: that neighbourhoods should not be controlled by far-away bureaucrats, but by the people who live in them. We believe that communities can, and should, organise themselves.

We believe that instead of society being run for the profit and power of the few, we should run society for ourselves.

Anarchists see themselves as involved in an educative and revolutionary process. Unlike many of the other left-wing groups we have no leadership, and do not wish to offer leadership or direction to working class struggles, rather we think such struggles should be organised by the rank and file workforce involved in them.

We are involved in such groups and movements as The Society for Mutual Aid and Self Help, Black Raven Bookstall, The Anarchist Communist Federation, Nottingham Irish Solidarity Group, Nottingham Peace Action Network, Support Silentnight Strikers, as well as anti racist and imperialist groups, feminists groups, animal rights groups, industrial struggles and community action groups.

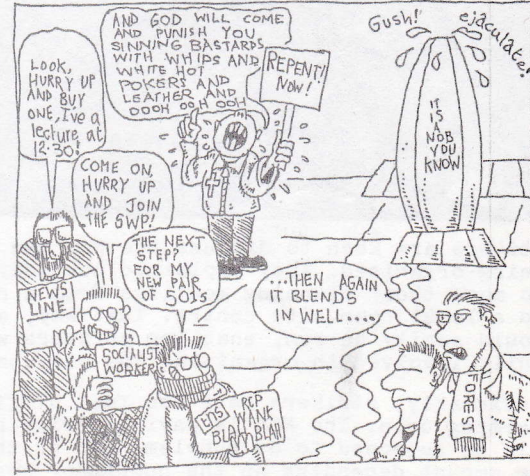
We also produce literature and leaflets, run courses, organise public meetings conferences video showings, pickets and demonstrations.

We are an open group of around 30 people, with no formal membership. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, on Mansfield rd. to plan our activities and discuss our politics.

NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP,
c/o BOX A,
180, MANSFIELD ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM.

NOTTY.

AN EVERYDAY TALE OF MIDLANDS FOLK



NEWS ★

The Trader Sacks 90

FORTRESS WAPPING and the dirty dealings of Rupert Murdoch may be over a hundred miles away in the docklands of East London, but the Midlands can now "boast" its very own "Wapping" -- and its very own, very nasty "Murdoch".

In the same way that Murdoch sacked NGA (National Graphical Association) and SOGAT printers working on The Sun, The Times, etc and brought in scabs to do their work behind the wire at Wapping, Lionel Pickering -- owner of such local papers at the Nottingham Trader and the Derby Trader -- sacked 88 printers on December 4 1986 and took their work to non-unionised scab printers.

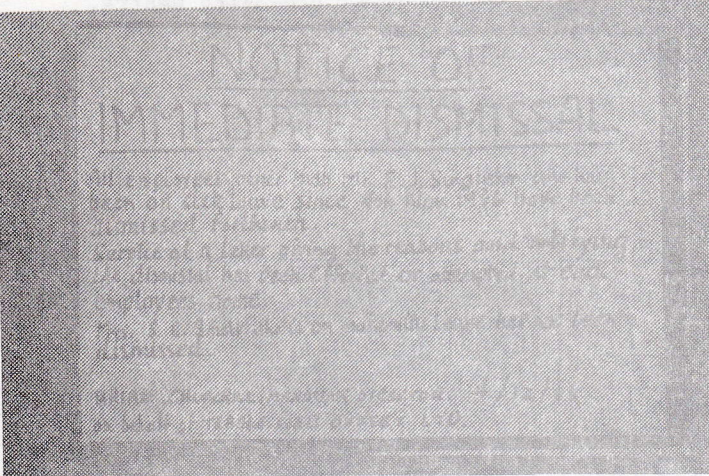
The printworkers heard of their dismissal in a particularly cowardly and underhand way. Pickering sent each of his workers a now infamous "sack-o-gram".

The main plant where the printworkers worked, at Heanor Gate in Derbyshire, was immediately occupied by defiant NGA printers -- who spoke of their determination to resist the sackings and win back their jobs.

In the event, the lock-in only lasted a matter of hours. But although the workers accepted that they could not sustain the lock-in indefinitely, they straight away began a round the clock picket of the plant.

Since then, they have been gaining support in the area. Derbyshire County Council are among Trader customers who have withdrawn their advertising accounts from all Pickering's papers.

Anarchists took a collection for the strike-fund at the recent Hunt's Sabs benefit at The Garage. It brought in over £40, and that money, together with the £7 given by customers at Mushroom was gratefully received by the pickets outside the plant.



Stickers are keen to discuss the way the dispute is being-organised. They explained how they planned to move their planning meetings from a nearby pub to a local community centre. That way, a creche could easily be run, enabling printers wives to get fully involved in organising the dispute.

Predictably, strikers have had real difficulties in claiming dole. The NGA is paying strike pay, but this is supposed to be supplemented by the DHSS -- the amount depending on the number of kids a striker has. After paying dole, then withdrawing it, then paying it again, the DHSS has suspended payment for a second time.

The DHSS say they are finding out if any of the strikers were "dismissed for 'gross misconduct'". If they could prove this, strikers would lose up to 12 weeks benefit.

This attempt by the DHSS to harrass the strikers will probably only delay payments, rather than lose the strikers money: there is no question of any having been sacked for "gross misconduct". But naturally enough the uncertainty is worrying for those strikers with families to support.

A Printworkers Support Group has formed in Derby. Meanwhile, in Nottingham, some local TU groups and Labour Party branches have been giving money to the dispute. Other practical support has come from, amongst others, Nottingham Anarchists, the Anarchist Anarchist Communist Federation, Wildcat and the Socialist Workers Party. Anyone interested in forming a support group in the City, please contact us at our address on page 3.

Power-mad and greedy millionaires like Pickering can not be allowed to trample all over his employees in his personal crusade to smash organised labour. He must be stopped. Stand by the Trader printworkers!

****STOP PRESS****

Evening Post Prints Trader!!

It can now be revealed that T Bailey Forman (the company that owns the Nottingham Evening Post) has been printing the Nottingham Trader!

The plant concerned is at Breaston, near Long Eaton. It's amazing that T Bailey Forman have risked becoming involved in another major dispute, only a few short weeks after the dispute with NUJ journalists was settled.

Sacked NGA printers who went to the plant on Jan 26th picketed around 7 scab printers who arrived at the T Bailey Forman Plant. That night they printed the tens of thousands of copies of the week's Trader.

A much larger picket on Feb 2nd waited at the plant for printers to arrive -- but none did. It's possible that scabs were frightened off by the larger picket that night.

