

RED RAG

17/31 MARCH

GET OCCUPIED!

The old dole offices in south st are being occupied for a 9 day long festival. The squat started on friday afternoon and a building that has been standing empty for over a year is at last being used in a positive way. On saturday this RED RAG was designed and pasted up, at the squat being folded and distributed at the same place on sunday. The week long series of workshops starts proper on Sunday 17 and runs through till the following Saturday, when there will be a day long presentation of exhibitions, displays and performances.

Activities will include:- drama, music, printing, painting, origami, creative writing, tai chi, video, new games, photography, dance, hipnosis, junk art and much more. ((See leaflet in this Rag for further details)).

Bring your ideas, enthusiasm, support, a sleeping bag if you can stay overnight but mainly bring yourself. Come along and get occupied.

love from the south st squaters

FREE

The next issue will concentrate on HOUSING in Reading; just for this time, typed copy should be to an 8cm column width.

Copy deadline- Thursday March 28

Co-ordinator - James (595605)

Events - to co-ordinator

Going Out - Mark (782178)

Distribution - Guy (669562)

Red Rag, c/o Box 79, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading, Berkshire.

SQUAT

SPECIAL

XXEVAHNE

STEER what where? The Steering Group for the West Berkshire Cooperative Development Agency may meet regularly now-most recently on 12 March- but at least some of its members are very unsure of where it's heading. Especially me; once again, feeling unable to lucidly examine and express my feelings at the time, I've recourse to RedRag-well, at least things get said somehow. To business...

The Group almost seems to be more intent on applying for funding for a CDA, (the means), than on nurturing recent interest in coops in the area (the objective). This truth was briefly illuminated at the meeting, when it was said that favourable reaction to a funding application will require it to be obvious that the Group has carefully considered the personnel, property, & other needs of the CDA- ie, what the Agency will DO. But then the discussion drifted.....

Support, advice and promotion of individual worker coops, and the wider philosophy, can take many forms - each with unique implications for the amount, type and source of CDA funding, and the Agency's structure. Possibilities include education; acting as an information point, sending prospective cooperators to (outside) experts for legal, financial or managerial advice; providing these and other services (EG product promotion) "in house"; or investment appraisals of potential coops' viability, to help them get grants or loans. The Group must now consider these in relation to W. Berkshire; its 12 members have split into 4 sub-groups to look at the needs of existing coops, (by liaison with Acorn & UB Cycles) other CDA's funding applications; other CDA's; and the problematic constitution. At least people volunteered for this work, which will hopefully clarify the Group's objectives- but is the net being cast wide enough? Possible omissions include contact with those who are considering setting up coops now, in Reading & elsewhere in the area; contact with ISWE and the Ords Rd Housing Coop; recognition that Acorn didn't start as a coop and so may have avoided many of the early problems.

the success of a funding application, and the CDA, would be enhanced by a clearer grasp of which sectors in the local economy are suited to coops- such analytical skills exist, unused, in the Group. Indeed, a "skill bank" would be valuable to the Group and the CDA's "clients".

I feel there is a danger that national precedent will receive undue attention, at the expense of local needs and resources- especially regarding the CDA's format. The drift towards a management committee hierarchy seems inexorable- is it just the labour movement background of some of its members? Potential alternatives, like running the CDA on cooperative principles, (to act as an example; a learning process; an organisation serving people and not vice versa), appear to be less favoured- why

Examples exist elsewhere... the subgroups looking at the constitution and at other CDA's must consider ALL structural alternatives.

The very real need for a CDA in the area makes these issues all the more vital- problems of finance personnel, and support resources jeopardise the continuation of the work done at Reading Centre for the Unemployed. We must get it right this time- and time presses; the Group is to meet at RCU on March 26, April 2, April 9, (to discuss & finalise the funding proposal, to be submitted by the end of April). If you can help in any way, phone Maureen on 596639.

PS. Acorn & UB Cycles are running a workshop on "Working in a coop & why we do it", on Sun. March 31; probably at RCU from 2pm-4.30. Check with UB (509089) or Acorn (584425).

Mark, (aided & abetted by Albert).

WOOZY WOMBAT

Wasted wally de Wombat wends wearily across the page & racks his brain cell where was I oh yea the paradise club thats right folks the show goes on FREE Festival benefit fundraisers keep on truckin'!! yes U may have thought that all things fade and die and the music never stops! 5th March Paradise club Funktion @ the Junction and Temper in all of the free festival and a fun time F & the J played a sound that at times was a might squeaky and all the more enjoyable cos of the high spirits in the air dance music if U want to label it Temper more dance music with guest star sax player mmo heroes please and he is a very fine sax ooter Confession time Wally was/is wsted and decided to wobble home before the end of the evening and before he fell over and hurt himself or others so he didn't see the second 1/2 of Temper's show and so can't say any more about the evening.. more coherence and confusion next time around. Keep an I out for Wally at the next F.F.F.G. and watch the Wally wobble but not fall down. WALLY de WOMBAT ☺

OPEN FORUM ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Mon. 1st April 8pm
AT

THE PARADISE CLUB

With Speakers invited from
The Labour Party, The Communist
Party, The Socialist Workers
Party and Workers Power.

ALL ARE WELCOME

PAID AD!

A few weeks ago, an 'Open Forum on the Left in 1985 was held at the Paradise Club. The main aim of the organisers was to attempt to maintain the enormous energy and spirit of cooperation among the left that grew up during the Miners Strike. Local speakers from the Labour Party, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and Workers Power put their views on policy, tactics, and on their differences and/or agreements with the other groups. Over 40 people turned up and the debate was lively and constructive, with many contributions from the floor. Obviously there were limitations on how much could be discussed in two hours, and the main conclusion was that the experiment should be repeated. And so.....

OPEN FORUM (2).

The second Open Forum will be held at the Paradise Club, London Street, on Monday April 1st at 8pm. The coordinator this time is Mike Price (tel 867789), and the subject is Unemployment. The bar will be open and the debate promises to be lively and interesting. If it is a success, this may become a regular and important part of Reading's political calendar, so do please give it a try.

OPEN FORUM

A RED COLUMN

MOLEGATE

The Freedom Association seems to be spreading from the Kennet to the Cam. After the single (and Government-assisted) triumphs of Ratepayers Against Greenham Encampments (RAGE) we will now have to listen to the undemocratic bleats of Ratepayers Against Molesworth Settlements (RAMS), newly set up to help "Mad Mike" Hesel-Flakjacket campaign against the enemies of cruise. How he must value these Fifth Columns' help in distracting attention from his role as Sheriff of Britain County.

