

RED RAG

FREE
FORTNIGHTLY
March 23 - 7 April
Reading's Only Newspaper

FIRM BUT FAIR?

Last Wednesday our betters on the borough council housing committee met to discuss the problem of rent arrears. Since the 16th of December a small number of the committee have been beavering away as a 'working' party to examine the viability of a number of options to deal with the arrears problem. They presented their findings as an interim report for committee, press and public to examine.

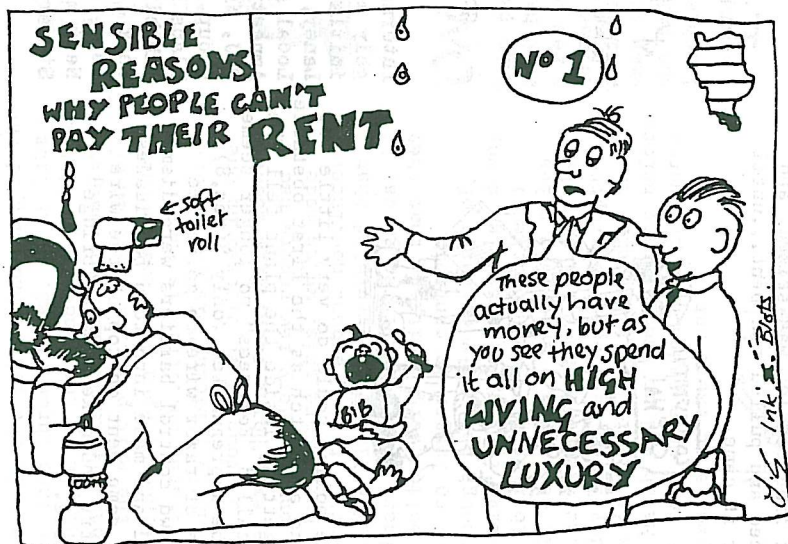
It would have been nice to find out that the working party was addressing the problem of rent arrears to the benefit of both council and tenants, sadly this does not seem to have been the case.

A half hearted attempt to step up the financial counselling service for tenants in debt met with no comment from left or right in the chamber. An activity which is seen as insulting when incorporated into the Social Security Green Paper appears fine for straightening out the Council's housing revenue account. To give the impression that a major cause of debt is tenants bad budgeting should have been resisted but it wasn't.

Between March 81 & March 83 Council rent arrears increased by 277% not as a result of bad budgeting by tenants but as a result of dramatic increases in the level of rent charged. There has been a much slower level of increase since that time & since November last year there has been a decrease.

The working party has done nothing of any substance in examining the proposed solutions to this problem. However, it has produced a document of reactionary posturing, but for whose benefit?

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE...



BULMERSHE BANS MANDELA.

Back in May last year, the Students' Union at Bulmershe College decided, in a symbolic act of solidarity with the imprisoned South African leader and the struggle against apartheid, to name its office the Nelson Mandela Building.

The office is actually owned by the Board of Governors of the college - which is largely made up of Tory councillors and local businessmen. And when the students, as a matter of form, asked for 'permission' to rename their own building they refused. In fact they instructed the S.U. to 'totally obliterate' the phrase 'Nelson Mandela Building' from its headed notepaper! Failing this, the Acting Principal told them, 'disciplinary action' would follow, including the suspension of the Union's two sabbatical officers.

This adolescent petulance is being strongly resisted. On March 11th a general meeting of the S.U. passed, with one vote against and one abstention, a motion re-affirming its anti-racist stance; condemning the interference from the Board of Governors and Acting Principal with the supposed autonomy of the S.U.; telling the Executive to continue with the forbidden notepaper (!) and seeking support from, among others, the local community and trades unions.

Letters and motions supporting the students' stand, and condemning the Governors and A.P. should be sent to: Bulmershe College of H.E. Students' Union, c/o 11 Mays Close, Reading.

James, from a press release

INSIDE.

- 2 Includes some Going Out and some news from Wapping
- 3 Some more from Wapping
- 4 Some more Going Out
- 5 Some more Going Out somewhere
- 6 Some Events, something about the police too
- 7 More bits of Events, something about pigeons?
- 8 Now it looks like the pages may be in the wrong order anyway

FORTRESS WAPPING BESIEGED.

On Saturday March 15th the regular picket of Rupert Murdoch's News international printworks in Wapping reached a new level of success.

Small crowds were building up from early evening, opposite each of the 3 exit points from the works road onto The Highway, used by the lorries taking the papers out. On the plant side of The Highway, all the side roads, however small, were heavily policed. Mounted riot coppers were on hand, when they weren't clippety-clopping through the housing estates hoping to create a state of fear in the local people.

At about 9.30 a mass march of Fleet St. printers left Tower Hill, just down the road, escorted by the Met, and a vanguard of revolutionary newspaper vendors. As we got to the bit of road opposite the plant, a 50 yard long section of eight foot high cast iron fencing was seized, and pulled and pulled and bent...until over it came.



The police could do very little but stand and watch as the first obstacle to getting inside the plant fell. The so called "Fortress" no longer seemed to be impregnable...only 8 (yes, 8), rows of razor wire to go. Police crowd control barriers were dismantled and made into road barricades, and some went on top of the wire to try and make a safe "bridge" across.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE YEAR.

A Peace Pledge Union Benefit

The return of

veggie dining

dine by candlelight on
a 3-course vegan meal,
with music too

Friday 28th March 8 → late

at Reading Centre for the Unemployed, East St

Tickets (£1.50 wage) (£2 wage) from Anon Bookshop, 17 Chatham St.
[+ 50 pence per ticket for benefit]

Please bring your own drink



International Peace Year is largely a United Nations Association initiative. Local contact is S. Laney, 473 Wokingham Rd, Earley. Local groups involved include Amnesty, BANC, Baha'is, Oxfam, PPU, WDM, WEB, Woodley Peace Group, Youth & Community Service. Plans include calendar, library exhibition, a Bread not Bombs week June 21-29, peace picnic. Help, ideas to above address. Next meeting is May 21, 7.30, St Mary's Centre, Chain St.

* Proceeds for International Peace Year Actions!

▷ Monday 24 March:

- PARADISE - "NO TO HIS CONSCRIPTION" BENEFIT - SECOND EMOTION + THE CLIFF HANGERS 8-2, £1 UR40, £2 WAGED
- CAP + GOWN, KINGS RD - NAMAZA (RHYTHMIC MUSICS), 9.15h. FREE OR £1?
- BULL, NETTLEBED: FOLK, 8pm AND Y LIVERY + JAVE FENNER, FREE
- ALBION HOTEL, OXFORD RD - JAZZ, 9.15h, FREE
- SILKS, THATCHAM - ROCK NIGHT.
- THATCHERS, FAIRWATER DRIVE: FUNK + SOUL, 8-11 PM, FREE. RUSTIC TAVERN PLASTIC UP FOR THE USAF LOT IN WOODLEY.
- SHP - "EMERALD FOREST" (15), 7.45, £2.50. AMER-CAN ENGINEERS SON ABDUCTED BY INDIAN TRIBE MEETS DAD 10 YEARS LATER.
- HEX - READING PRIMARY SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL - 7pm.

