

NOTES

SOCIALIST ECONOMIC REVIEW

Bob Morgan writes: The third annual Socialist Economic Review conference will be held at the University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1, over the weekend of 18-19 September. The registration fee for the conference is £7.00 waged and £3.50 unwaged.

Themes at this year's conference include; Planning and Industrial Democracy, Local Service, The Changing State, Feminist Strategy. For further details please contact; SER, 118 North View Road, London N8 7LP.

THE SOCIALLY USEFUL SHOW

Tammy Walker writes: CAITS (the Centre for Alternative and Industrial Technological Systems) have produced a series of display posters 'The Socially Useful Show'. There are ten A3 posters suitable for display on noticeboards, in classrooms, libraries, workplaces or community centres. The posters graphically illustrate the contradictions of the existence of mass unemployment and, at



the same time, an acute shortage of services such as housing, hospital beds and public transport. The display also highlights the effect of new technology on jobs and skills, and the way companies operate internationally.

More information is available from CAITS, North East London Polytechnic, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, tel 01 590 7722.

AVAILABLE FOR WORK?

Jane Hutt writes: Welsh Women's Aid have recently organised a research project to challenge the Government's plans to introduce 'availability for work' tests. These new

'tests' for the unemployed will be introduced later this year through the Housing and Social Security Bill; they include checking whether women who have been working part-time are available for full-time work, and checking that parents (but particularly mothers) have pre-arranged childcare facilities. Failure to convince the DHSS will lead to loss of unemployment benefits.

Welsh Women's Aid interviewed 50 men and 50 women and established that 'It is not people who are unavailable, it is work'. The results of the project are published in *Available for Work?* published by Welsh Women's Aid, Adam St, Cardiff. This pamphlet is an important tool in the campaign to defeat the Government's proposals.

MARXISM TODAY DESIGN

As our designers will be leaving in the near future we invite applications from people with suitable experience for the job of designing and pasting up Marxism Today each month. The work also involves picture research and needs good organisational ability. This is not a staff job and is undertaken on a freelance basis. Some commitment to the magazine would be expected.

Write to Peter Hammarling at the editorial office for more information.

MARX IN LONDON

Angela Wilson writes: It is possible that the centenary of the death of Marx (he died in 1883) will rival the royal wedding for the production of memorabilia. First off the mark are the BBC with a publication by Asa Briggs, *Marx in London*. The pamphlet lists Marx's various haunts, with useful maps on how to reach them. It gives a historical background on London in Marx's day, and provides glimpses of the private life of the Marx household. An example: (from the observations of a Prussian spy) 'Washing, grooming and changing his (Marx's) linen are things he does rarely, and he is often drunk.'

The booklet is primarily intended for those planning to visit 'Marx sites', but it is a nice little book for anyone interested in Marx's life.

LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE RESISTS

Alejandra Altamirano writes: Following the success of last year's cultural festival for Chile and El Salvador, it has been decided to make this an annual September event, and to embark again on three days of music, theatre, poetry, painting, dance, films and discussion workshops.

This year's event will be on 23-25 September at Camden Town Hall, and Imperial College, London. Groups booked so far include Raiz, from Chile, and Depuani from El Salvador. More information from Carila, 29 Islington Park Street London N1.

LESBIAN AND GAY WRITERS GATHERING

Tenebris Light Writes: On the weekend 8-10 October there will be a gathering for lesbian and gay writers at the Manchester Gay Centre. Discussion will include questions like 'Can gay politics reinforce gay writing or destroy it?', 'Surely it doesn't matter in poetry?', and a discussion between lesbian and gay writers of the images of women in literature. We think it is time for us all to meet, to examine what part writers can play to further gay liberation. Information from, and further suggestions to Tenebris Light, 110 Glenthorn Road, London W6.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Aidan White is a journalist on *The Guardian*.

Mike Davis is a member of the editorial committee of *New Left Review*.

Phil Bolsover chairs the editorial board of *Sanity*.

Tony Lane is the author of *The Union Makes Us Strong* and was recently on secondment for the TGWU.

Mihir Bose is a sports journalist with the *Sunday Times*.

Roy Medvedev is the author of *Let History Judge* and *Leninism and Western Socialism* and lives in Moscow.

Alan Walker is a lecturer in social policy, University of Sheffield.

Ron Ayres is a lecturer in economics at Thames Polytechnic, London.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o is a Kenyan novelist and playwright.

Kenneth Parker is editor of *The South African Novel in English: Essays in Criticism and Society*.

Malcolm Barry is a lecturer at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Olivia Harris is a lecturer at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Robin Evans lectures at the Architectural Association.

Jenny Warren works as research officer to a Labour MEP.

Alan Hunt is a member of the editorial board of *Marxism Today*.

Rosalind Brunt teaches cultural and communications studies at Sheffield Polytechnic and is the co-editor of *Silver Linings*.