

JULY 25 - AUG 15

FREE
3-WEEKLY

RED RAG ★

The phone numbers.

News: 599804 Sue or Mark
666681 Laura Nick or James
61257 Chris

Going out: 663083 Helen

Events: 666681 James

Distribution: 61257 Chris
666681 Nick

Copy to Red Rag c/o Acorn
Bookshop, 17 Chatham St or
c/o 31a Hamilton Road.

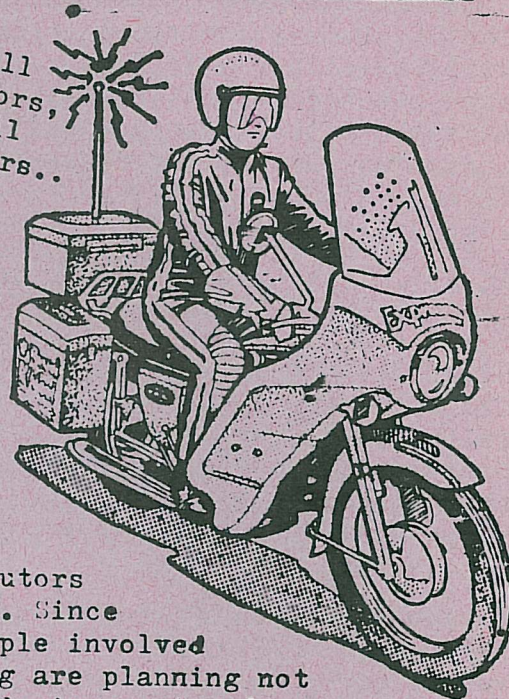
Money to Red Rag c/o Sue
Clarke, 31b Milman Road
Cheques to "Red Rag" please

**I support
the
hospital
workers**
-see page 2-



Do not delay seeing your doctor if
you need medical advice or treatment

calling all
distributors,
calling all
distributors..



Also
calling all
our contributors
and readers. Since
lots of people involved
with the Rag are planning not
to be here during parts of August
and also because there's less going on
at this time of year, there will be gaps
of three weeks between issues for the
next two issues, which will come out on
August 15 and September 5. After that
it'll go back to two weeks as usual.

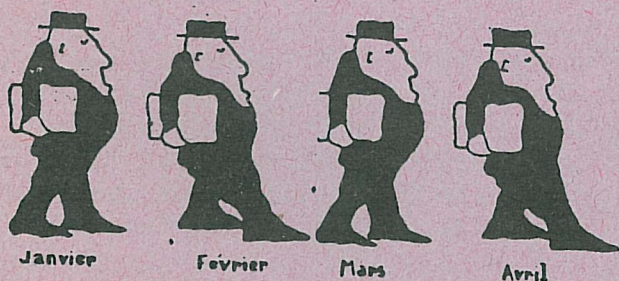
★ Could distributors who can't make
it on those dates let us know as
soon as possible? (Thanks.)

Reading Libraries -see p.3-

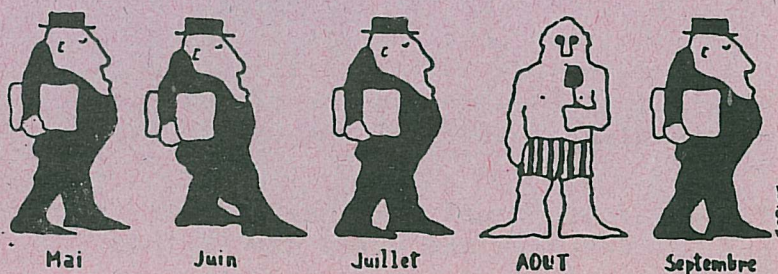
EVENTS

-see p.14-

**in and around
Reading**



**READINGS ONLY
NEWSPAPER**



"So I'm not a nurse..."

In 1948 the National Health Service was brought into being, giving this country a unique service that ensured every person received the same care and attention whether rich or poor, young or old.

The Government staffed hospitals not only with nurses but dedicated auxilliary workers, who as a complete team are the only direct service in this country who deal in our most important commodity - human lives.

These people, whether nurses, porters, telephonists, ambulance men and women, radiographers, physiotherapists, pathology technicians, domestic and kitchen staff, maintenance and stores workers, all work long unsociable hours, many doing filthy jobs. The hospital isn't a nine to five service, closed every bank holiday and weekend, but is open twenty four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days a year.

I myself work on a hospital switchboard. It's my job and that of my colleagues to ensure G.P.s can get the sick into hospital, that wards are in continual contact with the doctors, that should an emergency arise, a team of doctors are with the patient within minutes.

We put the public through for appointments and to all other departments they require and help relatives through to wards no matter what time of the day or night to enquire about their loved ones or friends.

When I took the job, I also took without question the responsibilities that went with it, and thoroughly enjoy my work. It is degrading that I, like so many of the hospital staff, have to strike and march, almost begging to be given a decent living wage.

The Government are not only toying with our consciences but are also trying to split us, saying nurses are a special case. WHY? when without the ancillary workers or vice versa, they could not do their jobs properly and the patients are the ones that would suffer.

We are one body and should be treated equally. It's time the Government recognised that our level of pay is archaic and we deserve a better justice than 6%. We will not stand by and be classed as second class members of the health service.

The Government must take heed of our fight for one day each and every one of them will need us.

See Here It's True!

The title of this column was the name of a paper produced in Reading in the late 60s. We liked the name so we pinched it. If you hear of anything interesting or amusing send it to us!

Calcot Nuclear Waste Dump Shock!

One of the mandarins of the nuclear industry was interviewed recently on Radio 210. He believed nuclear waste was not a problem as there was so little of it that it could all be stored in the 210 studio. (U.S. President Reagan on the other hand is of the opinion it will all fit under his desk.) Well, why not? With Burghfield just down the road it couldn't make that much difference for Calcot residents.

Burn a Book for God!

What have the following books in common?

The Kinsey Reports, Alex Comfort's The Joy of Sex, A Clockwork Orange, all of Hemmingway Orwell and Joyce, most of Shakespeare Shaw Milton Homer and Aristophanes, Das Kapital, Machiavelli's The Prince, the American Heritage Dictionary, Goethe's Faust, the Koran, the Wizard of Oz, the Diary of Anne Frank, Mary Poppins, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Alice in Wonderland, Marketing Management: Texts and Cases.

Answer? They have all been banned in some part of the USA in the last year. Book banning is the latest craze among America's "Moral Majority". The above is merely a selection of the vast range of books which have been banned. Sex remains the main reason, with religion a close second; but there are many others. One book was objected to because a girl in it was shown as "thinking too independently Lack of clear parental guidance made the book morally damaging."

Meanwhile in some areas the ancient Christian practice of book burning has been revived. In case you're feeling complacent and that it couldn't happen here, the Obscene Publications Squad have been busy making raids in London on grounds which sound frighteningly similar.

Police Powerless - Official!

Thames Valley Chief Constable Peter Imbert is quoted in the 'Post' this week as saying: "The police have no power whatsoever to prevent access to common land at Greenham Common." So perhaps he'd like to explain why his officers dug deep trenches there and attempted precisely to prevent access for several hours at the start of the peace festival. The Chief Constable

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also gave assurances that all necessary action was taken to prevent drug abuse - which will be news to several spaced out local peace campaigners. Unless he really meant drug abuse. Perhaps there is a special squad of plain clothes officers going round showing people how to roll joints. Or else, as many of us have long suspected, a senior police officer wouldn't know a controlled drug if s/he fell over it.

RED RAG BANNED SENSATION!

Apparently for some time now the Central Library has been taking a large bundle of 'Red Rag' and throwing them away without displaying them. No doubt we should have been more careful in checking what happened to them; at any rate it reflects no credit on the Library, which has, it seems, far from being a valuable outlet, been a considerable drain on our resources. There are two Distribution numbers printed in every issue - why could the Library hierarchy not have had the elementary courtesy to inform us of their change of policy?

A collective member who asked why the Rag was not on display was granted an interview with one Mr Bond, the Divisional Librarian, who attempted to explain the new ruling. He didn't really have much idea what he was talking about. He'd "only recently discovered we were a University paper" for instance (no, the Rag has nothing to do with the University) He had seen three issues but didn't know which ones. The first had been "innocuous", whatever that means (was he implying the Library had been tricked into taking the Rag?). He didn't really say what was wrong with the others (one was that of May 16, with "Jesus spotted in Reading" on the cover). He had guessed that the title refers to the phrase "red rag to a bull" and thought it (the title) therefore "provocative", and that therefore it was self-evident that the Library could not display it. So maybe if we changed the title they would display it again? In the case of (e.g.) government propaganda leaflets on Civil Defence the Library is not taking a political stance (is it?) - why should it be thought to do so in the case of Red Rag?

