



Radical Statistics Group  
c/o BSSRS  
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## EDITORIAL

The last newsletter edited here in Sheffield was No 11 in 1977 and it is encouraging to look back at the progress of the RADSTATS group since then. Existing groups have continued to grow and new groups have emerged and produced pamphlets in record time (the Nuclear Group). Some of the early preoccupations of the group now seem rather introspective and academic and whilst both of these aspects are important we have managed to diversify our efforts to make radical statistics more accessible and to link with other campaigns. This has led, for instance, to an increased liaison between the Radstats group and other groups.

The annual conference in Sheffield this year reflects this. Joint meetings have been arranged with CND and the Anti Nazi League during the conference in order to encourage the sharing of ideas. Thus the idea of the statistical Fire Brigade familiar to newsletter readers over a number of years has, in a sense been fulfilled in activities with these groups.

Sheffield is in many ways a good place to hold the annual conference. Certain local campaigns and issues reflect the struggle against the present government. The cheap fares policy of South Yorkshire is under threat as a result of Denning's ruling on the GLC. West Midlands County Council are going to scrap their cheap fares after advice about the "legality" of their fares subsidy. And in this area where a three mile bus journey costs 7p and fares have not been raised since 1974, it is unlikely that this policy will go unchallenged.

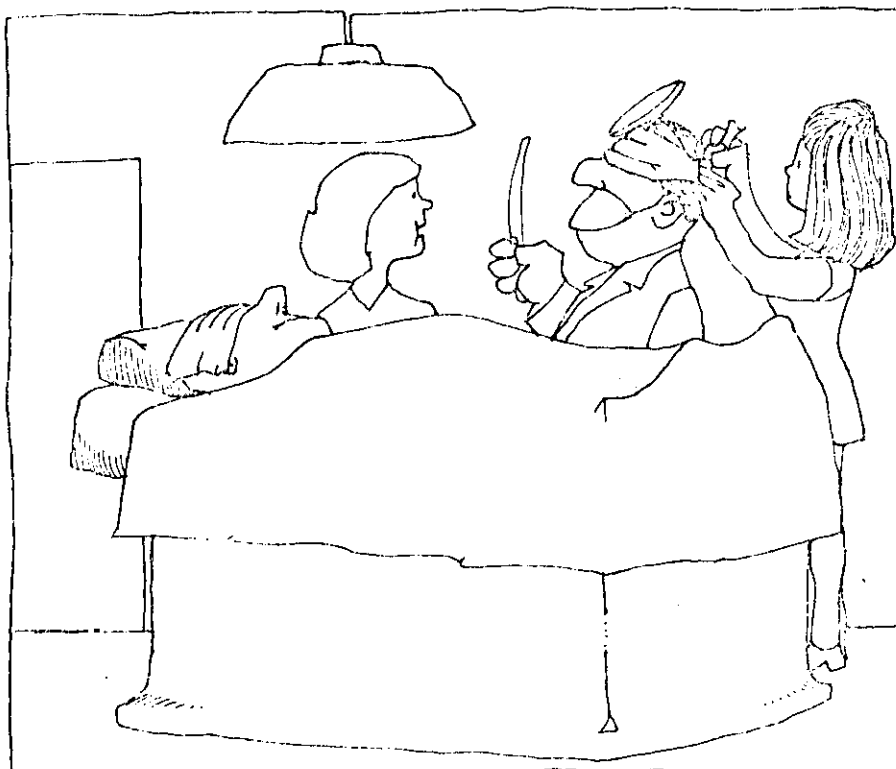
A further issue is the campaign against cuts in public sector spending and the 4 per cent ceiling on wages. The effect of these on the Polytechnics is likely to be more vicious than the effect on the

universities. Redundancies are expected to be announced here in the Polytechnic despite the commitment of the local authority to a no redundancy policy. It is more important than ever for members of the labour movement to unite against these cuts in services, and joint strike action is being planned in Sheffield by public sector unions.

It often seems as if campaigns go in cycles. This year's campaign is CND and last years (or was it the year before?) was anti-racism. Although Sheffield does not have a large black population in percentage terms we have recently seen the strengthening of racist and fascist groups here, particularly the British Movement. The West Indian Community Centre was burned down and there were attacks on the mosque in Attercliffe. Fortunately there is, in Sheffield, a sufficiently strong anti racist movement to challenge the marches and activities of these groups. But it is a continuing struggle.

We therefore hope that you will be able to come to the conference in Sheffield and look forward to seeing you there.

DAVE DREW



*"Dr. Burns, are you sure this is what the statisticians call a double blind experiment?"*