

# ROW BREWS OVER HALL CONTRACTS

A full-scale row is brewing between students at the City of Leeds and Carnegie College and the college authorities over the contracts students sign when they take up a place in a hall of residence.

The students claim they are being "pressurised" by the authorities into accepting one of two different residence contracts, and that they are being given no option as to which one they choose.

The two contracts, one a full contract with complete board and 21 meals a week, the other a part contract with only one meal per day provided, are currently being examined by a special working party of students and college administrators, and no decision has yet been reached as to which contract should be used next session.

But the students union say that the authorities are forcing

by Chris Elliott

ing students to choose the full contract before the increase in the student grant and in hall fees and meal prices, is known.

Under the full contract system, the cost of the contract is deducted from the students' grants. Although students will pay £1.20 a week less under the part contract, they will get 16 fewer meals. This means the part contract will work out much more expensive.

At a special general meeting of the Union yesterday, a motion calling upon students not to sign any contract of residence until the situation had been clarified, and any price

risers were known, was passed unanimously.

A second motion demanded that the cost of the part contract be based on that of the full contract.

Union President Chris Pratt said: "What all this means is that students are not going to be able to live. The situation is ridiculous. The government must either put up grants to allow students to pay an economic price for meals and accommodation, or subsidise them."

Exec member Nic Oliver commented: "The authorities could have sorted this out long ago, instead of stalling and stalling like this. Students here have to say by June 4 whether or not they want a place in hall. We're sitting on a time-bomb."

Mr Ray Hardy, Carnegie Administrative Officer, said that he did not think there was any attempt to force students into doing anything. He said there was to be a meeting of the working party this afternoon where it was expected to take a step further to resolving the problem.

The union is considering picketing the meeting this afternoon.

## Exec man in court over forgery

A member of the union executive of a Leeds college forged a £50 cheque to buy Christmas presents, a court was told this week.

Martin Swillingham of Jacob Kramer College, pleaded guilty before Leeds Stipendiary magistrate Mr. F. D. L. Loy of stealing the cheque.

He was put on probation for two years, and given a conditional discharge for two

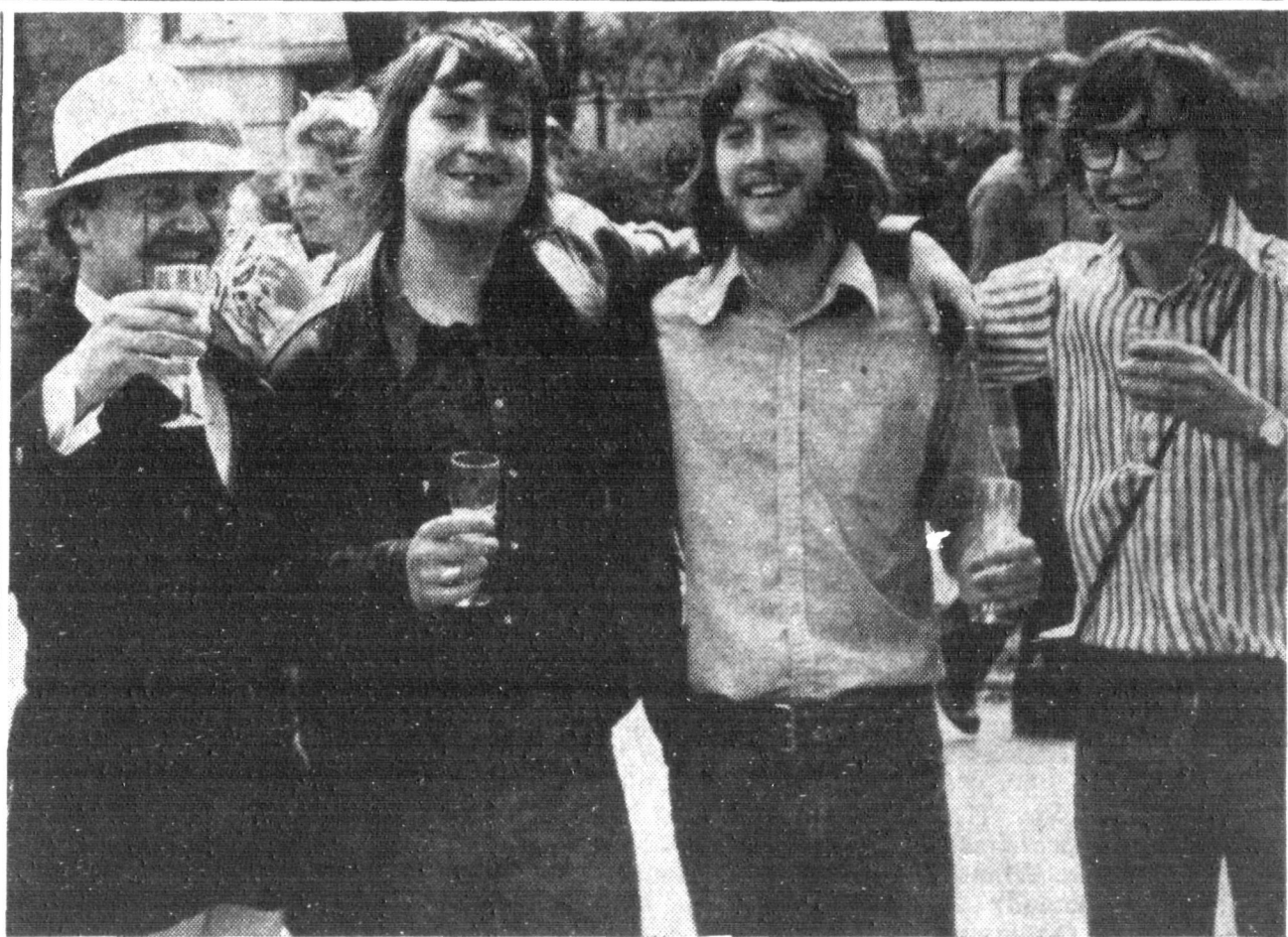
years. Swillingham, 18, of Dorset Avenue, Harehills, Leeds, was one of only three executive members who were entitled to sign cheques on behalf of the college union. He said he had stolen the cheque because he needed to buy Christmas presents and had no money, Mr Miles Barker, prosecuting, said in court.

Newly-elected college President Peter Shillito declined to comment on the affair yesterday. "All I will say is that we in the union are unanimous in thinking Martin didn't do it."

Mr Shillito would not say whether the union intended to press for a re-trial.

Swillingham is the fourth Union officer in recent years to have been caught forging cheques. Ex-Poly treasurer Robert 'Buzz' Windley was jailed for a year after bouncing cheques worth £3,000 on the union, and ex-President Julian Stevenson was fined £120 by a Leeds court last term for obtaining money by deception.

At the start of this session, Poly Union Vice President John Boocock resigned after admitting forging four cheques worth £30 each.



## Financial future looks brighter

Hopes of an end to the University Union's money troubles were given a substantial boost at a special meeting of the Executive last Friday.

The meeting, convened to draft out a recommended budget for the Union next session, forecast a much healthier financial position in the coming year.

More cash is likely to be available for clubs and societies, and it is hoped that there will be enough money left over to pay £5,000 into the Union's special reserve fund.

"It's a very optimistic situation," President Roger Seddon said this week. "We've been through some difficult times over the past year, but we're at last beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

The budget, which has yet to be approved by Union Council, includes an increase of £4,500 for clubs and societies, and higher grants for the Union's sports clubs. More money is also to be made available in a bid to improve the standard of cleaning in the Union building.

An increase of £3.75 in the

Union's per capita fee — bringing the total amount paid per student to £33.25 — will provide the extra income needed to make the budget work. This increase was approved earlier this week by the University Council, and now only requires the blessing of the local authorities.

The Union budget for next session will be discussed by Union Council tonight at 6 pm in the Debating Chamber.

## Champagne for free

They don't make 'em like they used to. Pictured above reviving the halcyon days of sunshine, champers and cucumber sandwiches is University law student Christoph Schliack outside the Union on Tuesday.

Christoph and a group of helpers are serving passers-by with champagne as a publicity stunt.

Sinking their differences and joining the Baron in a glass of the grape are left to right, Deputy President Bob Rae, President Roger Seddon, and Conservative Association chairman John May.

## STUDENTS DRUGGED

Drug squad detectives questioned students in a college bar in Bradford at the weekend after nine students, two of them unconscious, were taken to hospital suffering from barbiturate poisoning.

Someone slipped the drugs into the students' drinks as they socialised in the Vaults bar at Bradford College Union. All nine were later

released from hospital.

A police spokesman commented later: "It is almost certain that drugs of some kind were involved in this incident, but we can make no further statement until our investigations into the matter have been completed."

The college authorities are also looking into the incident.

# Burns in election shock

by MIKE SMITH

A sabbatical member of next year's Union Executive has failed in a bid to get elected to the University Senate.

Stephen Burns, General Secretary-elect, came bottom in the poll, despite the fact that none of his three rivals were sabbaticals.

The seat on Senate was won by Welfare Officer, Paul Conlan. He beat Burns, UC member Stephen Herbert, and Helen Howcroft, who has so far taken no part in union politics.