Mr Bond explained very kindly how the Library would continue to take one copy, no, not in fact on display in the Reading Room with the other local papers, but behind the counter in the Reference Library should anyone ask to see it. This, after all, was what they do with "Soviet Weekly" and "Socialist Standard" (!!). The Library is "impartial", you see - why should one "left-wing" paper be treated better than others? Well, since the gentleman in question will probably read this, here are a few reasons why 'Red Rag' should not be

treated like either of those papers. 1). They are propaganda mouthpieces for respectively the USSR government and the Socialist Party of Great Britain. 'Red Rag' has no connection whatsoever with any political party, group or standpoint. 2). "Soviet Weekly" and "Socialist Standard" have nothing to do with Reading. Red Rag is a local community newspaper: if it is not treated differently by the Reading Library there's something wrong. 3). Red Rag is free. (The Library couldn't display Soviet Weekly even if it wanted to.) More than that it is palpably non-commercial (unlike e.g. the "Chronicle Midweek" type of thing).

Even the official we saw (don't confuse him with the staff you see in the Library, who are always helpful and sympathetic) agreed in a patronising way that the Rag has "some useful information" in it. Well, it's precisely because (and insofar as) it is useful that the Library should display it, as it displays the Hexagon programme and the programme of the Reading Adult College.

In the past we have been impressed by the (comparative) impartiality of the Library. The way it puts up side by side catalogues of Conservative Party publications and posters for a B.A.N.C. gig - or the way it used to display Red Rag. We can only deplore the censorship now being enforced.

Footnote. After this issue we will discontinue supplying the Library unless they actually show that they want it and ask us to give them a copy. If they do, we would point out to them that we would welcome a contribution towards the cost of their copy. They presumably pay for their copy of "Soviet Weekly".

Outlets

Don't bother looking in the Central Library for a copy (see above). Try instead:

Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street.

Pop Records, 172 King's Road.

Centre for the Unemployed, 4-6 East Street.

Our Price Records, Butts Centre.

Quicksilver Records, Butts Centre.

Ken's Shop, Students' Union, Whiteknights.

Reading Emporium, Merchants' Place.

...or somewhere in Traders, off Friar Street, though we've been asked not to print their name.

Or to get a copy delivered to your door every issue, ring Distribution on 61257 or 666681 and give us your address.



THEY LIKE TO SEE THE PATIENTS TWITCH

Part One of a two part series on life in a nearby psychiatric hospital, based on first hand experience.

Legally speaking the patients fall into two categories: "section" patients and "informal" ones. A "section" is a doctor's order, authorising you to be detained and treated without your consent. In practice it doesn't usually make much difference which category you're in: the threat of a "section" is enough to make most people agree to their treatment; and most patients have no idea of their "rights" and no way of getting them anyway. No legal help of any kind is available. For example, section patients are not told of their right to appeal against their section to a tribunal. One did appeal: when the DHSS sent the appeal forms to her, care of the psychiatrist, the psychiatrist refused to pass them on. The DHSS, to its credit, insisted - but of course the patient lost her appeal. That was 15 years ago, and she's still there.

The real distinction is between short-stay and long-stay patients. Part Two of this article will deal with the latter - the social outcasts who are there for life, systematically cowed and institutionalised. Short-stay patients are there for weeks or months. They will stand up for themselves to some extent, and are not at all 'happy' to be there. They are privileged to be seen for maybe 10 minutes a week by a doctor, whereas long-stayers are lucky to get 5 minutes in 3 months.

Wandering Dements

Most long-stay patients are technically "informal", but if they try to walk out, they will be forcibly brought back. This might just be 'legal' if a section were immediately put on them - but no-one bothers with that. It looks better if all the patients are "voluntary". The geriatrics suffer most here as everywhere. No-one - nurses, visitors, relatives, - cares about them. They're too weak to resist bullying. In a geriatric ward, though all the patients are "informal", you can only open the door with a key. People do regularly try to leave, they are classified as "wandering dements" needing treatment.

Murder

Even with "informal" patients they get away with murder. There was an elderly man who said he wanted to go home. This was treated as a great joke: "Do you know where your home is? How will you get there? Won't you need some money?". He vented some of his frustration by attacking the ward furnishings, this of course was a symptom of his increasing dementia. He was injected with a certain powerful tranquiliser, against his will (technically illegal). Even the manufacturers of this tranquiliser say it should not be given to old people, because it makes them confused, and confused he did become. (Thus the drugs create the condition which is the excuse for keeping you there in the first place). This man had a heart attack later and was given pills by a specialist to take for the rest of his life. The consultant however, decided that death would be a merciful release for this demented man (the joke is, he was probably right), and took him off the pills. Within months he died of a second heart-attack. By the way, as the man's son and daughter-in-law had had him put away in the first place and had supported the doctors and nurses against him throughout (they know best), going home was not much of an option anyway.

Class

The middle classes tend not to end up inside. They have the money for private interviews with the doctors (whether they need them or not); and because they are the same sort of people as the doctors they get treated with care and sympathy. Those sent to the hospital, who often need psychiatric treatment, get no care or sympathy but only drugs to keep them quiet. The doctors are actually ashamed of their hospital - it's not even nice to look at. This at least means they don't let their private patients in, so you don't get the sort of queue-jumping that happens elsewhere in the NHS.

The mothers of young babies are often dragged in for months on end - without their babies of course. One woman - an "informal" patient - was 'persuaded' to have her baby fostered. Though she asked continually where the baby was, she was not told.

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Admission

Admission is a humiliating and frightening experience. First a physical examination by a doctor. Then lots of forms to fill in so you know you're being processed: whether you're a tenant and what are the colour of your eyes. Your clothes are removed and you are left in your night dress, to prevent you running away. You are surrounded by nurses and other patients fully clothed. Most people are too bewildered to protest - and anyway any complaints will definitely be held against you. Within a week you should get your clothes back. Your money is removed for safe keeping. If you behave, you get it back; if not, not. (You may not actually be refused, just told "I'm busy now, come back tomorrow").

The nurses control the patients' money as they do every other area of their life. Their Social Security or Sickness Benefit is not paid to them but to the "Patients' Bank". You have to get a form, and then get it signed by the nursing officer, before you can get the money you're entitled to. The "Token Economy System" which will be described in Part Two is a method of controlling behaviour by withholding money.

Drugs

Drugs are often prescribed without examination. For instance a night nurse will give someone a tranquiliser without any authority. Or they are given merely on the nurses' request. In any case, especially for long-term patients, examination is short and infrequent, and the main purpose of drugs is to keep them quiet.

These drugs often have toxic side effects, they are administered against people's will (legally so in the case of section patients). For example, lithium is a drug frequently given to "manic-depressives", it has about thirty different side-effects. These include epileptic fits and heart attacks. One patient, who on various occasions tried to refuse to take it as he knew it would poison him, but was made to take it and legally required to take it, was reduced to a wheelchair by the side-effects of the drug. (The psychiatrist disliked this patient because the patient could make him look an idiot in conversation (being 'manic'); and because of the patient's right-wing views.) Some people in the medical profession have progressive views you know.

Most treatment has an impressive scientific basis. Take schizophrenia;

- There is no good clinical evidence that schizophrenia is a "disease of the brain"
- Even if it were, there is no good clinical evidence that the tranquilizers they use, like phenothiazine, cure it.
- There is plenty of good clinical evidence that such tranquilizers have foul and irreversible side effects: involuntary

movements of face, neck, arms, back etc., like Parkinson's Disease; or extreme rigidity, like spasticity.

People have been killed by drugs they have been given - usually from allergic reactions, e.g. to anitriptyline and other anti-depressants.

ECT

Electro-convulsive therapy looks a lot more unpleasant than drugs, though probably it doesn't chemically damage the brain any more than they do. It induces severe disorientation, confusion and loss of memory as well as headaches. It is regularly given against patients' will despite recent denials of this in "Radio Times". Nor is it as claimed used "only as a last resort", but to treat such cases as patients refusing to eat their food. The patient is put in night clothes, made to lie on a bed - in one case it took eight nurses to hold a man down, that's how voluntary it is - and given an injection in the buttock which consists of an anaesthetic and a muscle relaxant. When the electrodes are placed on the skull and the current passes through the brain the patient has an epileptic fit - the muscle relaxant ensures that there's no wild movement but just quiet twitching. The doctors like to see the patients twitch, and if they don't they replace the electrodes and try again. The charge is passed for 1-2 seconds; the fit lasts for 30 seconds, then the patient goes into a coma for 15 minutes. Three "normal" epileptic fits in succession is thought highly dangerous - not so ones induced by ECT. People do occasionally die as a result of ECT, but very few.

Just for instance. An old woman who on arrival was labelled "depressive" and prescribed ECT. Whether or not she signed the consent form she was certainly unwilling. But this was itself a symptom: "Of course she doesn't want to have it - she's depressed isn't she?". So they gave her an injection beforehand just to shut her up.

One patient, given phenothiazine by injection against his will, collapsed and nearly died as a result. He was taken to a General Hospital, there a psychiatrist saw him and prescribed ECT.

