

FORTNIGHTLY

21st May - 4th June

RED RAG, BOX 79,
17, CHATHAM STREET
READING BERKS:-

NEXT ISSUE:

COPY DEADLINE 6PM
SAT 30 MAY. TYPED
COPY TO 8CM WIDTH
& SINGLE SPACED.
PUBLISHED BY THE
RED RAG COLLECT-
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ACORN BOOKSHOP.

RED RAG OUTLETS:

- *ACORN BOOKSHOP
- *HARVEST WHOLE-FOODS (HARRIS ARCADE)
- *UB CYCLES (LONDON STREET)
- *MOON (HARRIS ARCADE)
- *HARGUN CASH AND CARRY, (CHOMELY RD)

- *WOMEN'S CENTRE
- *READING UNIV. SU (KEN'S SHOP)
- *BULMERSHE S.U.
- *POP RECORDS (YIELD HALL PLACE)
- *CHOMELY RD NEWS-AGENT.

ADVERTISING RATES

£3 FOR 10 BY 6 CM
£6 FOR 10 BY 12CM
'SMALL ADS' ARE STILL FREE. 4 ADS IN CONSECUTIVE ISSUES ARE £2.50/£5 EACH.

LIVE & DIRECT

WEDS 20 MAY

- *Happy birthday to Lynne!
 - *Nino's, Duke St-local bands, 8pm, free.
 - *Cartoons, Gun St-The Streatham Sidewinders, 8pm, free. Missiles or musicians?
 - *Civic Centre-"Women Alone"-a talk by Constable Knapweed from the T.V. Police Crime Prevention Dept, at 1930hrs. Stay In Your Homes! Do Not Move!
 - *Paradise-Revelationaries (Hungerford dub)/Touche The Earth/Untogether club
- ## THURS 21 :
- *Happy Birthday to Veronique!
 - *Pressgang Club at the Cap & Gown.
 - *Majestic-greasy flares and acne nite with 'ardand 'eavy(...) rock disco, featuring that twit Brian Pithers from 210. £2.50 as well. Freebird! Smoke On The water!! KeRRRRamNNGGG!
 - *Geminis are go!

FRI 22 :

- *Paradise-Voodoo Child, City Limits (1½ hours of 70's rock cover versions) & Under The Influence. 9.30-late, last Band 11.30.
- *Hex-Carnival King & Queen Dance with Hurricane Force steel band + others. Better to check out..
- *Inspirational dub sound JAH SHAKA in an all night session in Peckham High St London Town.
- *La Tariffe's gig at the Cap & Gown is "doubtful", say the venue. £2, anyway, with main band on sometime after 10.

SAT 23:

- *High Wycombe Multi Racial Centre-ragamuffin sound Unity Hi-Power come fe nice up the dancehall, taking on Reading's own Studio Magic. Should be a cracker.
- *Cap & Gown-Sometimes Sartre, £2, on at 10-10.30 probably.

SUN 24 :

- *210, 7-8pm: Off The Wall with Jonathan Richards, local demo tapes, interviews and a gig guide, plus perhaps Barry The Fence O'Brien.
- *SHP-jazz with the Stan Tracey Quartet doing a legendary words and music set. 7.30pm, £4/3 with UB40.
- *The Mill At Somring-trad jazz and bits in a basket with Storeyville Tickle. 7.15-8.15, bar from 6

MON 25 ;

- *Bank Holiday.
- *CARNIVAL!!!!!! procession leaves Gt. Knollys Street at 11.00 am.
- *Carnival Jamboree at the Majestic, Caversham Rd, with Judy Boucher (top 5 hit) plus local singers Aqua Levi (reggae singer into the finals of the Evening Pist Talent contest), Rita Bentley and Easy Rider PLUS soca sound Playboy, 2 soul sounds (Unique and Cosmic Crew), and 2 reggae sounds (Studio Magic and Yardforce) 7-very late, £5 on the gate.

TUES 28 MAY:

- *Cartoons-A.G. & The Astronauts, 8pm, free
- *Happy Birthday to Simon..Snork those Grobbles!!
- *SHP-Trad Jazz Special, 3 local bands, 7.45 in the Wilde Theatre.
- *Majestic-Crazyhead. Highly offeasive macho metal crap.

WEDS 27 MAY:

- *Happy Birthday to Mo!
- *Ninos-local bands, 8pm, free.
- *Cartoons-The Barbel Bros, (motown? dance?), 8pm, free.
- *mindless rock night at Sloppy Joes, opposite the station, £2.50.
- *Pick of the Day-East Reading Scouts production of The Wurzels and Jethro.

