

ADVERTISEMENT

LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Candidate's Name **KEVIN DEVANEY**
 Candidate's Dept. **ECONOMICS**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1971**
 Proposed by **ABDULLAH MUDMI**
 Seconded by **DAVE KING**



Union positions held:
 Executive Committee 1974/5 (N.U.S. SEC.)
 Union Council 1973/74/5.
 N.U.S. Delegate 1972-4. Campaign against the Cuts Committee 1974/5.
 International Committee; Elections Committee; Security Committee;
 Trades Council Rep. 1972/3/4; Miners Strike Committee 1972 & 4.

The Union is facing increasing financial difficulties. Our problem is one of income, income from the Government via the University. Therefore, the problem and its solution are, by necessity, political.

Chopping expenditure piecemeal is futile — as the Finance Working Party proved. With the expertise at its command, the Union could produce a plan, covering the whole of its financial operations, before next session began. This would highlight the problems and potentialities before us. No ad hoc solution will work.

The "social-club-only" attitude to the Union cannot withstand the impact of falling living and educational standards. Many students do not have Full Grants; married women are discriminated against; Overseas students may have to abandon their courses. This is still the reality for many L.U.U. members. Post-graduate incomes have been cut; lab equipment is short; teaching ratios have increased. The Cuts have begun.

At present the Union is unprepared to defend student interests on these, and other, questions — a ridiculous position for the largest Union in the N.U.S. The Union must be able to involve its members to fight for their present

and future interests. The Grants/Cuts Campaign is too important to be left to a minority of members.

The President has to attend 34 University and Union committees. It is absurd to place one person in a position of so much power. I would be concerned to increase ordinary student participation on these bodies, and thus free the President to concentrate more on campaigns than committee rooms.

My ability to fulfill the many and diverse duties of the president is based on my previous ten years experience as a trade-unionist, my experience on UC and Executive and my participation in a wide range of Union activities.

My concern, as a Communist and the Broad Left candidate, is to strengthen the Union by involving students on the issues that affect them. The Union clearly faces bankruptcy, both financially and politically. We students more than ever need a strong Union, a democratic Union.

VOTE BROAD LEFT

FOR A STRONG DEMOCRATIC UNION

Kevin Devaney

Candidate's Name **PETE GILLARD**
 Candidate's Dept. **SOCIOLOGY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1972**
 Proposed by **DAVE EDMOND**
 Seconded by **KHURSHID ALAM**



Union positions held:
 Union Council and sub committees.
 Secretary, Grants Campaign Committee.
 N.U.S. Area Executive.
 N.U.S. Universities National Committee.
 Union representative on University Council and other bodies.
 National Student Committee, International Socialists.

NOT JUST ANOTHER BUREAUCRAT...

Everyone will agree that the President has to be administratively competent *but*, in the present situation, that is not *all* that is required. The Union has to face the *twin* problems of attacks on members living and education conditions, due to Government financial policies, and the lack of involvement by the members in the Union and in campaigns on issues which affect them.

I stand for a *democratic union* — regular (and well attended) General Meetings, full control of Union Council and Executive by the members, for the right of General Meetings to remove Union officials from office whenever they see fit. A democratic union with mass involvement is the prerequisite for a *fighting union* which can defend its members interests.

- I STAND FOR
- (1) The complete political, financial and constitutional autonomy of the Union.
 - (2) For access to post-school education as a right not a privilege. For a grant of £845 for all students (plus long-course increments). For the abolition of 'means-testing'.
 - (3) Against the cuts in educational spending. No price rises, no rent rises, no redundancies. No cuts in courses or facilities.
 - (4) For a large increase in the Union fee to beat inflation and enable the Union to maintain and expand its facilities and services for members.
 - (5) Against all forms of racialism in the

University. Against discriminatory fees for overseas students. Against the Immigration Acts under which overseas students can be deported for both political and academic reasons. Against any platforms for fascists and racists in the University.

(6) Against the discrimination against women students. For full grants for married women. For full and free nursery provision on campus. For a full and free contraception and abortion service under Student Health. For the University to make positive attempts to attract women students to departments where they are currently under-represented.

(7) Against examinations and assessment in their role as disciplining agents in the learning process. Against control of research by the State or industry.

This is not a full programme — but it is one which I think the Union must actively take up if it is to avoid remaining irrelevant. We are living through an economic crisis. We have to fight to stand still. And we have to fight side by side with those trade unionists, faced with similar problems, who are taking action to protect their real wages and their jobs. My politics are socialist politics. They are for *change*. Can *conservatism* provide any answers in the present day? *Say no!*

BUILD A FIGHTING UNION

Pete Gillard.

