

LEEDS

# STUDENT

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1988

● NUS conference report p10/11



# BASTARDS!



Leeds City Council are calling for a full inquiry into why the National Front were allegedly allowed to march through the city last Saturday despite a Home Office banning order.

Leeds University and Polytechnic anti-racist sources were outraged at the decision to allow the Front to go ahead with their St George's day show of strength.

"When 14.5 per cent of French voters support racist views, there is a huge problem ahead. Leeds is a centre for NF activity, and we must fight against them," said Johnny Mendelson of the anti-racist committee.

The National Front supporters met in the Whip public house in Leeds city centre. They gathered from all over the country, some from as far away as Brighton.

Between 100 and 150 Front members are estimated to have left the Whip at 1.30pm and walked to a rally at Leeds Town Hall.

by  
**LEEDS STUDENT REPORTER**

They walked in groups of three or four, and although they claimed that this did not constitute a march, the group began to walk on the road chanting racist slogans at passers by on the Headrow.

The group gathered on the steps of the town hall, in defiance of a council order banning Front supporters from council property.

After the half hour rally, in which racist slogans were again chanted and

National Front flags were waved, the groups again moved on, without telling police their ultimate destination. They walked down Park Row, this time on the pavement, to the Griffin Hotel, where they held a meeting.

A group of anti-facist demonstrators followed the Front through the city, and gathered outside the Griffin, protesting against their presence in the city. Police, who according to one eye-witness, were happy to give the Front an escort, threatened the protestors with arrest for obstruction unless they moved on.

Meanwhile, the Front supporters still inside the Griffin, which is used by Labour MPs and entertainers such as Ben Elton when they visit the city, left by the back door.

Police statements initially claimed that

no march had taken place, merely that the Front had congregated in the city before walking in small groups to the rally. However the police are currently examining reports as to what took place on Saturday, with a view to taking legal proceedings.

The council have been inundated with calls for a full inquiry, notably from the community relations council, and have called for a full explanation from the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police.

Meanwhile, Leeds University, which operates a no platform policy on National Front speakers, is planning an anti-racist initiative, to be launched on Wednesday, May 11, with a new anti-racism pack, videos and a new support centre.

**INSIDE**

**BIG DEAL**  
ON  
**LITTLE DORRIT**

**SKI-ING**  
**BLIND**  
DISABILITY  
AWARENESS  
WEEK

MUSIC  
**ROY**  
**HARPER**  
Harpin' on

FINAL WHISTLE  
**LITTLE ZOLA:**  
Waif from the Veldt  
or  
Boss's secret weapon?

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# NEWS



## Volumes of protest

A storm of protest has broken out following the University Library Executive Committee's decision to place a 50p charge on inter-library loans.

The loans which consist of the University borrowing books from other libraries around the country, cost the University approximately £5. Although the service has been provided for free in the past, the library Exec committee has been forced into this move due to the financial difficulties that have become a commonplace part of higher education.

Mr Carr, the head librarian denied the library was merely passing a financial problem over to the students.

"I sympathise with the students" he said, "But this is the only way we could continue the service at its present level with no disruption."

The charge, which will be introduced on October 1, will hit postgrads the hardest as they are responsible for more than half of the inter-library loans. The extent to which they will suffer is however a matter of dispute.

"I know of students who make up to 500 loans a year which works out at £250," claimed LUU Education Secretary Rob Murray.

Mr Carr however described this figure as unrealistic, "No student has to make that many loans because we have an excellent library with most of the information that any student needs."

Mr Carr claimed that the average postgrad makes only four loans a year and would suffer little financial hardship as a result of the charge.

Robin Perrie

## Green machine moves into action

LUU Green Soc is holding a fair this Saturday (30th) all over the Union building from 11am onwards. Admission is free and crèche facilities are available in the OSA lounge.

Features include a major exhibition in the Riley Smith Hall and various craft and information stalls, with groups such as Friends of the Earth, the Green Party and Third World First being represented.

There will be all day busking, talks, videos and theatre; Fishnet Balloon will be presenting a series of cabaret sketches, and 'The Living Daylights', a group from Wales, will also be performing.

In the evening in the Tartan bar, there is a benefit gig featuring Little Chief plus two other bands. Admission is £2 and all proceeds go to Leeds Friends of The Earth, and the Women's Centre.

Said one organiser: "We basically want people to come along, enjoy themselves, and maybe learn something."

Karen Thornton

## Big day as Uni welcomes visitors

Leeds University is opening its doors on Saturday, May 7, to give the public an insight into the activities of one of the city's oldest institutions.

Organisers of the open day, which has been held every four years since 1980, hope it will attract around 25,000 visitors from as far away as Nottingham and Liverpool, to take part in the numerous activities that are being organised.

As well as the public visitors, there will be over 2,000 graduates revisiting the University that launched them into the world of high salaries and Executive benefits.

There are also open days for guests from the industrial world on the Friday before the main open day, and for school pupils on the following Sunday.

David Morris, the University Press Officer, is confident that the open day will be an enormous success, "It gets bigger every time, and every department in the University will be organising an event," he enthused.

Robin Perrie

## Happy valley time

Happiness is... filling in a questionnaire. Rather than measuring depression, Dr Michael Argyle and other Oxford University psychologists have come up with a way of measuring happiness.

Argyle gave a speech on his 'Oxford Happiness Inventory' at the British Psychological Society's Annual Conference held at LUU last weekend.

Dr N. Sheehy, one of the conference organisers, explained that Argyle has compiled a questionnaire asking people

to indicate on a scale their feelings on their health, sleep, energy and relationships. One way of answering questions was by a series of smiley faces.

Happiness has also been measured on an international scale. It appears that the Dutch are the happiest people, whilst the Austrians worry the most. The French have the most alcohol problems - *c'est la vie!*

Jo Braggs

## It's a funny old world

Buddhist monks holed up in their very own University Halls of residence in Sri Lanka, were preparing for a little more than just prayer, police discovered on raiding the building.

For secreted around the establishment were to be found a cache of grenades, an automatic rifle and ammunition, and a commando knife amongst other things.

Whether this 'equipment' was to be used to spread the word of their god, or indeed anybody's god is not as yet clear... but then it is a funny old world, is it not.



"I CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER REALLY FELT SAFE ON THE STREETS DRESSED LIKE THIS... UNTIL NOW!"



## Poly relief as Dept. stays put

Staff and students were relieved to hear last week that the Poly Electrical and Engineering Department will NOT now be moving to the WIRA building this September.

The planned move, initiated by the Poly Directorate in response to accommodation problems at city site, was the subject of a vigorous 'No WIRA at any Price' staff-student campaign last term.

Officials from LPSU, NALGO and NATFHE met Poly directors during the Easter holidays to discuss the 'Project Plan' - a feasibility study of the practicalities of the move. This showed that it would be impossible to get all the department's equipment and its students into the WIRA building, so the prop-

osals have been dropped.

However, according to LPSU President Ed Gamble, 'the problems of the Poly are far from over'. The Poly faces a disastrous accommodation problem in September, with an extra 400 students expected at city site, and 150 at Beckett's Park.

Director Chris Price confirmed to *Leeds Student* that the WIRA lease has now been lost, although no formal agreement had been signed.

The Poly is to have meetings with Leeds City Council

to discuss the accommodation problem, though there are plans to move the European Languages and Institutions department to a site at Farnley. Commercial solutions are being looked at, and the University authorities have also been approached about letting space, but "their opening bid was quite high", commented Mr Price diplomatically, "but what is important is that we have accommodation of our own for September 1988, convenient to city site."

Mr. Price has 'every confidence' that a solution will be found in time, but Union officials remain concerned.

Karen Thornton

## Garth's head to roll after LUU election Gaffe?

Leeds University may well find it necessary to strip LUU Admin Secretary Austen Garth of his mathematics degree, after he admitted responsibility for a fundamental error in the count of the recent NUS conference delegates election.

The mathematical mix-up resulted in John Craig finding himself a delegate at conference with voting powers when he should only have been an observer, and Nicola Butler relegated to the lowly position of observer rather than delegate.

The cockup was spotted by NUS conference observer Tom Wright when he put the results of the election through a computer as part of his computer studies course.

"The miscalculation happened in the later stages of the Single Transferable vote system which is used in these elections. It is rather complicated" said Mr Wright.

"There was a minor error on my part - I'm willing to admit it" said an unreticent Mr Garth.

"But there were no official complaints about it."

Answering suggestions that he had acted unethically in carrying out an election count for an election he was standing in, he countered that he had no choice.

"I'm deputy returning officer and I waited for the returning officer to surface for three days. He didn't and pressure was put on to me by other candidates to

do the count. I made sure that people who weren't candidates were about to adjudicate.

"I would stay the mis-count was a regrettable mistake but NUS conference has now passed and nothing can be done.

"But if a greater interest was shown in the running of elections mistakes wouldn't happen", he suggested.

The demoted delegate Nicola Butler however was not that bothered by the mistake.

"I don't mind because the person who went would have voted the same way as I would have done."

John Craig who received the benefit of the mistake was less sympathetic to Mr Garth's lapse of numerical skill.

"There was a breakdown in organisation and a mistake in the count, and I hope the next time the Union gets it right" he said.

The feasibility of buying Mr Garth an abacus is presently being investigated. Meanwhile the multi-thousand pound Burroughs computer that the Union building uses remains untested on the rigours of union elections.

## ... and Beckett booze is safe

The application for the renewal of Beckett's Park bar licence has finally been granted after six months of wrangling.

The delay was caused by the receipt of some forty complaints from local residents about the noise caused by late night revellers allegedly leaving the site.

Having listened to two of

the aggrieved residents and a police report on recent improvements, the city council committee agreed to renew the licence as it stands (with late bars on Tuesdays and Fridays).

Steve Stewart, Vice President (Beckett's Park) told *Leeds Student* that they had now done everything to en-

courage people to behave. "It is up to their own conscience now", he said, "they know the score."

When this licence expires on December 31, the antics of any miscreants will again be reviewed before the committee before a further extensions is granted.

Martyn Ziegler

## Drunk fined

Leeds magistrates banned a Canadian University student from driving for a year and fined him £150 with £100 costs after hearing how he had been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving.

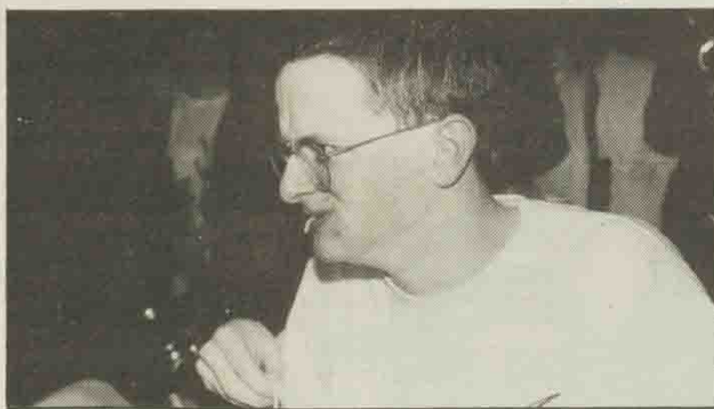
Jodie Karl Holder, 25, a law student, was stopped by police for driving with a faulty rear light. They noticed that he had been drinking and a breath test proved positive.

