

Leeds University Union Election of President for the session 1974-75

Candidate's Name **DAVID JAMES ALLISON**
 Candidate's Dept. **ENGLISH/HISTORY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds University **1972**
 Proposed by **DANNY JAMES**
 Seconded by **CHRIS WRIGHT**
 Union positions held:
 None.



"With the dead there is no rivalry. In the dead there is no change." So said Thomas Babington Macaulay, and he told no lies. Change is the quintessential element of existence, the factor that permeates every sphere of human activity, be it of an economic, political, cultural or social nature. Union elections provide no exception to this rule. Yet unfortunately, such elections usually engender surface changes only, changes that are not penetrating or permanent enough to be judged as worthwhile. And of all Union Elections, those for the Presidency are most notorious for their consistency in replacing one idiot with another, one jolly Union boy with an even jollier Union boy. There is no change, only replacement.

Most, if not all, of my fellow candidates illustrate this. They are nothing more than the manipulated manifestations of some obtuse and abstracted platform creed, the perpetrators of Ism-ity or -ology, the vessel through which the abortive words of some Marx, Heath, Thorpe, or Wilson are given form.

I subscribe to no such dogma. Life is not so categorical as these gentlemen would have us believe; beliefs and emotions cannot be subjected to such brutal lines of demarcation. I am, in a word, apolitical. Yet as Louis MacNeice said: "To shun dogma is not to renounce belief". I have my beliefs, but they do not revolve around the workers, free enterprise or 'liberalism'. The only injustice suffered by the working classes is that they have never had an

equal opportunity to be as greedy as those higher in the social strata. Instead of wailing over their condition, we should be concerned that it never happens to their children.

And for this is needed change, and change will never come from those who squabble like recalcitrant children from some absurdly sectarian standpoint. Change will come only from those who recognise the need for a complete re-ordering of society, and that there exist transcendent ultimates which can only be revealed through consciously shaped, consistent change. All students deserve a hand in this change, and with an executive elected with change in mind, they can have one. As soon as students realise that most of them are given a University education to keep them off the dole queue and to channel their energies into harmless mental puzzles, they can begin to harness the power that is theirs, theirs by virtue of their youth.

The Union President of one University is but one person, but perhaps he can serve as a catalyst in the liberation of this latent, potent power. I believe that I could serve such a function as well as any of the other candidates, despite my total lack of administrative experience. Indeed, judging by the way the present executive has acted, I do not feel this is too great a deprivation. If you feel as I do, however, that elections mean a change of attitude and not just a change of name, I hope that I will receive your vote in the coming election.

DAVID ALLISON.

Candidate's Name **ANDREW COBB**
 Candidate's Dept. **INTERNATIONAL HISTORY & POLITICS**
 Year of Entry to Leeds University **1972**
 Proposed by **RUSSELL AMOS**
 Seconded by **DAVID J. SPAUL**
 Union positions held:
 None.



I believe that the time has come for a move away from the ideological rantings and ravings which permeate the Union in the present state. It is totally invalid to superimpose on the domestic affairs of the University Union classifications which are external and alien, and, at worst, global. Union politics have for too long been dominated by political élites and cliques who, once elected, lose contact with those

who supported them in their vote. This, in simple terms, has led to a grants campaign which has the support of most students of all political shades of opinion or of none, being transformed into a general attack on the government, which in turn is regarded as an integral part of social and economic class warfare. It is a great pity that such a fundamental issue should be escalated by a few frustrated fanatics

into a political propaganda exercise, while most students see an increase in grants as a basic social need.

In recent months the grants issue has served as a convenient way of distracting student's attention from domestic inefficiencies and ineffectiveness within the Union. I intend, if elected to do my best in righting this situation, by putting greater emphasis on the improvement of relations between executive and the student body as a whole, so that a repetition of the events of December will not occur. This was an example of a lack of communication between the students and their elected representatives, and need not have happened if a large section of the Union had not been given cause to feel alienated. If you are concerned about the way in which Union affairs are conducted and are discouraged from making your views known at Union meetings yourself, then I assure you that I will be prepared to listen sympathetically to your ideas, and act as far as possible on your behalf. I will also attempt to negotiate at a national level in the interests of all Leeds students, and not merely those who belong to vociferous minorities.

