

£120,000 for self-financing students

SENATE SETS UP FUND FOR FEES



Above: University Vice-Chancellor Lord Boyle is presented with a leaflet, arguing the Union's case on fees, before he enters the meeting

The campaign by students in Leeds against increases in tuition fees achieved its first major success on Wednesday when an emergency meeting of the Universities governing body, Senate, voted to set up a special hardship fund for self-financing students.

The decision is the culmination of intensive lobbying by both students, who called for the emergency meeting, and staff at the University.

Altogether, there will be £120,000 in the fund. Although Senate refused to commit itself explicitly to the demand that no student should be forced to leave as a result of the fees rises, it is likely that this figure could be increased if necessary.

The £120,000 will be kept entirely separate from the hardship fund which already exists for all students and it will only be made available for those who are self-supporting - overseas students and post-graduates.

The general reaction of student leaders, who were pressing for £200,000, is one of reluctant acceptance.

Union President Brian Smith stressed that, although the Unions full demand had not been met, there was an element of flexibility in the settlement which would allow those who administer the fund to ask for more.

He said: "I am reasonably happy with the settlement. You can't expect the University to disperse funds ad infinitum."

At the emergency meeting, the group set up by Senate to look into the fees issue proposed that the fund should be limited to £100,000. But the Union argued that this would not be enough to cover the students who entered last year as well as those who entered the year before.

Criticism also came from Pro-

fessor Ralph Miliband of the Politics Department. He said that the £100,000 offer was "insufficient to the point of unacceptability" and that the proposals did not reflect the widespread concern against the fees increases that had been expressed at previous Senate meetings.

The £120,000 was a compromise figure proposed by the Vice-Chancellor Lord Boyle at the end of the meeting.

Students await trials

Two court trials involving Leeds students, both of which are likely to attract national attention, are due to be heard in Leeds during the next week.

On Tuesday at Leeds Crown Court University students Peter Simcock and James Donovan are on trial, charged with the murder and

malicious wounding with intent of another University student, Jonathon Wyver.

The alleged incident happened after a social in the University Union's Lipman Building last December.

Since their arrest both defendants have been repeatedly refused bail.

Both the University and the University Union will have observers at the trial.

The second trial will take place at Leeds Magistrates Court this morning. University student Paul

Bell and former University student Tony Harcup are charged with distributing leaflets which are "likely to cause a breach of the peace".

They were arrested as they handed out leaflets to pupils at Leeds City High School in February.

The case is brought under the 'Public Order Act of 1936' which was originally intended to combat fascism but has rarely been invoked in recent years. It could now set a precedent affecting leafleters and pamphleters throughout the country.

Our policy

Because many of our staff will be tied up with exams this term, an 8-page LEEDS STUDENT will be published fortnightly.

On the weeks that we do print we will be bringing you a round-up of all the news, arts and sport that has been happening over the previous fortnight. So don't forget to pick up your copy.

INSIDE

WHAT THE NEW GRANT REGULATIONS MEAN TO YOU - page 3

WHY WE SHOULD BE CHANGING THE LAWS ON CANNABIS - pages 6 & 7

A GUIDE TO THE COUNCIL ELECTIONS - page 9

Nick's story of North Sea drama

A University student was one of the 112 men scooped out of the North Sea during last weekend's oil rig disaster.

20-year-old Nick Gay, who was earning £212 a week working on the rig during a year out of his course, spoke yesterday of his ordeal from his home in Leeds.

He talked of the gruelling half-hour he spent cramped in a tiny rescue capsule with 28 other men while thousands of tons of oil were spewing into the sea around them.

Nick was in the capsule for over

by the News Staff

ten minutes before he realised what was happening.

"I was watching a film, when the alarm was raised he explained.

"Everybody thought it was just a fire drill. Not until two or three minutes later did we realise the seriousness of the situation."

Nick and his mates were picked out of the sea by a tug and within hours had been flown to Stavanger in Norway where they were put up in a luxury hotel.



Nick Gay

DECRIMINALISE
CANNABIS

WE SAY

Cannabis is classified as a dangerous drug and anyone caught in possession of it is liable to be put in prison.

In fact, this week a man was jailed for nine years for smuggling supplies of cannabis into Britain.

However, all the available evidence suggests that the drug does no harm whatsoever.

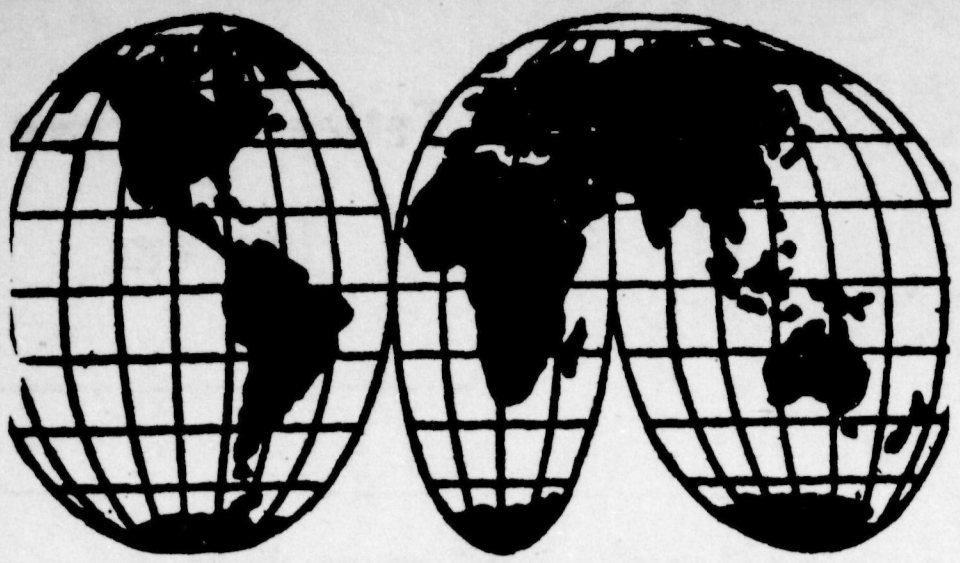
It is a simple case of mistaken identity.

Fifty years ago, cannabis was wrongly placed in the same category as obviously dangerous drugs like LSD and heroin. Since then, despite the publication of many detailed, well substantiated reports, the people who lay down the laws of the land have refused to recognise their error.

WE SAY: It is high time that the British Parliament followed the example of the many American and European states where the threat of a prison sentence for people who possess cannabis has been removed.

It is absurd to legislate against cannabis when it has been proved beyond any shadow of doubt that alcohol can be far more harmful.

TURN TO PAGES 6 AND 7



STUDENT WORLD

ROME

A policeman was killed and two people were wounded when violence once more broke out at Rome University last week.

Shooting broke out after police using teargas drove students, in occupation to protest against the Government's new University Reform Bill, out of three faculties.

The policeman killed was shot twice in the chest, another policeman was taken to hospital in a critical condition, and an American journalist with the CBS broadcasting network was shot in the leg.

SALFORD

A High Court writ has been served on officials of Salford University Student Union and its Palestinian Solidarity Society by their own Jewish Society.

This follows a motion of "no invitation to racist, fascist speakers" proposed by Arab students at the University last October. This was recently ratified by the Union with an addition stating that the Union did not recognise Israel as a legitimate state.

The members of the Jewish Society claim that this decision equates Zionism with racialism. They are going to ask the High Court to declare that the motion was unconstitutional.

OXFORD

More men from public schools get places at Oxford because more apply, say the Oxford and Cambridge student's alternative prospectuses for next year. The prospectuses set out to dispel the myth that only males from public schools need apply.

Four thousand of the prospectuses produced by students, have been distributed free to schools that do not have a tradition of sending pupils to Oxbridge.

They say: "What has been happening is that because public schools put forward the most candidates, they get to know how to work the system to their own advantage."

Both prospectuses emphasise that women have a better chance of gaining a place than ever before.

Compiled by Jane Miller Smith

Union plans fight for student power

Blaze guts girl's room

A student's room was gutted by fire last week after she left a coal fire unattended.

The blaze broke out in a top floor room in Cromer Terrace, beside the University Union.

A fellow lodger in the house, Mr Anson Firth said he tried to beat out the flames but was beaten back by the heat and smoke.

He added that the room, rented by Ms Jackie Fleming, was gutted and that all Ms Fleming's belongings must have been burnt.

Fire officers contained the blaze to Ms Fleming's flat, but other flats suffered water and smoke damage.

The fire was caused by radiated heat from a coal fire setting nearby furnishings ablaze.

The University Union is to mount a major campaign to increase student representation on University Committees.

At the moment there are six student representatives on the University's governing body, Senate, but there is no effective representation on the ruling bodies of faculties.

The aim of the campaign is to get rid of "the significant gap between representation as it exists on staff/student committees and at Senate level."

A motion calling for Union support, was passed without opposition at Tuesday's OGM. The Union is now committed to changing the University constitution to achieve the campaign's ends.

The motion was proposed by economics students, Mark Ashley and Clive Wintle. They began the campaign as a result of recent failures to get student representation on the Board and Executive of the School of Economics.

by Mike Smith

At the OGM, Mr Wintle explained that although Economics was a progressive school, members of the Board had been reluctant to pass "revolutionary measures" on its own.

IN BRIEF

The University Union is to send a telegram to Her Majesty the Queen congratulating her on her Silver Jubilee.

Richard Hawkes, Tory Reform Group member, proposed the motion at this week's Union Council where it was narrowly accepted by 14 votes to 13.

President-elect Paul Conlan said it was ridiculous to spend money on something which did not directly affect the average student.

Leeds City Council could be faced with a large bill after one of its lawn mowers went out of control while cutting grass in front of the Poly and crashed into a parked motor bike.

The motor-bike, owned by Printing Student John Palfrey, suffered extensive damage.

A motion for the next General Meeting will, it is expected get right to the bottom of the University Union's problems.

Russell Berg, a Union Council member, is to propose that soft toilet rolls be used in the Union.

Major breakthrough in battle for Bingley

Bingley college of education looks set to avoid closure after a united campaign by Bingley students and townspeople to save the college.

The case for keeping the college open received firm support at Bradford Metropolitan Council's Further Education Panel, and will now be passed to the Educational services committee for ratification.

Councillor Alan Chapman, a member of the "Save Bingley College" campaign, said he was "very hopeful" that the recommendation would become an official council decision. If it does, the decision is likely to be accepted by the Department of Education. The move comes after an intensive survival campaign from Bingley college staff and students and residents in the town.