Holder, of James Baillie Flats, Headingley, was allowed to phone a solicitor but eventually it became apparent that the solicitor had hung up. When asked to provide samples, Holder refused but then submitted three tests, which were all classed as failures.

Miss Miriam Teeman, prosecuting, said Holder was obliged to comply with test regulations and had no valid reason for failing to do so. Holder had claimed, however, that he had been called a 'pillock' by the police and was not allowed to speak to his solicitor privately which was why he had not given any samples.

Jo Donnelly

## Election victors' joy



An ecstatic Andrew Harrison described himself as 'overwhelmed' after having swept to victory unopposed to the post of *Leeds Student* Editor next year.

"I only hope that I can do the paper justice, and that I will get a prestigious well paid job in the national media as a result."

Andrew, 21, from Merseyside, is taking a year out from his political studies course before returning to do his final year in 1989.

"It will be a bigger, bouncier *Leeds Student* with lots of...

Oh just make my quotes up like you normally do" he said.

Meanwhile high above in the west wing of the University Union building, Simon Welsh is celebrating his victory over Paul Sanderson in the election for Student Community Action co-ordinator.

Twenty-one-year-old Simon, a history and English student was unsurprisingly chuffed at the result.

"I'm very pleased that I've got it. I hope I can do it well"

James Cameron

## Clause march "Will be the largest yet"

Tomorrow London will see what is hoped will be the largest demonstration against Clause 28 since the Local Government Bill was introduced. Students from Leeds will join the thousands expected to gather for a march and meetings in support of lesbian and gay rights.

Celebrities and entertainers will join the march to protest against the all encompassing anti-homosexual rulings contained in the controversial Bill which has now returned to its original format.

According to the Clause, any depiction or promotion of homosexual activity will be outlawed.

Campaigners will gather at the embankment at midday and make their way to Kennington Park while speeches, cabaret and comedy acts will give the

rally a 'festival' atmosphere.

Germaine Varney, General Secretary of the University executive hopes it will be "the biggest showing of lesbian and gay pride yet in the 'Stop Clause 28' campaign". 100 tickets have already been sold to University and Poly students. Despite a lack of coaches available in Leeds due to the Rugby International, Ms Varney expects to see at least 200 supporters from the University joining the marchers.

Gay Flashman

## Lecturer's slip of tongue

Two students walked out of a lecture in protest on Monday when their lecturer inadvertently used the phrase 'the nigger in the woodpile'.

Physics lecturer Dr Davies was unaware either of his use of the phrase or the walk-out, but has apologised for any offence that he might have caused: "I

didn't even realise that I said it", he explained. "No complaints have been made to me", he continued, "but I understand that it might offend. I hope that those who did walk out will come and see me to sort it out."

Martyn Ziegler

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# SQUARE ONE

*Former psychiatric nurse turned Leeds Polytechnic student looks at the problems facing the National Health Service under third term Thatcherism.*



## *A time to heal*

I must confess to having a set of ideas and beliefs which do not seem to be particularly popular in this climate of third term Thatcherism. That is not to say that I am convinced the far Left offer a more viable scenario for the future than the far Right. Simply it is the John Moore's, Edwina Currie's and most of all Margaret Thatcher's of this world who set the intellectual or perhaps more properly moral, tone in the current debate about health care.

I find it quite refreshing to remind myself of the fairly recent past, when the National Health Service was part of the 'Great' in Britain, or maybe part of the 'United' in 'Kingdom'. If you asked a reasonable selection of people in any village, town or city what, in their opinion, was the greatest achievement of post-war Britain I am afraid that few would suggest the social security system, few would come out in favour of council housing, even fewer would favour education and the post war dream of abolishing unemployment would be an absolute non-starter.

It is of course the NHS that has stood the test of time, though the sceptical might think that 40 years was not very long in the overall scheme of things. What is striking though, returning to our hypothetical, ranking of great national achievements, is that in recent years the position of the NHS has slipped considerably, losing ground to exceptional incidents like the Falklands conflict and to the odd sporting achievement (though few come immediately to mind), as well as losing ground in a more general way.

I am not a great believer in social engineering, in fact frankly it seems rather quaint that people honestly believed they could identify a problem in society and create an institution that would function to provide a solution.

While this is an attractive notion it remains, in the light of experience, quixotic. The glory of the NHS was perhaps in the transition from the idealised planners view, to the reality, a reasonably coherent

illness based service. Criticising the NHS for neglecting the chronic and preventative sectors is on one hand fair, and on another unreasonable.

The basis of this conundrum is that the pervading image of health care in this country is provided by Casualty, Angels Emergency Ward 10 or even Dr Kildare. If the acute sector is what people largely want

and expect then it is not surprising that, up to a point at least, the acute sector is what they get.

In fact of course, if we compare the NHS with an insurance based health care system like that in the United States, the provision of chronic care is exemplary in our collective solution to the enigma.

Criticism of the NHS is nothing new, and to an extent

at least it is healthy. However the questions that are being asked now are more fundamental. The notion that health care needs are best met collectively is under severe assault.

The two-tier system of private and state provision is becoming increasingly polarised. This can only be seen to reflect the wider, increasingly divided society in

which we reside.

Occasionally rumblings of dissent emanate within the Health Service. It is understandable that this is a fairly unusual phenomenon as apart from a number of campaigns over issues, like the long hours and poor pay of junior doctors, the employees of the NHS are generally committed to it, and present a fairly united front against adversity.

The present 'crisis' in the NHS is ample evidence to us all that something must be done about the health care sector. It is interesting to observe the way in which the intellectual ground of the current dispute has changed in two quite fundamental ways.

The dispute centred originally on the valid claims of doctors and nurses that under-funding was preventing them from doing their jobs properly. However as a political issue it became a dispute about poor nurses wages and more insidiously, further evidence of the collapse of an unviable bureaucratic organisation. There is nothing new or unexpected about the troubles in the NHS and the fact that it appears so is rather a scathing indictment against our political and intellectual order.

I speak here with a degree of authority, having witnessed cuts in funding from first hand. Until recently I worked as a psychiatric nurse in a busy teaching hospital. I was privileged to work with a group of people for whom their work formed the major focus of their lives. Is it surprising that such people will voice their discontent when they can no longer gain satisfaction from the knowledge that they are doing a difficult job well?

It is galling that those who ignored demographic and technological changes, and systematically starved the NHS of funds now gain merit from its malaise for their notion that our country can no longer afford the Health Service in its current form. I am afraid that I find it hard to accept that in this nation that is glittering with wealth, we cannot afford to look after our sick, our elderly and our handicapped.

Nick Freemantle



# Letters



## Restaurant Review

### The Waterhole 43 Great George Street

The Waterhole, that ever so slightly trendy wine bar which has always seemed that little bit too expensive for the average student has decided to bring up-to-date (not to mention up to the table) the great links forged between the French populus and the English student fraternity during the halcyon days of the 50s and 60s.

In a gesture aimed as much at the stomachs as the pockets of the impecunious student, The Waterhole is offering a very special discount to those with a discerning palate.

Monsieur Laval, owner not only of The Waterhole but also of La Grillade and The Leeds Wine Company explained that he feels a strong affinity with those attempting to eke out an insubstantial grant. "I was a student myself, many years ago, and so I realise how many students enjoy good food and wine, but simply can't afford it."

The mouth-watering offer, available on production of a valid Union card, will save you well over £4 on the cost of a

meal for two. The set menu is offered at a special student rate of £6.50 for three courses plus coffee, and the menu which changes every Thursday features three starters and three main courses, desert or cheese.

Examples of starters include deep-fried mushrooms with a delicious home-made tartare sauce, assorted seafood in a cheese sauce, and a commendably varied soup of the day.

Main courses can vary from homemade Beefburger Provencale, via French Farmhouse Beef Casserole, to Roast Spring Chicken in Tarragon Sauce.

For those with any room left the variety of sweets available guarantees something to tempt you - the light but richly-flavoured sorbets are particularly worthy of a mention.

Possibly the best way to conclude such a meal is over a plate of cheese and a glass of port. At around £2 per glass the port is not cheap, but as one may expect from a restaurant owned by a wine importer, it is extremely fine

wine, and before you recoil in financial horror, £2 will buy you a 4 fl oz wineglass full, enough (in most cases anyway), to be comfortably shared between two.

A frequent complaint levelled by those concerned with the state of their bank balance, is that a budget-priced meal can be ruined by cheap wine. House wine at The Waterhole is £3.60, considerably less than one can often pay for a distinctly ordinary if not downright offensive bottle at many other restaurants. The house wines at The Waterhole, imported by The Leeds Wine Company, are undoubtedly of the highest quality certainly that I have ever tasted, and represent exceptional value for money.

An entire three course meal for two, and an extremely good one at that, including coffee and a bottle of wine will cost you less than £17. Sample the food, wine, and atmosphere at The Waterhole and you will quickly realise that it is money well spent.

Chris Donkin

## Stereopho-nicked

Dear Editor,

"Welcome back to Ellerslie Hall, by the way your stereo's been nicked." Such was the greeting we received upon our return last Sunday. So much for having locked our belongings in a trunk room, the security of which we had no reason to doubt at that time - although we have since been told that the hall has been broken into before.

The bemused warden said that she couldn't understand how they had got in as there

were no obvious signs of a break-in, yet she later admitted that she had neglected to ensure that the front door was bolted. A sign might as well have been put up reading 'stereo this way'.

Ok, we're p\*\*\*\*d off. Luckily we are insured but do the accommodation officers recognise the problem of hall security? In a meeting at Ellerslie Hall we were told that despite recurrent burglaries, funds to install even a simpler burglar alarm or other precautionary measures are not

likely to be forthcoming.

We are disturbed by the apparent indifference to matters concerning security in halls of residence and feel it would be worthwhile warning new students about the risks of leaving their property in halls.

Endsleigh class University accommodation has low risk (as opposed to higher risk areas such as private accommodation in LS6 for example); they're obviously as ill informed as we are.

Yours faithfully,

Antonia Harri, Gillian Hill,  
Claire Hornett, Lesley Jones,  
Clare Peasnell (Ellerslie residents)

crazed boffin that abandoned them to their watery fate) comes the NUS Conference.

In the absence of any vestige of lively and informed debate to report on, we are left with the unendearing foibles of the famous to pick over. Germaine "Why doesn't she go back to the job at The Conservatory right now and spare us the death throes of her inglorious administration." Varney, bristling with righteous something or other refused to share a room with Alison 'Tommy' Doherty. On what grounds? we muse, snoring? Personal habits too vile even for this grubby chronicle? Hope. She's a profligate, which just goes to show that the spirit of pluralism is alive and well in these illiberal times. Poly supremo Ed Gamble had less success in keeping credentials intact. Appearing on the rostrum suit-clad was his first error, compounded by a moderate speech which suggested that it might be best to concentrate on the NHS for the

moment and postpone the world general strike until, well, at least until the pubs shut. The response was predictable; nooses were brandished, chants of "Death, death, death" filled the air.