Investigations into where the Trader was printed that night continue. In the meantime: **BOYCOTT THE POST TOO!**

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- * Don't read the Nottingham Trader. Spread word of the boycott to your friends.
- * Don't advertise in the Trader.
- * Display the poster on the back page of N&N in your window.
- * Don't write for the Trader, don't send press releases to the Trader, and don't stand outside dole offices with bags on your head for the Trader (see Letters page...)
- * Collect Traders wherever you see them, and send them back as unsolicited mail to: Nottingham Trader, 5/7 Stanford Street, Nottingham NG1. Pickering has to pay 22p for each returned paper.
- * Invite a striker to speak at your meeting. Contact them at: Trader Sacked Workers Dispute, c/o 114 Stonehill Road, Derby. This is also the address to send donations.
- * Visit the picket line at Heanor Gate, on Delves Road on the Industrial Estate.
- * Listen out for news of pickets and actions in support of the dispute.
- * **SUPPORT THE SACKED PRINTWORKERS!**

Rich.

NEWS ★

WAPPING: One Year On.

January 24th marked the first anniversary of the strike at Wapping. Twelve months of hard slog against King Shit Murdoch and his band of scabs who, despite all efforts, are still pushing out their scabby rags. The papers involved in the dispute are: The Sun, The Times, The Sunday Times and the News of the World.

To mark the day, the NGA and SOGAT had organised a march through London to Wapping. So Nottingham Trades Council booked two coaches to trundle off down the M1 to show our support.

We had our first inkling of the sort of day it was going to be when at Watford Gap services our coffee slurping was interrupted by shouts of "scab lorries in the lorry car park!". We rushed out to see a group of comrades hounding an unmarked artics (identified by serial numbers) out of the services. One lorry tried knocking us down but it too fled down the M1 to Fortress Wapping.

We joined the march at Bush House, waiting for a convenient gap to leap into that wasn't in the middle of a Marxist-Leninist Party shouting things at each other through megaphones.

Eventually we managed to link up with a contingent of other anarchists, namely the Anarchist-Communist Federation (ACF) and the Direct Action Movement (DAM-IWA). The march, mainly trade union members, numbered about 15-20,000 and was the usual stroll around the sheppen that marches are, except for a) cheering the pickets outside British Telecom's HQ, and, b) when some opportunist soul ran out of a pub and bottled a copper before disappearing back into the pub.

We reached Wapping. It was the first time I'd seen the place, and all the descriptions are true -- a huge floodlit, concrete block surrounded by razor wire and fencing. The lorry ramp is crammed with artics all waiting to be loaded with News International's right-wing scab loving crap.

To the right of us was a field, in front of us some flats, where the stage was, in front of the stage about 10,000 people. In the road were 3,000 people all milling about. Stewards on the stage whined at the people in the road to "keep moving" but we were having none of it.

All eyes were on a hire lorry (who hired it isn't known by me -- it was pretty confused about this time, 7.45pmish) which had been abandoned

in front of a side road down to one of the plant's gates. In the side road stood a line of plods -- backed up with 100 riot police and 2 horse units.

A few cans and fireworks were merrily flying into police lines but it wasn't until the lorry was overturned that the riot police were sent out as snatch squads. The police regrouped and called in an armoured bulldozer to push the lorry out of the way -- sending a wave of police to clear the road and beat the crap out of anyone too slow on their feet.

The suicidal thing was that the coppers were tooled up and padded and we just had the clothes we stood up in. There was nothing to throw in the first half an hour except empty beer cans!!

The next four hours was just a pitched battle, a really strange mixture of anger, fear and adrenalin rush, running from police charges and lobbing bricks at the police lines.

What made me angry was the total crap being spouted by certain speakers from the stage, and the fact that so many thousands watched blankly from the



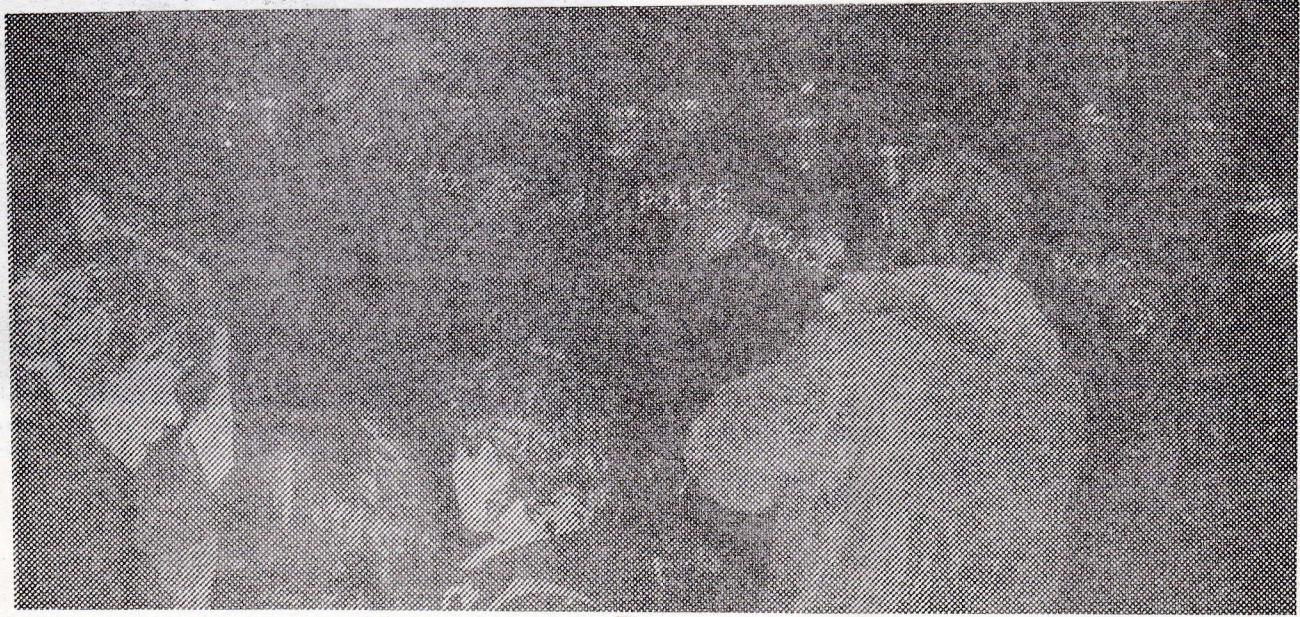
grass bank as people in the road got attacked. If it had been 10,000 in the road instead of 3,000 we could have knackered the coppers. I saw two people beaten unconscious by riot police and god knows how many with their faces pulped by batons, and (I'm sad to say) badly aimed bricks. That's why it was so fucking good to see copper after copper getting dragged back into Wapping. They weren't falling like nine pins, but it was near enough.

Sixty nine people were arrested, 150 coppers injured. How many of us injured, isn't known...

What I do know is that as a result of what happened that night, the Public Order Act is being implemented as I write.

No-one except the the rank and file strikers at Wapping will win the strike. No union bureaucrat is going to do it for them. We've got to support the struggles of all workers at the receiving end of the state's truncheon -- no more so than at Wapping.