The campaign collected a petition of 5,000 names and gained the backing of local Labour and Conservative parties, trades council members, shopkeepers, publicans, the press, and parents.

Nursery fees up

by David Stamper

Massive losses have forced fees for the use of the University Union nursery to be raised.

Welfare officer, Charles Wereko Brooby, said at Tuesday's OGM that the increases were essential if the Union was to curb the projected nursery deficit of £33,150.

He proposed that lunch prices should be raised from 30p a day to 50p a day immediately and that the fee for the session should be raised from 45p this session to 50p next session.

He said: "We must try to maintain the percentage that the Union pays towards nursery facilities. The increases will save up to £4000, money which can be used on other Union improvements."

Although his motion was passed, it was vigorously opposed by

members of the Women's Action Group.

A spokesperson said: "The increases will make it difficult for many students to take up their right to an education. It discriminates against older students and women in particular."

personal column

bad luck North End - May be next year?

All you lonely Greek Cypriots out there. Why not come to Karen's 'coming out' party? - May 10th, Room 7, Hillel House. Bring bottle and Durex. EVERYTHING ELSE is free.

JAZZ! at the Poly. The Al Potts Trad Jazz Band will be playing in the Poly Common room this Monday evening. Only 10p.

Volunteers are urgently required to help run the NIGHTLINE service. We don't ask a great deal of your time - just two or three nights per term. No qualifications are needed; just patience and understanding. Please contact Jon Bennett, 9a, Lucas St, Leeds 6 (or pigeon-hole 'B', Sociology Dept) or ring the Nightline number 42602.

LKF? LKF - ILY - YRC. Devonshire Hall's Last Disco. Bar. Friday 29th April 8.30-12.00. Entrance 30p. Happy Birthday Cathy with love from the Twice Shy.

Happy birthday Paul. Yorkshireman Extraordinaire.

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From Services, Porters, Door

First moves made to end means test



Magnusson in town

Pictured above in Leeds last Saturday is the mastermind behind "Mastermind", the popular BBC quiz programme. Magnus Magnusson was in town to sign copies of his new book "BC, The Archaeology of the Bible Lands" at Austick's Polytechnic Bookshop.

Financially, students will be no better off in real terms next year but the grant settlement, announced at the end of last month, is nevertheless one of the most encouraging for years.

The main points of the settlement are:

- The full grant will be increased by 15 per cent next year to cover inflation. The rate will now be £1010 compared with £875 this year.
- The Government has given a commitment to feed the £60m, which will be saved by changes in child tax allowance, into the grant system.
- Students with dependents are to have allowances linked to supplementary benefit. This will mean an effective rise.
- Students who leave a course before the end of the first term will find it easier to obtain grants for their second course.
- The minimum award for a mandatory grant will rise from £50 to £80. On top of this, no British student on a mandatory award will

have to pay tuition fees.

- Mature students, over 26, will find it easier to obtain full grants.

The most encouraging thing to emerge from the settlement is that the Government is, for the first time, taking real steps towards the abolition of the parental means test.

The injection of the child allowance savings into grants will only go a small way to easing the inequities of the means test but there are signs that if and when the economic situation gets better the Government could be prepared to take further steps.

President Charles Clarke admitted that it was a "relief" that the grant was keeping up with inflation but added that the NUS demands, for a 35 per cent increase and an end to the means test, had not been met.

NUS President-elect Sue Slipman said that there was now at least a recognition that the means test needed looking into.

Press Council threat after Evening Post "bias"

By Pete Burdin

The Polytechnic Union is to report the 'Evening Post' to the Press Council after the newspaper alleged that the Poly's General Meetings were a farce paid at the ratepayers' expense.

The Evening Post claimed in a front page lead story at the end of last term, that the Poly had ground to a halt for three hours to allow a union meeting to take place.

They commented that it may well be deemed a screaming scandal, and was "all part of the student show with farce followed quickly by pantomime-like sit-ins and strikes."

They said that students were 'a privileged group who should make the most of the benefits showered upon them. Otherwise they may well find the public drawing the

line at further financial support of their education and their antics.'

Poly President Chris Pratt said that the union was given money to provide services for students.

"Far from being a farce, General Meetings are the democratic way of deciding how public money should be spent."

Deputy President Ian Coxon claimed that many of the implications made in the report were blatantly untrue.

He said the Poly did not grind to a halt and no lectures were specifically cancelled.

Festival success earns London performance

For the second time in two years the University Workshop Theatre's entry to the student drama festival is to be given a run in London.

The play, a Kabuki version of Shakespeare's King Lear was ineligible for most of the major awards at this year's festival in St Andrews - it was directed by a lecturer, Mike Patterson.

It did however receive some very favourable reviews in the national press. And Hugo Burnham, a second year English student won a

commendation for his performance as Regan, Oswald and France.

The London shows will be at the Cockpit Theatre between the 23rd and 26th of June.



Mike, pictured before his record-breaking attempt

Record breaker

A Civil Engineer finalist has broken a world record during the vacation - for domino tumbling.

Mike Cairney and four helpers from Leeds Charity Rag (John Evans, Rob Mael, Paul Menzies and Tony Campbell-Cook) all travelled down to Chelsea College London for the record attempt, which was sponsored by the BBC programme, "Record Breakers".

It took three days and 150 man-hours to set the 33,333 dominoes up but only seven and a half minutes for 33,266 of them to fall down (a small side of 67 dominoes failed to tumble).

Much to the delight of the programmes commentators Noris Mc Whirter and Roy Castle - the

BBC estimate a cost of £2000 to set up the film and equipment - this beat the pop record by 11,044.

The film is due to be screened in the forthcoming series of "Record Breakers" this autumn and Rag are planning to use it for publicity for Rag Week in November.

Mike first tried to beat the record last November in the University refectory but failed.

**LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION
UNION HANDBOOK 1977/78**

Could all Societies, Sports Clubs etc. who wish to have an entry and have not yet submitted their copy, please note that the absolute deadline for entries is 10th May and that these should be no longer than 50 words long.

Ann Prior
Handbook Editor

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Animal cruelty trial delayed

The trial of two students over alleged ill treatment of budgerigars and mice and unlawful possession of fire-arms at Leeds Polytechnic has been adjourned a month because the matter is so complicated.

The two students, Peter Parkin, of the Polytechnic Art Department and Derek Wain, a Bradford student each face six joint summonses alleging the following offences at the Polytechnic on November 11 last year.

1. Cruelly ill treating six budgerigars.

2. Cruelly ill treating twelve mice.

3. Causing unnecessary suffering to six budgerigars by wantonly or unreasonably tethering them, subjecting them to excessive noise, discharging a firearm at them and causing glass fragments to fall among them and hit them.

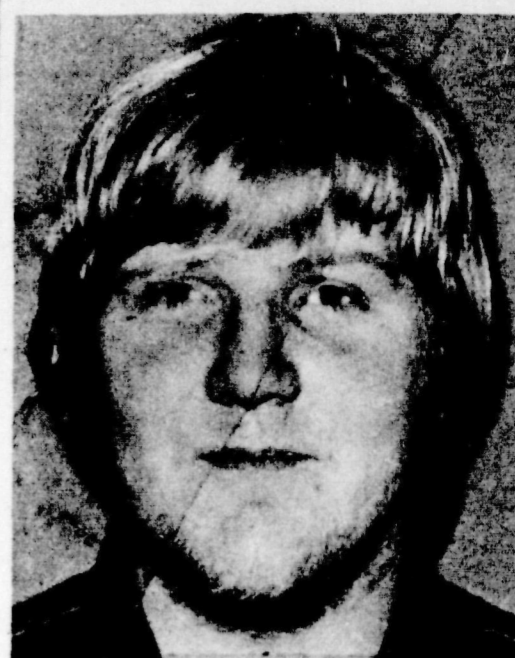
4. Causing unnecessary suffering to twelve mice by wantonly or unreasonably tethering them, subjecting them to excessive noise and causing glass fragments to fall among them and hit them.

5. Unlawful possession of an air rifle and ammunition.

6. Unlawfully having in the Fine Arts Department at Leeds Polytechnic a loaded air pistol with ammunition for use in that firearm.

At a sitting of the Leeds Stipendiary Magistrate earlier this month Mr C.J. Furniss, defending both Parkin and Wain, said: "This is a complicated matter and there will be definitely be a plea of not guilty so I ask for an adjournment."

The trial will be continued on May 26. Until then each defendant is on bail at £35.



Ashley tops the poll

Second-year economist Mark Ashley (pictured above) topped the poll in the election of four council members of the University Union at the end of last term.

Also elected were Andrew Dixon, Ann Forsaith and Gordon Yarnold. Richard Pearce had the same number of votes as Yarnold but lost the seat when a coin was tossed.

The four election members will serve until the end of this session.

Poly venue for music competition

The Polytechnic is to be one of three venues for the area finals of the sixth annual Melody Maker Rock/Folk Contest.

The Leeds area final takes place on June 5th. One of the three judges will be an official of the Poly Union. The national final will be at Fairfield Halls, Croydon on June 26.

This is the first year that the NUS has been assisting in the arrangement of venues - all the area heats have been taking place at colleges and universities around the country.

There are three categories for entrants - amplified groups, acoustic groups and soloists. More than 4000 musicians are taking part in the competition.

Prizes include £1000 cash, the chance to record at Abbey Road studios and a tour of colleges in the autumn.

Deportation threat to exam cheat pair

Two Iranian students at Kitson College who took exams for fellow Iranians were recommended for deportation and heavily fined by the Leeds stipendiary Magistrate earlier this month.

Mansoor Sheibani and Farrokh Radfar both pleaded guilty to one charge of forging a GCE exam

paper and dishonestly attempting to obtain a GCE by deception. They were fined £75 and £150 respectively.

Their defence counsel said: "Although they appear together they did not act in concert. There was an appeal to their loyalty as coming from the same country."