▷ Tuesday 25 March:

- PARADISE - AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS BENEFIT: MILITARY SURPLUS (ROOTSY REGGAE) + FUNKTION AT THE JUNCTION (SIMMERING SOUL FUNK + REGGAE) + SURGERY SOUND SYSTEM. £1.50, 9.30 → 2. ANOTHER CONSPIRACY EVENING!
- MAJESTIC, CAVERSHAM RD - STEVE MARROT'S PACKET OF 3 + BEAT AND THE DEVIL (HARD FUNK). £2.50.
- STUDIO BSTRD, LONDON RD - FOLK, 8, FREE.
- TUDOR ARMS, GREYFRIARS RD - GAM DISCO, 8pm, FREE. MAINLY MEN.
- SLOPPY JOE'S, STATION HILL - GAM DISCO, 8-2, £1.50W/GAM HELPLINE CARD.
- BT MOONS, KINGS RD - KEITH JAMES, SINGER/SONGWRITER: FREE 8pm.
- HEX - WRESTLING AT 7.30. PROBABLY A REPORT OF LEISURE COMMITTEE IN THE CIVIC OFFICES. HELLO MARTIN!!
- SHP - "THE EMERALD FOREST" (15) 7.45 AS 24th.
- SHP - JAZZ-REBOUND, £2.50, 8pm.
- SHP - EXTENSIVE DANCE THEATRE IN "PIER RIDES" DANCE + LIVE JAZZ £4/£2. STARTS 7.30pm.
- CAP + GOWN, KINGS RD - TINETOWN, (HEAVY ROCK) AT 8.
- JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD - EDDIE WALKER (FOLK).

going out

- DIRE COUNTRY MUSIC AT CROSS KEYS + SPORTSMAN.
- PARADISE - "MUFF", RESIDENT, SOUL, DISCO ETC. 8-2. £2/£1.50 UR40.
- SHP CELLAR BAR - LIVE MUSIC 8-11;
- SHP EXTENSIVE DANCE AS 25th.
- SHP VIDEO SCREENING, 7.45 FREE: THE GREAT-EST HITS OF SCRATCH VIDEO VOL 2: ALL THE LATEST TRICKS!
- HEX - KATHRYN BURROWS, 11.10 FREE.
- CAP + GOWN, KINGS RD - SHADOWTRAX, 8.15h.

▷ Friday 28 March:

- READING CENTRE FOR JOBBEE + CAREFREE, EAST ST - VEGGIE DINING: 3 COURSE VEGAN MEAL OF PREHISTORIC PROPORTION. £2.50/£3 (A PEACE PLEDGE UNION BENEFIT SO THEN GETSOP) BRING DRINK.
- LAMB, EVERSEY - FOLK, 8.15h. WORTH CHECKING.
- TUDOR ARMS, GREYFRIARS RD: MAINLY MEN. 8pm.
- DISCOUNT CINEMA FOR UR40 HOLDERS AT OPEN. (AFTERNOON ONLY).
- CAP + GOWN, KINGS RD - WHAT THE CURTAINS" POP WITH POISON" (1) 8pm + £1.
- HEX - GARY WILMOTT 8pm (8pm. TV "COMEDIAN"
- SHP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" (PG) 2pm + 7.45 £2.50: SON GOES BACK 30 YEARS IN A TIME MACHINE, MEETS HIS MUM + FALLS IN LOVE. FRIEND WOULD HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY, NO DOUBT...

▷ Saturday 29 March:

- PARADISE - GREEN ADA BEAUTY CONTEST, MUSIC BY ENA FORCE. NO COMMENT.
- CAP + GOWN, KINGS RD - FAIDOGS, 8pm, £1(?)
- HEX - THE MORRIGAN (FOLK) 12.15, FREE.
- HEX - HUMPHREY LITTLETON 8pm. JAZZ!
- SHP FOLK: COME-ALL-YE NIGHT, 8pm £1.50: NOT TOO MUCH NASAL DECONG WITH FINGER IN YE EARE, I HOPE.
- SHP "BACK TO THE FUTURE" (PG) AS 28th.
- TRUE LIFE ADVENTURE - TAKE AN XI TO TOWER HILL (8.15-4.45 FROM GROUNDST) AND, THENCE, TO WAPPING FOR PRINT PICKET.

Meanwhile the police had chopped the march into three pieces, to isolate the people by the fence. They did this by road blocks, and mounted charges from the exit point on one side of The Highway, up a dead end on the other. Cute, eh...this is what "community policing" is all about. These 3 groups then blocked up one lorry exit point each, from about 10pm onwards. Very few papers had come out before this, which made it worth staying around now. Intercepted police radio revealed that at least two of the three gates, the police were admitting that they were no longer in control.

Although the early outburst of positive feeling soon settled down, the lorries were blocked in until about two o'clock. The sales of the "News" of the World and the Sunday Times were badly disrupted. This is exactly what happened on 1st March and on the Saturday before that too, when there were thousands of people at the plant.

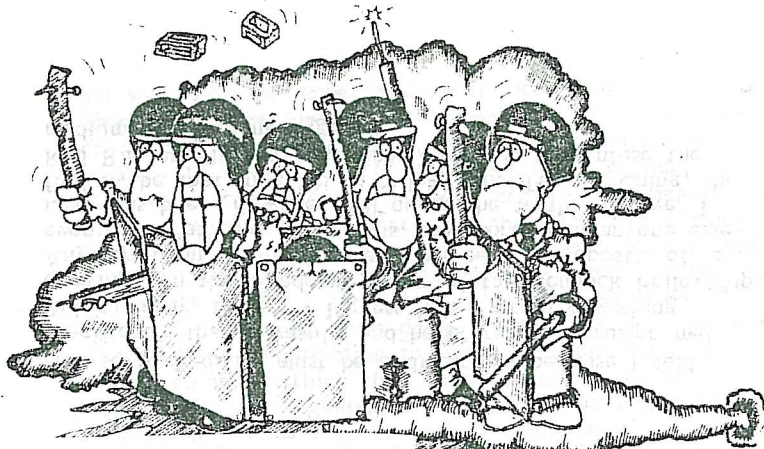


Rupert Murdoch is a fundamentally nasty piece of work, who produces so called "news" papers of a similar quality. He needs stopping. This is in spite of the fact that the rest of the mass media is equally vile. And it is worth remembering that the Fleet St. print workers are trying to defend a privileged position in the British labour movement.

Such a provocative concentration of capitalist greed, tyrannical state power and fabricated lies is, to me, a legitimate target for anger and resistance.

If you think so too, why not take an X1 bus from Broad St at 5.45 on a Saturday evening...

Mark



ON THE SPOT.

This particular area of the protest had been good-humoured. Yes a few police barriers were pulled across the road, but all civilian vehicles were allowed to pass and when the pigs moved to dismantle the half barricade there was no trouble.

A man in a kilt arrived on the scene playing his bagpipes, which went down very well with the crowd, some of whom sang and danced to his tunes. A choir struck up next to one of the copious number of banners in the crowd. They sang songs to tunes such as The Lambeth Walk and Waltzing Matilda; of course the words had been changed to fit in with the occasion.

Time ticked on. 12.00 midnight arrived. Still none of the goods had moved. Despite being cold, the crowd men, women and children, were all in good spirits. Several people had drifted off by this time to catch the last trains. About 300 people still remained. 12.30. 1.00. 1.30. 2.00 still nothing.

