

hard times

F R E E
RADICAL QUARTERLY
 SPRING 1986
 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

WARNING! THIS IS PROPAGANDA

Last years large protest against the South African presence at the Shakespeare Birthday "Celebrations" was a great success and brought a large number of people out onto the streets of Stratford to demonstrate their feelings about the killing of 6 children by South African police at Uitenhage.

A year has passed, during which countless people have died attempting to oppose the racist regime of South Africa. The latest deaths came as police opened fire on a crowd of school-children during a peaceful protest. Two children died and over 80 were injured.

This years demonstration should be even bigger. If you think that the South African regime is wrong, cruel and racist, then April 26th is your chance to voice your opposition to apartheid. Be there !.

Anti Apartheid Demo Against The South - African Flag . April 26th 10am



THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE FLAG ISN'T YET KNOWN, BUT IS POSSIBLY SHEEP St.



SUBVERSIVE

APARTHEID

A LAST DITCH / FLUFFY SHEEP EFFORT

Fox Hunters Out-Foxed

Warwickshire Hunt Saboteurs thoroughly disrupted the Boxing Day Fox Hunt ritual at Stratford-Upon-Avon. The day began at 7.45 am when woodland on the Welcombe Hills was cleared of any foxes when saboteurs lit fire-crackers to scare them off. They also sprayed the woodland and its boundary to put the hounds off the scent.

The saboteurs joined up with other groups to demonstrate as the huntsmen did their feudal round of Stratford pubs. When the hunters arrived at the Moat House they were met by another section of demonstrators.

The Hunt had very heavy police protection throughout. As more members of the Croome and West Warwickshire Hunt arrived at the Moat House, with their blood red coats and upper-class arrogance, some of the demonstrators began to shout Class War slogans, and the police advised the Hunt to move off. They cantered off to the Welcombe Hotel, hotly pursued by a large group of saboteurs on foot.

The Hunt failed to find any foxes to terrorise and kill in the Welcombe Hill woodland, and moved across to the woods behind the Dun Cow pub at Pathlow, 1½ miles away.

Meanwhile, the saboteurs, in 2 transit vans, had met up with other protestors in Gospel Oak Lane, where the police managed to catch up with them and told them that if they went into the woods they would be arrested.

Even though the Hunt did a fair bit of rampaging through the woodland, no fox was caught or even chased! By the middle of the afternoon the Hunt, totally 'out-foxed', gave up and collected on the roadside opposite the Dun Cow, Birmingham Rd, looking like the disheveled murderers of innocent creatures that they are.

The saboteurs vans were stopped by police as they left Stratford, and eventually 'escorted' out of town.

Wildlife Rubbished

An old railway cutting that has become a haven for rare wildlife is to be turned into a rubbish dump - with the backing of Stratford District Council.

The site, at Upper Goldicote Farm, near Stratford, is the home of Great Crested Newts (a grade 1 protected species), marbled white and brown Angus butterflies, and is one of 4 large lizard colonies in Warwickshire. Plants include Bee and Southern Marsh Orchids and Autumn Gentian.

Stratford District Council passed the plans for the 'owner' to dump rubbish on the site, at a meeting of the elite planning sub-committee on February 11th.

Warwickshire Nature Conservation Trust have made strong objections to the destruction of the site, but these seem to have been ignored.

Last year a similar site at Hill Farm, Ufton, near Leamington was destroyed by the landowner, when he levelled the 200 acre site and filled it with building waste. WARNACT said it was "one of the best wildlife sites in the county". The farmer will now grow cereals on the site and make a fat profit from the EEC.

*Oversley Wood, a Site Of Special Scientific Interest, one of the largest woods in the Stratford area, is due to have the Alcester bypass going through its northern end, which will disrupt a large part of the woods ecosystem and drainage.



Demonstrators surround the Hunt at the Moat House.

Treatment Of Gypsy's Condemned

The National Gypsy Council has put out a report which condemns Warwickshire as "a vicious area for gypsy families".

The report is scathing about the 26 pitch site at Pathlow, a few miles north of Stratford. It says "The local authority have absolutely nothing to be proud of."

It also reveals that...

"One gypsy family was forcibly evicted from the site while their mother was dying of leukemia in hospital."

