



RACISM

an information pack for workers with youth.

The publication in December of "Racism: An information pack for workers with youth" provoked stirrings in Sheffield. This kit, (available from John Tate, Education Department, Leopold Street, Sheffield S1 1RJ price 50p) was put together by the Anti Nazi League with a modest contribution from the Radstats Race Group. It was launched on December 10th at a meeting with youth workers and we managed to get local radio and press publicity for it. The kit has been distributed to all schools and youth clubs in the Sheffield area.

One of the best features of the kit was the illustration of statistics by graphs and cartoons (see examples reproduced below). These graphs were taken from our book but redrawn to look more interesting and hopefully more readable. There is an interesting mixture in the kit of arguments which are rational (e.g. statistical) and arguments which are based on experiences. The propaganda of the British Movement is well illustrated in a cartoon "The Multiracial lesson"

New drive to stem racism

A NEW anti-racism drive has been launched in Sheffield in a bid to stem the influence of fascist groups, some of whose supporters make swastika-bearing appearances in the city centre.

The drive is aimed primarily at young people, as there is serious concern that the disillusionment of unemployment may make the politics of the far right more attractive to them.

City teachers, youth and community workers are reporting an increasing amount of racist talk among youngsters in clubs and schools, and have appealed for help to combat this trend.

With the help of Sheffield education department, the Anti-Nazi League has just published a racism information pack on the far right's activities and on the myths and facts of topics such as immigration, housing, jobs and repatriation.

Disturbing

Sheffield police have not yet seen the booklet, but community liaison deputy head, Chief Inspector Terry Swann — said that they were not aware of an increase in racial violence.

The booklet, however, states there has been "an unprecedented increase nationally and in Sheffield" during the past year, as well as a "disturbing emergence" of the British Movement whose motto is: For Race and Nation.

An Anti-Nazi League spokesman gave as examples of racist violence in the city: vandalism at the Jewish cemetery in Parson Cross; two fires in three days at the Oxford Street West Indian community centre and burglary and fire at an Attercliffe mosque.

