

17-30 APRIL

RED RAG★FREE

1 | The Famous Five, or
Acorn's been raided! or
First they came for the drugs books

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Yeah, well. Those of you who read the Post and Chronic will for once have had reasonable information about all this, thanks to Acorn's ace press release and decent attitudes from the journalists involved. Mind you, it is a good story. Once more and then I don't want to tell anyone ever again:--

On Wednesday 6th April, four plain clothes Drugs Squad officers entered Acorn. Their leader, Christopher David Jamieson, D/C 2102 (known as "CJ" - as in "have we finished now, CJ?"), flashed his I.D. and a warrant to search the premises and seize books under the Obscene Publications Act. No, not the Misuse of Drugs Act. No they weren't looking for porn. Yes, it's confusing. D/C Badham rushed upstairs to check if there was anyone else in the building, came down saying if there was they ate a lot of carrots 'cos it was pitch dark up there. I think he was supposed to be the one with a sense of humour. All this before I'd read the warrant. CJ started on about how I had to lock the shop up. Bookseller's hackles rise. It wasn't in the warrant. "Who gave you authority to do this?" "Me." I never got to read the warrant properly. Various customers tried to come in and were told the shop was closed. And left, the lams. About this point a fifth officer strode in, obviously feeling entitled to be there, woolly hat and all. "Who are you?" says I. "Dt Sgt Clennumble A183???" Helpful. CJ explained to me what they were after: the books about "drug abuse, cooking with drugs and all the rest of it." This basically meant all the "drugs" shelf. They knew where it was, incidentally. I asked if I could make a phone call. CJ: "Depends who to."

They constantly insisted that I lock the door. I constantly refused. They said they would get a uniformed officer to stand at the door. I said I'd prefer that. They didn't, but D/C Badham stood there and told customers the shop was closed. When one woman was being turned away I shouted "It's a raid!" They said that if I continued to explain to customers what was happening I'd be charged with obstructing the course of the warrant. I pointed to D/C Fox merrily piling books up on the floor and said I certainly wasn't obstructing them. D/C Badham started going through the mess under the counter, closely inspecting all the empty plastic money bags on the till.

D/C Fox ("Foxy" to his colleagues) was the "exhibits officer" and was entrusted with writing down everything taken. I asked if I was to get a copy of the list and he said I could if I had a piece of carbon paper. That's how I got a copy. He was relatively co-operative about it. I was encouraged to take a chair and watch him, but preferred to circulate and watch all of them.

D/C ?? fiddled around in the kitchen, lee, office, picked up the Red Rag account book and looked through it. I asked if he considered account books obscene, and he replied pompously, "We will look at everything." Dt Sgt Clennumble wandered about all the time, looking at the gardening section, Dennis Gould's anarchist poems, the noticeboard and so on. D/C Badham tried on the "lazer specs" which give very pretty rainbow effects to lights. He also seemed to like C.S.Lewis.

The choice of books taken, as well as the officers' lack of familiarity with the suppliers, some of

news 666681 666324 662302
going out 581222-423
events 666681
distribution 666681
next copy date 27 April



RED RAG EDITORIAL

RED RAG is Reading's only newspaper. It's free and has appeared fortnightly since 1979. 1,240 copies of this issue were printed, more than half of which go to the outlets. (Others are delivered straight to the front door by hand). It is financed entirely by donations. It is produced collectively, and has no links with any political party, group or line. We print anything subject to approval by the collective editorial meeting, normally held one evening before an issue is produced. As a guide, we do not print articles we consider 'racist, sexist or supportive of oppressive religions'. We try not to edit articles without the writer's agreement, and prefer to hold them over to the next issue if we can't get in touch. So it helps if people can give a contact number with any material they submit. If typed, it should be single spaced and 12cm wide (which we photo-reduce to 10cm).

MONEY

It's not urgent this issue, but if you don't keep the donations rolling in, we will run out again... Standing order forms make lousy reading, but we will print one again if you don't cough up, regularly, without them. Donations, standing orders, cheques (made out to Red Rag) to our treasurer c/o Flat 7, 66 Wokingham Road

MAYDAY MAYDAY

If this Rag has plopped its way through your letterbox, there should be some draw tickets with it. Please make a special effort to sell them - they've come out rather late this year but we still need the profits, badly. More books from Chris on 477073 or 581144 ext358. Thanks

OUTLETS

Red Rag is available from:---

Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham St

Pop Records, 172 King's Rd

Lazer Records, Butts Centre

Central Club, bottom of London St

Ken's Shop, Students' Union, Whiteknights

Unemployment Centre, East St

Our Price Records, Butts Centre

The Emporium, Merchants' Place (off Friar St)

Mace Grocer, 2 Crown Colonnade, Cemetery Junction

Johal Cash & Carry, 14 Cholmeley Rd

Champs Hamburgers, 127 Wokingham Rd

Bridge Stores, 6 Bridge St, Caversham

Elephant Off-Licence, 1 Derby St

... and in several other shops that prefer not to be listed here. Why not ask for it at your local newsagent? Or suggest to them that they take it? Queries and ideas to Distribution on 666681.

