

THIS is RED RAG Saturday 22/1/83
Getting in touch - news - events - phone
666681. Going Out Guide - 663083. Dist-
ribution - 61257. Write c/o Acorn Book-
shop 17 Chatham St. Donations via Acorn
or to Sue Clarke, Flat 7, 66 Wokingham Rd.

READING'S ONLY NEWSPAPER - NEXT COPY
DEADLINE THURSDAY / 3/2/83.

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news news news news news news news news
DHSS "Fraud Squad" Set to Descend

At the end of January, the "Special Claim
Group" of the DHSS arrives in Reading. For
4 weeks or so they will be investigating
one in three of all people claiming bene-
fit - looking for "scroungers" and "fidd-
lers".

Previous tactics in other parts of the
country have used the controversial "suss"
laws as an excuse to harass and check up
on claimants' circumstances. In Oxford's
"fraud swoop", Operation Major", 286
claimants were arrested (100 were released
after 10 hrs in custody without any charge
being pressed) after they had signed on at
a bogus Unemployment Benefit Office.
In 1982, taxation of benefits was intro-
duced, but benefits were only increased by
a pathetic 5%. The Govt is soon to intro-
duce a new system for rent payments. The
rent will be paid directly to the landlord
by the Local Authority. Whatever changes
arise from this new system, you can be sure
that claimants and those on or near the
"poverty line" will be the ones who suffer
most - yet again.

We feel it is vital to start campaigning
NOW on these issues.

THURSDAY 27th JAN. 2-4pm - Claimants'
Action Group - Centre for the Unemployed,
East St. Reading.

JACK JONES TO LEAD READING'S PENSIONERS
INTO BPTUAA ?

A Trades Council Press Release
Dear Pensioner, MEET JACK JONES JOIN A
READING TRADE UNION PENSIONERS ORGANISATION
Reading Trades Union Council, and the rec-
ently formed (and BPTUAA affiliated) Reading
AUEW Retired Members Branch, would like to
see in Reading a large and strong organis-
ation of and for trade unionists who have
now retired from work along with other in-
terested pensioners - to discuss subjects of
common interest and to work together to im-
prove the lot of pensioners in and around
Reading.

We have jointly organised a meeting,
in the Small Town Hall (Old Town Hall
building) on thurs 27 Jan '83, start-
ing at 2pm and ending about 4pm. We
have managed to get Jack Jones as
speaker. Jack Jones is an Honorary
President of the British Pensioners
and Trade Unions Action Association
(BPTUAA) and will speak on the aims
and work of BPTUAA, and what Reading
pensioners might hope to gain from
joining together, whether as a BPTUAA
branch or otherwise. As you probably
know, Jack has been fighting for pen-
sioners ever since he retired as Gen-
eral secretary of the TGWU - and he is
a fascinating speaker.

You are cordially invited to attend t
the meeting, and to bring with you any
other pensioners you know who might be
interested in joining a Reading trade
union pensioners' organisation.
We look forward to meeting you.

George Grant
BPTUAA Branch
Secretary
Reading 57244

Christine Borgars
RTUC Assistant
Secretary

Message from some of the Red Rag
Collective - Quite a few of us at the
Rag meeting on Sunday last think that
recently the content of the Rag has
been dire. Therefore we are going to
edit without compunction.

We need people because we are stale
and don't find it exciting any more -
come and take us over - please.

We need regular money, occasional big
donations are wonderful, but we can
only make regular issues if we have
regular income. Two to three thousand
people read Red Rag, 22 of them support
it with small monthly donations to our
bank account. This income, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of
what we need to make fortnightly 16
page issues, is the only money we can
rely on.

Advertisement ????

THE CABINET TRICK

A journey inside a piece of furniture.
At 350 Kennington Lane nr Vauxhall Tube
Saturday 22nd Friday 23rd Jan. 3 - 5pm
and 7 - 9 pm.

Lasts about $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs, viewing recommen-
ded in pairs. Unfortunately limited to
the physically fit.

Phone 01-223-4606 for further details.

RED RAG PAGE TWO RED RAG PAGE TWO RED

Experiences of working in a hetero-sexual Cattlemarket

Most work is unpleasant, but working at Cavershams Nightclub + Restaurant is down-right evil. It is badly paid, £1 an hour for washing-up, £1.20 an hr + tips for waitresses. The hours are long and anti-social, the conditions are uncomfortable and unpleasant, it is hot and smoky, sweaty and noisy, and means spending 10 hrs standing up under artificial lighting. There are no contracts of employment, no stated conditions; this is contrary to the 1978 Employment Protection Act. There is no union, despite most of the staff having grievances their employer, i.e. the owner.

Staff meals are provided as a necessary perk, but consist of poor quality food such as burgers that are past their sell-by date, and they have to be eaten quickly, at the start of the work period i.e. immediately before physically demanding work. This can have unfortunate results on the gut.

