



KILL THE BILL

PUBLIC ORDER BILL PASSED
CAPR MARCH AND CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 29 NOV

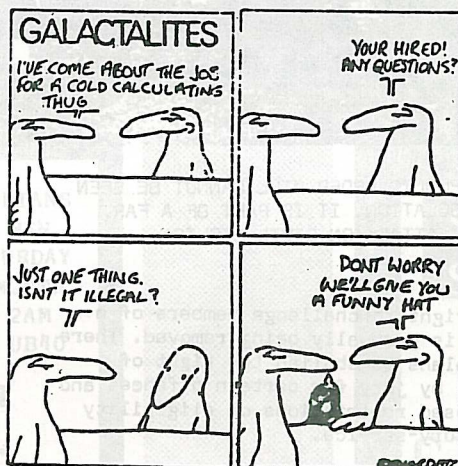
Last Saturday saw the march against the Public Order Bill pass off as planned, without incident. Around six hundred subversives and undesirables affirmed the right to demonstrate in what were once our streets.

The Public Order Bill is one of the most important and far-reaching pieces of legislation to be introduced for a long time. It is part of a wide-ranging attack on what we have been told are our 'basic democratic freedoms'. Street crime and football hooliganism are thinly veiled excuses in the imposition of the 'Law & Order' policies which have become this governments election ticket.

THE PUBLIC ORDER BILL IS AN EXERCISE IN CONTROL-- NOT IN PROTECTION.

Few people can be completely blind to police misconduct even if they have not personally experienced it. The new laws will legally sanction this misconduct. It will legitimise the abuse of police powers. The police will have the power to ban or to determine the size, time and place of any demonstration. Not only is not only an offence to organise a demonstration without police approval, but simply being a participant on an illegal march could mean a fine of up to £400.

THIS IS EFFECTIVELY A FINE FOR HOLDING A POLITICAL VIEW THE AUTHORITIES FIND UNACCEPTABLE



The march itself was subdued (it seemed a good idea not to give the police an excuse to prevent us reaching the conference that had been planned for afterwards). Much of the march was through residential areas and a lot of time was spent leafletting and talking to passers-by. The pace was brisk (one wondered if we weren't trying to keep up with the police control van in front) and by 3 o'clock we had reached the Friend's Meeting House in Kings Cross which the Campaign Against Police Repression had hired at vast cost. The seating was rigid and geared more towards the speakers than open discussion.

The speakers came mostly from campaign groups active against the Bill, amongst them London Greenpeace, Federation of Claimants Unions, Kings Cross Womens Centre, Anti-Fascist Action, Viraj Mendis Campaign, Stonehenge Festival, Anti-apartheid, CROWD, Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the CAPR.

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

NEXT ISSUE: COORDINATOR TEL 666354
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RED RAG OUTLETS:

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- *BLUE MOON ARTS & CRAFTS (EMPORIUM)
- *READING UNIV. SU (KEN'S SHOP)
- *BULMERSHE S.U.
- *HARVEST WHOLE-FOODS (TRADERS)
- *PAN BOOKSHOP (BUTTS CENTRE)
- *POP RECORDS (YIELD HALL PLACE)
- *UB CYCLES (LONDON STREET)

KILL THE BILL

One bone of contention was the complete lack of support from the Trades Union and Labour movements. Obviously this is not the 'happening issue' at the moment and letters to the bodies concerned provoked little save hollow pledges of solidarity. On the other hand it was heartening to see so much support from Gay & Lesbian organisations who seem to be amongst the few campaigning groups to be actively opposing the Police Bill. The English Collective of Prostitutes and Black Women for Wages for Housework were also well represented.

Though they went on three times as long as planned the speakers were generally lively and relevant - however there were exceptions. The only political party represented amongst the speakers was the 'Revolutionary Communist Group' and as political parties always do he used the justifications of 'Freedom of Speech' and 'Solidarity' to ram his gung-ho political theories down our throats. The RCG was "the only valid revolutionary movement.... ..the only solution..Viraj Mendis is one of my followers (sorry) party..." Basically all the ills on this planet derive from 'British Imperialism' and the RCG are the self-appointed cure.

The only other 'speaker' to compare with the man from the RCG (Ridiculously Conceited Guru) was the day's cabaret act, an Irishman called Trevor Williams. In his soft, beguiling Irish accent, Trevor stepped up to the microphone and began to tell us the story of his life. He had been brought up a Protestant and had just been released from prison...after which he began working for the police. Gradually, people realised that Mr Williams was, in fact, not a speaker but just a stray lunatic who was never going to make any point whatsoever. He was hustled off-stage and only seen again when he shambled up to the microphone during the open discussion to tell us how he could solve all our problems. We just needed to find a leader, get him to write down what everyone wanted and he would take the piece of paper to Downing Street and.... Mr Williams escaped unhurt.

One of the more constructive speakers was a lawyer defending public order cases. She talked about her experience and the importance of fighting these cases. City Anti-apartheid's Criminal Defence campaign have roughly a 75 per cent acquittal rate, whereas at Wapping for instance there is very little legal support from Trades Unions and defendants have to rely on what sporadic help the Printworkers Support Groups can give.

The new charges being introduced alongside the Public Order Bill will make any realistic defense of these cases virtually impossible. The new charge of Violent Disorder is similar to the present one of Threatening Behaviour. However, instead of 6 months the new charge will carry a maximum sentence of 5 years. The law requires only three people to be present and for a person to commit, in view of police officers an act which 'threatens person or property'. This could mean five years in prison for an act that was never even attempted. It seems likely that this will become a standard charge. Another offense dealt with by the new laws is Riot which now can convey a sentence of up to life imprisonment.

One noticeable point about the conference was the absence of concrete decisions. It became much more a sounding out of who was involved and how we were planning for the next march. Since the Bill was passed through Parliament earlier this year a PC has been suspended, accused of sexually assaulting two women and a Manchester University student beaten-up and harassed during and after a demo has fled the country in fear for his safety. The Bill will go some way towards legitimising this kind of police behaviour.

Thugs in uniform, they are the sort of people that we are told we need protecting against.