In a 5.8 per cent poll the voting on the first count was: Burns 92; Conlan 178; Herbert 129; Howcroft 107. When the lowest two candidates had been eliminated and their votes transferred Conlan polled 220 and Herbert 188.



Sarah Ward



Stephen Burns

Mr Conlan also came top in the election for two members to the University Council. He beat Stephen Herbert who was also elected, by only one vote, 267 and 266 respectively.

Third and last came Education and Welfare Secretary, Peter Walker. His vote of only 232 was another surprise considering his past involvement in Union politics.

After his victories Mr Conlan said that he was "very surprised": "Because I am a

member of the Broad Left, I never expected to do so well.

"With my new posts I want to see the effects of the education cuts minimised."

The battle between Conservative Christoph Schliack and Communist Sarah Ward to gain the University Union's support in the Leeds Area National Union of Students was decided by only three votes.

Ms Ward pipped Mr Schliack at the post by polling

268 votes to his 265. This means she will now be endorsed by both the University delegates when the LANUS committee voting takes place next Thursday.

Although all five sabbatical members of next year's new Polytechnic Union Executive were elected unopposed a total of nine candidates are standing for the five non-sabbatical posts.

House Secretary in the new Union will go to either Colin Smith, a Carnegie PE student or Joe Willis, a member of this year's Poly executive.

And Pete McGuinness, this year's Poly Board of Reps Chairman, will fight it out with Nicky Turner, a Carnegie arts student, for the job of Accommodation Secretary.

The three remaining posts — all Executive Officers without portfolio — will be contested by five candidates. They are: Linda Linley and Alex Mascarenhas, both from the Poly; and Nic Oliver, Parvina Ahmed and Jim Garbutt, all from Carnegie.

## Have you seen this man?

West Yorkshire police this week issued a description of a man they wish to interview in connection with the attempted rape of 18 year old Leeds University student Lynne Wilkinson several weeks ago.

The man is about 20 years old, wiry, of slim build, and is between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 10 ins tall. It is believed he was wearing a black woollen mask or balaclava, gloves and a lightweight jacket. J

A police spokesman said on Wednesday that a man had been interviewed in connection with the assault but had later been released. Inquiries into the attack were proceeding.

Anyone who may have seen a man fitting the above description should ring the Leeds police on 35353.



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## Can we be trusted?

Can students be trusted to administer large sums of money? This is the question on the lips of many — students, academics, townsfolk — after the conviction this week of Jacob Kramer student Martin Swillington for forging a £50 cheque on the union.

The unpleasant memories of the similar case of ex-Poly Union Vice President John Boocock are still fresh. Boocock resigned at the beginning of session after admitting forging Union President Linda Vaughan's name on four cheques each worth £30.

Ex Poly Treasurer Robert 'Buzz' Windley is still languishing in jail after a Leeds court sentenced him to a year's imprisonment for bouncing cheques worth more than £3,000 on the union.

And former Poly President Julian Stevenson was fined £120 last term after being found guilty of two charges of theft and obtaining property by deception from the union.

The catalogue of fraud can do little to soften the public image of students. Who can blame townspeople for thinking of the student community as a hotbed of forgery, graft and greed? They read in the newspapers of students involved in violent demonstrations, students in the dole queue, students enjoying promiscuous sex lives, and the true facts are distorted into an ugly reflection of students as profligates.

Distorted yes. The true picture is often hidden. But in the recent crop of fraud cases among student officials, there is no distortion. Whatever the reasons, students in a position of authority actually stole money from their fellow students. How else can the circumstances reflect upon the student body but badly? The public image of students is bad enough without the cruel reality of their misdemeanours being highlighted in such a way.

Fraud in the unions is a symptom of the general lack of interest among students as to who is running their finances, and how those students are doing it. The only answer to this abuse of office is constant vigilance, and tighter safeguards by the Union system to prevent such incidents happening again.

The remembrance of our fellow students' criminal actions will not fade quickly. Let us all ensure when it does fade, it fades for ever, and there is no repetition of these unhappy occurrences.

### London

Two students were arrested outside Victoria Station last week for throwing eggs and tomatoes at the State Carriage taking President Geisal of Brazil to Buckingham Palace for his reception with the Queen.

Simon Mednay of South London (24), and Ronan Bennett (20), of Huddersfield were later charged with using insulting words and behaviour.

They were taking part in a demonstration involving several hundred people, mainly students, who lined the route waving banners, placards, and shouting slogans in opposition to the Brazilian President's regime.

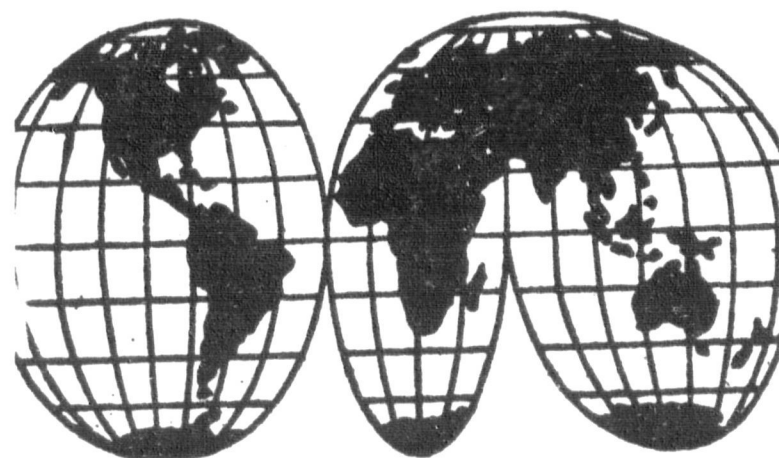
The protest was organised by the Liberation of Brazil Committee to highlight the alleged repression and torture which takes place in that country.

### Israel

A German-born student Beatrice Ahronovitch, 22, claims she was attacked by a shark while swimming off an Israeli beach. She is at present suing the Israeli authorities for £50,000 claiming there were no signs on the beach warning bathers of the dangers.

She told a magistrates' court how she battled with the shark for half an hour before managing to escape with severe cuts and in a state of extreme shock.

The verdict on the case is to be announced later this month.



## STUDENT WORLD

Edited by Sue Brown and Ann Traynor

### Durham

A Durham student who claims that the University is discriminating against him on religious grounds has prompted an inquiry into his case by The University's Vice Chancellor Sir Derman Christopher.

The student, Roy Davies, alleges that because he changed his religion from Christian to Humanist he has been refused entry to a post-graduate religious studies education course.

Mr Davies was originally accepted for the course but then decided to defer it for a year, during which he changed his religious convictions. On his return he found that there was no longer a place available for him.

The President of the Students Union said he believed the course lecturers were afraid it might be a mistake to appoint a militant atheist to teach religious education. But

Mr Davies thinks a fact that he is no longer a Christian would help him to teach the subject far more objectively.

The department of religious studies refused to give any indication as to whether Mr Davies' rejection was on religious grounds or not.

### Korea

A seminary student has been sentenced to death in Seoul after being found guilty of spying for North Korea. He was arrested last year by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency along with four other Christians and charged with being involved in subversive activities in the South.

Whilst the others received prison sentences varying from five years to life, he was given the maximum penalty.

### Ankara

Hacettepe University, Turkey, was again the scene of violent clashes between left and right wing students last week. The students fought with iron bars and stones until armoured police cars moved in to stop them.

### York

The Institute of Social and Economic Research at York University is trying to trace the children of more than 2,000 people it interviewed 26 years ago during a survey into poverty.

They hope that they will eventually be able to report on the change in attitudes and life styles that has occurred during the past two decades.

## Campus radio plans in the pipeline

Students living at Carnegie's Beckett Park site next year may be able to wake up to the sound of their own campus radio.

Ian Steele, next year's Poly Vice-President for Recreation this week unveiled plans for the new scheme, which will be manned by student disc jockeys.

He said the station could be broadcast through the pipes of the campus central heating system.

"This would be unlikely to

An end of term extravaganza is being planned by the University Union's entertainment committee.

Ents hope to take over 'the entire Union' for a night to stage events ranging from a rock concert to a Punch and Judy show. Cultural Affairs Secretary Dai Griffiths said this week.

"It will be a cheap level ball designed to involve as many people as possible," Mr Griffiths added.

It is hoped there will be a bar extension until 2 am, and double drinks in the bar will be 5p cheaper. Tickets will cost about 40p.

A Polytechnic lecturer has been appointed editor of a local Leeds newspaper.

Eric Preston, a lecturer in the History of Art and Contemporary Studies will be in charge of the "Weekly Citizen" newspaper.

University President Roger Seddon has been ordered to send a telegram to the Prime Minister demanding the resignation of Don Revie as England football team manager, and the reinstatement of Sir Alf Ramsay, who previously held the job.

A motion deploring the state of English international football after England's defeat by Scotland at the weekend, and calling for Revie's removal, was passed at Monday's Executive meeting.

NUS Secretary Richard Stein was the only member to vote against: "I don't believe Exec is a policy-making body," he said.