ANDREW COBB

Candidate's Name **KEVIN PRIOR**
 Candidate's Dept. **ECON. & SOCIAL STUDIES**
 Year of Entry to Leeds University **1972**
 Proposed by **LAURA FARRELL**
 Seconded by **ANTHONY MORTON-HOOPER**



Union positions held:
 None.

The next generation needs to be told that—
 The real fight is not the political fight,
 But to put an end to politics.
 From politics to metapolitics,
 From politics to poetry.

Legislation is not politics, nor philosophy, but poetry.
 Poetry, art, imagination, the creative spirit is life itself;
 The real revolutionary power to change the world.
 And to change the human body.

Candidate's Name **CHRISTOPH SCHLIACK**
 Candidate's Dept. **CHINESE STUDIES**
 Year of Entry to Leeds University **1971**
 Proposed by **A. H. HUGHES-D'AETH**
 Seconded by **T. BOWDEN**



Union positions held:
 Member of Union Council.

Let it be known
 That yielding to manifold Entreaties, I am prepared to accept the Presidency of this Union should it be proffered to me.
 As ever, my Fate is in the People's hands.
 What could be more equitable and agreeable

than that their own Fate should lie in mine?
 Leeds, Tuesday this 29th January, A.D. 1974.

CHRISTOPH SCHLIACK.

USE YOUR VOTE

Election of President for the session 1974-75

Candidate's Name **MICK RIDLEY**

Candidate's Dept. **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Year of Entry to Leeds University **1972**

Proposed by **PETE GILLARD**

Seconded by **ALAN LENTON**



Union positions held:

Chemical Engineering Staff/Student Committee.

Students grants have declined in real value. Many students already get less than the maximum rate. Hall and flat rents, catering prices and all the other expenses that we face are continually escalating. The cuts in expenditure on education recently announced will mean less new building, causing overcrowding, and worsening of such things as staff-student ratios and post graduate places. Proposals are in the air for an increasing emphasis on home-based students.

The priority for any candidate standing for President is to put forward proposals for our response to these problems.

ATTACK

The problems students and student unions face are not an accidental collection of individual items. They form part of a whole attack by the Government on higher education in this country. In order to alleviate the problems of British capitalism, they have decided to cut back on what they consider "wasteful" expenditure. Our response has to be that the problems the Government face are not caused by us, and that we shall not accept these attacks lying down. Our reply is that a decent education must be a right and not a privilege to be withdrawn by whim of Government.

REPLY

We in L.U.U., and nationally in N.U.S., must be prepared to respond by fighting back with all the resources we have available. Although our direct power (through strikes, boycotts, etc.) is small we do have political power when we are united in action.

UNION

There are however two conditions which have to be satisfied if L.U.U. is to be an effective fighting force:

- 1) The Union must be completely autonomous both organisationally and financially) from the University authorities and the Government. The Union must be prepared to actively veto decisions of University committees even when we have "representation" on them.
- 2) Members must be fully involved in the making and implementation of Union policy. The domination of the Exec. and U.C. with a largely passive student body must end.

These two conditions have to be worked for. The first step is to ensure that General Meetings

take the policy decisions. The role of Exec. and U.C. should be to ensure that the members as a whole have an adequate understanding of the issues involved. General Meetings have to be seen to be relevant before the majority of members can be convinced that they should participate in them.

POLICY

If elected, I shall fight for the following policies:-

- 1) The continuation of a militant Grants Campaign until the demands are met in full.
- 2) No deterioration of living or working conditions of students caused by Government cut-backs.
- 3) Opposition to assessment and examination in their role as "disciplining agents" in the learning process.

WORKING CLASS

The attacks on students can only be seen as a part of a total Tory offensive to bolster up their ailing system. We see the attacks on standards of living through Phases I, II and III and such things as Government imposed rent increases. At the same time the Government is prepared to use the Industrial Relations Act and conspiracy laws against those who are prepared to fight back. I shall work to unite students with those sections of the working class who are actively defending their living standards and organisation.