Quite right say we, these petit bourgeois deviationist running dogs must be ground into the dust under the inexorable forward march of the scientific doctrine of Marxist Leninism. Still, Ed ain't all that stupid. At first unable to rise from his habitual torpor to join his peers in turning their backs as members of the crazed Alton Youth held forth, he performed a hasty about-face on spotting a fearless Stude lensman. However, it being a Stude lensman he had little to fear - the resulting pix being euphemistically described as "unuseable" by a straw-gripping newsd.

But home now, for the last in an irregular series of chance encounters with the stars. Picture if you can stand it, Hugh Lloyd Langton, bassist of

aging loopheads Hawkwind, enjoying a pre-gig game of pool, surrounded by a coagulation of fawning greb-persons. His opponent? Our own freshly anointed sports commissar Simon Rigg, who, for the record, was soundly beaten by the drug ravaged old hippy and later denied all knowledge of the identity of his tormentor.

Pathetic.

It's never easy being young, but this Saturday week spare a thought for the crocodiles of recalcitrant youth that will wend their way around a campus deserted except for the plague of bleary insects descending on Boyle and Brotherton. The architecture is punishment enough - ranging in style from Broadwater Farm annexe to third prize winner in the 1935 Soviet all-comers design your dream palace of Labour competition.

But, to be fair to the organisers, entertainment has been laid on, and mighty attractive it sounds too. The idea is to show the working of the lumbering

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- Signed letters only please, though we can withhold your name if you wish.
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LUU, PO Box 157  
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## BITS

Dear Editor,  
CAN ANYONE HELP?

If the three young men who witnessed a motor accident outside the Coburg pub at 11.30pm on Friday night are reading this, or if anyone who knows them, then please get in touch.

We need you, 'we' being the couple in the Fiat not the BMW. If you do read this and you'd like to help please ring the following numbers: Daytime, Bradford (0274) 641353, after 8pm Leeds 864886 and ask for Richard.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could just tell us in advance what appeared to happen.

Thank you in advance.

Dear Editor,

After topping the charts with her Stock, Aitken and Waterman produced smash - I should be so lucky - it was good to see in the BBC's absorbing documentary 'Neighbours' how TV's stunning Kylie Minogue has not allowed international showbiz success to 'go to her head' but is still studying hard for her exams. The youth of Britain would do well to follow her example. Good on you, cobber!

Yours etc,

Michael Lush

Our readers might be interested to know that there are plans to introduce an OGM motion at LUU to name one of the Union TV rooms, the Clive Gibbons room. We will keep you posted.

To make up for the totally underwhelming surge of letters to the Editor this week, we have printed a restaurant review on this page, and why not.

But what we really want are your letters, so get scribbling. All correspondence to Leeds Student before 2pm on Wednesdays. Please keep your missives concise and to the point.

## THE FIFTH COLUMN

The sight of Sieg Heiling skin-heads on the streets of Leeds is an all too common one. The 'Capital of the North' has an unenviable reputation as a National Front stronghold in Britain, where fascists and racists can spread their obscene theories with little fear of harassment from the authorities.

On Saturday there were reports that the National Front were given an 'escort' through the centre of Leeds by West Yorkshire's Police. Despite the fact that these people walked down the road chanting racist abuse, this did not constitute a march, such having been banned earlier.

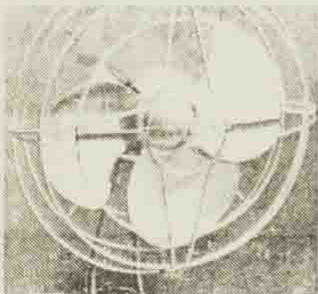
But the niceties of definition pale into insignificance next to the events in France last weekend, which paint a horrific picture of the spread of racism across Europe.

Jean Marie Le-Pen, the man who advocates the repatriation of all immigrants in France gained a staggering 14 per cent of the vote in the French Presidential elections, and whilst this was not enough to keep him in the race it is more than enough to secure his National Front Party the third position in French party politics.

Le-Pen is the archetypal fascist leader - a man who can swing the mass behind his obnoxious racist views under cover of 'caring for his country of birth', and without whom the National Front would be nothing.

Just like Adolf Hitler before him, who scored far less than 14 per cent in many an election before coming to power, he is the face of popular prejudice, prejudice which was more than blatant on the streets of Leeds last weekend.

## THE



## FAN

As Leeds basks in seasonal deluge, the scene shifts to Blackpool, the aptly named murky pond that defiles the western coast of our cowed dominion. Joining the familiar menaces to earnest fun seekers (oil slicks, radioactive dog-turds, floating condoms cast adrift years previous in some primitive transatlantic artificial insemination experiment and now returned to torment the

institution in the (surely vain) hope that some of the spotty blighters might award Leeds the coveted top spot on their grimy, mis-spelt UCCA forms. So what lies in store for the merry band of post-pubes? Well... howsabout a pleasant little display concerning the incidence of herpes in horses, all done v tastefully, mind. Could save you £££s at the bookies, though how you'd find out is a problem, perhaps they could mention it in the form guide. Or if that churns the colon, how about a presentation dealing with pressing problem of, er, anal continence. Write out the feeble jokes for yourself and make sure you bury them safely.

All things must end, however, and even now the household deity Phlyppos, god of flippancy, descends on his golden spacehopper to summon your humble scribe back to the Cave of Infamy until another week, rouses us from sleep eternal.

# ARTS



## THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT

### BROADCAST NEWS WITHNAIL AND I

Odeon  
Amidst the gushing and the gossip, the tears and the torment that are all a part of the unobtrusively staged Oscars ceremony, was one little gem of celluloid that though much lauded, got precisely nothing.

And whilst for many the Academy of Film and Motion Pictures that awards those darling little statuettes is the most vulgar arbiter of taste, it is still nice to win if only for the extra dosh it pulls in at the box office.

But James L. Brooks, writer, director and producer of *Broadcast News* will see none of those award spun dollars for his was the film that though brilliantly conceived and constructed, won nothing.

The aggrieved team were left to wander into the night, licking

their wounds and mumbling about how they'd been nobbled by 'that commie Italian'.

*Broadcast News* is a marvelously clever film which manages the usually impossible - to maintain a human story of love and passion amongst the mixing desks of a TV news station - without losing the feel of the working environment.

Watch this film and the nine o'clock news will never be the same again, as the cosmetically tucked flesh of glossy television is ripped away to reveal the bloody mess that lies beneath.

The film's attempt to wrestle with the ethical issues of communicating the news to a mass public is also a valiant one though at times a little stretched. Do people really stand in corridors at their coffee breaks down at the local TV station playing *Scruples*? You know

the sort of thing. "We've got film of a man being put to death in an electric chair. Do we broadcast?" But for all its contrivances it at least shows that there's more to TV than just reading an auto-cue to a big camera.

It is also refreshing to see a film putting a strong woman centre stage rather than as an add-on to some macho American dream, Holly Hunter's performance being gut wrenching from beginning to end.

Albert Brooks and William Hurt complete the love triangle and convincingly so as they wrestle their professional ambitions with their social and emotional entanglements. Remember kids, it's a jungle out there and the foliage usually starts in your own backyard!

In *Withnail and I* however the crisis starts in the kitchen sink, with the fecund mess that

grows out of the remnants of 100 trashy dinners chucked into the porcelain receptacle.

*Withnail and I* is set amidst the dying embers of the swinging 60s when the momentum has all but dissipated and the get up and go has got up and gone. Kicking-off in the sort of drug orientated London flat that scores of English and sociology lecturers across the uni and poly campuses will claim they lived in, we follow the pursuits of two permanently out of work actors as they search for a way out of their boredom and/or towards the next drink.

It is in its way a perfect 'British' film dealing with personality and character on a small scale, and given the space to do such is immensely satisfying.

It is also what can only be described as bloody funny with

the comedy coming not from situation but from character just as it should do. Richard Griffiths as Uncle Monty, an outrageous homosexual from whom they borrow a cottage for a week to 'clean out the cobwebs' is both hysterical and tragic at the same time.

Indeed the overwhelming atmosphere of this film is of tragic and sad endings; the putting to bed of a decade with as yet no sign of what the new has to bring (and being the 70s that's very little), the closing of an intense friendship, the end of a lifestyle.

Writer/director Bruce Robinson has captured an era which, whether it existed or not has a remarkably familiar feel to it for a vast number of students who are coming to the end of their 'don't give a damn' days.

More power to his lens!

Jay Rayner

## SAD SERENADES

### KATYA KABANOVA Opera North Grand Theatre

Opera North's revival of Janacek's opera was excellent. Graham Vick's production conveyed well the gloom and obsession dominating this work. Although it might have been nice to see some on-stage representation of the River Volga so important to the life of the heroine's community and in which she eventually drowns herself, Stefanos Lazaridis' versatile black set cleverly delineated between bare outside scenes and stuffily-curtained interiors.

Eiddwen Harkky was a strongly-sung and sympathetically characterised Katya, while Catherine Wilson was convincingly malevolent as her mother-in-law Kabanikha. John Harris as Tikhon, the man over whom they battle, sung well and cut a rather dashing figure than did Edmund Barham as a rather complacent Boris. Although this weakened Katya's apparent motives in deserting Tikhon for adultery with Boris, it did serve to make her and Tikhon's reconciliation in the last act more satisfying.

Audience satisfaction at poetic justice on stage is not however, a dominant feature of Janacek's work. The opera ends with the figure of Kabanikha triumphing over the heroine's drowned body. In its conflicting portrayals of women's identity, Katya Kabanova is an important and disturbing piece of modern drama. This production was a success because it presented the drama so clearly and effectively.

David Crellin

### TOSCA Opera North Grand Theatre

Mary Jane Johnson's *Tosca* is the strong point of Opera North's new production. Her performance is powerfully projected and interestingly detailed. She alone, of the principals at Grand Theatre seemed equal to the scale of Puccini's work. Her *vissi d'arte*, the climax of the role and the centre-piece of the opera, was excel-



lent and fully deserved the applause it won.

Overall, however, there seemed to be an overriding concern not to 'over-act' in what is, perhaps, the composers most melodramatic opera. In particular, Sergei Leiferkus' Scarpia, was for my tastes, under characterised, failing to convey the dominating and menacing presence demanded by this role and being occasionally, indeed, inaudible over the orchestra. Here he was not alone in being at fault. After he, stabbed by Johnson at the end of act 2, had provided as a response only a small squeak of mild surprise, Johnson's declamatory "Questo e il bacio di Tosca!" must have been dispatched with inaudible haste, as I failed to hear it altogether.

John Treleaven as Cavaradossi, the lover because of whom Tosca kills first Scarpia and then herself, was a little uncertain in tone in the first act but rose to a good "E Lucevan le Stelle" in act 3.

In many people's minds, *Tosca* is rather an embarrassment, the prime example of opera as a cliché-ridden and irrelevant

dramatic form. Its status as being one of the best loved but also one of the most despised pieces in the standard repertoire makes it a very difficult work to stage.