Then at 2.15 it all happened. A large number of pig vans sped down both sides of the main road, how many I'm not sure. Out jumped a number of pigs, the real psychopaths leading the way. Kitted out in helmets, shields forward and truncheons raised, they tore into the confused and scared crowd. We backed off, or rather ran, if you didn't you were clobbered and pushed.

Then out came the lorries, massive artics, about twelve of them. The pigs and the scabs were now both the target of jeers and abuse, from those either brave enough or far enough from the psychopaths in blue to escape recrimination, i.e. a beating.

Was this South Africa or Chile? No! Then, it was Wapping, Britain 1986! 6,000 print workers sacked. Union monies sequestered, riot police attacking peaceful demonstrators, all to preserve the freedom of the British press, i.e. the freedom of the likes of Murdoch, Matthews and Maxwell who control 80% of the British newspapers to print their lies and filth and accumulate their millions.

A free country?

Alax

Wednesday 26 March:

- PARADISE - "BEAT BOX" - RESIDENT ELECTRO/ 40 40/ REGGAE. £1.50/ £2 for 2.8-2.
- CAPT GOWN, KINGS RD - VAGABOND (ROCK) 8th.
- SHIP - EXTENSIVE DANCE THEATRE AS 25th - "EMERALD FOREST" AS 24th.
- HEX - BLASTER BATES. A "TOP RACONTEUR" (SIC), BUT DOES HE KNOW MARTIN SALTER? (HELLO MARTIN). 8pm, £3-£4.

Thursday 27 March:

- ROSE, KING ST, MAIDENHEAD - FOLK WITH PAT RYAN 8ish FREE. → CONTD.

Sunday 30 March:

- CENTRAL CLUB, 36-42 LONDON ST - READING COMMUNITY FESTIVAL '84 BENEFIT - REGGAE SOUNDS BY SURVIVORS + KIN & DICK. £2-£3.
- GEORGE, BROAD ST, FOLK, 8pm SINGERS NIGHT.
- BUTLER, CHATHAM ST - JAZZ; CLEM ADELMAN, OR LOTS OF OLD BLUES JUMP JAZZ RECORDS FREE.
- SHIP "BACK TO THE FUTURE" (P). BACK TO THE 28th.
- HEX - CHAS + DAVE. WHERE DO THEY GET THEM FROM? 8pm, £5-6.50. SPECIAL LOCKNEY WORKING CLASS PRICES, NO DOUBT.

the conspiracy presents

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£2 advance
£3 on door 14 april

THE
THREE
JOHNS
+ SUPPORTS

benefit for reading direct action movement & anti-apartheid group

PARADISE CLUB
london st, reading



SOCIALIST POLICING.

Reading Labour Party once again revealed its true colours on 10th March, by calling for another 120 "community" coppers, to "keep crime off the streets", as the Evening Post would have it.

This is an 25 percent increase in the number of police in the town; a further increase in local snooping and stop & search. More people will get nicked for things like interfering with a police officer in the course of his/her duty, or not giving a name and address which is believed. This will be seen as a rise in detected crime, which justifies more police...

Apart from buses, lights and community police, the Labour Party's 10 point action plan says that the police should have better training and recruitment policies about black people, the young and the politically active.

One look at the Police and Criminal Evidence act, and the Public Order Bill, gives a fair idea of how these groups will be treated in practice by the police.

The attitude of the police is that these proposals are on the right track and it's a shame that there isn't the money to get lots more recruits. Shows whose side the Labour Party are on, doesn't it....

Harry Roberts.

SOUTHERN UNWAGED CONFERENCE.

On Friday 4th April 1986, Reading Centre for the Unemployed in East St will be the venue for a major unemployment conference.

ORGANISATION.

So, Paul Petard of the discordians (oops, sorry, TV Anarchists - always acknowledge a person's flag!) is out to amuse us once again! Come on Paul - how do you know that it's only clever dick nazis and wallies who don't know what things mean who paint **A** and **N** beside each other on walls? Presumably you've interviewed every painter. A typical discordian prank, that - offer to hold the paint pot, find out their political views (if any), spill paint on their feet, then only imply you were there. Good to see the Party for War on Evil getting adventurous for a change!

Another thing you imply is that the daubers spread chaos, political confusion and terror. Chaos - yes, but not a lot. Political confusion? Again, a bit; my feeling is that it will tend to confuse the nazis more than the anarchists, though, 'cos nazis are easily led (and thus easily confused), unlike anarchists. The idea that they spread terror, though, is a bit over the top, surely... unless you mean terror to the self appointed organisers of nazism and anarchism; my god! that's the sort of confusion that loses you followers! (Wise up mugs and push off?)

The state seeks to divide, disorganise and confuse us in order to rule us. To overcome the state you've got to overcome people's desire to be a part of a system based on the rulers and the ruled; remember, the state wouldn't be there unless a lot of people thought it was a good idea to have people telling them, and us, what to think and do. We'll never be rid of leaders or hierarchy until enough people think for themselves about everyone else.

However, maybe there's hope! I said anarchy appears from chaos, and Paul's definition of chaos (fascism, filth, war, terror, domination, poverty, ignorance, divide and rule, confusion and fear) must mean we're getting there! All you've got to do is get them there as well. That'll only happen, though, when enough people stop being controlled and trying to control others.

And so to Zed. He must be a discordian because I said specifically that I wasn't, and he promptly recruited me! Did it subtly, though - I guess he's currently working (playing?) in the Academic Order of the Hemlock Fellowship. Anyway, I am not, and never have been, an apostle of, or even plain 'of' the discordians, any more than anyone else is or has been. However, I'll quote the truth wherever I find it, be that in a Sci Fi trilogy, the Tao Te Ching, the Red Rag or Playboy magazine; I try not to confuse the medium with the message.

going out

▷ Monday 31 March:

- PARADISE - PUNK NIGHT: MAJOR ACCIDENT + BAD INFLUENCE + FOREIGN LEGION £2.8-2
- MAJESTIC, CAVERS HAM RD - SOUL FUNK ALL DAYER. £5.16 ON DOOR. WELL FLASH..
- CAPT GOWN, KINGS RD - DYNAMO JOE (BLUES).
- BULL AT NETTLEBED CLOSED.
- SHP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" AGAIN.
- SAME AS LAST WEEK DEPT: ALBION, THATCHES, SILKS. IRISH FOLK AT KENNET ARMS TOO.
- HEX - ROCKY HORROR SHOW 8pm: OUTRAGE - EOUS, AS THEY SAY. £4.16: 50 | CONCESSIONS.

▷ Tuesday 1 April:

- APRIL FOOLS DAY, DEDICATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR LOCAL COUNCIL + LAW & ORDER TASKFORCES. WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT YOU?
- STUDIO BISTRO, LONDON RD - FOLK, 8pm
- CAPT GOWN, KINGS RD - 45 SOUTH (ROCK) 8.
- TUDOR ARMS, GRENFRIARS RD - GAM DISCO, 8.
- BJ MOONS - KEITH JAMES (SINGER/GTR) 8.
- ROCKY HORROR CONTINUES AT HEX, 8pm.
- SHP - JAZZ: 5 LEAF CLOVER: TRAD £2.50 8.
- SHP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" AS USUAL.
- SHP - ONCE UPON A LIFETIME - FAMILY MUSICAL. 2pm + 7.30pm. £3.50 - £5.50.