MARINER 81 PRIZE CROSSWORD

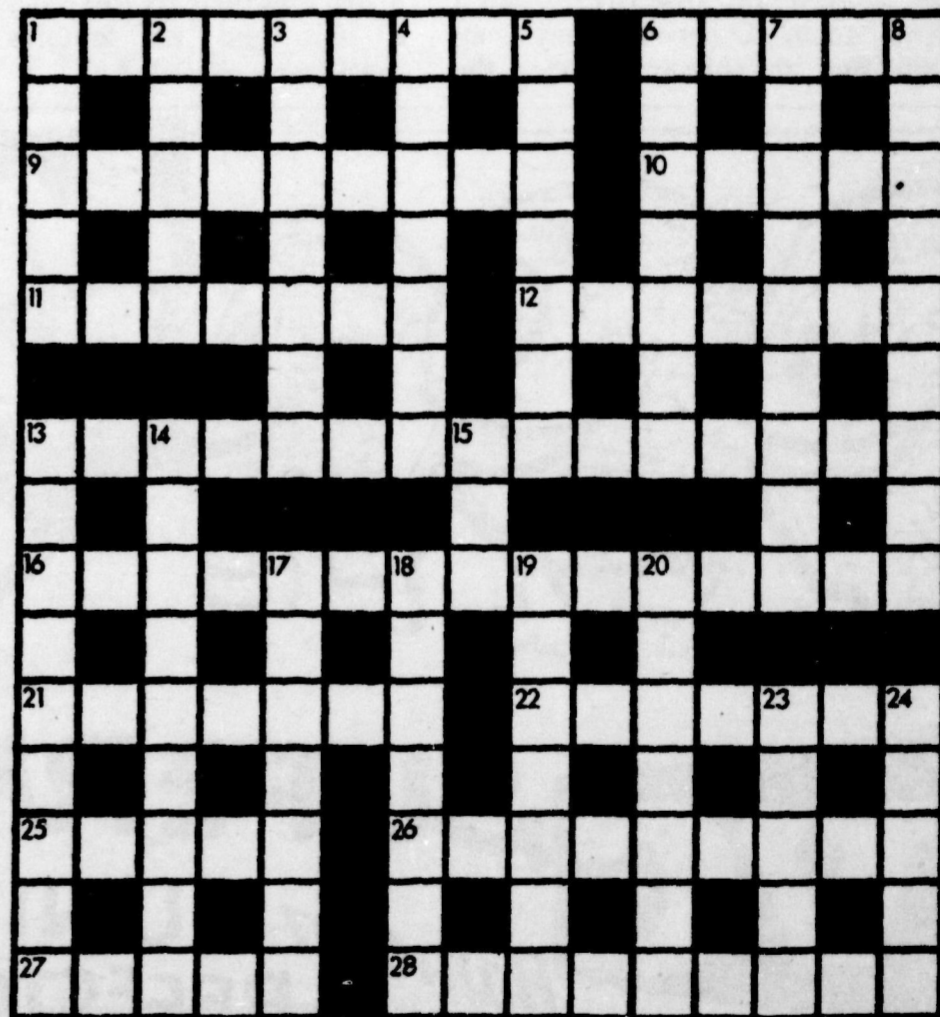
Compiled by Arthur

Across

1. Sex, cries egghead, is improvement on logtrot (9)
6. Culture returned to politician by itinerant (5)
9. Time for a goodbye (9)
10. Regal Rover (5)
11. The kind of stock that's on the rails (7)
12. Tricks could be badly treated, perhaps (7)
13. Tightwad who suffered a festive fright (8,7)
16. Every medal's British, says the sailor (6,2,7)
21. Poor finish to five days' toil, we hear (7)
22. I had a little drink at home first - how dull! (7)
25. Amin the Biblical moron? (5)
26. Dark existence, it seems, but fun (9)
27. Made it less difficult for quiet student to leave content (5)
28. Contract between gentlemen? (9)

Down

1. Tree that is advanced in age, apparently (5)
2. Throw out formerly quiet oriental student (5)
3. Light weapon to punish - broken rib sustained.....(7)
4.and other weapons produce broken leg. Try to get comfortable (7)
5. Kind of extra courage initially found in secret agents (7)
6. Feather duster puzzle? (7)
7. Have great affection, maybe, for capital's airport (9)
8. Newspapers break ties internally with religious lady (9)
13. Formerly a note to Whistler (9)
14. Such outbreaks caused by 500 mince pies that went off? No way (9)
15. He's a little sunbeam (3)
17. Put up Edward on Greek island, perhaps (7)
18. Virgin makes Daniel moan (7)
19. Squeezed close to fire (7)
20. The old French bagpipe (7)
23. The reward of endeavour? (5)
24. Big Tom's lewd recall lived here (5)



SOLUTION TO MARINER 80:

Across: 1. Plain clothes 8. Ovum 9. Recidivist 10. Nawab 13. Programme 14. Moist 15. Pitcher 17. Easel 19. Obese 20. Ashamed 21. Islet 23. Satirical 25. Satyr 28. Militia man 29. Opal 30. Propagandist
Down: 1. Peripatetics 2. Anchor 3. Nadir 4. Love match 5. Taste 6. Soda 7. Puma 10. Nimrod 11. Write 12. Butterfly net 15. Plater 16. Hamstring 18. Salut 22. Scampi 23. Skimp 24. Reign 26. Alps 27. Yelp.
The winner of Mariner 80 was Miss Philippa Smith, 30 Springfield Mt, Leeds 2.

WHERE YOU CAN GET IT

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Economics Entrance
International Studies Coffee Bar
Library Studies Coffee Bar
Library School Entrance
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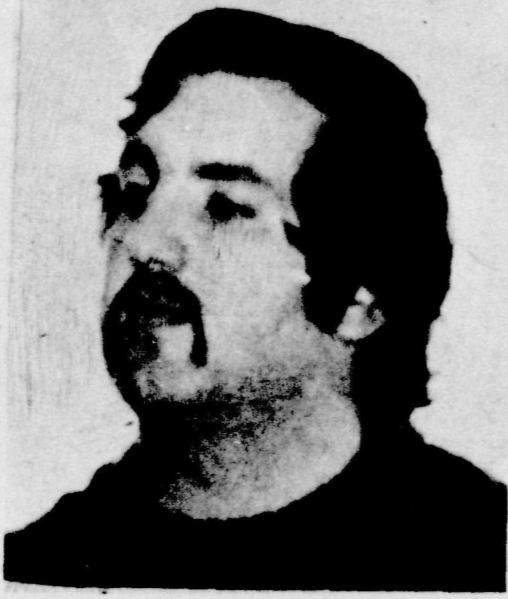
Every year the National Union of Students hold two conferences, one in each of the short vacations. Mike Smith reports on the major one, held in Blackpool last month

Top post for Pratt

in brief



Above: President Sue Slipman
Below: Treasurer Penny Cooper



Above: VPS Chris Pratt
Below: Secretary Trevor Phillips



Broad Left win exec. poll

Leeds Poly President Chris Pratt will be one of the most influential students in Britain next year.

23-year-old Mr Pratt was elected Vice-President for Services — one of the top eight national executive posts — as the Broad Left coalition he supports took ten of the fifteen executive posts.

Another former Leeds student, Sue Slipman, was elected as the first female President of the NUS. Ms Slipman, a 27-year-old Communist will take over the £2000-a-year job in August after two years as National Secretary.

Although the Broad Left, an alliance between Labour and Communist students maintained its dominance on the executive — all top eight posts were filled by BL supporters — there is a growing challenge from both the Ultra Left and Conservatives.

In particular, the Federation of Conservative Students is showing signs that it is becoming a force to be reckoned within the student movement. The FCS now has two members on the executive as compared with one last year and none the year before. Of the 800 or so delegates at the conference about 150 were firm FCS supporters.

The Ultra Left also increased their number of executive supporters by one. Two members of the newly-formed Socialist Students Alliance and one member of the International Socialists were elected.

The closest the Far Left came to winning one of the top eight posts was in the election of the Vice-President for Services. In one of the bitterest and most personal battles the SSA candidate, Colin Talbot, accused Chris Pratt of being an empire-builder. Mr Pratt also lost votes because it is only recently that he has become a Broad Left sympathiser.

Ms Slipman's strongest challenge also came from the Far Left. But she beat Hugh Lanning, an SSA candidate and former National Treasurer by 417 votes to 261 after all the votes of other rivals had been transferred.

It was the presidential election which brought forward the most unusual and interesting of all the election candidates. Lysander de Grandy, a 47-year-old fox-hunting Count, stood as an independent. He polled 13 first preference votes compared with Ms Slipman's 295.

In the other sabbatical elections, Pete Ashby romped home for a second year as Deputy President, Communist Penny Cooper became Treasurer and Trevor Phillips won the post of Secretary to become the first ever coloured sabbatical.

Leeds University delegate Russell Berg failed in his attempt to be elected as British representative to the next meeting of European NUS's. Standing as a member of the Non-Political Students Association he finished near the bottom of the poll. The three elected candidates were members of the Broad Left, Federation of Conservative Students and Socialist Students Association.

The NUS is to mount a major campaign to strengthen the unions of Further Education Colleges. The aims will be to increase the autonomy of the unions and increase the student representation on academic boards.

"Don't look for a solution of the Northern Ireland problems in simplistic terms such as the removal of troops" — that was the warning from Amon Gilmore, the President of the Union of Students in Ireland.

His answer, to build on the basis of the Peace, Jobs and Progress Campaign was accepted by nearly all the delegates from Northern Ireland at the conference.

As the economic recession gets worse we will depend more and more on independent newspapers, delegates were told by journalist Paul Foot. In the most moving speech of the conference he appealed to delegates to contribute towards the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, which has been set to pay an impending libel threat. He warned: "The traditional press will side with property as the recession gets worse and the chinks of light will begin to close down. That's when you'll need us and papers like us."

Extremists defeated

Extremist demands that the executive should actively campaign for direct action over tuition fees were rejected by conference.

But the Far Left successfully steered through a censure on the executive for their lack of action on the issue.

The censure, which was tabled by Loughborough University, accused the leadership of lagging behind the membership. One speaker said: "They were in the vanguard of the campaign when they should have been in the engine room. The only time they took action was when they were led by the membership."

NUS "ignored" new college

Even though Openshaw college officials are fighting off moves from within to disaffiliate from the NUS they have been "virtually ignored" by NUS officials.

Conference was told that since the college joined a year ago, it has received no NUS mail at all. When its delegates arrived at conference they had not even been allocated seats.

National Treasurer Chris Morgan explained that their was a temporary shortage of staff in the press office but that didn't save Deputy-President Pete Ashby and President-elect Sue Slipman from being censured.

Despite the censure, conference voted that the campaign should continue on the same lines as before. The executive is to support occupations or any other action only in areas where there already exists a mass campaign. As Liberal David Hughes said: "Campaigns should not be led centrally from NUS. Each student union should react in its own way."

