

ANARCHIST TIMES

PAPER OF
NOTTINGHAM
ANARCHIST
SOCIALIST
GROUP

STOP the developers

A plan to build a massive ASDA hypermarket on the Hyson Green Flats site is just one among many mad money-making schemes planned for Nottingham in the coming months

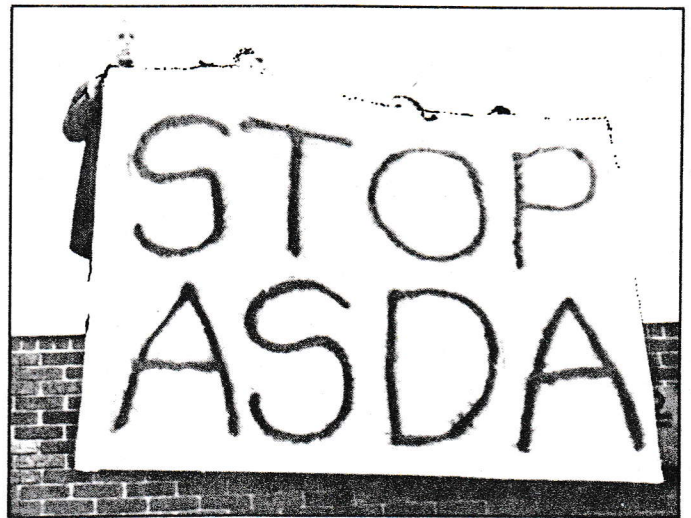
All the plans share a common theme: they've got nothing to do with the needs of the ordinary people of Nottingham, and everything to do with lining the pockets of property speculators, company directors and fat-cat businessmen.

HOUSING

Residents of Hyson Green were promised badly needed housing

when the plan to demolish the infamous flats was announced. Instead, they've been told by the local Council that they're to have a huge, unwanted ASDA hypermarket on their doorstep - and all the traffic congestion and disruption to the area that goes with it.

In return, they're supposed to be grateful for a few badly-paid jobs



Rooftop protest on Hyson Green Flats

stacking shelves or doing the checkout.

UNEMPLOYED

And that's not all. Nearby, in Lenton, an American-based multinational has started to build a huge 13 screen cinema and "entertainment complex". No doubt, the "entertainment" on

offer will be beyond the pocket of the unemployed, the low waged and the homeless of Lenton, but since when did they count?

To top it all off, they plan to demolish a whole chunk of Mansfield Rd, near the bus station. What do they want to

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Stand together to fight NHS cuts

A huge wave of anger is sweeping through the National Health Service. The Tories plans to give tax-cuts to the rich, not more cash to the NHS, has touched a raw nerve with millions throughout the country.

Nurses, doctors and ancillary workers have had enough of under-funding, low-pay and ward closures. They're no longer prepared to put up with rising work-loads and falling rewards. They're demanding increased funding for the NHS, better pay

for all workers, and they're fighting the "privitisation" of support services. And they're standing together in that fight.

STRIKE ACTION

Recently in Scotland, NHS nurses went on strike in solidarity with ancillary workers whose jobs were under threat. And in recent other strikes all over the country, nurses have stood shoulder to shoulder with kitchen staff, porters and cleaners.

In hospitals throughout the country, strike-action, walk-outs and stoppages have shown clearly the strength of feeling on the wards. The action has had the support of patients and many of those on ever-growing waiting lists.

But as usual, trade union officials are stepping in to limit the anger to ineffective "token action". When the Scottish TUC realised it was being left behind by a huge surge of anger outside its control, it announced a token one day

strike, at a date "yet to be set" in a hope that this would pacify the health workers. It was a simple act of sabotage by bureaucrats who don't want the boat rocked.

COSY CHAT

The day before the recent national one day stoppage, TUC boss Norman Willis went to see health ministers, to see if he could drum up a few more quid to buy off the action. After their cosy little chat he announced to

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Clause 28 is a slippery slope

Clause 28 of the new Local Government Bill is the establishment's latest attack on the gay community. It means: an end to council support for lesbian and gay help lines and advice centres, the possible withdrawal of licenses for gay pubs and clubs, and the banning of gay books and literature from libraries. This will effectively restrict us from access to gay information and knowledge of any kind.