If the miners strike, then the Union must help both with funds and facilities, and by members actively helping on the picket lines if requested. The Union cannot remain neutral. If the Tories are not beaten then we have little hope of solving the problems we face.

MYSELF

I am standing for election as a socialist. I am a member of the International Socialists. I have been active in the Union primarily on our major campaign, the Grants Campaign.

I believe that in the present situation we have no choice but to BUILD A STRONG UNION and this can only be done if the Union as a whole adopts FIGHTING SOCIALIST POLICIES.

Conservatism, lack of involvement, refusal to actively fight means effective impotence in the face of gross deterioration of both living and educational standards.

MICK RIDLEY

Candidate's Name **NEIL TAGGART**

Candidate's Dept. **MUSIC**

Year of Entry to Leeds University **1970**

Proposed by **JOHN NICHOLSON**

Seconded by **PAUL VALLELY**



Union positions held:

UNION COUNCIL 1972-4

Leeds Student Reviews Editor and staff member.

Various Film Society posts leading to President; Union committees on Arts Festival, Union building, bars and shops, Cultural Affairs, Network 4, Technical Services and Woodhouse Lane Annexe.

Publicity Working Party 1972, Constitution W.P. 1973-4.

University committees on Accommodation, Catering, Music Recitals, Overseas Students, Public Lectures, Student Health and University Bookshop.

Delegate to N.U.S. Universities Specialist Conference 1974.

Departmental Staff-Student committee 1970-74.

INVOLVEMENT

There is a lack of confidence in the Union at the moment. Most of us know it. It can only be countered by greater active participation by Union officers in all fields of our members' interests to show that a Union is not an irrelevancy to be used solely as a drinking club but a base from which cultural, social and political activities can emerge and develop.

COMMUNICATION

The breakdown in communications between the Union and most students is self-evident and one of the main reasons why confidence is at such a low ebb. There should be regular issues of Union news-sheets, much improved poster publicity of events and a determined effort by the bureaucrats to cease regarding the Union walls as the geographical limit to their activities and instead extend their work outside the main building.

CAMPAIGNS

The N.U.S. Grants Campaign is the major field in which this Union has participated this session. We have to realise that it is not merely a fight to maintain the living standards of students and achieve 'fair grants for all' but just one part of the battle for equal access to education. We must resist attempts to lower the standard of teaching and social facilities in educational institutions and the recently published proposals which threaten post graduates education.

Here in Leeds we should resist moves to cram departments beyond capacity, resist resi-

dence and catering charge increases by the University, ensure that the Lipman Building, when demolished, is not replaced by vastly inferior social facilities and fight for the proposed Union extensions, which the University Grants Committee is now trying to cut down or chop altogether.

DEMANDS

The major educational questions facing us at the moment, including course length, content and assessment, together with the need for more accommodation, can only be fought for on a national level, through N.U.S. However, many of our demands will not be met if students stand apart from the rest of society. It is wrong to think that by resting on a historical tradition of inactive elitism students' standards of living and education will somehow be maintained whilst the rest of society comes under attack.

Now more than ever we need a strong, united student body effectively and efficiently led by an Executive prepared to fight on behalf of its students.

EXPERIENCE

I am familiar with the problems and choices facing the Union having, besides working on Arts Festival and "Leeds Student", been a fully active member of Union Council and also, for 18 months, President of the Union's largest society, Film Society. I feel I do not lack the administrative competence to use my knowledge effectively and do the job.

NEIL TAGGART

TIMES OF POLLING

Notice is also given that polling in the election will take place on **MONDAY, 11th FEBRUARY** and **TUESDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 1974**, at the following polling stations at the times stated.

UNION BUILDING	—	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
MEDICAL SCHOOL COMMON ROOM	—	12 noon to 2 p.m.
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT	—	12 noon to 2 p.m.
PARKINSON BUILDING	—	12 noon to 2 p.m.

Members who are unable to vote at the times stated must make personal application to the Returning Officer. Voting will be in accordance with the Constitution and Bye Laws and will be by means of a stamp on the current Union Card.