There are no guaranteed breaks, even in a 10 hour shift. When breaks are taken the management insist that they be out of sight of the customers, but no area is reserved for this. Breaks are short and there is constant vigilance to ensure that employees are devoting 100% of their time to making the place profitable, i.e. ripping off the public.

The Manager's attitude to making money goes to ridiculous lengths, for example the owner was seen to become very agitated over the size of a portion of mushrooms, and insisted that in future there should only be six mushrooms to a portion (a portion costs 70p) Ten minutes later this was changed to eight due to complaints by a customer.

While waitresses get red aprons provided, staff must pay for their own 'uniforms' i.e. black trousers, white shirt for the men, black dress for the women, and must pay for regular cleaning. No transport is provided or funded, even though the staff end up leaving work at gone 2 am. As I said, there are no unions, employees have been warned repeatedly "any talk of Unions and You're out". Any grouping of staff would be met with half-humorous accusations of forming a union. The need for a union is obvious however, on one occasion, it is rumoured, several of the staff were told, half an hour after arriving for work, to go home as they were not needed, and were not compensated at all for their inconvenience.

It is very difficult to know what to in a situation where any individual can be replaced very easily and where the employer seems prepared to sack his entire staff. Things that might help this situation are

- getting to know each other outside work
- o talking about what you want out of your job, how much you are going to put up with and so on.

Instead, the staff tend to bitch about one another, that is when it's not too busy to talk to each other at all.

John.

NIGHT SHELTER - VOLUNTEERS PLEASE !

We have strong feelings about society Do You ? We worry about the society we live in - those people who are allowed to get lost and remain in corners - supposedly unnoticed, uncared for, unloved. We deal with those who are homeless and rootless-but also rejected by society. We don't believe that these so called 'dossers' reach this state of their own accord. Their homelessness is often a product of the social diseases-loneliness and inadequacy, and we refuse to accept the faceless, authoritarian remedies Society offers for what it considers to be a simple lack of beds and houses. It is deeper than that. We live, work and campaign for our mission in care, which is designed to fill the gaps in the social services, and acceptable to those rejecting help but for whom no other provision exists.

We need volunteers to come and live with us, share our aims, bring in fresh ideas and energy. You'll need energy !

A day can stretch into the early hours - walking streets, searching doorways, alleyways dark corners, parks, derelict houses. Days can begin in the early hours - handing out hot soup and buns to those who may have to spend a night in cold and frost due to lack of space in the shelter.

Versatility is the game - cleaning loos, lending an ear to a depressed old man, meeting councillors or social workers. The life isn't dull - living and sharing together, supporting our strengths and weaknesses.

PLEASE - we need help to contact people, care for them, raise funds and muck in.

JUST DROP IN FOR A CHAT WITH ANNA, JIM OR SAM.....WE ARE AT :THE KEEP, BROCK BARRACKS, 571, OXFORD ROAD.

- Mon 24 Picket: recruiters from the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston will be at the University's Careers Advisory Services offices. All day picket outside Palmer Building, Whiteknights.
- Anarchists: weekly meeting, 8pm. For venue ring 666681, where no-one will know anyway but will be glad of a chat.
- Co-counselling: ("A toolkit of simple skills to enable each of us to use more of our potential. It is a wholeheartedly PEER system" ...) Introductory evening, Queen's Road clinic. Details Ian 0252 875798.
- Women's Media Workshop: 2nd of 4 presentations at South Hill Park: Erica Stevenson, camera woman. * 7.30, cinema, SHP, Bracknell.
- Tue 25 Berks Organic Gardeners: talk: "Starting crops early in the year - cloches, hot-beds etc". 7.30 St Mary's Centre, Chain St. All welcome.
- Tue 25 Bulmershe College, Woodlands Avenue, Earley:- CND events. Films and speakers. Including on 27th feminist band Jam Today in benefit for
- Thu 27 Greenham Women's Peace Camp (8.30 at Bridges Hall, £1.50).
- Wed 26 Nuclear power: teach-in organised by WEA Industrial Branch and Berks Anti-Nuclear Campaign. Workshops: Nuclear power & n. weapons (Chris Church of Oxford ANC); N. power for Beginners (John Booth of Rdg Friends of the Earth); Safety (Tony Sumner of BANC); Costs & alternatives (E Bossanyi of the Univ); Politics of n. power (?). 50p. 7.30 Centre for the Unemployed, East St (off Queen's Road).
- Socialist Workers' Party: weekly meeting 8pm Red Lion Southampton St
- Thu 27 Claimants Action Group: first of weekly meetings Thurs 2-4pm at the Unemployed Centre, East St. To discuss among other things the visit the 'Special Claims Group' is paying to Reading and its implications for claimants.
- Workshop on Co-ops: Advantages & disadvantages; Different types; How to set one up; Likely problems; The answer to unemployment? Speakers: Chris Cornforth of Oxford Co-op Development Agency; Seymour Anderson of Stonebridge Bus Project; Paul Hoffman of Buildit Co-op, Bristol. 7.30 Unemployed Centre, East St.
- Sat 29 East Reading Berks Anti-Nuclear Campaign: book & record sale, 2-6, St Lukes Hall, Erleigh Rd. Details Steve Gavin 663177.
- Woodley & Earley BANC: Leafletting in Woodley shopping centre. If you'd like to help contact Sue Watts on 6908183.
- Childbirth Support Group: first meeting. "We aim to provide a support network to help women obtain the sort of birth they want, at home or in hospital." All women welcome. 2pm, Women's Centre, basement of Old Shire Hall, Abbey St. Further details: contact Electra, 65648.
- Sun 30 "The Working Class in Berkshire": First of 8 weekly sessions 10.30 - 12.30 Suns, Unemployed Centre, East St. £7 (£5 unwaged) or £1.50 per session. Details & enrolment: Pete Ruheman, 897 Oxford Road. Today: "From the field to the factory via collective bargaining by riot" - Peasants' Revolt, Captain Swing & Chartism - introduced by Wolf Wayne of Slough College.
- Mon 31 South Rdg BANC meeting: 8pm S.Rdg. Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue.
- Women's Media Workshop: see 24th.
- Tue 1 First of the Month meeting of Women's Centre. All women welcome. 7.30 basement of Old Shire Hall, Abbey Street.
- Tilehurst CND meeting. For details ring Jan Powis on 414800.