BACKLASH

This merely legitimizes the growing backlash experienced by gay people from society as a whole. There was a 30% increase in the numbers of reported gay bashing incidents last year alone and in many cases if the queer bashers don't get you then the police will. The two women arrested for kissing in public during a recent Clause 28 demo will probably be charged with disorderly conduct.

Gay people have travelled a long way since the 1967 Act, from the isolated and ashamed closet of the past to a supposedly strengthened pride in

their sexuality now. But to what end! In reality their situation is even more tenuous now than it was before. The legal approval so grudgingly given by the establishment can be taken away in an instant. This Bill could be the first step on the slippery slope towards recriminalisation through the back door. More than this, Clause 28 can also be seen as an indirect attack on society as a whole: through dividing, they rule us.

SEXUALITY

The capitalist system has denied us freedom by alienating us from ourselves. One aspect of this common oppression is the rule of sexual tyranny. Under capitalism, sexuality in all its forms is debased. We live in a society where as young adults we are fed a steady diet of commercialised sex-pulp (ranging from hard-porn to "true love" romance). Later, we're hypocritically forced to relate to a different set of images -- this time of



family life. Sex becomes a symbol of the power and property relations of capitalist life. The power of husband over wife and parents over children, all tied to a lifetime of wage slavery.

LIBERATION

Why have we as lesbians and gays sacrificed our individuality to this perverted idea of sex and sexuality? The gay community can never hope to be secure in the ghetto. We have achieved nothing but a mere imitation of the worst aspects of heterosexual life. By trying to give credence to our sexuality through the acting out of these pretended family relationships (proving that we too can play "happy families") we continue to lock ourselves into the prison of a false patriarchal value system. We delude and denigrate ourselves hoping to reform an essentially flawed system.

A totally integrated existence can only be achieved by liberating ourselves from this sexual repression by destroying the idea of exclusive sexuality and the system which perpetuates it.

VISION

We have the vision to see a society based on mutual respect where people are free to explore their sexuality (although with Aids, safety and caution are the watchwords).

As anarchist-communists we say: don't be shy -- just do it! ■

Stand together to fight NHS cuts Continued from front page

waiting press men: "We came for cash. We didn't get it. We pressed and pressed and got nothing..."

PACIFY

He even went as far as suggesting the government's plan for a "review" of NHS funding was "a bit suspicious". Steady on Norman, watch your heart rate...

Meanwhile, Labour Party Neil Kinnock has refused to support health workers, and has got on with his "Labour listens" press campaign. Maybe he's embarrassed by the Labour Party's appalling record on funding for the NHS, closing hospitals and cutting health workers pay. He certainly doesn't want effective action against NHS cuts anymore

than he wanted effective action by the miners, the printworkers at Wapping, or anyone else. Kinnock and his cronies are on the other side of the fence. Pushing the Labour Party to support workers in struggle is like trying to nail jelly to the ceiling.

While trade union bureaucrats and Labour officials have tried to contain the action, the health workers have been winning some fights. The government has been forced to back down over "special duty payments" and blood donor attendants meal allowances.

BACK DOWN

Health service workers must refuse to be fobbed off with promises of "reviews",

inquiries or a small injection of cash. The government plans to make local Health Authorities pay for most of any nurses wage rise out of their existing budgets.

NO CHARITY

That's a cut, not an increase, and it must be rejected out of hand.

So too must any plans for accepting charity events, lotteries, or appeals as ways of subsidising underfunded hospitals. And union collaboration with such sell-outs should be stopped.

In previous health service disputes the leaders of NUPE and COHSE have started by backing industrial action, only to wind it up later on. Workers anger was channelled and spent.

It's no surprise that union leaders claim to champion our cause, only to sell us out later. We should expect it of them and organise ourselves to fight without them.

Striking health service workers are right to vent their anger at the government, and to mobilise en masse against them. They should not let their union leaders, or the TUC, or the Labour Party sabotage their fight.

ORGANISE

PS: All power to those health workers in South Yorkshire who picketed Frickley colliery, and brought NUM members out in solidarity! Totally illegal and totally excellent. ■

Fight Alton, fight for freedom

March sees the final reading of Liberal MP David Alton's anti-abortion bill in the Commons. It is the 7th attempt to reduce women's access to abortion since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act, which legalized some abortions up to 28 weeks.

