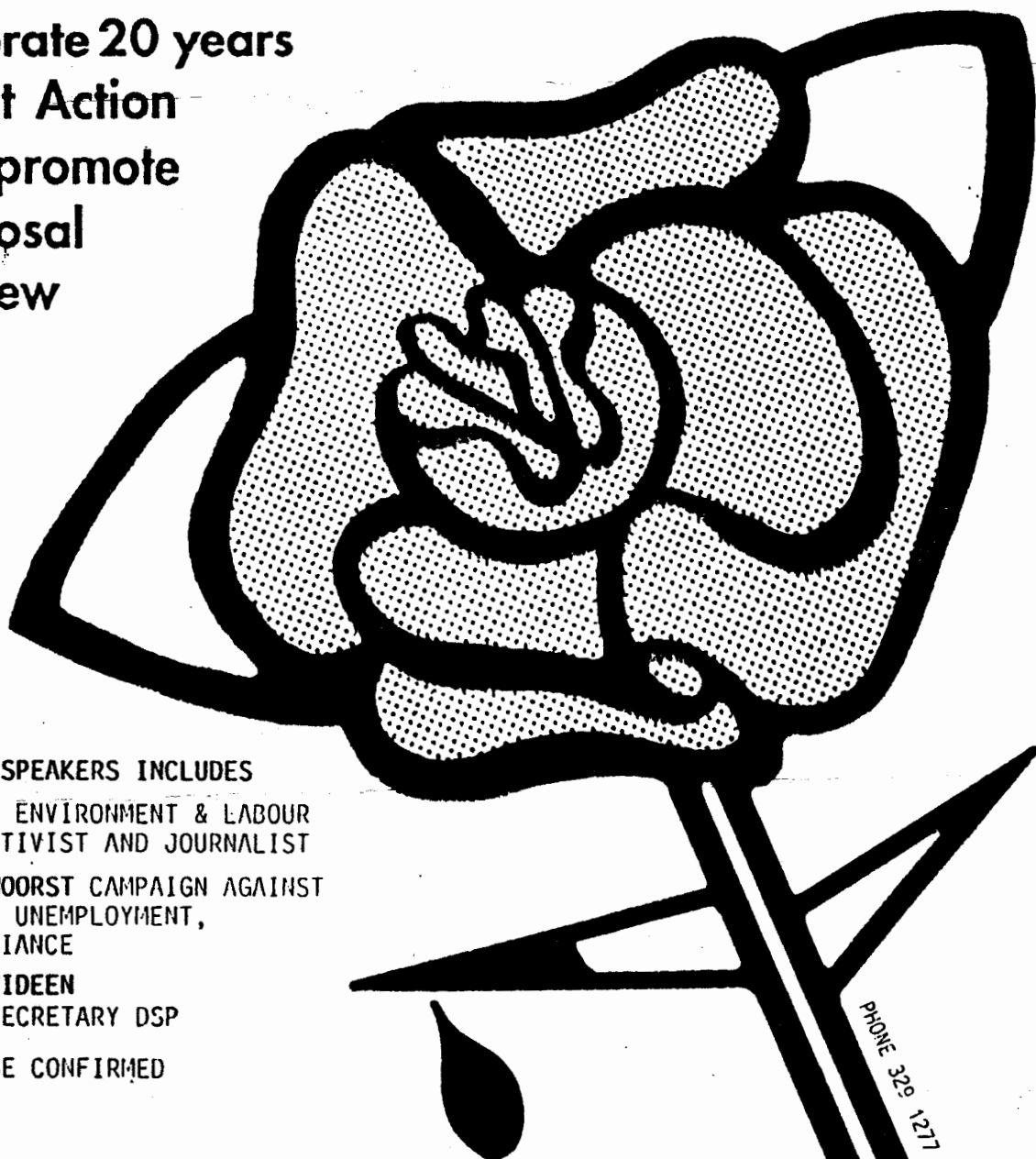


DINNER & RALLY

FOR A

RED-GREEN PAPER

to celebrate 20 years
of Direct Action
and to promote
a proposal
for a New
Broad
Paper
of the
Left



A PANEL OF SPEAKERS INCLUDES

KEVIN HEALY ENVIRONMENT & LABOUR
MOVEMENT ACTIVIST AND JOURNALIST

HARRY VAN MOORST CAMPAIGN AGAINST
POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT,
RAINBOW ALLIANCE

REHANA MOHIDEEN
MELBOURNE SECRETARY DSP


OTHERS TO BE CONFIRMED

8PM SAT NOV 10
14 ANTHONY ST, CITY
NEAR VIC MARKETS

\$18/\$12 CONC
3 COURSE ASIAN MEAL
FOLLOWED BY 60's DANCE PARTY

PHONE 329 1277 FOR BOOKINGS OR MORE INFO

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW BROAD PAPER OF THE LEFT

 This proposal for a new broad paper of the left was initially put forward by members of the Democratic Socialist Party, who approached a range of left activists to gauge what support there might be for such a project. The response has been extremely favourable and those who have already recognised the need for such a paper and have agreed to participate are now discussing the next steps within a broader framework.