Solitary Confinement

Solitary confinement is to a cell about 10 feet by 5 with a mattress and blanket, a window and a light. The switch is outside. Inmates have their clothing removed. The threat, explicit or implicit, of being locked in the cell for as long as the doctors or nurses see fit, (a few hours or a few weeks) is always there - another means of frightening the patients into submission. Who gets locked up there?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

One man was sitting drinking tea. A domestic who wanted to get home removed the tea, on the grounds that tea-time finished ten minutes ago, and anyway tea should be drunk at the table. The patient tried to trip him up as he went off with his tea, and the domestic started punching him. The nurses watched this for a while and eventually separated them. They decided the patient should be locked in the 'pad' - and given a tranquilizer (deliberately in a painful part of the bum) for good measure.

In cases like these the nurses are pretty cynical; they do what they do to get at the patient and not for any medical reason. But a medical reason must be given to the nursing officer and the doctor, who don't know the patient and take it seriously. The nurses can usually get the doctors to do what they want. Occasionally just to throw their weight around the doctors impose some arbitrary 'treatment' for some offence they happen to witness.

Exploitation

Life for the patients could be more dignified if they could for instance clean their own rooms and cook their own food. They used to be allowed to. Then someone discovered that this was "exploiting the patients" (as it clearly could be). Now there are ancilliary workers for all that sort of thing, and Union agreements to forbid the patients control over another area of their lives. The place must operate as a hospital, not as a community. There used to be a hospital farm, where the patients kept pigs and produced quite a lot of food. That too was exploiting the patients, there is no longer a hospital farm. The hospital has to import all its food, and the patients are left with pointless little tasks in "Occupational Therapy".

Apartheid

Patients and nurses are regarded as different species. A few examples: The hospital cricket team used to be for nurses and patients alike. Now it is for nurses only. The hospital magazine is written by, for and about the nurses (reports of the cricket matches) - it is typeset by hand by the patients. The hospital Social Club is ostentatious and really very nice. It is for staff only. Tucked away in a corner is another social club, for the patients. It's a shabby and disgusting little hovel - which incidentally the staff walk in and out of at will.

There are two sorts of cups in the hospital: staff cups, nice blue ones with curvy handles, and plastic ones for the patients. Patients are not allowed to drink from staff cups. Madness might be contagious after all.

(to be continued)

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REVIEW: BOROUGH COUNCIL AT THE CIVIC OFFICES.

Reading Borough Council were decidedly below par when they played the Civic Offices (their regular venue) last Tuesday (July 13th). After their electric show which I saw in April I found this one tedious and dull.

I did laugh twice. When Councillor Beard (Lib) suggested that motorists find double yellow lines attractive (and so like parking on them) and that we therefore ought to put them on all the roads in Reading, Cllr Coombs (Tory Transportation chairman) replied elegantly that in the Committee's view "the present balance of double, single and dotted yellow lines is by far the most attractive from the artistic point of view." Then later Ron Jewitt (Housing chairman) said that in his opinion fencing, as an area of housing repair spending, was "literally peripheral". Nobody else seemed to notice that one. Marion Absolom had an interesting suggestion for dealing with road repairs. In her area it is apparently somebody's practice to put chalk rings around potholes and label them "hole".

The people of Reading turned up in larger numbers than last time. They really deserve better than this. By the second half we were down to me plus two press colleagues - who get paid for that kind of thing and seemed more interested in a copy of the Rag than in the proceedings below - and four Labour fans who were occasionally even moved to heckle.

Anyway. First of all Cllr Markham (Lib) asked what the Council is doing about flyposting. Environment chairman Mr Sage agreed that this obnoxious habit had become a "serious nuisance" and "even regarded as a legitimate way of advertising meetings." I think I understood him to say that no-one has been successfully prosecuted for it since 1977. He said anyone seen flyposting should be approached, told not to, and reported to the police. We hope the same goes for those responsible for obstructing Reading's footpaths with hideous tubs of cloned plants, merely, it seems, for the duration of a "Britain in Bloom" competition. Meanwhile the Rag will continue to support those trying against all odds to beautify Reading.

The debates were singularly trivial. One result of this was unpredictable votes. Lib and Lab vs Tory and Lab and Tory vs Lib both occurring, as well as split Tory votes. If you like that kind of thing.

Take the Rock Festival. Here the Leisure Cttee had come to an agreement with Festival organiser Pendleton to get £45 000 out of his profits (partly depending on ticket sales). (Since the poor fools get so thoroughly ripped off, the Council might as well get a decent slice of the action.) The Labour side argued that this was too hard on this public

spirited entrepreneur, and wanted the figure reduced to £42 500 (fixed sum). What a difference! Nobody seemed to find this an odd stance. They claimed the Tories wanted to get rid of the Festival. Though this was for the most part untrue, we were treated to a rare contribution from Cllr Fuad. All the ratepayers got from the Festival, in his opinion, was "ten days of open sewers". The amendment was passed with even two Tories voting for it.

As to the Daft Central Reading District Plan - "a wonderful document" (Tory Environment chairman Cllr Fowles) - here, I think, the question was merely whether "pressure groups" i.e. the Transportation Committee (!), should be allowed to change proposals they thought unworkable before the plan was published. The Libs voted with Lab that they should not. "Let the public say what they think", gushed Cllr Rush.

The bus fare debate was also a little curious. All fares are to go up by 2p in September - the seventh rise in under three years. Labour (the Tories rather quaintly call them "the Socialist group", just as they call the bus service "the Undertaking", which sounds rather funereal to me) opposed the rise. It would apparently mean a subsidy of £130 000 a year (in addition to the existing £1.4 million). I was surprised to learn there was a drop of only 2% in bus users after the last increase. Plainly there's a captive market here. Anyway, after the fare freeze had been defeated, Transport Chairman Simon Coombs surprised us all by bringing in a freeze of his own, on Monthly Rover tickets, using exactly Labour's argument that higher fares means falling use... "Let the message go out from this Council to the people of Reading: come back to the buses," he proclaimed.

For the Abbey Gateway there was a map on the wall at the front to give a spurious air of technicality to the debate. The Policy C'ttee had decided the Gateway should be closed for two years to prevent it being used by construction traffic for the King's Road Colossus site. The Labour view was that the permanent closure of the Gateway, and the pedestrianisation of Abbey St, for historical and environmental reasons, had been integral to plans for the area since a planning brief of Feb. 1980; and they didn't want a decision on this postponed again. Cllr Coombs (Transport Chairman) said permanent closure would put intolerable pressure on Market Place and Forbury Road (but only in two years' time, I suppose). The Liberals took a firm stand on this one. "We must not be panicked into precipitate action," declared Fuhrer Day. His wife agreed: "We must keep our options open" - and expressed concern that any more traffic in Market Place would add to the atmospheric lead being breathed by people sitting on the new seats there! (She does care about lead pollution, I must admit.) Anyway, the Labour amendment was defeated.

Geoff Mander regretted that there was no

agency around to do anything to make sure the homeless in Reading had somewhere to sleep, though everyone agreed something should be done. Sounds like a job for "Homes not Offices" to me.

I'm afraid that after five hours even I really couldn't face self-indulgent solos from Mike Orton (Labour lead vocalist). The songs were probably sound enough ("No to the Aldermaston expansion" and "Yes to the NHS workers' pay claim" - it's just his sycophantic delivery I can't take. Both motions were defeated. The number of times "people do matter" was said during the meeting I couldn't count. Geoff Mander (Labour's grey-haired elder statesman) announced at one point that what he wanted was "the greatest good of the greatest number". It's so nice to know. Why can't these people get on with their careers and leave politics to those who care about things?

One final quote, from the Appendix to the Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of June 29th, item 14, Disused Public Lavatories at Caversham Bridge. "The Borough Planning Officer did not feel that the premises were suitable for office use."

Diogenes

Business news

Immediately before this issue we had £45.30 in the bank plus a cheque for £10 and an IOU for £11, New standing orders amount to £14.30 a month. We did plan to give a list of these and other donations "to encourage the others", but it seems a bit invidious. Incidentally but for one rather large donation some weeks back we would be in big trouble. So send us your money. To our Treasurer at 31b Milman Road, cheques made out to "Red Rag".

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HELP! I need a room (either bedsit or a room in a shared house). Rent up to £15pw plus bills. As soon as poss or from Sept onwards. I'm a female student, 24, smoker. I don't mind cats or kids, and would prefer something in Cemy. Junction, Univ. or central areas. All amazing offers to

CAROL Reading 64307

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SHARED HOUSE. Double room available now in large modern detached house. Purley (3m from Reading Centre). Central heating washing machine, colour TV, garage, garden, etc. £13.15 each p.w. + bills. Phone Pangbourne 4532 after 6pm or Reading 56879 (Liz) day.

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↑ THESE SMALL ADS FREE ↑
(DONATIONS WELCOME)

HOW TO CLAIM SICKNESS BENEFIT AFTER 14/6/82 and usually from Doctors' surgeries and hospitals. The onus is on YOU to get hold of it, so its probably an idea to go to the doctor anyway if you get a bit ill, she might not be able to cure you but you can pick up a form to fill in. Some Unions will be getting supplies of the forms too, get yours to do so if it isn't already.