HOWLERS

There's severe resistance to the ticky-tacky spreading north. It went a bit unpublicised in Reading but there was a public meeting in Sonning Common earlier this month to discuss the County's land-grab proposals north of the Thames. 200 people attended and the 'Henley Standard' reported the meeting under the headline "Reading's Mayor howled down over land grab". Poor old Ron Jewitt had tried his best for his friends, had explained to the people of Sonning how dependent they were on Berkshire for education (in fact Caversham kids are bussed to schools in Oxfordshire) and buses (which the Government will shortly be withdrawing anyway), and didn't attract a single supporter. They want to keep Bovis and the rest out of their green and pleasant land!

THE LOCAL BEERAGE

Back in the early years of the century the Tories relied on an alliance of the peerage (their blocking majority in the House of Lords) and the beerage (the brewers who funded their anti-Nonconformist votes in the House of Commons). Noting the "election" as High Sheriff of Berkshire of yet another brewer, Rupert Oliver Steel, an ex-Chairman of Courages and director of the Imperial Group to which it now belongs, one might be forgiven for thinking nothing much has changed. Something has: Mr Steel as High Sheriff will be supporting a Palmer as Lord Lieutenant, and back in those days the Nonconformist Palmers were very much on the other side! Now is the time for the biscuitry and the beerage to stick together in the sacred cause of the Establishment!

PRANGED

The major provider of school buses in the area, Pangbourne Coaches, is shutting up shop and will be selling its assets, presumably to Horsemen who are gearing up for the wonderful free world heralded by the Buses Bill and have already gobbled up Smiths Coaches. Notwithstanding the results of Nicholas Ridley's "experiment" in Hereford where Midland Red, the local equivalent of Alder Valley, managed by a short savage burst of price-cutting to force all competitors off the road and get back to the monopoly situation Mr Ridley says he is so much against!

CITIZEN CAIN

DISTRIBUTION

Red Rag will soon once again have a fully operational distribution system, using a new method of printing the address labels. It should be ready by the issue after next at the latest. Thanks to all the distributors who have put up with the confusion over the past weeks.

Due to the continuing drift of Reading's rootless population we are once again looking for distributors so if you can spare an hour a fortnight and live in the North Woodley or Wokingham Road-Wykeham Road areas please ring Guy on Reading 669562.

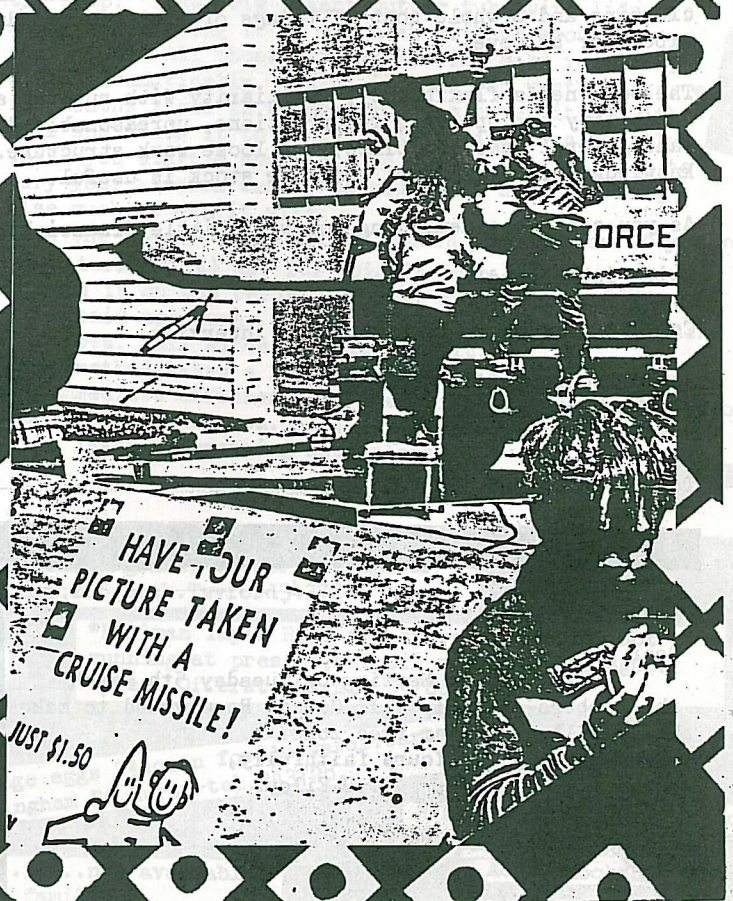
CRUISE RUMOURS

During the financial year 1982/83 Newbury District Council spent £13,500 evicting Greenham Common Peace Campers. Anticipating that things could only get worse, Newbury Council budgeted £35,100 for evictions in 1983/84. The eventual cost for 83/84 was £51,800 resulting in supplementary estimates having to be approved to cover the extra £16,000+.

In case the media has led you to believe that the Womens' Peace Camp has faded away, you should know that Newbury Council have set aside £52,700 for evictions during the current financial year.

Thankfully the presence of the peace camp prevents Newbury Council from recouping some of its expenses in the way (below) devised by a public relations nerd in America. As you can see from the photograph, Chuck the Cruise Missile has a happy smiling face and will stand arm in stubby wing with you and be your pal.

Zed Feecher



Letters.

ACORN'S BIT + JOB AD

Dear Everybody,
I want to say how much I still love Acorn and those nice people from Acorn, but don't feel that the work suits me.

After 12 years of structured work the informal chaos that makes Acorn the place that it is was too much for me to adapt to. A nine to five, Monday to Friday slog can seriously affect anybody's ability to readjust to a co-operative job.

I personally am still seeking a co-operative outlet for all my skills and enthusiasm, but in a different line.

The sort of work I feel I need to do can be done in London - this is not the point. I want to find this outlet in Reading - why should everything happen in London!

I still look forward to being a friendly volunteer in Acorn now and again.

See you there,

Love,

Vessa,

Due to Vessa's decision as above there now exists a vacancy for a full time co-operator to join Ian, Maggie and Mark at Acorn. Preferably another ♀.

The work involves not only running the bookshop but also requires various printing skills or an ability to learn them. Running a bookshop involves office work, accounting, cleaning and a whole host of things of that you wouldn't expect or believe.

The work needs flexibility, familiarity with numbers and an ability to cope with interruptions, unreasonable demands (and general chaos at times). A loose work structure. A knowledge of the sort of books we stock is useful.