>> whom are currently being prosecuted under the same Act revealed an ignorance of the field. Some idiosyncratic choices were made, eg 'Junky' by Burroughs, 'Doors of Perception' by Huxley, 'Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test' by Wolfe, 'The Dictionary of Drugs', 'Hell's Angels' (a Penguin) and 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas', both by Hunter S. Thompson. All of these can be found in most paperback bookshops. 'Opium, Diary of a Cure' by Cocteau was taken, as were 'Growing Natural Tobacco', 'Tomorrow's Epidemic' (a War on Want publication on tobacco and the Third World) and 'The Coffee Lover's Handbook'.

"Foxy" was instructed by "CJ" to replace a copy of 'Recreational Drugs', an American publication about every conceivable drug from sugar to opium. "You can leave that one, Foxy." Odd that. CJ started removing the 'Home Grown' magazines and sorting through the comics. He started looking at 'Net Profit', an excellent comic about dolphins and the tuna industry. "It's about dolphins," I said. He said, "You can never tell a book by its cover." Humph. Round about this point I locked the door. Intending customers got very confused.

And so it went on, for about 90 minutes. They wanted the invoices that itemized the books they seized, so I had to show them which to take. "He" had said they had to. This led to enquiries about pricing in the book trade. CJ and B looked through invoice files, noticing the odd title. B commented, "People write some funny books about funny things." He found one for a book about censorship called 'Offensive Literature'. "What's that one?" "That's about what you're doing now," CJ commented, "They probably know more about it than we do." We probably do. They also wanted to know what sold in the shop, and took our sales book and the file where we write down what needs ordering. Because they were "documents pertaining to the business." I complained that that would make it impossible to work. They promised to return them that afternoon. On leaving this turned into a promise of photocopies, which CJ and Foxy duly brought (why two of them?). If they can read our writing they're welcome, but the implications are pretty disturbing.

I pointed out it was lunchtime and more customers would be trying to get in. They assured me they were working as fast as they could and "appreciated I had a business to run." "We don't want to upset the apple cart," said CJ. D/C ?? enquired as to whether we made a living as "very few visitors or clients or whatever you call them" had come by. I had to sign "Foxy's" list to state I agreed that it was a copy, not that it was a list of what they took. That's what he said anyway. So they all lined up in front of the counter while I counted the boxes - seven in all. They did bring their own boxes, incidentally - more than they needed. One they left behind was labelled "Recovery of Vehicles 1977". CJ explained to me, reasonably accurately, that the books will now go to the Director of Public Prosecutions who will examine them to see what is "deemed obscene"; then those books will go to a magistrate who will then decide if they should be "forfeited", ie destroyed. If we do not agree to forfeiture then we could at that point be prosecuted. That wouldn't be for months.

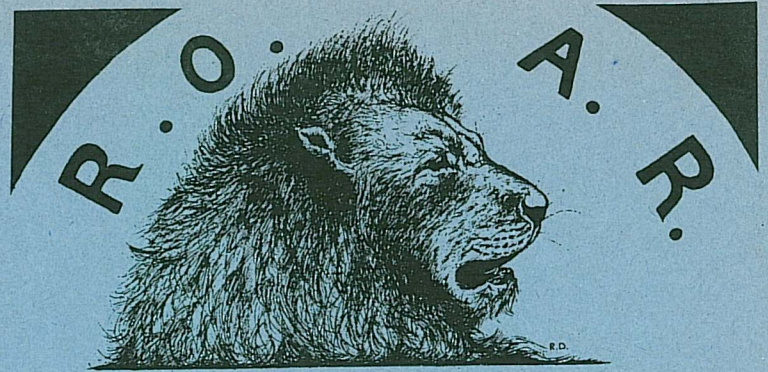
So that's what happens next. Whether or when we get anything back is unclear. We're only one of several radical bookshops to be raided recently, and it's not necessarily anything to do with the article on cannabis in Red Rag or Peter Robertson of the Evening Post. If you want to know why it happened, don't ask us. We weren't doing anything we haven't done for ages. Don't know what else you want to know. (Part of the point of writing this is so we don't have to keep answering the questions, much as we value your interest.) As well as loss of stock, we're likely to incur legal expenses in the future, so we may be asking for help then. We're not going to stop anyone writing irate letters to anyone they want to. The support we've had from people has been really good. Thanks. But we want to get on with our real job of bringing books and printing and badges and everything to people.

Liz

Reading now has it's own organization for animal rights. R.O.A.R.'s aim is to educate the public on the many forms of animal abuse in Britain, by distributing leaflets, writing to newspapers, holding local demonstrations and raising funds for animal charities. Monthly meeting's are held at the Crown, Crown St.



For more details contact-Box 6 Acorn Bookshop or try phoning - Littlewick Green 4653 or Reading 477790, 26340, 581805.



READING ORGANIZATION for ANIMAL RIGHTS

CO-COUNSELLING

Co-Counselling is a two-way process in which two or more people take it in turn to work on any issue which concerns them, with the support of the others. It is a method of self help and mutual aid by which its users can discover their hidden abilities, and achieve possibilities of which they may only be dimly aware.

A quickie (?) on the co-counselling introduction session at Queen's Road clinic last Monday (11/4/83, as advertised in Red Rag.)

I went along following the recommendation of a friend in York and thought I'd do a bit for the Rag by watching the proceedings.

No chance - I walked in late (when am I ever on time?) to find 19 people sitting cross-legged on the floor - throwing pillows to one another. It was a warm up exercise I was told as I was found a space and cushion to sit in on the circle!

Basically you say your name and throw the pillow at someone who says their name and so on. One of the ideas being to remember names and work together as a group. I guess I was lost when everyone was invited to stand up. We then moved amongst each other to look and react with whoever we met.