THURS 28 :

- *More orgasmic guitar solos and cardboard plectrums at the Majestic.
- *Cap & Gown-The Pressgang Club, £1 before 9.30, usually good by all reports.
- *Reading Community Festival trip to the House of Commons (you know, where they make laws and all that...), 9am-5pm, £3 details from 100 Waverley Rd...

FRI 29:

- *SHP-Skint Video "a coalition between George Formby, The Buzzcocks and the Red Army Choir", to quote the elephant fayre programme before me. New versions of songs you know and lurve with lethal lyrics. They appear with Mark Thomas and Mark Steel (2 alternative comedians?) 8pm in the Cellar Bar, £3.50/2.50 UB40.
- *Paradise-The Flowerpot Men, The Jeremiahs and Henry Does A Runner.
- *Negus Warrior Jah Shaka in Peckham again tonight.
- *Polish Club, London Rd, access off Eldon Terrace-The Back Beat Band, playing a long and brassy soul set, on at 9.15 pm, til 11.30. £2. The last gig here until Sept.
- *Hex-gospel concert. A must for anyone who ever wanted the Plain Truth to have a gig guide.
- *Cap & Gown-Jonah reece, £2, last entry at 10.30.

SAT 30 MAY:

- *Red Rag copy deadline. Anyone can write for the RAG. They won't have their stuff picked apart by callous anarchists, cos there aren't any. Please write to Box 79, 17 Chatham St.
- *Windsor Atrs Centre, one for all the space cadets out there in the audience: Moonchild who supported Webcore at the Paradise, and The Magic Mushroom Band.
- *CAP & GOWN-Hook Line and Silverfish (quite good), and The Larkins (rockandroll party time). £2, last entry 10,30 so get there early.

SUN 31 MAY:

- *210-Off The Wall as last week.
- *Reading Police Station-Open Day for the Disabled, 10-4pm. Tel the filth on 585111

MON 1 JUNE:

- *Forward and away forward into the month of Levi....
- *Stonehenge Posse blow your whistles and all that.
- *Red Rag pasteup day. Now anyone can do this. You don't need a typography degree. All the people who do pasteup at the moment were complete beginners once-so why not indulge your wildest fantasies etc

TUES 2 JUNE:

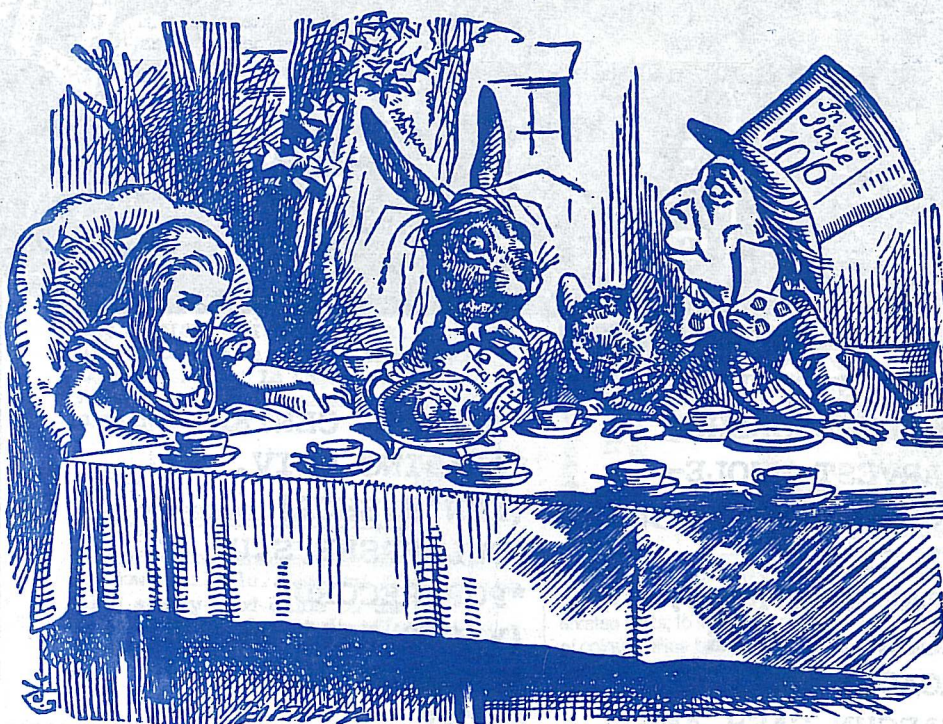
- *Red Rag pasteup-the epic goes on.....
- *SHP-gypsy style jazz with the Fapy Lafertin Quartet (violin, Dbl Bass and 2 guitars). £4/3, in the Wilde Theatre, 8pm. They are also doing a guitar workshop at 2pm on Sat 30 May, in the meetings room at SHP, for a pound. Bring a geetar.
- *Cartoons-Chosen Time, 8pm, free.
- *Majestic-Chrome Molly. More evvy mettul.