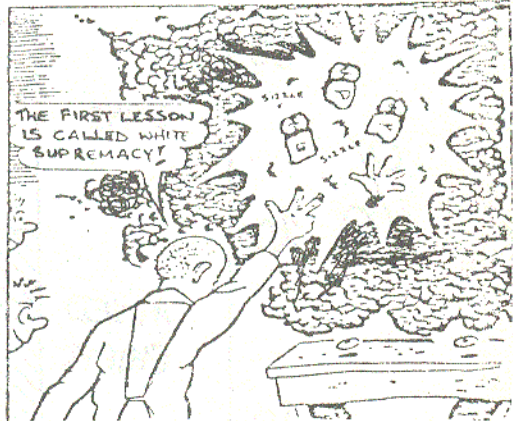
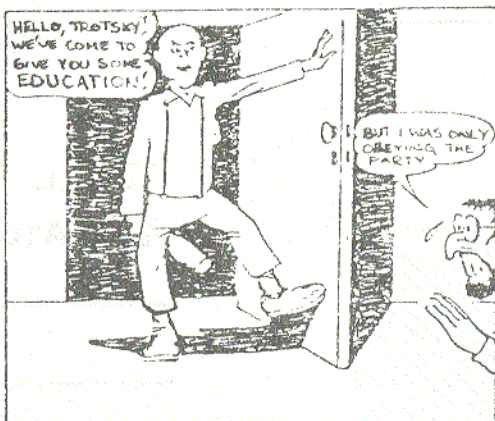
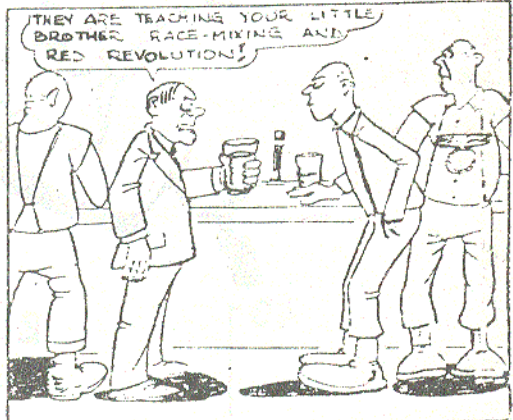
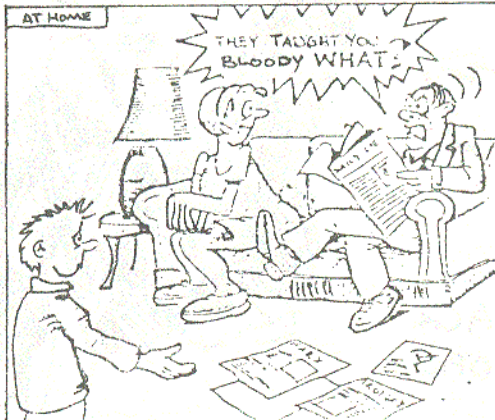
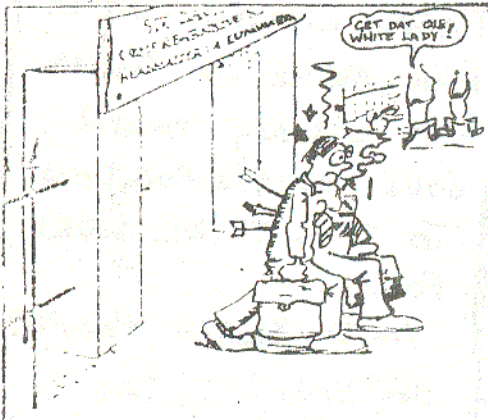
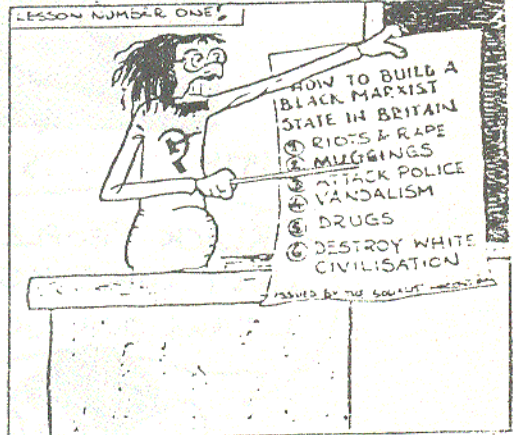
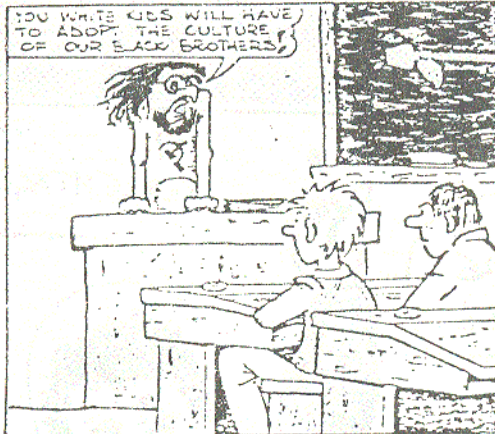
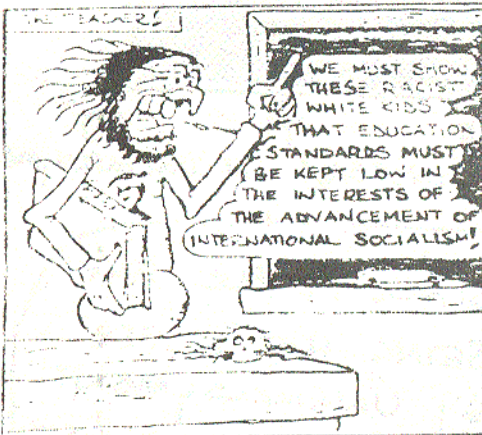
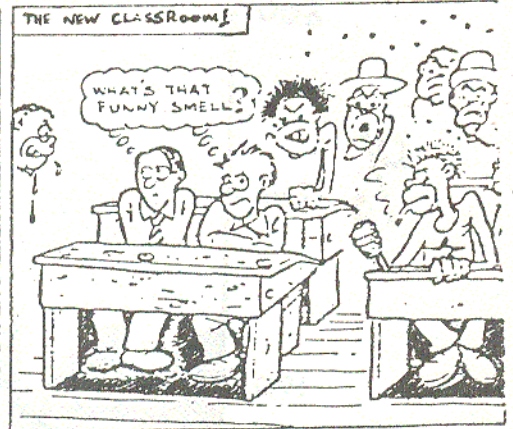
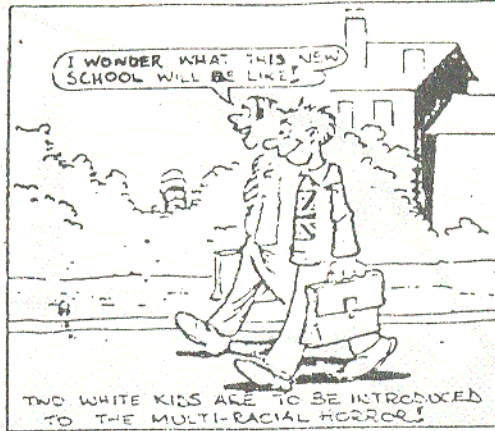
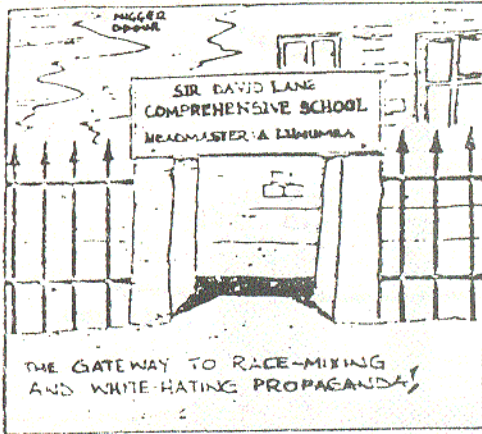
taken from the "Stormer", and which we believed most people would find shocking. It is, however, quite cleverly constructed and shows the kind of propaganda we are up against.