THE PUBLIC ORDER BILL CANNOT BE SEEN IN ISOLATION. IT IS PART OF A FAR WIDER ATTACK ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

The right to challenge members of a jury is gradually being removed. There are plans to abolish the right of trial by jury for certain offences and proposed restrictions on eligibility for jury-service.

Immigration laws are being passed which result in people like Viraj Mendis being deported to Pakistan where he will almost certainly face execution for his support of the Tamil people.

The new trespass laws herald unprecedented persecution for squatters and travellers. Those participating in a Free Festival will have committed a criminal offence.

Protests or pickets will be illegal unless police approved. At best protest will be rendered ineffective.

The Public Order Bill will affect everyone.

IT IS DESIGNED TO SEPARATE THE LAW-BREAKING FROM THE LAW ABIDING.

The march against the Police Bill will take place on the first Saturday after the Bill becomes law. Not surprisingly the Home Office are keeping quiet about the exact date. Look out for posters, graffiti etc. nearer the date.

The march will convene at midday at Clock Tower Place, London N7 (just around the corner from Caledonian Road tube station). If we are to effectively defy the Bill we must have the support of everyone who opposes what is a savage attack on what is left of our personal freedom. Over 1000 people have already signed a form declaring themselves to be the organisers of the illegal march a copy of which can be signed in Acorn.

We must bring an end to what one speaker called "the policing within the movement", the refusal of campaign groups to acknowledge the relevance of the Public Order laws.

THE PUBLIC ORDER BILL WILL CRIMINALISE DISSSENT.

We may march to the Old Bailey or possibly to Westminster but we will march

WE MUST BREAK THE LAW BEFORE THE LAW BREAKS US.

If there is one demonstration you take part in, make it this one.

Brian Damage

More information from Box 19, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham St, Reading

GREAT BRITAIN
LETTERS
 17
 SS22736
 POSTAGE PAID

WHEN RED RAG WAS
 FREE IT HAD A LIVELY
 LETTERS PAGE
 ALTHOUGH THE RAG HAS
 CHANGED IN SOME WAYS
 IT IS STILL AN OPEN
 FORUM AND ANY CORR-
 ESPONDENCE IS MORE
 THAN WELCOME

Dear Red Rag,

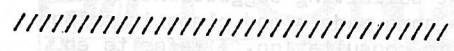
The article a while back about rapes at Molesworth peace camp threw me twice. Once because I assumed the men involved must be soldiers. Twice when I realised that I should have known the possibility of peace movement men being violent to women because of my own experience. I wasn't raped. I lived with a non-violent activist who hit me at various times over a period of about 4 years. It's not "worse" than being abused by a man who supports armed struggle, I'd not say that, and luckily for me he wasn't good enough at it to hurt me badly. What is especially hard is the twist that the espoused ideology gives to the whole thing and makes the woman even less likely to talk about it (e.g. I've driven this peace-loving man to violence). For a man to defend non-violence in meetings and resort readily to violence to enforce desired behaviour in a woman is so irrational and unreal that the woman believes it must be her fault. And to talk about it is to discredit "the movement".

Once I had my wrist twisted round till I gave in and went to the kind of meeting where we "go round and say why we're here" and I didn't say why I was, though the thought dimly occurred to me.

My solidarity is with the Molesworth women and others who have been in this situation for I know my experience is not unique, I think that any man

who defends non-violence vehemently needs to ask himself why. If it's because of fear of what's inside, then the contradictions he carries within can wear at his self-respect and emerge as violence against a woman, in private.

And I feel in myself yet the "fear of discrediting the movement" and my long-held ideals which helped silence the Molesworth women. Silencing goes deep.
 from Liz



Dear Red Rag,

Do you ever get the feeling that local sound engineers want us all to go prematurely deaf?

I've lost count of the gigs where I've found friends cowering in the bar of the Paradise to get away from the hammering volume, while back in the main hall people clench their ears to keep out the intrusion...and if you want to speak to

someone or they to you, you have to bellow into each others ears. Sometimes it's a really good band but being bombarded with mega-decibels detracts from the enjoyment and is neither exciting, far-out nor fun.

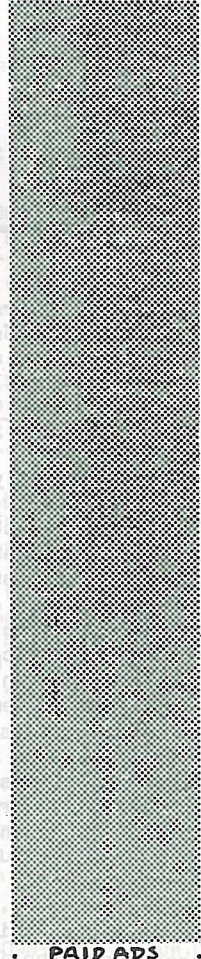
So P.A. people please turn down the volume.

Dilly.

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 SAT 29 Nov
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ICE-SKATING
 TUES 9 DEC
 coach leaves 7.30pm
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Reading's **GAY DAY-ETTE** 13 DEC

READING CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED - EAST ST. - READING.

4-6pm £1.50
 STALLS music food videos

ALL DAY £2.50

 9pm-2am £1.50
 disco buffet CABARET

PAID ADS

FUCK ALL THAT

'Should an additional floor be placed in the large town hall to achieve a major enlargement for the Museum and Art Gallery while seeing the famous Willis Organ renovated and retained?'

So ran the second question (the first soliciting suggestions) that with some models and plans is called public consultation. I refer to an 'exhibition' (24-31 Oct) announcing phase II (now phase I) of the old town hall saga mounted in the 'Civic' Offices.

The improvement and expansion of the Museum and Art Gallery within Reading's rich cultural desert is desirable. So the council and planners drew up various proposals without consulting Art Gallery and Museum staff. Staff having been informed were not able to comment until this public exhibition. The public (you and I) were therefore invited to view the exhibition and comment upon the questionnaire provided (above). There was only seven days in which to do this.

The exhibition provided mainly visual evidence in the form of plans and models. Various options were presented. There was however no comparison with present use (even visually). None of the plans provided a scale and no figures were presented, even to indicate improvements. So on the questionnaire the public made their informed comment and suggestions.