(cont)

- Wed 2 to Sat 5 - Nothing! That I know of anyway. By the way I'm getting a bit fed up with doing Events every issue. Would anyone like to take it over or do it occasionally? Ring James on 666681. Please!
- Sun 6 "The Working Class in Berks"- see 30 Jan. "Revolutionaries versus the Hydra-headed monster" - development of socialism, General Unionism, the SDF and the battle with Huntley & Palmers. Introduced by Keith Jerrome.
- Mon 7 Caversham BANC meeting: details: Ruth Winchester 482881.
- Tue 8 Guild of Co-operators: AGM. 8pm, Co-op Educ. Centre, entrance between Oxford Road School and petrol station. Members only.
- South Rdg BANC: film: 'The Bomb'; + Jane Oberman of Ascot CND. 8pm, South Rdg Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue.

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Any women interested in training for the Rape Crisis Line please write to the Rape Crisis Collective, Box 9, 17 Chatham Street as soon as possible. New training sessions start soon.

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Red Rag Outlets

Quite a bit of money seems to have come in in the last couple of days so it looks like there will be another Rag. You can find it at:

Acorn Bookshop, under the Chatham St car park

Pop Records, 172 King's Road

Centre for the Unemployed, East Street (off Queen's Rd)

Brets (where the burgers come from), Friar St

Reading Emporium, Merchants' Place (off Friar St)

Our Price Records, Butts Centre (downstairs)

Lazer Records, Butts Centre (upstairs)

Central Club, bottom of London St

Ken's Shop, Students' Union, Whiteknights.

....or get it delivered to your door by ringing 666681 or 61257.

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DEMONSTRATE TO MAKE READING A
NUCLEAR FREE ZONE !

Tuesday 22nd February 1983, 5.30 pm
Civic Offices near the Butts Centre

Express your support for Reading to become Nuclear Free.

Demonstrate as Councillors arrive for the full Council meeting at which they will be presented with a petition containing many thousands of signatures of local people.

Berkshire Anti-Nuclear Campaign/Reading Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.
P.O.Box 153 Redding, Berks.

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Next issue should be back to litho printing - enquire about our very reasonable advertising rates.

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2 friendly vegy blokes, 1 friendly vegy woman would like to meet another friendly vegy woman with a view to moving into a house in the Cemetery Junction area. Soonish. Contact Huw on 667583 or Michael on 61936.

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This space could be yours

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Small fridge for sale (ideal for single person with small accommodation) several yrs old but only used for a few months, excellent nick, even has a little freezer bit. Cost £80 ish new. Will part with it for £25. Phone chris 61257

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BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING tuesday 11th January

Now that the Post has started having a somewhat cynical spectator's-eye view (Diogenes inspired?) to go with its usual boring reports of Council Meetings; and Diogenes has become rather an institution in the Rag, I'm not sure whether I'll bother in future. Council Meetings are very long and pretty tedious and not really that important. (Still there's a certain fascination to it...)

Most of what's said at these meetings is purely for show - for the press - for me! Cor. (This because for nearly everything decisions are made on party lines and will merely confirm decisions already made on party lines in Committee) I started going in the spirit of Diogenes the founder of cynicism who went out with a lantern in daylight "looking for an honest man"; I've ended up with a certain respect for quite a few people there; I believe most of them are "sincere", whatever that means. Still, the business of Council Meetings is hot air and empty rhetoric and pomposity and posturing - and that goes for the ones who call themselves "socialists" as much as anyone else. So much by way of personal explanation...