▷ Wednesday 2 April:

- PARADISE - BEAT BOX: ELECTRO, GO GO + REGGAE 8-2. £1.50 | £2 FORTWO.
- CAPT GOWN, KINGS RD - A.G. + THE ASTRONAUTS, ROCKABILLY, 8.16. FREE?
- HEX - ROCKY HORROR ROLLS ON, 8pm.
- SHP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" AS USUAL - THEATRE AS YESTERDAY.

▷ Thursday 3 April:

- RED RAG EDITORIAL - EVERYONE WELCOME; READ THE COPY, SORT OUT WHAT SHOULD GO IN, PLAN THE RAG. PHONE NO. ON COVER.
- CAPT GOWN, KINGS RD - FUNK AT THE JUNCTION: FUNK(SOUL) REGGAE; GOOD DANCE MUSIC. 8pm £1.
- ROSE, KING ST, MATTHEW HEAD: FOLK, 8.16.
- PARADISE - "MUFF": DISCO 8-2.
- HEX - ROCKY HORROR SHOW AGAIN, 8pm.
- SHP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" (R) AS 28th - LIVE MUSIC IN CELLAR BAR, 8pm - THEATRE AS 1st.

▷ Saturday 5 April:

- PARADISE - JOHN COOPER CLARKE (POETRY!) + LOST WEEKEND (SONGS OF DRINKING DEATH) + ROSBY MCCLOUD (TO BE CONFIRMED) £3. A CONSPIRACY DO, FROM 9.30-2.
- CAPT GOWN, KINGS RD - OCEAN BRIDGE, 8pm.
- HEX - MAYHEM + MADNESS WITH THE FINANCES ROCKY HORROR SHOW, AGAIN.
- RED RAG - PASTUP FROM 11 AM ONWARDS. ANY ONE CAN DO IT! PHONE NO. ON COVER.
- SHP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" RETAINED FOR 2nd GREAT WEEK, AS MY LOCAL USED TO SAY.
- SHP - THEATRE (MUSICAL) AS 1st.
- SHP FOLK - COCKERSDALE (HARMONY GROUP) 8pm, £1.80.
- XI TO WAPPING, BROAD ST 5.45pm, (TOWERHILL STOP).

▷ Sunday 6 April:

- FOLD THE RAG IN ACORN BOOKSHOP FROM 11 AM.
- GENEVE, BROAD ST - FOLK - CHRIS JONES, 8.16.
- SHP - FILM + THEATRE AS USUAL.
- JAZZ AT BUTLER, CHATHAM ST, 8pm, FREE.
- HEX - LONDON MOZART PLAYERS. 7.30pm.

▷ Coming Soon!

- MONDAY APRIL 14th AT PARADISE: THE THREE JOHNS (PUNK ENERGY + STRONG POLITICS) + SUPPORTS. £2 ADV | £3 ON DOOR, 9-130. TICKETS FROM ACORN. BENEFIT FOR ANTI-APARTHEID + DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT. THE CONSPIRACY STRIKES AGAIN...
- TUESDAY APRIL 8th AT MAJESTIC: REDSKINS + SUPPORT. DRIVING FUNK/BLUES BEAT PLUS SOCIALIST WORKER, POLITICS. 8-late £3.
- TUESDAY APRIL 15th AT PARADISE - STONEHENGE '86 BENEFIT WITH BIOPIC BULDOZE (TO BE HEARD TO BE BELIEVED!) + PERHAPS SPACEY PEOPLE 82RIC TENTACLES. £1.50. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONSPIRING AGAIN...

- MONDAY 14th APRIL + WEEK - TUC ANTI APARTHEID ACTION WEEK.
- SATURDAY APRIL 12th, READING CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, EAST ST - GAM COLLECTIVE'S NEW VENUE (FROM HORSE & BARGE) FOR THEIR MONTHLY PART. 8-10. 80p raffle?

The idea of the day is for unemployed people, their groups and any institutions with a particular interest in unemployment, to meet and find out how they can work effectively together.

There will be 4 workshops running at the same time in the morning, for about 2 hours. This set will be repeated again in the afternoon. So everyone will be able to get to 2 of the sessions.

Richard Cottle from Newbury Centre will be convening a Training workshop; someone from Labour Movement Services will be talking about Campaigning (ie effectively organising).

Keith Spurgin from Cornwall and Devon Unemployment Resource Network will convene a session about networking; that is, people benefiting each other by working together.

There will be a session about setting up a magazine, perhaps produced by a network of groups and individuals in the south East, covering things which matter to unwaged people.

This session will feature a woman from the Spare Rib collective, (which like the Rag is based on readers' contributions), and someone from City Limits the London listing magazine.

If you'd like to come along and take part, just phone Liz or Alan at Reading Centre for the Unemployed (596639); please tell us which 2 workshops you'd like to be involved in, and also whether you'll need creche facilities, which will be there.

There is limited disabled access to the Centre, and the toilets are to mobility standard.

The whole thing is free, so let us know soon if you're interested - there are only 60 places. The day starts at 9.30 and ends about 4.30: a veggie or vegan lunch will be provided.

That said, Zed has some good points. He's right in that what I object to is the hierarchical management of society, and more or less right in his assertion that organisation is necessary to sustain life. More or less right, because he has a rather confused idea of what organisation means. This confusion stems from his statement that 'There is nothing un-anarchist about getting organised'. Phrasing it like that allows him avoid specifying who does the organising (he uses the passive voice, so beloved of politicians. Much too negative for me - no-one's doing anything). Now, as a rule (ahem), I have no objection to thinking people doing, or avoiding doing, anything they choose. I also have no objections to self-organisation. However, I do object to someone who thinks they can organise me, and I object most strongly of all to anyone who thinks they can make me organise myself. Is this what you're trying to do, Zed? You seem to use the word anarchy very unfreely, with little awareness of other people's freedom. **CONTINUES →**

DISINFORMATION.

One view that 'left' and 'right' have united on is that anarchy is a horrible situation to get caught up in. After all, they say, we must have something to base our actions on "The game is no fun if some players cheat". Some of them go so far as to say that all of us humans need a god who will tell them what to do or not do, and most of the others say that anarchy is a wonderful idea that will never work in practise.

A few are confident enough to be able to say "I don't know YET". I accuse the rest of spreading disinformation, or to put it bluntly, of LYING! The Discordians said they were offering "more disinformation" about themselves.

implied meaning--don't take anything we say on trust. by extension--don't take anything anybody says on trust. This leads to confusion and/or paranoia.

How often have we been involved with phrases such as ...I didn't mean that.

...You've got it all wrong.

...Ohh! I thought you meant

...Why don't you say what you mean? etc. etc et bloody cetera. Or indeed the attempt at self righteousness justification.

...Can't you take a joke

...You know what your trouble is? You've got no sense of humour.

At this stage I can only suggest two possible courses of action. The less pleasant of them is to sit still and gibber. Which of course gets you nowhere. A more useful but by no means guaranteed route is to accept that there is no standard of absolute TRUTH, then try to resolve as many confusions as we can, in ways that we are happy to agree on, and that the real world can't dispute.