The campaign will continue to be part of the more general one against all forms of expenditure

cuts. Deputy President Pete Ashby told delegates that to campaign on fees specifically would only divide the membership: "We have to fight for all our members — not just post-graduates and overseas students."

To highlight the inequities of discrimination in fees a National Fees Campaign has been set up and executive is to submit a case to the EEC claiming that the Treaty of Rome has been broken by the fees discrimination.

End to "no platform" narrowly defeated

The continuing fight by the executive to drop the "no platform" slogan from NUS anti-racist policy only narrowly failed.

Conference voted by 182,000 to 154,000 to reject the "no invitation" policy advocated by the Broad Left executive and to retain "no platform".

In one of the most emotive debates of the conference, the argument centred around the theory that "no platform" is so divisive that it alienates many members and weakens the anti-racist campaign.

President Charles Clarke said that, despite growing racism, most students are still not actively anti-racist: "In some student unions the

fight to get rid of racism is hampered by the "no platform" policy.

But speaking for the retention of the present policy one speaker said that "no invitation" was a passive policy. He argued that there already existed a mass feeling against racism amongst students. The problem was that it lacked leadership from the NUS.

Earlier in the racism debate, the Ultra Left failed to steer through an amendment which would have given full support to all demonstrations against fascism groups "including those which aimed at physically driving fascism off the streets." If the amendment had been passed any NUS member who sought to promote racism would have been expelled.

Students given more control

Following the collapse of the service companies last November, ordinary students will, in future, have much tighter control over the remaining services.

From now on, all capital injection into the student discount scheme and NUS promotions will have to be approved by national conferences.

And in order to make sure that service provision is adequately understood a National Services conference will be held bi-annually.

Conference poses threat to European meeting

The 15th annual European Meeting of NUSes has been placed in jeopardy because of a decision by the Blackpool conference.

Conference accepted a recommendation by International Socialist Andy Durgan, who attended the 14th EM in December, that the next meeting, to be held in Warsaw, should be addressed by a member

of the Polish Workers' Defence Committee. The proposal is certain to be rejected by Polish students. They are likely to see it as interference.

One possibility is that the EM might not be convened at all. It seems certain that, whatever happens, the British NUS will be unable to take part.

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DECRIMINALISE
CANNABIS

This week LEEDS STUDENT delves into the mysteries of cannabis.

To some it is a harmless drug; to others an evil substance.

But who is right?

All the available evidence suggests that cannabis does less damage than two freely marketed drugs — ALCOHOL and TOBACCO.

DECRIMINALISE
CANNABIS

Could the problem be caused by a lack of factual information?

Here we attempt to set the record straight.

Whatever your reaction, it's a subject you're likely to hear much more about in future months.

DECRIMINALISE
CANNABIS

Pros and antis in all camps

THE FEDERATION of Conservative Students, the Young Liberals and the Young Communists have in recent weeks, at their respective Easter national conferences, added their support to the growing number of groups calling for the legalisation of cannabis.

It is not, however, a party political issue. As with the successful campaigns to legalise abortion and bring an end to hanging, the members of both the pro and anti lobbies are spread across the whole political spectrum.

Two young Cambridge Conservatives were quick to take an opposite view after the FCS announced its support for cannabis. As did the Tory students' new President, right-winger Sir Keith Joseph: "If I had been a privy counsellor in Elizabeth I's reign, I doubt if I would have supported the introduction of tobacco, let alone cannabis," he said.

Degree

Also there are differing views on the degree to which the clause referring to cannabis in the Misuse of Drugs Act should be changed. Some people still want the possession of cannabis to be a punishable offence. They want it to be a fine rather than a prison sentence.

But most of the individuals and organisations supporting the campaign want use of the drug to be legalised although they agree its distribution should be regulated.

The major force behind the campaign is Release, an organisation formed ten years ago to help people who fall foul of the laws relating to dangerous drugs.

"We want legalisation without commercialisation," says Release research officer David Dimler.

They are celebrating their tenth anniversary by putting as much



Stepping up the campaign

effort into the campaign as possible. Their aim is to raise £5,000 through benefit shows and collections to be able to commission a national public opinion poll on cannabis.

A Harris Poll conducted in the United States showed that, while in 1969 53 per cent of Americans considered heavy drinking to be a major problem and 73 per cent rated cannabis smoking as serious, by 1976 drink had overtaken drugs as a serious issue in the public's estimation.

Last year only 58 per cent of Americans considered cannabis an important problem whereas 71 per cent thought that heavy drinking was a serious problem.

The penalties for possession of cannabis are currently being reviewed by Parliament as part of the complex Criminal Law Bill. An amendment which would have led to change was lost recently in the Lords despite having the support of 77 peers. However, it is understood that the Government will be reintroducing it when the Bill arrives back in the Commons.

Interim

This is one of the principle reasons why Release are hopeful that cannabis will be decriminalised in Britain by the end of this year. But they see this only as an interim step: "Decriminalisation won't be workable," said Mr Dimler.

"Cannabis is quite freely available in most towns."

Meanwhile the National Union of Students has policy in favour of decriminalisation and following an address at the recent Blackpool conference calling on students' unions for support a new wave of campus cannabis campaigns will soon be underway.

And, according to Release, many magistrates and social workers favour decriminalisation.

This may be why the number of convictions has been steadily falling. From a peak of 13,435 in 1973 to 8,837 in 1975. These days the Police are said to be very reasonable with regard to possession, but sentences depend very much on the attitude of individual magistrates.

A FEW years ago, Leeds University Union was regarded by many to be a major centre for the sale of illicit drugs.

Hardly a month went by without some reference being made to the Union in a court case involving narcotics. Officers of the Police Drugs Squad were regular visitors to the University. And the Union Council held secret meetings to devise ways of driving drug peddlers off the premises.

But according to psychology lecturer Ian Hindmarch, the Police and the Press grossly overplayed the significance of Leeds University as a centre for drug deals.

Strong case

"Leeds was certainly not a centre of drug use," says Dr Hindmarch who for the past ten years has kept a watchful eye on the traffic of narcotics on the campus. "The people arrested for serious trafficking were not students."

"Statistically, the incidence of drugs in Leeds has been no different from any other college complex."

"Until 1966, when a limited use of LSD was evident, illicit drugs were non-existent on the campus."

Now 34, Dr Hindmarch was an undergraduate in Leeds in the early sixties. He joined the University's teaching staff in 1966 and is now a leading authority on the use and abuse of drugs.

He believes there is a strong case for the decriminalisation of cannabis.

Dr Hindmarch describes cannabis as a "social drug" putting it in the same league as alcohol: "In general, it produces a feeling of well-being."

Barely any research has been

WHAT is 'cannabis'?

It comes from the hemp plant — somewhat like a 6ft high nettle which grows as a weed in warmer countries, though it used to be grown in England for making rope.

Hemp seeds are sold freely at pet shops for about 20p lb.

Until twenty years ago cannabis was used as a medicine, mainly for relieving pain. It is said to have been used as far back as 2737 BC by the Emperor Shen Nung.

Hardly used at all for rope making or by the medical profession, the cannabis plant is now sought after as a "recreational drug".

The drug is in the resin to be found on the leaves, flowers and at the top of the plant. These are the parts of the plant which are illegal.

There are over 350 slang terms for the resin in its various forms. Indeed there is a whole language associated with the drug. The dried flowering tops are known as 'marijuana' and grass. The resin itself which is sold in 'OXO' like cubes is referred to as hashish and dope.

CANNABIS—NO WORSE THAN A CAN OF BEER

IN THIS interview, University psychology lecturer Ian Hindmarch, reveals why he thinks the drug problem in Leeds has never been as great as many people believe.

He argues the case for relaxing the laws on cannabis. Then, he goes on to highlight what for him is a far more alarming problem, especially among young people — Alcohol.

Dr Hindmarch also offers a reason as to why fewer people go in union bars than in his day. Although he admits he was a Pack Horse man.



Ian Hindmarch

done into the effects of cannabis. But, taken in moderation, Dr Hindmarch believes it to be harmless.

"A middle class phenomena — cannabis is mostly smoked with tobacco. At first you get high, but taken in excess cannabis sends you to sleep."

"Half the students who take drugs start on cannabis. The other half have usually had experience before entering college of something other than cannabis."

Introduced into this country in Queen Victoria's reign, cannabis has always been classed as a dangerous drug: "The distinction was never drawn between cannabis, LSD and heroin. Since then, cannabis has been shown to be the odd one out," says Dr Hindmarch.

His figures show the use of

cannabis to be in decline, largely, he believes, as a direct result of the rocketing price of the substance. Grown mostly in India, Pakistan and North Africa where it costs about £10 a pound, it can't be purchased in this country for much under £30 an ounce.

ever, the majority of people passed through college without touching the stuff.

"In addition, many of its ardent supporters have given it up, having matured since their college days."

The price of cannabis would drop if its use were no longer a punishable offence. (The maximum spell a court can inflict for possession is five years). But if its use were made completely legal it would be open to exploitation of forms other than the present black-markets, including taxation and possibly through the introduction of laws restricting its use.

That's why Dr Hindmarch favours decriminalisation — making it fineable but not imprisonable.

In many ways the law controlling drugs is an ass. You can be locked up for possessing cannabis but there is no control over bar-

biturates which are infinitely more dangerous.

What concerns Dr Hindmarch far more than drug problems at the moment is the increasing rate of alcoholism in this country especially among teenagers.

Educate

"The consumption of alcohol has risen by 300 per cent in the last ten years, the greatest increase being in wines and spirits."

"Now we are witnessing high levels of drunkenness among people between the ages of 13 and 16 who traditionally and legally are never supposed to drink."

A report published last week suggests that by the age of 16, 90 per cent of girls and 98 per cent of boys are frequent drinkers.

Dr Hindmarch believes there is also a significant alcoholism problem among people in their late teens and early twenties — the age of most students.

I told him that I found this surprising because takings in the union bars in Leeds are going down not up.

"This is because people no longer regard the union as a social centre. The explosion of student numbers in the sixties meant that unions lost their club atmosphere."

"Also union bar prices are no longer as competitive as they were

in my day. So people head straight for their "locals".

"I was a Pack Horse man. But the union was always the first port of call for undergraduates."

"Compared with then, students have more money today. I can remember saying — I can't have any beer today, I haven't got any money."

