

207

RADICAL Statistics
NEWSLETTER 42

HISTOIRE DE MARIE-ANTOINETTE.



La Dauphine fait arrêter sa voiture, et s'élance
au secours du malheureux blessé.

end 1988

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The Radical Statistics Group is a group 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 this newsletter rotates - the next editor being as below. Apart from producing this newsletter, the work is done by its subgroups, whose membership is open to all interested parties; simply consult the person below. Use the newsletter to advertise if you wish to start a new subgroup.

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"Excuse me, is this Alcoholics Hieronymus?"

British Society for Social Responsibility in Science

President: Professor Maurice Wilkins FRs

25 Horsell Road, London N5 1XL
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Course Outline

8 weeks, 2 hours on Wednesday evenings.

A series of (up to) eight discussions on the need for appropriate strategies for environmentally beneficial and socially useful science and technology.

1. General introduction to the series. The present structures and funding of science. Technological development in public institutions and the private sector. The military component. Outline of the broad areas where new developments are needed. Two weeks.
2. Information technology. The potential for de-centralised living, working and decision making. More flexible and satisfying work patterns. New leisure and educational possibilities. One week.
3. Technology of control. Threats to privacy and remedies for this. Surveillance techniques and state use of information. The technology of political control and police tactics. One week.
4. Women and science. The exclusion of women from science. Science education and women. The control of medicine by men and women's needs. Feminist science. One week.
5. Science and communication. The presentation of science in the media. The new broadcasting techniques. New technology and newspapers. The politics of information - controlling the supply. One week.
6. Politics of science. Making decisions about science. The right national priorities. Arms conversion and useful employment for military workers. Longer-term investment in space. What action can we take? Tying it all together - the closing session. Two weeks.

This outline is not rigid; indeed the order and the content of some weeks can be changed but it gives a broad idea of the issues our half of the course should cover. It is intended that the course should be as participatory as possible and should result in positive ideas for action - not just be a talking shop. Some of the subjects suggest speakers themselves, others will need a little thought but it should not be too difficult.

Estimating the effects of nuclear war

or

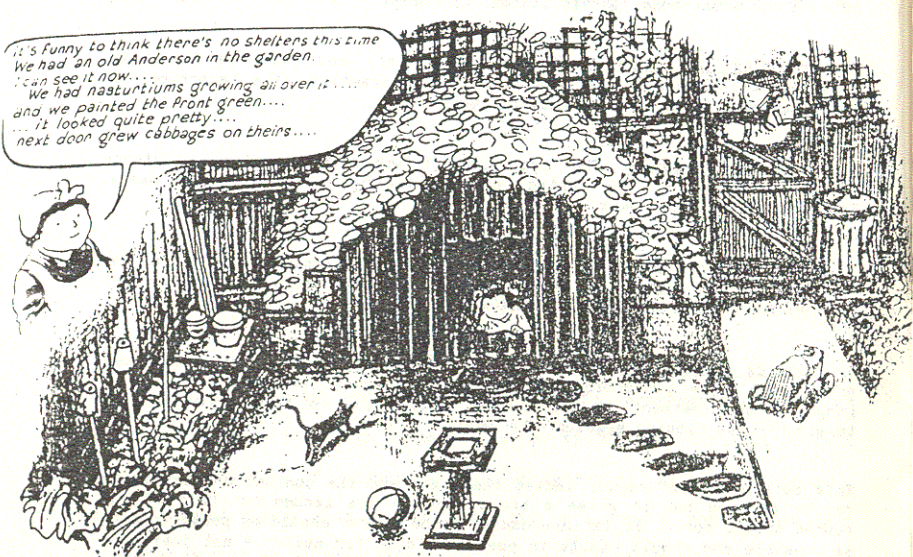
A meeting which took nearly six years to organise

In November 1982, three of the contributors to 'The nuclear numbers game', Jeff Evans, Ben Armstrong and I wrote to the Royal Statistical Society to draw attention to the discrepancies between estimates of numbers of casualties from a nuclear attack produced by the Home Office and those produced by university-based researchers. Most of the latter were associated with Scientists Against Nuclear Arms.

We suggested that the RSS should hold a discussion meeting at which both points of view could be presented and discussed. Our suggestion was taken up and the Programme Committee started to try to make arrangements. To no one's surprise, the Home Office scientists were reluctant to speak in public but, in the fullness of time, were persuaded to take part. As a result, the meeting has been arranged for a date just six years after the idea for it was originally put forward.

If this newsletter reaches you in time, please try to go to the meeting, which will be on Tuesday November 16 at 5pm at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Alison Macfarlane



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/- BSSRS, 25 Horsell Rd, 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 Janet Shapiro 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 single-spaced with 1½ inch margins all round. 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/- BSSRS, 25 Horsell Rd, London N5 1XL.

Next Editor:

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

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

Editor of
Newsletter
No. 43

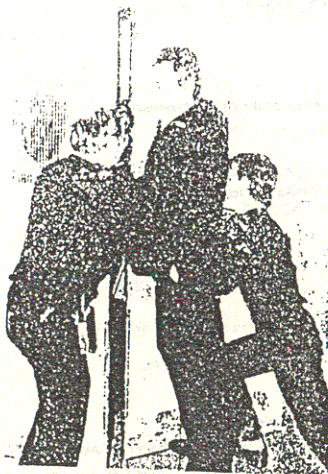
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Caring Edwina stops off at road accident

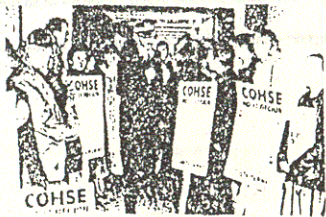
JUNIOR health minister Edwina Currie was the darling of Southampton over the weekend when she was first on the scene at a serious accident as she travelled to address local Tories.



■ EDWINA CURRIE visits Southampton General Hospital. Pictures by Francis Edwards



■ SECURITY men battle to keep demonstrators back as Edwina Currie enters the hospital



■ DEMONSTRATORS meet Edwina Currie on her visit to Southampton