WEDS 3 JUNE:

- *RED RAG is printed and then people meet to fold and distribute it at 5pm, upstairs in corn. You too could come along.....
- *Cartoons-Press To Ascend, who play Squeeze & Joe Jackson style stuff. 8pm and free.
- *Ninos-regular local bands slot, 8pm and free.

SMALL AD

RENAULT 4 for sale - repair or spares.
10 months MOT. Good engine. Many new parts. £100 ono. Phone Claire on Rdg 504211



MSC ROUND-UP

The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) is the government's ministry of unemployment measures. It runs Jobcentres and commands the "trash the claimants" Restart scheme, which is now calling up anyone on the dole for 6 months or more and hassling them about work. It is also the government's largest election propaganda machine as the drop in their version of the dole figures has fallen due, largely, to the scheming MSC.

*After government denials that it was bringing in a work for your benefit scheme on the lines of US "workfare", the Job Training Scheme was promptly launched nationally a couple of weeks ago.

This adult YTS has been heavily sold as a real boon to employers, but local responses have been mixed. Bosses in Bracknell for example are refusing to touch it with a bargepole, partly because they're no doubt afraid of catching something nasty off the town's 3000-strong mob of claimants.

*Meanwhile, the Community Programme schemes are not faring well. As well as having some of their funding diverted to the JTS, vacancies on the Berkshire projects stand at a record high.

Of 96 vacancies advertised on the recent Berks County Council list, only 17 paid over £80 a week gross. So over 80% of them pay no more of them than the average single claimant would get on the dole - (£30/wk plus say £25/wk Housing Benefit = £55/wk, whereas after tax, insurance and travel, there's little change out of £80).

Things are made worse by a recent government ruling that part time CP workers can't claim unemployment benefit for the days they don't work, despite their contribution record. In other part time work cases, things are judged on their merits and it is possible to claim unemployment benefit and still work part time.

Ministers seem to think that an average CP wage of under £70 a week is enough in itself. 96 vacancies say otherwise.

*And so to Restart. The top priority of Reading Jobcentre at the moment is to have a go at anyone who's been claiming for 6 months or more. This includes people who were put through the interview scheme under phase one, which ended in March.

There's still a Restart course in Reading, but this one week soft option has been cut back since March and no one knows how long it'll live after the June 11 election.

Although there is an open threat to your benefit if you don't go to the Restart interview at the Jobcentre, it's less clear what happens if you go along, chose (say), the Restart course, and then don't turn up to it. Officially, it won't affect your benefit, but stories are told of 2 claimants who did just that, to be re-interviewed soon after and forced onto the Community Programme digging holes. So watch out!

Go safe,
Billy Whizz...

FOLK

Thurs 2/7th May: Bob Watson at Maidenhead Folk Club, The Rose, King St, Maidenhead.

Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (Euston). RICHARD THOMPSON, the great, with ATTACO DECENTE in support (they of the dulcimer, tongue drums, lyrics & energy). £6 7.30pm. 01-387 9629

Sat 23rd
Cellar Bar, South Hill Park, Bracknell: EWAN MCCOLL & PEGGY SEEGER. This'll be special. Traditional and contemporary songs, beautifully sung and played to appeal to just about anyone without being tame at all. A treat.

Sun 24th
Readifolk at the George Hotel, Broad St: SINGERS NIGHT - no it's not a band but a spontaneous blossoming of summery talent. Cheap, & it's half price for UB40s.

Tues 26
Turks Bottom Folk Club at the Cap n Gown: SINGERS NIGHT again, but a different range of sounds, even when it's some of the same people.

Wed 27th
Eversley Cross, at the Toad & Stumps: T-MODEL SLIM. Dunno.

thurs 28
Maidenhead Folk Club: THE JOURNEYMEN. Local duo with luvverly vocals and very deft guitar, banjo, and harmonium.

Sat 30
South Hill Park, Bracknell: TIM LAYCOCK. Seasoned singer with concertina and a long history of folk theatre behind him; anti-nuclear songs amongst others. And he doesn't seem that old, either!

Sun 31
Readifolk at the George - a gig for the sharp & trendy this. CLIVE GREGSON & CHRISTINE COLLISTER. Him on songwriting & guitar, her on voice. Been so hyped it'll be good to see what they're really like.

Mon 1st
Nettlebed Folk Club at the Bull, High St: THE BERRY FAMILY. Very traditional.

