

### EAST END NEWS

*Zelda Curtis writes:* A new independent local weekly paper, run as a cooperative and providing a focus for the labour movement and community groups of the East End, was launched in March this year. The idea for this paper, the *East End News*, developed out of the struggle of journalists sacked when the progressive *East Ender* was closed down.

Supported by the Campaign for Press Freedom and the TUC, this important venture is being watched closely with interest by those considering similar cooperatives both in Britain and abroad. The launch fund of around £25,000 was raised largely from national unions and local branches, from local tenants' associations and community groups, but also from hundreds of individual shareholders including many MPs who share the four aims of the cooperative: to promote the East End as an area for development on the basis of its peoples' needs; to promote better understanding between different ethnic groups in the community; to provide news free of discriminatory material against people on the grounds of race, sex or beliefs; and to campaign against the cuts which are hitting services in the area and creating unemployment. We have now gained over a thousand shareholders.



The need for new initiatives like the East End News Cooperative is recognised because as many as 85% of local papers are now in the hands of a mere half dozen powerful individuals or corporations and press agencies.

At the *East End News* our aim is to expand and create jobs, but with our limited funds at the moment we can afford only 8 paid

workers. They are backed up by a committed group of voluntary contributors, sub-editors, graphic designers and administrative helpers. Local people from the many council estates in the East End offer their help in publicising and promoting their paper and local union branches support us with sales and advertising. The young people's page, *Revolution*, is a unique contribution being written and produced entirely by young East Enders themselves.

But while our launch period has been encouraging, it has now become obvious that we started with less capital than was needed, given that commercial advertisers will always use small firms, and especially new ones, as credit banks. This has created cash-flow problems. We need an injection of capital now to expand the paper, our readership, and our potential value to the movement.

We believe this community initiative, linking professional expertise with cooperative principles in a commercial venture which has already generated jobs and in the near future should earn sufficient funds to provide many more, is an important and significant one. Already we are providing a service to the labour movement, as witnessed by our production of the South East Region TUC's 'People's March: Official Souvenir'.

You can become a shareholder of *East End News* for £5, take out a subscription for £12pa, or come along and give us some help at: 17 Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, London E2.

### CUL 81

*Teresa Scudder writes:* The Communist University of London is now in its 13th year. Organised by the Communist Party it has become the major socialist event of its kind with an international reputation, brings together over 1500 people for nine days of intensive study and debate including trade unionists, students, feminists, gays, peace movement activists, anti-racists and others involved in the many different progressive movements.

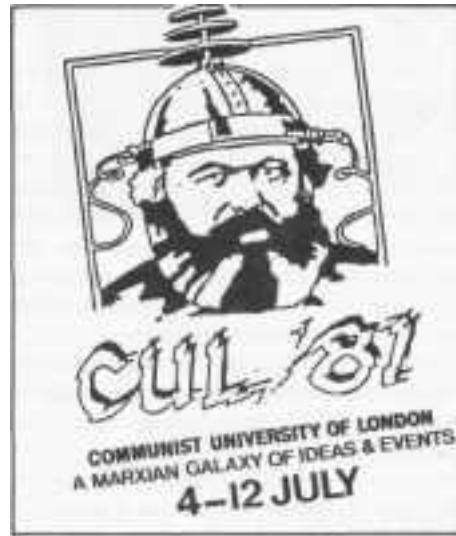
Over the years CUL has changed in both content and direction. Course critiques are still an important part of CUL and provide undergraduates with a flavour of what it would be like to study their academic subjects from a marxist perspective. (This year's course critiques are on: Law, Sociology, History, Literature, Philosophy, Health and Welfare Studies). CUL also attempts to tackle some of the major problems facing labour and democratic activists in their political practice.

At this years CUL there will be a number of feminist courses; courses on the alternative economic strategy; the politics of unemploy-

ment and a course assessing the Peoples' March For Jobs. Journals participating in the event include: History Workshop Journal, Critical Social Policy, Socialist Economic Review and MF, and a new feature will be one-day themes on the Labour Party, peace and Ireland which will take place on July 11th and 12th.

Every night there will be music, films, cabaret with Alexi Sayle and debates on topical political issues.

CUL will be at: University of London Union Building, Malet St, London WC1, July 4-12. Registrations — both full time and part time — will continue throughout the event.



### SOCIALISM AND NATIONALISM

*Roger Thomas writes:* The second conference of the *British Research Group on Socialism and Nationalism* will take place at Portsmouth Polytechnic between September 18-20. The theme this year will be 'Socialism and National Identity in Times of Crisis (19th-20th centuries)'.

The research group was founded in 1975 by a number of lecturers at Portsmouth Polytechnic but has now grown to include specialists from several British academic institutions. As well as the first conference, two seminar series lasting a term and several weekend meetings have taken place. Specialists from the continent have taken part in the work and the publication of a collection of essays based on the papers given at the first conference is now complete.

This year's conference will include papers on: Social Formations and the Study of Socialism and Nationalism; The Political Uses of Nationalism; Working Class Movements and Nationalism; The Russian Working Class and the October Revolution: Social and National Aspects; The Left and the Marconi Scandal in Britain; Welsh Labour and the Crisis of National Identity

before 1914; The Communist Party and the Crisis of Czechoslovak Statehood 1938-1945; Perceptions and Uses of Nationalism in France in the 1930s; The English Working Class and the Crisis of August 1914; The Bund and the Creation of Israel; Protestants, Catholics and the Eclipse of the Labour Movement in Northern Ireland 1969-1974.

The inclusive charge for the conference is £35 (full board) though assistance may be available for the unemployed and others unable to afford this amount. Further details from: Conference on Socialism and Nationalism, School of Languages and Area Studies, Portsmouth Polytechnic, Wiltshire Building, Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth PO1 2BU.

### 1981 CSE CONFERENCE

*Andy Friend writes:* The first six years of the 'Conference of Socialist Economists' conference focused on the nature of the capitalist economy, placing particular emphasis on the capitalist labour process and the internationalisation of capital. Recently we have taken more account of the state and socialist strategy and this year we want to add to the analysis a dimension that many members feel has been marginalised in the past. Much — though not all — of the CSE's work has examined capitalism and the struggle for socialism from the point of view that is predominantly male and white metropolitan. This year we intend to bring a more conscious critique of imperialism, racism and sexism to bear on as many areas of CSE work as possible.

The capitalist crisis is being experienced differently by the various groups within the working class — largely as a result of the way in which capital continues to create and deepen divisions between employed and unemployed, 'skilled' and 'unskilled', men and women, young and old, and between the working classes of different countries. It is too easy to see these divisions merely as superficial conflicts of interest within an objectively unified class, and by doing so lay the blame for them solely at the door of capital. It is necessary to recognise how we acquiesce in and sustain these divisions. It is only by doing this that we will be able to build uniting strategies as a basis for more effective struggle. 'Exploitation & Oppression — Rethinking Socialist Strategy' is the theme of the CSE conference to be held at Bradford University July 17-19. Further details and papers in advance from: CSE, 16 St Alphonsus Road, London SW4. Tel: 01-837 7244.

Contributions to *Notes* (brief please) are welcome. We need copy before the 1st of the month preceding publication.