Some employers used to pay you while you were ill and claim your benefit from the DHSS to help cover it. You may find that your employer will accept the 'self-certification', and you may find that he won't. Some employers are trying to ask people for private medical evidence of sickness, i.e. they want you to pay for a doctors' note, but the TUC, Red Rag, and right-thinking people everywhere urge you to resist this wholeheartedly via your Union (yes, even if you're ill). If your employer is one of those who already accepts self-certification for three days sick, try to get this extended to seven. The TUC has prepared a 'Guidance Note' on claiming sick benefit, and this apparently goes into some detail and is not unreadable, make sure your branch officials get some copies.

Finally, as if you haven't got enough to worry about, what with being ill and paying for your prescription and hunting the form to fill in, take note that in April 1983 the DHSS is to stop paying you anything for the first eight weeks of sickness in any one year. They are introducing a 'Employers Statutory Sick Pay Scheme' under which your employer pays you at least the state-determined flat rate. The TUC will produce Guidance Notes on this, but meanwhile, I wouldn't worry about it, you'll only make yourself ill

As from 14/6/82, you don't get sick note from your Doctor for first week of illness. To claim Sickness Benefit for first week, it's no longer a matter of filling in the back of a doctor's note and sending it to DHSS or your employer; there are now things called "doctors' statements" but these are not given for illness, or time off for injuries, that is expected to be less than seven days. You now have to get hold of a "New Sickness Benefit Claim Form", and complete it yourself (it is apparently a tedious form rather than a difficult one). This is called 'self-certification', and this should be accepted by the DHSS in the same way that the old doctors' notes were, i.e. sometimes they pay you and sometimes they don't. Apparently they are now more likely to institute their 'checking procedures' during short illnesses.

Send the new form as quick as possible if you are going to be ill for more than a week (what do you mean, how can you tell?, don't quibble) or on the LAST day of your illness if it's going to be short.

The forms will be available from the DHSS.

WHAT? A CONFERENCE THAT WASN'T BORING?

The Southern Region Youth C.N.D. conference was held on July 17-18 at the Reading Centre for the Unemployed. Seven of the ten groups in the Region were represented: Newbury, Southampton, Didcot, Abingdon, Witney Swindon and of course Reading.

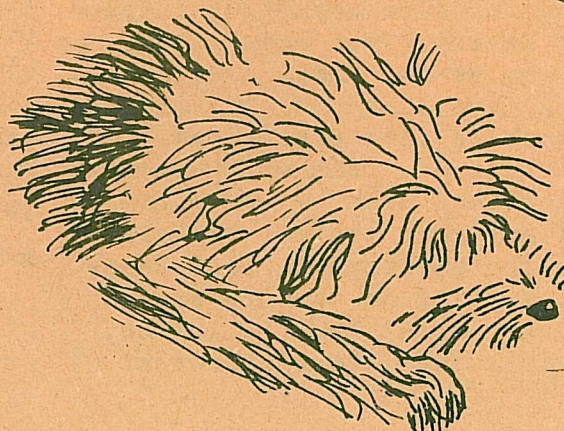
Despite no one in Reading YCND having organised a conference before, the actual running of it went quite well. I must at this point thank Emma, Paul, Stephen and Suzanne for the food; Ian for sorting out the money troubles; Makkie and Martin for the books, pamphlets etc; Steve for running people; Paul (a different one) for the disco; Jon (from Didcot) for being a laugh and Jackie for helping to stop the occasional riot.

Now down to the nitty gritty. The main purpose of the conference was to set up a structure for the Southern Region. Resolutions were passed for action at Greenham Common, to do more work with the unemployed and Trade Unions, and more Direct Action ("we mean it maaan"). A lot of argument was about how closely YCND should be linked with the Labour Party Young Socialists. The general opinion was that we should work with them as we would with any other sympathetic group. But certain people (i.e. those from Oxford) were hell bent on making YCND a section of the LPYS. (That is how I saw it) But the majority knew this would limit our support. This opinion was carried and, though I have nothing against the LPYS, in my opinion this was the right decision. Also we had elections for putting two people from the S.Region onto the National Committee of Youth CND. The result was John from Didcot and me being elected. Overall it was a good and enjoyable conference but bloody hard-working.

David Ingledew

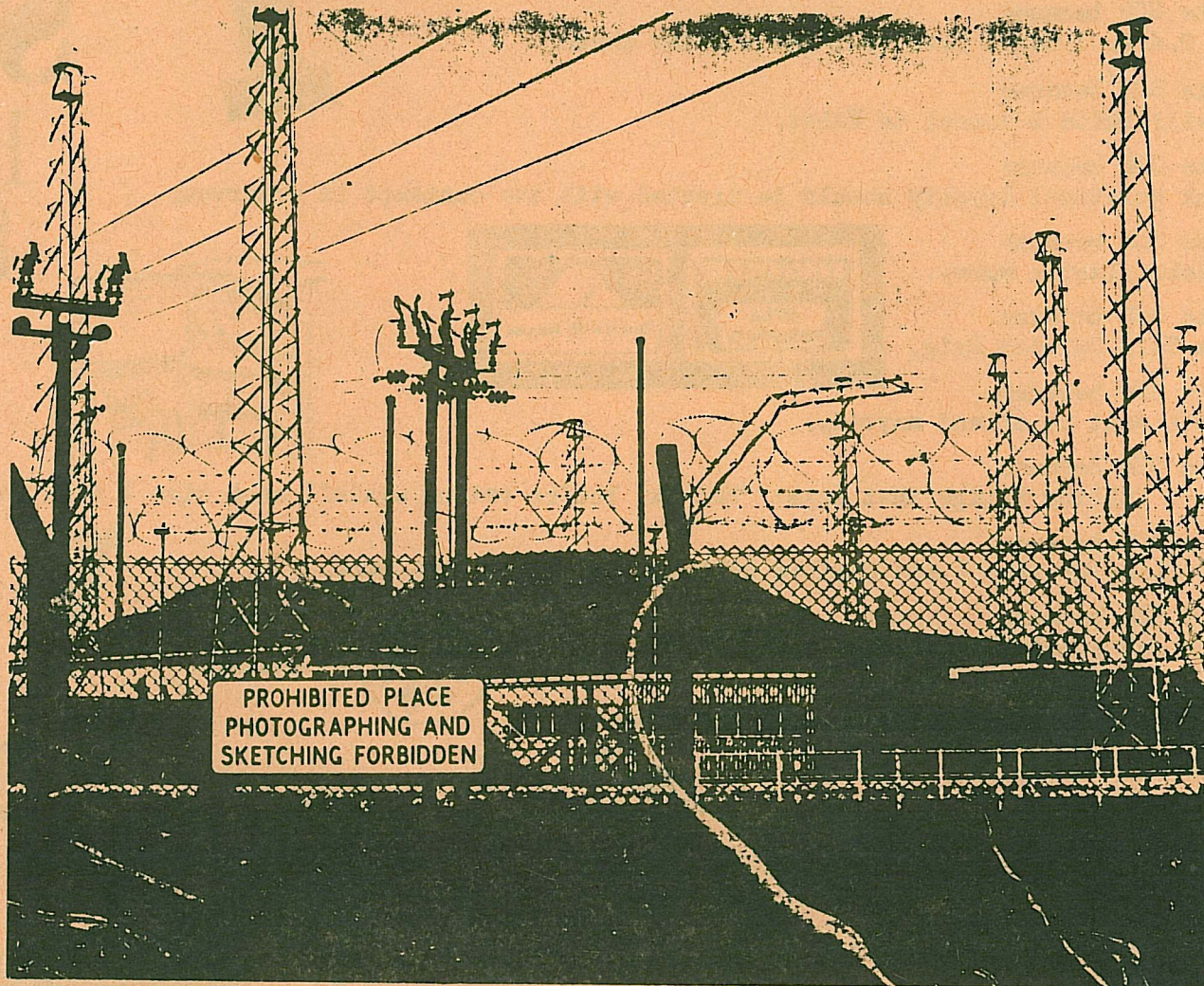
Ex-chairperson of R.Y.C.N.D. after a coup/putsch etc.

CLYDE'S
~~ACORN'S~~
BIT



RED RAG 24-7-82

**R.O.F. Burghfield. 4 Miles From Reading. This is where
all Britain's nuclear warheads are assembled.**



BURGHFIELD PEACE CAMP



WEEKDAYS: Placarding workers (meet at camp 7a.m. & 4p.m.)

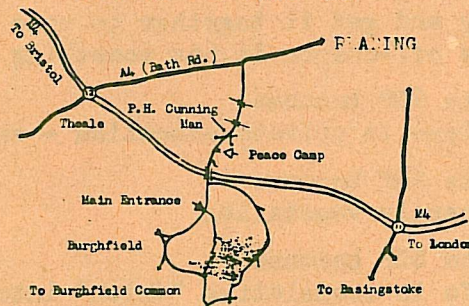
SUNDAYS: Walk & Picnic with Photo's

(Main entrance-2.30p.m.)

