

# RADICAL

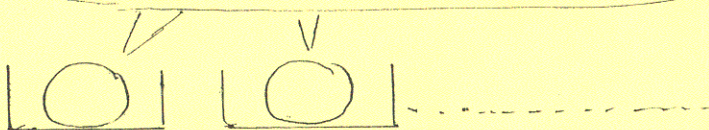
## STATISTICS

### Newsletter 36



Nuclear , oh nuclear  
Pse tell us how safe you R

One in 100 million YEARS



Sorry, this relativity is so confusing  
- we meant seconds SECONDS



The Radical Statistics Group is a network of individuals based on the distribution of this Newsletter. The small amount of central administrative work is done by a three person committee elected at the Annual General Meeting known as 'The Troika' - names below. The editorship of the Newsletter rotates - next editor listed below. Apart from producing a Newsletter, the work of the Group is done by its sub-groups, whose membership is open to all interested parties; simply contact the person below. Use the Newsletter to advertise if you wish to start a new sub-group.

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Some quota samples



ARE reliable !

# MATERNITY EMERGENCY

## NATIONAL RALLY

MON 6 APR 1987 CENTRAL HALL  
WESTMINSTER LONDON SW1

19th September 1986

Dear Radical Statistics Group,

MATERNITY EMERGENCY is a new campaign launched by the Maternity Alliance in defence of Britain's maternity rights. Over the next few months we will be building towards a mass Rally at Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday 6th April 1987, marking the day of abolition of the maternity grant. As the first ever national Rally in defence of maternity rights for British mothers, it is crucial that the campaign attracts the commitment and support of a strong and broadly-based range of statutory and voluntary organisations, women's organisations, professional bodies, trades unions and community groups. I am writing, therefore, to ask whether your organisation would be willing to add its name to the list of sponsoring organisations.

It is just ten years since the first maternity rights for working women were introduced: the right to maternity pay and leave and to protection against unfair dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy. Since 1979, scarcely a year has gone by without some erosion in job protection and financial support around childbirth, culminating in the Government's Social Security Act and its new White Paper, Building Businesses Not Barriers. These changes (as the attached paper clearly demonstrates) represent the most substantial reduction in working mothers' rights that this country has ever witnessed. Britain's mothers now rank amongst the most neglected in Europe.

MATERNITY EMERGENCY will highlight the damaging effect of these cuts on mothers, babies and employers and the serious implications for equal opportunities at work. It will launch a national campaign to press all the political parties to adopt proposals for a realistic structure of benefits and rights to give all mothers financial security around childbirth and the right to continue at work without disadvantage. A series of national and local events will be staged in the run up to the April Rally.

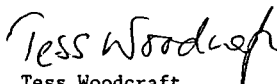
MATERNITY EMERGENCY will be co-ordinated from the Maternity Alliance with a separate Rally steering group. It will be an independent campaign under the Maternity Alliance umbrella and we are asking you to express your commitment and concern for the health and welfare of mothers and babies by sponsoring MATERNITY EMERGENCY. Sponsoring organisations will be listed on MATERNITY EMERGENCY's publicity material and, where appropriate, we shall seek their help with the circulation of Rally publicity materials. Financial donations would, of course, be warmly appreciated as the costs of the campaign will be considerable.

Should you require any further information at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact Lyn Durward at the above address, or Tess Woodcraft on 01-388 2366. We look forward to receiving the attached form, duly completed, at your earliest convenience.

Yours,



Lyn Durward,  
Organiser.



Tess Woodcraft,  
Chair.

01 388 2366

**ACT NOW TO DEFEND MATERNITY RIGHTS**

Now a sub-group of Radstats, the fund has been given a generous start from a number of individuals, from the Education sub-group of Radstats, and initial expenses from Radstats itself.

These initial donations, coming to £270, will be used to answer some of the immediate requests for books and calculators from the Nicaraguan Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) and from the first statistics degree course in Nicaragua organised at the Leon University campus. Some advanced stats texts have been donated too.