The University Union executive is to enter a charity raft race during the summer.

An Exec team participating in a similar event at York last year finished last.

Plans to improve the University Union's two counselling rooms so that they can be used by the new Nightline service will cost £400.

It is hoped the University will foot half the bill for the alterations, which include work on the ceilings.

## MARINER 60 PRIZE CROSSWORD

Address entries to: CROSSWORD COMPETITION, Leeds Student, 155 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 3ED.

Entries to arrive not later than first post Monday  
The first correct solution wins £1.50 worth of

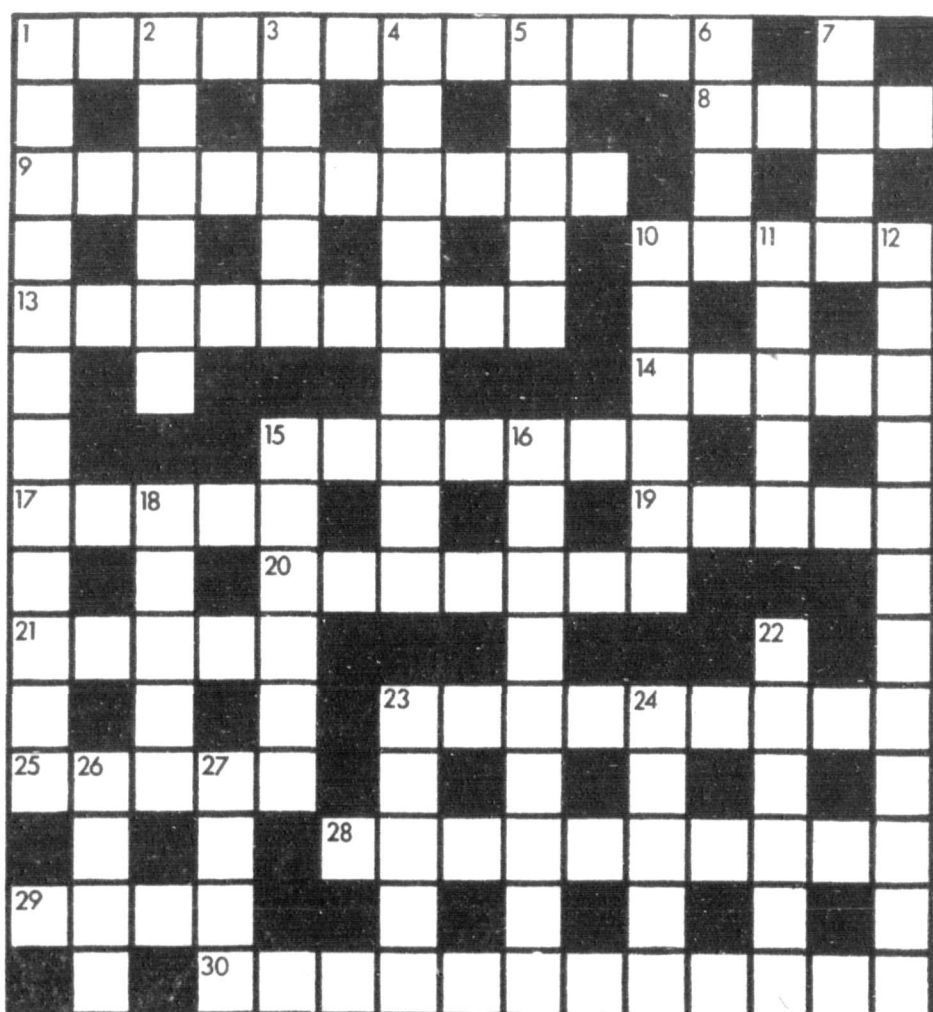
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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 A crime—man charged with our demise (12).
- 8 On the summit, in one great operation, maybe (4).
- 9 Eastern society—for juggling? (6, 4).
- 10 A figure or a voice (5).
- 13 Activities using a lot of energy—no sex rite, anyway (9).
- 14 I get rash—on the head (5).
- 15 More courageous, like a rock we hear (7).
- 17 Beastly flower (5).
- 19 Wide-open space for events (5).
- 20 Each writer may make something less dear (7).
- 21 In a frenzy over a dirty word (5).
- 23 The relative gets religious symbol somehow—it's got eight legs and is poisonous (9).
- 25 Consumed at public school, we hear (5).
- 28 The season when heavenly twins play sport lovelessly (10).
- 29 Footwear that's mainly used in the garden (4).
- 30 A nice place to store food (12).

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 First trip for the young lady? (6,6).
- 2 Naked people in the North—totally unexpected (6).
- 3 Praise former sailor, sounds like (5).
- 4 It's fenced off (9).
- 5 Love among holy women leads to strong words (5).
- 6 The price of a tear? (4).
- 7 Popular singer's lake (4).
- 10 Nice country, then gunners destroyed it (6).
- 11 Sounds backward in the lessons (5).
- 12 He sells food to bull-eaters? Right (12).
- 15 Make a sign on the little stream (6).
- 16 Leaving the department produces a grin (9).
- 18 To rejoice, almost 3 down (5).
- 22 I had tea in the sun—completely naked (6).
- 23 Roman parent gets the candle (5).
- 24 Black river, according to the Latins (5).
- 26 Each is painful (4).
- 27 Women's right—always (4).



### SOLUTION TO MARINER 59

Across — 1. Impersonator; 9. Punctures; 10. Banal; 11. Rector; 12. Esoteric; 13. Strain; 15. Lion's Den; 18. Planners; 19. Scorer; 21. Residual; 23. Uses up; 26. Overt; 27. Inanimate; 28. Assembly Line.

Down — 1. Imports; 2. Panic; 3. Rat poison; 4. Ogre; 5. Assassin; 6. Orbit; 7. Pelican; 8. Intruder; 14. Roadster; 16. Necessity; 17. Organise; 18. Pardons; 20. Replete; 22. Dates; 24. Shari; 25. Lamb.

Last week's winner was: Mike Read, 129 Hyde Park Road, Leeds LS6 1AJ.

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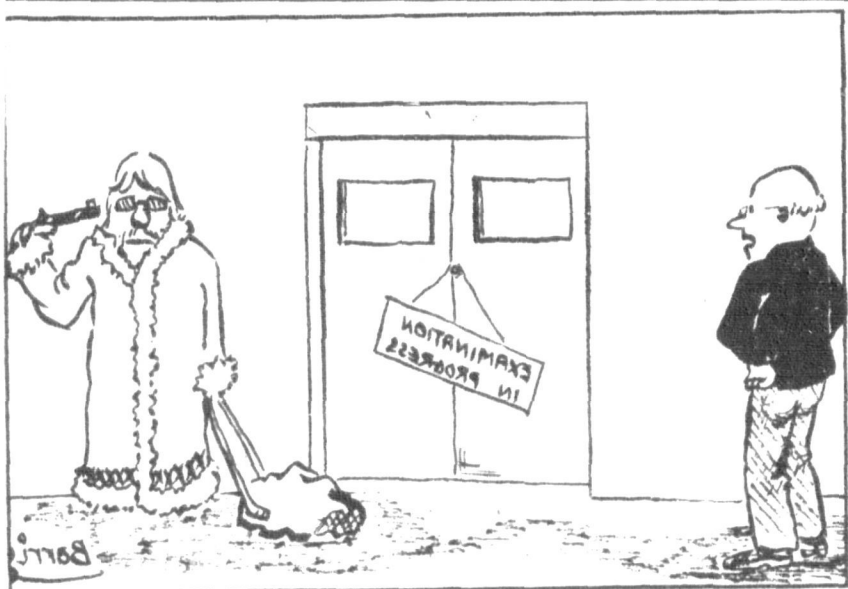
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# Rise in fees will hit 'the poor'



"Cause any sort of a disturbance Johnson, and I'm afraid I'll have to penalise your exam results."

Cartoon by Barrie Faulkner

by CHRIS ELLIOTT

A fifty per cent increase in academic fees at a Leeds college next session will prevent hundreds of poorer students from getting an education, student leader Gary Horsman said this week.

Mr Horsman, President of Park Lane students union was commenting after the announcement by the local authority that fees at the college would rise from £100 a student to £150 next year.

"This huge increase will debar working-class young people from coming to college," he said. "Only the rich will be able to afford to pay the fees."

Mr Horsman added that the union were considering a boycott of fees at the start of the coming session in protest at the LEA decision. A general meeting of the union has already supported the proposed boycott, and now the students are canvassing for support amongst the college's staff.

"We cannot let such a decision go through without some form of protest," Mr Horsman said.

Earlier this year, the union mounted a sweeping campaign to throw out propo-

sals by the authority to lower the age at which students have to pay fees from 19 to 18. But the authority now seems set to implement the changes, which will affect the majority of students at the college.

George Hume, college principal, said that it was "impossible" to forecast how the decision to raise fees would affect Park Lane next year.

"But some working-class young people have more money in their pockets than you or I," he said.

## Legging it

Two of the city's oldest educational opponents, Carnegie President Chris Pratt and the college's Principal Leo Connell, are to fight it out on the streets of Leeds on Sunday.