The questionnaire refers to 'an additional floor.' This is Option D in the exhibition. It certainly presents an improvement; but as the only alternative - hence inclusion in the questionnaire. So what improvement is it?

"PARTICIPATION"



"WE'VE ALREADY APPROVED THESE PLANS, BUT YOU CAN HAVE A QUICK DEKKO AT THEM."

Firstly the old library on the ground floor will be taken over by the Museum. This will in reality double the size of the Museum. So far so good. The second floor will remain as it is, divided into Art Gallery and Museum. There will be an increase in administration and storage space. Next door lies the large town hall or concert hall, with its renowned organ and acoustics. Listed, the organ cannot be touched without national outcry, leading eventually to the secretary of state. The additional floor fits cosily in here. Called intermediate (mezzanine being a dirty word) it is at the level of the balcony. So the concert hall, sliced in half, will once again hear the renovated organ howling from the new orchestral pit, into an acoustically unaffected room half the volume. Beneath the intermediate floor will be changing rooms etc for the orchestra and some more art gallery space. So planners have successfully improved museum and art gallery space and included a renovated concert hall. This option brings into conflict music and the visual arts. If this is not approved we fall back on option C (no intermediate floor). Therefore no improvement of art gallery space which relies on the vandalism of the concert hall.

"CONSULTATION"



"WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU.... SHUT UP AT THE BACK!"

To gauge why option D is only a minor improvement in space we have to recognise the present problems of the Art Gallery. At present it consists of one large room and two smaller rooms that together are about half the large room. This has to show the large permanent historical and contemporary collections (in the two smaller rooms) and contemporary work, by mainly local artists (in the large room), both in the form of changing exhibitions. At present the facilities are inappropriate to show much contemporary work, ie large scale sculpture, performance, installations, video and all time-based artforms. Option D offers no improvement to this situation. The space under the intermediate floor is only a 22% increase.

That is less than half the large room already in use. A figure not given to the public in the exhibition and which is glossed over in the questionnaire as similar to the 100% enlargement of the Museum. Surely to have a good educational base in the visual arts all the collections should be available as well as changing exhibition space with facilities for contemporary scale and media.

So who played a consultative role? The planners did not consult staff. The council did consult the public but with loaded and inadequate information. Only one improvement option D was presented. Can a mere member of this 'democracy' present another option? There is a third floor to the Museum/ Art Gallery as shown in the models but not referred to in the plans. Could this house administration and storage space? This would give more space over to the ground and second floors. Or has the borough swapped this with the county in return for the library space? We should be told. A lift should also be built to give the disabled access. Above all lets make sure the Museum and Art Gallery are both improved equally. In 10 years time let us not still be in the dark ages.

Marcus

FREE FESTIVAL?

Now some of you may be thinking, "Mmm not a bad idea." Well here is your chance to do something about it.

Next summer within a few miles of Reading a free festival is going to happen, but festivals don't happen by chance. They need a lot of preparation, like fund raising, planning, locating, raffles, legal hassle and God knows what else.....

This is where YOU come in, because a lot of help is needed, so if you're bored mindless - with no particular aim in life, or if you have't got a minute to spare in the endless cycle of work and play, or even if you just like the days, etc. for a worthwhile cause, namely YOUR festival.

What we need is your ideas, thoughts suggestions, skills, knowledge, in fact anything you can offer, if your mind is a blank and you know nothing about organising festivals your time is needed, we'll find something for you to do and you might learn something useful.

So, off your arses and get yourselves down to THE ACORN BOOKSHOP-CHATHAM ST and leave your name, address and/or Telephone No., and any ideas, skills, knowledge, etc., at BOX NO. 4.

Alternatively, there will be a meeting in the BOARS HEAD, FRIAR ST. READING on TUESDAY 16, DECEMBER, at 8 P.M.

BE THERE

Remember, it is YOUR festival and as some sage once pointed out:-
"THE MORE YOU PUT INTO IT, THE MORE YOU GET OUT OF IT." GO FOR IT!

LIVE & DIRECT:



The Dangerous Dahl Brothers present...a comprehensive look at musical life in the town over the next few weeks...question: is the art of going out something that is no longer "done" hereabouts, or is it just second term Thatcherite POVERTY?? Good to see that the Polish Club on London Rd are doing Gigs every month-we need all the venues we can get at the moment!

WED 3 DEC:

*PARADISE-an evening of , well, The Surgery Stand up against the Winner's Massive in a dub clash style...a Conspiracy evening, 9.30-12.30, gate price one nugget and make it a date or...stay in and watch telly.Good night on telly, Wednesday is.....

*NINO'S-Mr. Moonlight's Slick Serenaders...do they still feature Ben Guppy from Social Services?..... (note to Tory readers... moonlight is not used in its usual context of "unemployed layabouts whocdon't REALLY need the dole/well it's obvious isn't it I mean they MUST be on the fiddle or else how could they live on it etc etc etc contd. p754 great Conservative election speeches of our time vol 78)
*HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GILL xxx

THURS 4 DEC:

*Late night shopping in Broad St.Look out for the crowds of people admiring the beautiful Xmas lights..well it said in the Heaving Pist (so it must be true I suppose...)
*JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD-Capt. Pike & The Crucials.
*SHP-no gig tonight cos the venue is temporarily closed for building works or summat.
HEX-sloppy drivle from The Fureys and Davey Arthur 8pm...Top 20 folk from Ireland but how long would they last in the Kennet Arms????

*Turning Blue is issue one of Schiz Arts mag hits the streets(as the phrase goes)todayish or perhaps just soon.Interview with fave fascists Zodiac Mindwarp,, reviews and, er things.50p.A bargain...

FRI 5 DEC:

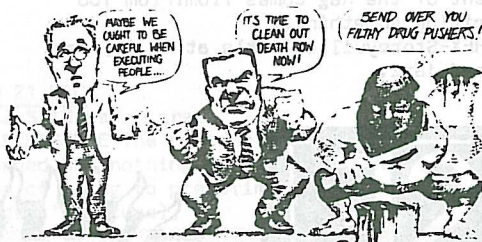
*OXFORD OLD FIRE STATION-The Oxford Improvisers Coop...good fun to be had by all. Will probably feature the best dressed virtuoso sax gast-ronome this side of the Arkestra.