WELCOME ANYTIME

**VIOLENCE IS NEITHER
NECESSARY NOR RIGHT.
NUCLEAR WAR
IS NOT INEVITABLE.
IT MUST BE RESISTED.**

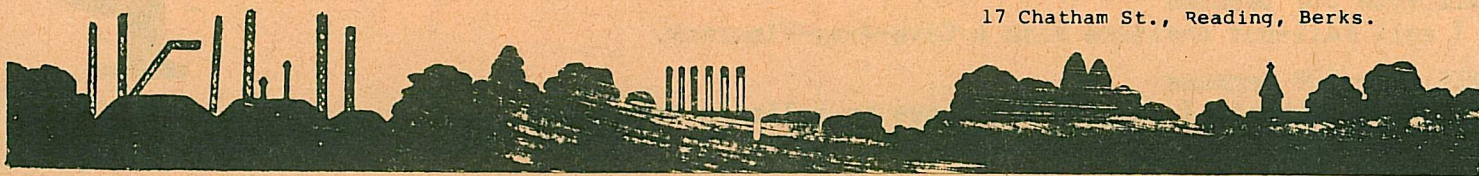
WHERE TO FIND US



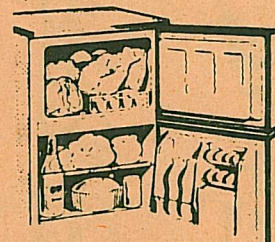
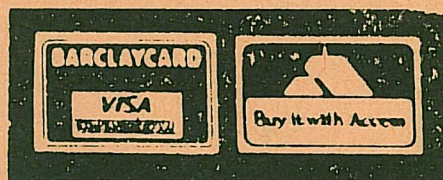
Tel: Burghfield Common 3732

Mail Box 17, Acorn Books,

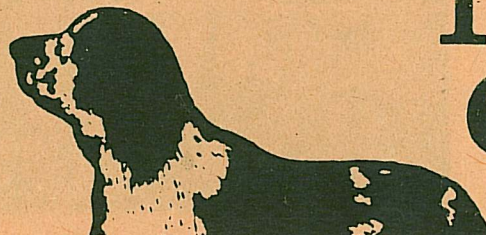
17 Chatham St., Reading, Berks.



- I shall vote SDP because
I believe that politics should be kept out of National Affairs.
- I shall vote SDP because
I believe in Charismatic Mediocrity (plus VAT).
- I shall vote SDP because
as an O.A.P. I don't have to think too far ahead.
- I shall vote SDP because
they will build a tunnel to Wales.
- I shall vote SDP because
I think political loyalty should be treated with the contempt it deserves.
- I shall vote SDP because
they take plastic money.
- I shall vote SDP because
I am a Self Deluded Prig.
- I shall vote SDP because
I do not want to offend anybody.
- I shall vote SDP because
I have a Talking Fridge that says: "Ha! Ha! You're eating again!" each time I open the door.
- I shall vote SDP because
when I close my eyes I see candles drifting upwards in the dark.
- I shall vote SDP because
I think CND stands for Charles'n'Di.
- I shall vote SDP because
it is time the wankers gave the country a hand.
- I shall vote SDP because
I need a doctor.
- I shall vote SDP because
William Rogers is my aunt and she is a Moonie.
- I shall vote SDP because
they will abolish the Prescription Charges for duvets.
- I shall vote SDP because
as in Holland, they will determine the cost of a dog licence by the size of the dog's turd.
- I shall vote SDP because
I am an antique dealer with an interest in hot-air ballooning.
- I shall vote SDP because
they shit chocolate buttons.
- I shall vote SDP because
Commander Bill Boakes has refused to stand in my constituency.
- I shall try and get it together to vote SDP
on the off-chance it has something to do with drugs.
- I shall vote SDP because
I believe in private education - especially for the stupid.
- I shall vote SDP because
I am partly vegetarian.
- I shall vote SDP because
my wife is translating "Which" into Eritrean. © Consumers' Association 1982
- I shall vote SDP because
I do not want success to spoil David Steel.
- I shall vote SDP because
I sell fall-out shelters with a Give-Away-Winerack.
- I shall vote SDP because
as an anarchist, I am glad they have no policies whatsoever.



TICK OFF THE SECONDS
WITH A CND
WALL CLOCK
£13.50 incl.p&p



i shall

Vote

SDP
ANOTHER
SUCCESS
STORY

re: Distribution

About a quarter of the 800 or so Rags we print each fortnight are given away by our various outlets. The rest find their ways, in theory at least, direct to the homes of people who've asked for them to be delivered there. Getting this together starts with a computerised label-printing system which is used to produce a vaguely up-to-date list of addresses for each issue. The labels look something like this:

Anne Activist
"Seaview"
82 Ganja Grove

£22

The £ in the lower right corner means precisely nothing, the computer seems inclined to put it there and no-one has ever bothered to stop it. The letter that follows indicates which of about twenty "distribution areas" the address is in. For example, A is for Pell Street, B is for Redlands Road, C is for Newtown... Each of these areas has its distributor: someone who lives there and is happy to deliver to between six and thirtyish addresses. The number varies according to how many people have agreed to help out in that district and also how many people read the rag there. As readers (and distributors) tend to come and go fairly often the rounds are often different from issue to issue. Finally the number at the end of the label is how many rags are wanted at that address. Also some labels have a * on the last line. These are for people who are sent minutes of rag collective meetings (so that they'll know what we're doing for their own good).

Now for where you come in to this part of the story. If you picked this copy up in an outlet or saw it lying around, and would like to receive it regularly... If you gave us your address a while back but your copy hasn't been arriving until three weeks late and sometimes not at all... If you'd like to help speed distribution in your area and take on a few deliveries (it's about half an hour to an hour's walking around every second Sunday, less if you can find someone to share it with)... If you move... If you want a different number of copies... If whoever this was addressed to moved to Edinburgh the Christmas before last and no-one here really wants it... If (heaven forbid) you've changed your mind about distributing (we'd rather do it ourselves than not have it happen)... If (joy of joys) you want to know quite what it is we're doing for your own good...

Leave a note at Acorn Bookshop for us or ring Reading 66681 or 61257.

send us money...!!!...

11

ROUND



gravity is a myth
invented by the state
to keep the workers
down

RED RAG MEETING JULY 18th

Money: we had about £50, enough to cover the next issue. Standing orders are now bringing in £20.96 a month (averaged out): about a fifth of the income needed.

Fund-raising: Ideas badly needed! Gigs - there are no venues. Old Town Hall is £200 just for the building! Unemployed Centre has no music licence. University isn't interested. Raffle? Sponsored bike ride? Will be looked into. Decided to print the s.o. form more often, to print a clearer financial statement in the Rag. Advertising. Small ads we'll print free though we love donations. Commercial ads are controversial. What do readers think? What would we charge and who? Are there really more "ethical" problems than in putting in people's leaflets as it is?

Outlets: the Central Library has stopped taking the Rag - see article elsewhere. Ideas for new outlets always welcome.

August: To give us a break; and because nothing happens in August; and because we get distribution problems, we decided to have two gaps of three weeks instead of 2. So the next issues will be on 14 Aug and 4 Sep. Then back to fortnightly.

Production Group Composition. Differences between the two groups' approach (they do alternate issues) are maybe a good thing and anyway no problem. One group lacks good typists, the other people with time. Two or three people seem to do most of the work on any issue - how to get more people actively involved?

Editing. A feeling in some quarters that some pieces we print could do with cutting or re-writing. We decided to try to make sure as many pieces as possible are discussed, in particular with their author, before going in. (More work for those who do it all anyway?) Contributors should try to indicate whether they mind editing.

Pre-typed copy: This tends to by-pass any editing. But e.g. a piece in the last issue had in it bits in brackets attributed to 'Eds' which had nothing to do with us and should not have gone in. (If you do type your stuff, please use a new ribbon or it may not print. Also don't use tippex - if ~~you make a mistake then type~~ you make a mistake then type the line out again like that & cross out the original.)

Next meeting: 12th September, 4p.m. Acorn.

BANC MANAGER INTERVIEWED

At a Berkshire Anti-Nuclear Campaign (BANC) meeting on July 13th, Marion Sim was elected (by an overall majority on the first ballot - for those to whom that kind of thing matters) to succeed Brian Revell as Chair of BANC/Reading CND.

This interview isn't quite verbatim (amateur sound-recording technology strikes again) - I don't think the sense of what was said has changed.

- What has your previous involvement been in BANC?

- I've been generally sympathetic for a long time. Looking back, I'm sorry I wasn't more active in the early days. I was sympathetic and went on demonstrations but never did any actual campaigning until about two years ago, or shortly after BANC was formed. One had become used to government spokespeople saying, "If there's a nuclear war," and then one day I heard somebody say, "When there's a nuclear war" and I heard that three times over a short period and that's when I stated to get involved.

- Had you been involved in any other political campaigns?

- No.

- How do you see the role of the chair of BANC?