Currently everyone is worried about getting elected in May. So the Conservatives, for instance, are keen to show that they are resolutely opposing anything which will cost money. ~~For~~ For instance, very much at the last minute, they tried to prevent the building of the South Reading Leisure Centre, which would cost the council over £2million, including running costs, and this would be "pre-empting future flexibility" (whatever that means). The Liberals called this "appalling" and insisted that the Centre could and should be financed by Capital Receipts (whatever they are). Even John Oliver agreed that "no-one has ever denied that we want - er - one". Dave Absolom spoke with passion on how the Labour Party had been fighting for this Leisure Centre since back in the 60s; on the "need to keep the kids off the streets" (maybe it could double as a concentration camp?) and his dream of "maybe in 4 years time a Leisure Centre in the North of Reading, then one in the East and West - and then Reading will be a place to come to". Hm. (Oh, there are 21 Tories, 16 Labour and 11 Liberals, so here for example, as the Libs voted with Labour the Centre will go ahead as planned.)

Rent

The Labour group made a lot of opposing a 7% Council rent rise. (I must admit that when I hear Councillors talking about "justice" I reach for my dictionary. The point is that the increase is solely to cover the reduction in Government subsidy. The Liberals "deplored" this, while supporting the rent rise. This sort of debate brings out all kinds of weird attitudes: John Freeman deploring "divisions in our society" (why can't landlords and tenants love each other?); John Oliver (housing vice-chairman) on how Council house tenants were better off now than in 1939 - "that is not logic, that's a fact". ("Would anyone else like to be vice-chairman?" even his fellow-Tory chairman Ron Jewitt was moved to ask...)

Ethics

The Rock Festival had to be debated yet again, after the mix-up last time when the Leisure Committee was left with no plans for this year at all. That Committee had again recommended that the Festival happen as usual at Richfield Avenue. The Tories wanted it "moved elsewhere" - it was in their 1979 election manifesto. The Libs had decided to support Labour this time, as under the circumstances it was only fair to organiser Pendleton (who was sitting next to me on the Press Gallery - no-one tried to throw him off!) Several of the Tories were a bit uneasy. Doug Chilvers said he'd always upheld the Festival but "what I say and what I vote may be different." Fred Pugh made a great thing about "democracy" to explain how, though, "I think my Party is wrong, very wrong,, I'll still vote with it". He thought it would lose votes to ban the Festival. His complaint with last year's was that he couldn't hear it from his deckchair. Steven Foley

~~xxx~~ (who isn't standing for re-election in May!) expounded the "moral and political reasons" why he was going to vote with the Libs and Labour. He seemed to be the only one who understood what the Festival is about: "As a Tory I've always supported free enterprise". It would be "poor Business ethics" to ban it. Traders in the town profited from it. He said nothing about "the youth" or "young people", just that it didn't offend the Bishop of Reading. See below for Hamza Fuad's speech; the main Tory view was that of leader Deryck Morton: "Please give us a break in Caversham Heights and find another site."... So anyway the Festival will go ahead as usual. Later, on a completely different subject, Coun Rush, disappointed at the Council's lack of initiative, declared that "Richfield Avenue is probably one of the best sites you could imagine for a pop festival - sorry, camping site"...

Greenhouses

The "Colussus" office development in King's Road got its final approval, Graham Rush "stating for the last time the Lab group's total opposition". The planning officers had "made the best of a very very bad job". It was hard to say whether it was worse if it were let or if it stayed empty: if it did get let the influx of specialists would force housing prices up. He said that in Leicester empty offices were being converted to flats; the Colossus design wouldn't be suitable for that - but might make a good greenhouse. "I can remember back to my younger days," began John Silverthorne (Lab) (like the red tie!). Brian Fowles (Tory planning chair) agreed on the "environmental disasters" in King's Road - "but they're not half the environmental disasters they might have been" (!) He did point out that very few planning applications that go through have strong opposition in Committee...

Other highlights: Charles Sage on recycling: "Just another case of the Environment Committee being successful - it happens all the time." Dave Absolom, arguing for money to be allocated to playgrounds, used the argument that early retirement meant that people had more leisure time... Doug Chilvers (on the subject of tourism and supporting a Labour amendment): "Half this Council has no interest in Reading." (Some of the Council has an interest in knocking down half of Reading...) Jim Day (the Liberal Leader): land in Whitley is "disappearing like ice cream down a baby's throat". Councillor Oliver: "When I got on this Council the first thing I said was 'You'll regret it!'" (chorus: "We have!"). Simon Coombs: "Because the proportion of rates to government subsidy is going up, there's more local control and democracy." (!) But my Person of the Match award has to go to Hamza Fuad, on his favourite theme of the Rock Festival. Coun Morton had said the Festival made Caversham Road look like "somewhere in the Middle East". Coun Fuad had lived in Egypt for some time. "People slept with their camels. That was natural. That wasn't all." In the West we had civilisation, so why did we allow "one of the filthiest displays in the middle of Reading?" "It wouldn't be allowed in Egypt. They'd be shot!" "Why can't we provide them with cattle trucks to transport them from the station?" "I don't understand it". Me neither.