*PARADISE-Pressgang (local band who perform folk on electric/electronic instruments) & support.£2, 9-late.

*Spot the NF boneheads in the Turks Head if you care to.Ugh.
*St. Josephs Hall, Western Way, South Ham, Basingstoke...benefit for the Riley Project(youth self development by sailing around the world etc) with locals Earthlore (space pop) and Suburban Dreams(just pop, space cadets). Doors open 9ish.

*CAP & GOWN- Back Beat Band,8-2am. big, brassy and soulful band. £1.50

Computer Generated Profile of the ideal Candidate for Public Office in California.



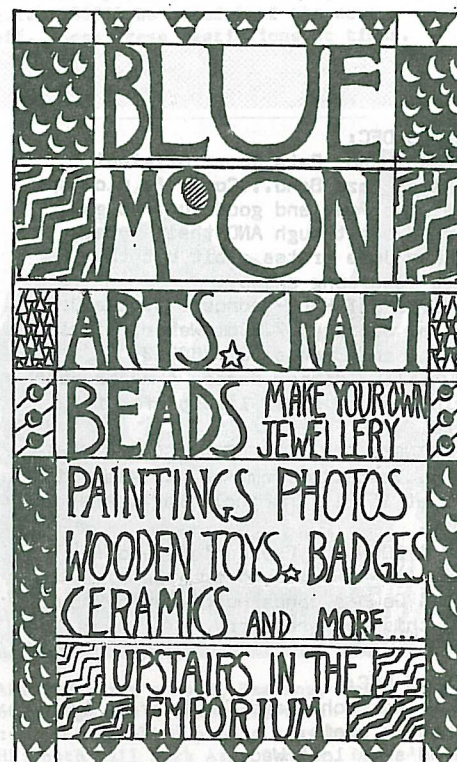
Not a Chance Better Best

SAT 6 DEC:

*Happy Birthday Pogle xxx
*HEX-Prime Time, 12.15 pm, free.Nice to see them doing something before they devote their entire energy to Dick fucking Whittington with Geoff "Oi you're nicked" Capes.....
*PARADISE-UK Subs (somebody tell Charlie Harper about the concept of growing old gracefully leRETIRE and/or start cutting hair again.Not mine though. Also on the bill are White Speed. Now if this lot are what used to be The Sugar Casters, I can't help being prejudiced by their horrendous attitude when I saw them in May. At the time I thought they were the worst band in Reading if not Berkshire. But I'm a miserable old git, with no sensahuma.£2.50, 9.30pm-2.00am with music over a bit before that.

BRING & BUY SALE in aid of the Blue Peter appeal, to raise munny for curing eye diseases in Africa,11am at 38 Liverpool Rd. If you Can't come but want to donate something ring Lynne on 65955.....

CAP & GOWN-Antz Avenue.Usual 2am bar



PAID AD

*WINDSOR ARTS CENTRE-The Jeremiahs : excellent acoustic-y pop with feeling and beauty. A 210 Give A Child A Chance benefit.

SUN 7 DEC:

*London Musicians Coop, Gloucester Ave. Camden...The Recedents, asight to behold("music's baddest baldies" it sez 'ere)Lol Coxhill(reeds, crooning and stories), Roger Turner (all things percussive) and Mike Cooper (everything else),and The Mayhem Quartet (musical dahl making?)
*BASINGSTOKE CARIBBEAN CLUB, Priestley Rd... The thickening Plot present Pop Will Eat Itself (good-that way we might rid the land of A-Ha and other trips) and Exit East.
*DOMESTIC-Sorry, Majestic...more capitalist than Henry Ford, they now charge £1 to get into thier Alternative disco."Alternative" means Bon Jovi b-sides.....mind the bouncers!

MON 8 DEC:

*KERRANNNGGG-Come in Space Pixies, it's Hawkwind time again.Whhhheeeee burble burble.What can I say???Except that it costs £6 (SIX!!) to get in.....
*Happy birthday to Craig xxx
*Guess where hawk wind are "playing". Yep, the Majestic...their last gig for weeks BECAUSE they can make more £££'s out of Poxy sit down dinners and some crappy old disco for a few weeks... Beh.....humbug.

CAP & GOWN-Hook Line And Silverfish. Danceable, soulful pop.

LIVE & DIRECT:

TUES 9 DEC:

*TURKS HEAD- Pete James Original Jubilee Jazz Band...Come fe nice up the area.Free and good fun.Pub gets packed out though AND their version of Hey Jude grates a bit but then I hate the song anyway.

*UNIV GREAT HALL- concert by the Orchestral Society, 7.30pm:Weber, Nicola Lafanu and Brahma,tel 860293.

*DOMESTIC- dinner dance. A major contribution to local live performing arts.

READING's GAY COLLECTIVE GO ICE SKATING...details from Acorn...also tickets at £5 all in, including transport.

CAP & GOWN-The Expressions. So far I haven't had too much trouble with the Cap & Gown's bands but I don't know who this lot are.Sorry.

WED 10 DEC:

*Eat The Rich, Feed The Poor at the Domestic again.

*NINO's-as last Weds.

*Conspiracy date at the Paradise is cancelled tonight.If you're interested in The Conspiracy-a collective of people who promote benefit gigs..then drop a line to Box 1, 17 Chatham Street, and someone will get in touch with you.

THURS 11 DEC:

*SHP-there may be a gig on. Phone Cave Music in Bracknell to check (91 422395)

*JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD-Joshua...a local reggae band. Sounds jolly.

*Late night shopping again,how long is the traffic queue along the King's Road?...

CAP & GOWN-Rühning Wild.A band, not what the pub is doing.

*Teach yourself psychobilly less-on 436B...beha'viour at social gatherings.Muscular young men with nearly no hair flail at each other("chickendancing"),cover each other in bruises etc.Much drunken lurching about , accompanied by shouts of "I was there my man!!! was there!!!"and the nazi salute.