- I think it's been with Brian - because he founded BANC - it's been a very central role. He has been extremely important to BANC because he's been the figurehead. I don't think in any organisation there needs to be that sort of figurehead. I think that the authority (or power or whatever you call it) that's enjoyed by the person at the top should be spread throughout the committee and possibly throughout the movement. So I'm not really in favour of people at the top!

- What do you think of the idea of a rotating chair?

- I think that's a good idea. The difficulties would be that the person who takes the chair has got to know all about the

things that are being discussed and so he has to be well informed before the meeting starts. Whether or not that's a practical thing to do on a rotating basis I don't know. It would certainly be worth giving it a try.

- One thing that's always struck me about BANC / Reading CND is the low level of activity from neighbourhood groups compared with CND elsewhere. Do you think this is something that can be improved on?

- Yes. Before I ran for BANC chair I was going to be involved in a lot of things at neighbourhood level and I hope that those might come to fruition anyway. I think that neighbourhood groups are extremely important because they do in fact get on and do things. You can work through an idea and have a practical result of it within a day or two, whereas in BANC it takes longer to do anything, things tend to be shelved and people aren't as easily available. In the neighbourhoods, because we all live near to each other, action's only a little walk away - you can go and talk it over with someone and get on with it. So I think neighbourhood groups do function very well. Certainly on this side of town (East Reading) you can get things done. One or two of the neighbourhoods are having a hard time establishing a core of numbers, which is a pity, but once a core is established they've got a very important part to play. I certainly think that the focus on the centre of Berkshire will have to change; if we don't develop neighbourhood groups, we won't grow. People aren't going to come in from distant parts just to go to a meeting unless it's extremely special. So it's only by neighbourhood groups that we shall grow.

- Are there any other ways in which you see BANC changing?

- I think that's the main one, that the centre will be used only as a point of distribution. I think BANC must diversify a lot more. A lot more people must acquire a lot more skills: for instance, public speaking, organising dances for funds, demonstrations or whatever. They must have a

go at doing it and discover the ins and outs of it. I think up to now if you said to the general membership of BANC, "How do you book a hall for a meeting?" probably three or four people on the committee could tell you, whereas everybody should be able to do it, so that they're more able to organise a meeting if they want to. The problems are, of course, that it's more difficult to keep an eye on what people are doing - in any movement that spreads. You could get fringe groups hanging onto BANC, and active members of BANC who are not in fact working to the same ends as CND and are using the institution of BANC.

- In a way is this an aspect of rotating the chair?

- It could be, yes.

- Operation Hardrock was cancelled last week. Whitelaw said this was a victory not for CND but for the government because when Hardrock is finally run there will be participation from all 54 local authorities instead of the 20 or 30 who are prepared to do it without duress. How do you feel about this?

- Well that wasn't a logical statement anyway, to say that it was a victory for the government. It was desperate rationalisation. By virtue of the illogicality of what he said it was even more of a victory for CND, since he was trying to cover it up.

- What's your view of nuclear power? Do you see it as an issue that should be linked to nuclear weapons?

- Yes I do. But there are many people who are against nuclear weapons who don't realise the importance to nuclear weapons of nuclear power. My answer to those people is to get involved in nuclear disarmament and then they will see the links. When I first joined BANC I didn't understand how very strong the links were. Inevitably, the more you think about it the more you see why we "need" nuclear power.

- Do you see campaigning against nuclear power as less of a priority?

- Yes.

- How about "conventional" weapons?

- The campaign against Cruise is so important and has become so urgent that discussion on conventional weapons must be left for some other time. I personally feel that if we campaign on both counts at the same time we will lose a lot of sympathy. I think we have to concede to conventional weapons until we've got rid of nuclear ones, and then we'll be at the state of maturity where we can campaign against conventional weapons. This would be the ideal but it is so far away that we've got to move a step at a time.

- So you're quite happy to campaign fairly

precisely - a single-issue campaign?

- No, I haven't said it should be a single-issue campaign. Its priority has got to be nuclear weapons and in particular Cruise. That is the crucial issue at the moment. If we campaign on all these fronts we may move even more slowly. We haven't got that length of time.

- What sort of political activity do you think is valid in terms of action that may be "illegal", for instance the peace camps?

- That's a very difficult one. At the moment I would like to know what the connection between these men (who damaged a fence there) and the second camp at Greenham Common is and how involved they were in the Peace Movement before they came there. They could just be people who've come to make trouble or make a fuss. They don't get respect from people who are not in the campaign which is one thing we're going to have to do. If we're going to increase membership we mustn't alienate people. If people break the law in the way that they seem to have been doing and we accept them then we're gaining 20 extra members and perhaps cutting off 20,000 people, so we've always got to think about that. If they wish to break the law I think it's irresponsible of them to go and do it on behalf of the Peace Movement without asking the Peace Movement, "Is this what you want us to do?" Maybe they're not doing it on behalf of the whole Peace Movement and it's just been interpreted like this by the press. But a lot of questions spring to mind on the peace camps and the irresponsible peace camps. About the responsible peace camps it's a different matter. I think there's two elements there; it's very difficult to discuss them all...

I think that violent action such as breaking down fences - now - is irresponsible. If one wishes to demonstrate with passive resistance by sitting in the middle of the road that's up to the individual. There's a time for a lot more passive resistance and, depending how desperate measures become, in time it might be conceivable that people have to take stronger measures than sitting in the middle of the road. I don't think I can say more than that at the moment. I don't wish to incite anyone to violent breaking-down of fences. I think what they've done by attacking the police, if that is so, and being provocative is foolish and will alienate a lot of people. The way the papers have reported it - it's just been headlines in the "News of the World" - there's a lot of questions to be asked about whether what they're reporting is true. Where else have you seen drugs for sale without the drug squad moving in?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Red Rag's famous Going out guide

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- Sun 25 Forbury Gardens-Yarnton Band 3pm
South Hill Park-Performances of Robin Hood 2.30 £2/£2.20 + medieval fayre
SHP-Action Space Mobil 1pm + 4pm
 " 'Absence of Malice'(A) 7.30 £1.90
Apollo Youth Club Silver Street-Book art and craft exhibition 3pm, 8pm film
 'Blood ah go run' documentary on Africa and discussion
The Eagle Baker Street-Jazz 8pm free
Fives-Against the Grain lunchtime free
Allied Arms, St. Mary's Butts-Readifolk- live music 8pm free
Angie's Wokingham (Milton Road)-Juvenessence 9.30 £1 + £1.50 membership
- Mon 26 SHP-'Raiders of the Lost Ark'(A) 2.30 + 7.30 £1.90 To 31st
Apollo Youth Club-7.30 Karate display 8.30pm film 'Forward to a people's republic' + talk. Free
Early Learning Centre Kings Road-10-12pm kids activities, must be accompanied by an adult.
Reading Art Gallery-Cleere Kennett, Stately Tames 10-5.30 free
Redgrave Theatre Farnham-The Boyfriend (To 3rd) 8pm Matinees Thur 2.30, Sat 4
SHP-Robin Hood outdoor theatre 7.30
Butts Centre-Start of children's week- competitions, theatre + puppet shows. Leaflet from information desk.
- Tue 27 The Pheasant Winnersh-Jazz 8pm free
Apollo Youth Club-7.30 film 'Quemada' 50p
Watermill Theatre Newbury-Outside Edge (comedy) £5.50-£6 + concessions
- Wed 28 SHP-Circus Show by the Medieval Players 6pm free
SHP-Mankinde by the Medieval Players, 6.45pm £1/£1.20, 70p/80p kids
SHP-Robin Hood, as above
Grosvenor House, Kidmore Road C'sham-Denny Ilett Jazz Band 8pm free
Apollo Youth Club-talk on black music + discussion (8pm), Ueri Binti Dance Group (7.30pm)
- Thu 29 SHP-Circus as Wed 28
 " -Gammer Gurton's Needle (Medieval Players), 6.45 £1/£1.20, 70p/80p kids
SHP-Robin Hood as above
Angie's Milton Road Wokingham-Naughty Thoughts 9.30pm £1 + £1.50 membership
Prince of Wales C'sham-Jazz 8pm free
Upper Deck Duke Street-Folk club 8pm
Four Horseshoes, B'stoke Road-Jazz 8pm free
Apollo Youth Club-Capitalism + the 3rd World-talk
- Fri 30 Jack of Both Sides, London Road-Hartley Reggae Disco 8.30 free
Caribbean Club London Street-The Nozes 10.30 ish £1.50
- Fri 30 Apollo Youth Club-7.30 Poetry reading, 8.15 two one act plays by Don Kinch 'Compound Images' + 'Coming up for Air', 70p
SHP-Robin Hood 7.30 as above
 " Raiders of the Lost Ark 2.30 + 7.30
 " 'For a Few Dollars More' 11p, £1.90 + concessions
Angie's Wokingham-The London Apaches 9.30 £1 + £1.50 membership
- Sat 31 Apollo Youth Club-Cultural show and dance at Central Club 8pm £2 local talent
Target-Tumblin Dice 8.30 free
Jack of Both Sides London Road-Rhapsody (steel band) 8.30 free
Town Hall-Irish + C+W Bonanza 8pm-12pm £2.£2.50 on door, tickets from quick-silver. Ceilidh?
Angie's Wokingham -KKKhan 9.30 £1+ £1.50 membership
SHP-Robin Hood 2.30 + 7.30 as above
 " Raiders of the Lost Ark 2.30 + 7.30
 " Heavy Hors. display 7pm free
 " Exhibitions-Richard Warner (water-colours) + Michael Rennie (paintings), to Sept 5th, Restricted Practices (Documentary photography) to Aug 30th
 " For a Few Dollars More 11pm
- Sun 1 Forbury Gardens-South Berks Concert Band 3pm
Fives-Mick + the Waltons lunchtime free
The Eagle Baker Street-Jazz 8pm free
Allied Arms St. Mary's Butts-Readifolk 8pm free
SHP-Robin Hood 2.30 as above
Watermill Theatre Newbury-Keith James with Jim Cozens + David Croft (folk) £2 12pm
SHP-Raiders of the Lost Ark 2.30 + 7.30
 " The Swing Guitars 12.30 free New Orleans music
- Mon 2 St. Lawrence Hall Abbey Square-Readings of Pygmalion 8pm £2
Early Learning Centre Kings Road-kids activities 10-12 (with adult only) all week
SHP-'Batman'(U) 2.30 To 8th 75p
 " 'Things to Come'(A) £1.90 + concession
- Tue 3 Redgrave Theatre Farnham-The Real Inspec- tor Hound + The Browning Version 8pm
 Matinees Thur 2.30 + Sat 4pm. To 28th
The Pheasant Winnersh-Jazz 8pm free
SHP-Batman (U) 2.30 + Ten (X) 7.30
- Wed 4 Grosvenor House Kidmore Road C'sham-Denny Ilett Jazz Band 8pm free
SHP-As Tue 3
- Thu 5 Prince of Wales C'sham-Jazz 8pm free
Upper Deck Duke Street-Folk Club 8pm
Four Horseshoes B'stoke Road-Jazz 8pm free
- Fri 6 Caribbean Club London XXXX Street -The Ballistics 10.30ish £1.50
SHP-'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'(X) 11pm £1.90 + concessions. To 7th