Diogenes

Advertising in Red Rag

From the next issue of Red Rag we will accept paid advertisements. We need the money and we can offer a good deal to potential advertisers.

RATES: a quarter page ad costs £5 and measures 145 x 100mm (taller than wide)
a half page ad costs £10 and measures either 290mm x 100mm
OR 145mm x 205mm

CONDITIONS: Ads must be prepaid (cheques to 'Red Rag'). Invoices will be sent if requested. We won't print anything we take exception to. Each ad will be labelled 'PAID ADVERTISEMENT' like that. These rates apply to anyone advertising things to sell or services offered. Private individuals (eg small ads) get free announcements. Poor campaigns can talk to us.

- MON 24 HEXAGON: Fou Ts'ong (Chopin). 7.30. £2.50-3.50
THE HORN St Mary Butts: Jazz, 8pm, free
FIVES: Jazz funk disco. 8ish. Free
PROGRESS THEATRE: 'And a nightingale sang'. 7.45. £1.80 *runs til 29th
ART GALLERY: Exhibition of prints. 10-5.30. Free *runs til 29th
THE BULL, Nettlobed. Folk. 8ish. £?
SHP Bracknell. Independent Women's Cinema (Women's media workshop) 7.30.
PLAYHOUSE Oxford: 'Twelfth Night'. phone 247133 for details.
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, Oxford: Brian Eno's 'Mistaken Memories of Medieval
Manhattan. *til 30th
TOWN HALL MAIDENHEAD: Violin & piano recital. 7.45. £?
- TUE 25 HEXAGON: Burns supper. 7.30. £10
TUDOR ARMS: Gay disco. 8pm. Free
FIVES: Strangeway. 8ish. Free.
SHP Bracknell. Film: 'Cat People' X £1.90+concessions. 7.30
Waso Gypsy Band (New Orleans Jazz), £2/2.20. 6pm
ORATORY SCHOOL? WOODCOTE: Beethoven Piano Sonatas. 8.15. £?
- WED 26 HEXAGON: Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. 7.30. £4~~4~~-£7
READING FILM THEATRE? Palmer Building, University. 'Prince of the City',
x cert, 7.30. £1/1.50
SHP Bracknell. Film: Cat People (x). £1.90 + concessions . 7.30
Theatre: 'The Promise'. £1.50/1.70. 7.45
- THU 27 RFT: Jour de Fete (u) + L'Insomnie. 8pm. £1/1.50
BULMERSHE COLLEGE: Jam Today. 8ish. £1.50. Benefir gig for Greenham
Common women. Buy tickets in advance from Students Union or else you
can't get in the bar.
BRADFIELD COLLEGE: The Babrow Poets. 7.30. £?
SHP: Cat People and The Promise as yesterday.
Theatre Workshop club night. £? 8pm
Richard Digance. 8.15. £2.25/2.50 (£2.50/2.75 on door)
ANGIES WOKINGHAM: Illusions. 9pm. £1-2
- FRI 28 CENTRAL CLUB London Street: Melodt Rocka's + Marcus Sound + Aurleliuf
Crispin (comedian) + disco etc. £2. 8 til late.
CARIBBEAN CLUB London Street. Rhythm System + resident sound. £2. 10.30
TUDOR ARMS: Gay disco. 8pm. Free.
St Georges Hall, University. Farmers Boys. 8.30ish. £2.
SHP: Cat People and The Promise as yesterday.
Wellington College string quartet. 8pm. £1.50/1.70
Juvenessence. 8.15. £2/2.25 (£2.25/2.50 on the door)
Film late: American Gigolo (X). 11pm. £1.90.
ANGIES WOKINGHAM: John Spencer Band. 9pm. £1-2
- SAT 29 HEXAGON: Aerobics. Free
GREAT HALL, UNI, LONDON ROAD: RV Chamber Choir & Orch. 7.30. £2 + conc
UNI STUDENTS UNION: Dumpy's Rusty Nuts
CARIBBEAN CLUB: Hurrican Force Steel Band £2.50. 10ish
TARGET: Boo to a Goose. 8ish. Free.
THAMESIDE SCHOOL Caversham: Jack in the Beanstalk 3&7.30 £1.25 (£1 kids)
SHP Film, Theatre, and Late Film as yesterday.
Gerry Hallom (folk) 8pm, £1.20/1.50
ANGIES WOKINGHAM: The Drivers. 9pm. £1-2
ARTS WORKSHOP? Northcroft Lane, Newbury. Doolaly Days (theatre), 8. £2.20
OLD FIRE STATION, George St Oxford. Dance Showcase. 3.30 & 8pm. £?
- SUN 30 HEXAGON: Arion Orchastra. 7.30. £2-3.75
FIVES: Predatur. 8ish. Free.