Atam Vetta is discussing the fund at the RSS Council. The Nicaraguan Ambassador in London has phoned to give his support to contacts between statisticians in Britain and his country.

International support for Nicaragua makes a tangible difference to a country suffering continuous intervention. It is a practical response to the call from Central America for peace. It can give statisticians in Britain beneficial links with the progressive developing world.

a monetary For/example, a donation of £10 from each Radstats member would enable us to fulfil the immediate requests that have been made, and provide Leon with a micro-computer, GLIM and other software for training and help with monitoring the progress of Nicaragua's social programmes. A collection at your workplace would go still further to help. And if you are ever in Spain, don't come back without a few Spanish-language statistics texts.

PLEASE READ AND DISPLAY THE ENCLOSED LEAFLET, AND WRITE WITH ANY OFFERS OF SUPPORT THAT YOU CAN MUSTER.

Thanks to all those who have helped so far, and especially to John Bibby for a variety of printing, book-ordering, and organising tasks.

Steve Simpson  
242 Keighley Road  
Bradford BD9 4JZ  
Cheques to "Nicaragua Statistics Fund"

STOP PRESS: Nicaragua has asked for volunteer statisticians to work for anything from one month to one year. A particular need for organisation of social data related to large agricultural projects has been expressed recently.

# STATISTICS in Nicaragua Appeal

*"We have only seven or eight calculators between us, none for the 80 or so students."*

*Consuelo Flores, UNAN University, Leon;  
Director of Nicaragua's first statistics  
degree course, begun in 1984.*

*"The 1982 census had to be abandoned, largely because of contra attacks. 3 of our field vehicles were destroyed: we do not have the foreign currency to replace them."*

*Armando Rodriguez, Director of INEC,  
Nicaragua's National Institute of  
Statistics and Censuses.*

Nicaragua's recent social development is held as a precious example in Latin America, but it is daily strained and threatened by economic embargo and military attacks that are now recognised as being planned by the United States Administration.

Statistics and statistical analysis are seen in Nicaragua as essential for monitoring its own development programmes. In spite of rudimentary resources and experience, a national vital statistics system has been established; a variety of non-governmental social research institutions operate; statistics and experimental design courses have begun at graduate level; a keenness to assess progress and find solutions to the problems that restrict social well-being is widely evident.

Nicaraguan institutes have asked for our help with:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - SOLAR POWERED CALCULATORS   | - STATISTICS, DEMOGRAPHY & ECONOMETRICS TEXTS AND JOURNALS (SECOND-HAND OR NEW, POST-GRADUATE LEVEL TEXTS MAY BE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE). |
| - EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE & CONTACT WITH RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS IN BRITAIN | - OFFERS OF VOLUNTARY WORK IN NICARAGUA   |

Statisticians from Britain have recently visited Nicaragua and are attempting to respond to these needs. Please send:

- requests for a full report of "Statistics in Nicaragua"
- cash donations
- offers of other help

to "NICARAGUA STATISTICS FUND", 242 KEIGHLEY ROAD, BRADFORD BD9 4JZ.

### Health Group Report

Our conference on 'Making health information work' went off well, and is described in a separate report in this newsletter. As a result of its success, we have thought of having a second one, in the north of England this time. We have therefore suggested to the Troika that we hold it in York on February 28, which is the Saturday of the annual conference weekend. If another sub-group also held a conference in parallel, this would open up our weekend to a wider range of people and give it a very much needed boost.

RAWP, the system by which DHSS allocates financial resources to English Regional Health Authorities, keeps surfacing as an item of controversy on which people want statistical advice. This is probably because the government is reviewing it and opposition spokespeople are making vague and contradictory statements about how they would deal with the knotty problem. We decided that it would be a good idea to have a meeting, independent of any political party and outside the losing regions in the south, to discuss it. We approached London Health Emergency, which has contacts with similar campaigns in other parts of the country, suggesting that they find a group north of Watford Gap which would organise it jointly with them and us. They have agreed in principle, and have made tentative approaches to Birmingham Trades Union Resource Centre, but we have yet to get together to work out the details.

