

NOTES

PRICE INCREASE

As you have probably noticed, we have had to increase the cover price of *Marxism Today* to 75p, owing to increased production costs. This is the first price increase since last October, and we intend to maintain this price for at least a year.

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

John Kieffer writes: The Socialist Society has recently published a pamphlet by Mike Rustin *Comprehensive Education after 18: A Socialist Strategy*. The pamphlet presents a critique of the exclusive and elitist structure of higher education in Britain, and argues that socialists should support a universal right to education after 18, not dependent on academic qualification. It links the highly stratified pattern of British higher education, which imposes a pervasive academic control over the school system, to a continuing structure of class domination. In discussing the various means of lessening the stratification of post-18 education, Mike Rustin concludes that a regional structure, preferably under elected control, holds out the most feasible hope of creating 'comprehensive universities' which could contribute to a more democratic culture. The pamphlet is available from the Socialist Society, 7 Carlisle Street, London W1, for £1 (includes p&p).

SCIENCE WITHIN SOCIALISM

Richard Clarke writes: A one day conference *Science within Socialism: Critique and Celebration* will be held on Saturday 4th December at Marx House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1. The conference is organised by the Science and Technology Subcommittee of the Communist Party and will be looking at the problems and achievements of science in the socialist countries. Countries to be looked at include the USSR, Eastern Europe, China, Cuba and Africa. More information available from the Science Committee, CPGB, 16 St John Street, London EC1.

RACISM AND SCHOOLS

Dave Cook writes: On Saturday January 29 there will be a consultative conference on racism and schools, at County Hall, London SE1, organised by the Race Relations Committee of the Communist Party. The Conference aims to draw on the experience of people working in schools or interested in school education. We hope that parents, young people, trade unionists and people active in community politics and people from different ethnic groups will attend as well as school teachers and educationalists. Farrukh Dondy, a contributor to *Race Today*, and author of *The Black Explosion in*

British Schools will make an opening contribution. There will then be workshops on education for a multi-cultural society, mother-tongue teaching, teacher unions and racism, and teachers from ethnic minorities. Registration costs £2 (50p unwaged). For more information contact Racism and Schools Conference, 16 St John Street, London EC1.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Jenny Earle writes: Alan Walker's article in the September issue of *Marxism Today* expressed a concern with the Left's failure to develop a social strategy. And if the Labour Party's Discussion Documents on Taxation and Social Security are anything to go by then women needn't expect much from 'Socialism in the 80s'. ROW has published a detailed response to these pamphlets as we think it is important to expose the extent to which proposals for reform tend to reinforce oppressive definitions of women, and continue to deny women independent access to state income support. We would like to encourage wider discussion of the question of income maintenance and planning for women's needs. Our paper is available from the ROW office (send an SAE) and we can provide speakers for meetings. More information ROW, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1. Tel 01-278 6349.

CABLEPOWER

The conference on new media technology, *Cablepower*, mentioned in last month's notes, is being organised by the ICA, not by Comedia. The conference is on the 4-5 December. More information from the ICA Box Office tel 01 930 3647.

ACTION DEFEATS THE BILL

George Wake writes: The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions have recently published a pamphlet *Action Defeats the Bill*. The pamphlet tells the story of the defeat of the Industrial Relations Act — important reading for those who are planning to defeat Tebbit's anti-trade union legislation. This pamphlet is particularly aimed at shop stewards and trade union organisations. If you would like copies, write, with a donation if possible, to George Wake, LCDTU, 148 Glenny Road, Barkingside, Essex IG11 8QQ.

FALKLANDS — SPECIAL BRIEF

Mike Gatehouse writes: The latest in an increasingly impressive 'Special Brief series from the Latin America Bureau is a book entitled *Falklands/Malvinas — Whose Crisis?* Virtually the length of a Penguin special, this is no pot boiler. The Briefs purpose is to analyse the underlying assumptions

behind Britain's military action and to challenge the pro-war consensus. It focuses specifically on the islands' internal economy, on the conflicting British and Argentine claims to sovereignty, on the historical relationship between the two countries, and on the military dictatorship in Argentina since 1976. There is also a short appendix which looks at the role of the popular press in Britain in forming public opinion during the crisis.

A very good buy at £1.95 from LAB, 1 Amwell St, London EC1R 1UL.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Robbie Burns is a lecturer in German at Warwick University.

Eileen Phillips is a member of the *Feminist Review* collective.

Martin Upham works for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and is prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Harborough.

Anne Showstack Sassoon is the author of *Gramsci's Politics*, has a full-time job and a six year old daughter.

Gerry Pocock is the head of the Communist Party International Department.

Sam Aaronovitch is the author of *The Road from Thatcherism* and a member of the Communist Party Economic Committee.

Stuart Hall is co-author of *Policing the Crisis*.

Peter Jenkins is political columnist for *The Guardian*.

Timothy Hollins is Cable Researcher in the Broadcasting Research Unit at the British Film Institute, an independent academic research body funded jointly by the BBC, the BFI and the Markle Foundation.

Keith Cowling is Professor of Economics at Warwick University and a member of the Communist Party Economic Committee.

Leon Broome works in advertising and **John Bull** is a graphic designer. They perform in a comedy duo, 'What the Blazes?'

Thomas **O'Malley** works at Local Radio Workshop.

Chris Stapleton writes for *Black Music*.

Peter Dormer is a freelance writer.

Jim Fyrth teaches trade union studies.

Bernard Crick is Professor in the Department of Politics and Sociology, Birkbeck College, London and author of *George Orwell: a life*.

Jon Bloomfield is a member of CND's Executive Council.

Dennis Ogden lectures at the Polytechnic of Central London.