RED RAG

READING'S ONLY NEWSPAPER
SPECIAL FALL OUT EDITION

MAD DAY

NEXT ISSUE COPY DATE 6PM THURSDAY 15 MAY: CO-ORDINATOR CLIVE 475909: SUNDAY 475909: EVENTS 481081: GOING OUT 868488.....

RED RAG, BOX 79, 17 CHATHAM STREET, READING.



EDWIN MADUNA

MAY 1886

If you've ever sung the full version of 'The Red Flag' you may have wondered why verse two (usually omitted) makes a specific reference to Chicago. The reason is that a hundred years ago this week, Chicago was the scene of the notorious Haymarket massacre and the eventual execution of five revolutionaries who came to be known as the Haymarket Martyrs. However, in this case it was not the Red Flag which 'shrouded oft our martyrs dead', but a black one - the Haymarket Martyrs were all Anarchists.

During April 1886 the socialist trade unions were running a campaign for an eight hour day. The anarchists of the Chicago Black International - an anarchist & anarcho-syndicalist group with a membership of about 6,000 - helped organize the campaign, but their speakers were told to restrict themselves to the demand for an eight hour day and not to preach social revolution.



On May 1st, 1886 there was a strike meeting outside the McCormick Reaper works. While the anarchist August Spies was speaking there was a disturbance followed by gunfire. With guns and clubs the police broke up the meeting, killing two strikers and wounding several others.

The anarchists called a public meeting in the Haymarket for May 4th. When the meeting began at 7:30pm there was a crowd of about 3,000 including the Mayor who had come along to observe. The anarchist speakers denounced the police and went on to discuss tactics and social revolution. At about 10pm it began to rain and people started to drift away, including the Mayor. A few minutes after the Mayor left, police inspector Bonfield decided to break up the meeting. Slowly a line of police began advancing from one end of the Haymarket. Suddenly a small spark of light arced from the edge of the crowd towards the police lines - it was a dynamite bomb which exploded in the midst of the police, killing seven and wounding over sixty. The police responded by opening fire on the crowd. They fired volley after volley at the retreating workers, killing several and wounding over two hundred.

Over the next few days the anarchists who organized and spoke at the meeting were arrested and charged with murder. A show trial was engineered - which even included a relative of one of the dead policeman on the jury - and although no one was charged with actually throwing the bomb, five anarchists were condemned to death. Despite appeals for clemency, Fishcher, Spies, Engel and Parsons were executed on Nov. 11th, 1887. Lingg cheated the hangman by blowing off his own head by biting on a smuggled mercury fulminate capsule the day before. A procession of 25,000 mourners followed the funeral party.

In 1983 the Governor of Illinois re-opened the case and concluded that there had been a miscarriage of justice and pardoned the five.

This year there will be two centennial celebrations in Chicago. One will be organized by the Mayor who will speak of these 'Labor martyrs' who fell in the struggle for the eight hour day. The other will be organized by Chicago Anarchists. It will include a rally, meetings, celebrations, and exhibitions and, on the day after, a 'Stop-the-City' type event in Chicago's business district.

Zed Feecher

COLLECTIVE LEAK PROBE

Unlike some papers, Red Rag does not have reader's meetings(although if readers want them...go ahead!), but instedd, every 6 weeks or so, there are collective meetings, to which ANYONE with an interest in the Rag is very welcome.



CNT militants give the anarchist salute. Barcelona. July 1936.

If you weren't there last Sunday, ...well apart from money(??), preparations for this issue of the Rag, and deciding together on co-ordinators for the next couple of issues ...there was...

*The Red Rag funk tape, which will be out in about a month's time,with Beat & the Devil, bits of pandemonium and lots of other local dance tracks: start saving those pennies now!

*posters, badges and other capitalist merchandise to raise money would be very welcome!

*there will be a benefit gig at the Paradise on May 6th...see elsewhere for details.Maybe also a Veggie Dining extravaganza .....

*participation of "new"people-don't feel shy about getting involved!We'd like to help.there are some notes for co-ordinators in the pipeline.

Most importantly,everyone who was there agreed that the Rag needs NEW PEOPLE INVOLVED , now more than ever before:to be worthwhile, the Rag must be flexible, open and responsive to change.

SO why not drop in a note to Red Rag,(box 79, 17 Chatham Street,Reading) if you'd like to help other people with the Rag?

(Full minutes of the collective meeting are in Box 79 at Acorn Bookshop-help yourself, or drop a note in the box and they'll be sent to you with your Rag).

Core meltdown mark r.

PROSPECT PARK CARVEUP BEGINS

Well documented in recent issues of Red Rag is the unacceptable but now occuring ruination of Prospect Park.

Recently JCB's moved in to start preparations for a new changing room complex adjacent to the tennis courts. This building is the bogus consolation in return for the Mansion House being developed into offices. It is supposed to be paid for by private sources and yet the Secretary of State for the Environment has still to grant final approval.