Some reactions were smiles, some accompanied by facial expressions (laughter, horror, & glazed in some cases) and also hugs and handshakes. Quite a wierd feeling but not too unpleasant I thought as I looked around at the assortment of folk milling around.

Out of the group present (& I knew not one) there were a respectable-looking 11 men (including yours truly) & 9 women - about 6 in total who were under 30 for the statistically minded.

A few more warm up trust games - back-to-back lifting, pushing hand-to-hand followed - changing partners in each game.

Next, the essence I think of co-counselling, came an exercise whereby we all sat in two's and talked for 4 minutes each (to each other) about our journey there. One partner 'listening' but actually totally uninterested for the first two minutes (yawning, looking away, fiddling etc.) & the next two minutes giving you total attention (listening, nodding, and saying yes/no appropriately & giving correct facial expression). Amazing stuff, I hear you say. But it made the point in my mind. How often do we listen to someone, and how does it feel? Try it (answers on a postcard..)

Lastly, following a discussion about how we felt, we did a session of the same for 5 minutes on some thing we didn't like/that worried us and again chattered/co-counselled each other.

Lastly Ian and Claire the 2 trainers/organisers for the group told us a little about co-counselling & how it originated (it came from someone in America & co-counselling 'communities' are springing up all over GB/the world).

We were also told about a weekend course of training in the methods of co-counselling lasting about 40 hours and costing £40 (less if in financial straits). I questioned about the cost and who the cash went to and was told 'to the trainers and costs'. The guy I spoke with when we split to go home had his doubts about the money too.

I left after putting the suggested 50p in the saucer feeling a nice rush - but slightly dubious about the money/sincerity (they didn't seem to go together somehow). However the organiser I spoke with seemed a very straight and caring character, maybe I'm just getting cynical.

Further details are available from Ian (Yateley 875798). The next weekend course in Reading starts on Friday May 6th.

Paul.

ANTI-FAIKLANDS WAR SUPPORT NETWORK

The AFWSN first met on May 24th last year, to provide publicity, legal information, and mutual support to those involved in opposition to the war. It has now dissolved, last meeting on Feb 28th 1983.

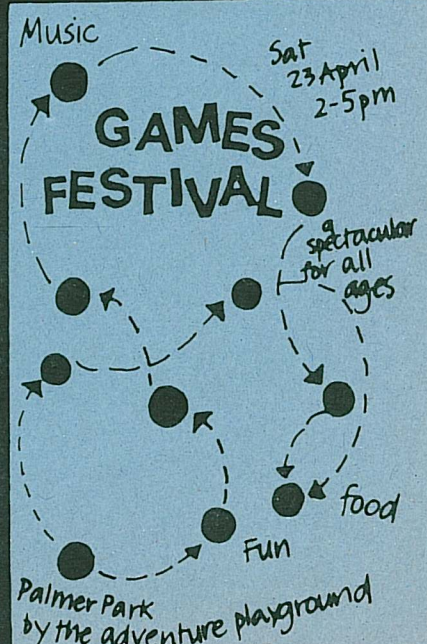
It covered about 70 arrests, of which no more than half resulted in convictions. £515 was received in donations, most of which has gone on fines and legal fees. £50 has gone to Padres Amigos Soldados, an Argentine group campaigning for an end to military service.

Details are contained in the AFWSN's last bulletin, No 6, which also includes "some thoughts":

"The massive show of State militarism and brutality, accompanied by nationalist propaganda, seemed to mesmerise people in Britain and Argentina, with little fundamental protest or opposition - just a sort of private disgust. In that atmosphere the network never really took off ... But the potential was there."

Let's hope that we can learn one lesson: war is not something that is only found in the history books; the modern State needs it just as much as Feudal Kings needed it. And we need it as much as we need feudalism or the modern State!

Cliff



A SPECIALIST military bookshop. Campaign Books Ltd, will open at 64 Elms Road, Aldershot, Hants, in mid-April. Aldershot is one of the biggest garrison towns in Britain, and the shop's owner and manager, Nick Higgins, is himself an ex-paratrooper. The shop has a 270 square foot selling area, and the initial stock of £8,500 at invoice will include both non-fiction and a paperback fiction section. Military magazines will also be stocked. Mr Higgins would like to receive relevant publishers' catalogues and visits from representatives.

EVENTS

from 18 April - 5 May



■ MON 18

Co-operatives "A step by step practical guide" 10 sessions, starting today, till Friday 29th. 2-4pm, Centre for the Jobfree, East Street. Various speakers, free to jobfreees. Details from Chris Miller at the Centre (596639).

Caversham Anti-Nuclear Campaign Planning meeting at 70 St Peter's Ave. 8pm. Future activities and 'peace canvass'.

Ecologists 38, Longbarn Lane, 8pm. Details from Maria Callies, 663195.

Anarchists meet every Monday, 8pm-ish. It is conceivable that ringing 666681 will give you some idea of the venue, but don't get your hopes up.

■ TUES 19

"Reading Old & New" (Civic Society) "Gordon Rowley will show his unique and rarely seen collection of photos of Reading & Earley" Free, all welcome. 8 pm. Vachel Rm, the Hexagon. Details from Mrs V. Ryder, 696034

Ecology Party leafletting and canvassing for local elections (every evening till 24th) Ring Maria Callies, 663195 for details.