Friday 4 April:

- ALL UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WELCOME TO UNEMPLOYMENT CENTRE FOR CONFERENCE - SEE ELSEWHERE FOR DETAILS. PHONE IN ADVANCE (596639).
- PARADISE - FRENCH & COFFIN NAILS (LOCAL PSYCHOBILLIES), 8-2, £3.
- CAP & GOWN - "SOMETHING SPECIAL", THEY SAID.
- LAMB, EVERLEY - FOLK, "NOT FINCH IN THE EAR", 8.15, FREE.
- TUDOR ARMS, GREYFRIARS RD: GAY DISCO, 8, FREE. MAINLY MEN.
- DISCOUNT UBBLO CINEMA AT THE ODEON THIS AFTERNOON.
- SHIP - "BACK TO THE FUTURE" AS 281 - THEATRE MUSICAL AS 191 - RECITAL BY DANIEL BLUMENTHAL, (PIANIST), 8pm £3.50.
- IS IT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE TODAY, 2.30 CIVIC OFFICES? A COMEDY OF ERRORS, BUT WITHOUT THE JOKE. WATCH IDIOTS RUIN YOUR TOWN.

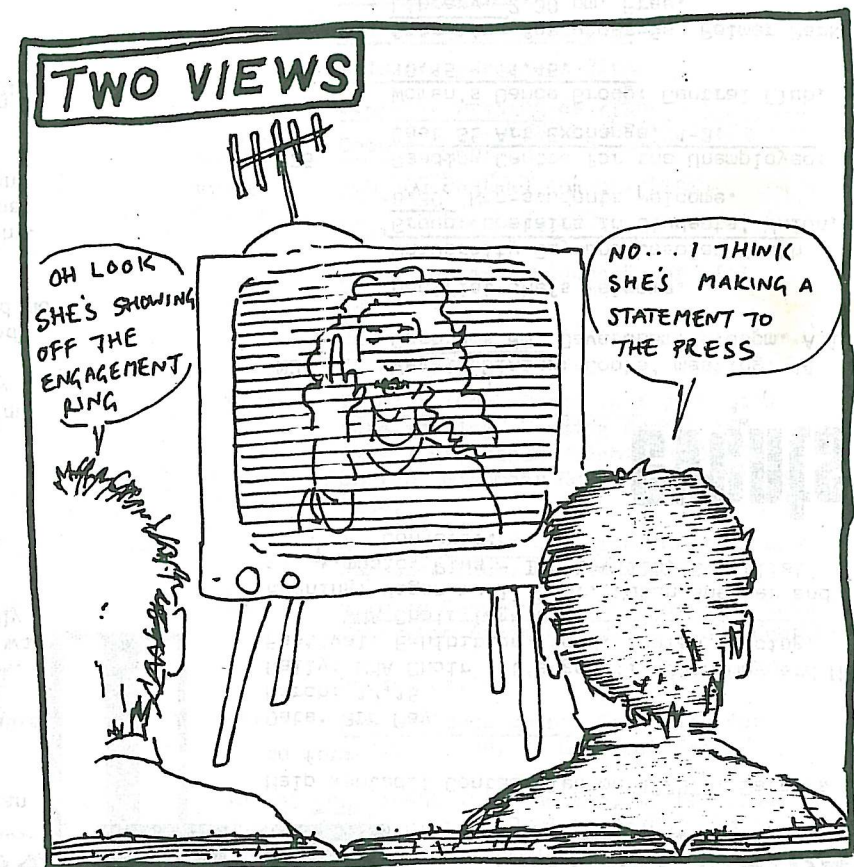
- MONDAY APRIL 7th - CLAIM VOUCHER EVENING AT HEX - WILL THEY BE HAILED AS THE DEVILS WORK (AS RECENTLY IN BRACKNELL)? NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CONSPIRACY.
- FRIDAY APRIL 11th - THE END OF AN ERA... (SNIFF, SNIFF...)

▷ ANY INFORMATION, Gossip, SLANDOR OR BRIBES DISCREETLY TAKEN. GIVE ME A RING ON 868 488.

love + kisses, Mark

▷ Key:

- HEX - HEXAGON, QUEENS WALK, RDG SA1 1
- SHIP - SOUTH HILL PARK ARTS CENTRE, BRACKNELL: BR 484 123.
- PARADISE - PARADISE CLUB, 112 LONDON ST, READING: RDG 576847
- ANGLIES (WOKINGHAM) DO MUSIC THURS/FRI SAT/SUN EVENINGS: TEL 794256.
- UNIVERSITY LARGELY CLOSED FOR EASTER - NO MUSIC (FILMS AT ANY RATE).



POLICE FIVE.

In response to the Public Order Bill, limiting the individual and collective right to assemble and demonstrate, and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, (reintroducing sus and legalising the long established practices of renegade police)...the following actions are coming up. They need the support of ANYONE who ever demonstrated, picketed or otherwise expressed their opinion in public, and / or of anyone who may be stopped by the police- AND THAT INCLUDES EVERYONE OF US

1: April 5th: March to Wapping leaves Tower Hill Tube at 7pm, and picket the print works and carry on this weekends good works.

2: April 13th: Lespop meeting about women and the public order bill, at a venue not yet known. Contact via Box CAPR, 83 Blackstock Rd, London N4.

3: April 14th: Campaign for the Right Of Assembly and Dissent- a group of legal experts, who are organising a lobby of parliament at 5pm. CROWD, 38 Mt. Pleasant, WC2.

4: April 16th: Steatham Action Group meeting at Streatham Library to discuss the public order bill. 7.30pm start.

5: ON THE FIRST SATURDAY AFTER THE PUBLIC ORDER BILL BECOMES LAW, AS IT WILL, the Campaign Against Police Repression (Box CAPR-see 2 above), are organising a large demonstration, which will be illegal. Rally starts at 12 noon, at Clock Tower Place, London N7-the nearest tube is Caledonian Rd on Piccadilly line. H.R.

ORGANISATION

My feeling is that the only way to have a society that can learn how to co-operate and organise effectively without bosses is to have a society of people who realise that bosses and hierarchies aren't needed - no easy task, because the majority of people will not only have to change what they think, they'll also have to change the way they think. Actually, just making them think will probably go a long way towards that, and disorganisation and absurdity are friendly ways of doing that. Also a lot less dull than endless pontification as to the correct political stance for an anarchist (the pontification is endless because there is no correct political stance for an anarchist, or, to be more exact, every stance is the correct one).

Zed's confusion of the meanings of organisation - not to mention his commitment to them - leads him to assume I'm expounding a philosophy. Not so, space captain. Philosophy is the root from which all organisations spring. Any consistent philosophy has to work within defined rules, and be based on axioms, which are rigid, unchanging and 'need no proof because their truth is obvious'. Actually, they're unprovable in the terms of the philosophy; they're 'as given', a fundamental weakness of any consistent philosophy. For example, $1+1=2$; the philosophy (use the word discipline if you prefer) of mathematics can't prove that: Restriction of the money supply = no inflation; the philosophy called monetarism can't prove that: Everything has a cause; the dualistic philosophy (blame Aristotle) that most of western science is based on can't prove that.