As you can see a demanding job with little financial reward.

Still interested!

Call in or ring up to arrange an interview.

Acorn Bookshop,
17 Chatham Street,
Reading.

Telephone 584425.

From the Hall President.

Dear Sir,

At a J.C.R. Meeting on Tuesday 5th March the members of Sibly Hall Common Room voted to make Sibly Hall a nuclear free zone.

Yours faithfully,
C.D.Filey.

Dear RED RAG,

I was quietly smashed by the piece in Red Rag (a couple of issues back) called "Escape from Sex & Ghetto".

I couldn't figure it on first reading-it had no story, no ending, and didn't appear to make sense.

However, it was tantalising and fortunately I read it through again-wow, what a surprise. I found some beautiful images dancing in my head and felt sensations and feelings of nostalgia, sadness and joy. I am beginning to appreciate that everything does not have to conform by being hard core fact stuff with a conventional beginning, and ending with a distinct point.

This piece was refreshing and open, and I would like to say a simple Thanks-and let's have more "feeling" stuff, (although I appreciate it doesn't spring to order)

Shine on, Paul.

25 Canarvon Rd.
Reading
14 March 1985.

Dear RED RAG,

I was disappointed with the report by Mark in the last Rag. It seems that during the discussion on how to set up a Cooperative Development Association in West Berkshire he switched off at a challenge to his imagined world of the Worker Cooperative.

Mark is not the possessor of the true faith, but represents one of many strands that go to make up the rapidly expanding (but still pitifully small) worker cooperative movement. The "alternative" movement of the 60's and 70's cruelly characterised in jokes about wholefood and sandals has been replaced by the vision of coops as an alternative to the dole queue. It is anathema that the rapid growth exists and mainly around the establishment, with the help of the local state, of CDA'S. In the intervening period there was of course the attempts at rescues, the "Benn" coops such as Meriden and KME.

In all of these strands exists one fundamental need, viability, which can only be achieved by relating to the market (or "outside world" if that suits) and it is here that Mark's comments about the Trades Union and Labour Movement are misplaced. The exception to this would be if you see coops as a permanent ghetto, operating on the margins, with miserable wages and conditions, a precarious existence, with many failures.

In working with the Labour Movement to strengthen the coop sector in return the trades unions will be influenced to desire for their members greater democracy in all aspects of their lives, at home, in the family, and particularly at work.

Yours fraternally,
Keith Jerrome.

YOUNG, GIFTED, & BLACK.....
RESPECT TO THE APOLLO ALLSTAR & ALL BLACK
R. FOOTBALL TEAM, who so far this y
S season are the only UNBEATEN team in
P the Reading league.
E More on them soon from your mainman.
C ALSO, big congratulations to TILEHURST
T British Legion first team for reaching the
I Finals of the cup, for the second year
S running. Well done to the 5 Allaynes,
D and to Mr. B.M. Anderson, who scored the winn
U winner. DO the business, Supa,s, from
E your Mainman,
THE LION.

A GREEN COLUMN



Compost - The New Religion

If you're planning to grow plants outside at all, you're going to exhaust the soil (in most cases). So - feed it! The cheapest + ecological way, with compost.* Anything that has been alive will decompose + feed the soil eventually. It's a matter of intensifying the process.

You will need: A bucket (not very big) for the kitchen where you put all once-live kitchen waste.

A space out of doors where you don't grow things at the moment (preferably an area of soil so worms can get into the heap, but not vital). Compost heaps are usually termed 'unsightly'. Yours won't be but your domestic politics may necessitate tact.

Principles (Have you any?)

You're trying to build up heat in a heap of rotting vegetation so that it doesn't just rot any old how but ends up the texture of chocolate cake (mmm!) + kills any weed seeds on the way. It should not smell unless you just let it sit around being sludgy. A pile of orange skins + blue bread is not a compost heap - it's a mess. Avoid rancidity..

*potting compost is a specially prepared mixture, sold (or home-made) for growing in containers. Totally different.

METHOD

First, choose your site. Not too inaccessible or you'll never look after it properly, unless you need to hide periodically.

Then mark out the area of the heap. Wire enclosures stop it all heaving around the garden; wood or brick look good, but none are vital. Air must circulate all round it. Your space should be at least 3ft sq., preferably infinitely more. (The university Botanic Gardens is worth a visit if only to see their row of veritable haystack sized heaps). Ideally your space is twice the size of your heap + you can have one finishing while the next one starts.

Start your heap with twiggy stuff over the whole area, to encourage air underneath. If you have some spare bricks you can lay them in channels with the twigs on top. Then start piling up your compostable materials and keep the sides straight + the top flat at all times (i.e. don't just chuck it all in the middle.) If you aren't careful you'll end up with a small area to put new stuff on and sloping sides for it all to roll down.

THE STUFF

Things you don't want and often get in heaps: plastic, metal milk bottle tops, anything connected with cigarettes, clothes pegs, rubber bands, etc, etc. Also prickly plants e.g. roses, hawthorn, as the prickles don't rot + get into you later on.

Things you can have in moderation: citrus fruit skins, paper, bones, eggshells, corn cobs, leaves, lawn clippings, (too much of the last two clogs it all up. They're best piled separately.)

Things you can have all you want: vegetable peelings, plate scrapings, burnt toast, old porridge, dead house-plants, tea bags; weeds, prunings if not too twiggy, + general garden refuse. (Not ash unless you don't want to grow any mints). If you have any really vicious weeds around (e.g. couch grass, ground elder - both edible incidentally) or an unofficial weed (pretty in the right place e.g. celandine, anchusa) then don't compost them, or you risk spreading them even further. Burn them + dance in the flames.

A way of piling up all this so that your heap remains respectable and doesn't turn into one of those scowling, ponging nihilistic miserable looking mounds that give compost a bad name, is to have some "garden waste" to hand to cover up "kitchen waste" with, or to bury the k.w. under a layer of g.w. (keeping it flat)!! This way you can pretend the rancid spaghetti isn't there if needs be. You need lots of stuff. (If you're a one-person household with a small garden you won't generate enough, unless you're exceptionally wasteful and/or destructive. This is where you get a reputation for oddness, sneaking around town with rucksacks of nettles or bags of rotten vegetation filched from florists, greengrocers, veggie dining, etc. (If you ask, people never refuse, but you risk your reputation). If you insist on collecting all the tea-bags + apple cores at work you may become unpopular, but only if you develop the nasty habit of collecting it all up + not getting it to the heap straight away, which brings me back to the size of your kitchen bucket. If it's too big and you wait till it's full it'll start going off. The stuff should rot in the heap, not before.