■ WED 20

Socialist Worker Party meet weekly in the Red Lion, Southampton Street, 8pm.

■ THUR 21

Nutrition & Diet Informal talk in the TVNHC series "Help yourself to health". 8pm Friends Meeting House, 28 Denton Rd, Wokingham. Details: Solo, Crowthorne 2061 or Ian, Bracknell 25343.

"Childbearers" Women's bodies, contraception, pregnancy, menopause, health issues, do you want children, childcare. 2nd of six weekly sessions. 7.30pm, Centre for the Jobfree, East Street. Tutor: Sue Lister. £1 (50p unwaged). For creche, lift, babysitting, details contact G. Stewart, 49 Northumberland Avenue. W.E.A.

"The Forlorn Hope - Fortress to Family Home", by Eric Stanford. 7.30pm Abbey Gateway, the Forbury. (History of Reading Soc.) Sounds a little odd....

West Reading CND Meeting, includes planning for West Reading Festival. 8pm 8 Chester Street. Details: Steve Jonas, 594383.

"Nationalisation - Does It Work?" For that matter does going to LPYS meetings work? Find out at the Reading South Community Centre, Northumberland Ave. 8pm.

■ FRI 22

Gay Switchboard every Friday, 7-9pm 597269.

■ SAT 23

East Reading Rights Group do a stall every Saturday 11am to 1pm, outside the Baptist Chapel at Cemetery Junction.

Playground building with the Katesgrove Residents. Waterloo meadows, 10am onwards.

Alexander technique One-day TVNHC workshop on "this simple but highly effective therapy". 10.30 to 5pm. Space limited, booking and details from Sheila, Bracknell 21018. £7.50 (£6 for members).

Reading Organisation for Animal Rights (ROAR) Leafletting of Union Street/Broad Street. Meet there at 10am (till 4pm). This is "World Weekend for Laboratory Animals" - leaflet from Acorn and probably elsewhere.

New G@mes Event at Palmer Park, by adventure playground. 2-4pm-ish. For all ages. Details from John, 580563; Paul, 587381.

Music Club at Women's Centre (basement of the Old Shire Hall just through the archway from the Forbury) 11am. All women and children welcome, bring guitars, recorders etc.

Women's "Open Meeting" to discuss "a wide variety of topics including

- *unemployment and how it affects black women
- *frustrations & harassment from DHSS
- *facilities in Reading for black women
- and other topics "

2pm, Apollo Club, Silver Street. Details from Maddi, Centre for the Jobfree, East Street.

Tilehurst CND Jumble Sale. 2pm, St Mary Magdalen's Hall. Offers of jumble to Jan Powis, 414800

BANC Benefit After Dark, Bobby and the Soda Pops, Disco, Bar. 7.30 - 11.30ish. South Reading Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue. £1 (75p unwaged). Tickets from Acorn, Quicksilver, or 58 George St.

■ SUN 24

British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection demo, leaving Clapham Common (London) at noon. "A long walk". ROAR is catching the 9:58 to Waterloo.

Guided Walk of six miles from Odiham Church (16 miles south of Reading on the A32.G.R. 741509) Details from Norman Griffin, 663958. Reading Borough Council Recreation Department and the Ramblers' Association.

Gardens open at Shinfield Grange, Cutbush Lane, Shinfield in aid of Oxfam 2-6pm.

Southern Region CND AGM 2pm, AUEW Hall, 121 Oxford Rd (Would somebody please go & tell us what happens?)

Youth CND at the Jobfree Centre, East St, 2.30-5pm. Nothing organised yet, bring ideas for the afternoon. (under 21's)

RED RAG SOCIAL Five's Bar. 7pm to Midnight. Myopic Muldoni Boys, Disco. £1 (50p unwaged)

■ MON 25

Guysoc 8pm, Council Rm, Students Union, Whiteknights
All welcome.

Anarchists I stand by last week's comment.

South Reading Anti-Nuclear Campaign 8pm,
Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue,

■ TUES 26

Ecology Party Public meeting on Unemployment.
Andrew Hardy, Peter Dunn, Philip Unsworth. 8pm
St Mary's Centre Chain Street.

■ WED 27

"Women in Reading- the Way Forward" Speakers
and teach-in on the position of women in Reading &
what the future holds. Also on health cuts in
Reading, minorities, (un)employment. Open to all.
5Op (25p unwaged). 7.30pm Centre for the Jobfree,
East Street.

"Animal Experiments and their Alternatives" talk
by Dr Gill Langley. 8pm, St Mary's Centre, Chain Street.

Community Action Group meeting. 58 George Street.
New games, CND/peace, wholefoods... All welcome.
7.30pm.

SWP as last week (we assume)

Ecologists Election candidate for Park Ward.
Philip Unsworth at Alfred Sutton, 8pm.

RED RAG happens a day earlier this week. Copy
deadline and planning meeting for next issue.
8pm. Ring 666681 for venue.

■ THUR 28

Veganism: Scientific Aspects lecture given by Dr
T.A.B. Sanders. 7.30pm, Quaker Meeting House,
52 St Martin's Lane, London. Vegan buffet from 6.30pm.

"Mental Health" Depression, stress, pre-menstrual
tension, post-natal depression, tranquilisers, mental
healthcare, therapy, women's mental health. Tutor from
Womens Therapy Unit. WEA Womens Health series. Details
as last Thursday.