The two are to stage a 12-and-a-half mile sponsored walk round the city in aid of the Mencap charity.

The walk starts at 9.30 on Sunday morning at the Leeds Town Hall.

## TORY REFORMERS

A new political society is to be formed in the University Union by Tory students who are sick of the "negative policies" of the present Conservative Association.

The society, to be called the Tory Reform Group, successfully applied for an initial grant of £10 at Monday's meeting of the Executive, and now looks certain to get the blessing of Union Council.

Tory Steve Herbert, who put forward the grant claim at the Executive meeting,

said that the eventual aim of the group was to form an alliance with the Liberal Party and Labour Manifesto group.

The Tory party is moving too far to the right," Mr Herbert said. "It is not adapting to future needs. Its policy slogan of 'bash the Left and vote Tory' is not positive."

Mr Herbert denied that there was a major split in the offing: "Members of the TRG will still belong to the Conservative Association," he said.

## Knife man in court

A student who stabbed a man at a St. Patrick's Day party in the University Union was given a suspended prison sentence by Leeds magistrates last Thursday.

Cem Inalman, 18, of Alma Road, Headingley, Leeds, pleaded guilty to maliciously wounding Howard Ross at an Irish Solidarity party in the Union's postgraduate lounge on March 17th. He had been remanded since the incident

for social reports.

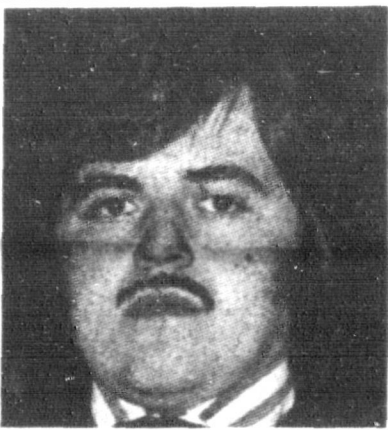
He was given a six month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Inalman had pleaded not guilty to a charge of malicious wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, but this charge was dismissed after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Mr Ross had to undergo an emergency operation at Leeds General Infirmary for stab wounds in the chest. He had collapsed outside the Union after being involved in a scuffle with Inalman.

Mr J. J. Pearlman, defending, said that Inalman was probably the only sober person at the party. He added that social reports on him from the University and others were "very good". Inalman came from a very good background in Turkey, and was not violent by nature, he said.

Earlier this term, societies who regularly use the postgraduate lounge for functions protested at a decision by the Union to temporarily suspend the lounge because of the incident.



## Bullock on the benches?

Steve Bullock, General Secretary of the University Union looks all set for a career in Parliament.

The Labour Party has put him on a short list of two to contest the Penrith and the Borders Parliamentary seat, at present held by Willie Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

"I was really surprised even to be considered," he says. "Although I've always been active in the Labour Party I've no ties with the constituency party at Penrith."

Mr Bullock rates his chances of gaining the party nomination at 40-60 against. And even if he gets it, he will be hard put to beat Whitelaw.

But to have got this far will put him in an excellent position for future nominations in other safer seats.

## AROUND



## NO BAN FOR VAN MAN

A man who drove his van through Shipley, Yorks with another van tied to the roof was fined £25 by a Leeds court last week.

Vernon Smith, self-employed, Leeds, claimed he was 'delivering' the vehicle for a friend. He told the court that the load was "not a complete vehicle," and that he had been unable to "squash it enough" to get it inside his own van. He pleaded not guilty to driving with an insecure load.

## ONLY HAD TWELVE PINTS

A driver who was stopped by police to be breathalysed told police: "I've only had 12 pints. Why are you stopping me?"

Eric Woodrup, 26, was stopped by two officers after his car veered across the road for no apparent reason. He was driving at 15 mph.

He was fined £150 and banned from driving for 18 months. He admitted refusing to provide a specimen for laboratory examination, driving without a licence, and driving without insurance.

## FRUSTRATED CONSTANTINE

A man who tried to steal a woman's car from her garage, and then ran off when she phoned the police, went to a nearby house and kicked a door down in frustration.

Stephen Fothergill Constantine, of Leeds, was spotted by the housewife as he was trying to start her car. She asked him what he was doing, and he became abusive, Leeds magistrates heard. When she said she was going to telephone the police, Constantine ran to a house in the same street, and kicked a panel out of the front door.

Mr John Walford, prosecuting, said Constantine had also tried unsuccessfully to steal two cars in Hesketh Place, Leeds, but had only manage to move them a short distance. Police found him sitting in the back of one of the cars.

EDITED BY PETE JACKSON

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Examine our books, Warbeck

Sir,  
There are many areas of RAG which lend themselves to the humorous and the ridiculous. The very nature of the enterprise demands this. 'Leeds Student' has rendered RAG a great service by highlighting these aspects of the fund-raising campaign, and let no one forget that behind the tom-foolery and the joking the main aim of RAG is to raise money for as many as thirty charities in the Leeds area.

We were, therefore, surprised and angered to read the article "Dirty Dick's Tricks" which appeared in the Warbeck column last week, which is not only a gross misrepresentation of the events that took place, but a flagrant abuse of 'Leeds Students' position in student affairs.

On the night of the draw five tickets with Dick Wilks name on them were drawn from a special box as a stunt. The real draw then took place in a fair and proper fashion and indeed all events surrounding the draw were in accordance with the Small Lotteries and Gaming Act

1963.

However our main grievance is with the sordid allegations that "Dick" and "these peculiar Rag people" have "been dipping... sticky fingers into the collection tins too." The Rag accounts are vetted on a fortnightly basis by Pannell Fitzpatrick & Co., Chartered Accountants and Auditors, and the accountability of the Leeds Rag is equal to any other Registered Charity in the United Kingdom.

If 'Warbeck' seriously feels that there is any financial discrepancy in Leeds Rag, he is invited to examine the books and accounts at any time which is convenient to him and the accountants.

Furthermore, his libellous brush taints not only "Dick the Prick" but all members of Rag and we would appreciate an apology in his column forthwith.

Yours sincerely,

I. G. Woods,  
Rag Chairman 1975/76.K. J. Lanning,  
Rag Treasurer 1975/76.H. J. Wilks,  
Rag Chairman 1976/77.

## Till next week

Sir,  
In brief reply to Mr Dunn's letter, which I see you publish here, I do agree that discussion on the matter of Leeds Student's article "Your Body" has been somewhat protracted. Maybe we shall never agree, but at least you know that there are some students who do not go along with some of the prevailing trends.

To prove that the content of this weekly column, is not as restricted as Mr Dunn suggests, next week I shall be writing on the forthcoming Over-Eighties Underwater Wrestling Championships in West Hartlepool, and I'll be giving you a handy little recipe for using up all those leftover bits of bacon rind and raspberry jelly which you'd otherwise throw away.

So till next week,  
Paul Danon.

## Returning to the days of knitting needles

Sir,  
I am amazed at the consistent attitude of Paul Danon in his letters about sexuality and sex over the last few weeks.

He ended his last letter by referring to the "true altruistic purpose of sex." I would like to ask him why he thinks people participate in sexual activities. Are they "altruistic" in not thinking of themselves? Do they think of their partner, a possible child? I fail to see how anybody who has experienced the natural pleasure of orgasm can put this event down to pure altruism.

I believe that the series of articles in 'Leeds Student' about contraception have been useful. It is time that the "mystery" surrounding the sexual act was opened up. For too long the sex act has been male-dominated and concentrated on the pleasure of the male. Learning to un-

derstand and control our own bodies can only help us to create deeper and more positive relationships with women playing an equal part.

On the question of morality and marriage I believe that these are the concerns of the individual. I happen to think that marriage is all too often a claustrophobic and crippling experience for the people involved, and that people are perfectly entitled to try other ways of living, and other forms of relationship.

As Paul Danon will never himself be in the sad predicament of expecting an unwanted child, I consider that he has no right to stuff his morality down other people's throats. I believe that sex is a legitimate act between two people who enjoy each other's company, and whether or not to have children is a completely separate issue. I believe that our society

## "Disgraceful" decision

Sir,

Today's OGM has been a landmark in the diary of backstabbing and double-think practised by the political groups and the hierarchy of this Union.

The reversal of the Union Council decision to sponsor in part two mining students on an international conference of mining student societies was disgraceful on two counts:

(1) Because the proposers of the motion declined to inform the students concerned that any special business motion was to be submitted, and on the assurance of a grant from the Union they had paid out for tickets, currency exchange and the like.

(2) Because the motion was discussed with no one present who knew the details of the trip. Bob Rae observed that the agenda was mostly in German, and he couldn't understand it — a very good piece of evidence for a hatchet job.

Having withdrawn the grant, and with such strong economic principles in mind it is odd that the same people supported by 81-52 the paying of nearly a hundred pounds to sponsor a coach for a demonstration, not to carry impassioned students, but people who are not even members of the Union.

Who is the main concern of this Union? Its own members or people we don't even know?