HARRY ROBERTS (Jnr)



NEWS ★

Race checks

For two weeks in January, Nottingham was one of three pilot areas in the country which tested out further racist governmental policies. Together with offices in Leeds and Handsworth, Unemployment Benefit Offices (UBOs) in Nottingham (and, last year, Toxteth) checked the race of people who came to sign on.

Although the Department of Employment claims that this is merely a survey, and that information gathered will not be linked to particular individuals, we see such monitoring as the thin end of the wedge - a wedge which could end up with everyone's race on national computer. Although there are as yet no known plans to introduce race checks at UBOs nationally, any unopposed pilot schemes make this more likely. And opposition in Nottingham was somewhere between weak and non-existent (despite the Revolutionary Communist Party's bid for publicity and glory for themselves in the scab Trader).

It is interesting - and worrying - that the pilot areas for these race checks all have large black populations. And the firms at UBOs were only interested in whether claimants were Asian or Afro-Caribbean - all other races were lumped together under "white or other". With the decline of heavy industry, British bosses no longer have the same need for a large workforce which caused them to promote black immigration originally. New technology means that whereas before the cheap (black) workforce had to be brought to the work, now the work can be taken to the cheap (black) workforce, overseas and at less expense. The bosses and the state have finished with their need for black workers, so state racism becomes ever more respectable, ever more overt. Unemployment is hitting black people particularly hard. Also, race checks can be used to further the cancerous growth of racism by "showing" "statistically" how "black" "scroungers" are.

So what do the workers at dole offices think about doing this dirty job? Their Union, the CPSA, told Nottingham Anarchist News that it had a policy of "total opposition to ethnic monitoring" since 1984, particularly at UBOs as statistics could be used for racist purposes, such as policing benefit. Fine words, and in Handsworth and Leeds they DID lead to some action. Some members went on strike and handed out leaflets, as a result the CPSA is now involved in legal proceedings. So why did members in Nottingham vote against action and do fuck all to oppose racism? Is there something in the air that makes Nottingham bureaucrats more scared of losing their jobs than other bureaucrats?

Each further refinement of state racism needs to be smashed at the start by ALL of us, black or white, employed or unemployed. And smarmy pen-pushers and formfillers who carry out the nuts and bolts that keep us screwed into place need to know what we think of them - THEY ARE PART OF THE ENEMY.

01ga

Did you know...?

That an armed police unit patrol the M1 in Nottinghamshire. But there's no need to worry, Chief Constable McLachlan says the guns are in a sealed container, to be opened only on the orders of a senior officer.

Anarchist Communist Federation

A Nottingham group of the Anarchist Communist Federation has recently been set up, so far with 7 members. The group concentrates on class struggle issues, with particular reference to the nature of capitalism, the state, imperialism/racism and patriarchy.

The group prioritises not necessarily "anarchist" issues, but rank & file organisations and working class initiatives.

The Federation is under a year old and is still developing and discussing its analysis of issues as a libertarian socialist organisation. We meet fortnightly, so contact us via Box A if you want more information about us.

L.B.

Support Silentnight strikers

After 21 months of industrial action, the Silentnight strike at factories in Yorkshire and Lancashire (see NEN No 11) has been made unofficial by the strikers union FTAT.

However, groups up and down the country, including Nottingham, will be stepping up their support. Action and donations are needed now more than ever, if the strikers are to beat boss Tom Clarke who tricked and then sacked them.

The Co-op in Nottingham, on Upper Parliament Street, is still stocking Silentnight beds. Nottingham Anarchists have launched weekly pickets of the branch to persuade customers not to buy them, and to put pressure on the management to withdraw these beds made by scab labour.

Local people have responded very positively to the appeal. Many are boycotting the beds, including some who were going to buy a Silentnight in the sales.

Now, more than ever, Silentnight strikers need YOUR support. Come to the picket every Saturday at 11am at the Upper Parliament Street Co-op, sign our petition, write letters of protest to the manager and send donations to: Support Silentnight Strikers, c/o Box A, Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottm. L.B.



Two cold yet determined members of the weekly picket outside Upper Parliament Street Co-Op.

NEWS ★

Telecom Strikers Pull The Plug On B.T.

More than 100,000 British Telecom (BT) engineers are now on indefinite national strike over a dispute. This follows a 24 hour strike involving more than 50,000 workers - 2,500 in Notts and Derby - in support of colleagues suspended for refusing to resume overtime working. Meanwhile BT insist that overtime is a part of the strikers contract of employment.

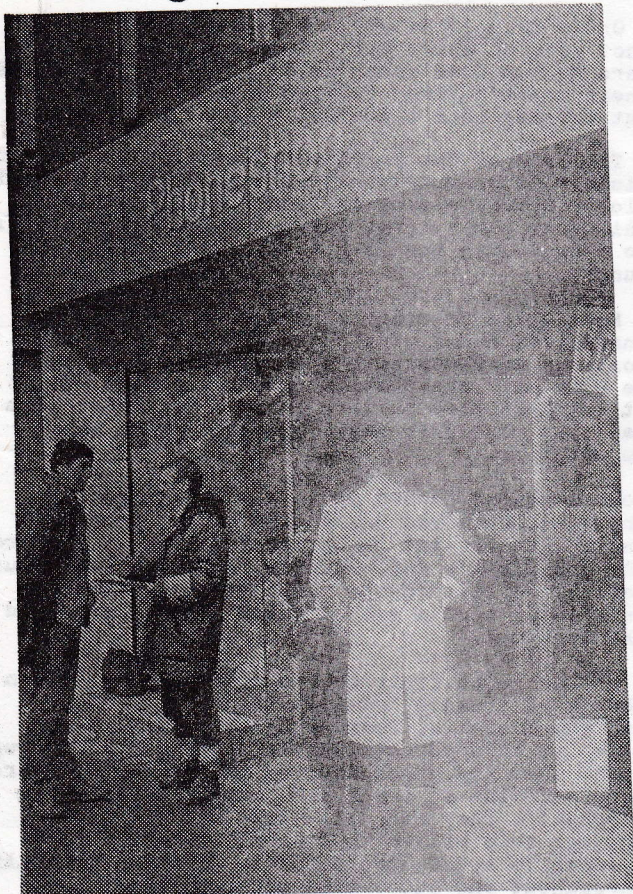
Since April last year the NCU (National Communications Union) had been negotiating a 5% pay increase, but BT management would not agree to this increase without the addition of several clauses, which the NCU say amounted to a change of workers practises and conditions of employment.

The strike is now starting to cause considerable chaos in Notts and nationally, although BT are anxious to contain the extent of the disruption and to put an end to growing fears that they may not be able to cope. A Home Office spokesperson said that the governments own emergency communications system may be used if the BT network broke down.

The strikers did offer to repair life and death services where the elderly and sick were concerned; but BT saw fit to sabotage these plans by suspending the very workers who would be voluntarily answering such emergencies!