Our meeting with Youth Workers made us realise the problems faced in the inner city. Youth clubs which had been "all white" had been "taken over" by blacks and there seems to be a voluntary apartheid practised in these clubs. Whilst unnatural integration of youth groups is not what is being suggested as an alternative, the trend towards quite separate groups indicates the growing movement of some black groups towards isolation. This meeting also indicated the gulf that divided us, with our statistics, from the people out there. The youth workers at the meeting who, after all were sympathetic enough to come along, seemed a long way from appreciating some of our arguments and seeing the need for more information, and presented a rather depressing picture of growing racial tensions. What did come across was the deep rooted prejudice amongst white kids from working class backgrounds and the long task it would be to overcome this.

We were encouraged that Sheffield Education Department saw fit to fund the printing and distribution of this kit, support which was wholly appropriate in the socialist republic of South Yorkshire. However the publicity surrounding the launch of the kit created a furore in the upper echelons of the Town Hall. It seems that in the upper tiers of the management this expenditure was

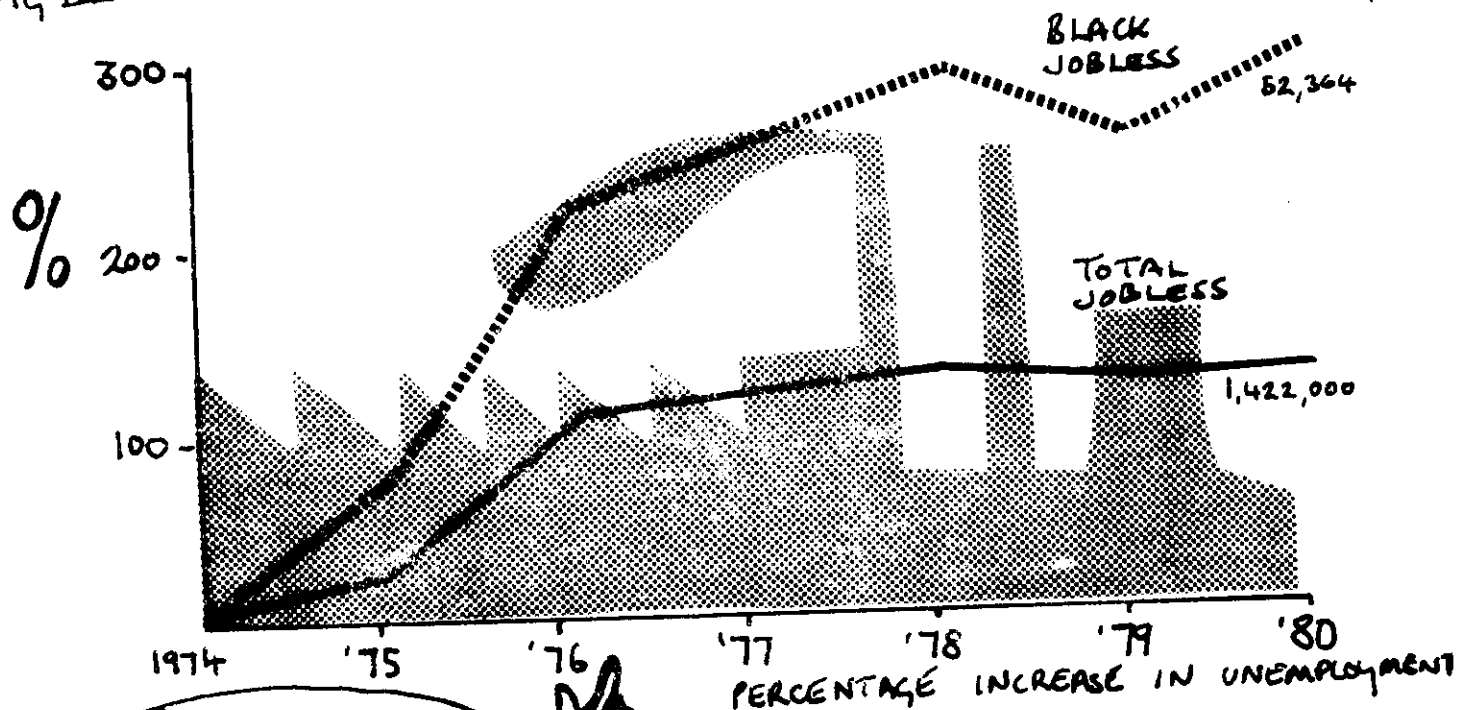
Sheffield Star Dec 11th 1982

The Multi-Racial Lesson

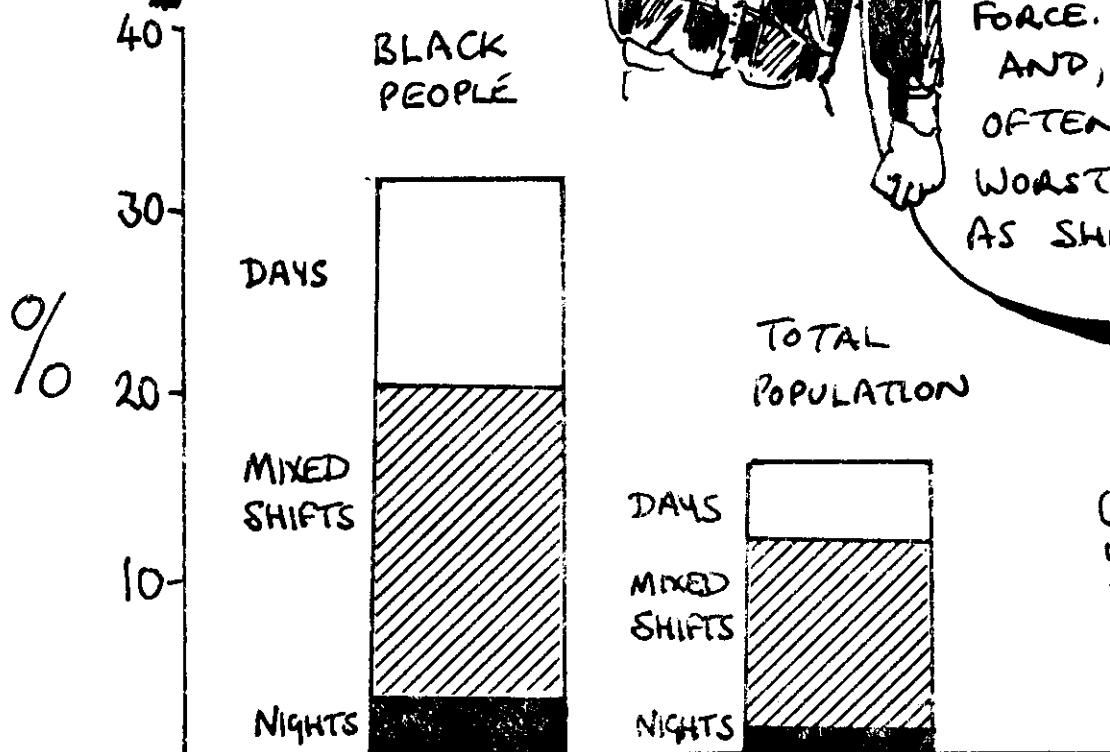


An extract from a comic called 'the Stormer' which is believed to be distributed by the British Movement. It is extremely crude and clearly incites violence against teachers.