"A Woman's Life" A course of 10 meetings. Images of
women/maternity/education/jobs. 10am. Aldworth Centre,
Richard Aldworth Secondary School, Western Way,
BASINGSTOKE. £4.95. Creche - 25p/session. Details:
Mrs M. Stokes, B'stoke 3798, or pamphlet in Acorn.

"Youth for Labour" Sounds ghastly, but "we in the LPYS
say there is a solution to the problems facing youth
on the basis of socialist policies." Community Centre,
Northumberland Avenue, 8pm.

■ FRI 29

RED RAG Production Day! Offers of help even more app-
reciated than normal seeing as it's Mayday and all that.
Phone 666681 if you would like to join in the fun.

MUSIC WORKSHOP

Do you play a musical instrument and wish you
had somewhere to play or other people to play
with? Are you in a band with nowhere to practise
and are willing to share skills? Do you like
jamming or do you just want to learn?

Reading Centre for the Unemployed is trying
to organise a regular evening music workshop,
probably on Thursdays, between the hours of
5-10 PM (not necessarily for the whole of that
time);

If you are interested in joining the workshop
(using the Centre's space, it's free) come along
to a meeting on Thur 28 April at 6 PM to sort it
out. Reading Centre for the unemployed is in
East St.

■ SAT 30

ERRG stall as last Saturday.

"Mayday '83" March from Old Shire Hall (noon). Rally
in old Town Hall, with speakers (12.50) followed by
fete, creche, cartoons, film, food. (till 5.30pm).
Entertainment in evening (Aldbrickham Band, film,
cartoons, song-spot) Details from Ron, 868437.

■ SUN 1 MAY

Irish Freedom Movement demo in Birmingham, comm-
emorating the hunger strike deaths. Details from
01-274 3951. Organised by Sinn Fein Britain.
(Compiler's note: my personal feeling is that
Sinn Fein are just as authoritarian as the Brits.
Both nurture and prey on the sectarian divide
which has kept Ireland in its place and politicians
at the top for centuries. p.s. "Outta Control", 25p
monthly, available at Acorn, reports the situation
from the perspective of people who live in it.)

RED RAG Collation and distribution. An easy way to
get involved with Reading's only newspaper. Ring
666681 for venue.

Mayday at Greenham "Huge children's party family
Sunday picnic...reclaim Common land...bring
musical instruments...positive force of mayday
hope...join us in our laughter and the ripple will
become a tidal wave." Leaflet in Acorn

■ MON 2

Ecologists regular meeting, 25 De Beauvoir Rd.

Anarchists as last Monday (and the Monday before)

■ TUES 3

ROAR. back room of the Crown, Crown St 8pm.

Tilehurst CND peace canvass and local elections.
13 Wardle Ave. 8pm.

■ WED 4

SWP as last Wednesday.

■ THUR 5

Democracy Day What a thrill! Don't walk off with
the pencil.

"Natural First Aid Remedies" TVNHC talk. As on
Thursday 21st.

ECOLOGY PARTY

The Ecology Party is putting up 4 candidates
in the forthcoming borough council elections.
They are Howard Darby (Abbey ward); Maria Callies
(Redlands); Philip Unsworth (Park); Geoff Darnton
(Katesgrove).

Since only one candidate is standing in any
one ward, they will only be asking for one out
of the three votes we are luckily entitled to.
An ideal result in May would be a council with
no party in overall control, where even a couple
of Ecology councillors might have an effect.

More information is available from Reading
Ecology Party, 25 De Beauvoir Rd (663195).

Late Addition:

TUES 26 APRIL Introductory lecture
on TM (transcendental meditation)
Committee room 2, Civic Centre

7.30 PM. FREE

to WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
RED RAG MAG
READING

Mark.J.Sturgess,
50 Zinzan Street,
Reading
5/4/83

RE:VERNON PAXFORD ARTICLES.

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to you after reading your article on poor old Mr.Paxford, I am one of his residents, I am disgusted at the article in today's mag (5/4/83).

The person who you interviewed had obviously never lived in Zinzan St. because there is two toilets in Zinzan St. and none of them are always blocked up.

Now I will tell you how I have found Mr.Paxford:-

When I first come to Reading I found accommodation on the first day within the first hour I was referred to him by THE BERKS AND BUCKS PROBATION AUTHORITY, he can't be bad if they refer their clients to him, I went to his office and one hour later, I went to do some shopping for an hour because he was busy, returned, ten minutes later I was moving my gear in to my new room. The next time I went to sign on(I was personal issue) I collected my giro then I TOOK IT TO THE POST OFFICE AND CASHED IT IN MYSELF AND TOOK IT TO VERNON MYSELF AND PAID MY RENT. NOT ONCE DURING THAT DAY DID I SEE ANY OF VERNON'S RENT COLLECTORS, NOR DID VERNON TRY TO TAKE ANY OF MY PERSONAL MONEY.

I have also talked to many of his other residents who all agree with this letter and we all say that the Post's INFORMERS ran out of information so started to invent FAIRY TALES, and your secret informer is DREAMING.

I have never had any trouble with Vernon Paxford nor has any others of the many people I have talked to.

Yours Sincerely

P.S. another thing your Dreaming friend got wrong is the fact that Vernon owns 46 & 50, not 48 & 50.