The strikers are anxious to stress that their dispute is with BT top management and not with customers. They say their protests are not only about pay, but also about excessive increases in bills and the worsening standards of service. BT made £640,000,000 profit AFTER TAX in the last 6 months. Top level BT managers have nearly doubled their pay since privatisation, but the staff have seen over 25,000 jobs go since 1981 - and management now want to cut 24,000 more jobs.

This is but another example of the willingness of big business to trample all over people in their pursuit of profit. Jimi



New Women's Centre for Nottingham

Spring sees the official opening of the new Women's Centre, on Chaucer St.

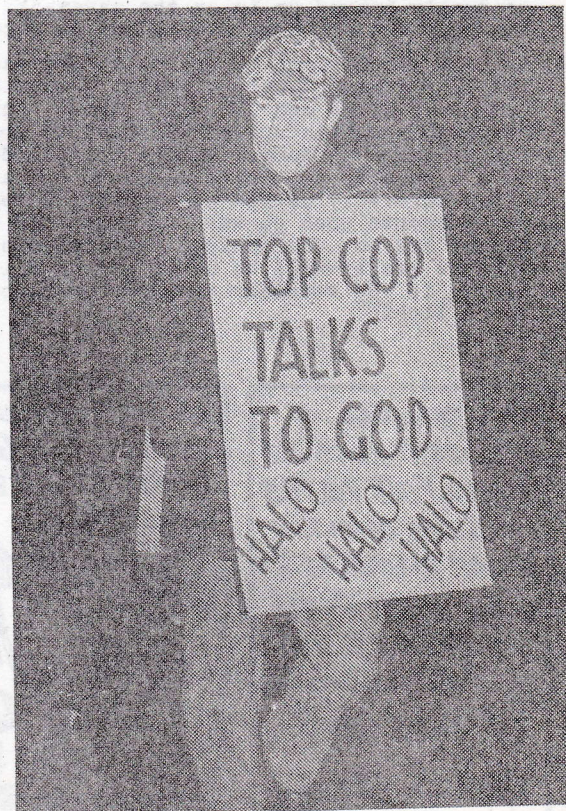
Planning the centre and renovating the old Institute for the Blind has taken over three years and the building has been transformed beyond belief to meet the needs of the numerous groups who will be using it.

At a highly successful viewing day recently, attended by 200 women, comments on the building were generally very favourable. However, from the criticisms, it is clear that the organisation and atmosphere must become less insular and more representative of what women are doing more widely. In particular, it would seem that working class women, black women, disabled women, older women and women that don't automatically prioritize women only space, need to be made to feel less 'outside' and intimidated by the organisation.

But it's early days yet. The direction that the centre will take is still open, and will hopefully be running as independently of it's funders as it can - by women, for women.

Laura.

A Picket at the Wapping strike anniversary March exhibits some genuine wit over Chief Constable "Moses" Anderton.



NEWS ★

Campaigning Against Police Repression

This was a demonstration against the Public Order Act, much of which came into force at the beginning of the year. A lot more Nottingham people could have gone on this if they'd taken the trouble to book a seat. However, 15 of us joined the march. It was a sunny day and there seemed to be about 500 people present. These numbers swelled as the march started. There were no large CAPR banners, so onlookers would be forgiven for thinking that "Islington Green Party" commands massive support, whereas in fact, if one of them had stopped for a piss, there wouldn't have been enough left to hold up their banner.

We set off down the Caledonian Road occasionally chanting "Burn it down, burn it down, burn it down" outside prisons, Times Newspapers, Government buildings etc. I liked doing that very much but had trouble remembering the words. When we reached the law courts in Holborn, various people harranged the masses with megaphones. The RCG called the Anarchists "filthy dirty scumbags" and the Anarchists called the RCG "dirty filthy scumbags", but all agreed that the streets were ours, and no act of parliament was going to keep us off them.

Outside South Africa House, we sat down in the road, got up, chanted "burn it down etc" for a bit and then decided to head for the Houses of Parliament. The police control of the demo had been getting more and more tenuous since the law courts, but down Whitehall they lost it completely. The horse guards with their sabres left their posts as demonstrators ran past, pursued by police vans and traffic. The charge was finally halted at the Parliament Sq end of Whitehall by a wall of police, who gradually hemmed us in on the pavement, allowing only two or three people out at once.

At this point, perhaps we could have made it into Parliament Square in small groups and then reassembled the demo, I don't know. Anyway, Nottingham contingent walked back to Trafalgar Square and went home. Unlike the CND demos I've been used to, which are decorous affairs along carefully marked out routes, I felt there were moments when we were in charge of this march, and not the police. Perhaps one day the streets really will be ours, but this'll only happen if YOU remember to get your bloody coach ticket!

BoB

No More Bloody Sundays

On January 30th 1972, 14 unarmed people were shot dead in Derry City, Northern Ireland. They were gunned down when the British Army occupying their country fired indiscriminately and without warning into a protest march.

The role of the British State throughout Irish history is an outrage we ignore at our own peril. Bloody Sunday cannot be forgotten. January 31st this year saw a large angry march through Sheffield to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Nottingham anarchists marched with other anarchists ahead of a Republican marching band. Contacts were remade and information exchanged; we were also the tattiest section of the march! It was good that we were there - next time lets see even more anarchists opposing British imperialism.

Some fascists turned up to bait marchers with their bloodstained union flags, but, happily enough, people had the gumption and guts to ignore the organiser's instructions for 'good behaviour' (and authorised chants only!) to give at least one of the scum a good kicking when he attacked the marchers.


Sectarianism first reared it's ugly head when the Irish Freedom Movement (an R.C.P. front) and the Socialist Workers Party vied with each other to show off how many placards they'd brought. Then, when the march arrived at the rally, there were scuffles as the I.F.M. insisted on having a speaker. They won, but what for? All their speaker told us was that he'd had a hard time getting to speak, but R.C.P.'s planted carefully throughout the auditorium cheered wildly.

Other speakers were concerned with different aspects of the war in Ireland. We were reminded that plastic bullets are deadly. Sinn Fein spoke (Bunged in last when most people had had to go & after the lefties had had their say! - Typissed). A woman from the Miners Support Groups spoke personally on how the miners struggle had opened her eyes to the brutality of the British State. These are the sort of links which need to be made. We have a responsibility to ourselves and to people in the 6 counties to get the British troops out now. We have a common enemy to fight, and that has everything to do with solidarity and nothing to do with party building.

Olga da Polga


THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM THE FOUR POLYPS IS A SIMPLE OPERATION WHICH ALLOWS THEIR GRASP OF THE REINS OF POWER TO CONTINUE UNLOOSENED. BUT ARE THEY REALLY BENIGN?

WITHOUT TESTS, WE CAN SAY THAT - AS A GROUP - THE POLYPS ARE BENIGN.