The report came just a few days before Warwickshire County Council announced an increase in rent on sites at Pathlow and at its other camp in Nuneaton. Rents in Warwickshire are already the highest in Britain.

It seems that Stratford and Warwickshire councils are going even further than adopting the government anti-gypsy laws that we reported on last issue, into the realms of outright harassment !

Birds Nuclear Workers Contaminated

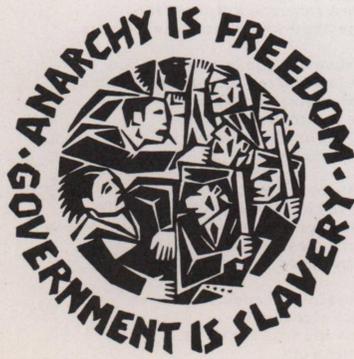
7 demolition workers employed by Birds Commercial Metals, of Long Marston, Stratford-Upon-Avon, handled radioactive metal during demolition work at the notorious Sellafield Nuclear Plant, after they were assured they would not be working in a radiation area.

They wore only gloves and had no radiation monitors while involved in the demolition of B55 turbine hall at the Sellafield complex, two years ago. Details of the incident are only now emerging.

They handled two pieces of metal which were later found to have come from the pile cap of the reactor, through which re-fuelling with uranium took place, and which were later shown to be radioactive. One man was not even wearing gloves during the incident. He was checked and decontaminated at the Sellafield medical centre, and later resigned from his job with Birds.

6 Animal Actions - In One Day !

An organised wave of animal rights protests swept across South Warwickshire on 15th March, taking police by surprise. Several hundred pounds worth of damage was caused to furs at two fur shops in Leamington, and protestors managed to bring the traffic to a halt. The McDonalds "restaurant" at Leamington was occupied by a large group of people until they were ejected by the police. 12 people were arrested in Leamington. Hunt Saboteurs disrupted a fox hunt at Ragley Hall, Alcester, while another group did the same to a fox hunt at Tidmington, near Shipston-On Stour. While all this was going on, and the police were busy, a poultry "farm" at Oxford Rd, Newbold-On-Stour, near Stratford, recieved a visit from a 70 strong group of the Animal Liberation Front !



FOR FOX SAKE - STOP HUNTING !
 HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
 P.O. BOX 19, LONDON SE22



news

REVIEW

Disrupting The Animal Trade

On December 29th, at 1 am, a fur shop and a butchers in Leamington Spa had yacht flares and igniters taped onto their windows. The device at the fur shop ignited and scorched a plate glass window. The device at the butchers was removed by a member of the tactical firearms squad.

The next evening, the police made a massive swoop on people with 'known' animal rights links. 19 people were picked up in the raids and papers and files were taken from their homes. Police later released 17 people, but kept copies of the papers they had seized. 2 people are to face trail for 'criminal damage'.

Transport Cuts

Midland Red announced a string of bus service cuts and changes in rural and local services around Stratford just after the new year, and said that more cuts would follow in Warwickshire in April and June.

Midland Red has already said it will stop evening journeys to Southam and reduce those in the daytime.

These cuts will hit rural OAP's, unemployed and workers who can't afford to buy and run a car.

The deregulation of bus services due in October will allow dubious private operators on profitable runs, and let Midland Red get rid of its unprofitable routes prior to the National Bus Co being sold off by the government.

* Despite British Rails plans to axe major sections of line and reduce services on the Stratford-B'ham rail line, figures show that usage at Stratford station was up by 44.4% in 1985, to nearly 2000 passengers per week.

Avon Poisons

Evesham Friends Of The Earth have issued a report about pesticide levels and animal deaths on the River Avon. It says that fish on the Avon contain 12 times the 'safe' levels of DDT (a 'banned' pesticide) and are unfit to eat. They also say that the in-depth pesticide surveys last summer, showed that the Avon is also contaminated with Mercury.

Unipart Strike

Unipart workers at Honeybourne, near Bidford On Avon, came out on strike on March 10th over conditions and pay. Workers at other Unipart factories at Cowley and Coventry also went on strike.

The bosses immediately threatened to sack all the workers, without notice, compensation, or a right of appeal. The bosses threatened to use scab labour to run the depots.

Due to these threats they returned to work on March 13th, with the bosses saying that if they so much as put a ban on overtime, they will be sacked without notice.