To help all this rot fast so you can use it before you have to move again you should:-

- 1 have everything in very small pieces
- 2 keep turning the heap every few weeks so the middles outside + vice versa, the heat builds up + it doesn't clog up.
- 3 use an activator: certain plants speed up the composting process if added to the heap, e.g. comfrey, nettles, yarrow, chamomile. Also seaweed (needs covering up like kitchen waste)! Well rotted horse manure too, added in occasionally. Which brings me to "Chairman Mao's favourite" a standby in Maoist China: dear reader, your very own urine diluted one part/3 parts with water and poured onto the heap. Those big peanut butter tubs with lids are ideal for carting it to the heap without arousing suspicion. All those activators will make your heap shrink dramatically - which is what you want. After a few months (less in summer) you can cover it up with soil and leave it to finish off, turning occasionally, while you start a new one. In winter it's an idea to bury your kitchen waste, as you won't have anything else much to mix it with.

When the process is complete (which you'll know if you've been turning it) use it! Dig it into the soil, or spread it on top before the soil dries out in summer to retain moisture, spread it around greedy plants like tomatoes. All kinds of soil benefit. This method takes a little time but it works and makes an immediate difference to the soil. A new and impeccable moral ritual for you. All you people with no garden - next issue - repotting houseplants.

Ladybird

SMALL ADS

ALBERT needs a loving home. She is tabby-and-white, clean, litter-tray trained, affectionate and home-loving - and, on the available evidence, sterile. Also timid, so doesn't get on with other animals. But loves people. Ring Liz for details - Reading 867955.

*Wanted-net curtains anysize, anycolour, any condition, to cover up our activities in our new home. Please contact Mark at Acorn.

*Miners Strike rap records £1.50...now available at Acorn-proceeds to miners' families.

*2 reg sarnum milking goats, mother & daughter to good home only, £25 each. Twyford 343728.

*Hillman Imp (L Reg) for spares or repair. Not running at present, MOT til end of April, 4 good tyres. Offer to Maggie, 597065.

*Free range eggs 2 dozen for £1 upwards. Cart ref Farm Wokingham Rd, Hurst - tel. 343728.

*"New Song" - collection of poetry (...) 30p from Acorn bookshop.

WHO TOLD YOU, YOU WERE CONSUMERS?

PREFACE:The view expressed here is a strand of industrial-sensualist culture. All the words used have been agonised over, thought about, discussed, chewed, spat out- the one mystification is the use of the word nosferatu. This is a straight adaptation stolen from the horror genre to express the surrealist and situationist sense of ideological inversion of theory. Otherwise the contents is another wave of situationist theory...ok, let's get on with the show.

THE SPECTACLE:A spectacle, a circus, a show, an exhibition, a designation of contemporary culture.... a one-way transmission of represented experience; a form of non-communication to which one side, the signified, the recipient, the audience can never reply; a culture based on the reduction of almost everyone to a state of abject non-creativity: of receptivity passivity, isolation, alienation and blank numbness. The same structure applies not only to the activities of culture, leisure, entertainment and political organisation (whether that of the dominant elites in the socio-political spectacular hierarchy or that of the leftist bureaucratic-collectivist pseudo-alternative), but to the global experience of alienation, passivity, isolation, and abstraction imposed by the contemporary spectacular totality: an experience emanating from its basic material alienation, the commodity; which when combined with state-collectivist bureaucracy and abstract multiple representation creates the society of the spectacle.

The Rastarfarians call it Babylon, because they experience it as a Babel condition; a, white male architectural totalitarian utopian fantasy, a form of technological megalomania which has proliferated and bloated to dinosaur proportions. It is achimera, a mass of fossilised megastructures, a closed system, a place of zero creative life, like the Arndale centre in Manchester, which is part of the counterfeit psycho-history of spectacular consumption. Hobbes called it the Leviathan, Marx saw it as Capital and the Situationists and almost everyone today struggle against it as the Spectacle. Life in the modern world, is existence in the society of the Spectacle. Current reality is dominated by the power of the political economy of the sign, the image or the representation, the "buy this!" signal. Its primary forms are the state, the commodity and the sign- it is power realised. Everywhere you go it's raining signs, because the spectacle uses semiology the way capital used money- it is a total experience in the belly of the beast, in the realm of power.

POWER:Power is the perfect one-way transmission and realisation of an intended effect, by the agent, (the Spectacle) so that a recipient's (the Consumer) actions are limited to the positive instigation of that intended effect. (Consumption).

Spectacular power does not only manifest itself in individually chosen acts of commodity consumption, but even in certain conversations and it is also conditioned into the socially structured and culturally patterned behaviour of groups and is inherent in the practice of spectacular institutions -the Hacienda club in Manchester- take the alphabet and stop at C for Civilisation- or zero in to the decay of the West and choose Top of the Pops or M.T.V. in America - it's time for Top of the Pops - everyone feels that pavlovian twitch, the latest soap opera, that vital fascination, and grasps the glass teat in expectant frenzy, waiting for the weekly transfusion and reaches for the - you can watch the world and his wife or get out the file on spectacular mythology and flick through the index to the televising of the American presidential elections or walk into W.H. Smiths and buy the I.D. "street fashion" magazine- in 1982, the buying out of I.D. by Fiorucci occurred - a perfect recuperation. This is the nosferatu; turning the authentic into the inauthentic- spectacular recuperation.

RECUPERATION:The spectacle is an ever-developing system which requires continuous inputs of energy, and much of this energy comes from co-opting, inverting and colonising the struggle against the spectacle- which spectacular forces perceive as eddies in the greater spectacular stream; but they don't interrupt the flow, they revitalise it through various partial struggles as it cannibalises them.

In the modernity, post 1946 global society, the modern conditions of production and collectivist bureaucracy prevail to varying degrees between concentration and diffusion, while there has been an acceleration and accumulation of the mass dissemination of images towards the total inversion of life, experience and meaning into a uniform representation, a spectacular language- language is like a bacteria, you breathe it in, or it gets under your skin and infects you and spreads.... then you transmit it to someone else- it colours and expresses everything- whoever controls language, controls the collective subconscious- 90% of all homes in America have television- more than those which have phones, toilets, fridges, washing-machines, or cars. The Japanese now realise that American culture has colonised the collective subconscious of Japanese youth, to such an extent, that all the sub-cultures that evolved in the West (America and Britain), now exist in a surreal convergence in Japan- as if temporal-linear history has broken down. The last Japanese samurai, Yukio Mishima said that Japan was drunk on economic success, but was really in a state of advanced decomposition.