▲ ▲ ▲
* We believe this to be a spontaneous and genuine letter. Apparently, one of the D:S: who raided Acorn Bookshop rifled through the Red Rag mail box and read it. He said: "I wonder how much Vernon paid him to write this then?"

* One former tenant of Mr. Paxford's described to us what happened when he tried to leave, last May. He had told the person in charge of the house he was living in that he was moving out. Rent (£25 a week at that time) was paid for a week in advance; our informant was moving out on Thursday, when rent for the next week would be due. He was packing his belongings into a car when he was visited by Mr. Paxford's partner and principal henchman of that time, 'Willy' Darlow, together with two men staying at other Paxford houses(one from the same home had refused to come). They said they wanted another week's rent, as he hadn't given a week's notice. No notice is required for bed and breakfast accommodation - our informant pointed out that if it were a case of Mr. Paxford wanting to throw somebody out, he would do so on the spot. He refused to give over any money, or to stay for another week; so Willy started hitting him. He wasn't badly beaten up - just a matter of a black eye and a cut lip. Fifteen pounds he had stuffed in his jacket pocket was stolen from him. He was told to bring a further £10 round the next week, and then allowed to go. We wish the writer of the above letter better luck.

- Some Leading Organisers.

VERNON PAXTON - THE ALTERNATIVE WAY?

Profiteering landlords are nothing new. Were there an alternative to Paxton, his power base would disintegrate under him and others like him. Paxton is making a great deal of money out of those who deserve better, but who cannot obtain it.

Were there enough people prepared to make just a little money from an investment to provide a decent service for the homeless, nobody would need Paxton. Are you interested?

There is much to be done in the way of investigation before we could go ahead; but if support and interest are there, we may be able to do something very positive indeed about Paxton, and at the same time help a few people who need a home.

Write to Red Rag saying how much, if anything, you could invest (£10?), whether you could contribute furniture and other home-building equipment, and whether you could give time and perhaps skills towards turning a house into decent homes.

R.W.C.

REAP

READING EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

The Keep
571 Oxford Road
Reading: 54020

"Since opening at Christmas, 1982, we have had 130 different people stay at The Keep, all of them homeless, some of them transients, some of them local; they all shared one thing in common - desperation; for some, a bed for the night, hot food and a change of clothes was their turning point - a chance to stop, take stock of their position in society, gain acceptance and friendship from REAP workers, and thereby regain a measure of self-respect.

For others, medical attention was necessary (if you are of "no fixed abode", many doctors will not treat you.)

As many of the friends of REAP know, our continued existence has often been a struggle: though through the good offices of Reading Borough Council, we have, currently, premises from which to work, and provide shelter, this may not always be the case; from the end of June, 1983, we will be expected to provide ourselves with other accommodation.

Our current finances stand at about £800, hardly enough to acquire new premises: we have our own van, from which we carry out soup-runs, and late-night searches for people who are sleeping rough.

We are, therefore, constantly seeking donations to keep ourselves viable, food to feed our growing number of clients, second-hand clothing and household goods, disinfectants and first-aid supplies, and full-time volunteers to help run the place.

Ideally, we are looking towards the not too distant future, when, we will be (financially) in a position to pay full-time voluntary workers to live-in.

Of course, we'd be delighted if someone could offer us alternative premises on a long-term basis...

If you would like to receive our newsletter and/or information regularly, contact us at The Keep."

(Extract from REAP Newsletter Number 1, March 1983)

SUN 24 APRIL
5's Bar. Butts.C.

The Myopic
Muldoni boys
+ disco

7-12 PM. £1

RED RAG
BENEFIT

For those of you still
obsessed with the music-
al cobblerword, answers
are now available in the
Acorn Bookshop.

Interested in designing
or buying a Red Rag
T-shirt? Tell us and
we'll do the rest.
Phone Clive, 64545.

Tickets from Alcorn, Lazer, &
58 George St.

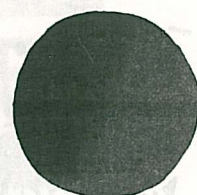
£1
(75p unwaged)

End/Banc Benefit Gig
South Reading Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading.

After Dark

Disco BAR BOBBY + THE SODA POPS

Saturday April 23rd 7.30
- 11.30



COTTAGING

Are you a man or boy who occasionally resorts to self-abuse? Then read on.

As you've probably realised, abusing other people and being abused by them is often more fun. Maybe you haven't realised that facilities are provided for this very purpose by Reading Borough Council - and they're free!

Yes, public conveniences can be a convenient outlet for all those pent-up emotions as well as more mundane body fluids. Try the Market Place during the day, or Oxford Road (town side of Brock Barracks and at Tilehurst Road junction) in the evenings. Hurry, because these good old fashioned houses of evil repute are rapidly being replaced by sterile alienating toilet-modules, or being locked and left to return to the soil.

Be prudent and continent, my children, if you suspect the presence of that other kind of PC who wears plain-clothes disco-gear and doesn't seem to be enjoying life. Otherwise, have fun and use your imagination.

May see you there.

'Old-Timer'

HELP!

MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY

RedRag is being produced early, so that it
can be distributed at the Mayday Festival.
Help is needed!
Planning meeting Sun. 24 April, 4 PM,
24 Norwood Rd. To decide who will do what.
Editorial meeting Wed. 27 April, 8 PM
24 Norwood Rd.

NEWS!