TIME LIMIT

Alton and his supporters want to reduce the time limit for abortions to 18 weeks. They have no consideration for the physical, emotional and economic circumstances of a woman that would be left to bring up an unwanted child. This is complete hypocrisy. The type of people who support Alton want women in the home, under the thumb of her husband or family, without a

can always buy a safe abortion, however late, however illegal. (50% of operations currently performed for money are terminations)

No woman wants a late abortion and very few are currently performed. Menopausal women and young girls, who may not know that they are pregnant, are the ones who will suffer most under Alton's bill. Women carrying abnormal foetuses will face even more problems (the test for this only takes place after 18 weeks)

DEFEAT ALTON

Defeating Alton's bill completely, (not compromising by settling for 24 weeks, as many MPs want) is



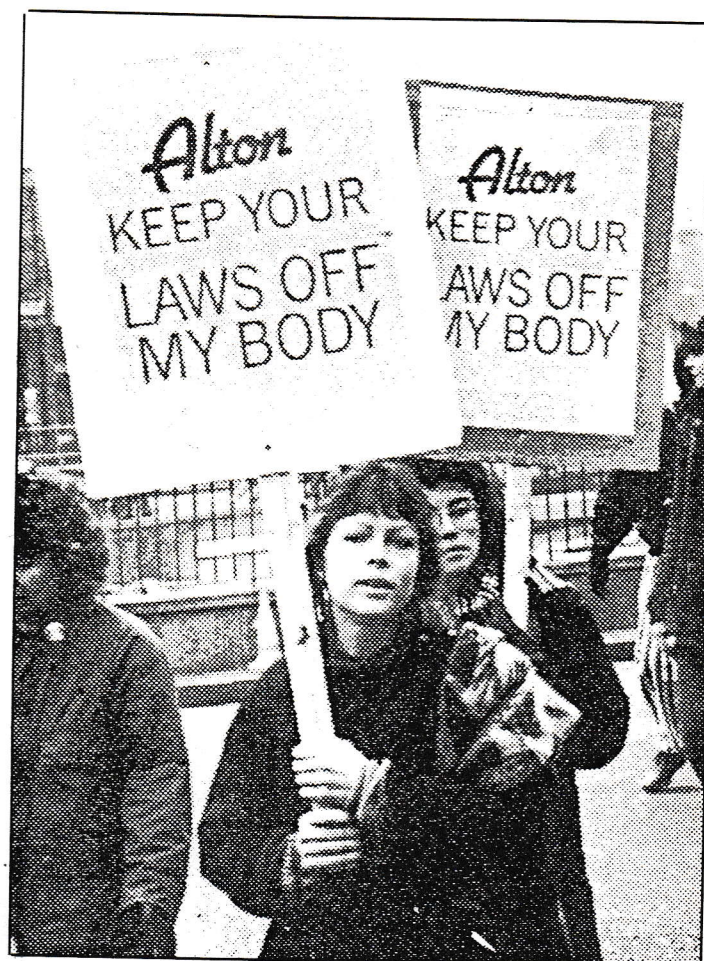
Hundreds march through Nottingham on January 16th in the local Fight the Alton Bill demonstration.

chance to make the vital choices in her life that only she is in a position to make.

The real effect of outlawing later terminations will be to force women into back street abortions by unscrupulous doctors, who care little about the safety of the women they are treating. However, the situation for rich women would be the same as it is now. People with enough money

vital. People all over the country are organising in campaigns to oppose such legislation - passed by rich male MPs to further attack the freedom of working class women. In Nottingham on January 16th, 1,000 people joined a March and rally from the Market Square to the Victoria Leisure Centre to oppose attacks on the '67 Act.

But supporting existing legislation simply isn't enough. Whilst it is



vital that as many people as possible work to oppose Alton, in the long terms we need more freedom for women than the '67 Act allows.

Under current legislation it is still very difficult for a woman to get an abortion. They are certainly not available 'on demand' as the anti-abortionists would have us believe. A woman currently has to prove to two doctors that she would suffer as a result of a pregnancy. By the time she has coped with unsympathetic doctors and NHS delays, she may well be over the 28 week time limit. The '67 Act does not even apply to women in Northern Ireland. To get an abortion they often have to come to Liverpool or London, causing financial hardship and increasing the likelihood of a late termination.