DECOMPOSITION:This is an attempt by the situationists to understand the evolution and self-perpetuation of capital-spectacle, a re-application of the ideas of Georges SOREL. As old structures collapse, they are replaced by new ones, with the same relationships maintained- each new shopping mall or city retains the same counterfeit psycho-geography, the same alienations. From the industrial revolution to the automatic transition and the space effort (the frontier of the 3rd industrial revolution). It can be applied to revolutionary activity as well and the failure to express new ideas and tactics- you can see it in terms of identical clones- each new clone displaces more of the meaning of the original (activity) - i.e. increased meaninglessness- since the spectacle is recuperating all the time. So the longer an activity runs in series- the more useless it becomes till it's totally spectacular (nosferatu).

An immense convergent accumulation of spectacles is happening; because of the self-accumulation and perpetuation of capital and commodities, state and bureaucracy, images and representation, all of which triadically interact to generate the spectacle (effect) and its power relations- for instance, typical victims and not so innocent collaborators the revolutionary communist party, decided to hang an effigy of Norman Willis, the General Secretary of the T.U.C., for selling the miners down the river to "Thatcher and the Spectacle Trading CO.", while the medium of television gently transfers the experience to video tape- and this is the point of inversion, the transformation of real beings into simple images, which then become spectacular representations for real beings- in this particular incident of spectacular humour, the R.C.P. saw the cameras and obliged almost as if on cue by stepping up the theatrics- unaware or maybe they are aware that Big Brother isn't watching them, but that they are part of Big Brother and that on the televised news the masseurs of the screen then massage the treated images on to the cortex of the brain and on into the subconscious. Accumulation enhances strength potential, so that power sources are accumulated to enhance power potential and spectacular sources are accumulated in order to increase spectacular potential- in relentless decomposed style, president Eisenhower said: "we must buy! Buy everything! America can save the world from economic recession and buy it into democracy!". Further to this it is now commonly acknowledged that everyone was working for the Nixon Administration in America, even though some didn't realise it at the time, but who was Nixon working for? -or what was he caught up in? Power and the spectacle are symbiotically related- which is the same as Nelson Rockefeller investigating the C.I.A.- Nazi film culture understood this relationship between power and the spectacle- because the spectacle is the concrete realisation of rational power, and this is interchangeable with spectacular power, because of the spectacular inversion of reality. "Rational power" is based on the domination of society by hierarchical socio-political elites and the suppression, constraint and elimination of opposition. All power elites reflect each other in the spectacle, and so if Reagan calls the Soviet Union the focus of evil in the modern world, then the implications are clear.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

REGULAR EVENTS

Anarchists: meet every Mon
Details via Box 19 Acorn Bookshop. Also Anonomists.

Alcoholics Anonymous: groups meet regular in Reading (9 meetings a week), Pangbourne, Thatcham, Henley, & Bracknell. Day and night info and help line - 597494.

Amnesty: meets 2nd Thurs of month at St. Marys Centre, Chain St. Contact Jean 472598.

Astrology: A beginners class. Please contact Sue on Reading 669571 for details
Aikido Club: Relaxation, body/mind co-ordination, self-defence for women and men. Every Tuesday St Saviour's Church Hall, Berkeley Ave. Ring 667863 for details.

Books and Records Sale: every last Sat of the month. 10-4 at 4 Culver Rd (side of College Arms). Contact 65533.

Berkshire Humanists: meet on the 2nd Friday of every month, at the Friends Meeting Hse. For details ring the secretary on Crowthorne 774871.

Cruelty-Free Toiletries: market stall every Sat behind Tesco's.

Cyclists Touring Club: outings Sun 9.15am from Caversham Bridge or Henley. For details ring Richard on Bracknell 50849

Ecology Party: meets 1st & 3rd Mon of the month at 8 College Rd and 38 Long Barn Lane respectively. Contact Maria 55415

History of Reading Soc.: meets 3rd Tues of month at the Abbey Gateway.

Housing and Welfare Rights: 1st Thurs morning every month at the Community Hse. 117 Cumberland Rd

Incest Survivors Group: meets regularly. Write c/o Rape Crisis Line, 17 Chatam St. for details.

Labour Party Young Socialists: Weds at Fairview Community Centre, bottom of George St. 8pm
Labour History Group: meets monthly at Red Lion, Southampton St. Contact Kathy 590139 or Mike 867789 for details.

Men's Group: meets weekly. For dates and venue, contact Box 28 Acorn Bookshop.

Miners Support Committee: meets every Thurs 7.30pm. at TGWU office, 36 King's Rd. Ring 590311 for details.

Mini Market: Thurs 9-1 St Marys Centre, Chain St.

Greenham Support Group (Women): meets fortnightly. Nightwatch every Thurs. Contact via Womens Centre, Abbey St.

National Council for Civil Libs: meets 2nd Mon of month at St. Marys Centre Chain St. Ring Paul 861582.

Newtown Community Association: meets every 2nd Wed, 7.30. 117 Cumberland Road. All welcome.

Peace Pledge Union (PPU): meets monthly. Pacifist group. Contact 588459, 374532 or Box 10 Acorn.
Reading Cycle Campaign: meets 2nd Mon of month at UBCycles London St 8pm. Membership enquiries ring Chris Mayers 589178. General enquiries John Nixon 483183 or John Rigby 64667
Reading Birth Centre: meets 3rd Tues of month for food and chat Ring 61330 for venue.

Reading Gay & Lesbian Helpline: Tues & Fri 7-10pm 597269 Information & support

Reading Organisation for Animal Rights (ROAR): 1st Tues of month at the Crown, Crown St. Details from Dave 54098 or Jeff 476529.
Reading Recreation Arts Centres: painting for pleasure at Town Hall, Blagrove St. Mon 7-9 Tues 10-12. Details 55911 or 861289.

Socialist Workers Party: meets every Wed at the Red Lion Southampton St. 8pm.

Silkscreen Workshops: at Community House, 117 Cumberland Rd Details from Clive via 665806
Sahaja Yoga Meetings: Every Fri. At 7.30pm approx. At St Davids Hall 26, London Rd. Rm.3. all welcome, no charge

Traditional Festival Dance: Every Wednesday, at the Friends Meeting Hse. 6 Church St. From 7.45-10, Adm.75p. Ring Anna on 864665 for details.