Minute minutes of r.r. meeting

16th March. Money: we don't have any again. Not good to depend on benefits. If no money, keep the Rag short. Get more ads. Treasurer: We have a new treasurer (Mary) and new signatories who live in Reading. Co-ordinators: April 5: Paul 869157 (Sun:?) April 19: Chris c/o 667085 (Sun: Ian 661907) 2 May: Mark 868488

(Sat: Simon, Wargrave 2788) May 17: Clive 475909 (Sun:?).

Events: Paul is happy doing it. Problems. To get it typed. Tape: We don't know what the Situation is. May Day: May 3. Rag a day early. Stall. Badges etc? Extra copies. And help. Format: Problem with A3 pages is column width. (I'll say). Good discipline? Notes for co-ordinators (!): A good idea!

James

MAYDAY MAYDAY

Help wanted!! Contact Ted on 477073. Details so far:

Date: 3rd May

March: 12.15

Rally: WMA Choir (it's good!), Joan Maynard MP

Festival: Exhibition, food, Indian dancing, WMA Choir (again)

Evening: Vegan meal, beer, Cuban speaker and music. Plus - Ian Saville, Socialist conjuror!

events

M24

Veggie Dining: Cooks' meeting. 44 Gosbrook Rd, Caversham. 7.30pm. All

pacifist chefs welcome.

University Gay and Lesbian Youth Group: upstairs in Students' Union, 8.30. Non-students welcome.

T25

Reading Centre for the Unemployed: East St Art Exchange, 1-3.

Women's Dance Group: Central Club, 10.15 - 11.45.

Storytime for under-5s, Palmer Park Library, 2.30 pm. Free.

Greenham Support Group: Women only 8pm, Women's Centre, Abbey St.

W26

Women's Day at RCU. Video screenings 1.30-3.30; fabric and yarn craft 10-3 East St.

Green Party: Public meeting. 'A New Look at the Job Crisis' by Paul Elkins. St Mary's Centre, Chain St, 8pm.

T27

Black and white photography at RCU 1-3. Small charge for materials.

Creative writing workshop at RCU, 1-3
Wildlife Garden Project: 1-3, meet RCU, East St.

Pre and Post-Natal Yoga: Abbey Room, Second Floor, Central Library. 1-2.30. Creche if you book. Phone 584171. £2.50, discount for unwaged

SHOOTING THIER MOUTHS OFF.

At its meeting on January 24th the Environment Committee, Reading Borough Council decided that there would be no further shooting of pigeons at the Oxford Road and Caversham Road Bridges.

While this was a satisfactory and welcome action it was qualified by retaining the option to shoot again "for use in cases where alternatives are determined to be not sufficiently effective".

The meeting also resolved to "vigourously pursue" negotiations with British Rail (owner of the bridges) in the expectation that the underside of the bridges could be proofed.

Since that meeting there have several ludicrous and facile statements by some councillors, even suggesting that people who feed pigeons (and other birds?) should be fined! Quite what sort of environment these people wish to create leaves one to wonder.

The Environmental Health Department of the Council approved the shooting in the first place - a totally unnecessary and cruel act. There was considerable protest about the shooting from residents and organisations concerned with animal rights and the environment. A petition co-ordinated by Reading Organisation for Animal Rights was signed by 413 people, strongly opposing the shooting and pointing out that the way to keep pavements clean is not to shoot pigeons whose droppings fall on to the pavements - but to use a broom and shovel.

Next meeting of the Environment Committee is Wednesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. Will discussions with British Rail have been completed and reached a position where the bridges can then be proofed?

A. Pigeon.

All those philosophies, though, are built on the assumption that their axioms are true, and to make people believe the assumption is the truth they just keep on saying 'This is the truth'. It's a variation on the old magical 'what I say three times is true' trick. No, I don't expound a philosophy, but I suspect Zed does. And the only way that anything that has to define rules before it can do anything else can actually expand freedom, is by defining a smaller set of rules. So presumably if he throws his rulebook at me, it won't hurt much because it isn't very big. Not that he'd ever indulge in such an unfriendly act, of course; he's smart enough to realise he may never get it back!

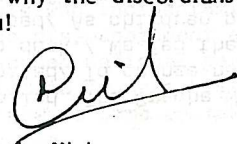
So, what do I expound. A tricky question that, and about the best way to express it is as a feeling, which, like all feelings, is inconsistent. To an extent I gave that away when I said that anarchy's authority lay in its constantly changing unwritten rules - and, incidentally, I don't recall J S Mill ever saying that. I have no commitment to any ideas (I think!): commitment to an idea means the idea rules you, and being ruled by an idea is the first step towards being trapped in an organisation. Organisations, unless they embrace disorganisation, are bad for everyone in them, but worse for everyone else who isn't.

Do not despair though! Acknowledgment of disorganisation is a great strength. Moan about it by all means, but moan about organisation as well! In some circumstances (Newtonian physics, for example, or writing an article for the Red Rag), organisation is useful. In other situations (quantum physics, for example, or writing an article for the Red Rag), disorganisation is useful. Existence is a mixture of order and chaos (you must have noticed!) - invoke either, as you see appropriate.

For example, when suddenly confronted by a bandwagon, I'm tempted to invoke a spot of chaos to dispose of the conductor and driver, and enjoy either the order or the anarchy that results. From the looks of it, Paul Petard is the driver, and Zed Feecher the conductor: I could be wrong though - convince me! (I suppose it's symptomatic of my 'sleazy tolerance' that I give you the opportunity to do that).

The discordians have adopted as truth a parody of all organisations. This is no bad thing when you remember that all (non-disorganised) organisations are a parody of truth. As a general rule, truth and politics are incompatible. Anarchism, however, has the potential to transcend politics: perhaps that's why the discordians are so keen to stick apart from you!

Lots of love:



Nick

- F28 Colour photography at Rcu, 2-4.
Veggie Dining: (PPU benefit) at RCU, 8 till late. Tickets in advance from Acorn £3 (£2.50 unwaged) Please bring own drink.
- Sun 30 Craft Fair: at Wellington Country Park, 10-5.30. Adults £1.50, child 70p.
- M.31 Univ Gay and Lesbian Youth as 24th
- T1 East St Arts Exchange as 25th
Women's Dance Group as 25th
Storytime as 25th
Greenham Support as 25th
- W2 Women's Day at Rcu, East St. No details to hand, apart from fabric and yarn craft.
- T3 RED RAG Copy deadline 8pm, editorial meeting 8pm. For details ring co-ordinator. 'Help always wanted, eg typing B/W photography at RCU as 27th
Pre and post natal yoga AS 27th
Wildlife garden as 27th
Creative writing as 27th
- F4 Colour photography as 28th
- S5 RED RAG Pasteup and printing
March to Wapping to support the print workers. Leaves Tower Hill 7pm.
- S6 RED RAG folding. At Acorn from 11am. Help always wanted.
- M7 International Peace Year co-ordinators meeting. Reading Branch AGM (sic!) Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd off Woodcote Rd 7.30.
Anti-Apartheid Campaign: Meeting 8pm Paradise Club. Please support.
- T8 Reading Campaign Against Benefit Cuts Caversham Against Fowler, 7.30, Church House, Cav'm.
- F11 Peace Pledge Union: Gathering for action, 7.30, 44 Gosbrook Road.

To get your event into Red Rag, write to our usual address or ring Paul on 481081. Do it now. If you go to a meeting, why not write a paragraph about it for the Rag?