Bomb Depot?

We hear that Kineton Central Ammunition Depot, 8 miles from Stratford, may contain "tactical" nuclear weapons (below 1 megaton), and be a secure 'overnight stop' during the transportation of nuclear warheads.

If anyone has any more information, it will be treated in the strictest confidence and broadcast in the widest possible manner.

Council Invests In Racism

Stratford councillors on the finance sub-committee say they have "no qualms" about re-investing council pension funds in the fascist regime of South Africa. They said that profits were more important than "political considerations".

Riot Stores

Warwickshire police chief Joslin has confirmed that Warwickshire police have had CS riot gas for ten years, and plastic bullets for six, stored at the Leek Wootton HQ.

Jobs-What Jobs

7,500 people, nearly 10% of the working population are out of work in the Stratford/Leamington area. Job vacancies are around 500.

Bits and Pieces

A private developer has applied for planning permission to demolish the former Monroe Devis Maternity Hospital, and build luxury homes on the site.

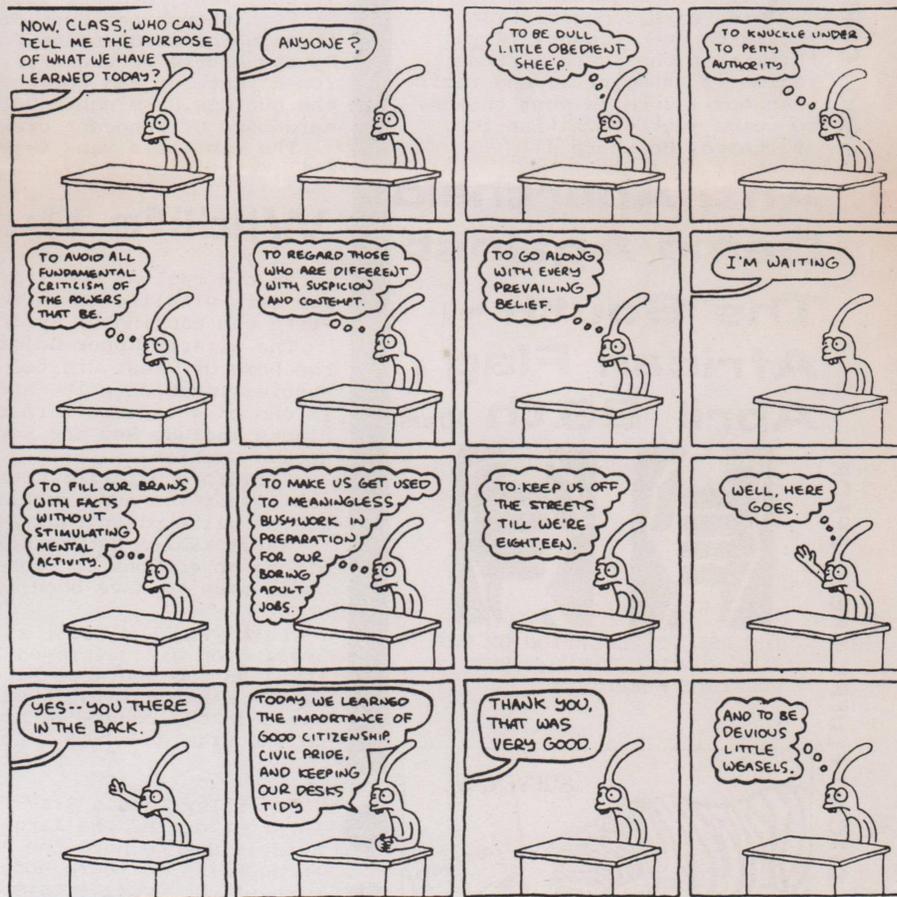
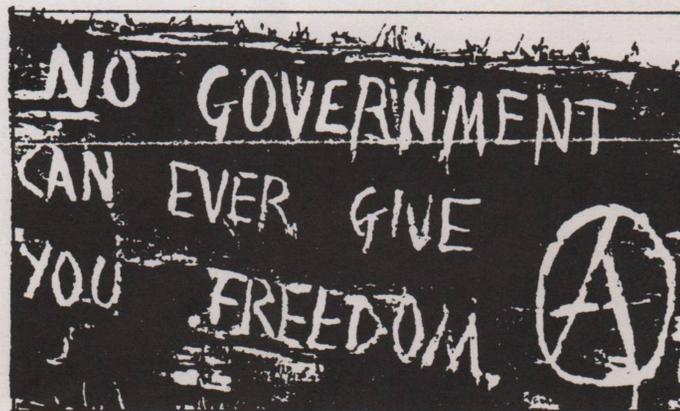
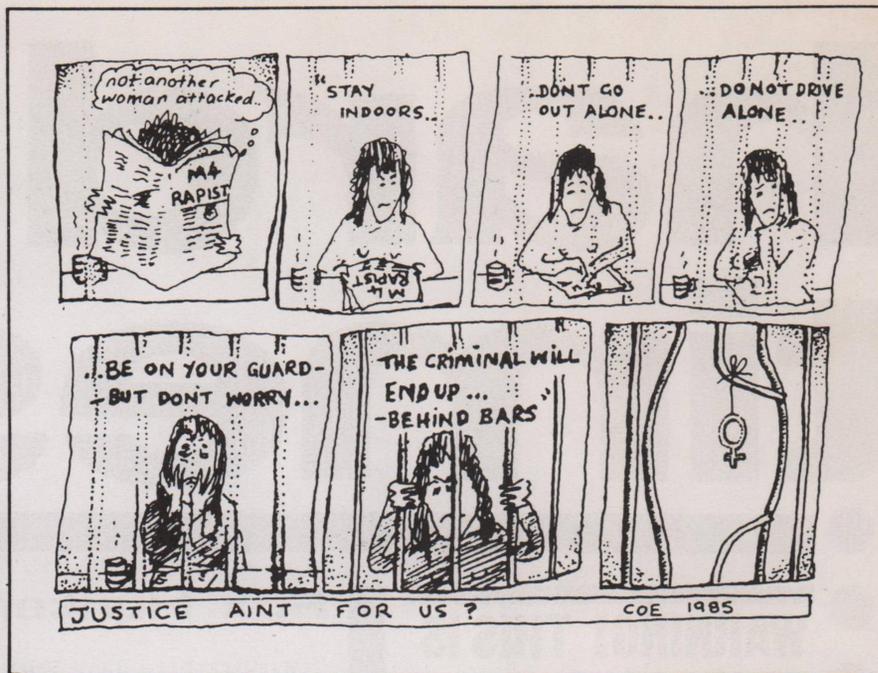
South Warwickshire Health Board want the Monroe Devis to become a centre for mentally handicapped people from Abbeyfields Hospital, near Studley, which the government is to close and sell off in 1988.