Dr Hindmarch's basic message is that alcohol, tobacco and cannabis are OK — if taken in moderation.

"Someone who smokes five cigarettes a day is no different to someone who doesn't smoke at all. All three drugs have important functions in helping people to get on much better at a social level."

"The problem is one of education. People should be educated how not to abuse drugs."

"Penicillin has a use. But it has been so heavily used in some areas as a treatment for gonorrhoea that the disease has become resistant to it. That is an abuse of penicillin."

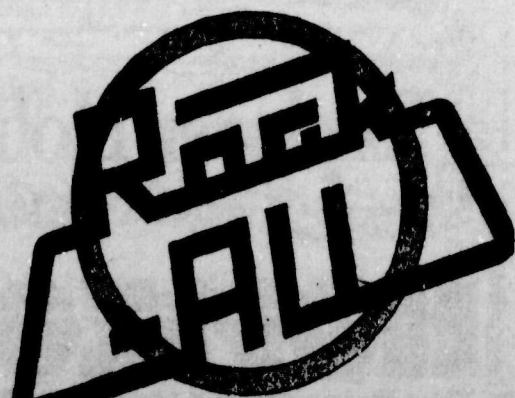
"However, change, by necessity, is a very slow process so that older members of the community may be able to cope."

Perhaps the educative problem is best summed up by a statement made the day after I interviewed Dr Hindmarch. It was made by a Hull printer aged 66 who smokes 40 cigarettes a day and is mounting a campaign on behalf of tobacco addicts.

He said: "Smoking is not such a killed as they pretend: if it was as evil as cannabis it would have been banned altogether."

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In no way is this drug dangerous

Most of the cannabis sold in this country comes from the Middle East and North Africa. There is little heavily organised trafficking: A considerable amount is imported in small batches by people returning from holiday.

Nicholas Saunders' Alternative England and Wales (1975) recommends university campuses as being the best places to buy it.

The best quality cannabis comes from the foothills of the Himalayas but this source could dry up before long because India and Pakistan are committed by a narcotics convention to cease cultivation by 1986.

It is normally smoked as a 'joint' — a hand-rolled cigarette with crumbled cannabis in the tobacco. Some people prefer to smoke it in a special pipe. You can even eat it.

It is quite harmless according to all the thirteen major international reports written on cannabis over

the last 80 years. Each report has broadly reached the same conclusions: that the dangers of cannabis use have been greatly exaggerated; that moderate use is not harmful; that excessive use is rare and even then does not lead to any disability.

Cannabis was first prohibited in this country by the 1925 Dangerous Drugs Act in response to pressure from the League of Nations, instigated by the Egyptian Government. However, the Egyptian Government has stated more recently that, up-to-date work has not supported the judgements upon which their earlier initiative was based.

The major British report on Cannabis is the findings published in 1968 of an Advisory Committee on drug dependence chaired by Baroness Wootton which concluded that moderate use of cannabis is not deleterious to health.

An investigation into the health of long-term heavy cannabis users

which was sponsored by the United States Government and carried out in Jamaica, Costa Rica and Greece, failed to find any discernible medical or psychiatric differences between users and non-users.

There was a scare at one time that the use of cannabis led to hard drugs. The Wootton Committee found that: "The risk of progression to heroin from cannabis is not a reason for retaining control over this drug."

While many countries have relaxed their laws on cannabis, as a result of these reports, Britain has stood firm.

Eight of the United States have now totally decriminalised the possession of cannabis and a further 21 have decriminalisation bills pending.

In Oregon, the first state to decriminalise in 1973, it was found that there had been no significant increase in the use of cannabis and that a majority of people were in

favour of the move. Already over 25 million dollars in law enforcement resources have been saved.

Danish police have been instructed, for the last six years, not to take proceedings against any individual possessing cannabis for personal use.

Even British courts are tending to fine people found in possession rather than imprison them.

Cannabis offences account for about 76 per cent of all drug offences in this country.

Release, one of the principle organisations campaigning for the legalisation of cannabis in this country states: "At a time when our prisons are overcrowded and the costs of administering the criminal justice system are rising sharply there is no justification for spending money on apprehending, processing and maintaining in institutions people whose behaviour cannot be shown to be detrimental to others or to themselves."

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS WEST YORKSHIRE GOES TO THE POLLS

Report by Ian Coxon

Across the country

TO RETAIN overall control the Labour Group on the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council must lose no more than four seats.

There are 310 candidates fighting the 88 seats spread across the Metropolitan Districts of Leeds, Calderdale, Kirkless, Bradford and Wakefield.

For the Tories to take over running of the County Council they must wrest a combined total of 20 Labour and Liberal seats.

In the lead up to the poll there are two vacant Labour seats at Normanton and Bradford

The state of play (seats held)

LABOUR	49
CONSERVATIVES	25
LIBERALS	10
INDEPENDENTS	2
Lab majority	12

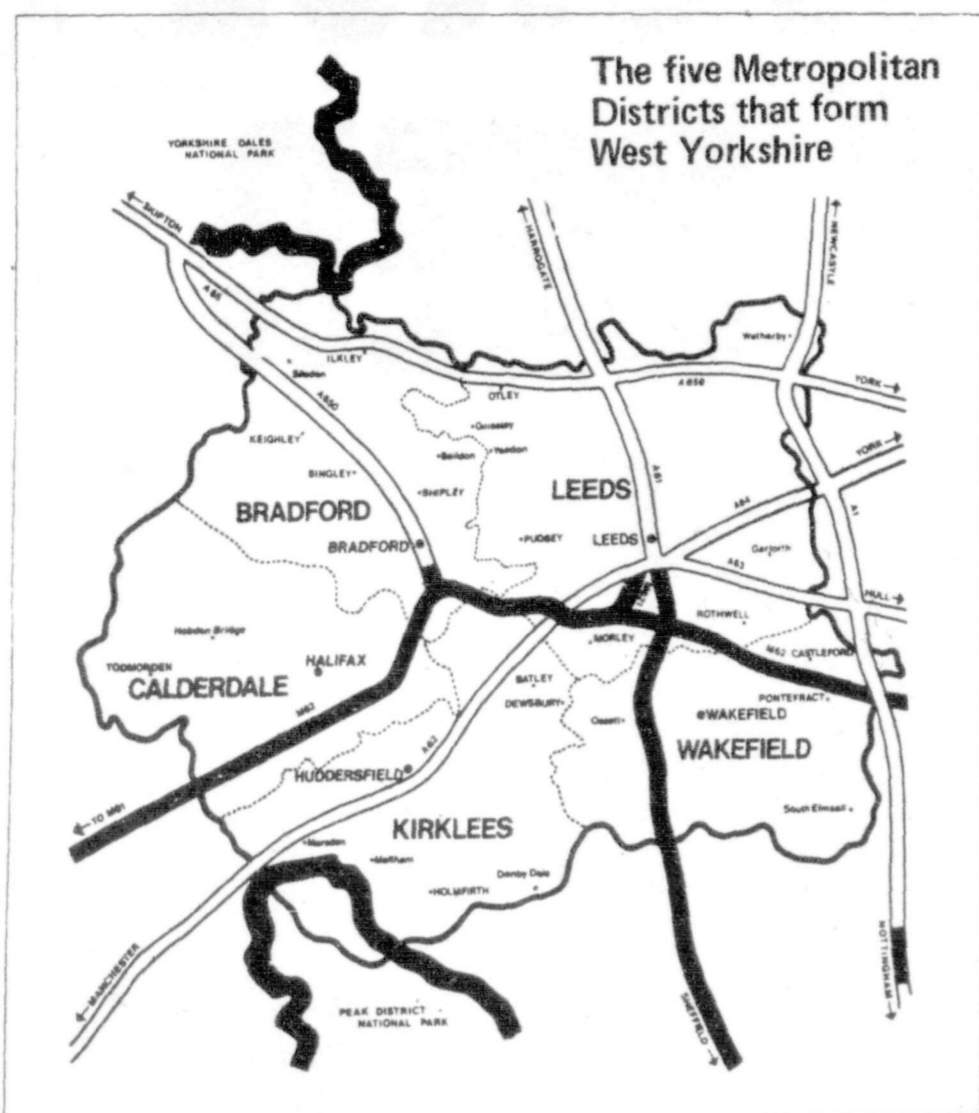
There are elections next Thursday in all 54 county councils in England and Wales.

Of these, six are metropolitan counties based on large industrial conurbations and all held by Labour.

An overall majority of 65 makes it difficult to see how Labour could lose its influence over the nearby metropolitan council of South Yorkshire.

The Tories are certain to maintain their stranglehold in North Yorkshire and look set to take control of Humberside.

It will certainly be worth sitting up until the early hours of Friday morning with either David Dimbleby or Alastair Burnet as the results are announced.



The five Metropolitan Districts that form West Yorkshire



Sarah Ward — Communist, Burley

The campus connections

LEEDS AREA student leader Sarah Ward, 23, has joined the band of old faithfuls from the University who waive their parties' flags at the annual round of local elections.

Sarah's ward is Burley where she is representing the Communist party. Her Liberal opponent is Nigel Mackie, a former Polytechnic student who now works at Leeds General Infirmary.

The only other student hoping for election next week is Liberal David Rolfe who is standing in Tory strong-hold Headingley. Currently training to be a teacher, David has already lost one election

this year — that of University Union Treasurer.

Contesting the same seat is University Mathematics lecturer and Communist Party member Barry Cooper.

Also in the Communist Party's line up is former University Union Council member Jim Rodgers. Twenty seven year old Jim is having a third crack at building support for his party in City and Woodhouse.

The Liberal candidate in City and Woodhouse is the party's campaign co-ordinator for the County Council Elections, University Geography graduate David Selby.

Transport, roads, the Police and the Fire Brigade are the pigeons of the counties, along with shared responsibility for planning.

• The key seats in Leeds are Burley, Kirkstall, Worthley and Pudsey North. All are Labour but a ten per cent swing would turn them into Tory gains.

With a 20 per cent swing Labour would lose: Beeston and Holbeck, Gipton and Whinmoor, Bramley, Morley No 2, Garforth No 2, Staningley and Rothwell to the Conservatives as well as City and Woodhouse — the ward covering the University and the main part of the Polytechnic.

It is possible that the Communists could take votes at the expense of Labour in key areas. But student candidate Sarah Ward doesn't think that this will be the case: "If anything, by bringing the issues out, we will encourage more Labour people to vote."