Yours angrily,  
D. Lias

## Enough of all this sex

Sir,  
When, back in February, Paul Danon wrote his letter condemning the contraception articles 'Your Body', I told him I would reply, 'purely for the sake of argument.' As it happened, several other people were thinking along the same lines; and even now, in May, people are queuing for hours each Friday in their anxiety to read the latest counter-counter attack in this column... or are they?

Well folks here is this week's volley; hopefully it may be the last, and the result declared a draw. I feel Mr Danon, in his last letter (not the one I see printed here — his weekly column? Spare us!) has dragged the original debate through the realms of sensibility into those of futile argument. He has consistently missed the

point — ignorance may be bliss, but this is one case where ignorance and bliss can result in tragedy. Education in this field is not only welcome, but vital; and if these articles provided it, then they did a good job.

The self-styled 'sexual revolution' allowed responsible people sex outside marriage without loss of dignity — but we are not all born responsible; some of us have to be taught it. In those terms, the articles were responsibly written.

OK, Paul, you made your point. You and yours respect the sanctity of marriage. And the rest of us respect you for that. But the public are getting bored, Paul. So give it a rest!

And I'm so glad to see that Mr Danon agrees.

Yours mercifully,  
Andrew Dunn

# KEEPING A COMMUNITY CONSCIOUS OF THE THEATRE



Above: Carol Drinkwater as Babs in the recent production of "Stripwell"



Above: Tim Hardy (Bassanio) and Richard Cordery in "The Merchant of Venice" in December last year

## Warbeck

## Smith avoids embarrassment

University Union President-elect Brian "The Toff" Smith is the highest officer in next year's Union hierarchy. And by all accounts he was certainly "higher" than anyone had seen him for some time last Monday. Attending the opening of a new concert hall by the University Chancellor the Duchess of Kent, Smith succeeded in swigging extremely large amounts of the free sherry available to celebrate the occasion.

It was not long, needless to say, before our glorious future leader had consumed enough booze to make standing up plain hard work. Sozzled and teetering, he had to be bolstered up by two less inebriated colleagues, Bob Rae and Roger Seddon.

Disaster almost struck when the Duchess decided to mingle with the students, and made a move towards the staggering threesome. 'Hippo' Rae, ever

quick to spot an oncoming tragedy, was forced to steer the palatine president-elect away from the good lady's attentions. Apparently Rae and Seddon spent the rest of the afternoon continuing to keep Brian away from the Chancellor.

One wonders what she must have thought watching the students rushing around the room desperately trying to avoid her. But then, such evasive action was infinitely preferable to an encounter, at which the inebriated Smith might well have come out with something as embarrassing as "How's yer father, Duchie?"

● I am told that at the same event, University Registrar Jimmy "Student Lover" McGregor was seen to make a well-known two-fingered gesture at Bob Rae. The incident occurred after the registrar and other University worthies began stacking up a num-

A service to the community, not a box office success — that is the aim of Leeds's own theatre, the Playhouse.

Built as recently as 1970 in response to a popular demand for a community theatre, it has done a great deal to dispel the aura of mystique and inaccessibility so many other theatres have taken upon themselves.

The Playhouse has taken five years to firmly establish itself, as its first director Bill Hayes predicted it would. The turning point for it came in 1973, when after a particularly bad season, the theatre's present director John Harrison decided to take the gamble and pull it out of repertoire.

He opened the next season with "Joseph" and "The Tempest", and has never looked back since. Attendance rates went up remarkably, and today Leeds Playhouse is one of the top six provincial theatres in the country, with a regular seventy per cent attendance rate.

Unlike the Grand Theatre, Leeds, it relies less on star names for its audiences. The "quality and variety" of its performances, says Harrison, are its strongpoint. This season alone, the Playhouse has put on productions as diverse as Shakespeare and pantomime. Such versatility reflects the conscious policy of the theatre to keep theatre alive for all sections of the community.

As does the attempt by the management to keep prices fairly low; although this forces the Playhouse to rely heavily on local and national sub-

SUE BROWN and ANN TRAYNOR trace the history of Leeds Playhouse, and discover whether it fulfils its ideals as a community theatre.

sidies. But it usually manages to break even at the end of each year, unlike most other provincial theatres which incur continual losses.

The penalty for this is that occasionally the theatre must compromise its community ideals, and stage productions which are guaranteed to make money. Budgets are prepared at the beginning of each season and plays are allocated a percentage attendance target. Some plays have been chosen in the past because artistic merit apart they will 'even out' the year.

Despite the management's claim that it reaches all sectors of the community, the fact remains that the audience is basically a young one. Students attend in large numbers, a fact which slightly worries assistant director Michael Attenborough. He sees the theatre as an integral part of the community, used by people from all backgrounds. Instead, it is all too often a place for intellectuals, he says. The location is to blame. "Not only is it a distance from the centre of town, I feel that people are put off by the proximity of the University," he says. The closeness of the academic world can often discourage townsfolk from coming.

## Thin end of the wedge

I understand that after a meeting of staff in the University's Engineering Department, students are in future to be charged for duplicating, a service which in the past has always been free.

Whilst I am sure the imposition of a charge for duplicating is necessary, I am forced to wonder whether the same rule applies to the staff themselves.

Whatever the reason, I would agree with one student who called the move "the thin end of the wedge."

Let us hope that the University has no intention of duplicating this decision in other departments.

## More silly research

You may remember the sad case of the University professor who spent a great deal of his well-paid time investigating boomerangs (Warbeck, last term).

It now appears that another of that worthy gentleman's colleagues at the University is also engaged upon research of a peculiar nature. I refer to Professor R. McNeil Alexander, who is investigating that world-shattering enigma, "the speed of dinosaurs". You or I might not find the topic of much interest, or, dare I

say it, of much relevance to anything but the scientific text books. But Professor Alexander takes the whole thing very seriously.

So seriously in fact that he has been employing his own children as guinea pigs. Attempting to check the accuracy of a speed formula he had worked out for the prehistoric creatures, he took his children to the mudflats near the Norfolk coast, and made them run and walk while he observed them with a stopwatch.

Attenborough's worries should be over in 1980. Then, when the Playhouse's lease expires, it will be forced to move into the city centre, and the test of its cosmopolitan outlook will really begin.

Two directors share the workload of the theatre's day to day running. While one is producing and conducting rehearsals, the other will be managing the everyday life of the theatre, preparing the next production, organizing sets, designs, costumes, and most importantly, picking the cast. The designers and prop makers work in conjunction with the director at this stage, all bringing their individual ideas and skills to bear. But in the final analysis it is the director who makes the crucial decision as to how things will look. After all, they must work in with his concept of the play.

## Hard core

The saying that a director is only as good as his cast emphasizes the care needed in choosing the players. It is often the longest and most laborious process. The Playhouse has no regular company as such, but it does have a hard core of "Playhouse actors", which now includes ex-University student Stuart Organ. The management prefer to work with a tightly-knit group. For one thing, it is cheaper, and for another, actors who know each other well tend to perform better. But they do try to maintain a constant influx of new blood, to prevent the company from stagnating.

Producing a play is an unexpectedly time-tabled affair. Rehearsals, for example can only go on for as long as the current production is running, and so the schedule has to be tight. The director must go into rehearsals with an exact idea of how the set and costumes will look and a basic concept of how the finished play will appear. To start with a more rigid idea, however, is fatal. There has to be the balance between planning and improvisation. As Attenborough says:

"If you go in with a closed mind, then the actors cannot give of their best, and you are treating them like machines."

The actors themselves do not, as many people would believe, have an easy life. They work on average a twelve hour day, six days a week, for comparatively little money. Starting each morning about 10 am, they begin with rehearsals for the next production, and don't finish until the end of that evening's current production. It is cheaper for the Playhouse



Leeds Playhouse — a community centre for the people of Leeds?

to keep its casts fairly stable, for it need then pay only a single wage for both rehearsal and performance time. If the actors change regularly this amounts to a virtual doubling of the wage bill.

Equity, the actors' union, managed to negotiate a pay rise for its members in January. But this only succeeded in raising the basic minimum an actor can take home to £36 a week — not a lot for a 72-hour week.

The main criteria for payment in excess of the minimum is experience and reputation, but bonuses can be given per performance, and sometimes wages can be increased on humanitarian grounds, such as when the basic wage is considered insufficient to meet family commitments. So an actor's role is not always a happy one.

Despite the poor wages, the number of people aspiring to the 'glamour of the stage' is enormous. The Playhouse receives an average of seven letters a day from hopeful or out-of-work actors begging to be auditioned. Sometimes, they get as many as 20 letters a day.

Because of the financial restrictions the Playhouse cannot take many of these aspirants on. Everything must be kept to the basic minimum, and no understudies or prompts are employed. This can often cause terrible problems. Just before Christmas during the run of "The Merchant of Venice", several of the cast went down with influenza; but they all insisted on performing, even though some of them had temperatures of 102. No one forces them to go on, it is a completely free choice. But they are all well aware that if they do not appear there is no one to take their place — except the director.