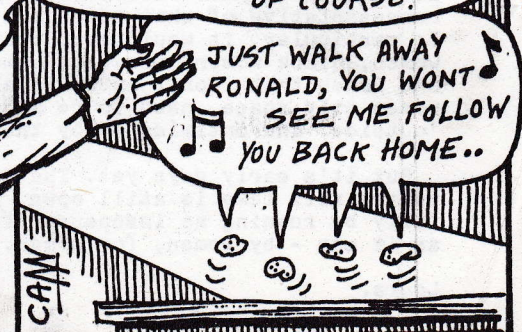
WHAT DO YOU MEAN DOCTOR, WHAT GROUP?

WHY...



THE FOUR POLYPS OF COURSE!

JUST WALK AWAY RONALD, YOU WONT SEE ME FOLLOW YOU BACK HOME..



NEWS ★

Nottingham Hunt Saboteurs

The Nottingham Hunt Sabs are going out every Saturday with a full vanload despite a couple of setbacks - namely a chronic lack of cash and the hunt terriermen!

The Boxing Day sab against the Quorn was an unequalled success which ended up with no kills and the hunt knocking off very early. Thanx to Birmingham sabs for turning up - no thanx to the cops who hassled us all day long even to the point of picking us out of a long line of hunt supportes and preventing us from driving down a public road.

On the 24th Jan we had a very good day's sabbing unhampered by the cops for a change. At one point hounds were less than a minute away from the fox, thanx to some excellent driving (well done Chris!) and prompt spraying to kill scent, hounds were stopped dead by us. We kept control of half the pack using horns, whip and voices until the hunt servants caught up.

After a short chase another fox was put to earth in a large straw stack. The farmer had no intentions of pulling the whole stack to pieces, and the terriers weren't interested at all. Although it was frustrating standing helpless on the road watching, we were pretty certain that the fox was safe. So, when the hunt moved off, we followed. We witnessed one hound trespass onto an adjoining field where the hunt is apparently banned, and it was amusing to watch the huntsman's efforts to call it back without trespassing himself, and before the farmer noticed.

Sabs are fundraising to try and raise much needed cash. At the moment there are several sponsored "Give-ups" -- smoking, drinking, meat, one sponsored vegan week, and a fast. We also hope to start up a supporters group for those people who have spare change and who may be don't feel up to sabbing themselves.

On Wednesday January 28th, Chumbawamba held a beenefit gig for us: raising over £400. We hope to get our new van out on the road with this. Again, many thanks to Chris for putting up his own money for this.

If you'd like more details you can contact us by writing to Box F, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote Street, or, Stoney at 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham NG3.

Stoney

THIS IS A HIJACK. TAKE ME TO THE NEAREST KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN!



Xmas At Chilwell

Now the American airforce is using some of the huge storage sheds at Chilwell depot to store airfield trucks, our local base is a small but important part of U.S. plans to defend Europe by exploding a lot of weapons all over it. It says on the telly that Xmas is supposed to be a time of peace, goodwill and old films, so it was decided to take this message - albiet dripping with insincerity - to the heart of the American war machine by holding a part inside the base.

In the early hours of December 21st a motley convoy lurched towards Chilwell. Two means of entry had already been prepared at the perimeter fence.

Now, for the group I was in, sneaking along underneath the flyover by the base fence things started to go wrong. There was a policeman in a hut looking at us. Was it a case of too many large bums sticking up above the grass, or had we been grassed up? We hid in the shadows like a load of prawns until the M.O.D. plods told us to piss off, then piled back into the cars and headed round to our other entrance.

By now the other group had made their way undetected to the middle of the base and were drinking, singing, pulling crackers and generally making merry without us. Despite the noise it was a long time before the M.O.D. turned up to join in the fun.

Meanwhile I was driving towards the other entrance with another car - load of us, when I decided to create a diversion by breathing into an orange plastic box held by a policeman. When I lit up the green light the policeman let us go, but stopped us again when they heard on their radio of what was happening inside the base. Eventually they let us go and we resolved grimly to get into the base. We finally made it at about 5 oclock.a.m. A policewoman discovered us while lurking outside the station. Soon we were united with our friends, happily decorating our cells with holly and tinsel. The M.O.D. interviewed everone, asking the usual inane questions.

They got a bit rough when we insisted on our right to a phone call, and none of us were given the opportunity to make one. In fact you could say that the M.O.D. attitude was not entirely consistant with the spirit of the season, but what most concerned them was the whereabouts of an extremely dangerous Christmas tree, which the press said we had planted. In fact this lethal device was approx. 400mm high and in the cell with us.

Gradually everybody was released into the cold, wet morning, although some were kept for 5 or 6 hours. But all was not lost. I was delighted to find someone had saved a cracker for me.

BoB

STUDENT PROTEST

FRANCE....	CHINA....	MEXICO....	BRITAIN....?

Fight the fascist gay bashers: Support the Wombourne 12

A few days before Christmas a number of young Lesbian and Gay people met in Nottingham for a small informal festival. The event had been organized at very short notice, and though the number of people there wasn't high the spirits and enthusiasm were.

On Sunday 21st December we decided to end the get together with a bit of direct action. As you may have heard a certain Councillor Brownshitt, scumbag leader of Tory led South Staffordshire District Council, had made certain outrageously prejudiced and frightening statements - namely that in his view and apparently others on the council, "90% of gay people should be gassed", the other 10% should be allowed to live as they had been the ones corrupted by the rest.

Twelve of us, four wimmin and eight blokes piled into a van and set off equipped with banners, leaflets and gas masks. We arrived at about 6pm. It was dark and beginning to rain. The house, Serento by name, 91 School Road, Himley, stood in a fantastical aura of Christmas fairy lights, glistening tinsel and bigotted fucking ignorance.

Brownshitts comments were reported widely both in the papers and on radio and television. Many people were incensed with rage that he should be able to say such things and get away with it. On Sunday afternoon we decided to pay him a visit.

Brownshitt, leader of scumbags, wasn't in residence but his piggy son was. "Hello - we've come to be gassed!" were our introductory words, followed by other happy Christmas messages, such as "Brownhill brownshirt don't be reckless, we're gonna get you with the necklace."

The filth arrived and arrested us all under section 5 of the Public Order Act. We sat down and linked arms in a tight circle, they then proceeded - all ten of them - to tread on us, and manipulated our limbs, strangling people and even kicking and punching one of the wimmin. At length we were all dragged away offering minimal resistance to the cars and at the station locked in cells.

We spent over 24 hours at Wombourne nick being hassled and abused, before being dragged into court on Monday evening, to be put on remand for seven days until after the holiday. The reason given was that our names and addresses were being verified, and as we were a risk to public order we mustn't be allowed to go free - over half our addresses had been verified.

We were being punished by the filth who had misled the court, and abused by a Tory court who saw fit to send twelve people down, (four of whom were 17, and all twelve of whom had no previous convictions), for seven days for a very small, peaceful protest. We were betrayed by a scab duty solicitor, whose only aim it seems was to wash his hands of us as soon as possible and collect his legal aid money. He made no attempt to defend us and refused to appeal even though there would have been two full working days left before the holiday, and we'd have most likely gone before a judge and been bailed. Whilst in custody we had not been permitted to phone our own solicitor.