The need for such a broad new paper of the left flows from the political situation affecting everyone interested in alternative politics, namely: the weakness and decline of the socialist movement in the west; the crisis of bureaucratic socialism - Stalinism; the ecological crisis and the emergence of the green movement. These developments, which challenge us all, may at first pose problems (especially in the form in which they have emerged). But they provide real opportunities for developing a new movement seeking fundamental social change.

This proposal for a new paper also responds to the political needs that many of us have recognised during the last ten years. Throughout the 1980's there have been several initiatives which have pursued a process of socialist renewal and rethinking, with a number of attempts to regroup the socialist forces into a broader organisational framework, whether this has taken the form of socialist unity, a new left party or a broader red-green or green formation.

Many who have responded to this proposal have participated in such unity attempts in the past or are currently involved in new formations like the Rainbow Alliance, the New Labour Movement in WA, or the Green Alliance.


Regroupment is an ongoing need, and the effort should be continued. While as yet no new clear organisational framework has been created, the necessary search by the left and progressive movements to break out of their isolation remains. A new paper can aid the broader regroupment and renewal process. Revitalising unity is a necessary part of this process.

So far, the new paper project has been sponsored by:

- LOU-ANN BARKER (TAS) Women's movement, peace and solidarity activist
- IAN BOLAS (WA) Member, Board of Management, New Labour Movement, Fremantle
- NEVILLE CURTIS (TAS) Ex-president, South African Union of Students; ex-editor Daily Planet
- MARIE DELMEGE (WA) Peace movement activist
- PAT GORMAN (NSW) Editor Common Cause, Miners Federation
- CAROLINE GRAHAM (NSW) Politics Dept, University of Technology, Sydney
- DAVID GROVE (VIC) Industrial officer, Transport Workers Union
- KEVIN HEALY (VIC) Journalist, Environment and labour movement activist
- MARIT HEGGE (QLD) Green Network activist
- ANNE JUNDOR (NSW) Dept Behavioural Science, Macquarie University
- DES LAWRENCE (SA) Public housing and peace activist
- LEE MARLING (SA) Community and environmental activist
- CLARE McNAMARA (WA) Radio programme producer
- ALLEN MYERS (NSW) Editor Direct Action
- JOHN PERCY (VIC) National President, DSP
- JEFF RICHARDS (SA) Filipino activist
- MARK TAYLOR (QLD) Rainbow Alliance
- HARRY VAN MOORST (VIC) Campaign Against Poverty & Unemployment; Sociology Department Footscray Institute of Technology
- MARIELLE WALSH (SA) Union official and activist
- EDWARD (VIC) Lecturer in Economics, Monash University
- DIANE (NSW) Manager, Australian Film Institute
- JOHN WHELAN (QLD) Editor Irish People, Sec Brisbane Austr Aid for Ireland
- GRAHAM WHITE (SA) Green Alliance, Architecture Dept Adelaide University
- MURIEL WILLIAMS (QLD) Brisbane sub-branch sec, Transport Workers Union

(Organisations listed for identification purposes only)

20 YEARS OF DIRECT ACTION...
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

 So there is a need for a new radical paper. But new parties and new papers can't just be plucked out of thin air. We need to build on past achievements and experience such as that embodied in DIRECT ACTION.

This achievement, the persistence and dedication of people who have produced an alternative newspaper for nearly 20 years and a weekly for 15 of those years, is something that can't be wasted. But it has to be taken forward by others as well who, over time, can move it to a higher plane. A broader paper would relate to, and be able to draw on even wider resources within the green movement, the labour movement, the women's movement, other social movements concerned with economic and social justice, and other political tendencies and individuals.

So the proposal is to transform and expand the existing DIRECT ACTION through a series of modest but real and important steps. There will be a broad advisory board, a changed legal structure to establish a partnership or cooperative in which people can buy shares, and a new name for the paper with a thoroughly revamped look - amongst other initiatives. Of course the project is open to wider and more decisive organisational and political initiatives if the conditions open up or can be created.

Naturally, the project will not be without problems and will not happen overnight. To be effective, it will need much discussion and fine tuning and above all, goodwill and a determination to work together. The important things are a clear new start which will, over time, attract more and more people to the project and make it a success.

A possible target date for launching the new paper could be February 1991. During the rest of this year, we could develop plans for content and layout, investigate new distribution outlets, examine the costing, and put a new legal structure in place.

So we are canvassing for support from all those people who have been looking for something they could contribute to that could help rally the left, a genuine left, a left that is moving ahead into the 90's and facing up to the new times of the environmental crisis and the end of Stalinism.