If the scheme does not get the go-ahead, who will pay for the changing rooms ?

The long-awaited demise of the Tory- controlled Borough Council next week may be the only way to prevent this disastrous scheme continuing.

PROSPECTUS MANSIONUS.

POSTIES

*You want to get Red Rag regularly but you live outside the distribution area;
*You know someone somewhere who would like to keep in touch with what happens in Reading;
*You want to exchange your community newspaper with us;

Write to me:Véronique
"Posties",
Red Rag
Box79
Acorn Bookshop,
17 Chatham St,
Reading, Berks.

sending name, address and... possibly a donation to cover postal costs.A pound will cover 5 issues. I'll send you a reminder when the money runs out.You can make your donation by cheque (to Red Rag), standing order(available at Acorn or in the Rag), cash in the collecting tins at various outlets listed inRed Rag.

Hope to hear from you soon.Take care.
Véronique...



SCUMBAGS

Out and out bastard bed & breakfast landlords are trying to cash in on the plight of profoundly mentally handicapped people whose families can no longer look after them,but don't want them to be sentenced to hospital.

The nearest humane residential home with physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and staff who treat the people AS people, is in Somerset, and costs over £300/week per person.Local Social Services have no provisions like this and seem reluctant to set up new projects, for fear of government spending controls-they prfer to "efficiently manage"what already exists.

As a result, it would be easy for certain landlords to convert some of thrie many large houses-currently let to students and unemployed people -into hostels and rake in £150-£500 per person p er week.

All the landlords need is planning permission for a change of use, and the OK from Social Services.Local councils can be influenced when the stakes are high enough and you know the right people....

Until recently there was only one landlord (a notorious thug who broke people's arms etc etc), who let rooms to mentally handicapped people, and then only if they were slightly handicapped.

But things have changed now;for a year, it's been slightly harder to make a kill ing out of bed& breakfast/lodgings for people on Supplementary Benefit.The government caused the landlords and landladies a little tourle by bludgeoning the claimants, the real targets of their policy.

And, as another landlord has said-houses let out in rooms aren't the major source of income(only£5000 a month in some cases!).Guesthouses, "specialist" accomodation and then "legitimate"business on the proceeds are far more attractive.



The powerful minority who own property to let it out for profit are no longer as interseted in students or unemployed people, (especially as students may have trouble getting housing benefit in the vacations).Landlords are responding by charging higher rents, (25 percent rises in some cases), offloading as many bills and charges as possible onto their "ten ants" doing less and less maintenance work on their houses....and by seeking other ways of transferring the government's wealth to their own pockets, which are already well-lined.

reading at the moment is a housing disaster-even the Tories and the Labour Party have latched on to this in the runup to the Borough Elections on May 8th.If Reading becomes a collecting ground for the money paid by caring families to have their handicapped relatives treated like human beings...thenthe Council and landlords will have got their way-will we let them get away with it?

Mark R.

A LOUSE IS NOT A HOME

Bracknell social services, the county council funded body with responsibility for homeless people, has a list of accomodation for them, like all other social services departments.
In bracknell's case with a population of 80,000 and over 3,000 registered unemployed people, there is just one address on that list. There was a second but the person who owned it recently died. And homeless people who approach social services for help get nowhere to live at all if the DHSS refuse a single payment for a deposit.
So if you're homeless in Bracknell you're entirely at the mercy of a DHSS officer, who may refuse such a payment. The fact that, on appeal, you could well be awarded one is no comfort; the one address you'll be sent to requires a deposit immediately.
Bracknell, on the surface a hive of hightech industry and high income, is a nightmare if you have to ask the state's help in finding a roof for your head.
No wonder people try to leave!

Mark



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HAVE A GO BERKS NEWSPAPER IN READING SCANDAL SHOCK!

Nuclear Power: What it Means to You

How comforting that the Evening Post does so much to improve our town.Just last week , when Labour's parliamentary housing spokesman highlighted Reading's bed & breakfast crisis, the Post informed us of its campaign to "beat the bedsit barons".

This is apparently a campaign which has been going for more than three years, (probably since March 6 1983, when Red Rag did a front page story on the issue). It should not however be confused with the work done by the Evening Post classified section, who place adverts for exactly the same bed & breakfast landlords.

Perhaps the Evening Post would do better in its campaignif it gave up its double standards, and took some responsibility for its own actions.

Who knows-next week it may profit from a front page article exposing itself.

John H.

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SMALL AD: THREE PEOPLE REQUIRE FOURTH PERSON TO SHARE LARGE HOUSE ...NICE GARDEN.SUITABLE FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSON.TEL665332.....

SMALL AD:HELP!HALF A DOZEN OF US ARE LOOKING FOR A HOUSE TO RENT IN READING, FROM JUNE ONWARDS!STILL!!TEL:868488...