The under 21's were sent to Brockhill Remand Centre, the wimmin to the notorious Risley and the older males to Winson Green, Birmingham. Whilst in prison all of the young Brockhill remandees were threatened with violence by other inmates and three were actually assaulted. Most were eventually isolated and some asked to be put on Rule 43 for their own protection.

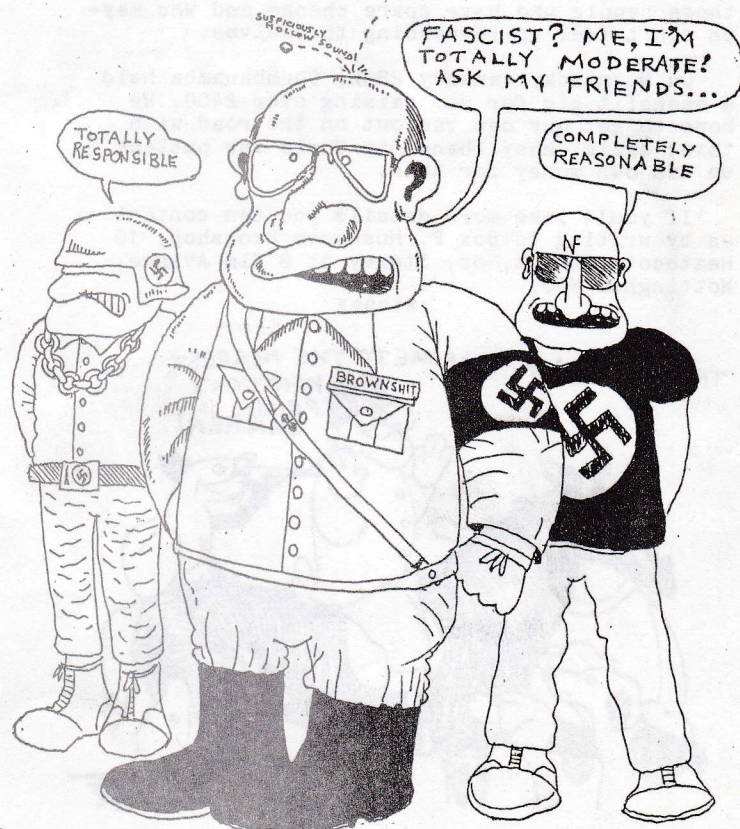
We were all also told that we would be made to take an aids test which we would have refused. The prison probation officers did not contact our solicitors as requested which could have resulted in us being released much earlier. The police, the court and the duty solicitor, the duty probation officers in court and at our own prisons conspired to withhold our access to our own solicitors until it was too late to act.

On Monday 29th December we were represented by our own solicitors and were bailed to appear again on February 23rd and 24th at Siesden Magistrates Court. Our solicitors have asked for an investigation into police conduct, the conduct of the prosecution, the magistrates sitting at the time of our remand, and the probation service is investigating the misconduct - or rather, failure, - to act of the associated probation officers.

We appear again in Siesden on the 23rd and 24th of Feb., on charges of Breach of the Peace, and assault of police officers. Please be there. There will be coaches from Nottingham.

There is an open meeting at the ICC on the 4th Feb., and a Benefit to raise money for expenses of the accused and overnight accomodation costs. FIGHT THE FASCIST GAY BASHERS - SUPPORT THE WOMBOURNE 12 !

Donations to:- Wombourne 12 Defence Fund, Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.



SEX... AND AIDS

Not very subtly hidden in the government's T.V. advert about Aids is the idea that Sex equals Death equals God's Will. The phallic symbolism of the hard penile chisel violently thrusting its way through soft passive stone to the discordant chimes of religious music is a disturbing collage of images and associations.

Since civilisation began moralists have peddled these concepts as a very effective method of mind control and destabilisation of the individual. Our sexuality and our appreciation and understanding of it is central to our well being and peace of mind. The idea that a free sexuality is diseased and leads to death has been a key marketing concept for the institution of marriage. "You know you're safe from sexually transmitted diseases when you buy yourself a genuine C. of E. approved virgin".

Throughout the history of civilisation there have been many incidences of the church the state and the media collaborating to restrict and shape the sexuality of the masses.

In the 15th-17th centuries the church denounced independent women, many of them lesbian, as witches, the state tried them, and the newly developed printing presses provided every court in Europe with a copy of "The Hammer of the Witches" a handbook listing the various offences for which women could be convicted for witchcraft. Also at this time many gay men were convicted of heresy, and the anti-gay insult 'faggot' dates from this period when gay men were tied together in bundles and burned in the funeral pyres of the witches. Witches were accused of killing babies, spreading disease, poisoning, and 'disgusting' sexual practices, and public hysteria was manipulated as a front to cover this massive abuse of human rights.

In Hitler's Germany the Jews were accused of polluting and infecting the race blood of the German people, and media manipulated hatred of the Jews led to six million of them being denounced to the state and executed in concentration camps like Auschwitz. Hundred of thousands of other 'deviant' minority groups also ended their lives in the death camps, blacks, political activists, travelling people, mentally handicapped people, and homosexuals and lesbians, in an effort to purify the Aryan race. Whilst this may have resulted in a massive decline in the size of the Jewish population of Europe it has had little long term effect on the size of the homosexual population as lesbians and gay men continue to be born to heterosexual parents.



Today in Thatcher's Britain, which is looking more like Hitler's Germany every day we see again this collaboration of state church and media in the handling of the Aids health crisis. The stigmatisation of people with Aids and the minority groups associated with Aids by church leaders, politicians, police chiefs, and gutter press, does nothing, absolutely nothing to halt the spread of the disease, and current attempts by the far right to criminalise people with the disease would only drive it underground.

This is not to say that Aids is nothing more than a media myth, far from it, it is a very real and very deadly disease, and we must all take on board the responsibility to see that we don't contribute to the spread of the virus.

The idea that Aids is confined within small minority groups is a dangerous fallacy that can lead on one hand to complacency, and on the other hand to false hopes of the eradication of the disease by the eradication of those infected minority groups. People of both sexes have sex of all types with people of any and every sexuality, race, age, and class all the time. We are all at risk, and we can all take precautions to keep ourselves healthy.

Aids is not a plague, although the mass media continue to use this highly emotive and fear inducing word. It cannot be caught by socialising with infected people, from cups or cutlery, from toilet seats or swimming baths.

For sexual transmission to occur, body fluids containing the HIV virus (Especially blood or semen) must enter the partners body through the vagina, rectum, mouth, or breaks in the skin (eg cuts grazes ulcers etc)

Aids is a disease of all sexually active people, it isn't just homosexuals and intravenous drug users who are at risk, but anyone who isn't in a permanent lifelong exclusively monogamous relationship.