With the repressive climate of opinion about 'moral values' and the sanctity of the family, and the rich, white, male parliament that prevents any change in how society is structured, we are constantly on the defensive.

All that can be done through parliament at present is to try to

halt repressive legislation. Laws made by politicians are an attempt to control us. Politicians have totally different interests to the vast majority of people, and seek to protect their privileges.

In the long-run, the action that counts is the action that we take positively for ourselves, outside of Parliament. Politicians will not give us what we need for our health and happiness, we must take it, if we are ever to be rid of men legislating over our bodies and lives.

OURSELVES

We must aim to smash Parliament and organise in our communities, where we live and work, to run our lives ourselves and make the choices that are best for us. We need abortions when we demand them, not when doctors or politicians want us to have them. ■

Nottingham Fight the Alton Bill Campaign, in defence of the '67 Act, meets Thursdays at 7.30pm at the International Community Centre on Mansfield Rd. Their address is Box 3, 118, Mansfield Rd. Nottingham.



Miners fight back

The defeat of John Walsh in the recent election campaign for President of the National Union of Mineworkers was a blow to the "new realists" in the union who are eager to surrender to the attacks of British Coal.

Walsh and his cronies on the NUM Executive want the miners to give up their fight against pit closures, six-day working and the new disciplinary code. They've even voted to sit down with the UDM in joint negotiations with the Coal Board.

NEW REALISTS

The "new realists" are falling over themselves to agree to whatever terms British Coal throws down. Such collaboration is sickening. It plays straight into the hands of British Coal, who want to shut more pits, axe thousands more

jobs, and crush militancy in the coalfields.

Meanwhile, the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, are going all out to arrange "sweetheart" deals with the management.

SCABS

Roy Lynk, self-confessed leader of the UDM, is promising that if the NUM refuses to negotiate on six-day working, the UDM will take all the jobs in the new superpits - including those the Ashfordby mine in Leicestershire.

And even before the recent 24-hour NACODS strike brought the Notts coalfield to a standstill for 2 days, Lynk was mouthing-off about their eagerness to scab on the pit deputies.

So, in the face of all this, shouldn't we welcome Scargill's re-election

as a rallying cry for opponents of "new realism" and the UDM?

No. It is the militancy of rank and file miners that must be the rallying cry. Scargill, while he refuses to negotiate with British Coal, is determined to keep the miners action within the bureaucratic confines of the NUM. The leadership battle has been a diversion from the real miners struggle. Focussing on bureaucrats - however supposedly "left-wing" - can only re-inforce passivity at the grass-roots.

SCARGILL

British Coal's strategy is to play one area off against another - offering a deal here, threatening to sack flying pickets there.

Only co-ordinated, collective action to defend the coalfields as a whole can resist these attacks.

Scargill, though, rejects autonomous rank and file action. For him, NUM officialdom comes before effective self-activity.

COLLECTIVE

This is a strategy for defeat, especially when some area officials now see their priority as policing their membership, and crushing effective 'wildcat' action. South Yorkshire area NUM officials have recently voted to ignore "flying" picket lines, until they have the official NUM seal of approval, and have opposed a whole series of rank and file actions over the past 2 years. This is madness. Only the collective solidarity of rank and file miners, ignoring injunctions, breaking the union rule book, and intensifying the struggle with them in control, can push back British Coal. ■

No benefit to claimants...

In April there will be major changes in all aspects of the Benefit System. Its effects will be harsh on everybody in receipt of benefit. After April everybody will get a Personal Allowance. This will be the same amount for everyone. Single parents, the disabled, severely disabled, pensioners and those with children will get a premium on top of this basic sum. This new system is supposed to compensate for the loss of Weekly Additions and Single Payments, though it is clear it does nothing of the sort.

All Weekly Additions, such as those for special needs, are to be scrapped. In order to cushion the blow Transitional Payments will be issued. This will be a top up which will initially correspond to any extra payments received. However, over time this top up will also be lost.

All Single Payments will also disappear under the new system.

ADDITIONS

This loss means that people who suffer some disaster, such as their cooker breaking down, will not be entitled to a payment to buy new equipment. Instead a loan system will be in operation with people expected to borrow money in order to buy or replace essential items. This money is a loan, not a

payment, and a sum will be deducted from the individual's benefit to pay it back.

