

ADVERTISEMENT

Leeds University Union

BYE-ELECTION FOR

One member of Union Council

Candidate's Name ... **SARAH WARD**
 Candidate's Dept. ... **ENGLISH**
 Year of Entry to
 Leeds University ... **1973**
 Proposed by **SUE SLIPMAN**
 Seconded by **NEIL TAGGART**

Union positions held:

Halls of Residence Committee.
 Delegate to NUS Area Committee.
 Grants Campaign Action Committee.

I am a first year student at Leeds — since my arrival I have been active in the Grants campaign action Committee and the NUS Policy Committee. I am committed to the mobilisation of the broad mass of students within a particular perspective. That perspective rests on the analysis of students as a group within society whose interests are increasingly coming closer to those of the working class. This does not mean that I see students to be themselves working class, but that students, living within the wider community are affected, as are all sections of workers by price rises, increased rents, inflation and Government policies against the rights of both workers and students to organise collectively in their own interests. Such policies are at present shown within the phase three legislation, the imprisonment of the Shrewsbury Three and the cuts within education.

The great importance of the grants campaign for students is that it must be seen in a wide perspective. It is not simply a question of the access to education, although the very real danger that education can become the preserve of the rich, makes this central — particularly at the time of the present crisis when the Government seeks to make students suffer the cuts its own disastrous policies have created. The question of the nature and role of education within society is also part of this perspective. Students are engaged in a process of study which is imbued with the ideas of class society and promotes the acceptance of the status quo. Thus the grants campaign questions assumptions made about students in our society. We are no longer a privileged group. The decreasing value of our grants tells us that. We need to organise collectively and promote unity within all sectors of the student movement — the united opposition we face shows us that. We need to extend that organisation to alliance with the working class — Government policies show us that, and to do all this we have to challenge the individualistic ideas which are instilled through the education we receive. Thus it is important that all demands of the grants campaign have equal priority and that we fight for all sections of students.

To build the unity of the students union in Leeds we need to involve far more students than at present; thus to reverse a process whereby the union organisation becomes more remote from students, we have to extend the concerns of the union to include a far wider range of interests than has been traditional within student unions. Increasingly education within universities is less relevant to student's needs, and discontent which has made itself felt through alternative seminars and courses, has not been founded within the students union, giving it a firm base amongst the broad movement. The question of representation, dependent upon mandation and electoral recall becomes meaningful in terms of what we eventually wish to achieve — democratic control of the campus by all sections involved, academic staff, students and campus workers. Autonomy is important because unless we are autonomous we do not have the ability to organise in our own interests. A strong union depends upon the unity of the mass membership in action — the role I would play on union council would be within this perspective.

SARAH WARD.

Candidate's Name ... **IAIN A. MUIR**
 Candidate's Dept. ... **ECONOMICS**
 Year of Entry to
 Leeds University ... **1971**
 Proposed by **CAROL JELLEY**
 Seconded by **JIM BEWSHER**

Union positions held:

Secretary of Sub-Committee Against Racial Discrimination 1972/73.

Ex-Officio Member of Union Council 1972/73
 Member of Record Shop/Book Shop/Union Shop Board 1972/73.

Union Council Rep. on Senate Overseas Students Committee.

Union Council Rep. on Union/University Joint Committee on Union Investments.

At the last U.C. bye-election I came second to a gentleman whose main election commitment was the supplying of Port to union members and a repeal of the 19th Century Reform Acts. Unfortunately I myself cannot offer such interesting and important policies, so I'll just repeat the same boring manifesto I used last time:-

I have served on U.C. as S.C.A.R.D.'s representative in an ex-officio capacity for the past year. During this time I have come to realise that U.C. plays a crucial role in the government of the union, responsible mainly for the day to day running of the union and consequently taking decisions of importance to all union members. Although the majority of the business U.C. discusses might appear to be about unimportant trivia, seen as a whole the decisions taken determine in what general direction the union moves and how the union finances are run. Consequently a U.C. member should at all times hold the interests of the student foremost in his mind.

My own major interests within the union is it's attitude towards combating Racism. I have worked for S.C.A.R.D. since I arrived in Leeds and during that time we have seen several successes. Much more work needs to be done however, as regards publicising the activities of the British Government, British firms and even this University in the support of the racist regimes of Southern Africa and in the discrimination against Black and Asian citizens within our society. I will do my best to increase the unions involvement in Anti-Racism.

Although this is my main interest, I am by no means insular in my approach to the union, up to now I have involved myself in the running of the Union Shops, Union Finance and the University Overseas Students Committee. I believe I have the ability and the expertise to make a good representative on U.C. I make no wild promises, as it is not within the power of an individual U.C. member to transform the union overnight or to immediately solve it's many problems. I can only say that I will use my judgement to the best of my ability for the benefit of union members, present and future.

Should you wish to know more about my attitudes and opinions, I am to be found in the executive office most lunch-times (Ask the Porters where it is).

IAIN A. MUIR.

Candidate's Name ... **ALAN LENTON**
 Candidate's Dept. ... **SOCIOLOGY**
 Year of Entry to
 Leeds University ... **1973/74**
 Proposed by **WAXUM**
 Seconded by **ANDY MORGAN**

Union positions held:

Accommodation Secretary.

GRANTS

The most important issue facing students during the coming term is the question of the level of student grants. As an active member of the Grants Campaign Committee, I feel that it is possible for students to have some impact on the government's decision, as to how much to increase grants if we show them that we are determined. The first step in the right direction has been taken with the decision to go on rent strike and the catering boycott. We must follow this up over the rest of the term.

INVOLVEMENT

One of the main problems with this union has been the failure of more than a few people to become involved in the union, so that there is a general distrust of the union and a 'them and us' attitude. It is an attitude which is well founded! A determined attempt must be made to make the union more democratic than it is at the moment. Last term's "No Confidence" motion, which removed the idea of recallability from being theoretically possible to actually possible, was in many ways a step in the right direction.

STRUGGLE

As a socialist I do not think that we can fight for higher living standards by ourselves, we must recognise where our interests lie and link up our struggles to those of the working class. The links forged in the last miners strike between students and the miners will have important implications for our coming struggles for higher grants.

ALAN.

USE YOUR VOTE

TIMES OF POLLING

MONDAY, 28th and TUESDAY, 29th JANUARY, 1974

at the following polling stations at the times stated

UNION BUILDING - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

MEDICAL SCHOOL COMMON ROOM - 12 noon - 2 p.m.

ENGINEERING DEPT - 2 noon - 2 p.m.

PARKINSON COURT - 12 noon - 2 p.m.

Voting will be in accordance with the Constitution and Bye-laws and will be by means of a stamp on the current Union Card.