

NOTE

### SOCIALIST ACTION IN THE 80s: POLICIES AND PRACTICES

*Tony Manwaring writes:* This year's CSE conference is to be held at Bradford on 16-18 July. It is aimed at building on last year's critique of socialist strategies as provided in the plenary paper by the Sex and Class Group: we shouldn't think first in terms of class and then afterwards tag on gender and race; we shouldn't assume that the entire working class share the same interests and experiences. We will look at the way in which the present capitalist offensive fragments our experiences and our actions, and how the diversity of our experience of capitalism may result in the pushing aside of important issues.

We hope to consider issues of importance to CSE members and their work. Topics which will be addressed include: popular organisations, feminist and socialist, new openings in British politics, the break-up of the two party system, CND, the Socialist Society, socialist strategies and racism, the politics of youth, young women and young men and the inner city, the politics of socialist social policies, the domestic and welfare, economics, and economic strategy, learning from experiences internationally, the social relations of research, avoiding the usual male and academic ways of researching and writing, CSE groups and their relation to resistance.

More details from 16 Princess Road, London, NW1 6JJ.

### BUILDING THE LONDON GAY COMMUNITY

*Robert Mitchell writes:* 'Building the London Gay Community' is a new report describing the situation and needs of London's homosexual population. It calls for different provisions to meet the very different needs of particular groups of gays — lesbian mothers, older gays, younger gays, black gays, physically handicapped gays etc. These differences must be taken into account rather than glossed over if a truly supportive gay community is to be created. The report makes various recommendations to improve the quality of life for gay people living in London, including the setting up of neighbourhood gay centres. These would make gay people more visible in the areas in which they live and work, and would provide a point of contact between the gay community and the rest of society.

Copies of the report are available from London Gay Workshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London NW1. Price 75p.

### CONDITION CRITICAL: PRIVATE MEDICINE AND THE NHS

*Mike Gatehouse writes:* Labour's Right has been too weak, and the Left too unrealistic to prevent the growth of private medicine. The Tories and the private health insurance schemes have exploited these failings despite the inherent weaknesses of private medicine, argues *Condition Critical*, a new pamphlet written by Steve Iliffe and published by the Communist Party.

Private medicine in Britain and the USA is examined in detail in the pamphlet. The private sector is shown to be expensive and inefficient, unable to meet the needs of the chronically ill, and prone to high-technology medicine and hazardous surgery. In Britain it undermines the NHS by drawing from it staff trained at the taxpayers's expense, and it profits from the cut in health service budgets imposed by successive governments.

Whilst critical of the conservatism of the Labour Right, the author also warns against the far Left's unrealistic policies. 'Banning' private medicine is rejected as a tactic because of its impracticability and of the reaction that it would produce within the medical world. A twin-track policy of restricting the private sector (by removing tax advantages and discriminating against specialists working privately) and expanding the NHS is favoured instead.

*Condition Critical* costs 50p and is available from left wing bookshops or for 70p (including post and packing) from: Mike Gatehouse, 16 St John St, London EC1M 4AY.

### EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

*Kate Sullivan writes:* Education for adults is provided by a bewildering variety of agencies; it has suffered severely from lack of resources. Yet this sector of education is potentially very important. A new Communist Party pamphlet, 'Education for Adults', surveys the scene and offers a policy for both defence and advance. Available from Central Books, 14 The Leathermarket, SE1. Price 40p plus 15p P&P.

### THE FUNDAMENTALS OF DIALECTICS

*Alan Spence writes:* The Communist Party Philosophy Group is organising a course on the fundamentals of dialectics, at Marx House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1, from Sunday 11 July to Saturday 17 July. (11am-4pm weekends, 10am-4.30 weekdays)

The syllabus will consist of 14 lectures,

but to enable those who can only attend at the weekends to participate, the course will commence on the Sunday with an introductory session on philosophy and a survey of what lies ahead for the full-course students. The following Saturday a review of what has taken place during the week will be given, and the course will be rounded off by a discussion on how philosophy can be practically practised. The fee for the course will be £2 for those attending only at the weekend, and £6 for those attending the full complement of seven days.

For enrolment please apply: Communist Party Philosophy Group, 16 St John Street, London EC1M 4AY.

### NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

**Eileen Phillips** teaches at City of London Polytechnic.

**Simon Barrow** is a journalist specialising in the international arms trade.

**Judith Bloomfield** is researching in Italy.

**Ada Frame** has worked for several years in paediatrics, including intensive care neonatology, and helps produce *Medicine in Society*.

**Robert Gray** teaches History at Portsmouth Polytechnic and is a member of the Communist Party's Theory and Ideology Committee.

Torn Nairn is the author of *The Breakup of Britain*.

**Miguel del Campo** is an Argentinian academic resident in Britain.

**John Harrison** is co-author of *The British Economic Disaster* and editor of a forthcoming Pluto series entitled *Arguments for Socialism*.

**Melvyn Bragg** is a writer and broadcaster.

**John McIlroy** is a lecturer in Industrial Relations at Manchester University and is involved in trade union education.

**Stan Levenson** is sports correspondent for the *Morning Star*.

**Peter Dormer** is a freelance writer.

**Ian Christie** is Head of Programming in the Distribution Division of the British Film Institute.

**John Vincent** is a principal librarian in the London Borough of Lambeth.

**Bert Ramelison** was formerly Industrial Organiser of the Communist Party.

**Fran Bennett** works for the General and Municipal Workers Union.

**Michael Barratt Brown** is the Principal of Northern College.

**Nicholas Blake** is chairman of the Haldane Society.