PAYMENTS

Some people, such as the disabled and elderly, will be able to apply for grants to help them set up home. The intention is to keep people within the community. In reality it seems designed to keep people away from public services such as Hospitals. This Community Care Grant can only be applied for once.

After April people will not be entitled to income support if they work 24 or more hours per week. There will be no transitional payment to tide people over. This will mean that someone currently working 24 hours a week will suddenly find themselves with no money after April.

RATES

The difference between householder and non-householder rates will be scrapped. One effect of this will be that single people under 25 living in rented accommodation will get no more to pay for bills than if they were living in their parent's home. After April everybody will have to pay 20% of the rates.

Because of the loss of Single Payments and Weekly Additions it is vital that you find out now if you are currently entitled to help. ■

Council attacks homeless

Bassetlaw District Council thinks that homeless people "on bail" awaiting trial should sleep rough or be banged up in jail.

The Council is set to withdraw £7000 funding from Retford's "Stop-Over" homeless hostel run by Shelter, because 4 out of 85 temporary residents who stayed there last year were "on bail".

Council Environment Director David Pell say "taking people on

bail is different to the original purpose of the hostel".

The Council grant forms 50% of the hostel's funding. Shelter say the Council's action would effectively shut them down.

It's unclear at this stage whether Shelter will comply with the Council's orders, and turf homeless people back onto the streets, in an attempt to save the hostel. ■

No platform for racists!

STOP PRESS: Norris McWhirter - chairman of the the ultra right-wing Freedom Association - and Ray Honeyford (the racist former Bradford headmaster) have both been invited to speak at Nottingham University by a students' group.

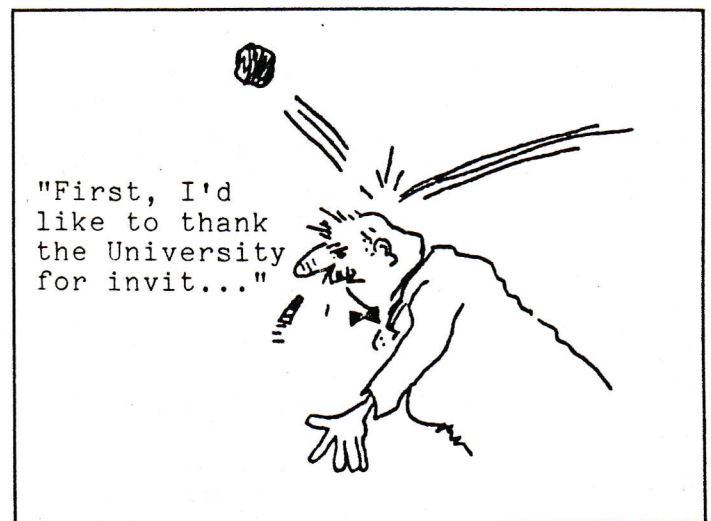
They're two of the speakers being presented by the Free Speech Society in a series of lectures between February 16th and 26th. The exact dates of their appearances are not known as we go to press.

Honeyford will be speaking on "The Ideology of Anti-Racism".

McWhirter will be peddling his usual right-wing filth.

To invite such people onto a public platform is an insult to the Black and Asian communities in Nottingham, and to the poor as a whole. Trendy students into "intellectual debates" with the likes of McWhirter and Honeyford should be given a rude awakening.

The farce of the protest against Enoch Powell's visit to the University in '86 must not be repeated. They must be stopped. Organise for action. ■



Stop the developers

Continued from front page

put in its place? Housing? A community centre? No chance - another city centre office block, just what we need...

They know damn well that there's 8000 people on the council's housing lists. They know that there are hundreds more homeless, living in damp, decaying housing, or sleeping rough.