FRI 12 DEC:

*READING CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, 4/6 East Street...Veggie Dining.A 3 course vegan 'n' veggie nosheroonie by candle-light...collectively cooked to raise pennies(and pounds!) for the Greenham Food Van.....see elsewhere for details. 8pm start, bring your own booze:tick-ets are £2.50 / £3waged from Acorn...

CAP & GOWN-Too Sweet To Suck.

SAT 13 DEC:

*Happy Birthday. (number??) to Gabby xxx

*READING CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, @ 4/6 East Street... Reading's Gay Collective disco, 9pm-2am, details from Acorn Bookshop.

*RED RAG COPY DEADLINE 6pm AT ACORN: Have you ever thought where the content of the Rag comes from?From YOU writing something!!

*HEX-Storeyville Tickle at 12.15,free. Trad jazz.

U.S Foreign Policy Exam
1) Which of the following guides Administration policy towards South Africa?



a) The welfare of 15 million blacks.
b) Diamonds

M. M. M. '86

Also,"I'm still there!!"(pint slopping wildly in the breeze all over the nice clean Stingrays T-shirt which his mum(sorry, that's "his old dear"), has just washed. "Stroll back my man Sofaa, that's a bit cat innit?" (a phrase which ought to be familiar to those of you who have been with us for some time now)

PARADISE

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER

PRESS GANG +
Justice League of America

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

U.K SUBS +
White Speed

FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER

JO JO NAMOZA +
Home and Abroad.

Admission £2.00 on Door

9.30 - Late, Last Band 11.30

112 London St. Reading

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- HERE & NOW - 12/5/84 - C90
- HERE & NOW - 1/10/83 - C90
- FRANK CHICKENS - 18/8/86 - C46
- OZRIC TENTACLES - 7/11/86 C90
- OZRIC TENTACLES - 21/12/85 - C90
- OZRIC TENTACLES - 15/4/86 - C90
- ROBYN HITCHCOCK - 2/6/86 - C60
- JO JO NAMOZA - 2/6/86 - C46
- CARDIACS - 6/8/86 - C60
- 3 JOHNS - 14/4/86 - C60
- CHOCOLATE TEAPOT - Studio - C60

All bargains at £2.00 each!

LIVE & DIRECT:

WED 17 DEC:
 *BUMPER XMAS/SOLSTICE/NEW YEAR/WHAT EVER ITS NOT RIGHT ON TO CELEBRATE ISSUE OF RED RAG OUT TONIGHT AND ON SALE AT:-
 *PARADISE-The Conspiracy and Radio 210 present The Jeremiahs(fine guitar based pop), Beat and the Devil(reformed heavy funksters), Ministry Of Humour (songs of wit and wisdom) and Clive Product(local cult legend).9-2am with the music ending at 12.30 ish.

THURS 18 DEC:
 *RED RAG COLLECTIVE MEETING-open to anyone who is interested in the Rag. 56 Hamilton Rd, 8pm.
 *CAP & GOWN-Shush, 2am bar, £1.50
 *JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD-Hondo..... more Reggae.
 SHP-The Surfin' Lungs, 8-11pm, 75p/£1.50 if waged.Surf/pop Xmas Party.

FRI 19 DEC:
 *PARADISE-Jo Jo Namoza(very exciting rhythmic band, moving away from a Talking Heads style and into their own) and Home and Abroad(who sound JUST like The Smiths on their demo tape).9pm-2am,£2 on the door.
 *CAP & GOWN-Jonah Reece.

SAT 20 DEC:
 *PARADISE-Military Surplus(roots and creation inna Hungerford style,very good), and Rubber Rubber Vortex.A benefit for the Planet Earth Project

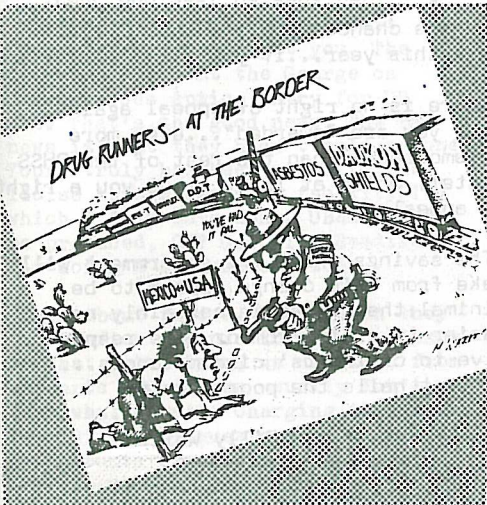
SUN 21 DEC:
 *MAJESTIC-usual crap
 *BASINGSTOKE-The Plot have something planned but nothing finalised at the time of going to press(inept correspondent's excuse).

INFO:
 *PARADISE:Paradise Club 112 London St Reading,Tel576847.Disabled access good except for 2 steps down into the bar.
 *MAJESTIC:Majestic, Caversham Rd,Reading.Tel 586093.Be careful of the door staff. Loony dress restrictions at times.



*CAP & GOWN:King's Road, Reading, tel 586006.Gigs are downstairs, which makes access for disabled people very bad.
 *SHP:South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell;tel 0344 484123.Gigs are in the Cellar Bar , so disabled access is not good. But there may be a side entrance.
 *UNIVERSITY:Students Union, tel860222, ask for Entg Office for info. Good disabled access as there is a ramp from one level to the next. Can town people get in?

*HEX-HEXAGON, Queens Walk, Reading tel 591591.Good access for disabled via basement level car park.Very bad from the main entrance.



SUN 14 DEC:
 *The Plot are supposed to be doing a gig at Babylonstoke Caribbean Club, but there are no definite details at the moment.
 *DOMESTIC-another oh so bloody alternative disco. I can't wait.
 *RED RAG PRODUCTION needs people to help with typing today...see front cover for details.....