"YOU'RE FUCKING MAD IF YOU BLAME ME"

While spending the afternoon of Monday 11 April in the Market Place DHSS offices, my "reverie" was disturbed by a commotion of sorts:

A young man started shouting at the little mustachioed, bespectacled gentleman behind the glass screens, demanding to see the supervisor, getting angry at excuses, wanting his money. He disappeared into the corridor, from where banging and swearing could be heard. Returned shouting for the supervisor.

More banging and shouting out in the corridor. Sounds of anger, and possibly violence. Then a young pink-faced, breathless, hatless policeman appeared, tried to blend inconspicuously into a wall, and muttered plaintively into his radio: "Could you advise me?...There's a man at the DHSS...bad language...". A police van was dispatched to assist.

A few minutes later more shouting, swearing and sounds of scuffling from the corridor.

"You're fucking mad if you blame me."

"Do you expect my child to go hungry for another fucking week?"

"Who's fucking in charge?"

Wednesday's Evening Post carried a report, headlined "Man makes Death Threats to Official" of a man appearing at the Magistrates Court on threatening behaviour charges. He pleaded guilty and was remanded on bail for social reports before sentencing.

small advertisement

Room wanted in shared/communal house for Chris - Vegetarian, non-smoking and that sort of thing. Please phone Oxford 52735 and leave a message for me. Thanks.

LETTERS

School House,
East Worldham,
Alton, Hants.

Dear Red Rag Collective,

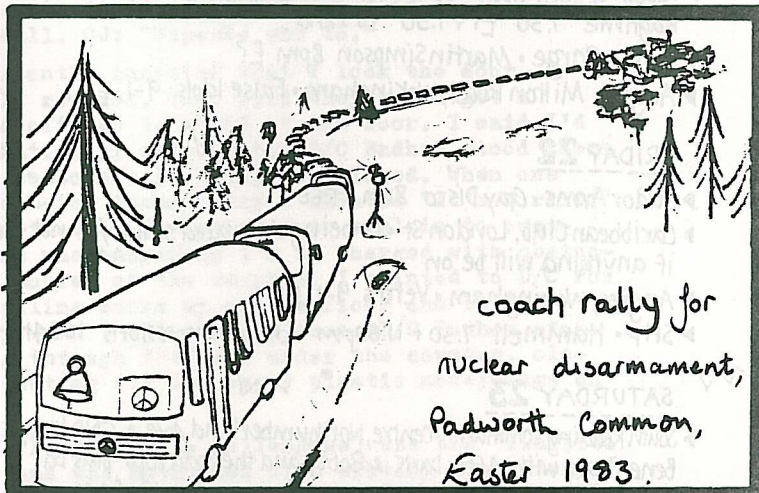
Regarding the Wimp cartoon in the March 6 issue of RR. I was disturbed to see the use of the word 'Paddy' in it. I do not know if Wimp intended the word to imply racist comment or not, but if the object was to suggest an ordinary 'Irish name' then I feel a more neutral one could have been used such as Sean, etc. I find the acts of the I.R.A. deplorable, and do not support them, but it seems all too easy (for British) to link anti-terrorism with anti-Celtism, Racism being a grand old British institution. So I should just like to say that though it may not have been meant, the word 'Paddy' has the same meaning to us (Irish) as 'nigger' has to a black person and I should hope that RR will not, according to its own charter, start printing Racist material.

Other than this point I find RR useful and informative, keep up the good work on Housing, Dole Ethnic Rights, etc. and sorry I can't make a donation but I'm not even on the dole now so I'm stony broke,

Yours, Ken Peacock.

Typist's note: In calling Racism a grand old British institution are you implying a generalisation about the British?

Dear RedRag



coach rally for
nuclear disarmament,
Padworth Common,
Easter 1993.

yours lovingly

An Adept Hedgehog

Oxford Road
Reading

Dear Red Rag,

Glad to see you had a go at the Church. The Church, they tell us, has decreed that war is all right under certain circumstances. Do you think they have told God? I would hate to think that He is still going on as before, not having been told about policy decisions from the Management. They have been threatening Him with redundancy for years, which is a bit hard on a Founder Member. Maybe they can manage without Him. After all, they did promise (Brownie's Honour?) not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Personally, I didn't realise they were going to be consulted. Did you?

Love and Blisters!

Right-Wing Capitalist Reader

GOING OUT

MONDAY 18

- ▶ Hexagon • Wrestling Spectacular 7.30 £2-2.50
- ▶ Art Gallery & Museum, Blagrove Street • Reading Camera Club Exhibition 10am-5pm FREE To 7 May
- ▶ Bull Hotel, Nettlebed • Folk Club 8pm £?
- ▶ Corn Exchange, Newbury • The Desert Song 7.30 £? To 23rd
- ▶ South Hill Park, Bracknell • Independent films by Nottingham Film and Video workshop 7.30 FREE

TUESDAY 19

- ▶ Hexagon • Allegri String Quartet 7.30 £2.75-3.75
- ▶ Fives • 'On the Game' 8ish FREE
- ▶ Tudor Arms • Gray Disco 8ish FREE
- ▶ Horse & Barge, Duke St • Peter Rowan + Spredthick 8ish £2 on door
- ▶ St Peters Church, St Peters Rd, Earley • Creation Jazz [musical] 6.30 FREE
- ▶ The Mill, Sonning • Death Trap 2pm+8pm £6.90-11.90 depending on day and time to 14 May
- ▶ SHP • Mephisto £1.90+concessions to 21st

