





# LEEDS STUDENT

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF LEEDS STUDENTS

Main Office: 155 Woodhouse Lane  
Tel. University 39071 (Ext. 58). Polytechnic 30171/3  
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Editor ..... PAUL VALLEY

Other contributors: Andrew Baldwin, Richard Munro, Cath Garner, Ian Coxon, Nick Clarke, Jane Ransom, John Meadows, Jim Bewsher, Pauline Whyte, Neil Taggart, Martin Flynn.



## Students fight the Government threat to their Unions

### Student guide to Leeds (cont.)

## SHOPPING

### FOOD

Leeds can be fairly cheap, provided you know where to go. The cheapest places tend to be in the City Centre, and it's worth trying to make the effort to get in.

### SUPERMARKETS

#### TESCO: 53

Be careful here, because you might lose on the roundabout what you gained on the swings. Butter is often quite cheap, and their loss leaders are usually good. Avoid meat and pre-packed cheese. You can also buy bread cheaper elsewhere.

#### LEWIS'S: 54

Not recommended, unless you are uncommonly well off. Their food is nice, but the price isn't. Good if you want something special and are prepared to pay for it.

#### HEADINGLEY, ARNDALE CENTRE: 55

Safeways. This is easily the best supermarket of the two in the Arndale Centre and if you have a car it has direct access to a car park. Meat, fruit and veg are reasonable but not cheap. Most other items are cheaper than elsewhere and porridge particularly so at 9½p for 1½ lbs.

#### SCHOFIELDS: 56

See Lewis's. Very good delicatessen department.

#### WOOLWORTHS: 57

Good loss leaders. Worth having a look, though prices vary.

#### WILLIS LUDLows: 58

Excellent. Very cheap, with only a few dear items. The shop itself is a bit of a hole, but don't let that put you off. Bread usually at least 1½p cheaper than elsewhere. Quite good for meat. Doesn't sell veg., but has good range of dairy produce and canned food. Highly recommended.

### CORNER SHOPS

If you live near a corner shop, try it, but don't make it a habit. They do tend to be expensive, and though they're convenient, it's still usually cheaper to go into town.

#### THE MARKET: 59

Kirkgate Market is a must for those who want to live well and stay in the black. The best time to go down is about 5.30 on a Saturday night. They sell fish, meat and fruit and veg at ridiculously low prices. The outside market is cheaper than the inside market, but if you are served from the back of the stall, keep your eye on what goes into the bag. Otherwise, the Markets are well worth a trip.

That's about all for food. The key is, shop around. If you don't like the prices, don't buy. And if you do buy something that's stale or bad, take it straight back. It's your right. Just remember to keep the receipt.

## THEATRES

### GRAND: 61

A theatre which has been notable as the more "professional" of the Leeds Theatres: which means that its choice of material is crap, but very polished crap, mainly because it has no resident company and it usually takes in whoever is doing the rounds. Standards don't vary much, but the material does — from Margot Fonteyn with the Royal Ballet (sponsored by the Yorkshire Arts Association) to Leeds Amateur Operatic Society's production of Kiss Me Kate.

What they do, they do well and it was noticeable that last year's production of Hamlet at the Grand was considerably better than the one which Leeds Playhouse put on about the same time.

DALTA seasons at this theatre and at the Alhambra (Bradford) bring "culture to the masses" with Sadlers Wells Opera and the London Festival Ballet. It is worthwhile keeping an eye on the programme at the Grand, but you must bear in mind that it caters mainly for the Mothers' Union and Darby and Joan club outings.

Prices vary from 40p to as much as £2.50.

"MARGARET THATCHER — Union Snatcher" was the mildest roar (others were slightly less printable) from students all over England when the Minister of Education introduced her Consultative Document on Student Unions. What was all the fuss about? Why was every educational institution, together with Vice-Chancellors of Universities, united in arms against these proposals?

The present position is that for every student at the University and Polytechnic, £14.50 and £13.50 is paid respectively to their Unions. This fee is paid by students' local authorities. What was suggested was that the Unions should compete with academic faculties for a grant. This grant would only be for the minimum facilities such as building maintenance: all clubs, societies and this student newspaper would become dependent on voluntary support. Perhaps more important, the services that are provided for the community, such as voluntary relief work for the underprivileged and elderly would be stopped. The welfare facilities which are provided for Union members, such as legal aid and student loans, would disappear. So would sponsored events like the Arts Festival.

The net result of all this is that we'd lose our autonomy as we would have to depend on the University and Polytechnic finances. We believe that we have a voice to be heard on many issues and we do not want anybody to stifle it.

The Government may well introduce similar proposals this year. This time they will be just as dangerous, however reasonable they may at first appear.

Students are well able to look after their own affairs. Leeds University Union said last year that it welcomed anybody to look at its books and its accounts. This still applies. Unions have a vital role to play in all kinds of fields and it would be sad if this role were ended. That is why students fought Mrs. Thatcher last year and that is why they will fight her again.