SMALL AD: FOR SALE 4 MORRIS MINOR WHEELS WITH GOOD CROS PLY TYRES.ANY OFFERS TO SIMON ON MARGRAVE 2788

EVENTS















- Mon 5 May
  RCU Sign language 1-3pm signing for beginners as well as for advanced students. Screen print 2-4pm designing and creating colour prints.
  University gay and lesbian youth group students union 8.30pm.
- Tues 6 may
  Storytime for the under 5's 2.30 Palmer Park library. Greenham support womenn centre Abbey street 8pm women only.
  RCU art and design workshops 1-4pm experiment with different medias in many different forms of artwork. Key english 10-12 for help or improvement with reading and writing.
- Wed 7 may
  RCU Fabric and yarn craft 10-3 a fresh and informal course on craftwork in fabrics.
  carpentry 1.30-3.30 at Wilson rd.
- Thur 8 may
  Pre and post natal yoga and relaxation classes 1-2.30 Abbey room (2nd floor) Reading central library £2.50/class reductions UB40 creche available if booked in advance phone 584191/61330
  RCU communication skills 1-3 improve your communication from letter writing to interviews.
  Black and white/ · · · 1-3pm theory and practice.
- Fri 9 may
  RCU Colour photography 1-3 theory and practice
- Sat 10 may
  Benefit for handicapped adults Paradise club late
- Sun 11 may
  RCU understanding video: an investigation into v video and what and how it can be used and effect us 11-4.
  Berks conservation volunteers Ufton court Ufton Nervet pond maintenance.
- Mon 12 may
  RCU Video workshop for the unemployed 11-12.30 a chance to learn more about video by working together to plan and produce a short film.
  Video screenings 7.30-9.30 Sign language as last week screen printing also as last week.
  University gay and lebian youth group 8.30. students union.
- Tues 13 may
  storytime for the under 5's Palmer Park library
  RCU Art and design w/shops as last week Key english also as last week
  Greenham support group womens centre Abbey St. 8pm women only.
- Wed 14 may
  RCU Fabric and yarn crafts as before. Carpentry at Wilson Rd. same as last week.
- Thur 15 may
  Pre and post ntal yoga same as last week.
  RCU Comminication skills,creative writing and black and white photography all details same as last week.
- Friday 9 May-party at the Women's Centre Abbey Street, at 8.30pm.Please bring food and drink.WOMEN ONLY.
- Fri 16 may
  RCU colour photography 1-3.
- Sat 17 may
  check out that mine of info GOING OUT.
- Sun18 may
  Berks conservation volunteers flower rescue in Bracknell phone Peter Edge W/ham 781041 eveenings
- Mon 19 may
  RCU Video w/shop for the unemployed 11-12.30
  Video screenings ?? Sign language 1-3, Screen printing 2-4
  University gay and lesbian youth gp..students union 8.30
- Tue 20 may
  Story time for the under 5's Palmer park library 2.3 2.30 Reading birth centre lunch 12-2,30 very informal gathering bring food to share phone 584191 for venue
  Greenham support gp. womens centre 8pm women only
  RCU Art and design w/shops 1-4 Key english 10-12.

- Advance notice 31st May cooperative games at the Maymill centre run by a lecturer in art and movement! £2 waged £1 unwaged,kids and pensioners phone Burnham 67401 for details.

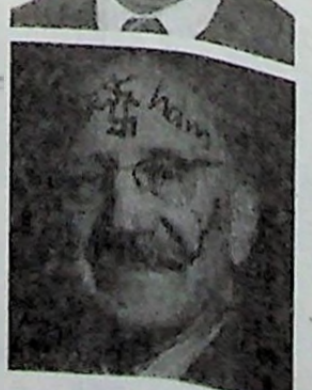
Calculation of health effects in irradiated populations













LETTERS

Dear Red Rag,

This years Reading Council election is your chance to throw out the oppressive Tory Council, and put in one that puts people first and looks after the environment.They have a one seat majority; Labour gains in Katesgrove, Southcote, Park and Redlands will make Labour the largest party, and gains in Norcot and Minster would put Labour in control.

Housing is our top priority-starting to build again, providing improvment grants, taking a humane attitude to the homeless .We will involve



Reactor choice

people more through better consultation with everyone affected by Council decisions.

My own main interest is the environment,Reading will Become a nuclear free zone as soon as possible, and we will look after old buildings, plant new trees and replace dying ones, and recycle rubbish as much as possible.Our planning policices will strictly control office development, set up new conservation areas and make the town centre attractive, safe and accessible to everyone day and night.

We will give all possible support to Reading Transport, which the Tory government has forced Reading to turn into a company, and to encourage cycling.We will try to establish park & ride schemes to keep cars otu of the town centre.we will expand leisure services and make them freely available to the unwaged.

Some other parties support some of these ideas.Labour has the only real chance of putting them in Readin[illegible] only help[illegible] Don't fool [illegible] where it c[illegible]

Robert Dimm[illegible] Spokesman a[illegible] lands ward.