The question of the selective non-publication of government statistics has received rather more prominent coverage in the media of late. Meanwhile, as the separate article shows, we are still following up our own less spectacular initiative.

As in our report in the last newsletter, our main activity has been work on our forthcoming pamphlet on statistics, health and the NHS. This time, however, it is not too rash to say that the end is in sight. When it is finished and published, we hope to have time to look at OPCS' 87 microfiches which make up Part II of the Registrar General's Decennial Supplement on Occupational Mortality. In fact, some people have already started to consider the implications of these and at the conference of the Society for Social Medicine, a well attended fringe meeting was held on the question of 'Social class - an embarrassment to whom?'

Race Group Report  
Britain's Black Population  
2nd Edition

A very respectable final draft (though we say it ourselves as shouldn't) was submitted to Gower in July. We arranged with them that the book would be "read" by the Institute of Race Relations at Warwick University prior to final approval of the manuscript. This is in process and it is possible that Edition II will appear as one volume in the series they "edit" for Gower.

The existing draft is in three sections:

British Capitalism and Legal Racism

1. Equal Opportunities/Introduction
2. Crime and Law, Police and Race
3. Employment and Racial Discrimination

Practical Racism in Everyday Life

4. Housing
5. Education
6. Social Services
7. Health

The (Statistical) Story So Far

8. White Attitudes: Bringing It All Back Home
9. Demography
10. Identifying Ethnic Origin

Precise authorship of each chapter has not yet been decided, but they will be individually authored and we would hope to organise a one-day seminar at the AGM with most of the authors participating.

Review(ers) Requested

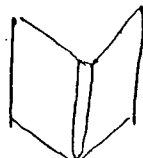
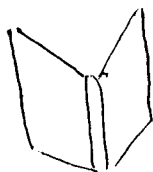
Ian Miles has three books to review. He/we practice a blatantly preferential policy of favouring reviewers who are unwaged and without easy access to a library - so long as they will actually produce the review (else we won't get sent any more books from that publisher). The books are:

Class and Health by Richard Wilkinson (report of the ESRC Workshop of November 1983 on Inequalities in Health)

New Developments in Statistics for Psychologists and Social Scientists ed. A. D. Lovie, published by Methuen (chapters on graphics and robustness)

Stochastic Modelling of Elementary Psychological Processes by J. T. Townsend and F. G. Ashby

Reviews should be between 50 and 500 words (both limits being elastic) according to coherence and importance (?) of book. Please make arrangements direct with Ian Miles, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, Sussex, BN1 9RP, 0273-686738.



The Radical Statistics Newsletter is available by subscription. Current rates are £5 per year for individuals and £7 for institutions and £1.50 for the unwaged. The Newsletter is available from the Radical Statistics Group, c/o BSSRS, 25 Horsell Road, London, N5 1XL. Tel. 01-607-9615.

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is produced three times a year in May, July and December.

**Editors:** send the typed newsletter to Russell Ecob one month before they want the newsletter to reach readers. Copy to be typed on A4 paper.

**Contributors:** send articles to the Editor by the copydate on A4 paper, typed, with good margins all round, in double or 1½ spacing (a change from the previous request for single spacing because of hi-tec reduction reproduction). All members of RSG are invited to contribute to the Newsletter - articles may vary from very short to quite long. Letters and reviews are also welcome.

**Addresses:** The Editor's address usually appears in the last Newsletter, but articles can also be sent to The Editor, RSG, c/o BSSRS, 25 Horsell Road, London N5 1XL.

**NEXT EDITOR:** Jeff Evans (address on inside front cover)

**COPY DATE:** 31st December (Firm) as next Newsletter must appear well before the next ACM

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In accordance with the DPA, any member is entitled to ask

- (a) for a printout of his/her personal details (name and address) as kept on the Radstats computer
- (b) that his/her personal details should not be so stored.

Anybody wishing to avail themselves of this right, please contact the Troika with requests in triplicate.