

NOTES

MORNING STAR

Gerry Cohen writes: a hallmark of the Communist Party, one of the features which distinguishes it from other political parties in Britain, despite whatever claims some of them may make, is its continuing reliance on the theories of scientific socialism, and its creative application of those principles to the actual situation as it exists in Britain and the world today.

While there is every need to draw on the classical works of Marxism-Leninism, there is little point in doing so in the sterile, rigid fashion of some alleged proponents of Marxism; there is equally no value in jazzed up scarcely recognisable versions of so called modern Marxism, which are not firmly rooted in its fundamentals.

Striving to achieve the correct presentation of creative Marxism on a daily basis in the 1980s is a difficult task. Many readers of *Marxism Today* may not have yet been introduced to the only national daily paper in Britain which attempts to do so — the *Morning Star*.

It, and its predecessor, the *Daily Worker*, have earned a special place in the British progressive movement, deriving from its very special contribution as the only national daily newspaper which not only presents the facts, but presents alongside them the Marxist analysis and interpretation which is so essential to an understanding of our complex era.

It does this in no rigid dogmatic fashion; nor are its columns limited to a narrow interpretation of what is important in the political arena. Every aspect of human life is explored — political, cultural, social, economic and sporting.

Its regular Thursday book review page is as highly rated in intellectual circles as are its sporting columns — with Cayton, its racing tipster, being especially highly regarded — universally. Its women's page every Tuesday has often been a subject of passionate controversy as well as of well documented information.

Its television and cinema critiques are widely acclaimed as being at least on a par with, if not better than, similar columns in other quality papers; while its cartoonist Eccles has a reputation second to none in the hugely competitive arena of political cartooning.

What may perhaps be valued highest of all is the informed political comment, the incisive political analysis which provides a catalyst for the thinking person, and is a formidable challenge to those who believe that they can stand aside from the struggle.

It is this unique paper, the *Morning Star*, which is now experiencing acute financial

difficulties — and which needs more readers, more contributors to its historic fighting fund, more shareholders — and more support.

If you are interested in finding out more about this paper, please get in touch with the Morning Star Campaign Committee, 16 St. John Street, London EC1M 4AY.



ART IN ACTION

Kate Sullivan writes: The Communist Party's 'Art in Action' poster competition on the theme of unemployment exceeded expectations, with around 130 entries from both amateur and professional artists. The winning entry (above), inspired by the work of Saatchi and Saatchi, wins a holiday for two in Bologna, donated by Progressive Tours. The artist, Aaron Hatcher, is a student at the Central School of Art and Design. The second prize of £100 was awarded to a collective entry from a small group of unemployed young people in Shropshire. An exhibition of entries for 'Art in Action' will be on show at Collet's, 129, Charing Cross Rd., London WC1 from 21 February to 5 March.

CHILE GALA

Duncan Green writes: On March 13 there will be a gala performance, *Viva 83*, at the Sadlers Wells Theatre, London, to raise money for the Chile Committee for Human Rights. The line up includes The Ballet Rambert, London Contemporary Dance Theatre and Adrian Mitchell. For more information contact CCHR, 266 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JY.

MARX CENTENARY

Gabrielle Black writes: It is difficult to work out a suitable way to commemorate the Marx centenary. This problem has generally been unfaced by the mainstream of political

life — Marx's influence there is largely unacknowledged; however there are a number of events planned, and both the Labour Party and the GLC are committed to doing something, although they haven't yet decided what.

Quite a few lectures are in the pipeline. The Marx Memorial Library are planning a series of lectures on the history and development of Marxism in Britain. They are also staging an exhibition on the same theme, opening on March 3. The annual Marx Memorial lecture will be held on March 14, and will be given by Mick McGahey. Sheffield City Council are organising a memorial lecture for March 14, to be given by Stuart Hall. There will be a number of locally organised commemorative events. The Communist Party is organising or co-organising them in Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool and Bradford to name a few: for more information on these contact Nina Temple. The Africa Centre are organising a series of lectures on the influence of socialist and Marxist ideas in Africa. Some WEAs are planning day schools.

Lawrence and Wishart are publishing two commemorative books — a new edition of the Communist Manifesto, with illustrations by the Flemish artist Masereel, and a collection of essays *Marx: A Hundred Years On* edited by Betty Matthews, with essays by Gwyn Williams, Yvonne Kapp, George Rude, Stuart Hall and others. Fontana are bringing out *Marx: The First 100 Years* edited by David McLellan. The BBC will publish a book, also by David McLellan, to go alongside their six part series on the relevance of Marx today commencing in March. Thames television are also planning a programme, in association with Channel 4, written by Stuart Hall and due to be transmitted on May Day. ETV are releasing two archive films — an interview with Lawrence Bradshaw, the man who made the statue at Highgate cemetery, and the graveside speeches by Harry Pollitt and Arthur Horner in 1956.

The Communist Party have produced a Marx centenary poster, printed in two tones in A2 size, available from Central Books price £1. Marx memorial badges, in gold and red enamel, are available from Nidge Tovey. The main Communist Party event for the centenary will be the festival at Alexandra Palace on June 25. More information from Ron McLroy.

Further information:

Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1 tel 01 253 1485. Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2. Nina Temple, Nidge Tovey, Ron McLroy, 16 St John Street, London EC1 tel 251 4406.

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Central Books 14 The Leathermarket, London SE1. ETV 247 A Upper Street, London N1. Tel 01 226 2298.

NATIONAL ANTI-RACIST DEMONSTRATION

Dave Cook writes: On Sunday March 27th the Campaign Against Racist Laws (CARL) is organising a national demonstration in London. The slogans of the demonstration are: No race checks; Repeal the Immigration and Nationality Acts; Stop racist deportations; Unite the divided families now.

This is the first major national demonstration against racism for some time, and with the current Tory attacks on the rights of ethnic minorities, it is essential that we have the widest possible turnout. If you can help to publicise the demonstration, or get any organisation to which you belong to support it, you can get more information from CARL, 56 Edithna Street, London SW9 9JP.

MOVING LEFT IN WALES

Mary Braithwaite writes: The Communist Party in Wales has a weekend of debate, talk and entertainment — titled 'Moving Left in Wales' — from March 4 to 6 in Cardiff. It opens with a talk by Raymond Williams

called Towards 2000, and has three main, half-day sessions interspersed with entertainment. The sessions are on the themes of class struggle and the labour movement, sexual politics, and socialist democracy. Each session is opened with a talk, and then splits into seminars for debate and argument — on issues ranging from multinational economics and the manipulation of the regions to the Italian Communist Party and questions of socialist democracy, and covering such things as a critical examination of the family, a film of the 1982 strike at Hoovers, Merthyr, and a men-only workshop on feminism for men on the way! A creche will be run during the weekend, and the weekend ends with an international event for all ages on the Sunday afternoon. Information from 52 Wyeverne Road, Cardiff CF2 4GH, or phone Cardiff 371579 or 25111.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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★ MARX ★

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