Tues 2
Turks Bottom: Cap n Gown, Kings Rd: SINGERS NIGHT for everyone who didn't have a go last time.

Thurs 4th
Maidenhead Folk Club: THE HOLME VALLEY TRADITION. Unaccompanied vocal harmony trio. Very trad.

Sat 6
Bracknell Folk Club: BLOWZABELLA - five piece with eclectic range of instruments and tunes from all over. Energetic, polished, difficult not to dance to. Highly recommended.

Sun 7th
Readifolk: PHIL HARE & MARY-ANN WISE, about whom I know nothing at all but I will by next time, promise!

FORTHCOMINGS:
June 9th *Ministry of Humour at Turks Bottom.
*Robert Cray Band - the blues! Hexagon. £6.50/£8.50.

June 11th DADE KRAMA & RORY MACLEOD at Aldershot. £3.50 (If you don't believe R. McL. is doing any more gigs, like he said, then check with Aldershot, 95/330040)

Don't forget Irish sessions at the Kennet Arms, Pell St, Sundays & Mondays. Folk Gigs, get details to Liz on 53437, or to Box 79, 17 Chatham St. Pressgang where are you?

Starting on Monday May 25th, evening singarounds at the Queen Elizabeth on the corner of Battle St and George St. Called "Littlefolk", this club's starting to fill a gap in the local folk scene as Readifolk and Turks Bottom are more for performances these days. At this place it will be OK to join in, forget the words and not die of embarrassment, and learn new songs.



EVENTS

Thursday 21st May

*Evening Wildflower walk, organised by Reading Urban Wildlife Group. Starting at Mohawk Way car park, Woodley at 7pm.
*Stonehenge meeting: 5pm workshop; 7pm meeting. 99 Torriano Ave, London NW5

Saturday 24th

*Forest Alert countrywide (worldwide?)
*Noon to noon tomorrow - Womens International Day for Disarmament.

Sunday 24th

*Steam powered passenger-carrying model railway, Prospect Park (by Bath Rd) 2 - 5pm
*Reading BR station at 9am for transport with Conservation Volunteers to Hazlewood Lane, near Binfield. Then a day of practical work on a bridleway before returning for the pub at 7pm.

Monday 25th

*Annual Meeting of Reading Borough Council (Why's that in here, I wonder? - typist)
*Lesbian support group at Womens Centre. 7.30pm

Wednesday 27th

*Start of 'Polariswatch' month. To join the rota covering junctions 11 and 12 of the M4 each day, 9-11am, contact Debbie on 690924

*Conserve Reading on Wednesdays are clearing scrub from a bridleway near Binfield. Bring boots, packed lunch, waterproofs/sun tan lotion and meet tatty grey minibus outside the Railway Station at 10am. Details from Nick 667882 or Sue 668636

*A Workers Manifesto for the Election. 8pm Friends Meeting House. A 'Workers Power' public meeting.

Friday 29th

*A vocal workshop, at the Abbey Room, rdg Central Library (back door) 7pm-9pm. (Room hire is £4 and is split between those turning up.)

This is a loose group of people practising many varied styles. The idea is to use the voice without straining or necessarily hitting the note to become aware of ones own potential. Based on 'calling', Frankie Armstrong style, Balkan singing and harmonies. We have more recently tried droning and chanting and overtone chanting, Jill Purce style. Open to anyone interested with enthusiasm and new ideas. All welcome.

For more information, ring Marcus on 660373.

Sunday 31st

*Police Station Open Day for the disabled. 10-4, Castle St. I'm tempted to be sarcastic.

*BeC go to do practical conservation work on a wet bog habitat for Berks, Bucks, Oxon Naturalists Trust. Bring packed lunch to BR station for 9am. Sounds like wellies would be a good idea.

*You've missed the deadline for the next issue of Red Rag by one day, go back three spaces and start again.

Monday 1st June

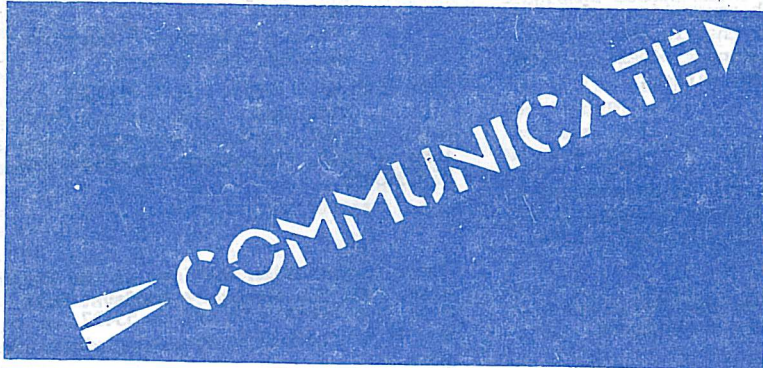
*Release Stonehenge! A picket at Beaulieu Motor Museum, reminding Lord Montague of "English Heritage" that Stone Henge is our heritage, too. A pilgrimage to the stones starts in London. Noon South Bank; 2pm Battersea Park Peace Pagoda. (see Jne 6th)

Tuesday 2nd

*Woodley Peace Group meeting. 36 Hazel Drive, 8pm.