MON 15 DEC:
 *Oooohhhh, only 9 shoplifting days to Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 *RED RAG paste-up. Ever done it?Ever felt like learning by doing?
 *HEX-Well. For the next 78 million years there's Dick Whittington on at the Hexagon.We are spared this on 21st, 25th 28th December but the Hex aren't actually putting anything else on.And the pantomime in the Council Chambers next door is far more dramatic and it doesn't cost owt. Well, apart from £100 million on roads, the untold cost of traffic, capitalism, and not being able to go to the pub without some twit going on about how many 'k' they are earning.....
 kill them all, as Lee Perry once said.

TUES 16 DEC:
 *Stroll back my man Sofia, they'll be chickendancing in town tonight..... Happy 18th xxx
 *TURKS HEAD-jazz as usual.
 *DOMESTOS-vomit in a basket and Julio Inglesias for a tenner.
 *RED RAG paste-up...the bleat goes on.

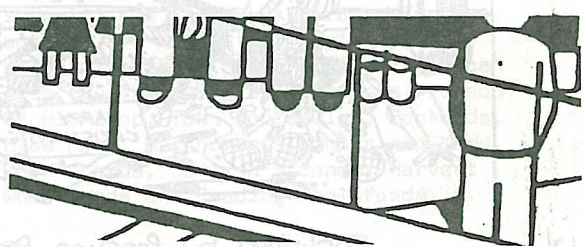
*Teach yourself psychobilly lesson 437A9(ii)...field trip to the Klub Foot , Clarendon Ballroom, Hammer-smith. No excuses notes please, eg "Please excuse Elvis/Hogface/Brian Coffin-nail from chickendancing today.He has got a chill."No my man no indeed.Students are expected to make field notes, sketches, exclamations etc as they think is appropriate, and then report to me by Sat 13th Dec.in time for a bumper Xmas lesson...have yourself a snotty little Christmas..

RED RAG COLLECTIVE

- * The next issue, deadline 6pm, Sat 13th Dec, will be the last for a month so anything happening up to the middle of January should be in by then.
- * OUTLETS We need more outlets to sell the Rag. Any offers ?
- * Distribution: We also need people to take on a regular commitment to deliver Rags to one or two outlets and get the money back to us. More people could push the Rag at gigs, too.
- * MONEY: We're NOT in the red ! but we're not sure yet how well we are doing.

* RED RAG is not just a listings sheet: we want more news and more emphasis on articles written by people involved in actually doing things. So if you've been on a demo, had an interesting time with our beloved State,are campaigning on some issue... get in touch. Red Rag is still an open forum for the expression of diverse views - use it. Share your experiences; help each other (and me) make life in Reading worthwhile and enjoyable... (Failing that, anyone for revolution?)

* NEXT MEETING: 8pm,Thursday 18th Dec Ring 665332 for venue.



COLD COMFORT

DHSS payments to Supplementary Benefit claimants for extra fuel costs in periods of severe weather are the latest area of the Welfare State to be "streamlined" by a government out to get the poor, the elderly, and the unemployed.

Last year, claimants could try for a single payment for extra heating based on comparing bills for the quarter in question and the same period in previous years.

This was hard enough to claim, because:-
1. Payment was only made when the Government said that the temperature was low enough-ignoring little things like local climate variations and how cold people's houses get.

2. To work out how much extra fuel you had used, you needed bills to arrive. Sometimes they arrive after the time limit for claiming had expired. Sometimes old bills were not representative because they too related to a period of severe weather.

3. A complicated procedure, resulting in DHSS payment AFTER the severe period, made many people hesitant to turn up their heating...one direct result being thousands of people being made ill, or in some cases dying, because a so-called welfare system didn't actually work.



"I NEVER REALISED LIFE COULD BE SO WARM AND COSY."

A new look at these regulations was long overdue-especially after the farce of "Is it officially brass monkey weather yet?" which hit the news last year.

This government's idea of a review doesn't give much comfort though... the new system for this winter retains the idea that "The state is the only one who can say when it's cold"... (The Met Office is in charge of the Official Thermometer), and once again claims have to be made within 28 days of the "Period of Exceptionally Severe Weather", meaning that people will lose out by not knowing how much fuel they have used cos their bills have not come yet.

Instead of paying people for how much extra fuel they actually used, the new system pays £5/week of exceptionally severe weather, no matter how much you actually spent. Thousands of claimants got more than this in 1982 and 1983.

So the chances are that you'll get less this year...if you get anything at all.

There is no right of appeal against what you are "awarded"...even more undemocratic than the rest of the DHSS system, which, at least gives you a right of appeal.

The savings which the government will make from this change appear to be minimal; the system is certainly not easier to claim from or more responsive to claimants' circumstances... it just nails the poor. Again.

Billy Whizz.

PS... For more info on this it would be worth talking to the Citizens Advice Bureau or the Centre for the Unemployed's welfare rights team (tel 596639).

PLAY FOR PEACE

YOU MAY SOON BE BUYING YOUR CHILDREN, OR OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN, TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS!

WILL YOU BE GIVING THEM PRESENTS OF WAR TOYS LIKE IMITATION MISSILES, BOMBS, VIDEO WAR GAMES, MACHINE GUNS OR ANYTHING THAT SUGGESTS WAR IS A GLORIOUS GAME?

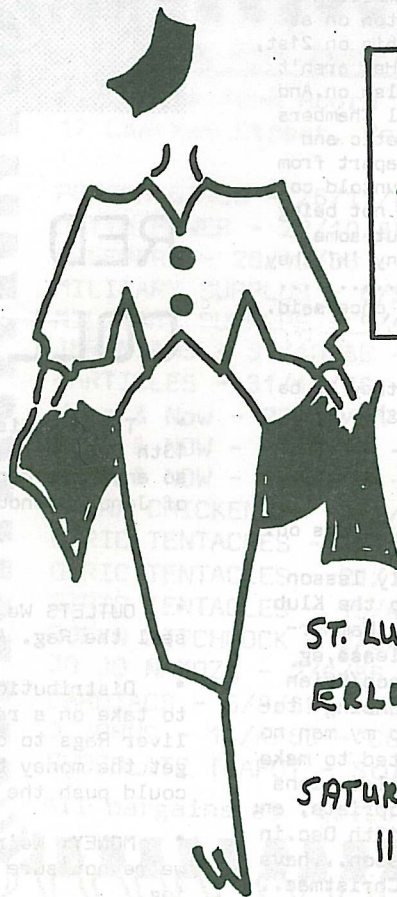
PLEASE THINK AGAIN, THERE ARE MANY EXCITING THINGS IN LIFE APART FROM WAR! REMEMBER THE MUTILATIONS AND AGONY CAUSED TO INNOCENT CIVILIANS SEEN RECENTLY ON TELEVISION.