There is a chance that the Liberals will hold the balance of power, although it is more likely that they will have their work cut out stopping the wards they already hold from turning Tory.

Two Liberals hoping for re-election are County and City councillors Chris Greenfield and David Austick.

Bookseller Austick is defending Otley and former University Union Executive member Greenfield, who is aide to MP Richard Wainwright, will be hard at work in Armley and Castleton.

Another Liberal who has close ties with the University is their candidate for Cookridge and Weetwood — Doretha Leser, wife of the Econometrics professor.

Newcomer

A newcomer to the fray is Archie White, a Polytechnic Law lecturer Archie is hoping to win Kirkstall for the Tories at the expense of Labour.

Polytechnic accountancy lecturer and cycling fanatic John Sully is fighting Osmondthorpe for the second year in succession. Trying to stop him holding on to the seat he won in a by-election last year is Tory Monica Slocombe who is cashing in on her name-sake, Mrs Slocombe of the TV programme 'Are You Being Served'.

And finally, Labour stalwart John Gunnell, a University Education lecturer, will be aiming to unseat Dennis Pedder who holds East and West Hunslet as an Independent, having been sacked from the Liberal Party since the last election.



Archie White — Conservative, Kirkstall

The candidates standing for Leeds wards

*Standing for re-election	CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL	COMMUNIST	NATIONAL FRONT	OTHER
ARMLEY and CASTLETON	R.N. Thompson	R.G. Tee	*C.J. Greenfield	J.A. Hodgson	B.G. Spink	J. Drury (White Power)
BEESTON and HOLBECK	E. Lucas	*D.B. Matthews	S.T. Jones	—	J.M. Duckenfield	—
BURMANTOFTS and RICHMOND MILL	R. Simpson	*P.J. Kelly	M.G. Clag	M.J. Monkman	S.J. Rigby	W. Morrison (White Power)
CHAPEL ALLERTON and SCOTT HALL	*R.M. Barker	B.I. Bloom	D.R. Thorpe	M. Tomplak	C. Whitehead	—
CITY and WOODHOUSE	D.H. Ramsden	*W. Merritt	D.M. Selby	J.M. Rodgers	R. Buck	—
COOKRIDGE and WEETWOOD	*G. Somers	I. Swain	M.D.T. Leser	—	C. Dewar	—
EAST and WEST HUNSLET	R.L. Tetley	J. Gunnell	J.R.W. Dykes	—	N.B. Griffiths	*D. Pedder (Independent)
GIPTON and WHINMOOR	A.M. Andjel	*J.D. Moynihan	—	—	M. Spink	—
HAREHILLS and ROUNDHAY	*G.R. Lax	L. Hodgson	P.S.E. Valentine	—	C. Dewar	—
BRAMLEY	V. Drummond Young	*N.J. Purser	J.M. Spencer	J.A. Light	T. Mullery	E. Morrison (White Power)
HEADINGLEY	*A.S. Pedley	J.P. Howarth	D.P. Rolfe	B.S. Cooper	D. Curtis	K.M. Rusworth (Ecology Party)
KIRKSTALL	A.G.E. White	B.M. Selby	L.W. Keates	—	B. Russell	—
BURLEY	J. Spence	K.J. Patterson	N.R. Mackie	S. Ward	S.W. Collins	K.N. Baxter (Ecology Party)

Opera

Carlo Borromeo looks at an operatic week with a good helping of sex and violence

Operatic Midsummer Day while it's still April



Salome (Josephine Barstow) dances for Herod (Emile Belcourt) in "Salome" by Richard Strauss

It is hard to imagine an artwork of greater warmth and humanity than "The Mastersingers". There may be nothing new about a story of the triumph of young love or of artistic freedom over formalism but Wagner's portrait of the cobbler-poet, Hans Sachs, deepens into a humane philosophy which ought to be a complete answer in the composer's alleged fascism.

It is the glory of the English National's nine-year-old production that whatever the time of year outside the audience is convinced it will be Midsummer Day when it leaves the theatre.

Alberto Remedio's Walther has been a highlight of this production throughout its life. Over the years his acting has improved and his extremely likeable stage personality is well suited to this part.

He was not in his fullest voice for this performance, having just recovered from severe bronchitis, but he compensated with real musicality and graceful phrasing. The first revelation of the dream which provides the prize song is a great moment in this performance.

The Dutch baritone, Peter Van Ginkel, was a dry-voiced Sachs, but — a few Dutch vowel sounds apart — handled the text well and gave more point than many singers do to the cobbler's mixed feelings at

bringing together Walther and Eva. Anne Evans was a delight in this part where she looked the right age and used her young, fresh voice to good effect in the quintet.

Thomas Hemsley was vocally below his best as Beckmesser but never caricatured the role. His two disastrous set-piece songs were very funny. The rest of the cast was generally satisfying.

Complaints are limited to Motley's very dated and precious settings, some sloppy orchestral playing — especially from the brass — and David Lloyd-Jones's anonymous and often soporific conducting.

No one leaving a performance of "Salome" could ever imagine it to be Midsummer Day and in many ways it is a rather nasty concoction. But in a very different field, Strauss's portrait of his central character is as psychologically perceptive as Wagner's in "Mastersingers".

However the biggest difference between the two works was not the change of atmosphere but the conducting. Mark Elder drew alert and responsive playing from an orchestra that for much of the rest of the week sounded uninterested. His speeds tended towards the slow, but he always revealed a sense of the shape of the music which is the most important quality in any conductor.

The four principals were all excellent. Josephine Barstow's Salome is a marvel. If she does not have quite the vocal resources of some Salomes she compensates by looking and sounding like a young girl. Her acting is outstanding, growing from fickle and spoiled child into a



Walther (Alberto Remedios, right) relates his dream to Sachs (Peter Van Ginkel)

true monster. For a singer her movement is remarkable and her dance is highly sensual.

Neil Howlett as the prophet Jokanaan, sings with great weight and authority as does Katherine Pring, a thoroughly nasty Herodias. Emile Belcourt sounded in freer voice as Herod than he has recently done and still displayed his fine gift for vocal characterisation.

Joachim Herz's is a real production and does not take the safe options. His alteration of the ending to have Salome dying of satiation rather than being killed on Herod's orders may offend the purist but it seems consistent with his and Barstow's view of Salome. Above all he captures the depraved atmosphere which pervades the work.

There should still be tickets available for the "Salome" tonight and perhaps some returns for "Mastersingers" tomorrow.

"Don Giovanni" was the first new production of the ENO's last London season. It has been restaged for this tour by Hugh Halliday. The result is respectable but ultimately

bland, which is not enough for this of all operas. However Giovanni's descent to Hell is well handled.

Richard Van Allen's Giovanni was strongly characterised as an appropriately worn rake but his voice is darker than ideal for the role. His Leoporello, Malcolm King, was rather young but confirmed his vocal promise, while Henry Howell's Ottavio looked and sounded ill at ease.

Among the women Rita Hunter (Anna) stood out as expected: both her arias were stylishly done and she acted with dignity. Neither Ava June (Elvira) nor Barbara Walker (Zerlina) showed anything like their true form. The orchestra, under Noel Davies, was often untidy.

The so-called heavenly twins, "Cav" and "Pag", cannot really stand up to being seen with the operatic summits of "Mastersingers" and "Don Giovanni". "Pagliacci" was the better of the two with Elder again conducting well and Derek Hammond-Stroud effective in the prologue. Of two rather gimmicky productions in the same set this one works better.

Humanity . . . depravity

English National Opera: Grand Theatre
The Mastersingers of Nuremberg by Richard Wagner
Salome by Richard Strauss
Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus — Mozart
Cavalleria Rusticana by Pietro Mascagni
Pagliacci by Ruggero Leoncavallo

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LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION

**Members are informed that
Ordinary General Meetings
are to be held
weekly throughout this term.
They will be on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.**

**(sgd) STEVE BURNS
General Secretary**



A scene from Tolstoy's "War & Peace"

Competition

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The Russian production of "War And Peace" is coming to the Odeon Merlion on Sunday May 8th for one day only.

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STUDENT, 155 WOODHOUSE LANE, LEEDS 2. The first ten correct entrants will each receive double tickets. Winners will be informed by post so don't forget to enclose your address.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who played Pierre in the BBC-TV serial of "War And Peace".
2. Which character in the book does Pierre finally marry.

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The Stranglers
UNITED ARTISTS

Moreover, The Strangers' timing is perfect. They are tight and cut the length of the songs to a minimum. This manages to sustain the record's overall pace.

I don't usually like heavy metal, but I do like this. As for the lyrics, some may take offence at the reference to strangulation, making love to the Mersey Tunnel, co-habiting with water-rats and acne. Those who listen to it with tongue in cheek (preferably someone else's) may find the album strangely stimulating.

PIERS STOREY

The Beach Boys Love You
The Beach Boys

OK, so the band who cut "Pet Sounds" way back made a classic. But the boys now sound jaded and old. Worst of all, they're still singing about 16-year-old girls, surfing and unrequited love. At times they sound as if they're going to fall off their surf-boards with boredom.

The basic sound is still the same but now the harmonies sound flat and the tunes boringly mechanical. The lyrics are also trite to say the least. For example - "Love is a woman, so tell her she smells good tonight." Excuse me, I think I'm going to be sick.

SALLY THOMAS

Philosophical cowboy

Michael Nesmith is very hard to classify. He plays a very relaxed type of country rock and has been consistently producing good songs, with the occasional classic. Remember "Son of Shelley Blues" with the Nitty Gritty, Dirt Band?

As with all high calibre song-writers, he has the ability to convey a wide range of feelings and moods rather than just dwelling on melancholy and negative emotions.

"Rio", the single from this album, has received a fair amount of radio play and justifiably so. It is a warm intoxicating song, capturing perfectly the effervescent sense of well-being associated with the prospect of travel, exotic cities and short-sleeved shirts. A full seven minute version is available on the

**From a Radio Engine to
the Photon Wing**
Michael Nesmith
ISLAND

album, "Casablanca Moonlight" creates a similar type of mental image.

The lyrics on these are highly intelligent and creative but unfortunately, on the majority of the other songs on the album, he indulges in a rather irritating form of philosophical moralising. Liberal scatterings of high-minded references to altered states of consciousness and awakefulness plague sensitive melodies. (Herman Hesse meets the Church of Scientology in Nashville!) The effect is similar to the nauseous whining of George

Harrison when he realised he was living in a material world. Nesmith isn't so blatant and is a great deal more eloquent but a marriage of Eastern Philosophy and the laid-back tunes of the South-West creates problems.