THE WOMENS CONFERENCE

The South-East Women's Conference in Reading on March 7-9th, was organised by a group of women in Reading. A lot of hard work was put into the conference, not only by the collective but also by other people. The whole idea of having a conference to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th was to bring together women from all over the South East, to share experiences and ideas and to have lots of fun!

As someone who was actively involved in the conference, I can truly say this and more was achieved. On Friday evening everyone was running around widely, trying to make things work, putting up notices, tidying RCU and generally having nervous breakdowns. It was originally decided to have Friday night as registration night, though this didn't really happen as most people paid for performances and workshops on the day they took place. The Cystitis Sisters really got the conference moving, with lots of infectious singing and acting, even though Cindy forgot her words and lost her voice! The performance went down really well, and was the beginning of a weekend which proved that women really are doing things for themselves.

Saturday was the busiest day. For the workshops alone there were over 70 women. The workshops ranged from massage, black and Irish women through to spirituality, acupuncture, rhythm and video. So there was certainly lots going on for women.

Food on both days was cooked by Sonia and Donna. The food was mostly healthy, with no Es or additives - except on Sunday when a request was made for chocolate biscuits. Women have asked me to say thanks to Sonia and Donna. So there you go - thank you.

The conference also had a creche which was open all day from 9 till 6.30. The creche was staffed by various people, mostly men, who did an absolutely marvellous job. Cliff drove the minibus on Saturday afternoon when we took a group of children to Prospect Park, then Martin bought everyone ice creams. Yummy! Some of the creche workers congregated in one of the quieter moments and wrote a little ballad

called 'The Creche Worker': 'We worked and toiled/ To change nappies soiled/ From dawn to dusk./ We fed them rusks/ We smiled and cooed/ As children peed and poed/ And at the end of the day/ We received no pay./ Just bellies full of food.' A great big thank you to: John, Cliff, Simon, Mike, Jackie, Martin, Sarah and anyone I forget.



JOHN COOPER CLARKE : RORY McCLOUD : LOST WEEK-END
PARADISE CLUB : SATURDAY 5th APRIL : 9.00 - 1.30
TICKETS; £2.50 IN ADVANCE FROM ACORN : £3.00 ON DOOR
A CONSPIRACY/RED RAG BENEFIT.....

On Saturday evening RCU was bursting out with women who came to watch OVA perform. OVA did a wonderful performance lasting over 2½ hours. At one point they handed out instruments and we all took part in a rhythm and singing session. You sing as well as doing rhythm-play. This was very popular, and I think a few people were sad to see the end of it, as well as the concert. For anyone who didn't see OVA, hard luck - you missed an experience.

After the OVA concert feet were still tapping and hands clapping and so it was onto the floor to boogie. Thanks yet again to Jane for the music. So the deck wasn't too good but well you can't have everything. Saturday evening turned out to be a lo-o-onight with many people really feeling the rhythm of the music well into the night. When I arrived on Sunday morning RCU was locked up and needed to be tidied up. "Huh - late night revellers!"

Sunday was a quieter day; most people were still hung-over probably from the night before. Though it didn't prevent them from turning up for Sunday lunch. Nut-roast, no less, courtesy of Alan Godwin. Thanks. On Sunday afternoon there was yet another sexuality workshop! as well as a rhythm workshop, creative art, third world women and KI. The evening saw the performance of The Mother, based loosely on Brecht's The Mother. This was quite well attended and extremely moving. Women felt it was very appropriate as it was after all mother's day.

The Women's Conference was a tremendous success, as any woman who was there knows. There was a wonderful feeling of closeness and belonging between the women, which was great to see. Since the conference, workshops such as the spirituality have got together as groups. The spirituality group meets every Thursday at 7pm at the Women's Centre, run by Elaine. The rhythm workshop inspired a number of women, and Jamming in the Larder no longer means making marmalade - ha ha ha! Since the conference women have met and made many new friends and the general feeling is, 'Gosh, we must have another conference.' If you're a woman who never went to the conference, then all I can say is I'm sorry you couldn't feel all the energy and warmth there.

Thank you to all the women who came, and all those people who made the conference possible.

FEDERATION

The days are getting warmer and brighter, the flowers are starting to bloom, spring is in the air. It is at this time of the year that anachos everywhere turn their minds to thoughts of federating with other comrades. Already in Britain this year there have been two attempts at a National Federation launched First the Anarchist (ex Communist) First the Anarchist (ex Libertarian) Communist Discussion Group's 'Anarchist Communist Federation', then the Streatham Action Group's plan to initiate a federation after a conference this summer. In this climate it seems only natural to suggest an East Berks Libertarian Federation.

Over the past few years the Reading Anarchist Group has fractured. There are now several different anti-statist or anti-capitalist groups in the locality: Reading DAM, Revolutionaries of Everyday Life, Industrial Myths of the Near Future, Discordians, Bracknell Anarchists, Thames Valley Anarchists and the Airstrip One Liberation Army. (Some of these groups do not exist and never have.) There is a considerable overlap between certain groups. This is not a call for some mythical anarchist (or syndicalist or situationist) unity, as some of the differences are real and even

necessary. There is however some considerable degree of common ground which it might be better to traverse together. Look at the number of groups involved in last year's Henley Regatta fiasco, for instance.

As well as the usual benefits that go with greater strength of numbers, there is also the 'spiritual' (geist) aspect. Mixing only with the same small group of comrades results in a rather incestuous development of ideas and actions. A federation would help in the development both of the member groups and, more immediately, of comrades as individuals.

All comments on these ideas are welcome. Reply either in these pages (keep it short please - typist) or via Box 21, Acorn Bookshop.

Steve from Bracknell

SITUATION

THE POINT IS TO MAKE HISTORY JUMP

In Reading, the word 'Situationist' is a cautionary tale, since it is used either as a death-curse or to describe a very weirded-out, 'head-room only' game down the road well in the outer limits, involving thrones, dominions, twilight zones, some very experimental chemicals and really wasted genes; but all that is now over since the heavily psycho-surreal Industrial Myths of the Near Future recently shut-down together with its 'pre-jump' consciousness expanding 'Project Sigma' after the mental 'shattering' of its 'main man' and his deep-psyche fade-out into a Kafkaesque-situational fugue. But a new Situationist community soviet has just been set up, to get the engines going again and it's called 'The Schismatrix', bringing with it a new wave of theory and practice from the Situationist 'body disparate' which in itself has the only effective critique of the coming-soon information-babylon/babel, and we're talking multi-nationals, zaibatsu or corporate 'lifers', the Vid' itself, along with artificial intelligence, cyber-space and gene programmes....the struggle over the means of production, the dignity of labour, the industrial workers of the world, Wapping are all pre-history; a history lost in the miseries of the decomposition of unions and the division of labour. The terrain is really changed, it's pure programming phenomena and information; it is no longer merely a question of the subversion of social relations or making radical changes in everyday life. The Spectacle is going through an evolutionary jump and it's taking everything with it into the image syndrome cum videodrome; where you've either got to struggle for/decode a sense of community or blank out in a series of increasingly marginalised recuperations. Class is dead, the one thing that has remained and endured from the primordial ooze of industry is COMMUNITY and that is what SITUATIONIST ACTIVITY is all about, creating a situation for ongoing community soviets against the inevitable rise of multi-nationals; who incidentally aren't going to tolerate resource mis-management and socio-political incoherence by out-moded national governments and states, much longer. The point is to make history jump, because we want the future now, so come on, take a chance with us - accept no substitutes.