SO WE BEG YOU NOT TO IMPLANT IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINDS THAT KILLING PEOPLE IS A FUN-GAME!



Published by Reading Peace Pledge Union - Box 10, 17, Chatham St., Reading.

RAG DOLL + ALLSORTS



GIANT ONE-DAY SALE

OF

PERIOD CLOTHING
BRIC-A-BRAC
JEWELLERY

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH HALL,
ERLEIGH ROAD, READING.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11th

11 AM. - 3 P.M.

ADMISSION 25p

MUSIC FOR FOLK

Some news for you, or at least for the unwaged amongst you. The Readifolk Club at the George on Sundays does a price entry for UB 40s. That's the good news. The bad news is that they hadn't told anyone. Yours truly has been asked to publicise this under-used facility(!) which I duly have done. UB40s must be produced, OK? Good for Readifolk for doing a concession, too.

More about prices. The reason they don't often feature in these columns is that folk clubs, as distinct from concerts and dances, usually don't know what they're charging till the day. Different guests charge different amounts etc etc. I try to put them in when they are known.

On to the music.

Thurs 4: Hexagon, Reading. Yup, your very own council-run entertainment complexity is putting on a concert of Irish music: The Fureys and Davey Arthur. £5/6/7. Ouch. If you like Irish music but ain't upwardly mobile go for the Kennet Arms, Pell St on Mondays, for that unusual combination of friendly atmosphere and musical excellence.

Fri 5: Comrades Club Singers Night (Above BSM on the Oxford Rd.)

Snippet: A Bagpipe Society gig at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, London, with Paul James and Jon Swayne of Blowzabella, Peter Stacey of Aberjaber and Jean-Pierre Rasle of the Cock and Bull Band. Details 01.281.2836. This is not yer Edinburgh tattoo stuff, this is danceable!

Sat 6: Lots and lots.

Haddenham Folk Day at the Middle School and Village Hall Centre, H'Ham near Aylesbury. Incl June Tabor (if she's well again!) with Martin Simpson, Roy Bailey of the velvet voice and committed songs, Judy Small, Australian feminist singer and songwriter, Bryony, 3 women from Yorkshire with amazing harmonies and a good line in we're not really feminists but, the Stewarts of Blair (see below), Strawhead who are an experience (amazingly energetic stuff of very dubious political flavour about the Civil War of all things. Worth seeing once!) There's more. Details Aylesbury 85995

Oxford 2-day voice workshop with Mavis Sawdy who did the recent one in Reading. Tel 0865/511620

Bracknell South Hill Park Cellar Bar: Bread & Roses, 4 local women with very interesting harmonies and a lot of women-oriented material.

Farnham Maltings: (Nr Farnham town Centre) Ceilidh with Tiger Moth, all kinds of established dynamic "rogue" folk illuminaries with lots of energy and welly. £3. details 95/724638.

Aldershot West End Centre, Queens Rd, A'shot: African Rhythms night with Ekome dance/drumming group & Spliff Riff. Tel A'shot 21158.

Sun 7: Readifolk, George Hotel, Corner of Broad St, The Stewarts of Blair; long-established traditional Scots singers. Unfortunately, the current Folk Roots article about them gives lots of folklore but doesn't let on a lot about the music. Find out by going!

Farnham Maltings: Dick Gaughan & Hassan Erraji. £/3. I've yet to hear Erraji's voice, which is apparently gorgeous, or his oud playing, but I can vouch for his incredible percussion. A Moroccan master worth hearing. And Dick Gaughan, revolutionary material, warm voice, huge presence, a treat. Details 95/724638



Mon 8: Nettlebed (The Bull, High St, Nettlebed): Barn Dance with Hugh Crabtree of the great taste in blazers (more folklore!), and Phungus. Definitely a jolly one, this.

Tues 9: Turks Bottom at the Bistro, London Rd. Woodbine.

Fleet (Fox & Hounds, Crookham Rd, Fleet) Ministry of Humour, a trio of lads with their hearts in the right or rather left place. A bit too much guitar for my taste, but very interesting songs. If you've missed them so far in Reading, give 'em a go.

Oxford (Jericho Tavern, Walton St) Andy Irvine. Renowned Irish singer with mandolin and mandocello. £1,75/£2/£2.25. A gap.

Fri 12: Comrades Club.

Sat 13: Aldershot: Blowzabella's Xmas concert and dance £3.50. For anyone who's got the Bagpipe/Hurdy-gurdy bug, and anyone who hasn't had it yet. Great stuff.

Bracknell. Rosie Cross and Bill Martin of Pyewackett. Tasteful, varied repertoire of a high standard.

Sun 14: Readifolk: Ewan McColl and Peggy Seeger. A, some would say the, grand old man of the committed folk song. She's the originator of many of the refreshing contemporary women's songs that we need! Go early.

Mon 15: Nettlebed: (2b confirmed) Bonnie Shaljean. Strong-voiced American singer with keyboards and electric harp.

Tues 16: Turk's Bottom at the Bistro. Oxford: Xmas Party. Donation at the door.

Fleet: Xmas special with Gordon Tyrrell.

Thurs 18: Xmas Party (get around, this lot) Maidenhead, The Rose, King St.

Fri 19: Comrades Club.

Sat 20: Xmas Party (again) with Spring Chickens, a woman and 2 men with voice, guitar and percussion and lots of humour. At Bracknell.

Sun 21: Readifolk: Xmas Party with Mark T "and friends" it says 'ere. Good music in store and I hear rumours of mince pies.

