

E D I T O R I A L

I am taking the liberty of this editorial as my prize for putting together this edition of Radical Statistics. Whilst looking back through previous issues of the Newsletter to check on format, I was struck by the fact that they were completely bare of cartoons, drawings and comic strips. Could I make a plea for any budding cartoonists to apply their minds to the task of producing a few line drawings or even a strip ("you'll believe a statistic can (f) lie") that is somehow relevant to the Newsletter. It would certainly help to liven up the general appearance. I have set a fairly low standard in this issue which can only be improved on.

Engaged in the nostalgia of back issues, I came across a short piece by Nic Wright entitled *Who are these Radical Statisticians* (Radical Statistics Newsletter No.8). At that time we were mainly students and teachers, an admirable target population for insurrection. What are we doing today? Where are those students now? I wonder if any are still reading Radical Statistics Newsletter. If there are any readers of this who were both students and Radical Statisticians in 1976, would they care to write in and tell us what they are now doing.

In addition it would be nice to have more feedback. I for one would be interested in reading others' views about the Newsletter - why they read it - what they get out of it - and their general impression of the Radical Statistics Group. Surely one of the prime aims of the Newsletter is to provide a forum where people 'talk' to each other. So please could we have some correspondence, brief or lengthy. Please send it to:

Dave Haran
Department of Epidemiology and
Social Research
Christie Hospital
Withington
Manchester M20 9BX

This is quite a substantial issue of the Newsletter so put aside a good half hour to enjoy it. John Bibby is hoping to focus the next issue on a particular topic (see page 2).

I felt a new enthusiasm at the recent AGM, even the education sub-group has risen from the dead, so let's keep the impetus and give Mrs Saatchi something to think about.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS FAR OFF

The following extract is from a letter sent to Radical Statistics by Fernando Panizo in Madrid.

" Dear friends,

..... I must say that the review is very interesting to me. However I wonder if it would be possible to include some other material. I'm thinking of articles of a more empirical and theoretical nature, which could serve to criticise the conventional use of statistics. Also, for people like me who can't attend the radical statistics meetings, it would be very useful to have a resume of the papers presented during the seminars. Finally, I believe that it could be very useful for everybody to have an extensive bibliography with comments on radical statistics in the different fields in which it is used; perhaps the RS could prepare reviews along these lines.

The best of luck in your work !

Fernando Panizo

P.S My field of interest is related to economics and more specifically to econometrics. If you know somebody working in this field from a radical statistics perspective, let me know. Thank you. "