The Playhouse's open-plan stage, apart from imposing technical restrictions on productions, means that the cast are subjected to a much closer scrutiny by the audience than they would be in a normal theatre, where the separation of audience and actors

is usually much more pronounced. In a way this puts more pressure on the actors. Their every move, gesture, and action, can be seen quite easily. But the Playhouse directors feel that the advantages of an open-plan arrangement far outweigh the disadvantages. By using this kind of stage instead of the traditional box stage, it is much easier to achieve audience involvement and feedback, they say.

The actors are more aware of the audience's reactions to the play and to themselves, and they can accurately "sense" how well the performance is going.

But the Playhouse draws the line at full audience participation, which it believes only "leads to everything ending in a shambles." The important thing is to establish that "vital link" between audience and players, and only an open-plan stage can do this.

## Laboratory

Michael Attenborough: "The theatre should be a laboratory of human activity, and as such should teach the community at large. But far more than this, for its own survival, and so that it is in constant touch with, and truly representative of the community, it serves — it must be constantly receiving information and suggestions from the general public."

"No theatre can afford to exist in limbo. Once a theatre tries to exist independently of the community then it dies."

Attenborough's words sum up the Playhouse philosophy. And they do not ring hollow. The belief that theatre must be for everyone is not a shallow, intellectual, "pseudo" stance — it is a firm conviction held by everyone associated with the theatre.

Conscious of this need for feedback, the Playhouse has initiated a series of discussion sessions on Monday nights once a month. On these occasions, after a performance, the

audience are free to air their views on the play and how it has been produced, and ask the director any questions they wish. In return the actors and director ask the audience what they felt about the play — what were its weak points, who was good, who was bad, which lines needed more emphasis, and so forth.

If anyone feels the need to pursue the matter further, there is also the Playhouse Club, where one can not only discuss the plays at great length, but attend lectures and filmshows on peripheral subjects.

Then there's the Theatre In Education group, which spends most of its time, oddly enough, not in the Playhouse, but out of it; going round the city's schools and colleges in a bid to raise the awareness of children of various ages to current affairs and world problems. It does this by presenting programmes to children which are in an easily digestible and stimulating form.

And there's the Film Theatre, a blend of the popular and the more artistic. Director Alan Knowles has a flair for pairing the most unlikely of films together and producing a remarkable and most successful mixture. But an indication of the variety of the material offered can be seen in the audiences. No one turns up for an obscure German offering, whilst the queue for a Woody Allen double bill is 200 yards long.

Today there is little comparison between a West End theatre and a provincial one. The real artistic challenges, many actors are beginning to feel, are not on the TV screen, or in London, but in the provinces. And many of the big names are making the trek from the capital to places like Leeds. Does the future of the theatre lie in places like the Playhouse? Who knows. But one thing is sure. It is the kind of theatre which has pulled in a wider cross section of the community, and that in itself can only be a good thing.

**"I believe people are put off  
the Playhouse because of the  
proximity of the University."**



## Arts

Esoteric "Enfants" at the Poly... New radio column... Hadleigh minus the horse... Stones...

## Too esoteric

I am told that the Ladies and Gentlemen theatre group were taken off at the Polytechnic last week because their performance was "too esoteric" for the audience. Having seen the play myself, I am inclined to agree with the Poly decision.

Ladies and Gentlemen are a four-piece theatre group based in London who are currently touring the country with their production of "Les Enfants", a fairly free adaptation of Cocteau's "Les Enfants Terribles". The novel was difficult, and the play of the book is even harder. Paul, Elizabeth, Gerard and Agatha are four children growing up in a room "strangely cut off from the rest of the world by its own anarchy of existence (sic)", the hand-out says.

Their relationships (Paul and Elizabeth as brother and sister, and Gerard and Agatha as their friends) are exceedingly complex. Paul is morose, a hypochondriac, obsessed with committing suicide by poison (his eventual fate). Elizabeth is cynical and secretly malignant. The others act as a foil, tossed

## "Les Enfants"

Ladies and Gentlemen  
Theatre Group  
POLYTECHNIC

backward and forward by the unfettered emotional outbursts of their friends.

What does emerge from the whole sordid mess is a partial understanding of the human need to hurt others, often out of love rather than hate.

The quartet gave an interesting and at times excellent interpretation of this strange play, against a background staffed with only the minimum of props. Lighting and sound effects cleverly complemented the surrealism.

The performance was in aid of the National Abortion Campaign, but rather than offering financial help, I feel it did more to reinforce the aims of the NAC. After all, preventing four such abominables from entering the world can only be the most commendable of ideals.

Chris Elliott



"Come in number 4" — Lady and Gentleman performing at the Polytechnic last week.

## Better after the interval

The steps of the Grand at 7.15 is the scene of an assault by hordes of staunch, befurred ladies. Gerald Harper is topping a "star-studded" bill in "Baggage" by Lee Langley and the TV fanatics are out in force — Hadleigh rules OK?

Gerald plays Michael, a loveable ageing fascist, complete with aristocratic nasal drawl, who sweeps aside inefficient employees as cynically as he sweeps his women off their feet. The mums applaud him furiously for his scenes, as indeed they do all the personalities they recognize. The cast's timing is good in a script which seems uneasy. Sometimes it is superficial, sometimes entertaining, but above all uneasy. Gerald as the amiable rogue breezily throws in a four letter word from time to time, (much to the horror of the respectable ladies sat behind me), and there are

## Baggage

by Lee Langley  
GRAND

other serious tones which seem gratuitous or misplaced amongst the more mundane effects.

The second half of "Baggage" shows the hero, Michael, losing his touch. We wait for the expected, scintillatingly artificial route to the happy ending, but it doesn't materialize. In a riveting confrontation between Michael and Helen, his ex-wife, "Baggage" suddenly becomes a very good play.

The whole, self-satisfied world epitomised by Michael is tripped by Helen, (played with fine control by Hannah Gordon), and finally in a magnificent monologue Michael completes the self-exposure of his merry-go-round existence. The speech

is based around the chorus of "Home on the Range" and unlikely as it sounds it is stunningly effective. Gerald Harper handles the monologue beautifully, although in other places I felt he never quite managed to escape his image.

What had at first seemed a slick but indulgent production realized itself as an imaginative exploration of its characters. The only disappointment is that the first half of the play doesn't sustain the potency of the finale.

Tony Rose

Alan Wilthew

## Good and bad

We're going to have to wait a bit longer to find out how Ronnie Wood sounds on record with the rest of the Stones. Much of this album was recorded in March of last year and he only plays on one track — "Hey Negrita". It requires none of his undoubted skill and the track suffers from the lack of variety in his play.

But as always with the Stones there is some superb material on this album. The longest and best track is "Memory Motel", which ends the second side. It shows Jagger at his best. His quavering voice like Dylan's would sound horrible if it didn't express so much feeling. Here it is brilliant.

Three other classic tracks appear: "Hot Stuff" will become as popular as "Brown

## Black and Blue

by the Rolling Stones  
WARNER BROS.

Sugar" in discos if exposed enough. "Fool to Cry" looks like being the group's first number one for ages; and "Melody" is a superb blues number in which guest artist, Billy Preston excels.

The Stones always seem to mar their albums with one of two mediocre tracks. On "Black and Blue" they venture into Reggae with "Cherry Oh Baby". It flops. It seems that because Marley and Clapton have made Reggae respectable everyone must follow suit. But must the Stones?

Mike Smith

## Sounds interesting

Sunday night has little to offer in the way of good listening other than Sunday Times music critic Derek Jewell's *Sounds Interesting* programme (Radio 3, 10.45). I have often thought that the quality of the man's assessment of the rock scene is too good to be restricted to forty minutes at a dead listening time. This week, Jewell looks at Wakeman's latest extravaganza, and the new Jon Hiseman project, Coliseum II.

Later in the week, Radio Three also offers a special concert from Vienna, organised by the European Broadcasting Union. Pieces performed by the *International String Quartet* include Brahms Quartet in A Minor,

Radio  
PREVIEW

and Mendelssohn Quartet in E flat major, Op 14. And on Tuesday night, again Radio 3, there's the BBC Symphony Orchestra's version of *Verdi's Requiem* with Heather Harper and Stuart Burrows.

On Thursday, Radio Four, Mary Goldring introduces *The Multi-Nationals* an analytic look at the role huge corporations play in our society, and how we should try to regulate their activities. And on Friday, as always, Radio Four, there's the excellent *Week Ending*, with Bill Wallis, Nigel Rees and Rob Kingdom.

## DATELINE...

## cinema

## ABC 1

Tonight and tomorrow: *The Devil's Daughter* @, 2.15, 5.35, 8.55; plus *Candy Stripe Nurses* @, 3.55, 7.15.

Next week: *The Likely Lads* @ with James Bolam and Rodney Bewes. Sun 4.25, 7.55; W/days 2.00, 5.25, 8.55.

## ABC 2

Tonight and tomorrow: Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in *All The President's Men* @. 1.45, 4.55, 8.05; plus *See The Caribbean* @, 4.10, 7.20.

Next week: *To The Devil A Daughter*.

## ABC 3

Tonight and tomorrow: *Death Race 2000* @ with David 'Kung Fu' Carradine, 2.55, 6.00, 9.15; *Support Sweet Kill* @, 1.20, 4.20, 7.35.