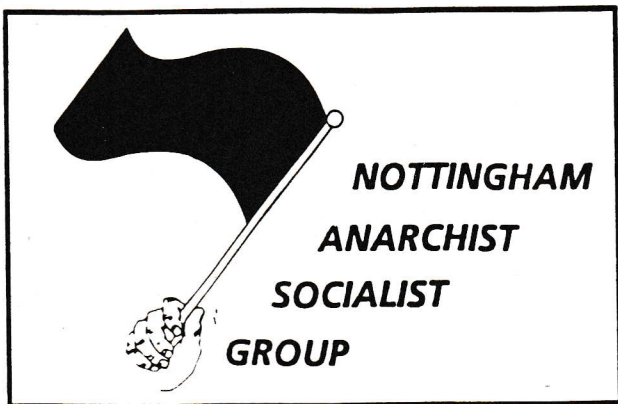
NO ACCIDENT

It's no accident that while people want for basic needs - like a roof over their heads - it's hypermarkets and office blocks that get built.

In our capitalist society, the few rich and powerful at the top always profit, while the rest of us - and our families - scrape by as best as we can.

ALTERNATIVE

So what's the alternative? That communities are organised, and run by the people who live in them. We are the only people capable of running our lives, and we must fight to regain our power to do so from those who have stolen in. That means taking on the powerful forces that stand in our way. The property speculators, business men and their allies had better watch out... ■



Hello and welcome...

Welcome to this the first issue of Anarchist Times, paper of Nottingham Anarchist Socialist Group.

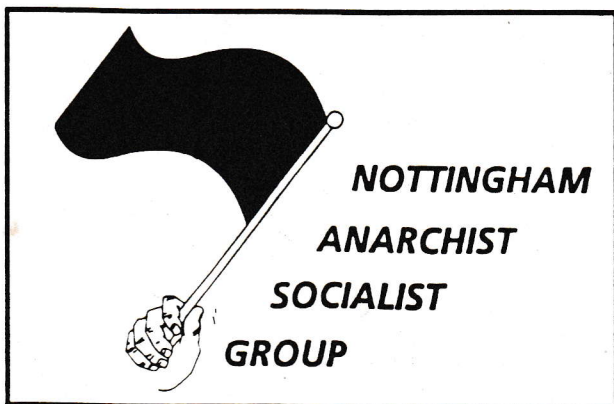
The ASG is a newly formed group that brings together anarchist-socialists in and around Nottingham to work together on an agreed set of aims and principles

In the coming months, you'll be hearing a lot more from us. We'll be presenting public meetings, video showings, debates, and we'll be taking action. We're planning to do a lot of work around the Poll Tax -- there'll be a lot more about this in the next issue -- and discussion on how we can organise in our communities to resist this attack upon us.

Our first public meeting -- "The Alton Bill and Clause 28: attacks from every angle" is at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, on Wednesday 24th February at 8pm. There'll be speakers from Lesbian and Gay Noise, Nottingham ASG, and others. Come and join the debate. We'll be talking about the reasons behind these two attacks, and discussing how we can best defend ourselves and go onto the offensive.

The next issue of Anarchist Times will be out in the Spring. Meantime, if you'd like more information about the ASG and what we do, please get in touch.

Our address is: Nottingham ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.



NOTTINGHAM ANARCHIST SOCIALIST GROUP

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

Our goal is the creation of a free, equal, and classless society.

At present the State and capitalism ensure that wealth and power remain in the hands of a few. The workers produce the wealth that the bosses enjoy. The power of the State is controlled by a ruling elite.

This creates a class of people who are deprived of the power to direct their own lives and to shape their own environment.

Movements of reform have never fundamentally changed the nature of the capitalist system: power has continually remained with successive elites.

Consequently, our goal can only be achieved through an anarchist social revolution. This revolution will not replace one set of rulers with another but will destroy both capitalism and the state worldwide.

Rulers and leaders have always taken power from the people they have claimed to act for. We must organise for our own liberation. No leaders can do this for us.

The system based on hierarchy and centralised power must be replaced with a society that is run by, and for, the people.

Because this is the kind of society anarchists want, we structure our group in the same way.

We actively support struggles in the work place and community (eg. against deportation, against discrimination and for better health care.). Whilst these may not be revolutionary in themselves, the common experience of struggle inspires revolutionary action.

We will participate in these struggles as anarchists.

We oppose racism and sexism, acknowledging that all white people benefit from racism and all men benefit from sexism. We must fight against all forms of oppression on a personal as well as class level.

Because organisation is necessary for effective political action, and a formal structure allows for greater responsibility and accountability, Nottingham ASG is a membership group.

Nottingham ASG is:

- *A class struggle group
- *Committed to organisation
- *Opposed to racism and sexism
- *A membership group