This is a totally a Mike Nesmith record. He wrote seven of the eight songs, played guitar, sang, and produced the album himself. It is inevitable that his religious feelings show through, but also a pity. If he could concentrate on writing songs like "Rio" rather than statements of his own ideology, the music would be a lot more accessible.

But being a cosmic cowboy and a retired Monkee at the same time can't be easy.

TREVOR POWELL



LEEDS ENTS PRESENTS



SATURDAY 23rd April - SONNY TERRY AND BROWNIE MCGHEE £1 (U)

THURSDAY 28th April - ROY HARPER and BLACK SHEEP £1.50/£1.75 (P)

SUNDAY 1st MAY - JOHN CALE/THE BOYS/COUNT BISHOPS £1.40 (U)
WIDOWMAKER/QUARTZ £1 (P)

MONDAY 2nd May - COUSIN JO 50p (U)

WEDNESDAY 4th May - ROGER MCGUINN'S THUNDERBYRD/
CHRIS HILLMAN BAND/GENE CLARK
BAND £1.75 (U)

FRIDAY 6th MAY - GRYPHON £1 (P)

SUNDAY 8th May - KEVIN AYERS £1.50 (P)

TUESDAY 17th May - CLASH/SUBWAY SECT (P)

WEDNESDAY 18th May - JOHN MAYALL £1.75 (U)

FRIDAY 20th May - DELROY WILSON £2/£2.50 (P)
RAMONES/TALKING HEADS (P)

SATURDAY 21st May - NILS LOFGREN/TOM PETTY AND THE
HEARTBREAKERS £1.75 (U)

THURSDAY 26th May - DORY PREVIN £2 (U)

FRIDAY 27th May - SHANGHAI (P)

SATURDAY 18th JUNE - COUNTRY JOE MCDONALD £1.75 (U)

(U) represents events held at the
University Union (Tel: 39071)

(P) represents events held at the
Polytechnic Union (Tel 30171)

Tickets are normally on sale a week
before the event

This programme is subject to
alteration and additions

**POLY DISCOS HELD EVERY
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY**



Arts

beer and shit at Workshop.....foot-stomping in RSH.....a Winner winner?.....pictures preview

Here we go again..

YES! Here we go again, yet another film in the Exorcist-Omen sequence. The latest and, with any luck, the last.

The themes of possession, good against evil and the mysteries of the Church prove sadly overworked in this film — or is it just that we've heard it all before? — and sadly the beautiful photography, with shots of Manhattan sunsets and lovely but totally irrelevant Italian groves, doesn't even succeed in lifting this film into the 'something different' range.

As usual we are given the beautiful, tormented girl, played by Cristine Raines, surrounded by a weird selection of bizarre neighbours — including a reincarnated murderer, portrayed by an ever-smiling Burgess Meredith. Once more we see the good-natured cop, concerned with righting the world's wrongs, who is waging a lone battle against crooked cops and shady lawyers. But he's not with us for

The Sentinel ABC

long for director/producer Michael Winner becomes increasingly pre-occupied with if not stunning his audience with sparkling dialogue, then at least revolting them with a display of the grotesque.

Take Alison (Cristina Raines)'s father. First he appears wracked with concern and then he takes a more.....er.....active part in scenes depicting remembered orgies. Later he drops in as a mutilated corpse and as one of the damned who have apparently been reborn in order to prevent Alison from taking up her appointed role as Sentinel to the gate of hell (for reference, this is situated somewhere in uptown New York). Obviously a man of many parts! It's all good strong stuff, providing you've got the stomach to take it, and every possible deviation from the plot. Possibly a winner?

Sarah Madley



Alison (Cristine Raines) looks like doing herself a mischief in Michael Winner's "The Sentinel"

Just not funny

In the immortal words of Lewis Carroll:

"Beware, the Jabberwock, my son....." but this time for a host of reasons they have nothing to do with snapping jaws and the like.

"Jabberwocky" is the creation of Monty Python's Terry Gilliam and stars the inimitable Michael Palin (who wanders through the film in fine Python style). He plays Dennis Cooper, a barrel-maker's apprentice who goes to the walled-city to seek his fortune so that he can return and marry Grizelda, the love of his life (superbly played by Annette Badland).

Comparison with "Holy Grail" is

Jabberwocky ODEON

hard to avoid and the most obvious one is that Jabberwocky is just not funny. It begins brightly enough but subsides with depressing speed into being barely watchable.

Inevitably, Gilliam's film is by far the more visually exciting. In fact, the film's saving grace is its disconcerting authenticity. The whole flavour-nay, stench — of the Middle Ages seems to pour out of the screen as Dennis is progressively pissed on, spat on, shat on. So look out the prudish and squeamish.

Hyde Park preview

The summer season of films gets underway at the Hyde Park this week with the once-controversial *Last Tango In Paris* and Woody Allen's *Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex* — look out for the hilarious sperm scene.

Another Woody Allen film in mid-May — this time *Sleeper*, a science-fiction comedy — is teamed up with Pasolini's bawdy *Canterbury Tales* and promises to be good light-hearted pre-exam viewing.

Don't miss *Duel*, a Wednesday special on 11th May, which is a

superb car v juggernaut battle.

Look out for Gene Wilder in Mel (Blazing Saddles) Brooks' first film *The Producers*, teamed up with *Farewell My Lovely*, the film of a Raymond Chandler classic to be screened on May 8th.

Jack Nicholson appears twice in one week (May 15th). First in *King of Marvin Gardens* and then opposite Maria Schieder (*Last Tango*) in Antonioni's *The Passenger*, a languid, beautifully shot film. Just a few of the cinematic gems in store for you to waste away those revision hours.

Stylized

Landscape by Harold Pinter WORKSHOP THEATRE

A Pinter play is always a very stylized package. The job of the director being to imbue the characters with a vital if rather bizarre humanity.

The job becomes especially necessary in "The Landscape", a forty minute one act play with only two characters. Play with only two actors run the risk of losing momentum as indeed do all Pinter plays. The combination here could be disastrous.

A net curtain unveils a middle-aged husband and wife trying to communicate. Their selfishness and introversion result in typically abstracted Pinteresque dialogue.

Ceri Hill comes across a little insipid as the ageing wife whose artistic pretensions have long been stifled by years of routine. Her face maintains a faintly morose far-away gaze throughout and her folded hands never leave her lap. The pose is for the most part intentional yet it lacks credibility. Her voice is frustratingly cultured in the context of the play.

Ian Ormsby-Knox on the other hand lends himself well to role of fifty-year old Duff. Starting rather falteringly he gathers weight until he becomes a massy character. Gradually broken down by the implacability of his nostalgic, withdrawn wife he clings intensely to the basics (beer and shit).

When his distress overcomes him during a discourse on beery bungs, spiles and spigots, the emotion is strongly conveyed.

The play, like most by Pinter, is interesting but difficult. The direction may lack vital mobility but the production succeeds completely.

PETE JOHN

All hollers and whoops

Dateline: Saturday 23rd April, Shakespeare's birthday. A packed Riley Smith is paying due obeisance to bluesmen Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee.

Terry and McGhee are the stereotypical blues practitioners: Sonny Terry is the blind harpist and Brownie McGhee is the crippled guitar player. No time here for a learned monograph on the duo's place in tradition and how if you can't work and don't want to starve, then music is the only way.

The pair are urban bluesmen who cut their musical teeth playing rent-parties on a Saturday night in the Mid-West. The style is skeletal and fun — all hollers and whoops —

Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee RILEY SMITH

far away from the dark grand mastery of Robert Johnson or Blind Lemon Jefferson.

On Saturday, they were backed by John Pilgrim, a washboard player of much rhythm and some renown, who helped them flesh out the tunes. Sonny Terry sports a leather belt full of harps which he plays with lithe, full-bodied style. Brownie McGhee is no great shakes as a guitarist, muffing even the simplest of triplets and arpeggios,

but he sings with a rheumy frankness, direct and uncomplicated.

The repertoire is varied and variable. "Diggin' Mah Potatoes", "Walk On" and "Bring it on Home" are particularly well done. But the essence is fun. Good foot-stomping humour, propelled by the relentless 12- or 8- bar beat. To borrow a quote from the Duke: "It don't mean a thing if it aint got that swing", and Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee sure can swing.

As they slide into the third encore "Hole in the Wall," another generation of students sits captured by the oddly commercial blues excellence of the pair. 'Cos cliches and parodies apart, they're great fun and good people!

ANDREW SIMMONS



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Wed May 18 — SAT June 4 — STATEMENTS AFTER AN ARREST

UNDER THE IMMORALITY ACT by Athol Fugard

FILMS

Sat April 30 11.15pm — EL TOPO (X) This violently visually

beautiful film both fascinates and repels.

Sun May 1 7.30pm — ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

(AA) With ALLEN Burstyn and Kris Kristofferson

EXTRA!

Mon May 2 at 7.30 pm — THE LAIKERS....folk tales of Yorkshire

presented in a humorous revue. "AGAINST THE WALL".

DATELINE . . .

cinema

ABC 1

Tonight and Tomorrow: David Hemmings and Carol White in *The Squeeze* (X) 1.15; 5.00; 8.45 with *Gold Dust Twins* (X) 3.15; 7.00

ABC 2

Tonight and Tomorrow: Jack Lemmon in *Airport 77* (A) 2.50; 5.40; 8.30 and *French Leave* (A) 2.05; 7.40

ABC 3

Tonight and Tomorrow: Barbra Streisand in *A Star Is Born* (AA) 1.10; 4.10; 7.35

ODEON 1

Tonight and Tomorrow: *Silver Streak* (A) l.c.p. 7.47

ODEON 2

Tonight and Tomorrow: *Jabberwocky* (A) l.c.p. 7.40

ODEON MERRION

Thnight and Tomorrow: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (X) continuous performance, with support. l.c.p. 7.30.

Next week: C.A.S.H. (AA) Cont. performance.

Wednesday 4th May only: *Fantastic Planet* 2.20; 7.25 and *Crystal Voyager* 3.50; 8.55

PLAZA

Tonight and Tomorrow: *Naked and Lustful* (X) 2.15; 4.55; 7.40 and *Secret Lovegames* (X) 1.00; 3.40; 6.20; 9.05.