- SUN 30 SHP: 12.15 Cry Wolf (u) + short + serial. 70p
7.30 Cat People (x). £1.90 + conc
ANGIES WOKINGHAM: Juvessence. 9pm. £1-2
COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE WINDSOR. Tea Dance. 3.30. £?
- MON 31 THE HORN: Jazz. 8pm. free.
FIVES: Jazz Funk disco. 8ish. Free.
THE BULL NETTLEBED: Folk. 8pm. £?
SHP: Independent Cinema (Women's Media Workshop) 7.30. Free.
- Tue 1 HEXAGON: Wrestling (wreally wrank) 7.30.
FIVES: Bitter End. 8ish. Free. TUDOR ARMS: Gay disco. 8pm. free.
PALMER BUILDING? Uni. Elgar Oddities. 1.10pm. 15p.
TARGET: Brothers of Boat. 8ish. Free. UNI SU: Lenny Henry. 8ish. £2.25,
£2.50 on door. Buy in advance or face signing-in hassles.
SHP: 'A Midsummer Night Sex Comedy' AA £1.90 +conc. 7.30
Ballantine/Shaw (modern jazz) £1.70/1.90.
- Wed 2 RFT: Gallipoli A, 8, £1/1.50. SHP Film as yesterday.
SILKS THATCHAM: Hollow Expressions. 9pm. £?
- Thu 3 HEXAGON: 1.10pm, Equale Brass, silver collection; 7.30 Battlefied
Band (Scottish) £2-3, minor concs.
RFT Film as yesterday. MILLESTONE CENTRES Northbrook Road Caversham
Park. The Pied Piper. 8pm, Sat matinee 2.30 £1.50 kids £1 *til 5th.
SHP Film as yesterday::: OLD FIRE STATION OXFORD: No limit to love,
8pm, £?, *to 5th::: ANGIES WOKINGHAM: TBA.
- Fri 4 HEXAGON Nol Disco with Simon Bates 8pm £3, ~~am~~ £4 on door.
RFT: Madchen in uniform A 8pm, £1/1.50
CENTRAL CLUB: Melody Rocka's etc as 28 January.
TUDOR ARMS: Gay disco 8pm free
CARIBBEAN: Seychelles. 10.30ish £2
SHP: Early film as yesterday. Late film 11pm Blazing Saddles X £1.90+conc
7.45 Doolaly Days (theatre) £1.90/2.20. 8pm Chiltern Players
(recital) £2.25/2.50. 3.15 Jake Thackeray £2.50/2.75 ahead,
£2.75/3 on night.
ANGIES: TBA
- Sat 5 HEXAGON: 12.15 Graeme Hewitt's band, free. 7.30 Goldon Gilttrap £2.50/3.50
TARGET: Not yet organised
ART GALLERY: Photo exhibition. 10-5.30. Free. *til 26th
CARIBBEAN: Dance. 10ish. £?
SHP: 3pm grand musical jumble sale, free. 7.30 & 7.45 as yesterday.
8pm Come all ye (folk) £1.20/1.50. 11pm Blazing Saddles repeats.
ANGIES: Not yet booked.
- Sun 6 FIVES: Nelson Four (?) 8ish, free. ANGIES: Something will be on.
SHP: Film as yesterday. 12.15 'The Christmas Tree' +short+serial. 75p
- Mon 7 HEXAGON: Relatively Speaking 7.30 (Sat 8pm), £2.50-4 Sat mat 5, £2.50.to12th
THE HORN: Jazz, 8, free... FIVES: Jazz funk disco.
THE BULL NETTLEBED: Folk, 8, free... SHP women's film as last week.

CINEMA FOR 1 WEEK FROM 23RD:

- ODEON CHEAPSIDE: 1 TRON (PG) to 26th ABC FRIAR ST: 1 ET (U)
2 PARTY PARTY (15) 2 Airplane II to 26th
3 First Blood (15) to 26th
- + Alexei Sayle will now be playing the ABC programmes will now change on
Hex on 10 April not the date given Thursdays
last time.