Stratford Council is spending over £140,000 on re-vamping and altering the Bancroft Gardens, including £2000 for polishing the statues - and they say they can't afford free bus passes for pensioners!

Tarmac Roadstone (a multinational company) are planning to extract one million tons of sand and gravel over the next 7 years from a 133 acre site at Snitterfield, with all the noise and pollution that will mean.



POPULAR MISCONCEPTION OF TYPICAL ANARCHIST



NO ROPE AS LONG AS TIME

Old Afrikaaner farmer on the terrace of his home
Sits gently in his rocking chair, gazing at this land he owns.
There he sees his memories and there his past
There he smiles his grim smile, strokes his gun, swears he'll make it last.

Someone brings the whisky, someone serves the meal
Like the someone in the township, in the mine and in the fields.
Someone at the graveyard, someone with their tears
Someone who can't forget the freedom lost these 100 years.

Old man, you can boast about the gun that's by your bed
Old man, you can tell me how you're good for all your kaffirs yet
And your guns can fire, and your prisons fill
And you've yards of rope for hanging still
But your guns can shoot and never hit the sky
And there's no rope as long as time.

Mandela in the prison, Biko in the ground
Sharpeville and Soweto voices silenced till the end of time.
Freedom don't come easy, don't come bloodless, don't come fast
But in the hearts of the countless people
No pass law's gonna stop us pass.

Sometimes he'll talk of reasons, economy and cause
Sometimes he'll even talk of changes
Though he clasps the gun and he talks of laws.
But power aint this old man's gift
And freedom's no reform
The old man made the history and the history's made of wars.