Next week: *The Surgeon* (X) 2.40; 5.45; 8.50 and *Red Hot In Bed* (X) 1.00; 4.05; 7.15.

TOWER

Tonight and Tomorrow: *Two Minute Warning* (AA) 4.20; 8.30 and *Charlie Varrick* (X) 2.15; 6.25. Next week: *The Sweeney* (X) and *Drum* (X)

COTTAGE ROAD

Tonight and Tomorrow: Woody Allen in *The Front* 5.20; 8.50 and Charles Bronson in *The Street-fighter* 7.00

Next week: Charlton Heston in *Two Minute Warning* (AA) 8.30 only and Warren Beatty in *The Parallax View* (AA) 6.30.

LOUNGE

Tonight and Tomorrow: *The Enforcer* (X) with Clint Eastwood 5.30; 9.00 and *Night Moves* (X) 7.10

Next week: Mel Brooks' *Silent Movie*

LYRIC

Tonight and Tomorrow: *Naughty* (X) 5.20; 8.30 and *Sex and the Other Woman* (X) 7.00.

Next week: Monday for 6 days: *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* winner of 6 British Academy awards 6.00; 8.15.

PLAYHOUSE

Saturday at 11.15: *El Topo*.

HYDE PARK

Tonight and Tomorrow: *Last Tango In Paris* (X) 8.15 pm. and Woody Allen in *Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex* (X) 6.45 pm.

Next week (except Wednesday): *Taxi Driver* (X) with Robert Deniro and *The Fortune* (X)

Wednesday May 4 only *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* (U) and *Barefoot in the Park* (U)

ents

UNIVERSITY

Sunday 1st May: John Cale/The Boys/Count Bishops

Monday 2nd May: Cousin Jo

Wednesday 4th May: Roger McGuinn's Thunderbird/Chris Hillman Band/Gene Clavic Band.

POLYTECHNIC

Sunday 1st May: Widowmaker and Quartz.

Friday 6th May: Gryphon

theatre

PLAYHOUSE

The Homecoming by Harold Pinter at 7.30 p.m.

GRAND

May 2-7 *Double Edge* with Kate O'Mara and Pete Byrne 7.30 pm.

CIVIC

May 3-7 *When We Are Married* a Silver Jubilee production 7.30 pm.

LEEDS STUDENT

Friday 29th April 1977

your weekly newspaper

Edited by Melanie Place

Roger smashes fifty

The University Cricket XI have started the season in fine style with a resounding victory over Adel.

Leeds won the toss and put Adel into bat. The University bowlers started well, Barton and Foster both bowling with commendable accuracy. Adel were soon reeling 24 for 3. Instrumental in this was Cunningham who took an outstanding catch at short leg, off Barton.

Adel took the game in hand and with stalwart batting from Goldthorpe, Fitton and March they made 120 for 4.

Turned bowled steadily and the return of Foster and Barton prevented Adel from capitalising on their position.

After 45 overs they finished with 134 for 9.

Leeds faced a tricky task on wicket which was cutting up alarmingly. However Rogers produced a superb half century in less than an hour. This put Leeds in a strong position at 69 for three.

But Adel countered with some extremely tight bowling and the University innings looked in danger of stagnating. Wickets were thrown away and at 96 for 6 with 15 overs left to play the match was balanced on a knife edge.

It was Turner and Cunningham for Leeds who now made a splendid stand of 39. The University won the day with 5 overs to spare.

This was a highly satisfactory start to win the first full match of the season.

Less satisfactory had been the match the day before against Harrogate Taverners.

The day before Leeds had to abandon their match against Harrogate Taverners due to rain.

Leeds men snatch double victory

The University Orienteering Club, set up only four years ago, created a sensation during the holiday by claiming two major national championships.

In a series of events held over the first weekend in April, the Leeds team won the UAU and BUSF Men's Championship and also took the newly inaugurated William Younger's Student Trophy.

Success also came for Leeds in the individual event held on the Saturday. In a strong field of 110 A class runners and 108 B class, Dave Jukes and Alistair Thompson came second and fourth respectively in the UAU competition. These excellent performances earned them places in the UAU Team.

Orienteering

The individual event was won by Richard Gardner, of London, the only competitor to finish the gruelling course in less than an hour.

In the Women's event, Katy Payne of Leeds, achieved fourth place in the WIVAB competition, tenth overall. This event was on a shorter course but included 800 feet of climbing. International competitors, Allyson Stewart of Glasgow, and Alyson Reed of Cambridge took the first two places.

The main event of the weekend, the team event, took place on the Sunday. This took the form of a relay. Favourites to win were London, winners of the Jan Kyellstrom International Trophy,

and Oxford, who had all three of their team in the top twenty on the Saturday.

However it was Maurice Calvert of Leeds who took a commanding lead in the first leg. Calvert, better known for his cross-country running than orienteering came in ten seconds ahead of the National M19 Champion, Tim Watkins.

This encouraging lead was rapidly extended to a staggering seven and half minutes by Thompson. By this stage both Oxford and London were struggling to recover from disastrous starts and Newcastle were in second place.

Jukes ran a strong last leg for Leeds, holding them in first place with a safe margin of ten minutes, three seconds. Newcastle held second place and the co-favourites Oxford managed to gain third place.

The Leeds second and third teams also showed good form. In a field of 35 A class teams and 33 B class teams they came 21st and 19th respectively.

With this triumph to their credit and the promise of up and coming talent, the University Club looks set for a bright future.



The University's First Eight, pictured at the famous "Head of the River Race" on the Thames

Winter work pays off

The long months of winter training in Cromer Terrace Gym have finally paid off for the University Boat club.

In this year's "Head of the River" season the first crew won two major competitions, one at York and the other at Chester.

At York they won the Senior A

Division pennant. Overall, they finished third despite being impeded by York City Rowing Club for most of the 4 mile course.

The crew followed up this success a week later by winning the Senior A gain, at Chester. This was a good achievement considering there were over 50 eights competing.

The University second eight have been very unlucky to be squeezed out of the pennants this year.

They finished 17th at Nottingham, 7th at York and were a mere one second behind the University's first crew at Chester.

The results are the best that the boat club has had for many years and club members are now looking forward to equal successes in the Regatta season.

1st crew: Bow, Griffiths; 2. Sooton; 3. Poole; 4. Higginson; 5. Bean; 6. Twyman; 7. Sutherland; Stroke, Barratt; Cox, Daly.

Gold Rust

Leeds student, Richard Rust emerged victorious as the new Universities Canoe Slalom Champion, at Llandyssul recently.

Rust took the gold in this, the most fiercely contested of the individual events.

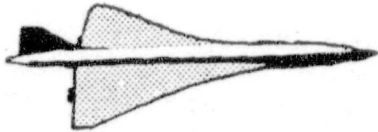
Paddling his newly designed kayak, he defeated over a hundred other competitors with a clear round in a time of two minutes fifteen seconds.

He was leading at the end of the first run but at this stage it was possible that someone might do a faster run time in the second run. It is the better of the two runs which counts in the final placing.

Rust's own second run was disastrous leaving the first as his better score. However, despite a noble effort by Liverpool's three ex-internationals, Rust's time remained undefeated.

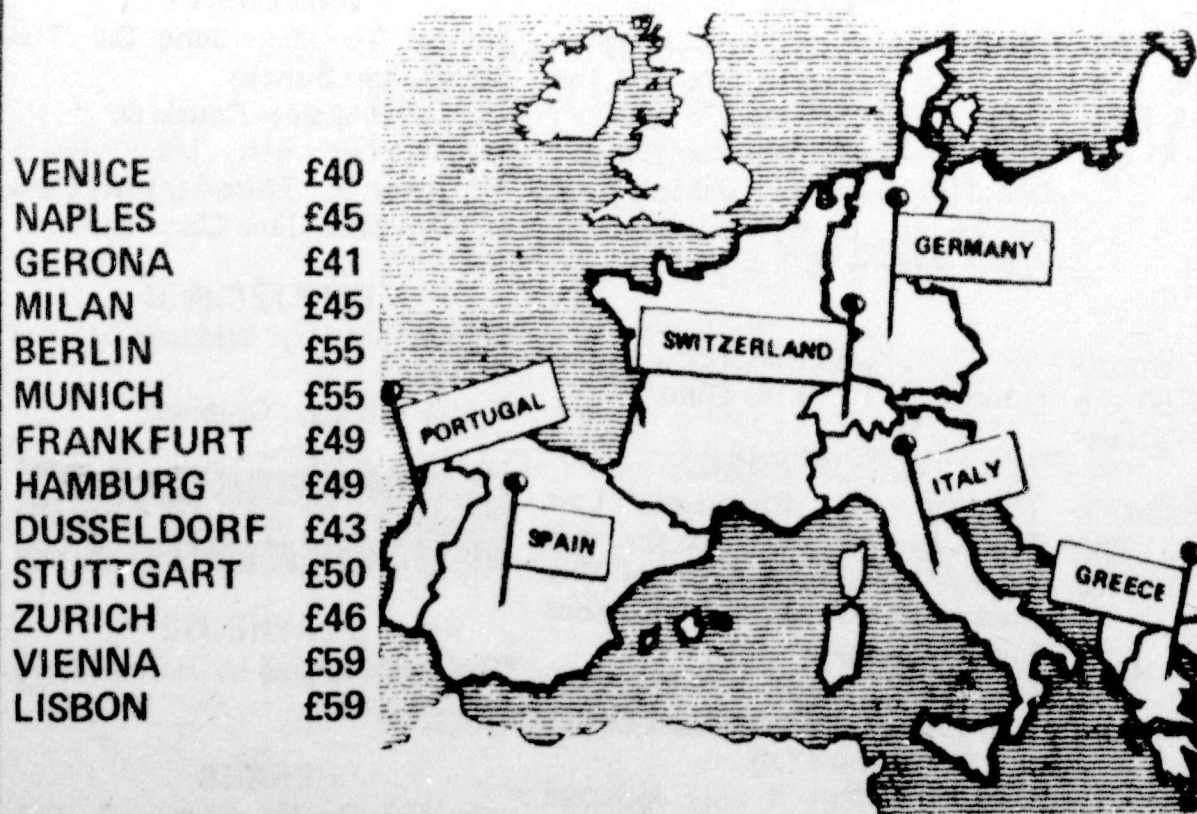
Leeds fared badly in the team events, failing to get a single place.

traveleads



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