The problem with Opera North's production was that it tried to avoid all risk but succeeded in only showing itself to be scared of the work and its possible reception.

One couldn't help feeling that the concern not to let the production slip into the camp banalities associated with this opera was a project doomed to failure in view of the contradictory alternatives produced. In a more openly traditional production, but not in this one, one might have been able to accept a Bernhardt like Tosca who, toggled up in court wig and high heels, was demonstrably taller than a diminutive and all too interesting Scarpia.

Such deficiencies made falling into the trap of an inhibited unwillingness to exploit the dramatic opportunities provided by Puccini's superb stagecraft all the more obvious.

David Crellin

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THURSDAY 12, SATURDAY 28 MAY  
Nightly 7.15pm. Matinees at 2.15pm. Saturday and Thursday 11.15am

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LYRICS BY DON BLACK

IN 'VARIATIONS'

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### WEST SIDE STORY

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LEONARD BERNSTEIN  
STEPHEN SODERHEIM

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MONDAY 2, SATURDAY 11 JUNE  
Monday, Friday 7.15pm. Saturday, 11.15am. Thursday, Matinee 2.15pm

### THE STARS OF THE HIT

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### ALAN AYCKBOURN'S

### ABSENT FRIENDS

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### Shakespeare Season

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by A.A.Milne

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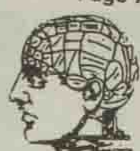
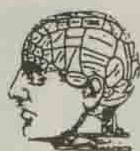
14 PERFORMANCES ONLY

THURSDAY 28 MAY, SATURDAY 1 JUNE  
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### Postman Pat's ADVENTURES

STARRING **JOHN HARRIS** STARRING **EDMUND BARHAM**

14 PERFORMANCES ONLY



# DORA AND DOLE

"How the hell could you even have considered comparing Brecht with West Side Story?" said one disgruntled punter after my last bash at Theatre reviewing.

"They're nothing like each other."

But then he and been in the production that had come off the worse of the two and had every reason to be foaming at the mouth.

As they say "Those who can do, those who can't review" or some such other nonsense.

For what it's worth then, here's another trip into the world of 'drama' in an attempt to make a few more enemies on campus.

Talking of enemies (courtesy of the Leeds Student tenuous links department) LUU theatre group finished off last term's japes with a romp into the joys of Malcolm Giles' new play 'Hiding behind the lines.'

Directed by the writer it was a generally successful attempt at kicking bureaucracy in the crotch and squeezing out a few laughs along the way.

At its base was one of the simplest and therefore most convincing of ideas: Throw a lot of different people into one environment - in this case a housing benefit office - and see what happens.

This does of course give scope for the whole caboodle to fall apart and at times the play did lose some of its direction. But then life doesn't always fall into neat two hour stories and the representation of life as the organised chaos that the vast majority of us have come to know and love is in itself a worthwhile exercise.

Given the space to play in, the characterisation was generally strong and where required the performers managed to work together tightly.

Whilst it is refreshing to see Theatre Group performing new work it is also unfortunate that they have to look outside of the student ranks to find it - in this case to someone who has not been a student for a long time. It should be possible for an organisation as big as Theatre group to produce its own material.

But this, some may say, is just criticism for criticism's sake, and they may be right.

Over in the University Workshop Theatre they had gone to Helena Cixous for their material with 'Portrait of Dora', a bit of a shoot-out at the 'I'm OK you're OK Corale' - except that few people, including the audience, were OK.

The human mind is an exceptionally complex thing with a great propensity for getting its wires crossed, and the study of just such has kept generations of psychiatrists in leather elbow patches for life.

Attempting to put its traumas on stage as 'Dora' does, even in the form of a dialogue between Sigmund Freud and one of his patients, is



● Dora's portrait

Photo: Simon Harrison

a perilous exercise and one that in this instance was not successful.

Should you need a qualification in psychiatry to understand a piece of Theatre? Certainly drama is a good medium through which to communicate complicated ideas, but not in an equally complicated fashion.

If from this you surmise that I did not totally (or for that matter, partially) get to grips with 'Dora' then you have surmised correctly. I ran out of patience.

But the production itself was a valiant attempt, if only in that it attempted to do something different with the usually uncompromising Workshop Theatre, by seating the audience around rather than just in front of the action.

Unfortunately this attempt to drag the spectator in did not work. Only from the front was a complete view afforded, and at both sides parts of the action were totally obscured. We as the audience should not of course demand the same view from every seat in the house,

but at least an equal one, and that was not supplied.

The 'action' itself was at times overly frenetic. Melanie Jones as Dora, though convincingly manic, could have leant more credibility to her character if from time to time, she had dropped the pace a touch.

Paul Kaiserman as Freud, faced by this human tornado could do little but give sage-like nods and smoke cigars. This he did exceptionally well. But the space within which to develop the relationship between Freud and Dora was swallowed up by the gulf between these two contrasting performances.

At the end of the day Ian Connaughton's production boasted too many ideas, piled upon too little substance in the script with which to hold the audience's attention.

Like a theatre reviewer who gets carried away with his muse, he could have done with an editor to cut away the excess baggage

But then so could I . . .

Jay Rayner

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## HOURS

Have you ever wondered why there is a picture of **Mike Nesmith** (of the **Monkees**, in case you didn't know) at the top of this column and not one of me, the poor unfortunate who has to write it? Do you even know who I am or more to the point, do you care?

Enough of this miserable grumbling and onto the business of the hottest column in Leeds. It's another term and therefore it follows as night does the day that there's another crop of artistic offerings to be perused.

Unfortunately for drama fans mainly cinema this week. Don't despair though, there is the **Fay Weldon** adaptation of **Jane Eyre** at the **Playhouse** (it finishes on May 7). This adored classic has got all the right ingredients - an evil aunt, towering passions, bigamy and even a mad woman called Bertha (?)

Wackiness is the order of the day. **The Hyde Park** is overdosing in it this Friday for a week as it presents a **Derek Jarman** double bill of **The Tempest** and **The Last of England**. The former star **Toyah** with straw in her hair as Miranda 'the sweet innocent young girl' who gets sexually harassed by an extremely ugly monster called **Caliban**. **The Last of England** can be briefly but succinctly described as a 'homosexual romp' - I think.

The **Hyde Park** gets even braver on Saturday night when **Christiane F** is showing. This film has done more to really demonstrate the harrowing aspect of heroin addiction than any 'Heroin screws you up' advert. It's worth seeing but not by those of a nervous disposition (a cliché but nevertheless true one).

Over in **Bradford**, the **BFT** are doing their bit for the anti-Clause 28 campaign. **Maurice** (May 3-4 7.30pm) kicks off a season of films depicting homosexuality that will be banned when the Clause becomes law. Watch this space.

**Don't have a coronary because of exams. Have an Art attack instead and fill these pages. Arts writers wanted - Leeds Student office Monday lunchtimes.**

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Sat 30 April at 11pm

**THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK (18)**

Starring Cher and Jack Nicholson

Sun 1 May at 7.30pm

**MAURICE (15)**

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# A Tale of

*The film adaptation of a Dickens novel is no mean feat, especially when the novel is the leviathan Little Dorrit, and the film a complementary six hours in length and in two instalments. Adam Higginbotham engrossed himself in this celluloid beast and talked to Director Christine Edzard and Editor Olivier Stockman.*



Until recently, very few people had heard of Little Dorrit, and many of those who had were considerably more likely to have ridden down Kilimanjaro on a tricycle than to have read it.

Little Dorrit is an enormous breeze block size novel written by Charles Dickens between 1855 and 1857. It centres on the story of Amy Dorrit, a young woman whose father is a physically and mentally rotting - inmate of the Marshall Sea Debtor's prison and Arthur Clennam, an altruistic but somewhat ineffectual man who has reached middle age without being able to escape from the oppressive and twisted shadow of his invalid mother. Revolving around this tale of 'Little Dorrit' herself the author constructed what John Carey terms a 'lurid Dickensian shadowland of freaks and grotesques' in which he examines the corruption at the heart of the England he knew, bitterly satirising the social and political destruction which jammed the machinery of government at the time of the Crimean War. Possibly because of its lack of modern public exposure and certainly because of its size, although it is regarded as one of Dickens' greatest works, no film or television adaptation of the novel has ever been produced before now.

However in 1983, Sands Films, a relatively small independent company embarked upon such a production of the book under the direction of Christine Edzard. Four and a half years work was necessary scope and length of the nine hundred page novel and late last year it was premiered in this country. Although six hours long and divided into two parts of equal length, the completed film does not exactly follow the little structural dictates of the novel which is similarly divided into two books of equal length.

Instead the two parts are made from two different viewpoints. The first from Clennam's point of view, the second from Little Dorrit's, so that in part at least the same story is retold from different angles. Edzard wrote her adaptation in this form because she felt that the original structure of the book was unbalanced and that 'it has a structure which in terms of a serial fits the written page but not a film structure and in fact a lot of the scenes are built from bits out of different parts of the book'.

In the novel the books are split between the period of the Dorrit families imprisonment in the Marshallsea and their inheritance of a fortune which enables them to leave the debtor's prison and undertake the Grand Tour.

By essentially retelling the same story she feels that she was able to evenly match the intensity of characterisation and events in the two halves in a way not managed in the book, whilst emphasising the brighteningly optimistic exception of Little Dorrit herself.

Edzard manages to convey Dickens' ideas about Little Dorrit's outlook by subtly changing the appearance of the sets and events between the two parts of the film. In Amy Dorrit's version her father's room in the Marshallsea, which Clennam sees as decrepid and claustrophobic becomes better lit, more brightly decorated and larger.

Her father's speech and behaviour is slightly changed so that he is not the sad old man of the first film but someone to be loved and treated with more understanding and pity.

It is above all the essence of Dickens novel which Edzard brings to the screen as even a six hour film cannot deal with every aspect of the book. Of the cuts that were made, the exclusion of a subplot centred on a mysterious Frenchman named Blandois, an archetypal Dickensian villain, involved in the intricacies of the novel's denouements was the most controversial.

However, as Edzard explained "we were forced to drop something; but those things were the things I wanted to drop - Blandois seems to me to be a plot device rather than a character (he is not) in either of the two main characters perceptual field of vision."

Apart from such necessary cuts Dickens novel has been transcribed to the screen in intricate detail which surpasses any previous adaptation - including David Lean's 1947 version of Great Expectations. All costumes were handstitched in order to appear authentic and none of the actors or actresses were permitted any makeup in order to preserve a realistic Victorian appearance. However what is most striking is how much of Dickens own dialogue is used verbatim throughout both films - "I used the original dialogue almost all the way through - taking different parts out of

different scenes (from the book). Sometimes it is supplemented by bits out of other Dickens novels: it was Dickens words I wanted to use."

