

# NOTES

## THINK BEFORE YOU EAT

*Chris Childs writes:* Anti Apartheid has recently launched a campaign in solidarity with 500 black workers sacked by a subsidiary of Rowntree Mackintosh in South Africa. The workers were dismissed after they had come out on strike in support of three fellow workers who had been sacked in circumstances that would be illegal in most countries of the world. The Rowntree management refuse to recognise the workers' union — the South African Allied Workers Union.

The Anti Apartheid campaign has been based on picketing and leafleting Rowntree Mackintosh workers and management in Britain, with a week of action and a limited boycott of Rowntree products. If, as seems likely, the management refuse to reinstate the workers, the campaign will be stepped up. A total boycott of Rowntree Mackintosh products is on the cards. As the AA leaflet says, 'Think before you eat'.

If you want to know more about the campaign contact Anti Apartheid at 89 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2DQ tel 01 580 5311.

## ASLEF

*Mick Costello writes:* As Marxism Today went to press, the British Railways board has provoked a national rail strike. Whatever the original arguments about 're-rostering' and the 8 hour day, the central issue has become an attempt by a major state employer, backed by the Tory government, to break a union — ASLEF. The union has been projected into the front-line of the growing clash of trade union rights versus employer diktat.

In full appreciation of this, ASLEF's leaders have 'gone public'. Available for the widest distribution are their leaflets and the special strike edition of *Locomotive Journal*. They explain the compromises the union sought, what is at stake and the cost to the

public of the 'Falklands mentality' now being used against the trade unions. Copies from ASLEF, 9 Arkwright Road, London, NW3 6AB.

## JACK COHEN

*Martin Jacques writes:* In June, one of *Marxism Today's* great stalwarts and supporters, Jack Cohen, died. For fourteen years, Jack was a member of its Editorial Board. For many years, he worked on the journal with its editor James Klugmann, assisting James in its editing and production. Jack gave a lifetime of service to the working class movement, but he will be particularly remembered for his work in the educational and theoretical spheres. He wrote widely, was a fine teacher and was active in the Marxist-Christian dialogue. Over the last four years, Jack has been a constant source of support and encouragement on the journal. His observations on articles at Board meetings or informally were always most acute. We will all miss him greatly.

## THE POWER OF FASHION IN ART AND SCIENCE

*Ursula Laver writes:* The British Association for the Advancement of Science are organising a very interesting series of discussions at this year's annual meeting — 'The Power of Fashion in Art and Science'. The series lasts from September 7 — 10, at the University of Liverpool.

Fashion influences all areas of human endeavour, including science. New technology can set trends — for example the availability of cheap electron microscopes spawned a massive wave of structural studies in botany and zoology. The availability of funds can also create a fashion. For example in the USA in the early 70s, research into sickle cell anaemia became fashionable simply because it was easy to obtain money for this area.

The meeting will explore this and other

themes, looking at the role of fashion throughout our culture, from music to psychiatry, from physics to food, building to biology. Speakers include Jonathan Miller, Bernard Dixon and Krzysztof Zanussi.

Further details are available from Joan Dring, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB, tel 01 734 6010.

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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