### PLAYHOUSE: 62

There is a new company here this year, so as yet this theatre is a pretty unknown quantity. A big row blew up there last year when the Trustees sacked the Artistic Director for a run of commercial failures which were mainly due to a mixture of, on the one hand, boring musicals such as for two weeks and then moved to the West End where it was "Romance" starring Bill Simpson (Dr. Finlay) — it ran here an almighty flop — and on the other hand heavier stuff such as "Waiting for Godot" which did not attract the sort of audience who would be willing to "get out their cheque books after the performance".

Despite the attempts of the Trustees to turn the Playhouse into a "viable economic venture" (i.e. into another Grand) the new director seems to be fairly promising: his choice of plays for the first season — Caucasian Chalk Circle, Oh What a Lovely War, and Macbeth (GCE set text) aim at a balanced programme which will, at the same time bring in the money. We are promised that the direction won't be too heavy.

### CITY VARIETIES: 63

Home of the famous BBC TV programme "The Good Old Days" the City Varieties is not really frequented by students except for the Rag Revue which is staged within the portals of this world famous theatre. It's reputed to be hard to book for the TV programme (no-one really seems to know anyone who's tried though) but anyway, their alternative Music Hall productions offer the same sort of pantomime spirit all the year round.

### CIVIC THEATRE: 64

The Civic shows plays by various amateur dramatic companies. It is very underestimated — alright, it is often bloody awful but sometimes it presents a really good production which is worth seeing — going there is a bit of a gamble but at the price you can afford it.

The new "Theatre for everybody" policy has produced a new wider price range from 40p to £1. In an effort to accustom people to the idea that the side seats are as good as the front ones, all the side prices have been reduced to 40p — definitely a bargain.

## LUNCH

### YOUR MID-DAY MEAL

As a student you can either eat well now and starve later or eat badly the whole time. The advice is simple; You either eat liquid or solid.

### UNIVERSITY

**University Refec:** Eat there during freshers' conference if only for the experience; expensive for plain and dull food.

**Salad Bar:** For health food freaks and slimming fanatics. Good value. Tasty: there's not much Greenhaulgh can do to

**Snack Bar:** Cheap, filling and totally tasteless; variations on yogurt and a lettuce leaf.

the theme of hamburgers, pies and beans. A waste of money you might as well stew up old Leeds Students at home.

### OPPOSITE THE PARKINSON

**Barbecue:** Grill-type food: reasonable. Open Saturday afternoon.

**Alpha:** Continental foods: It must be authentic, it's cooked by continentals. Reasonable enough — seven bob for a decentish meal.

**Sweats** (by the Engineering Block): Fish and Chips to take away and a small back room where you can eat midday. Very good value worth waiting for.

**Curry House** (opposite Holdsworth): Authentic curries (lamb chicken or vegetable) with raw onion salad and chippatties. Eat with your fingers. At only 25p the best value on the campus.

### LIQUID LUNCHEONS

Beer is a natural food so it is commonsense to have a liquid lunch. It is expensive, but makes afternoon lectures bearable if lazy.

**University Union Bar:** Bier Keller serves assorted pies and sandwiches. Cheaper than university service and the profits support your Union.

**Fathersham:** Good plain meals; curries, shepherds pie, etc.

**Fenton:** Pie and peas for the Southerner who wants to know what the North is all about and, assorted sandwiches.

If you cannot afford cooked food buy the basics (pastie and milk) at Ainsleys opposite the Parkinson or at the supermarket in the cafeteria. But remember the supermarket is run by an outside operator who collects the loot so don't feel any loyalty to it.

### FOOD AT THE POLY

The main refec. has been repainted during the vac. but the food has not changed and gradually deteriorates as the year passes. Whatever does not sell at lunchtime usually reappears at teatime. The price like the quality is reasonable — it's subsidised unlike the University. It opens for an hour at 10 o'clock a.m. if you miss your breakfast before a nine o'clock lecture.

For more variety, the 'pud school' provides a two course meal at 20½p. You may be unlucky and find that there are only fritters available. On the other hand with luck you can discover the delights cooked by student gourmets from Home Economics.

A selection of sandwiches and pies and pasties are available in the bar at lunchtime.

## HOPS

Leeds is noted amongst students for its Hops. Big names appear for big fees. Recently there has been some controversy among N.U.S. members over the suggested imposing of a limit on fees paid by student Ents.

After two years of struggling at the Polytechnic, success with ents. is being achieved largely due to Poly impresario Rob Armstrong. Last group to appear there was Lindsifame in June Facilities are limited, the Tech Hall is being re-designed.

University ents. are currently losing ground to the Poly having been previously dominant. Few, however, will forget the internationally renowned performance of the Who Live at Leeds. The university refectory provides a good auditorium with space for 2,000.