WEDNESDAY 20

- ▶ Hexagon • Peter Donohoe [piano] 7.30 £2.50-3.50
- ▶ Grosvenor House, Kidmore Road, Caversham • Jazz 8ish FREE
- ▶ ABC Friar St • Bongo Man + Exodus - Bob Marley live 2pm, 4.40 and 7.25

THURSDAY 21

- ▶ Hexagon • Emmy Verhey [violin] 1.10pm FREE
- ▶ Target • Larry Miller Band 8ish £1
- ▶ Reading Film Theatre, Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus • Ragtime 7.30 £1+1.50 to 22nd
- ▶ Horse & Barge • Martin Simpson 8pm £?
- ▶ Angies, Milton Road, Wokingham • False Idols 9-1 £1-2

FRIDAY 22

- ▶ Tudor Arms • Gray Disco 8ish FREE
- ▶ Caribbean Club, London St • is being decorated so they're not sure if anything will be on
- ▶ Angies, Wokingham • Veto's 9-1 £1-2
- ▶ SHP • Hammett 7.30+11.00pm £1.90+concessions to 24th

SATURDAY 23

- ▶ South Reading Community Centre, Northumberland Ave • CND/BANC Benefit gig with After Dark & Bobby and the Soda Pops plus bar and disco 7.30-11.30 £1 [75p OAPs + unemployed] from Acorn bookshop, Lazer records or 58 George Street, Reading
- ▶ Palmer Park, by adventure playground • New Games Event For all ages 2-4pm. Details from John 580563 or Paul 587381
- ▶ Hexagon • Sam Stephen, Ann Lennox Martin & friends 12.15 FREE
- ▶ Hexagon • Reading & County Youth Orchestra 7.30 £2.50-3.50
- ▶ Target • On the Game 8ish £?
- ▶ Church of England School, Church Road, Woodley • Hiawatha's Wedding Feast 8pm £1.25 [Kids/OAPs 75p]
- ▶ St Andrews Church, Caversham • Reading Haydn Choir 8pm £1.50+concessions
- ▶ Angies, Wokingham • John Spencer Band 9-1 £1-2
- ▶ SHP 11am onwards • Foundation Stone Ceremony, music, stalls, ents etc FREE
- ▶ SHP • Spredthick [folk] 8pm £1.20-1.50

SUNDAY 24

- ▶ Allied Arms • Folk Club 8ish FREE
- ▶ Fives • Espresso Bongo lunchtime FREE
- ▶ Angies, Wokingham • Juvescence 9-1 £1-2
- ▶ SHP • Hide and Seek (u)+shorts+serial 12.15pm 75p
- ▶ SHP • Morris Dancing 12.30-2pm FREE
- ▶ Fives • Red Rag fundraising do with the Myopic Muldoon Boys and disco 7-12 £1 or whatever you've got

MONDAY 25

- ▶ Hexagon • My Fair Lady 7.15 £2-3 to 30th
- ▶ SHP • Independent films by Manchester film & video workshop 7.30 FREE
- ▶ Bull Hotel, Nettlebed • Folk Club 8ish £?

TUESDAY 26

- ▶ Hexagon • Countdown Tues 2pm, Wed-Fri 10.30am+2pm, Sat 10.30 only £1.75 [Kids £1.25] to 30th
- ▶ Tudor Arms • Gray Disco 8ish FREE
- ▶ Fives • Seychelles 8ish FREE
- ▶ SHP • An unsuitable job for a woman £1.90+conc to 28th

WEDNESDAY 27

- ▶ RFT • Britannia Hospital 8pm £1-1.50
- ▶ Grosvenor House, Caversham • Jazz 8pm FREE

THURSDAY 28

- ▶ Target • Dumpy's Rusty Nuts 8pm £1
- ▶ RFT • Les Yeux sans visage 8pm £1-1.50
- ▶ Horse & Barge • Sean Cannon 8ish
- ▶ Angies, Wokingham • Short Stories 9-1 £1-2

FRIDAY 29

- ▶ Tudor Arms • Gray Disco 8pm FREE
- ▶ Methodist Hall, School Rd, Tilehurst • Fish out of water 7.45 80p [kids 40p] to 30th
- ▶ SHP • Dead men don't wear plaid 7.30+11pm £1.90+conc to 1 May
- ▶ Angies Wokingham • Reactives 9-1 £1-2

SATURDAY 30 MAYDAY

- ▶ University Great Hall, London Rd • Reading Phoenix Choir 7.30 £2
- ▶ Alfred Sutton Girls School, Green Rd • Modern sequence and Old Time Dance 7.45 £1.50
- ▶ SHP • Come all ye [folk] 8pm £1.20-1.50
- ▶ Angies • Blackfoot Sue 9-1 £1-2
- ▶ May Day 83 • Dance and social - Aldbrickham Band ceilidh with MC and caller. Also film, cartoons, guest spot, songs, bar. A family night out at Old Town Hall, Blagrove Street. £2 or £1 unwaged

SUNDAY 1

- ▶ Hexagon • Incantation 7.30 £2.75-3.50+conc
- ▶ Fives • Rail Dogs lunchtime FREE
- ▶ Allied Arms • Folk Club 8ish FREE
- ▶ SHP • The Kid from Canada +shorts+serial 12.15pm 75p
- ▶ Angies, Wokingham • TBA 9-1 £1-2