Tai Chi Classes: Every Wed. at R.U. Students Union in the Main Hall. 16/1-20/3. 12-1pm Long form (intermediates) and 1-2.30 pm Short form & General practice (everyone). Contact Nick Booth on 873672 or 875123 ex 6221.

Vegans: meet 1st. Sun of month at 1 Orrin Close, Tilehurst. Contact Liz & Steve on 21651

Women's Centre: open Sat 11-3. all Women & kids welcome Free pregnancy testing Tues 7-9. Bring urine sample from 1st Pee of the day. At the basement, Old Shire Hall Abbey st. Beside Abbey Gateway.
Dance: Penny Bodman welcomes all women who want to improve their self awareness and confidence. Every Wednesday at 8pm at the Womens Centre.

Indian Community Centre, 2 Norris Road: Hindi Classes every Monday 4.30-5.30. Contact 667262

Punjabi Classes every Wednesday 4.30-5.30, also at Indian Community Centre as above.

Courses at Centre for the Unemployed
4-6 East St. Tel. 596639
All courses are FREE to the unemployed. No enrolment just turn up. FREE creche available.

Silkscreen: Come and print your own posters, cards etc. Tuesday 1-3pm

Womens Self Defence: Learn to value and defend yourself in the supportive group. Wed. 10am -12 noon

Carpentry: Learn to use wood-working tools and chose your own project. Mon. 1-3pm at the Wilson Centre. Wilson Rd.

Dance Fitness: Learn basic routines, and develop your creativity and fitness. Men & Women welcome. Thurs. 10-12noon
Womens Confidence-Building: Gain confidence in your own abilities working in a supportive group. Friday 1-3pm.

Skills for Co-ops: A 10 week course starting in the beginning of Feb. Market research, Raising finance, & Financial records and control. Contact Maureen Cotter on 596639.

Reading SHELTER Group: meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Centre for the Unemployed, East St. 8.00pm Start. Details Mark Goldup 863153
Drinking or Gambling Problem? Feel you cannot talk? Alone & lonely? Then you may want to talk to Michael at RCU, who will be pleased to talk in strictest confidence. Every Tues 2-4pm.
Box office community arts workshop: Mon-Fri at the RCU, Jo & Dave can be contacted at 596639 or occasionally on 66681.

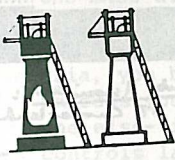
writing workshops at RCU. Thursdays 1-3pm. 10 10 sessions. All welcome.

Women's discussion group, 10.30 every Wednesday in room 1

Joint Oxfam, Reading WDM, and WEB Conference, 'Debt Crisis and Hunger - two sides of the same coin' on March 9. We will explore these issues through games, working groups, speakers and panel. RCU: 2-5. To register send £2 (waged) or £1 (unwaged) to Reading World Development Movement, 22 Hemdean Road, Caversham. Creche available (50p per child)

Unemployed tutors wanted for Photography (basic) and Home Maintenance courses at RCU

Also: coming shortly!
Improve your English/Improve your maths, Alternative medicine, Basic photography, Living in a multi-racial society, Running an allotment, Unemployment - whose problem, Women's Performance Groups (sings, marches), Motorcycle maintenance, Operating a small offset-litho printing press, Clothes mending, cartooning, Outing planned to Nature Reserves.



WOKINGHAM

THURSDAY 21st

SUNDAY 17th

Mother's Day treats include...

- Reading - Caversham Bridge Hotel, 8pm, free.
- The Butler, Chatham St: Jazz, 8pm, free
- Mill At Sonning - "Absent Friends" (by Ayckbourn), £2; tel. 69800. Fri 6th April.
- Wokingham Theatre, Norreys Ave - "The Heiress", 7.45pm
- St Patrick's Day Ceilic, Presentation College, Bath Road. tickets £2.50. 9pm - 1am. tel. 28263.
- SHP - "1984" (15) 7.45pm.

MONDAY 18th

- University Students Union, jazz, 9ish, free.
- Thatchers, Woodley - jazz/funk/soul - 8pm, free.
- The Bull at Nettlebed; folk with Keith Marsden, 8pm.
- Wokingham Theatre - as 17th.
- Hex - "The Ghost Train" - comedy thriller - 8pm, £3.50 - £4.50.
- SHP - "1984" (15) 7.45pm.

TUESDAY 19th

- Paradise - free festival benefit
- Gay Disco, Tudor Arms, 8pm, free
- University Students Union - Motley crew (blues) + disco. 1am bar. £1.
- Wokingham Theatre - as 17th
- Hex - as 18th
- SHP - "The Gondoliers", rock version 7.30pm, £3.50 / £2.50.
- SHP - Copse - Latin funk - 8pm £3 / £2
- SHP - "1984" (15) 7.45pm.
- The Out of Town Club - Lifecan plus Shooting the Rapids, £1.

WEDNESDAY 20th

- RFT - "Dimanche à la Campagne" (PG) 8pm
- Civic offices - bolshenik folk theatre with the Housing Committee: 6.30, free.
- The New Yorker - Jive Dive Club.
- Wokingham Theatre - as 17th.
- Hex - as 18th plus 2.30 matinee.
- Progress Theatre - New England Repertory Company - 2 contemporary plays + a musical for £1.80: 7.45pm.
- SHP - "1984" (15) 7.45pm
- SHP - Gondoliers as 19th

- Civic offices - Roger Smeed in "a developer's view of planning", 12.45, free.
- The Sportsman, Shinfield - country & western, 8pm free
- RFT - "First Name Carmen" (18) Godard 8pm
- Progress Theatre - as 20th.
- Wokingham Theatre - as 17th
- Hex - Ghost Train as 18th
- Hex - The Hull Witschinsky Cuitar Duo 12.45 - 1.30.
- SHP - "The Gondoliers" as 19th.
- SHP - Video's at work, including Mines strike, unemployment - made by the Films at work collective. 7.45pm, free.

- Fairmead Community Centre - Veggie Dining, Men's Group benefit.
- Clay disco at Tudor Arms, 8pm, free
- Wokingham Theatre - as 17th.
- Folk at The Lamb, Eversley, 8pm.
- Paradise Club - ? -

FRIDAY 22nd

- Progress Theatre - as 20th
- SHP Celler Bar - Friday Live with Seconds of Pleasure. £2 / £3.40. 8pm - 12
- SHP - "The Gondoliers" as 19th.
- SHP - "Gremkins" (15) 7.45pm / £1.50 / 75p.
- SHP - music from SHP courses, 8pm.
- Hex - as 18th.