The sexual activity that is most likely to lead to the transmission of the virus is screwing or fucking, it is a very popular sexual act, and is often the high point, or the aim and objective of many sexual encounters. Since it is impossible to tell whether your prospective sexual partner is infected with the virus, or not, it makes common sense for everyone, from now on to use condoms with any new sexual partner they may wish to fuck/screw with, or to practice a lower risk sexual activity. Many homosexuals, bisexuals, intravenous drug users, haemophiliacs, and their sexual partners are already practicing safer sex, and it makes good sense for all of us to do so from now on to safeguard the health and futures of ourselves and our significant others. Far from being a limited or restricted form of sexual behaviour safe sex frees us from the sex equals death association and allows us to eroticise the whole body and connect more deeply with our sexual selves.

Neil Ethic 1st Feb 1987.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO SAFER SEX

This is a list of different ways of having sex. Some of the ways are marked LOW RISK because they carry almost no risk of spreading the virus. MEDIUM RISK activities carry a better chance of getting or giving the virus—but they appear to be less risky than HIGH RISK activities which are known for sure to carry a real risk of passing on the infection if one of the partners has the virus.

NO RISK

- Solo masturbation and fantasy
- Sexy talking and telephone sex
- Massage away from the genital area
- Sex toys used on your own and kept for your own exclusive use
- Enemas and douches done by yourself to yourself.

LOW RISK

- Mutual masturbation
- Group masturbation
- Dry kissing
- Dildos, vibrator, etc used with a partner as long as each item is never shared.
- General body to body contact and movement.
- Penis to body contact except between the thighs and buttocks
- Body kissing and nipple nibbling, as long as the skin is not broken
- Cock sucking without coming in your partners mouth

MEDIUM RISK

- Fingering (putting one or more fingers into the anus or vagina)
- Douches and enemas
- Cock sucking, when you come in your partners mouth
- Cunnilingus (a man or woman tonguing a woman's genitals) especially during a period.

HIGHER RISK

- Dildos and vibrators if shared with others
- Rimming or tongueing the anus

HIGHEST RISK

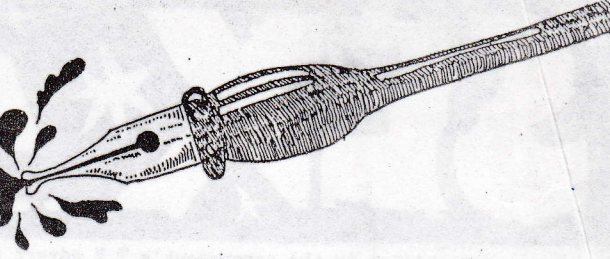
- Vaginal sex, anal sex (fucking or screwing) Both of these MAY be safer if a condom is used effectively every time.
- Withdrawal before coming is unlikely to be safer
- Any sex act which draws blood (including body piercing)
- Enemas and douches used before or after anal sex

If you inject drugs then remember NEVER to share your needles and syringes, and NEVER use someone else's needle.

Being drunk or stoned can reduce your ability to stick to judgements about what's safe and what isn't so take care.

If you're worried or concerned about Aids then ring the Aids Helpline (0602) 58526 Monday and Tuesday 7-10pm.

Letters



Dear NAN...

I attended a public meeting recently which was supposed to be about Bloody Sunday. The speaker from the Nottm Irish Solidarity Group and the Irish Freedom Movement were both very interesting. But, why oh why, do these meetings always have to degenerate into people making set piece speeches pro or anti the Labour Party as soon as they are opened to the floor?

Was no-one there actually interested in Ireland? I've heard these discussions about the Labour Party time and time again. I have my own opinion of them (I'd rather put my trust in something I've just wiped off the bottom of my shoe) but I went to hear about Bloody Sunday! All I could gather from the discussion was that no-one gives a toss about Ireland, as no-one wanted to discuss Bloody Sunday!

Please, lets have a genuine solidarity movement, and a bit less pointless point-scoring.

Yours, pissed off, Chris.

Dear NAN...

The recent campaign against race checks in dole offices -- initiated by Workers Against Racism -- is something Notts Anarchists were kept to support and become involved in. WAR's front page article in the Nottingham Trader, and the leaflets they were giving out encouraged "all anti-racists" to come and join their week long action against this most recent attack on Black and Asian claimants.

But all WAR's fine rhetoric about wanting a broad based anti-racist campaign were a total sham.

A member of the anarchist group went to the picket on the third day, to find out more about the campaign and show the interest of the group in joining the pickets later that week. The two person picket outside the dole office not only declined to give a phone number, but they announced that, contrary to the Trader story, the picket was ending that day.

When told that the Anarchist Group could muster a group of people later that week, they declined to reconsider re-instating the picket.

WAR kept explaining that "resources and people were stretched at the moment -- that's why the picket's so small..." They were pressed again: the Anarchist group want to join the action, why are the pickets finishing? WAR repeated their insistence that "resources were stretched" and that, as they say, was that...

I admit that the Anarchist Group made a mistake with WAR: it was stupid to expect that they'd welcome us, and stupider still to expect them to be able to sustain a week long picket. We should have planned our own approach from the start -- but WAR's closing the campaign mid-week left us high and dry. The overstretched Anarchist Group hadn't the time to organise another action

from scratch in time. Result: opposition to the race checks was nothing like it could have been or should have been.

Next time we'll know better. WAR is well known as a front for the Revolutionary Communist Party. WAR'S first objective is to assist the standing of the RCP. Judging by the fiasco in Nottingham, joining with others to oppose racism comes a poor second.

Yours, Rich

NEN also notes that the R.C.P. cooperated with the Trader in getting publicity for their picket. Their organisation is so London centered that they hadn't heard that the Trader is a real "no-no" for ones political credibility here - they must have been in the hairdressers when the words "don't trade with the Trader" were proclaimed!

REVIEWS

Hearts and Minds

Joan Witham

Canary Press £4.95.

Available from Black Raven Bookstall.



Hearts and Minds is the story of the Womens Support Groups operating in Nottinghamshire during the 1984-85 Miners Strike.

For them the struggle was harder than for most, isolated in their militancy in a county the Tories held up as a shining example of "people voting with their feet" - scab style. And yet nationally they often had to fight for recognition from the workers movement, and show that not all Notts Miners would betray their class and join the UDM.

Hearts and Minds, written by a woman herself deeply involved during the strike, shows the women of the Notts Coalfields growing, if anything, wiser by the struggle they endured and the truths they learned about the nature of the state, the bosses and their bullyboys, the police.

It also shows them growing stronger, more confident and more resourceful, forging vital links with working class organisations both here and internationally and building the solid foundations of real workers resistance.

Finally, for us as anarchists, it shows the plain practicality, sense and feasibility of grass roots, rank & file organisation by people with no power and no weight to throw around except that of enduring solidarity and commitment to their class, and to making the bosses pay dearly for their crimes.

BENEFIT FOR NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST NEWS

"FORWARD TO THE DAILY!"