Mon 22: Nettlebed. Xmas Party with Nettlebed nummers

Forthcomingssssssssssssssssssssssssssssss

Readifolk Singers' night Dec 28, Bent Penny Jan 4, Oyster Band Jan 18. Pressgang will be back at the Cap and Gown, Kings Rd mid-Jan on Thursdays with Lions and Shadows, Andy Hepburn, James Vada and themselves, Rory McLeod & the Kipper Family, Farnham, 4th Jan

Last Minute Addition Section
Oxford Ceilidh at West Oxford Community Centre, Binsey Lane, O'D, £3 with the Mellstock Band, an outfit working in the Thomas Hardy idiom. Info 0993/5702

Thanks to all who've sent in info. Makes it all worthwhile! More, please, to Folk Listings, Red Rag, Box (NOT POST OFFICE BOX!!!) 79, 17 Chatham St, Reading or ring Liz on Rg 53437.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Reading Between the Lines, the 'unofficial guide to Reading', is, we are pleased to report, selling reasonably well. So it should be, at £1.20 for 120 pages plus cover and map. In fact it's rather under-priced, and is still £300 in debt to Acorn Bookshop who printed it. The local press turned a blind eye for once (because we didn't send them a copy). W.H. Smith's has eventually decided to refuse to stock it (officially because they don't like it but really because the bookshop manager doesn't understand their new computerised stocktaking system and so won't buy anything which doesn't come from Head Office in Swindon!). Other shops to ban it include the University Bookshop (1) the University Students' Union shop (1) and Paperback Parade. Top two outlets are Acorn (110 copies so far) and Friar Street Bookshop (60); you can also buy the guide at Eurofoods, London St Bookshop, Town Bookseller, Bookends, Blue Moon, Backnumbers, Books and More, Pop Records, Saffron Strands, Harvest Wholefoods and Reading Wholefoods.

EVENTS

Hello and welcome to another far-out fun-filled fortnight in your fave bit of roadworks. Events this week is short and sweet. This column should be (I think) the most important bit. Basically we need someone to compile and type (not necessarily) a fortnightly guide to what people need to know. CVs etc. to BOX79 well here goes....

SATURDAYS: Don't forget the printers, its been X number of months and they need all the support they can get. Weekly soirees at Fortress Wapping. **THURS 4 DEC:**

* Reading PPU the local anarcho-pacifists meet 8pm at 1 Halstead Close Woodley. All welcome.

FRI 4:

*Readings galloping gourmets present the most filling night out on the face of the planet. 8 til late at the RCU. Tickets £2.50/£2 from Acorn

SAT 6:

*Anarchist Festival @ Leamington Spa (what?) Bath Place Community Centre 12am till midnight. Sounds fun!
*From the people who brought you Stonehenge '85 woodland work at Slinndon (where) with the National Trust!

SUN 7:

*City Anti-apartheid Dayschool at Poly of Central London, Marylebone Rd

MON 8:

*How ever many shoplifting days till Xmas. Watch out for the latest grossup your fellow consumers campaign by the Chamber of Commerce- more in next Rag

TUES 9:

*FeD UP WITH SCUMBAG LANDLORDS? Meeting for anyone interested in setting up a small housing co-op. 8pm 56, Hamilton Road Info:665332
*Readings Gay Collective go ice-skating. Meet 7.30pm outside old ABC Cem Junction. Tickets £5 from acorn.
*BANC action(?) meeting @ Friends Meeting House 8pm. Where were you on the *26th then? Answers on a postcard.

WED 10:

*Namibian Womens Day. Rally 6pm Traf Square. Bring sanitary towels for collection.

THURS 11:

DAM public meeting Conway Hall Red Lion Sq (Holborn Tube) 7.30
*Rank & File Workers v. TUC in-action

FRI 12:

**"Anarchism and Stonehenge" Discussion at Mary Ward Centre Queens Sq. 8pm

*No rest for the wicked Veggie Dining returns for another Three course bout of lovely vegan scrums. This time in aid of the Greenham Food Van which BANC have just stopped funding.

SAT 13:

Readings Gay Day at Reading Centre for the Unemployed. Stalls, music, food, videos and hopefully lots of people. 4-6pm £1.50. Disco 9-2am £1.50 or all-day for £2.50 from acorn

*BANC Xmas stall St Mary's Church 11-1pm .Info: Rob on 67824 Help needed.

SUN 14:

*Not Church burning time again!

Only 10 heretic-flogging days till Xmas.

TUES 16th:

*RED RAG COLLECTIVE MEETING IF you've got something to say or you just want to help Readings Lonely Newspaper. COME ON DOWN! Ring no. on cover for details. Snork those gr. gobblies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Reading Campaign against Benefit Cut Cuts. This one's almost as important as the Rag meeting. RCU- I think

WED 17:

*BANC planning meeting 8pm FMH

oo

*BYE, BYE (sob,sob) to Val & Derek Two less real people in Reading....

*Hello to John H. Hope you're OK!

*Details of events, barmitzvahs, natural disasters to BOX 79. Sorry to the LP LPY LPYS for losing it

This one compiled (well almost) by RMBLING ROSE XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

FILM AND VIDEO HAS EATEN ITSELF THIS WEEK. SORRY! TRY THE SHP & RFT GUIDES

★ ★ ★ *The First* **THAMES VALLEY** ★ ★ ★

NATURAL HEALTH AND BEAUTY FAIR

SUNDAY
14th DECEMBER 12-5.30pm


St. Laurences hall
Abbey Square
off Kings road, Reading

ENTRY £1
NURSES & STUDENTS 50p
UNEMPLOYED & OAPs **FREE**

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!

From July this year processed foods will have to list additives on their packaging. Although this may appear a step in the right direction the government has, as usual, judged the issued by allowing some products and many additives exemption from this ruling.

Reading 51909



World Education Berkshire

W.E.B. PROJECT WORKERS

Have you ever wondered why people are dying of hunger when there is enough food for everybody in the world?
Have you asked yourself why some people oppress others?
Do you believe everyone is born equal and therefore should be treated as equals?
Are you over 18 and under 64, registered as unemployed and in receipt of benefit?
If the answer to the above questions are 'yes' then you could be the person we are looking for.
Please give us a ring to find out more or write for further details to:

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SLOUGH
TEL: BURNHAM 67401.
Lifts to work usually available.