

ADVERTISEMENT

L.U.U. ELECTION FOR HOUSE SECRETARY

Candidate's Name **ALAN LENTON**
 Candidate's Dept. **SOCIOLOGY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1973/4**
 Proposed by **SIMON JONES**
 Seconded by **CAROL JELLEY**



Union positions held:

Union Council, Accommodation Secretary, Nursery Management Committee, University Security Committee and various others.

The House Secretary is the Union Executive member responsible for the state and running of the Union Building. The building is at present a complete tip, which only attracts drinkers because it serves the best pint of Tetleys in Leeds. The Union must be changed into an environment which people will want to come to, and this can only be achieved by laying out cash.

The Old Bar needs completely changing so that its "decor" is at least designed to take into account its shape. The extensions resemble aircraft hangers after an earthquake, what can be done with them — apart from replacing the carpets — I don't know, but I'm ready to consider virtually any suggestion!

All this will require money, and the Union is desperately short of cash at the moment. This cash can be found in two ways. First by an increase in Union Fees, which must be applied for as soon as possible, and secondly by ensuring that the University takes its share of the financial burden of running services such as the Nursery. Given the present situation in Britain in general, and the University in particular, this won't be easy, and we will undoubtedly have to fight hard to achieve anything.

The situation of Union amenities has steadily slumped over the last few years. Services were set up which were beyond our financial resources, and we have had to draw heavily on our resources to tide ourselves over the first few years. In terms of stock they are still undercapitalised, but we should be able to rectify that soon, and all the services should be returning a surplus. This in itself will give us a source of income which can be ploughed into improving Union amenities.

The motion from the Medics at the Annual General Meeting made it quite clear that there are legitimate grievances at the Lipman Building which must be investigated and cleared up as soon as possible. While I do not agree with the solutions posed by the M.S.R.C., I believe that the problems posed are mostly the fault of the Central Union. I will do my best to resolve these problems.

If you elect me to this post you will be electing someone who is not part of the Burke/Seddon/Rae ticket, and you will probably disagree with some of the ideas that I have. However, you will be electing someone who will do the job, and will do it for the full year.

Alan

Candidate's Name **BRIAN P. SMITH**
 Candidate's Dept. **HISTORY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1973**
 Proposed by **BOB RAE**
 Seconded by **CLIVE CLAPSON**



Union positions held:

Union Council 1975.

The post of House Secretary is an internal post involving responsibility for the management of the facilities in the Union buildings, and if elected I will try to run those facilities as efficiently as possible for the benefit of all Union members. The crisis facing the Union at present is twofold. Firstly, the diminishing number of students who use the Union's facilities, reflecting their dissatisfaction with the Union as a social centre. The physical state of the buildings is capable of great improvement, especially the Bierkeller and the extensions. I will do everything possible to try and make the state of the buildings more attractive to the Union members. Only in this way can the Union fulfil its primary role; as a centre offering worthwhile and attractive facilities for its members.

The second aspect of the crisis is financial, the Union reserves and the per capita fee for each student having been jointly eroded by a considerable extension of services and inflation. Improvements to the building are bound to be

costly, but the money will have to be found — the alternative is a dead Union.

I do not see the job in political terms at all. Much of the indifference towards the Union has been caused by its officers using the Union as a platform to promote their political ideologies, whilst ignoring the needs of students who lead a more down to earth life that is not that of the great political revolutionaries in our midst. This is not the function of the Union, nor that of its officers. Whilst disagreeing with militant direct action such as an occupation, I would support a rent strike and other such forms of action, if they reflected the wishes of the majority of students, and not a politically motivated and unrepresentative few.

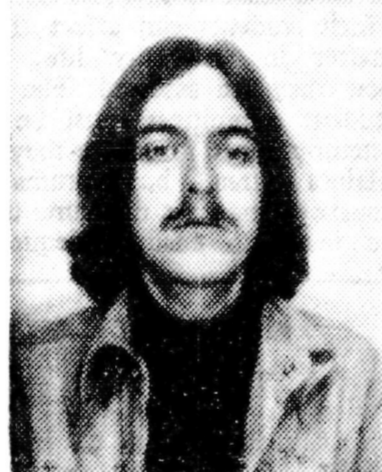
Finally, I hope you will help me to help you, by voting for the moderate approach to the job and the Union in general which I represent.

Thank you for reading this and, hopefully, for your vote.

Brian P. Smith.

ELECTION FOR N.U.S. SECRETARY

Candidate's Name **STEPHEN CASS**
 Candidate's Dept. **HISTORY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1973**
 Proposed by **M. RIDLEY**
 Seconded by **C. HORE**



Union positions held:

Delegate to Leeds Area N.U.S. Delegate to N.U.S. Conference
 Catering Secretary.

The responsibility of the N.U.S. Secretary, as a member of Executive, is both to develop the links between L.U.U. and the other student unions organised in N.U.S., and to build support for the various campaigns being run by N.U.S.