Friday 5th

*Vocal workshop at Central Library (see 29th May for details)



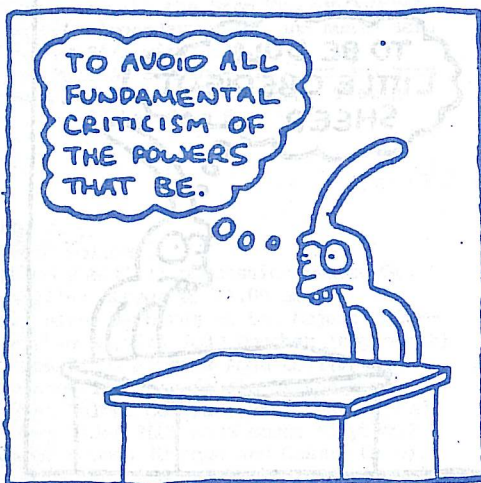
ACTS OF GOD, WEATHER CONDITIONS, NATURAL DISASTERS, THERMONUCLEAR HOLOCAUST AND THE SORRY ABSENCE OF ANY CRECHE FACILITY failed to prevent 'Communicate', a weekend of workshops on producing community newsletters which took place on May 9 & 10 at the Centre for the Unemployed. I endeavour to be content that it happened, mostly on schedule. The workshops; at least the ones I went to were informative, stimulating and well presented. The limbo people found themselves in on Saturday morning entering the distinctly dreary centre from the bright sunshine outside, soon dissolved.

All in all, eight workshops took place; people had lots of fun with scissors and glue. ate far too much garlic bread for their own good and took reams of notes, which I only hope they managed to decipher afterwards! Luke Blair from the Reading Chronicle came along on Saturday and talked about how 'real' newspapers work, what he looks for in stories and press releases and how as a journalist these are produced as articles. The workshops aimed to enable people to produce a publication from scratch. I think one of the strengths of the weekend was in being so comprehensive. An

incredible amount of information was imparted in the mere eleven hours we had. There was however, a major problem. Not ours alone; it seems to be shared by a fair few Reading voluntary groups at present. In short: PEOPLE (the lack of). It did seem to be rather ironic doing a workshop on publicity and talking about "How this weekend was publicised", when the organisers outnumbered those who came on the day. OK so there were a lot of organisers but... Did people already know too much/too little about the subject? Did we start too early/finish too late? Maybe it was our approach. Maybe it couldn't be helped.

At any rate, those people who did turn up were enthusiastic enough to make up for those that didn't. Thanks very much to everyone who spent a glorious Saturday/rainy Sunday with us; those who prepared and ran the workshops, those who provided the veritable feast of vegetarian food that kept us going all weekend (yum!) Thanks are also due to Red Rag and its readers who funded the workshops. If anyone's interested in a next time, I'll see you there!

Love, Simon



BERKSHIRE ARTISTS GROUP

'24 HOURS IN READING'

Berkshire Artists Group, The Reading Dusseldorf Association, and The Reading Festival Society are organizing a '24 Hours' photographic project which is scheduled to take place from 12 noon Friday 5th June to 12 noon Saturday 6th June.

The project will be based in Reading and it is timed to coincide with this year's Reading Festival. 24 hour photographic projects have proved to be very successful where ever they have been organised (countries like Australia and the U.S.A., cities like Amsterdam, London and Bristol, and towns like Bracknell). The idea of the project is to unite the energies of local photographers during a special 24 hour period, with the aim of producing an exhibition exploring and illustrating the diverse activities of the town and its people. Photographs from the 24 hour will be shown at the Hexagon during July and it is hoped that they will travel to Dusseldorf in 1988.

A selection of prints will be purchased for the Reading Museum & Art Gallery collection. Local photographers are invited to participate. Just submit a proposal with details of topics or places you wish to cover. Proposal forms and further information from Marcus Cole, c/o ONSL, The Keep, 571 Oxford Rd phone 597752

Proposals to be returned by Fri 22nd May

New Society 15 May 1987

A very boring election

"I'm all in favour of a free press; it's newspapers I can't stand," one of Tom Stoppard's characters once declared. In the same spirit, elections are the price we pay for democracy.