SATURDAY 23rd

- Hex - as 18th + 2.30pm matinee
- Wokingham Theatre - as 17th.
- Paradise Club, London St - Pelican Steel Band + disco.
- Target Club - Sky.
- All Saints Church - St. John's Passion, Goring Chamber Chor, 7.30.
- Reading Museum + Art Gallery - three photographic exhibitions - Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30, Sat 10 - 5. free admission until 13th April
- SHP - "The Gondoliers" as 19th.
- SHP - "Gremkins" (15), 7.45 + 11pm
- SHP Folk - Keith Kendrick + Barry Cooper 8pm, £1.80 / £1.50.
- Hex - The Thin Line, 12-15pm music, free

SUNDAY 24th

- Reading at Caversham Bridge Hotel, 8pm.
- The Butler, Chatham St - jazz, free, 8pm.
- Half Marathon.
- St. Laurence's Hall, Variety '85 - charity show, £1.50 from Mo's Place. 7.30pm.
- Hex - Jimmy Tarbuck, 8pm, £6.80 / 7.80.
- SHP - "Gremkins" (15) 7.45pm.
- SHP - South Berks Music Centre, 7pm.

MONDAY 25th:

- Natchars, Woodley - jazz/soul/funk, 8pm, free.
- Folk at the Bull, Nettlesed, 8pm
- Progress Theatre - "Once a Catholic" by Mary O'Malley, 7.45, £1/£1.50. Best phone 28018 to check this one.
- Hex - Primary Schools Music Festival, stone + poems - 7pm, £2/£1.
- SHP - "Gremlins" (15) 7.45pm
- Paradise Club - Miners Benefit?

FRIDAY 29th:

- Progress Theatre - as 26th.
- Tudor Arms, Gay Disco, 8pm, free.
- Folk at the Lamb, Eversley, 8pm.
- Shinfield Players - as 28th
- Paradise - Howler's Horrors + support.
- SHP - Friday Live - Some Like It Hot, £2/£1, 8-12, Cellar Bar.
- Hex - Brenda Lee, 8pm, £6.50 - £8.50.
- SHP - piano duo, 7.30, £2.50/£2.
- SHP - "Gremlins" (15) 7.45pm

SAT. 30th:

- Progress Theatre - as 26th.
- Shinfield Players - as 28th
- Paradise Club - Volcanoes steel band + disco.
- Target - Dumpty's Rusty Nuts.
- Upper Hall, Wilson Centre, Wilson Rd - Ova Gx only voice workshop - 11am - 5pm. Crèche.
- Hex - The Kranks, 2pm/8pm, £3.50
- Handel's Messiah - St Giles Church, Southampton St. 7.30pm.
- Handel's Messiah - SHP - 7.30pm £3.50/£2.50.
- SHP Folk - Gery Hallom 8pm £1.80/£1.50
- SHP "Gremlins" (15) 7.45 + 11pm.

Monday fundraising social at 16 Priory Ave, Caversham; bring a bottle, 8-late

TUESDAY 26th:

- Tudor Arms - Gay disco, 8pm, free.
- Progress - as 25th (definitely, antonight).
- Hex - Schools Prom, 7.30pm, £2/£2.50.
- Emmegreen Townswomen's Guild - 'Journey across Canada' folk, 7.15pm, St. Rampbas Hall, Grove Rd, Emmegreen.
- SHP - "Gremlins" (15) 7.45pm
- SHP Jazz - John Burch Quartet - song, Octet, my braint going ... 8pm, £2.50/£1.50.

Live Dwe at the New Yorker

WEDNESDAY 27th

Marines, Station Hill - Gay Disco, 9-2, £1.50 with membership card.

Progress - as 26th

Hex - Georgian State Dance Company, 8pm, £9/10 !! Do the Stalin twosep...

- The Crown, Crown St - Pandemonium Club 9-12; Diaghilev Rhythm band (ethnic improvisation) + Caophonists (free jazz) + Pete Hall (Flamenco gr). £1/£1.50.

- SHP - Easthampstead Park School music dance + drama festival. 7.30. £1.20.
- SHP - "Gremlins" (15) 7.45pm.
- Open Garden - The Old Rectory, Burghfield, 11am - 4pm. 40p.

THURSDAY 28th:

- Folk at Horse + Barge - Spreadthick, Chris Newman + friends 8pm. £1.60 on door
- Shinfield Players, Whitley Wood Lane, next to Shire Hall - A Streetcar Named Desire, 7.45pm, £1.50/£1.
- The Paradise Club - Unity the Power + Armageddon, 8-late.
- Sportsman, Shinfield - free country + western
- Progress Theatre - as 26th.
- Hex - as 27th, Comrade.
- SHP - Easthampstead Park school festival as 27th
- SHP - "Gremlins" (15) 7.45pm.

SUNDAY 31st

- Reading folk at Caversham Bridge Hotel 8pm
- The Butler, Chatham St, jazz, 8pm, free.
- Open Garden - Old Rectory Cottage, Tidmarsh, Pangbourne, 2-6pm, 50p
- SHP - "Gremlins" (15) 7.45pm.

please give details of all events to Mark on 782178, phoning before the delicate hour of 10-30pm. - local dances, gigs, theatre groups etc especially interesting...



OUT

GOING

EVENTS

18 March Palmer G01 University environmental impact of agricultural support; Paul Cheshire. 8pm

cycle campaign - general meeting 8pm at the crown pub, crown street.

sun 24

readings half marathon starts at 10.30am reading university, whiteknights.

cyclists touring club - ride to well a village near farnham. meet at caversham bridge at 9.15

25 March

FoE-St. Mary's centre Chain St 8pm-to consider actions on acid rain etc.

26 March

Coop Development Agency Steering Group at Centre for the Unemployed 7.30pm

thurs 28

red rag copy date, ring co-ordinator (no. on cover) for when and where.

fri 29

red rag typing and headlines (as above).

30 March

OVA voice workshop, Wilson Centre, Wilson Rd. 11-5pm women only.

red rag paste-up and printing as 28th.

31 March

Coop's Workshop by Acorn For those who want to know more about worker coop's; at Centre for the Unwaged' East St. 2pm.

red rag folding and distribution, as 28th everyone is welcome!

1 April Open Forum On Unemployment, 8pm the Paradise Club.

key;

banc - berks. anti-nukes campaign
ppu - peace pledge union.