If any N.U.S. Secretary is to do the job effectively then he must work to ensure that L.U.U. is both a **democratic** union and a **fighting** union. It must be 'democratic' in that it actively seeks to involve the membership in decision making through the General Meeting structure; 'democratic' is that all union officials are bound by mandates and can be kicked out of office by the membership at any time. It must be 'fighting' in that the membership take an active part in the carrying out of decisions; 'fighting' is the general recognition of the need for **direct action** and the campaigns of the union and the ability to take it when necessary. A **FIGHTING UNION**, based on the democratic involvement of the membership, is an absolute necessity if we are to stand up to the current attacks on students educational and living standards caused by the government's financial policies.

I STAND FOR

N.U.S. A democratic N.U.S. in which all delegates to Conferences are elected by General Meetings, where delegates are mandated by General Meetings in their colleges, where all moves to reduce the frequency of National Conferences (as has been suggested by Broad Left Executive members) are resisted. I oppose the Broad Left currently dominant within N.U.S. an organisation which worries more about annoying its **Stalinist** mentors in Prague than in fighting within the British student movement for effective campaigns. I stand for a socialist

leadership in N.U.S. which seeks to give a lead in the campaigns, and not capitulate to the backwardness of certain sections of the student movement.

Grants/Cuts. Total opposition to all cuts in education spending. No to any attacks on the educational and living conditions of students. For the full N.U.S. grants demands. We have to recognise that negotiation is no longer sufficient. We need campaigns of direct action in a period where capitalism is in crisis and the Government is attempting to alleviate that crisis by cutting State expenditure. There are no easy ways out, like 'sliding scales'; we have to continue to fight.

Women. For an end to all discrimination against women. For the provision of a full and free contraception and abortion service, and adequate nursery provision for all students.

Overseas students and International. Total opposition to all discrimination against overseas students, total opposition to the Immigration Acts, total opposition to racialism in all its terms. No platform for racists and fascists. Total opposition to imperialism wherever it occurs; U.S. in Indo-China, Russia in Czechoslovakia or Britain in Ireland.

'Social Contract'. No to any attempts to make the working class pay for the crisis of capitalism through either wage 'restraint' or unemployment. For the Union to give full support, including material and financial aid, to any section of the trade union movement taking action to defend their living or working conditions or trade union organisation.

I am a member of the **International Socialist Society** and have taken an active part in all campaigns of this union.

Candidate's Name **MARK TURNBULL**
 Candidate's Dept. **POLITICS**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1973**
 Proposed by **TONY HYNES**
 Seconded by **GRAHAM DURHAM**



Union positions held:

Delegate to Leeds Area NUS 1975. Delegate to NUS National Conferences 1973/4. Delegate to numerous NUS and SU specialist conferences. Delegate to University Union Staff/Student Committee 1974/5. Delegate to Essex University picket line 1974. Member N.U.S. for 4 years NUS Secretary, Loughton College F.E. 1972/3.

This election is totally unique from all other posts, not just because the NUS Sec is the most political post on Exec, but also because in this case both candidates are members of the revolutionary left. Myself, I am a member of the International Marxist Group — Cass is in I.S. Below I shall explain what I, as a member of the IMG, see as the most important campaigns NUS and this Union need to take up. By contrasting them with the manifesto of Cass and IS's record, I hope you will vote for me.

GRANTS AND EDUCATION CUTBACKS

This is obviously the main campaign NUS and all its members are concerned with, but the record of the last three years show a certain lack of perspective. We win a grant increase and immediately start fighting for another — hardly surprising when we, like everyone else, are hit by inflation of over 20%. However, winning an increase only to see it disappear overnight (eg £85 hall fee increases), will only lead to disillusionment and apathy.

For a year now the IMG has been calling for a **sliding scale of grants** — a system whereby our grant would be tied to a student cost of living index which would increase our grant 1% every time the index rose 1%.

EDUCATION — HEALTH — HOUSING

Tied to this inability of the government to finance students is their inability to finance the entire education system. This is becoming more apparent with cutbacks in all Departments from equipment grants and Postgrads pay to cleaning and technical staff and building programmes (Block 19 etc). Most recently though is the cancellation of the £10m expansion of the LGI — something that affects not just workers but also students who need medical care and the Health students.

STUDENT-WORKER ALLIANCE

The crisis in the National Health Service, Housing and Social Welfare are all closely related to the Education cuts. For this reason there is a conference on 8th March in Leeds supported by Student and Trade Unions to discuss these cuts which the IMG initiated.

Looking "nearer to home" the cuts are shown in the declining value of money our Union has. The reserves have run dry but we must get more money if we are to re-decorate the building and continue to pay our staff a decent wage. At present we subsidise a nursery for £15,000 plus, and as I think the **NUS Womens campaign** is of high priority then we must fight for the University to provide adequate nursery facilities for ALL students and staff at a price the parents can afford.

Ireland is the other major campaign of NUS that I believe we must take up. Lack of space prevents me from saying more than that the basis of our campaign must be: — Troops Out Now and Self-Determination for the Irish people. The IMG's paper carries regular articles and I advise people to read the **Red Weekly** if they want to know more about the Irish struggle.