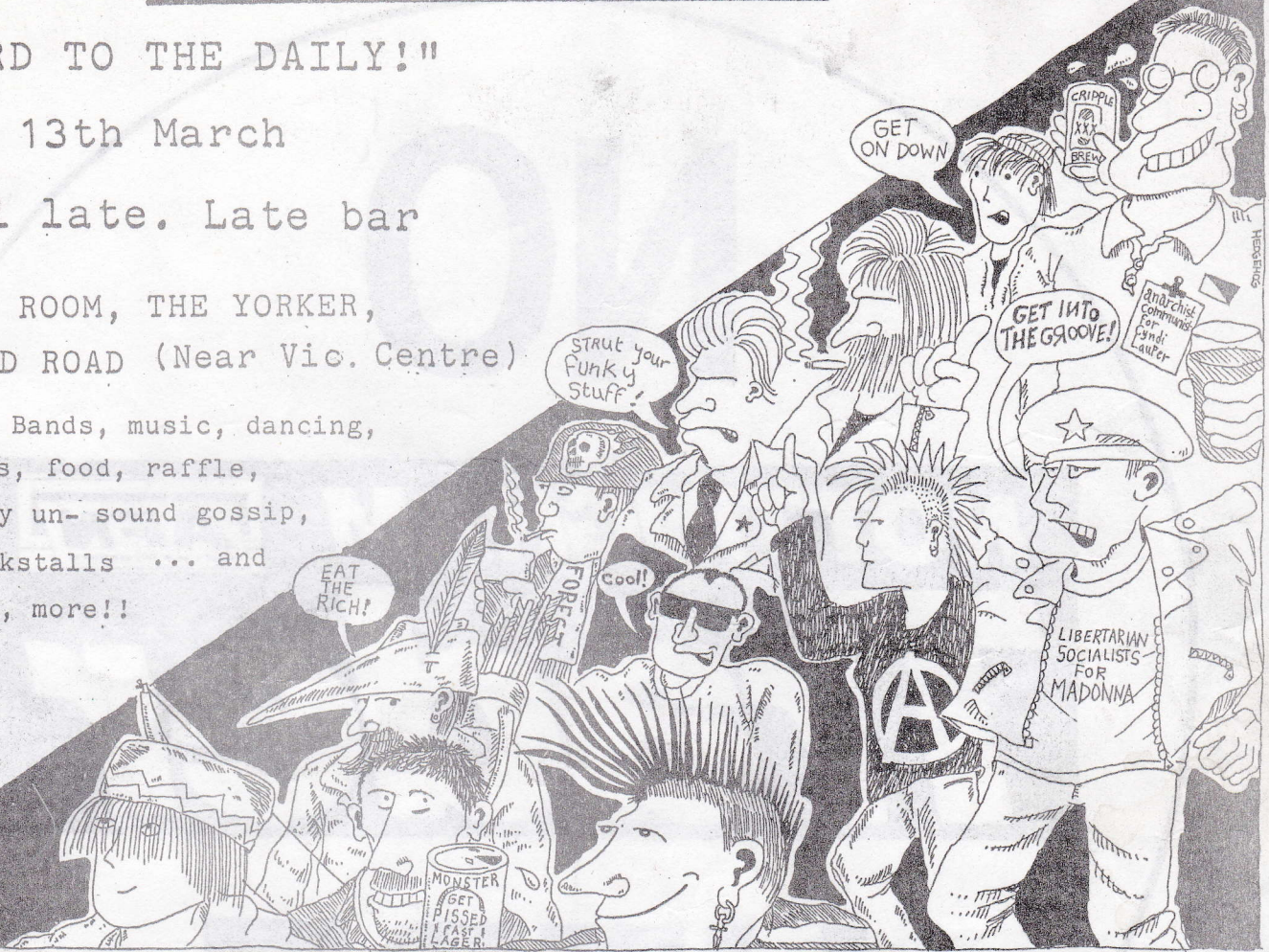
Friday 13th March

8pm til late. Late bar

FUNCTION ROOM, THE YORKER,
MANSFIELD ROAD (Near Vic. Centre)

FEATURING: Bands, music, dancing,
celebrities, food, raffle,
politically un-sound gossip,
disco, bookstalls ... and
more, more, more!!

WATCH OUT
FOR MORE
DETAILS!



ISCUMBAGS!

The ROBOTIC CLONES PARTY (slogan - "We're all the same") seem to reel from one farce to the next. Recently one member was heard to complain bitterly that one of their posters proclaiming to the world that the RCP (an IFM front, or is it the other way round) has the only correct line on Northern Ireland had been obliterated by a poster advertising a Hunt Sabs benefit. Could it be that this was in retaliation for the RCP's nasty habit of flyposting on peoples front windows? Perhaps if you weren't so inconsiderate, opportunist and self-important, comrades, people might take you a little more seriously.

Staying with the RCP: They've discovered the cure for AIDS. Its the same as the cure for radiation sickness, premature balding and the common cold. The solution? Join the RCP!! The theory is that AIDS isn't really the Problem its hyped up to be. Its just away of enforcing the states preferred lifestyle, in the same way that its the fear of rape, not the reality, which keeps women subdued. And after the Revolution radiation will be safe. And the Revolution will be led by a bunch of (admittedly Enthusiastic) middle class, trendy students. And pigs will fly.

The dispute at the Trader seems to have caught a lot of people off-guard. Among those to talk to that scabby organ are the organisers of the Nottm. Womens Festival. They have now decided to have no further contact with that paper, but I've heard a few grumbles about their choice of sponsors.

These include the three big Nottingham noises, Boots, Players and Plessey. Its a pity that such a laudable project as the Womens Festival should have to accept money from torturers of animals, pedlars of cancer, and builders of weapons & surveillance systems. This is especially distressing because the total sum involved (about £120) could easily be made up by those feminists in cushy jobs putting their money where their mouths are..

Its not often that I find anything nice to say about Mushroom. But I want to take this opportunity to thank them for mentioning one of my printing efforts in their xmas list. Mushroom have sold things printed by me before, of course; the ALF bulletins for example. But this is the first time they've ever given me a plug. What is puzzling, however is that the work in question contains the line " - the working class must be prepared to use whatever violence is necessary to drive its struggle forward and seal its victory." and pictures of guns abound. Whatever next??

In the latest copy of NOTTINGHAM EXTRA one Ross Bradshaw admits to both reading and writing to the Evening Post. He claims it is O.K. to do this because the NUJ boycott has ended. May I remind Mr Bradshaw (and anyone else, for that matter) that the NGA are still in dispute with the Post and for that reason the boycott still stands. I hope the comments I overheard concerning Mr Bradshaw and the Labour Party were not in jest - they deserve each other. Hypocrite at home.

NO



HERE

**REINSTATEMENT
NOW!**

SUPPORT THE SACKED PRINT WORKERS

-----Please cut out and display-----