CONTACT JAYNE KICK, ROSEMARY PINK c/o THE SCHISMATRIX: THE NEW 2001 COMMUNITY SOVIET - BOX 2001.

ANTI-APARTHEID

The Reading Anti-Apartheid Campaign meets regularly in Reading, organising local activities. Coming up is the TUC Anti-Apartheid Week of Action, April 14-20th. There will be a benefit on Monday 14th at the Paradise Club with The Three Johns. On Wednesday 16th there will be a public meeting with speakers from British Trade Unions who have been involved in anti-apartheid activities; and on Friday 18th a film show. Both these events will be at St. Mary's Centre, Chain St. There will also be two Saturday morning pickets: at Tesco's on the 12th and at Barclays on the 19th. The next organisational meeting will be on Monday 7th April at 8pm at the Paradise Club. We urge you to give as much support as possible.

R.A.A.C.

STONEHENGE MEETING

For the first time, a Public Meeting on Stonehenge Free Festival is to take place. This will be at Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury, on March 21st. The Chief Constable, the National Trust, the NFU and landowners, MPs, organisers of other festivals and many others will be there. The main pro-Festival organisation is the Stonehenge 86 Campaign, which has some 30 affiliated Festival groups. The meeting has been set up by clergyman David Penney of the Salisbury Diocesan Office, and seems to be a real attempt to solve the problems of the Festival and prevent a repetition of the disgraceful police pogrom of last year. The Festival groups are intending to find a solution: a suitable time and place, liaison with local authorities, eg on health; and a co-ordinating structure involving local residents. The Stonehenge 86 Campaign claims 'nationwide grass roots support' behind its aim 'to co-ordinate a festival rather than a confrontation'. We hope its opponents are as reasonable. The Campaign's address is c/o 99 Torriano Avenue, London NW5; its next meeting is there at 7pm on March 24th.

James, from a press release

FIRM BUT FAIR?

To assume that this is just as a result of tory prejudice & all party incompetence is possibly incorrect (this time)

The Department of the Environment is presently examining the rent arrears situation in many councils & since the DOE is the source of ever dwindling housing investment & rate support grants we need to be seen as a 'good' council. Infact its not beyond the realms of possibility that the whole exercise has been staged to appear as if something positive is being done about the problem in a good tory way.

There has been no tenants voice in the working party report, no contribution from the CAB & other voluntary agencies in the town & most importantly no account seems to have been taken of the possibility that the the solution may not lay in the councils hands (beyond lowering rents).

Arrears may occur for a variety of reasons. Local Authority tenants cannot automatically be assumed to be the same people who occupied council property ten years ago. Equally the financial resources of longstanding tenants will have varied.

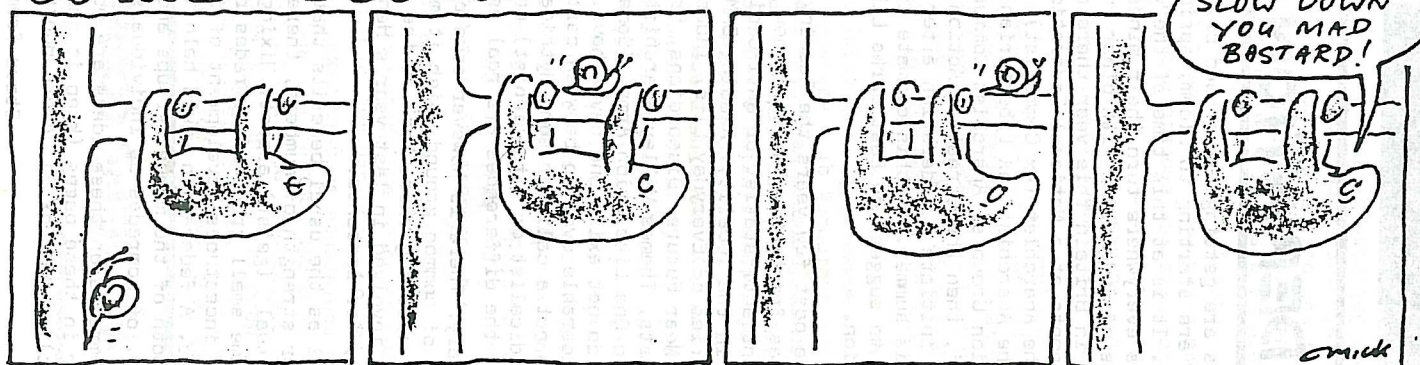
Council housing becomes more of a welfare provision month by month as the better quality housing is sold off. Remaining tenants with half decent incomes who do not want to buy their council places may wish to leave accommodation as a result of declining services & conditions by buying private property.

These are only two of a list of factors which contribute to leaving councils with their least desirable properties & less well off tenants. When the problems then begin to increase the council say that they will adopt a new policy of 'firm but fair' & expect solutions to the arrears problem to lie in the personal qualities of remaining tenants.

As soon as this borough accepts that it is bad political/social policy which creates peoples problems then we can start to bring about constructive change. So lets stop pretending that its an issue of 'bad' tenants being unfair to 'good' tenants then we can (using Cllr Jones's words) give up re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

John H

THE WACKY ADVENTURES OF CYRIL THE SLOTH



Next issue: Co-ordinator Paul 869157 - Events Paul 481081 - Going out Mark 868488
Copy to Red Rag, c/o Box 79, 17 Chatham St, by 6pm Thurs April 3rd

SMALL ADS.

****FOR SALE: Washing machine, front loading automatic, old but works perfectly. £25, can deliver. Reading 484120.

****TO LET: Room in vegetarian family home in Lower Caversham. Short term let - a couple of months only. £20 a week. Tel. 483416.

****WANTED: Assistant for alternative bookshop in Le Puy in the Massif Centrale (SE France). For a few months, or forever. Small flat goes with the job and small wage. MUST speak good French. Ring Adam [Rdg 660373] for details.

****WANTED: Person to share flat with a Red Rag co-ordinator. Castle Hill; late C18th house with fine view of Police Station. £103.50 pcm. The ceiling is being fixed! Ring James 595605.

****FREE to good home: tatty but functional 3-drawer filing cabinet. Reading 473156.

****WANTED: A BIG kettle with strong bottom - suitable to leave standing on a Rayburn. Will pay or give donation to Red Rag. Urgent, for a present. Ring Dora on 481031.

****ANYBODY interested in sharing bulk buy of 'organic' veg? Cemetery Junction area. Tel 64178.

****SMALL ADS in Red Rag are free and usually very effective. Send them or leave them in our mail box at Acorn, or ring the co-ordinator of the next issue, whose number will be in the current one. Donations very welcome.

****FOR SALE: Record player/ radio and speakers. Very good condition. £30
Phone 869157

POSTAL SERVICE.

Why not have Reading's only newspaper delivered by post? If you (or a friend) live outside the grass roots network community distribution area (ring Pogle on Distribution about this) but want to read Red Rag then:-

1) Write to Veronique at Box 79, 17 Chatham St., Reading, sending name and address and P.O. or cheque for postage. A pound will last for three months. Donations to cover printing also very welcome...