Finally, I believe that in order to fight for everything I have mentioned above, we need a strong Union and that can only be achieved through participation. The Union has an extremely democratic structure which needs little change — but a lot of active people. We need a fighting Union that can take direct action in its members interest and tie together our demands with those of the working-class. It is this sort of perspective which will defend our education and living standards — and our students' union?

Mark Turnbull

ELECTION FOR EDUCATION & WELFARE OFFICER

Candidate's Name **DAVE EDMOND**
 Candidate's Dept. **CHEMISTRY**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1973**
 Proposed by **S. MINNER**
 Seconded by **M. A. LITTLEFIELD**



Union positions held:

Publicity Secretary. Bar Board.

The post of Executive Officer for Education and Welfare was created a year ago, the job involves co-ordinating policy on education, welfare, and accommodation. I am standing as a member of the International Socialists Society.

EDUCATION

I stand for education as a right, not a privilege, for student control of course content and an end to examinations. Next year the cuts will bite deeper into the education standards of this country and will see reductions in postgrad teaching, leading to bigger tutorial groups. Reductions in heating and cleaning and discontinuation of building programmes. The union must oppose the cuts, by direct action wherever possible.

WELFARE

I support the demands for free contraception facilities and abortion on demand. I support the demand for the provision of free nursery facilities for all sectors of higher education. No discrimination against student parents. The University must provide accommodation for a far greater number of students at reason-

able prices. I oppose reduction in services and all closures in University accommodation. I support an end to all petty regulations in halls.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

I stand for opposition to all discrimination against overseas students. Opposition to immigration acts. Total opposition to all forms of racialism. No platform for racists and fascist. For the defence of overseas students against the repressive activities of their home governments.

THE UNION

I stand for a democratic union and a **fighting** union. All union officers shall be recallable at any time and all policy decisions should be taken by general meetings. A **fighting** union based on the democratic involvement of the membership, is an absolute necessity if we are to stand up to the current attacks on students educational and living standards caused by government financial policies.

VOTE DAVE FOR A FIGHTING UNION.

Dave Edmond.

Candidate's Name **PETER T. G. WALKER**
 Candidate's Dept. **ECONOMICS & POLITICS**
 Year of Entry to Leeds
 University **1973**
 Proposed by **BOB RAE**
 Seconded by **DAVE SMITH**



Union positions held: Welfare Secretary.

Union committees:

U.C. (non-voting)*, student loans*, nursery management, constitution working party, services section board, shop board, freshers conference '75, international (*indicates position ex-officio as welf' sec).

union delegate on university:—

Court, Council, and Staff/Student, Facilities for Disabled*, Safety*, Student Health*, and Library Consultative committees. (*indicates position ex-officio as welf' sec.).

WELFARE

It is essential that a member of next year's executive has experience in the area of student welfare rights. As union welfare secretary for the past year I have accumulated knowledge and experience with regard to grants, social security benefits and appeals, the university health service, university safety, facilities to enable handicapped students to enter and take full part in university life, counselling the nursery and many other areas affecting student welfare. I was the author of last term's 'Hand-out' on vacation benefits and hope to produce further leaflets on other welfare matters. I have backed the campaign initiated by women's lib for a free family planning clinic near the campus. I will continue to attempt to be available most lunchtimes in the union exec' office to deal with welfare problems, and will work closely with the D.P.C. and next years Deputy President, who as full-time sabbaticals have more time to devote to welfare problems.

EDUCATION

With so many different departments and courses it is difficult for the union to have an effective policy on education in the university. I believe that participation in departmental decision making is the most important way in which students can affect the most important matter in university life, their course and how they are assessed. The position of staff/student committees must be strengthened and attempts made to ensure they are not just complaints bureau but forums for constructive course change. At the same time attempts must be made to ensure adequate communication

between all students and departmental level representatives. The union education questionnaire, currently in preparation, may point up general points of discontent which I will attempt to vigorously pursue. The main answer must remain, however, in giving you a greater say in your course, in department and faculty decision.

EXECUTIVE

In meetings of executive and union council I will, except where other mandates exist, vote according to the principles which have led me to generally support the 'left' in matters affecting the union and university. It is important that we fight the cuts in 'social expenditure' and that we fight for a reasonable level of grant without discriminatory regulations so that there is no financial barrier to higher education. At a time when student living standards are lower relatively than ever it is vital that the union's financial problems are solved by an increase in the union fee, not by cuts in services. I believe that all general policy must be decided by general meetings and that U.C. and executive should restrict themselves to the routine administration of that policy. The duties of the exec. officer for education and welfare are time consuming enough without the general duties of a member of exec. and if I am to cover fully the education and welfare field I cannot promise to carry out the other duties to the full.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME, and work for a union that fights for a fair society.
 Peter Walker.

POLLING TIMES

Voting will take place on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th March, at the following times:—

UNION BUILDING 10 am-7 pm

LIPMAN BUILDING 12 noon-2 pm

**PARKINSON BUILDING
 12 noon-2 pm**

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 12 noon-2 pm**

USE YOUR VOTE