The attention to detail is more than matched by the casting and the standard of acting as the film features outstanding performances from most of the greatest British acting talent produced over the last 50 years: Alec Guinness, Derek Jacobi, Miriam Margoyles, Cyril Cusack, Joan Greenwood, Max Wall and Eleanor Bron. Miriam Margoyles in particular was very well suited to her role as Arthur Clennam's childhood sweetheart: 19 years old, slim and petite when he left Britain to work in China, an enormous rolling comical overstuffed sofa of a woman capable of talking without breathing by the time he returns 20 years later. It was apparently not difficult to attract so many famous names to the production "...because the way we made the film was slightly outside the usual film world." Certainly many of the cast - particularly Guinness and Cusack commented in interview on the 'family' atmosphere of the set in Rotherhithe where 'Little Dorrit' was filmed; Jacobi likened his experience to his enjoyment of the production of 'I Claudius'.

Despite the lack of commercial appeal which might be apparent in a six hour Dickens adaptation, it seems that the film is proving commercially viable. "I think that there is a very deep, very wide popular base to Dickens, maybe one shouldn't underestimate... People say that Dickens has been spoilt for them at school... I have come across people from all ages and all backgrounds who really like this film... perhaps there is a view of Dickens which isn't the correct one; one which underplays his realism and humanity... a sort of caricature of Dickens and the sentimental Dickens which are false."

As this implies, Edzard's adaptation tones down the sentimentality apparent in all Dickens' novels, perhaps particularly in 'Little Dorrit' to produce a moving and effective film, which nevertheless, remains essentially true to the humanitarian ideas which the author is trying to convey. It is perhaps the most accomplished and enjoyable Dickens adaptation yet made.



# Two Films

# The end of th

"I have this to say to those who seek to destroy us. The opposition you will face is not a couple of dozen people on this platform, but more than a million students who will fight for their rights be represented, to debate, to play sport."

These words from outgoing President Vicky Phillips opened the Spring Conference of an NUS under siege. Sterling talk indeed, and certainly true to the spirit of unionism, but did they match the mood of conference? Do you really have to ask?

We were promised a week of sober self-appraisal for the Union whose claim to truly represent its 1 1/4m members has become ever more spurious as the Thatcher years have ground by. We were promised realism, new directions and pride of place for that mythical creature 'the ordinary student' in NUS's scheme of things. In short, we were promised a turning point, and not a moment too soon.

Instead, this year's Spring Conference degenerated into a faction-ridden farce to rival the Christmas fiasco for irrelevance, self-indulgence, sheer tedium and political incompetence. The debates on Israel and Palestine, and incredibly even student Housing – a crisis matter crying out for attention – were lost entirely thanks to endless interruptions from delegates eager to make statements on their hobby-horse subjects. Similarly, the Student Financial Support (that's grants to you, kids) debate was severely curtailed by virtue of inspired scheduling into the very last session of conference.

Surely it's time the conference managers began to exercise as much control over this irresponsible (and expensive) time-wasting as they choose to do over those delegates whom conference deem 'offensive' and hence heckle into submission, frequently with only token opposition from the Chair. This time – surprise, surprise – the red card victims were pro-Alton almost to a woman.

The LIFE slate for the NUS Executive elections plainly didn't have a snowflake's chance on Blackpool Tower of taking any seats and instead cynically abused the hustings to run a somewhat optimistic pro-Alton mini-campaign. Conference, however, was eager to prove itself larger than LIFE by screaming its collective head off and then turning away *en masse* from the offending speakers, a practise that went on all week. Merely embarrassing it may have been but surely ballot papers are the right tool for opposition?

Socio-political posturing aside, conference did throw up a few interesting developments. You can read of the carnage in the Presidential Election elsewhere on these pages, but another turn up for the books was the election of smiling Tommy Hutchinson – last year's LSPU President – to Maeve Sherlock's old job of National Treasurer. Tom was unavailable for comment when the *Stude* went looking for him, but a glittering future is assured for the sturdy NOLS man.

Hutchinson and Sherlock's victories were major skirmishes in the political war between the 'Democratic Left' establishment of NOLS (National Organisation of Labour Students) and SSiN (Socialist Students in NOLS). True to form in the Labour movement, they're both factions of the Labour Party's student organisation and the

deadlock between them has effectively hamstrung NUS from any kind of truly concerted action for the last three years.

An offshoot from this feuding is that tremendous importance is now attached to wheeler-dealing with the political minnows (independents in their hordes and 57 varieties of workers, socialist, revolutionary etc etc) for transfer votes. Not surprisingly this tends to preclude much discussion of The Real Issues.

This may well change after Christmas when Conference ratifies new constitutional changes (proposed this spring) which will change the ration of delegates in favour of FE colleges with many part-time members rather than the current HE bias. With many YTS students and a record of greater orientation towards trades unions and the more aggressive factions like Militant, this may shift future conferences further to the conventional hard Left rather than the 'Right-on' workers' filofax sector beloved by refectory revolutionaries. Already notorious jobs-and-services merchant and chum of Terry Fields MP, Colette Williams has a place on National Exec: *Leeds Student's* tiny minority of bourgeois readers should view future conferences with trepidation. If there are any, that is.

In short, a dreary week of self-deception and flannel. Seldom have so many stupid questions been asked of so many by so few ("Does this conference support the nurses?" one delegate asked. 'Course it bloody did',) while NUS teetered on the brink of extinction. The policy debate on revitalising its whole moribund organisation basically contented itself with asking the National Executive Committee to come up with some ideas to get Janet and John Student interested again, while another on the threat of voluntary membership – absolute pure bloody nemesis to NUS in its current state of spasm – could only wheel out the hoary old clichés of 'Campaign, campaign and campaign again'. No-one seemed to recognise that the government will simply not listen: and worse, nor will students.

The only wink of light at the end of the tunnel may make seasoned politico's weep. If spring 88 is to be remembered at all, it may be for the advent of Cosmopolitics.

Richard 'Cosmo' Hawkes is on Manchester University's Exec. He dresses as an elephant, or sometimes as a clown with a big red nose. But unlike the usual anal-retentive Rag Week-style candidate (they tend to be pin-stripe Contras from obscure East Anglian Universities, closet *Bulldog* readers under the guise of independents and diehard junior Willie Whitelaws) Hawkes has a commitment to those nasty 'ordinary students' and their unions, and a common touch which has brought participatory student democracy out of the doldrums in Manchester. And he got a place on NUS Exec for next year.

Everybody left of Maeve Sherlock thinks he's Thatcher in drag, perhaps because his individual style (the BBC would call it 'Irreverant', one feels...) threatens the endless carve-ups and palm-greasing that makes NUS the cosy club it is.

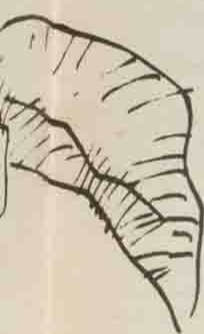
Hopefully Hawkes and the chill wind of the Freedom Association on its little bottom will shake NUS into shape, but it'll have to be soon and it certainly hadn't begun to happen this Easter. For all the golden miles of beaches in Blackpool, the sands of NUS's time are running out.

*A week in politics is a long time. "A week at Easter Conference is an eternity," quipped a seasoned hack after this Easter's Blackpool Deblace. Our man on pleasure beach brings the legends and legacies. Words and pictures by Andrew Harrison.*



# the Pier Show

A week at NUS  
quipped one  
Blackpool  
each brings back  
pictures



IT WAS  
ELY ISSUE  
THE ONE  
REPORT ON  
CONFERENCE  
PONS BALLS!



Depending on whose button badge you were wearing at the Blackpool Conference, the election of 27-year-old Maeve Sherlock to the post of National President meant one of two things.

Either conference had failed to learn from the mistakes of the past three years and accordingly condemned NUS to repeat them with another NOLS figurehead (the SSiN position). . . OR it had wisely entrusted the unenviable task of getting NUS's act back together again to a candidate with experience, commitment, drive and – most importantly – a NOLS membership card.

Born in Dublin, Sherlock studied sociology at Liverpool University for three years before going on to serve as its guild treasurer and ultimately – this year – NUS's own national treasurer.

She ran the presidential race on a platform of reform of NUS, against two other serious candidates: Welfare Vice President and SSiN candidate Simon Pottinger and amiable Independent Lembit Opik.

Sherlock polled an initial 346 votes, which became – via NUS's arcane electoral processes – a victorious 485. To add insult to SSiN's injury, Pottinger was eliminated not at the last stage but before runner-up Opik, much to the amusement of the NOLS posse and SSiN's own disbelief. Within an hour of this first election result of the week, pundits of all persuasions were gleefully predicting the doom of SSiN, and though the faction made up lost ground with later victories in other Executive elections, no-one has denied that Pottinger's defeat was a serious blow to 'Dangerous Trots/Committed Socialists' (delete as takes your fancy).

So tell us Maeve, what does it all mean?

"I think that my election is a very positive move for Labour students and a clear indication that our members are intent on examining and reorganising NUS to face government attack," she said.

"With voluntary membership clearly designed to undermine us, and a possible loans system whose implications are not yet clear, we need the fullest participation of all students to defend NUS.

"That means a long hard look at the Union. It means proving to people that there is a point in fighting back.

"I would be horrified to find British student unions in the same mould as American ones, where there are

fantastic facilities and no students control to speak of."

For her term of office Sherlock promises more emphasis on the needs of blacks, women and Jewish students – the latter having felt somewhat ill-served by Vicky Phillips and some of the now-departed NUS Exec.

But one of Sherlock's other main areas of interest is Ireland. She has been involved in the troops out movement for some time and spoke at a fringe meeting on Ireland as one of her first duties as president. She explains:

"Up until two years ago, there was no real involvement in Irish freedom. Since then NUS has increased its work in that area enormously but there remains room for a lot of development.

"I believe that there will soon be a mass movement based around British withdrawal from Ireland, but up to now student unions just have not responded. People in Britain simply do not know about strip searching, plastic bullets and almost everything else that goes on in the North.

"Part of our job is to break down media distortion and misrepresentation and show how things really are."

Talking of distortion and misrepresentation, what about the SSiN vs NOLS jihad? Her reaction is not exactly unpredictable, and in the true spirit of a student politico she managed to convey more venom for entryists in her own party than for the wicked TORIES themselves.

"This election has proved a clear rejection of SSiN and their superficial politics. People know what they're being offered and they're not fooled.

"Apart from the fact that I disagree with his style of politics, it's unfortunate that Simon Pottinger chose a time when NUS has been in bad trouble to mount this sort of a challenge. His election campaign has meant that we were unable to move forward up to now.

"Hopefully that situation will now change."

Don't bet on it. At the close of conference, Simon Pottinger boldly declared that he'd be back as an observer in two years' time to see NUS elect a SSiN successor to Sherlock, and got a deafening cheer from the faithful. Whether there'll be an NUS at all by then is debatable, but at least it's reassuring to know that whenever two or three Labour students are gathered together then they shall leap at each other's throats. Amen to that, as Kenneth Baker might say.

The Spring 1988 NUS Blackpool Conference passed the following policy:

## FURTHER EDUCATION

- \* YTS and alleged HE bias in NUS condemned.
- \* Moves to shift balance of power in NUS from universities to FE colleges by proportionally increasing the latter's delegate quota at future conferences. To be followed up at Christmas.
- \* NUS to launch specific FE campaign with trade unions for grants and union participation, and against MSC involvement in FE. Mergers also to be opposed.
- \* Women's issues to be prioritised in NUS FE work.
- \* NUS to recruit and organise sixth form colleges.