- Sat 7 Hex-12.15 Proper Little Madams free
Caribbean London Street-Jamaican Inclep
 Anniversary Dance with the Volcanoes
 10.30ish £2 in advance £2.50 on door, +
 disco
Watermill Theatre Newbury-Zippo the Clown
 11a.m + 2pm £1-£2
SHP-Proper Little Madams 7.30 free
 " Puppet Animation Workshop 10.30am
 Course of 4 lessons £17/£15.50
Target-Against the Grain free
 Sun 8 Forbury Gardens-Katesgrove Steel Band
 3pm
The Eagle Baker Street-Jazz 8pm free
Allied Arms St.Mary's Butts-Readifolk
 8pm free as Sun 25
Fives-B + B Screens lunchtime free
SHP-National Theatre Co. 12.30 free
 " Batman 2.30, Ten 7.30
 Mon 9 St.Lawrence, Abbey Square-Reading of
Cinderella 8pm £?
SHP-The Black Stallion(U) 2.30, Priest of
Love (AA) 7.30
 Tue 10 The Pheasant Winnersh-Jazz 8 m free

Cinema for one week beginning July 25th:

Odeon Cheapside Reading (57887)

1) Porky's (X) + The Pledge (X)

2) Rocky III (A) + support

ABC Friar Street Reading (53931)

1) Firefox(AA)

2) Chariots of Fire (A) + Gregory's Girl(A) (yet
 again-make sure you see it this time)

3) Prisoners of the Flesh(X) + Emmanuelle and the
 White Slave Trade(X)

ABC London Road Reading (61465)

Fame (AA) + support

ABC Bracknell (20072)

1) Rocky III(A) + sup;

2) Firefox(AA)

COMPETITION TIME

Oh dear! Someone at the
 Guardian has carelessly
 spilled some Tipp-Ex
 on some copy. Can you
 spot the missing
 word? Send your answer
 to Spot the Balls,
 119 Farringdon Road,
 London EC1R 3ER.

16/7/82
 a page 11
 ...car. Then he ...
 ably do one final series
 Minder, for which he has
 great affection. "If this ran
 for a year, and then I did
 seven months of Minder, I'd
 be ... comfortable at the
 end of it, I can tell you."
 During the thinnest part of
 his career (not very thin
 either) between leaving the
 Court and starting Sweeney
 in 1974, he auditioned
 for Manchester United.

(Interview continued from p13)

- At lots of other free festivals. I think
 this one's caught more newspaper attention
 than was justified perhaps.
- How many were there at Greenham?
- Originally a thousand or more.
- It just seems very strange that they were
 allowed to stay there and not arrested. Of
 course the newspapers were able to use this
 as anti-CND propaganda.

CULTURAL CODEX

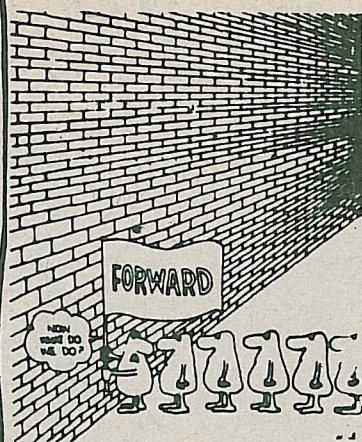
JULY 24-31



APOLLO YOUTH CLUB

MOUNT PLEASANT SILVER ST. READING.

- Sat 24 5th Annual Cultural Week jointly
 to organised by Apollo Youth Club,
 Sat 31 Central Club & West Indian Women's
 Circle. Theme: The struggles of
 the African. Mostly at Apollo
 Youth Club, Mount Pleasant, Sil-
 ver St, open 12 - 10.30pm unless
 otherwise stated. Exhib of books
 arts & crafts. Events free unless
 stated. Looks really good.
- Sat 24 Apollo 1 - 5.30pm Children's Day:
 exhib of books for children +
 writing & art by children. Afric-
 an dress photo session. 3pm W.I.
 W.C. steel band.
- Sun 25 Apollo: open 3 - 10.30pm. 8pm
 film: "Blood Ah Go Run" - short
 documentary tracing black resist-
 ance in Britain. Plus discussion.
- Mon 26 Apollo: 7.30 Apollo Karate Team
 display. 8.30 "The Struggle for
 Azania" (S.Africa): the film
 "Forward to a People's Republic"
 + talk and discussion led by
 representative of A.N.C.
- Tue 27 Apollo: 8pm film show "Quemada"
 50p.
- Wed 28 Apollo: 7.30 "Uzuri Binti" Read-
 ing based African Dance Group
 (WIWC). 8pm "Black Music" - talk
 by Sebastian Clark + discussion.
- Thu 29 Apollo: talk: "Capitalism and the
Third World" by Colin Prescod 7.30
- Fri 30 Apollo: exhib of W.I. food. 7.30
 poetry reading. 8.15 Two one-act
 plays by Don Kind presented by
 Staunch Poets & Players. 70p.
- Sat 31 Central Club: 8pm Cultural Show +
 Dance.



- Sun 25 Coley Nurseries (RBC) open 2.30-6 Free. Off Wensley Road.
- Shinfield Grange (Univ garden) open 2-5. 40p. Cutbush Lane off Shinfield Road.
- Mon 26 Anarchists weekly meeting. 8pm. Phone Paul on 52604 for venue.
- Tue 27 Save Crown Colonnade! meeting to discuss leaflet & petition. 8pm, 24 Norwood Road.
- Wed 28 Berks C.C. Youth & Community Sub-Cttee. 10.30 Shire Hall.
- Socialist Workers' Party weekly meeting. 8pm the Red Lion, Southampton Street. Babysitt 3 pton St. For babysitter ring 661914
- The Baha'i Faith. Yes folks "the greatest event in history". Talk at AUEW, 121 Oxford Road. 8pm. Free.
- Sat 31 S.Region CND planning meeting for Hard Rock - probably still on as CND are going ahead with "Hard Luck" anyway. 2.30 - 4.30.
- Sun 1 Women's Centre - there is NO First of the Month meeting. There is a picnic next Sat instead.
- Reading Rape Crisis Line opens tonight. Sunday 7.30 - 10.30, with ansafone to take calls any time.
- S. Region YCND meeting (?). AUEW 3pm. Check with Dave on 416536.
- Mon 2 Unemployed Centre. Table tennis & trampoline 1.30-2.30. Free. East St.
- Berks Anti-Nuclear Campaign meeting to discuss Training Weekend in Sep. 33 Green Road. Contact Lindy 61475.
- Fri 6 Hiroshima Day. Fast from midnight Thurs to midnight Sun on Queen Victoria (top of Blagrove St). All welcome! Contact David Evans on 37 (Pangbourne) 3153. Burghfield Peace Campers not uninvolved. Hopefully the Medical Campaign Exhibition will be at the Central Library for the duration.