The Evening Post (another Reading publication) recently advertised its services to the unemployed. Advertise yourself and your qualifications etc etc and you may get an offer of employment. All you have to do is cough up £4 and there you are displayed under a banner saying 'WE WANT TO WORK'. Four quid - a bargain. But wait, when you look at the opposite page you'll find that the Evening Post will give you advertising space FREE as long as you have something to sell - goods under £50. It's a bit off, really, that those who can least afford to spend money, yet are vulnerable to suggestions that they don't want to work, are the ones who are asked to pay for the Evening's services. The main question, of course, is will it work? Unfortunately if it does work it could be a way round the employment agency laws designed to protect the jobless against exploitation. Of course, cut-throat price wars could bring the cost of such a service down considerably; competition is a healthy thing, we are always being told; so... would anyone like to advertise their capabilities (free) in the next issue of the Rag. We could call the feature BIKING IT. Of course, it won't get you a job, but then neither will the Post, and you'll have saved yourself four quid and have something to wave under the nose of the DHSS tame thugs who will be harassing you next month (see front page).

LABOUR'S PROGRAMME
FOR GOVERNMENT

Richard Evans and Kevin Boyle, prospective Labour candidates for Reading North and Reading South, will be sharing a platform with Eric Heffer, MP, front bench spokesman on Europe, at a meeting on 2 February at 7.30 in the Kennet Room, Civic Offices. Jobs, peace, freedom, and anything else you want or want to know about. All welcome.

RED RAG's
LAST MEETING

BUSINESS NEWS SPECIAL PROBE

Money first. At the time of the meeting (16 January) we couldn't afford to pay for the last issue (shortfall around £20). No additional income expected by the time of this issue. Standing orders, from the 22 people who have taken them out, was under £50 per month in total. Production costs were running at £60-£70 per issue. The sums don't add up. So we decided to pull in our horns. The first result of that policy is this issue, which was partly free because we had some paper and ink and stencils left from the days when the Rag was always this hard to read. Apart from that we have spent another £15 or so on extra paper etc. The second result will be visible next issue, when we return to litho printing but with smaller standard sizes (four or eight pages instead of 12 to 20). Since the meeting, we have received another £130 in donations - quite extraordinary, which saves our bacon for the present, but not our basic problem of not enough regular income.

The second money decision was that we will in future accept paid ads from Rag outlets, local small businesses, and anyone else who meets our strict definition of ideological purity and cash in advance. This new policy won't ~~xxxxx~~ affect our editorial policy - but something else will. Because we have less space to play with, we are going to edit contributions if we think they deserve to be cut. If you feel strongly about this you can come to the new-style collective editing meeting on the Thursday before publication (ie the next one is on Thursday 3 Feb - call 666681 for venue and time). Some of this will be helped by the appearance of 'At the controls', a glittering new star in The Reading Media Scene. This (30p at school or Acorn) will print some of the poetry etc with which we feel a bit uncomfortable, but usually include because there is nowhere else for it to appear.

One more thing. The meeting was pretty dismal in tone, with the clear impression that some of the people who have been doing it for a few years are getting tired and stale. The Rag needs some new blood - anyone, but especially people on the dole with some time to develop the reporting side of the paper.

Warning - this is a very biased report of the above meeting.
Mark.

This guide has been produced "to stimulate comment and discussion" about development in central Reading. Its prime target is local students of planning, urban geography and so on and its presentation is quite technical on first glance. (I wouldn't expect students or anyone to get on very well with the odd map on the back - doesn't look like Reading to me.) But if you don't let the academic style layout deter you it's an excellent read, humorous, subjective and packed with fascinating facts. Different sites are described (or dismissed) with reference to historical or economic detail e.g. what nearly happened to the Market Place in the 60's, or the rent per square foot for new commercial premises in London Street which explains why it's turning into a ghost town. A lot of the issues you may vaguely hear about (the "Kings Road colossus", the future of the Town Hall) are clearly explained and help you feel you know what's going on around you. For me that's the point of this guide, or of taking an interest in your surroundings generally and maybe not letting "them" get away with it. I haven't actually done the suggested tour, but I should think that makes John Punter's remarks even more comprehensible; if you at least read the guide, despite its cost, you could find yourself a lot less alienated.

x x

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FRIENDS OF SHEHNAZ SHEIKH CAMPAIGN

(See article on facing page)

(See article on facing page)

Shehnaz married a British citizen in June 1979 and as a married woman received the right to indefinite stay in this country in December 1980. Her parents acquired British Nationality in Uganda, her uncles, brothers and sisters are all UK citizens and most of them are settled here. Now Shehnaz is being asked to return to Pakistan because the Home Office say she was already married when she came here as a fiancée. The burden of proof of her single status at that time rests on Shehnaz. Though ample proof has been provided, it has all been rejected by the Home Office. While the Home Office states that it would consider documentation from Pakistan as immediately suspect, it nevertheless maintains that a previous Pakistani marriage document is valid although Shehnaz has always maintained it is false: it has been proved false and can be verified to be so. Additional evidence of her single status has also been totally ignored. XX

(In 1961 a ~~new~~ law was passed in Pakistan stating that for any marriage to be legal and valid it must be registered at a central office. There is no such registration for Shehnaz. She does have a marriage certificate from Pakistan, but it is false. It was obtained, by payment, to secure an early discharge from the army so that she could care for her sick father after the death of her mother. Such a discharge from the army is common practice and is accepted by the Pakistani authorities. Naturally they are reluctant to admit to the acceptance of false documents, and the British Home Office are happy to exploit this reluctance. Publicity about Shehnaz' problems with the Immigration Dept. has reached Pakistan, and her enforced return would mean that she faced physical danger, social ostracisation and economic hardship with no family support.