Candidate's Name **ROBERT A. MASON**
 Candidate's Dept. **PHILOSOPHY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1971**
 Proposed by **L. FRANCIS**
 Seconded by **S. DUDMAN**



Union positions held:
 None.

When I first thought about standing for President I intended to be a joke candidate. Perhaps I still am!

But I've become much more serious since I started. I have never been active in Union politics but I have paid attention to them and have always been annoyed by the way in which political ideology often takes precedence over practicalities.

I'm not interested in party politics all I'm interested in is results, in making the Union building a place where most students will enjoy themselves and in making the union bureaucracy

a power to attend to and further the interests of all students not just the minority of activists.

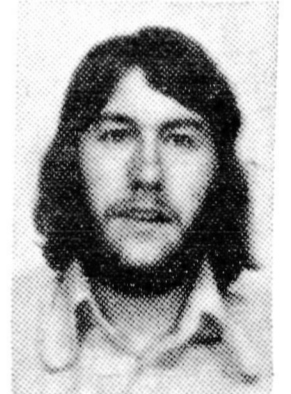
But to do anything I need your help. Not just to vote, but to put forward your ideas and your support to get things done.

If I am elected I shall spend as much time as possible in the bars, coffee bars, halls and departments talking to people, rather, and more importantly listening to them.

Whoever is elected remember that *the President works for you*. It is up to *you* to pick one who will listen to *your* ideas and try to do something about them.

I want everyone to enjoy themselves.

Candidate's Name **ROGER SEDDON**
 Candidate's Dept. **LAW**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1972**
 Proposed by **NICK LAMMING**
 Seconded by **DICK PARSONS**



Union positions held:
 Union Council. Accommodation Committee. House Committee. Publicity Committee. S.A.S.F. Committee. N.U.S. Conference Delegate Nov. 1974.
 Also: Senior President Bodington, 1973/4. Standing Committee of Hall Councils. Senate Group on Hours of Work University Accommodation Committee.

I know that, compared with some of the other candidates, I am relatively inexperienced in Union affairs, but I am confident I could make a competent President (if a lousy typist) and hope I can persuade you to vote for me. Some of my views do not coincide with current Union policy; however, if I am elected I shall obey all mandates properly.

On student *GRANTS*, for example, I should follow L.U.U. policy (decided by a typically unrepresentative O.G.M. of less than 200 people) to aim for an increase of £240. Although there are valid arguments to support this figure, I think £120 or 20% is both more realistic and more reasonable "in the present economic crisis."

No *CAMPAIGNS* embarked on by the Union can succeed unless both the aims and the methods are widely supported. O.G.M.'s periodically pass motions calling for rent strikes, yet we have never had a successful rent strike because few people ever want one.

Many decisions, notably the I.R.A. affair last term, have shown Union Council to be just as unrepresentative and easily dominated by political cliques as O.G.M.'s are. As I have said before, I favour constituency-based *elections* for U.C. and higher quorums for O.G.M.'s.

N.U.S. costs us £8,000 this year — and if you think L.U.U. is unrepresentative, look at N.U.S.! Whilst I don't favour disaffiliation, I support moves to make the organisation more democratic, such as a secret ballot of all mem-

bers for Executive elections.

The Union's biggest single problem is *FINANCE*: the annual balance sheet has shown deficits since 1971. Contrary to popular belief, huge sums are not spent on political campaigns and donations, and it is difficult to find a painless solution. *The Union building* is expensive to maintain, whilst fewer people use it and bar profits are falling. All attempts to bring some life back into the place should be encouraged.

The President is the principal representative of the student body and one of the main channels of communication in dealings with the *University* authorities. I believe a firm but reasonable attitude is very important: rigid confrontation rarely gets anybody anywhere. I support the Union's present policies of improving student representation on University committees and of opposing reductions in educational standards. It is essential that all students and the general public should be made aware of what is going on.

This issue of educational finance, and other issues, inevitably have a political character. I am not apolitical, I am not right-wing, and I am definitely not a supporter of the Conservatives (however much they may support me). I simply believe that the policies of the Union should reflect the views of its members and I should be concerned with the things its members consider most important.

Roger Seddon.

POLLING TIMES

Voting will take place on **MONDAY 10th** and **TUESDAY 11th**
FEBRUARY at the following times:—

UNION BUILDING	10 am — 7 pm
MEDICAL SCHOOL COMMON ROOM	12 noon—2 pm
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT	12 noon—2 pm
PARKINSON BUILDING	12 noon—2 pm