- Sat 7 Unemployed Centre Trip to Brighton. Not all seats booked yet. £2. Meet 10am at the Centre (East St); back by midnight.
- Women's Picnic 1pm at the Women's Centre, basement of Old Shire Hall, Abbey St (off King's Rd). Bring food! In general the Centre seems to be open on Tuesdays (10.30 - 3.30) but not Sats.
- Youth CND sponsored march to Greenham. Contact Emma on 479406.
- Sun 8 Summer Fayre of Reading Vegetarian & Food Reform Soc. 2.30pm at 4 Derby Rd, Caversham. Reading Vegans have a stall there as their monthly event.
- Mon 9 Nagasaki Day. See Hiroshima Day.
- BANC East Reading group booksale. Contact Jane Laurie 65593.
- Tue 10 BANC General Meeting. Skills evening. Learn how to use a projector etc. Coffee. 8pm Friends' Meeting House, Church St off London St.
- Thu 12 Amnesty. Business meeting. 8pm, St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Butts.

BURGHFIELD PEACE CAMP NEWS

22/7/82

Another busy fortnight. The census of traffic in and out of the factory went ahead from first thing Monday until Friday evening. Covering all three gates 24 hours a day was much more tedious and tiring than we expected, but occasional visits from other peace campers from around the country helped a lot. The very occasional visits from Reading supporters just made us wonder why so many people are so unconcerned.

Now we have the job of sorting out the results - any offers? We are also tied up with meetings and conferences around the country and finding out about Nora Arthur and Fenella, last heard of on the Rumanian/Bulgarian border on a peace walk to Vienna. Telling the press about the building work that is plainly visible, and was denied by the MoD, has taken some time (Evening Post and TVS, well done and keep it up); but we have had a letter from ROF, explaining one or two things - come out and read it some time.

Oh, and the owner of the land we are on is making awkward noises - he does not want to be seen harbouring the sort of people who knock down fences, take drugs, and cost the ratepayers money ("and we've resisted the temptation so well!") Thanks to the Cosmic Counter-Cruise Carnival, we may be moving to another site soon - so keep in touch.

We may be marking Hiroshima and Nagasaki days (6th and 9th August) by a fast in Reading town centre - more news nearer the time.

Cliff

Anti Falklands War Support Network Bulletin no.3.

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The AFWSN exists to bring together and support people arrested for opposition to the war over the Falklands Islands/Malvinas by:

1. Publicity of details of arrests and subsequent trials
2. offering legal information and general support
3. Contributing to fines through fundraising and donations
4. Putting arrested people in touch with each other

Latest Information:

- Nine people arrested on anti-militarist picket in Edinburgh are appearing in court on October 4th., charged with obstruction.
- Person arrested for insulting behaviour on anti-war rally in London (May 23rd) appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court on July 5th., and got a conditional discharge for two years + £25 costs to pay.
- Two people from London Peace Action arrested for carrying a coffin on the same rally appeared at Bow Street on July 6th., also charged with insulting behaviour. They were acquitted !!!!! but there is £80 costs to pay.

Four more London Peace Action people also arrested on the anti-war rally for - yes you've got it- insulting behavior (for tearing up both Argentinian and British State flags) appeared at Bow Street on July 9th. They were fined £50 each, which they might not all pay.

No further details of the other six arrests on May 23rd.

- The two people arrested for paint-bombing the naval recruiting office in Holborn, London, on May 1st., have been remanded on to a higher court. Their case will be heard on September 1st. at the Inner London Sessions House, Newington Causeway, Elephant and Castle. They face £600 in damages.

The seven people arrested on their support picket on June 4th have been remanded on bail to appear at Wells Street Magistrates Court on September 6th.

Other news:

- The two people arrested for leafletting at the Trooping of the Colour on June 13th., and charged with obstruction, were found guilty at Bow Street and fined £5 each.
- Of the 48 people arrested at the CND march on June 6th. in London, one has already pleaded not guilty and has been bound over to keep the peace, 20 are due to appear at Wells Street on September 14th. and October 26th., one or two at Marlborough st. on unknown dates, two juveniles to report to the police on July 13th. to find out if any action will be taken. A few are untraceable and of the rest at least thirteen were released without charge, though some were held for two days. The police can still bring charges within the next six months. Their defence campaign can be contacted at:

84b Whitechapel High Street, London E.I.

The Cambridge ad hoc Committee against the Falklands war have become part of the Support Network and will be helping to raise funds. They can be contacted at

Grapevine Bookshop, 186 East road, Cambridge.

At the moment we have £106.31p, many thanks to all those who have sent donations. The next meeting of the AFWSN will be on September 6th. at 7p.m. at 6, Endsleigh st. We will need to continue our work well into the winter as appeals will probably still be necessary. We will keep on producing the bulletin and hope people will keep on contacting us with news, donations etc., at

London Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC.I.

We have a list of friendly solicitors in the London area which we can send to people. Send us an SAE to the above address.

The prehistoric "coffin"

Still blooming lovely — despite vandals

VANDALS stamped their ugly mark on council flower tubs this week.

The incident occurred just hours before judges of the Britain in Bloom contest were due to visit a site at Cemetery Junction, Reading.

However, council workmen quickly restored the six up-turned pots to their former glory, and by the time the judges arrived, all traces of the incident had been cleared up.

The matter has been reported to the police by Reading Borough Council.

The flower containers were overturned and their contents spilled out onto the surrounding area. Handwritten posters stuck onto the pots declared: "Houses before flowers."

Anger at the incident came later from all quarters.

Labour leisure spokesman, Mr David Absolom, said: "I'm disgusted with this sort of behaviour. It was done by somebody who just doesn't know their facts."

"Money for the council's leisure budget cannot be diverted straight into the council housing fund."

"Most people in the

borough get great pleasure out of seeing the streets brightened up with the flowers. They are important, because they bring colour to what could be a very drab town."

A spokesman for the council's Recreation Department, which masterminds the yearly flower display, said the incident was "petty."

But he said: "I don't think this would have affected our chances in the regional competition."

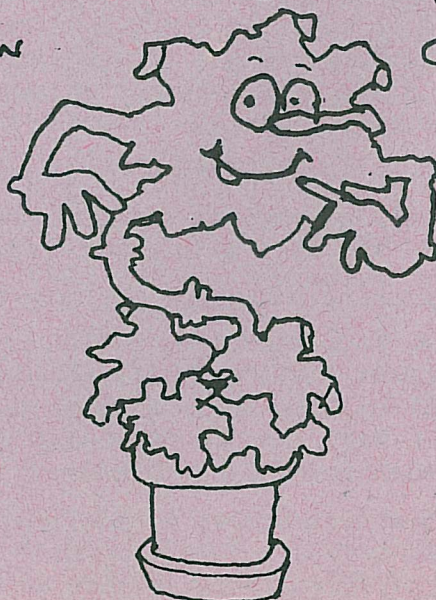
THESE "FLOWERS" ONLY APPEAR FOR A FEW WEEKS A YEAR, & THEY HARDLY "BRIGHTEN UP THE STREETS" 'COS THEY'RE ALL SICKLY GREENS & INSIPID WHITES. THE ONE WE PICKED HAD SHRIVELLED TO NOTHING WITHIN AN HOUR - CALL THAT A FLOWER? WE LOVE FLOWERS - BUT WE HATE THESE CYNICAL COUNCIL BASTARDS WHO PRETEND TO MAKE READING "BLOOM" JUST FOR A COMPETITION. IF SOMEONE WANTS TO BRIGHTEN UP THE ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNCTION, WHY DON'T THEY DIG THE FUCKING THING UP? READING SURF AS HELL BLOOMED FOR THE DOWN AND OUTS WHO

FROZE TO DEATH ON OUR STREETS LAST WINTER. OUR SLOGAN WAS NOT AS PRINTED "HOUSES BEFORE FLOWERS" BUT HOMES NOT FLOWERPOTS!

★ DEAR RED RAG,
WHAT'S ALL THIS CRAP IN THE CHRONICLE THEN? WHO IS THIS WEED ABSOLOM ANYWAY? IF ALL THE MONEY WASTED ON THIS PATRONISING PANTOMIME, THIS DISGUSTING COVER-UP JOB ON THE BARE CONCRETE SPACES OF READING CAN'T BE SPENT ON HOUSING WHY ISN'T HE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT? HE'S ON THE FUCKING COUNCIL ISN'T HE? HE'S GOT A NERVE. WHAT'S HE MEAN, THE FLOWERS "BRING COLOUR TO WHAT COULD OTHERWISE BE A VERY DRAB TOWN"?

Bill & Ben.

Communique no. 1.



Judges for the Thames and Chiltern section of the national contest toured Reading's town centre on Tuesday for a look at the flowers and parks.

Last year, Reading won top honours in the regional heat of the Britain in Bloom competition.

● Yesterday (Thursday) it was announced that Reading had been placed second in their heat.