In Britain however, Shehnaz can look forward to a positive life with much to offer this country. She is a qualified nurse and has always earned her own living. In the past two years she has learnt to drive, to type and has studied for further education. She has contributed positively to the life of the local school and community, bridging the gap between the two cultures with ease.

Shehnaz is now asking for a judicial review of her case; so far, in front of a single judge on consideration of written papers, this has been refused. In the near future there will be an oral hearing for leave to have a judicial review - the date may soon be known. If this fails, Shehnaz is likely to be removed immediately. Even if the review is allowed and finds in her favour, the decision as to whether she can stay in Britain permanently rests with the Home Office.

'If the Home Office make it easy for me, they'll have to make it easy for everyone else - that's why they don't want to let me stay'

-Shehnaz Sheikh - Jan 15 1983.

Shehnaz Sheikh is an intelligent, friendly, articulate woman who looks you in the eye when she speaks to you. At this moment she is feeling optimistic about her chances of staying in the country 300 or so (mainly white) people turned out on Sat Jan 15 to support her right to stay in Britain, on a march from Cemetery Junction to the Civic Offices.

"Before, I didn't have any friends and I thought I'd have to go back, but now, with so much support - they won't let me give up, I will fight until I can stay."

Shehnaz is grateful to everyone who supported her on the march - people came from Bradford and Birmingham; the local West Indian community sent letters of support and lent the use of the Central Club; but it must be said that with the exception of some people from the Race Today Collective and from the Anwar Ditta Campaign, the absence of Asian faces on the demonstration was noticeable.

"At first the Asian Community were worried about the fact that I was separated from my husband - but my husband is still supporting me, and my uncle, and the Muslim Association ..."

Some people at the rally outside the Civic Offices didn't like the fact that a Tory MP, Mr Tony Durant, was standing on the platform waiting to speak (he didn't) not least one of the other speakers, Tarlochan Gata-Aura of the Anwar Ditta Campaign, Mr. Durant has in fact supported the campaign since it started 13 months ago, and has fought several other deportation cases previously. He also apparently voted against the new Nationality Bill.

"When Tarlochan was fighting his case, MPs didn't help him, they were of no use to him whatsoever."

As we all know, the point of the Immigration Act is to keep out black people. The only ones allowed in are under very specific categories-children, students, wives. If they step outside these categories they must justify why they should not be banished. Just watch those Civil Rights fly out the window - the Home Office, ie Civil Servants (not judges, you'd stand more chance in court!) judge your case and you have a right of appeal which is really no right at all as the Home Office has the power to make the final decision and is accountable to - you've guessed it - no-one! The judges ('adjudicators') in the special immigration appeal courts are appointed by the Home Secretary to hear cases against the Home Office, (ie not only are you guilty until proved innocent, you have to prove that the Home Office is guilty as well). In Shehnaz's case the Home Office has simply refused to let new evidence be heard. Sexism is built into the Immigration Act in the same way as racism is. Women cannot bring foreign husbands/ fiancées/dependants into this country whereas men can; it is assumed that black settled here should go wherever their husbands are.

The Home Office is very quick to exploit the vulnerable position of Asian women, and uses marriage breakdowns as an excuse to send them back to countries where, very often, divorcees have low social status and no means of support. For instance, if Shehnaz were to return to Pakistan as a once-married woman, she would not be allowed to work; most of her relations are settled in England, except for her father, a Ugandan Asian with rights to settlement in Britain; she is however now estranged from her father, who could not support her anyway.

Britain does not view Pakistan as an oppressive regime, and takes advantage of the fact that women in Pakistan are seen merely as dependents of men. The Home Office is quite happy to state that Shehnaz may have a further right of appeal when back in Pakistan:

It seems incredible that just to do what she wants to do, live where she wants to live, a black woman must apparently go to the extremes of fighting a campaign! Why should anyone continually have to ask permission to where s/he wants to be? Shehnaz is putting up a fight, but as she points out,

"At least I am educated - the others who aren't educated, I hope the campaign will help them, not just Asians, but all blacks."

What you can do:-

- Dear Mr. Waddington,

Rt. Hon. David Waddington
M.P. for Clitheroe
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear

I urge you to acquaint yourself with the full facts of this case and to take the matter up with David Waddington and the Home Office.

NO NATO H.Q. -- DEMONSTRATE AT HIGH WYCOMBE SATURDAY 29th JANUARY!

Dates to make a note of - April 8,9,10. Peace Festival at Daws Hill - watch this space, or one like it.