## FUTURE OF NUS

- \* Major constitutional reforms of NUS mandated in the face of its potential destruction by voluntary membership legislation. . . National Union to extend democratic participation by students and combat destructive factionalism with reforms to include revised conference structure and cross-campus ballots in FE colleges.
- \* Campaign against possible voluntary membership mandated.
- \* NEC to become more accountable. NEC elections to be conducted in a single block of 12 rather than separate blocks of three, four and five to decrease factional influence and allow greater participation for minority groups.
- \* Area convenors and organisations to be given greater powers with NUS.

## LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS

\* Blanket condemnation of Clause 28 both as an attack on lesbians and gays and as the first step for repressive moves against the rest of society. NEC mandated to support all campaigns against the Clause until it is defeated including a national Day of Action. If the Clause goes through, non-implementation policy to be adopted. Also to raise profile and budget of lesbian and gay rights campaigns. Conference accused the opposition parties of failure to organise against the Clause.

- † Alleged homophobia within NUS condemned.
- \* Support for lesbian mothers' and gay fathers' custody cases.
- \* Support for 'positive images' policies in schools.

## NHS

- \* Government's NHS record condemned, private medicine also condemned as 'morally corrupt'.
- \* NEC mandated to run NUS NHS campaign with trade unions for democratically elected regional and district health authorities, restoration of staffing levels with minimum wage of £135 a week in NHS, reversal of all NHS privatisation and cuts, abolition of all health charges and 'The nationalisation of the pharmaceutical industry under democratic workers control and management' (sic).

NB. Attempt by LPSU's Ed Gamble to remove mandate to expand NUS NHS campaign to incorporate every industrial dispute under the sun REJECTED.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- \* Government loan proposals and record on student benefits and grants condemned. Calls for £35 weekly minimum grant for FE students and return to 1979 real HE grant level reiterated.
- \* NEC instructed to run mass campaign for abolition of income requirement for mature students and lowering age of independence to 21, and against loans. Grants, benefit and housing demands to be integrated into single 'GBH' campaign. LEAs and colleges to be 'forced' to give undertakings not to administer loans scheme. FE grants campaign to be linked with NUPE, CPSA and other 'low pay' unions.
- \* Special funds to be made available for women and black students.

NB. NEC mandate to encourage links with industry to increase demand for industry-directed course REJECTED.  
Mandates for week-long college shut downs, occupations, civil disobedience REJECTED.  
Mandate for NUS to 'Abandon its reliance in defeating the government through participation in reviews and cosy lobbying' REJECTED.

Scheduled debates on PALESTINE and ISRAEL and STUDENT HOUSING did not take place.



# NO NEED TO SEE TO SKI

Disability Awareness Week May 3-6, 1988

From May 3-6, 1988 the University Union will be holding a Disability Awareness Week as the starting point of a long-term campaign. The week is the result of a weekly meeting between people both disabled and able-bodied, interested in initiating a Disability Campaign in our Union. It's hoped that the week will provide information in a variety of forms that shows people society's attitude is the main problem experienced by disabled people.

On Thursday, May 5, there will be a 'bazaar' in the Riley Smith Hall between 11-4 where local groups in the community, who work with and campaign with disabled people, will have information about their work and areas where student support could prove useful.

Another high point in the week will be at 12 o'clock in the Riley Smith Hall on Wednesday, May 4, 1988, where Dave Blunkett, the blind MP for Sheffield, will be giving a talk on disability. Mr Blunkett is a renowned speaker, so if you can make it, this is definitely an hour you shouldn't miss!

There will be other speakers who will talk on issues such as sport and disability and sexuality and disability, a workshop on careers run by one member of Brent Council and one member of Leeds City Council and a showing of the award-winning film 'Children of a Lesser God'.

## List of Events

**Tuesday May 3, 1988** 1-2pm Committee Rooms A & B Mike Higgins from Brent Council

"Children of a Lesser God" 7pm RBLT

**Wednesday May 4, 1988** 12-2pm Riley Smith Hall  
Dave Blunkett, MP for Sheffield talking on Disability

**Thursday May 5, 1988** 1-2pm Committee Rooms A & B speaks on Sport and Disability

11-4pm Bazaar in the Riley Smith Hall

**Friday May 6, 1988** Evening - Disco in the Doubles Bar

All events have disabled access

"Left a bit... LEFT!... oh my God!..." - another unsuspecting member of the public bites the dust: "But what's so special about that?" you might ask: "even the best of skiers lose control sometimes." Well, I'd tell you...

I am writing this article in conjunction with the Union's Disabled Awareness Week, May 3-6, as I myself have been totally blind since birth. I just want people to realise that disabled people can and do lead lives which most people would call 'normal', and I hope that writing about my skiing exploits will help to make this more obvious.

This is my third season with LUU Ski Club. Before I joined, my only attempt at the sport consisted of a week's skiing in Italy while I was still at school (unfortunately most of the snow had melted before we even got there. Someone must have warned them I was coming!), so I was virtually a beginner. I am not sure how the organisers felt about giving a blind person skiing lessons, but most of them seemed highly enthusiastic and were keen for me to join and get on to the dry slope on campus as soon as possible.

The ski club recently converted a chapel near the sports hall into a dry ski slope which is used to teach beginners. I never knew that skiing and religion were so closely linked. Is it because some skiers, myself included, become devoted to their sport, as do Christians to Christianity? Or were the two combined to allow a brief prayer before disappearing over the horizon - and into a brick wall at the bottom, which I found the hard way! (it

doesn't improve your essay technique, so don't do it unless you're really desperate).

I don't remember much about my first lessons (nothing to do with the brick wall) apart from the time when I set off not realising that the canoe club had left some of their equipment at the bottom - at least it saved me from my usual peril. Fortunately my instructor's frantic cries of "stop!" brought me to an abrupt halt (yes, stopping's one thing I'm actually good at!), so nothing was damaged.

Towards the end of the first term my lessons at the chapel came to an end, my skull lost its dented look and I was allowed to start attending weekly sessions on the dry slope out at Harrogate. On arrival I soon realised that lessons here would be totally different from the ones I'd been having at the chapel. The slope was longer and not as steep, and the wall had been replaced by a padded crash barrier. I no longer had the slope to myself which meant that communication between myself and my instructor needed to be improved and my own reactions had to be much sharper. The thing I found most difficult was trusting my instructor. The slope was crowded with people anxious to get in some practice before going on their skiing holidays, and so to me how I had to get to the bottom avoiding as many of them as possible. When I'm not on skis, even when I'm just hanging on to someone's arm, I usually know vaguely where I'm going and I know roughly where the obstacles are, but all that changes once I'm wearing those formidable extensions to my feet. The fact is I go so fast I couldn't avoid obstacles by myself even if I tried, so it's a case of having to put total trust in your instructor. It's easy when I don't think about it. Usually I'm going too quickly to realise the full consequences of having total trust in someone else, but sometimes, when I'm picking myself up after a bad fall, I wonder why I willingly expose myself to this kind of peril when I could be sitting in comfort at home or having a drink in the Union.

Fortunately these episodes of self-doubt are short lived. I invariably receive a lot of encouragement from my instructor and my fellow skiers. Besides, I am sure most people who go skiing have thoughts of giving up the sport at some stage, and in any case, bumping into things and falling over happen all the time as far as I am concerned; skiing just makes them more frequent. Luckily the most

serious injury I have incurred; skiing just makes them more frequent. Luckily the most serious injury I have incurred so far is a broken thumb, which I caught on a slalom pole just before my first year exams (I still had to sit them all the same).

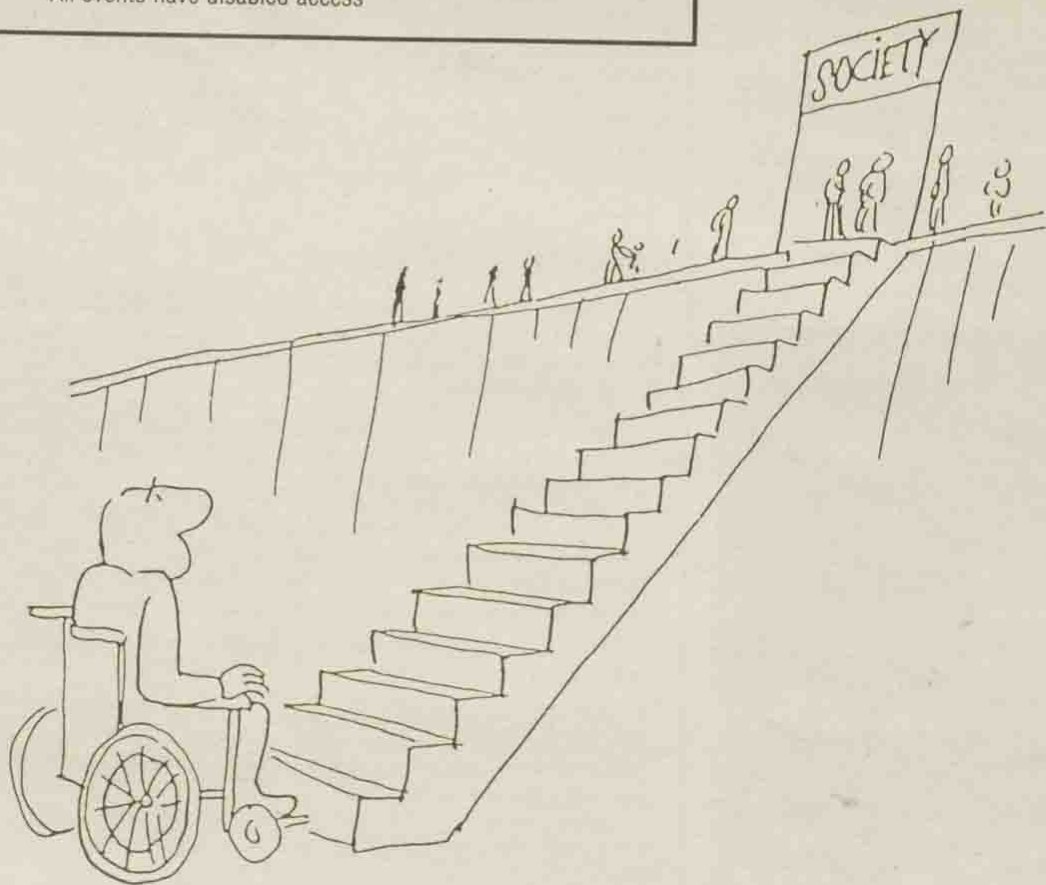
Some people think I must be mad to want to go skiing (they're probably right). I think the instructors must be slightly mad to have agreed to take me on in the first place. They'd never taught a handicapped skier before, and none of us had the faintest idea as to how you were supposed to go about it. To me the important thing is that they were prepared to teach me, despite their lack of any previous experience. They always make sure I have an instructor to myself at no extra cost. If they put me in a class someone might take out an injunction to ban me from the slope altogether. I am on good terms with the staff, although they sometimes argue about who's going to teach me. Once we've got going it's real team work - although I do wish they'd stop using the beginners as slalom poles, they don't seem to like it. I'm often aware of the fact that I'm heading for someone, but there's very little I can do about it. I just have to keep going and hope that my instructor is aware of it too.