This time, the lying was underway before the campaign even officially opened. It suits the three main political forces to pretend that the outcome of the 11 June general election is up for grabs. The Tories need to pretend to have a chance of losing so their followers won't be tempted to abstain or to dilly dally with the Alliance. Labour needs to pretend to be in with a chance of winning because the claim "only we can throw out Thatcher" is Neil Kinnock's highest card against David Owen and David Steel. And they in turn need to pretend to be potential victors because (according to Marplan) the Alliance would outpoll both Labour and the Tories if voters believed it had a chance of winning.

It suits the media too. Elections sell papers; close elections sell more. *The Guardian's* respected psephological experts went as far last Thursday as to declare that "a hung parliament must still rank as the most likely result of the next election." The early commentary this week reflected Tory briefing as to what could go wrong, and what they would do if it did.

So let's start by setting the feet firmly on the ground. When Mrs Thatcher went to the palace on Monday the state of play was as follows. The local election results (see page 11) broadly equate to a national state of affairs of: Conservative 40; Labour 30%; Alliance 27, which would yield the following results: Conservative 368 (44 per cent); Labour 244 (31 per cent); Alliance 17 (21 per cent); others 21. Tory overall majority 86.

The incumbency effect, described by Ivor Crewe here last week, makes big Tory losses less likely. So does the Steed-Curtice effect which means that many fewer seats now change hands on a given swing.

How could this picture change? It could change if enough voters shifted from Tory to Labour. However, on Harris's figures, roughly one Conservative in seven would have to switch for the Tories to lose their overall majority. It could change as a result of tactical voting. However (as a definitive Goldman Sachs computer analysis this week shows), even if Labour lost 5 percentage points to the Alliance where the Alliance was the challenger, and even if the Alliance lost 5 percentage points to Labour where Labour was the challenger—tactical voting on a quite unprecedented scale—then Labour would win just 21 more

seats, and the Alliance 13. It could change if there were regional discrepancies in swing, so that the Alliance became sole challenger in the south and Labour in the north. However—the Goldman Sachs analysis again shows—such discrepancies would have to be huge to have any substantial impact on the result.

So the odds are that Mrs Thatcher will be re-elected with an overall majority. William Hill—who has no axe to grind—has the Tories as 8 to 1 on and offer 3 to 1 against even a hung parliament.

Objectively, then, and seen as a horse race, 1987 looks like being an exceedingly boring election—with more interest likely to lie on who comes second than on who comes first.

Should we then ignore it? There are three reasons why not. First, there is always a chance of an upset, as Harold Wilson's experience of 1970 shows. Second, even if there is no change of government, it will matter what the majority is: compare and contrast Mrs Thatcher's likely behaviour if her majority falls to 30 (possible) or increases to 200 (also possible). Third, the content of the campaign also matters. What arguments go down well with the electorate and which will condition the policies of the next government, and the future of the country.





National Bike Event

CYCLE FOR MANDELA '87



Cycle for Mandela '87

On 18 July 1987 - Nelson Mandela's 69th birthday - the Anti-Apartheid Movement and SATIS (Southern Africa - The Imprisoned Society) are organising a National Sponsored Cycle ride to focus attention on the continued incarceration of Nelson Mandela and the increasing numbers of political prisoners under apartheid. All the money raised by this event will be used for the SATIS campaign to Free All South African and Namibian political prisoners.

Everyone is welcome to join us; the average length of the rides is about 20-25 miles; the largest ride is being held in London and regional rides in Glasgow, North East/Tyneside, Birmingham, Bath, Oxford, Sheffield, Brighton. They are not races but rides organised in the local area to involve as many people as possible.

How to Enter

This is easy; simply complete and return the attached registration form to SATIS, c/o the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and we will send you the Sponsorship Form and Registration Card (there is a small charge of £1.00 which covers administrative costs and means you receive a Free Nelson Mandela badge). You can then begin collecting sponsors straight away.

CYCLE FOR MANDELA '87

Registration Form

Name
Address

- I would like to register as a sponsored rider for the Cycle for Mandela '87 on 18 July 1987.
- Please send me sponsor forms and a Registration Card. Cost £1.
- I wish to take part in the area of the country. Please send me the contact address and details for this area.
- Please send me more information about the SATIS campaign to Free Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia.
- Please send me a list of Mandela campaigning products.
- I would like to join the Anti-Apartheid Movement - please send me details.
- I enclose £.....