Next week: *All The President's Men*.

## ODEON 1

Tonight and tomorrow: *The Blackbird* @, 1.40, 5.15, 8.50, and *The Fortune* @, 3.23, 7.00.

Next week: Warren Beatty in *Shampoo* @, Sunday 4.20, 8.05, W/days 1.10, 4.55, 8.40; plus *Confessions of a Pop Performer* @, Sunday 2.30, 6.15; W/days 3.05, 6.50.

## ODEON 2

Tonight and tomorrow: David Bowie, Candy Clark in *The Man Who Fell to Earth* @, 2.19, 5.12, 8.05; plus *Kama Sutra Rides Again* @, 1.50, 4.43, 7.36.

Next week: *The Same*.

## ODEON MERRION

Tonight and tomorrow: *The Devil's Rain* @ and *Vampires* @. Double horror bill, separate performances 2.15, 7.15.

Next week: *Moses* @, with Burt Lancaster. Sunday 3.25, 6.55. Weekdays 2.50, 7.50.

## TOWER

Tonight and tomorrow: *Man-dingo* @, 4.20, 8.20; and *Bug* @, 2.25, 6.30.

Next week: *Lucky Lady* @, Sundays 4.15, 8.00, W/days 1.00, 4.45, 8.35; plus *How To Steal a Diamond* @, Sunday 2.30, 6.10, W/days 2.55, 6.45.

## PLAZA

Tonight and tomorrow: *Sweetish Playgirls* @, 3.15, 6.10, 9.05; and *The Sexy Virgins* @ (but not for long), 1.35, 4.30, 7.25.

Next week: *Venial Sin* @, Sunday 4.35, 8.05; W/days 1.40, 5.10, 8.40; plus *Sex Is The Name of the Game* @, Sunday 2.50, 6.15, Weekdays 3.20, 6.50.

## COTTAGE ROAD

Tonight and tomorrow: *Jaws* @, 5.30, 8.10, LCP 7.40.

## HYDE PARK

Tonight and tomorrow: *The Marseilles Contract* @, Sun 6.30

and W/days 6.55; and *Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More* @, Sun 8.05, W/days 8.30.

Next week: More Australian frolics, *Barry McKenzie Holds His Own* @, Sunday 6.45, W/days 7.10; and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* @, Sunday 8.25, W/days 8.50.

Wednesday 26th: *Harold Robbins' The Adventurers* @, 7.25.

## LOUNGE

Tonight and tomorrow: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* @, 5.35, 8.25.

LEEDS  
FILM THEATRE

Saturday 11.15 pm: *Aguirre Wrath of God* @.  
Sunday 7.30 pm: *The Lion in Winter* @ with Peter O'Toole and Katherine Hepburn.

UNIVERSITY  
FILM SOCIETY

Tonight 7 pm: *Trash* (Andy Warhol) — LTB LT21.

## theatre

## CIVIC

Tonight and tomorrow: *The Proscenium Players in A View from the Bridge*, 7.30 pm.

## GRAND

Friday 7.30, Saturday 5.00, 8.00: *Horsy Hadleigh* man Gerald Harper in *Baggage*.

Compiled by Mike Smith

## PLAYHOUSE

Until May 29th: David Rudkin's *Ashes*.

BRADFORD  
ALHAMBRA

Gilbert and Sullivan Society present tonight and tomorrow: *The Pirates of Penzance*, 7.30 pm.

Next week: *Panto version of The Old Woman Who Lived in A Shoe*. Performances evenings 7.00 p.m.

HARROGATE  
THEATRE

Tonight and tomorrow: *The Happiest Days of your Life* by John Dighton. Harrogate Dramatic Society. Starts 7.30 pm.

YORK  
THEATRE ROYAL  
From 26th May: T. S. Elliot's *The Cocktail Party*, 7.30 pm.

## concerts

## POLYTECHNIC

*Sounds/Marlborough Convoy* (Disco/Roadshow) with recording artists *Strapps*. Tickets only 15p (30 without Strapps voucher). 7.30 kick-off.

LEEDS TOWN HALL  
The City of Leeds College of Music presents *A Summer Concert*. Saturday, 22nd May. Works by Dvorak, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Chabrier, Brahms. Conductor Joseph Stones.

## LEEDS PLAYHOUSE

Calverley Street, Leeds LS2 3AJ

Telephone: 0532 42111

Until Saturday, 29th May; Nightly 7.30 pm, Tuesday 8 pm

No Performance Mondays

ASHES by David Rudkin

'Among the great works of the modern age' (Yorks. Post). 'If this is a Studio production long may they continue'. (Guardian). 'The squeamish and the prudish would be advised to stay away'. (Brad. Tel. & Arg.).

Coming soon... BELT AND BRACES ROADSHOW COMPANY

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'Articulate, entertaining Socialist theatre... outstanding Rock music'

FILM THEATRE

Saturday 22 May at 11.15 pm

AGUIRRE WRATH OF GOD @

This film, beautifully photographed in the Peruvian jungle, follows a Spanish expedition in the 16th century searching for El Dorado.

Sunday, 23 May at 7.30 pm

THE LION IN WINTER @

Peter O'Toole and Katherine Hepburn star as Henry II and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine.



Walt Disney... Burt in the wilderness... New book

## Peter the privateer

'Blackbeard's Ghost' as you might guess is a 'Walt Disney Presents' special, brought back for the kiddies at Whit. The film is in fact a re-release and you could well have seen it first time round since it came out ten years or so ago.

The hero is Steve Walker, a track coach played by the evergreen, all-American Dean Jones who accidentally conjures up the 87 per cent proof spirit of a notorious, rum-sodden Buccaneer — the eponymous Blackbeard. Peter Ustinov as Blackbeard is in fine Falstaffian form,

### Blackbeard's Ghost ODEON HEADROW

complete with a quaint, 'real English' cockney accent. The ghost is only visible to Steve, which is the mainspring of most of the laughter in the film. The plot itself is of simple, fairytale dimensions — the clean-cut hero overcomes all obstacles (not entirely unaided), which include an assortment of spivvy villains and even a rival coach, one Pinetop Purvis. Everyone overacts cutragously.

Despite the predictability of many of the slapstick scenes with Blackbeard as invisible agent provocateur, the special effects are a delight almost because of our anticipation. I did feel that more could have been made of some scenes to rival the hilarity of the 'wild and wacky race meet' (as the press synopsis will have it), and the final 'shoot' out at the casino, where Steve fills the hoods full of fingers with some psychic muscle courtesy of the ghost.

Tony Rose

## Splendour

### Moses ODEON MERRION

Although it is unlikely to attain the heights reached by *Ben Hur* or *Cleopatra*, this Italian-produced film will still go down in cinema history as an epic of considerable proportions, due to the shortage of money in the film industry and the Pythonesque opening scenes.

Moses might have been made as a glorified advertisement for the touristic beauties of Israel. Some of the camera-work is magnificent, and the splendour of the natural backdrops makes up for the studio sets, which to my mind were a little on the scanty side.

Burt Lancaster as Moses isn't very convincing in the part, mainly because one remembers him from so many other film roles, as the Birdman of Alcatraz, or Elmer Gantry. Bearded and sun-bronzed, he trudges his way through mile after mile of sand and cinemascope, in search of the promised land (Hollywood?). But he is competent.

The story, needless to say, sticks close to the Biblical original with Irene Papas turning in a nice performance as Zipporah, the prophet's Midianite wife. My main grouse is in the casting of Anthony Quayle (sorry about the pun) as Aaron — he doesn't come over as well as one might imagine.

A word of warning—don't drowse off before the end. It has a bit of a dramatic surprise in store for the unwary.

Stephen Oliver



Above: Blackbearded Peter Ustinov and his aquarium — a scene from "Blackbeard's Ghost"

Below: Bearded Burt Lancaster in "Moses"



## Not all fun and roses

In the nostalgia sweepstakes '76 style Glen Miller, the inter-war years, and the '50s seem to have a clear lead. But don't rule out Victoriana. She's a good stayer and may well make up ground.

In which case Alan Delgado's short jaunt (112 pages) may achieve wider currency than it has to date. It's delightfully easy to read, jolly, and well illustrated from various sources including Punch cartoons that exploit a variety of Social Blunders and Awkward Moments.

Being a popular account for a general audience the book creates some misleading impressions. Street life wasn't all fun and roses, though it was colourful for much of the time, thanks to sellers, hurdy gurdy men, punch and Judy shows, and the saucy taints of street urchins. But the noise of tra-

### Victorian Entertainment by Alan Delgado DAVID AND CHARLES

ders, roundsmen, and street music could be extremely irritating for residents, and most of the traders made a poor living.

Much of the staple fare of Victorian entertainment seems rather tasteless now — the spectacular chariot races at Batty's Hippodrome in Kensington, the realistic panorama of Vesuvius in eruption, and the fascination with such curiosities as Siamese twins, dwarves and bearded ladies. Morbid obsession with crime was so widespread that on one occasion a special train was chartered to carry spectators from London to a hang-

ing at Norwich. A decade earlier one thousand people watched a 'drop' at Stafford.