*New Events Person needed as of
NOW - why dont you volunteer?
Its not difficult - ring 595605*

tues 19
talk 'first aid for the under-fives' given by Mrs Richards of St Johns ambulance. organised by the reading branch of the national child-birth trust at St Andrews United Reformed Ch. hall, London rd at 8pm adm. 50p.

wed 20

banc. - business meeting, forward planning for molesworth (easter demo). two double deckers will leave at 8am from alder valley bus station on easter monday. buy tickets from acorn book shop, Chatham st. or ring ed wilson on 594855 £5 waged £3 unwaged u5's free.

ppu meeting at 44 Gosport rd. 8pm ring val and derek on 483416 for details.

21 March "a developer's view of planning" - Roger Smeed Cicic Offices' 12.45pm free.

ecology national conference until 24th at dover if anyone's interested ring 65533 and talk to philip.

fri 22

veggie dining - at fairview community centre (the end of George st.) tickets in advance from acorn, Chatham st. the men's group are having a go!

23 March Swindon Green Conference-Friends Meeting House, Swindon, 9.30-5pm £3/£2.

three exhibitions - reading camera club, tofreak centenary and Ridgeway photographs. at the reading museum, Blagrove st. adm. free.

tofreak 100 - the anniversary of the royal Berkshire regiment coinciding with their involvement in the massacre of Zulu tribes-people at Tofreak. more war glorification, the ppu will be leafletting the exhibition.

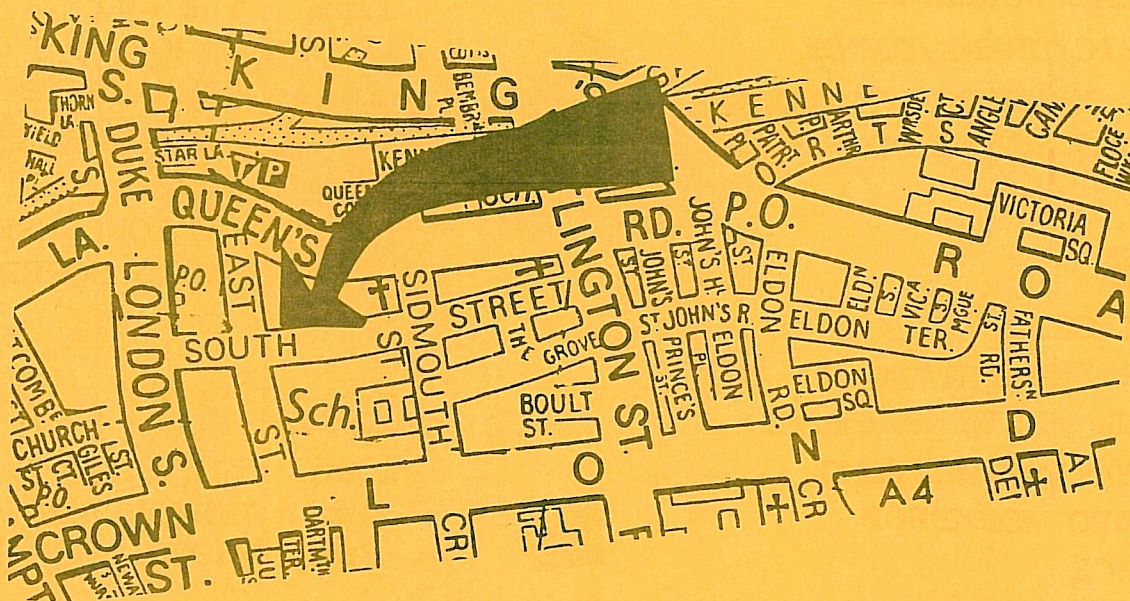
conference - the federation of claimants unions at Cambridge. although there is no claimants union locally, any individual interested in going will be welcome there. details from Nick on 666681.

ARE YOU OCCUPIED?

From Friday 15th March until Sunday 24th March the old Unemployment Benefit Offices in South Street, Reading, are to be the venue for a series of workshops and projects, from music to video, screenprinting to street theatre. The timetable on the other side gives some very provisional details.

What is a workshop? A workshop is an informal class in which everyone can decide what they do. Sharing skills replaces the idea of teaching. The person who runs the workshop brings some ideas to hold it together or some skill they have and want to share, but that is all. Everyone participates, everyone learns. And everyone enjoys themselves.

If you are interested in this festival of self-expression, call in and have a look around, have a coffee, come and take part in, or run, a workshop. Bring a sleeping bag and stay. The more people the better!



There is no space provided in Reading for such activities, despite the town's size and population. The U.B. Offices, like many other buildings have been sitting empty and useless for over a year. We therefore decided to occupy the building for ten days (day and night) and use it creatively, as a protest against the lack of space in Reading for people to express themselves, and to point out the waste of many ideal sites. The U.B. Offices were chosen because they are centrally positioned and offer lots of room.

We are not prepared to sit and wait another ten years for space to be provided. We have the energy, enthusiasm and ideas now, and would rather use them positively to organise events like this than to engage in fruitless struggles with the powers that be for recognition and response.

We decided to limit the occupation to ten days. We felt it would be better to have an organised and concentrated event. However there is no reason why this kind of event shouldn't happen all the time. All that is needed is a few committed people and an empty building. Anyone can do it.

EVENTS

SAT 16 MARCH

11am onwards RED RAG Readings free,
fortnightly newspaper will be
designed and pasted up.

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

SUN 17

11am TAI CHI

RED RAG folding, and distribution.

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

4.30pm VOCAL WORKSHOP

7.30pm MUSIC/DRAMA/DANCE

NON COMPETATIVE GAMES

8pm VIDEO SCREENING

MON 18

11am TAI CHI

12noon SCREENPRINTING

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

2pm CREATIVE WRITING

3pm VIDEO WORKSHOP

7pm DANCE

CREATIVE WRITING

8pm MUSIC

VIDEO SCREENING

TUES 19

11am TAI CHI

12noon DANCE

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

3pm JUNK WORKSHOP

7pm WOMENS VIDEO WORKSHOP

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRINT AND PAINT

8pm VIDEO SCREENING

WED 20

11am TAI CHI

12noon PHOTOGRAPHY

PAINTING

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

3pm DRAMA

8pm PANDAMONIUM CLUB
improvisation, jazz,
blues, didgereedoo

THUR 21

11am TAI CHI

12noon DANCE

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

3pm VIDEO WORKSHOP

7pm MUSIC

VIDEOWORKSHOP

8pm VIDEO SCREENING

FRI 22

11am TAI CHI

1pm JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP

8pm VIDEO SCREENING

SAT 23

ALL DAY
EXHIBITIONS, DISPLAYS
and PERFORMANCES:-