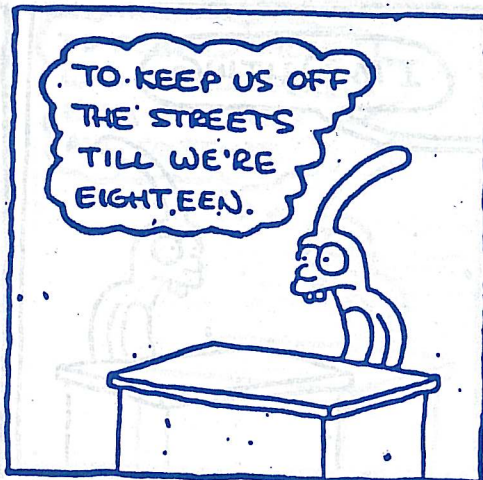
NB: Please note that everyone taking part in the Cycle for Mandela '87 will be issued with sponsor forms and a Registration Card from London and then put in touch with the local organisers in the area in which they wish to take part.

DISCLAIMER

All entrants ride at their own risk. The Anti-Apartheid Movement cannot accept responsibility for personal injury, loss or damage to cycles and equipment, or any public liability. You are reminded that cycling will be taking place on the Public Highway and must therefore observe the Highway Code.

Please sign here Date

Please return by 30 June 1987 to CYCLE FOR MANDELA '87, SATIS, c/o The Anti-Apartheid Movement, 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 0DW. Tel 01-387 7966.



THEATRE

*The Gin Game by D.L.Coburn
16th - 23rd May, 7.45pm. £2.50/£2.20
Progress Theatre, the Mount.

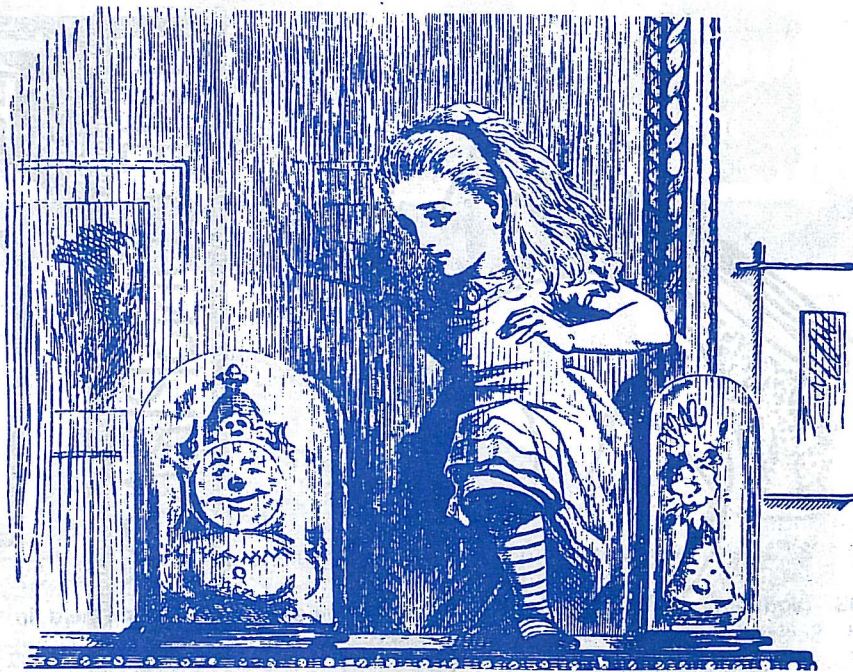
*28th May, 1.30pm & 3.30pm. £2:
Noddy and the Magic Bell
(This fortnight's recommendation.)
Wildw Theatre, South Hill Park.

*29th May, 7.30pm £3.50/£2.50
"Let The Water Run Its Course To The Seat
That Made The Promise" by Sheffield's
Forced Entertainment Theatre Coop.
again at Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park.

*4th, 5th June, 7.30pm. £3/£2:
A Gothic Triple Bill - done by the Bright
Red Theatre Co. at Studio Theatre, SHP.

*5th - 13th June, 7.45pm:
Loot, by Joe Orton. Wokingham Theatre.

*soon... for a few nights; cheap...
(I blame the lack of clarity on the temp-
erament of theatrical society.)
Six Characters In Search Of An Author,
at Rdg Univ. Faculty of Letters Theatre



LOOKING GLASS Theatre Company

27, Barnwood Close, Reading, Berkshire. RG3 1BY

COMPROMISED IMMUNITY

by Andy Kirby/Gay Sweatshop. 12/5/87

Is it not etiquette to laugh at the obviously funny bits in a play? Is it not right to laugh at only the bits one finds amusing? Is it that the audience at Bulmershe College last Tuesday were trained to laugh at the type of witty repartee found in TV sitcoms and pubs full of budding Oscar Wildes? Or was it a symptom of the tension they probably felt when confronted by a subtly powerful play about AIDS?