Fig III



BLACK PEOPLE ARE BEING HIT WORSE BY UNEMPLOYMENT THAN WHITE PEOPLE FAR MORE OF THEM ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS IN PROPORTION TO THE TOTAL WORK FORCE. AND, BLACK PEOPLE OFTEN GET THE WORST JOBS, SUCH AS SHIFT-WORKING



PERCENTAGE OF SHIFTWORKERS.

(SOURCE: 'THE FACTS OF RACIAL DISADVANTAGE' P.E.P. 1976)

disapproved of and unwelcome and at one stage it seemed that the kit would not be distributed to schools as planned at all. Due to the intervention of certain councillors this situation has now been resolved and distribution has taken place. But even in a progressive council such as Sheffield such initiatives as these do not go unchallenged.

An amusing sideline to the saga was provided by South Yorkshire Police. The police, in the wake of the Scarman Report, showed great interest in our claim that racial violence was on the increase. So interested were the police in reading and commenting on the report that a squad car and police woman were sent to the Polytechnic to pick up a copy. A copy of the report was seen proceeding down the corridors of the Statistics Department and was apprehended by a police officer....

Producing a kit of this kind has taught us some valuable lessons. For one thing we have learnt that these initiatives are a boost to the local anti racist campaigns. Producing such a kit enables us to raise the issues in the local media and gives us a platform for our views. But also we need to work harder to make statistical information more accessible to those who want to use such information.

Dave Drew