Yes, "madness" is the only word to describe my skiing sometimes. I've had so many near misses I could still be writing about them next year. There was the time when Berar was so busy watching where I was going he skied straight into the fence, much to everyone's amusement. Then there was the week when Bernard, my instructor, got run down by a couple of intermediates and fell over. I carried on regardless, not realising what had happened, and ploughed into the back of the manager, who was watching the beginners on the other slope.

Another time, Bernard, skiing down backwards so he could have a better look at my technique, got his lefts and rights mixed up (it's always the opposite way round when you're facing someone) so I headed off at full speed in the direction of a temporary ski jump. Cries of "stop!" coming from all sides made me realise I was perhaps going the wrong way so I applied the brakes.

I've become hooked on skiing, just in case you hadn't noticed. The instructors' enthusiasm for the sport is highly infectious to say the least - so if you fancy a wild night out on Thursday, come skiing!

Nicola Matthews





UNION COUNCIL  
(FACULTY PLACES) 1988/89

ARTS (1 place)  
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL  
STUDIES, LAW (2 places)  
ENGINEERING (1 place)  
MEDICINE (2 places)  
SCIENCE (2 places)

DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL 1988/89  
(10 open places)

DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL  
APPEALS COMMITTEE 1988/89  
(5 places - one from each faculty)

BYE-ELECTIONS

UNION COUNCIL  
(1 open place)

UNION COUNCIL  
(FACULTY PLACES)

ARTS (1 place)  
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL  
STUDIES, LAW (1 place)

ENGINEERING (1 place)  
MEDICINE (1 place)  
SCIENCE (2 places)

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# MUSIC



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## ROY HARPER:

### In conversation

Roy Harper does not look like a rock 'n' roll legend and to be fair to him he would not describe himself as such.

Amidst the detritus of a shabby dressing room and surrounded by a posse of die-hard fans Mr Harper looked decidedly ordinary if not a little 'tired'. Harper has long been suffering from a rare disease rumoured to have been contracted from one of the sheep on his farm!

This, combined with the usual excesses of a lifetime spent touring, has reduced his eloquence to a level where he appears more intent on maintaining the label of enigmatic anti-establishmentarian than actually proving this.

"I'm not a star like Bob Dylan or Jimmy Page because I never wanted to be," he claims, but is this not just a case of sour grapes. "Bob Dylan would never have dared to write 'I hate the white man' like I once did." I refrained from suggesting that this might have something to do with the fact that Bob Dylan aspires to literary merit.

Roy Harper says that he is fed up with the idea of having to conform. With reference to overtly political singers such as Billy Bragg; "Billy does his own sort of thing but it's kind of naive."

Although perhaps not a conformer, Harper certainly is a performer as he showed by larking about amongst the fag-ends and empty beer bottles for the benefit of the assembled rag-bag of ageing hippies and wide-eyed students. Eventually the show was over and Harper spoke seriously about his recent work and future ambitions. "To make a video of *One Of Those Days In England* with the help of someone untainted by commercial criteria." I asked how much longer he would continue getting pissed/stoned on the road before he finally hung up his guitar. "Until they put me in hospital for a refit."

Harper made his acting debut in the 1972 film *Made* in which he played an unreliable, philandering boyfriend. Apparently the production was racked with problems not the least of which was Roy



Harper, who appears to have taken his role so seriously that the part began to manifest itself in his behaviour off screen. I felt sorry for the director, the idea of an uncooperative Harper doesn't really bear thinking about.

By this time Roy was beginning to get into his swing again. This time he was playing the part of the chauvinist, a few choice comments designed to boil the blood of any feminist, this appeared to be nothing more than a gra-

tuitious attempt to be controversial for the sake of controversy.

As I left I wondered if it was possible that Harper was nothing more than a petulant ex-hippy with a chip on his shoulder, or is he really the misunderstood visionary he would have us believe.

Whatever is the case he is certainly an accomplished guitarist and worth listening to even if it is just for the music.

Adam Batstone

### In concert



#### ROY HARPER

Irish Centre

After the overt passion of James Varda, in support, the music of Roy Harper seemed positively distressed. With the manner and appearance of some kind of deranged maestro conducting his own internal symphony, he produced a night of eloquent, impassioned songs, interspersed with his inevitable rambling and 'illuminating' monologues. The intensity of the performance was so compelling, and he was so obviously giving everything to the music, that everyone was held enthralled. It's reassuring to know that, in his own words, he "still believes in some of the things he did 20 years ago." Nevertheless, I think that these days he'd be a bit lost without his echo pedal.

Nigel Hackney

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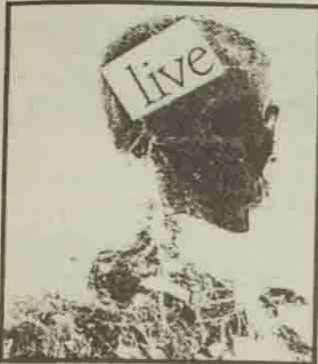
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# MUSIC



**JOHN MARTYN and TANITI TIKARAM**

LUU Riley Smith Hall

For me John Martyn was entirely upstaged by Taniti Tikaram with her delicate and bitter 'love' songs and almost Melanie-like elocution. I wish I had it taped so that I could hear them all again. Contrary to popular opinion the only similarity between Taniti and Suzanne Vega was her sex and chosen instrument.

Mr Martyn seemed to suffer from an inability to get across a single word that he was singing; the man was obviously in great emotional turmoil, it's just a pity that we couldn't share it. The gig also did not benefit from the blind devotion of some members of the crowd. It was interesting to see that the people who cheered the loudest were the ones who talked the most during songs.

Having said this, I have not seen such guitar playing since Richard Thompson was last in Leeds, and he couldn't half strut that gut.

A sit-down gig in the Riley Smith Hall, whatever next?

Nigel Hackney

**PERE UBU and THE MEKONS**

Leeds Astoria

The two bands named above probably mean nothing at all to you young freshers who were eight years old when 'Where Were You?' and 'Dub Housing' were released, but to someone as aged as me, it signified something magical. Pere Ubu, whom I last saw in 81, back together again after five year sabbatical, and those veteran Harehills heroes, The Mekons, gave us the gig of the year.

The Mekons, now slimmed down to a paltry six-piece, gave us quite a brilliant Red Stripe fuelled history of their career from 1978s 'After Six' to this year's 'Sometimes I Feel Like Fletcher Christian'. The enthusiasm and sheer friendliness of this bunch really brings a tear to your eyes.

Pere Ubu are a different breed entirely; their gigs could never be described as a good laugh, but they certainly engage you. David Thomas, now resplendent with moustache and looking more like Frank Cannon than the Orson Welles of old, emerged drinking coffee, and they began with the neurotic rockabilly of 'Non-Alignment Pact'. It was primarily an oldies set, including the awesome 'Modern Dance' and notably the terrifying 'Final Solution'. Tonight's audience, made up of anybody who was anybody in Leeds of the late 70s, stood transfixed throughout every perfect moment. I'm proud to have witnessed such an uplifting spectacle... 'Where Where You?'

Ian Cusack

**NEAL HEFTI**

**'Batman Theme' (RCA)**

Na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na Na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na...ah, you get the picture...

**THE WONDERSTUFF**

**'Give Me More More More'**

(Chapter 22)

Insinuates itself into your mind so that you think it's just another pleasant, listenable pop tune until played at great volume, when it becomes vicious and...rather good really.

**BREATHE**

**'Any Trick' (Siren)**

Music-as-wallpaper. Singularly unremarkable bid for Gary Davies' attention.

**BEN E. KING**

**'Lover's Question' (EMI)**

Apparently unsure as to whether to pitch the ex-Drifters' image towards Sherrick or the England world cup squad, the men from EMI have become desperate and decided to compromise. The result features both drum-machine backed singing from Mr King and a seriously dubious chanted chorus which could have been sampled from Ossie's Dream (Spurs Are On Their Way to Wembley).

**JERMAINE STEWART**

**'Get Lucky' (Siren)**

Wonderful: incisive lyrical intensity and soaring vocal power

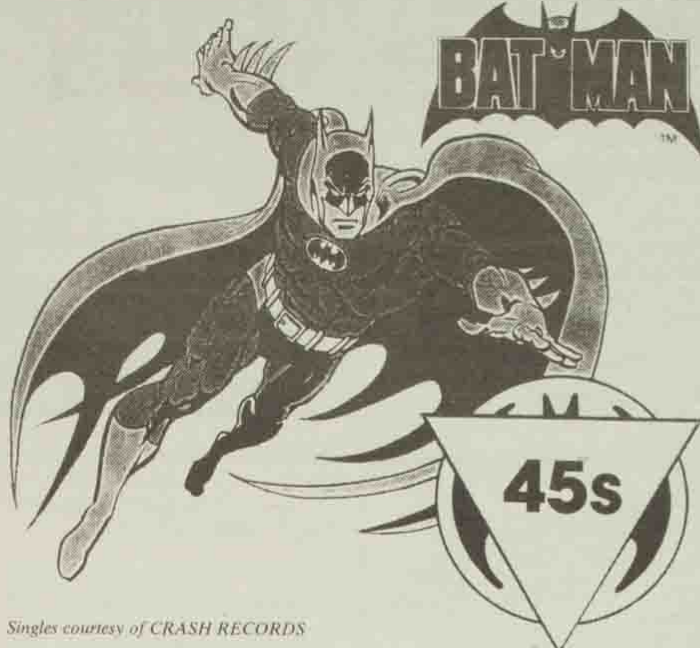
**TALKING HEADS**

**Naked (EMI Records)**

David Byrne's compositions always had an eclecticism about them yet he was ahead enough of the mainstream, and would so personalise all experiences that the listener was, paradoxically, given something they had never heard. This album draws upon their past and upon world music to produce all styles of song and Byrne as a man of many voices.

Amid the usual enigmatic and personal lyrics there is a prominent 'back to nature' theme, 'Totally Nude' being the epitome ('So civilised I wonder where you are... Deep in the woods we're undiscovered...') and 'Flowers' being the happy ideal. And there are political messages within 'Cool Water' and 'The Democratic Circus' ('There's a circus coming to town/They drive in Cadillacs/Using walkie-talkies and the secret service') indicating that behind the objectivity of 'True Stories' narrative he does understand.

The first side, beginning with the excellent 'Blind' is the side to jiggle to, opposed to the mellow side two. The world music repertoire, espousing Latin ('Mr Jones'), African 'pop' ('Totally Nude'),



Singles courtesy of CRASH RECORDS

make Stewart's latest release a soul record to stand with 'Respect' and 'Papa Was A Rollin' Stone'. No, just kidding. It's crap.