Gay Sweatshop theatre company bring us a step closer to the reality of AIDS, through an enjoyable play. Previously AIDS has been about enduring television documentaries and boring newspaper splashes.

This play deals with the people involved with a London hospital's first AIDS patient in his gradual decay to death. Perhaps it's something to do with ones morbid curiosity, watching a man die. But once watching, the audience were kept on a level of jokey good humour; but every so often dropped into a dark hole of despair for the victim. The play was rich in horrible truths of emotion.

The only problem was the second half, which held as much interest as a following episode of East Enders, but don't let that put you off. I'll put it in the Theatre Guide next time it is anywhere near Reading.

Ian.

PRESS RELEASE

A new Community Theatre Company has been launched to serve the Reading and Berkshire area.

LOOKING GLASS THEATRE COMPANY has been formed by six actors, four of whom were part of the very successful Centipede Theatre Company. Centipede was a Community Project funded by the MSC and had to be terminated not due to lack of success but because its funding was withdrawn.

Most of LOOKING GLASS' work will involve providing a Theatre In Education service to schools in the Berkshire area. Their first production is 'The Soorcerers Apprentice', an adaptation of the traditional story which will be premiered at Calcot Infants School on June 1st. The company plan to specialise in childrens theatre but will also be available to work anywhere from childrens parties to centres for mentally handicapped people.

The six company members are still working hard to raise the funding that will ensure the continued success of the company; they want to try and keep theatre as affordable as possible to audiences who might otherwise seldom experience the thrill of live theatre. Spokesman Stewart Hargrave said "We have all put a great deal of hard work into this. There is no other company such as ours in this area; we feel we would be an asset to the community and deserving of its support.

Further details of the company are available by phoning Stewart Hargrave on Reading 589223.





VACANCY: RED RAG CO-ORDINATOR

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For just £4 that's only 80 shillings or bob (who he?) you can get delivered for the next six months that's 132.5 days worth of RED RAG already an increase of 52.5. So if you want new Standards, all the Rock, it rolls in every second mid-week and for only four quid definitely no freebie eh bob.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

(Cheques payable to RED RAG)
Box 79 Acorn Bookshop 17 Chatham St. Rdg.



from LOVE IS HELL by Matt Groening, P.O. Box 36E64, Los Angeles, CA 90036, \$6.95 + \$2 postage & handling.

PRESENTING

THE CONSPIRACY

THE

Paper

SELECTED RECORDINGS

LIVE AT THE PARADISE CLUB

THE CONSPIRACY

THE TAPE

THE STORY SO FAR... FROM 10 MONTHS IN THE LIFE OF THE CONSPIRACY COLLECTIVE... 22 TRACKS RECORDED LIVE AT THE PARADISE CLUB, READING

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CHATHAM STREET, READING

CONSPIRACY

A quick note from the conspiracy to say that at long last the Conspiracy Compilation tape hits the street (no kidding). Inspirationally named, "The Tape" chronicles a year in the life of Reading's collective benefit promoters.

A wierd and wonderful selection, it is the pick of the bands both local and national who have played benefits for the Conspiracy over the last year. Recorded live at the Paradise Club, it comprises 22 tracks by, amongst others, Military Surplus, Jo Jo Namozza, Frank Chickens, Ozric Tentacles, and The Three Johns.

On sale at Acorn Bookshop, Pop Records and Conspiracy Gigs for a mere £2.75.

Coming soon... The Conspiracy D.I.Y. Promoters Pack.

THE 'WHOOOPS! NEARLY FORGOTTEN' CORNER...

LOVE, NO FILM & VIDEO GUIDE ?

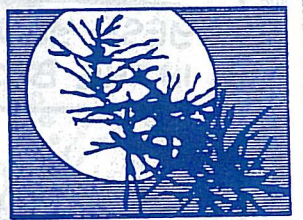
never mind, from 25th to 29th May Bulmershe College Gay soc are presenting an ALTERNATIVE FILM WEEK. (Veronica 4 Rose; Framed Youth; Het-Up; Domestic Bliss; La Cage Aux Folles; Aliens II; Lianna; Querelle of Brest already booked)

* FOR FREE FESTIVAL NEWS SEE FIN

SOUTHERN Free Information Network No 3 is now available. Festival list (sparse) plus a very good guide to the new 'Public Order' law as it affects land squats.

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