More attractive entertainments included day trips to the seaside on the new railways for the working classes, or the delights of Cowes, Ascot, and Henley for wealthy swells.

Apart from such occasional festivities, provincial social life was much duller than its metropolitan counterpart, as Delgado rightly points out. But this can be overstressed. Leisure activities away from London didn't consist entirely of Temperance meetings and Sunday schools. Leeds could boast eight Music Halls in 1868, and there was a Pleasure Garden between the Otley Road and Cardigan Road.

Roger Yelland

# SPORT

Edited by Kirstie Fisher and Roger Corke

## Volleyball heroes bid for fifth title

The Poly volleyball side have reached the finals of a national knock-out cup.

They will bid for the Kestours Cup, a trophy for all teams outside the first two divisions of the national league.

The Leeds men qualified on Sunday, by beating a club from Telford in four sets in an erratic and disjointed away match.

It took the team some time to settle down after their journey and they had difficulty in controlling the inexperienced and unorthodox play of the home team.

But with a great effort all round, they finally took command to win the first set 15-11.

Losing the control they had achieved at the end of the opening set, Leeds were forced to concede the second to Telford 15-9.

At this point, the Leeds team made a determined effort and took control of the game. Swinnerton served twelve consecutive balls to give his side a 14-2 lead in the third set. Wright and Speers pulled them through to win the set 15-5.

## Reports wanted

The sports editors would be grateful for any reports of recent matches.

If you played in a match recently, write down the details on a piece of paper or on one of our special LEEDS STUDENT sports reports forms, and hand it to your Union's Sports Administrator.

Deadline for sports copy Monday 6.00 pm.

## Bike man in shock win

Carnegie cyclist Chris Travis had a shock victory in the South Elmsall time trial last Saturday.

He produced a personal best time of 23 mins 32 secs over a course between Redford and Blyth and back. His winning time gave him a 2 min margin over the rest of the field.

The result was a big surprise because Travis has been training for long distance events only.

Only a week before, he had completed a gruelling London - Leeds cycling marathon to raise money for charity.

This was the second open event the Carnegie Road Club has taken part in, but already other riders are beginning to recognise their potential. If this form by Travis is anything to go by he could produce some excellent results in future events.

## College man grabs gold

Carnegie athlete Dave Elston saved his college's pride by winning the only gold medal for Leeds in the British Colleges Sports Association Athletics Championships at Cardiff last Saturday.

Elston, training partner of Olympic hopeful Tony Settle, qualified for the final with relative ease, and left his superiority in no doubt. In the final, he pulled away from four athletes on the last bend

to win by 15 yards in a time of 1 min 59.2 secs.

The other outstanding individual performance was at the end of the day by first year student Jill Tombs, who came second in the Ladies 400 metres final.

Chris Pratt, President-elect of the new Poly Union, came third in the shot and discus. He put 41ft 6in in the shot, nearly 9ft down on his distance two years ago when he won the event.

Team captain Tom Naisby culled a bronze medal in the

100 metres final. He seemed to have finished second and was told so by the track judge, but when the result was announced he found he had been demoted to third place. Appeals to officials were to no avail, and Naisby had to be content with the bronze.

Naisby was in another dispute after the 4 x 100 metres men's relay. After finishing second the Carnegie team were told they had been disqualified because of an infringement by Roger Palmer.

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Friday, 21st May, 1976

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## No more big bands for Leeds

The days of big-name pop groups playing live to student audiences in Leeds could be coming to an end.

So far the University Union has made only one major booking for the next session and the Poly Union has made none.

This time last year Roxy Music and Leo Sayer had already been booked to play in the University Refectory for the first term of this session.

And others, including Fairport Convention and Dr Feelgood, were in the pipeline.

The one certainty for next session is Ralph McTell although dates are to be finalised. His performance at the University will be recorded for the BBC's "Old Grey Whistle Test."

University Ents Secretary Andy Haddleton said earlier this week that it was becoming increasingly difficult to book bands: "It's getting to be so expensive for them to tour, and people just can't afford to pay the enormous ticket prices needed to keep the bands on the road."

There is little likelihood of big bands appearing at the Poly because there is no hall capable of housing large capacity audiences.

But Poly students can rest assured that they will not lose out on entertainments. Ents Secretary, Ian Steele is now operating a system whereby most groups appearing at the Poly have to hire out the hall they play in. This means that the Union does not have to share any losses incurred.

### Drinking time

The bar in the University Union will open an hour later in the evenings whilst exams are in progress.

Until now it has opened at six, but because of exam pressure, no one is using the facilities until after seven.

Education Officer Liz Colvin deplored the decision, taken by Monday's Exec meeting: "Six is the only time people need a drink — when they've just come out of an exam."

### personal column

It will be the 24th of May That's remembered for many a day.

For exams will be done. Results second to none. By John Lucking and Sally Baylay.

—Good luck from the Welton Grove mob.  
**SUPERBITCH**, I can teach you better than your instructor any day or night. You look as if you need it. Love **SUPERSTUD**.  
**MEDICS' REVUE** 7th and 8th June, Riley Smith Hall. 7.30pm. Tickets on sale Medical School lunchtimes.

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**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 21ST MAGS, AND GOOD LUCK IN THE FINALS. WITH LOVE FROM THE QUEEN, HUMPHREY'S BIONIC MUM AND BLUE BEAR.**

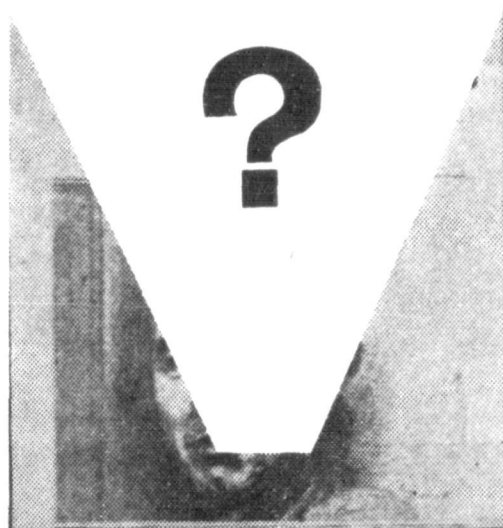
I used to think HACKS were cough sweets until I discovered **IAN COXON**.

**MIRIAM:** Do you know what happens after an artichoke's leaves? It has its heart eaten too! **FROGGY LINDA.**

## WIN 5 LP's

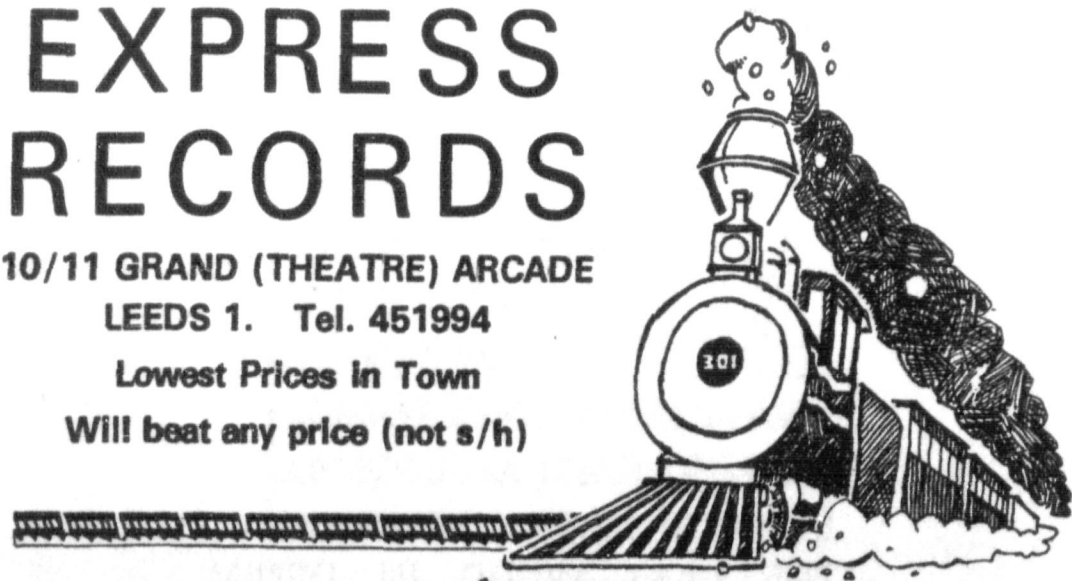
Every week this term we will be offering, in conjunction with **EXPRESS RECORDS** of Grand Arcade, Leeds, and **SCENE & HEARD** of Kirkgate, Leeds, £10 worth of albums to the winner of this simple competition. All you have to do is identify the album cover pictured below. Send your answer, on the form below, to Record Competition, **LEEDS STUDENT**, 155 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 3ED, to arrive not later than first post on Monday. Last week's winner was: D. J. Warner, 25 Kelsall Terrace, Leeds 6, of Leeds University. The answer was: "Now We Are Six" by Steeleye Span.

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