**T-CUT-F**

**'House Reaction' (10 Records)**

Hey! Guess how the lyrics for T-Cut-F's debut single go...? That's right - 'House reaction, House House House Reaction (Repeat to fade)'. Guess what kind of record it is? Yep, right

again - House music. And what is House music's greatest common feature? Goodness me, three right in a row... it's all p\*\*\* boring.

**MAC THORNHILL**

**'Who's Gonna Ease the Pressure' (10 Records)**

...and this is a House record with verses of lyrics. A smidgin more interesting than the above: like being trapped in a lift with Steve Davis.

**JAMES**

**'What For' (Blanco Y Negro)**

Even if you try to ignore the knowledge that this Mancunian band rank among Morrissey's favourites, this still sounds like The Smiths and Echo and the Bunnymen fighting to get into the same overcoat. Nice if you like that sort of thing.

**REM**

**'Finest Worksong' (IRS)**

The best track on the 'Document' album: not as Housemartins-orientated as 'It's the End of the World...' and therefore unlikely to get the thumbs-up from Simon Bates. B-side features iffy live medley; 'So Central Rain/Time After Time/Red Rain'.

**OFRA HAZA**

**'Im Nin' Alu' (Globestyle Records)**

This record will shock all those people who think all Middle-Eastern singers sound like Barbara Dixon standing at the bottom of a missile silo: it features the oft-sampled Yemenite singer Ofra Haza backed by a serious drum track, strings and synthesisers. It's brilliant.

**THOMAS DOLBY**

**'Airhead' (EMI)**

Tommy's latest attempt to become the Elvis Costello of funk. Vaguely interesting, pleasant sound, but I should wait for a Macmanus-Bambaataa collaboration if I were you.

Adam Higginbotham

Caribbean ('Mommy Daddy You and I') and the Afro-disco of T-Funk gives something here for everybody. David Byrne's proficiencies and intellect are constantly expanding. And, like on wall-posters of Big Brother, his big eyes are watching, experiencing and learning.

Martin Baker

**AFRIKA BAMBAATAA AND FAMILY**

**The Light (EMI America)**

Rap is a fast turnover business and six months ago Afrika Bambaataa, founder member of the 70s Old School of DJs and Mcs, would have been past his sell-by date by anyone's reckoning. Add to that the difficulty of bettering Soul Sonic Force classics like Planet Rock, and one might approach his hefty comeback record with some trepidation - completely unfounded as it turns out.

Bam and producers John Robie (Chaka Khan, New Order's Sub-Culture etc) and Bill Laswell's Material have wisely elected not to play the New School at their own game. Instead 'The Light' charts a varied course from soca to brutal go-go to gloopy polystyrene soul via a collection of artistes that reads like the guest list at a dodgy NY

record company party.

And there lies the rub, for majestic though many of these grooves are it's frequently impossible to spot Bam at all. One assumes he's in there somewhere while UB40 crunch their spiritless way through Reckless, or Yellowman chats over Zouk Your Body, or even behind Boy Goerge's soupy quasi-hymn effort 'Something He Can Feel', but nowhere is the man as conspicuous as his impressive physical presence would seem to suggest.

The only time he gets our undivided attention is on the well spliffy title track wherein Bam puts on his prophetic space-mutha hat and tells us to prepare for the final judgement by the Supreme One to the gurgling tones of a Robie-crafted drumless backup.

Judging by the obligatory copious sleeve notes he spent more time at the typewriter than in the studio, but 'The Light' is a creditable set anyway and deserving of your attention for far more than charitable reasons. If a hippy came up to you and started going on about the Universal Brotherhood of the Human Race you would quite rightly tell him to hop it, but hippies can't dance.

Charlie Pontoon

**SUGARCUBES**

**Life's too Good (One Little Indian)**

The Sugarcubes come from a land which goes through extremes of light and dark, and constantly experience the division between them. Within their music we can find the beauty of the sun as seen out of the corner of our eyes. The shatteringly sublime 'Birthday' slides across our senses, throwing light upon all. but, if we tried to dissect this music, if we attempted to issue a critique of the psychotic agonies of 'Mama', we would be caught, mesmerised, staring at the sun; Bjork's voice dissolving into nonsense as meaning is thrown aside, leaving us to plummet into the depths of irrational darkness.

This is a pagan sound. It occupies a position that is neither derivative nor solitary. The Sugarcubes traverse a trajectory along the outer horizon of pop, touching on and re-creating the extreme boundaries of existence. They bring light to untouched areas while ancient certainties are sent flying into a shifting, impassable night. The Sugarcubes, like the sun, simply ARE.

VEE

## REACH OUT AND TOUCH...

**MARTIN STEPHENSON and THE DAINTEES**

Polytechnic

Martin Stephenson is the bedsit bard of the 80s. Yet he goes beyond traditional role of the single/songwriter because he has mastered several stylistic approaches. In short he is one of the few songwriters that have been able to create a niche all of their own in post-Dylan pop.

However it is not just his songwriting skills that set him apart from his contemporaries. It is his humanity. He has

the ability to reach out and touch with songs that are very specific to himself, which shouldn't work but do... and from a man who spent the whole set smiling inanely!

Highlights were the guitar licked 'Coleen', the shambling, vaguely drunken 'I pray' and an astonishingly ferocious rendering of 'look down look down'.

Tonight it took him several songs to get into his stride, but when he finally got the Daintees fired up, they were magnificent.

Ian Clemow



ANDRENOCHROME

# What's on



## Miscellaneous



**FRIDAY, APRIL 29**  
GREEN FAIR BENEFIT DISCO, Tartan Bar, 8.00pm. Tickets 70p. Late bar and drinks promo.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**  
GREEN FAIR over the whole Union building. One of the biggest events of the year. Forty stalls, speakers, exhibitions, music, jugglers, theatre, puppets and fun. Entry free.

GREEN FAIR BENEFIT, Tartan Bar. All proceeds to womens' centre and Leeds Friends of the Earth. Little Chief, You Slosh + support playing, 7.30pm. Tickets £2.

**SUNDAY, MAY 1**  
FOLK SOCIETY meeting - Packhorse, 8.30pm. Singers night, all welcome.

ANGLICAN METHODIST SOCIETY - 4pm, Oxford Place Methodist Church (near Town Hall) - John Morris talks on 'Church Action on Poverty', all welcome.

BRADFORD FILM THEATRE - Alive in Bradford. Comedians from Friday Night Live, beer promo, 7.30-8pm.

**MONDAY, MAY 2**  
LABOUR WOMENS' GROUP - Womens' Centre, Cromer Terrace, 5-6pm. All women welcome. No charge.

**TUESDAY, MAY 3**  
THIRD WORLD FIRST - Food for Thought exhibition in the University Union extension.

IRISH SOCIETY - a talk by Ken Maginnis, MP Fermanagh-South, Tyrone, 'After Enniskillen... has anything changed?'. Committee rooms A and B, 1pm.

MATURE STUDENTS SOC - cheese and wine, R.H. Evans lounge, 1pm. Meeting to discuss future events.

LUUMS CHORUS - conductor re auditions, Great Hall, 5pm.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL film showing Midnight Express, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm. Tickets £1 (or thereabouts).

FISHNET BALLOON AGM and party - OSA Lounge, 5.30pm. All members and friends welcome. Please bring drink. Food will be provided.

HIKING SOC - meets at the Faversham pub every Wednesday, 1pm. There is no ploughman's lunch in the third term, so meet at Faversham.

THIRD WORLD FIRST - campaign for nuclear disarmament. Background on the bases - a slideshow and talk on the US bases in the Phillipines, LG15 New Arts Block, 7.30pm.

ANGLICAN METHODIST SOCIETY - communion and ploughman's lunch, Emmanuel Church, 1.10pm.

**THURSDAY, MAY 5**  
WINDBAND REHEARSAL - Clothworkers Hall, 5-7pm. This is the rescheduled date. It has not been cancelled.

SWSS MEETING - R.H. Evans, 1pm. Everyone welcome.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 6**  
LEEDS ALTERNATIVE CABARET - Duchess of York pub (every Friday), 8.30-11pm. Performing: Henry Normal, Post Glasnost Comedians, Darren Payzer, Little Maggie and Big Al. £2, conc £1.50.

**SUNDAY, MAY 8**  
ANGLICAN METHODIST SOCIETY - meeting in the Long Room of Beckett Park Poly Union, 4pm.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**  
HUNT SABOTEURS DISCO - Tartan Bar, 8.30pm.

## Gigs



**ASTORIA (490914)**  
April 29 - The Macc Lads.  
May 5 - Good Old Persons.  
May 6 - Nancy Griffiths.

**THE ADELPHI (456377)**  
April 29 - Demolition Experts.  
April 30 - Eddy O'Donald's Jazz Band.

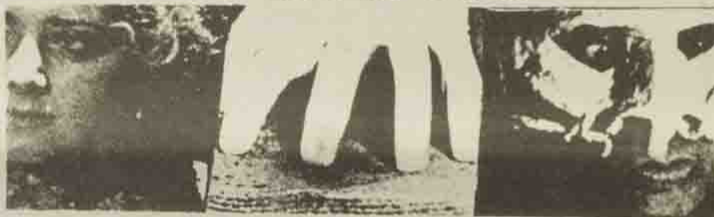
**COCONUT GROVE (455718)**  
May 4 - Lizzie Wouldn't Like It and John Taylor.

**LPSU (430171)**  
April 29 - Primitives.  
May 5 - Scarlet Fantastic.  
May 6 - Misty in Roots.

**THE IRISH CENTRE (480887)**  
May 4 - Gasper Lowal and the African Oro Band.

**DUCHESS OF YORK (453929)**  
April 29 - Red Eye.  
April 30 - Brendan Croker.  
May 1 - Black Spot Champions.  
May 2 - SE Rogie.  
May 3 - Ring and the Crow People.  
May 4 - Avarice.  
May 6 - Bloody Valentine.

## Theatre



**STREET THEATRE AT LUU**  
Sat 30 at 11am - GREEN FAIR.

**CIVIC THEATRE (462453)**  
April 29-30 at 7.30pm - THE GOOD DOCTOR by Neil Simon, presented by Leeds Art Centre.

**LEEDS PLAYHOUSE (442111)**  
April 14-May 7 (except May 2) at 7.30/8pm - Fay Weldon's version of JANE EYRE.

**BRADFORD NMP (0274 727488)**

To June 19; Exhibitions of the work of Fay Godwin (landscape photographer), and Julia Margaret Cameron (Victorian portrait photographer), and Yousuf Karsh (Canadian portrait photographer). Also a display of theatre photographs celebrating Opera North's first visit to the newly refurbished Alhambra Theatre in June.

**ST PAUL'S GALLERY, LEEDS**  
To the 14th May (except 2), 'Separate Perceptions', a display by Sue Brown, Anneliese Holles and Lesley Sanderson, three Yorkshire artists.

**LEEDS GRAND (459351)**  
April 29 and May 1 at 7.15pm - FIDELIO.  
April 30 at 7.15pm - CARMEN.

**ALHAMBRA THEATRE, BRADFORD (0274 753635)**  
April 29-30 - KISMET, a romantic musical presented by the Bradford Players.  
May 3-7 - New Sadlers Wells Opera Company in Noel Coward's operetta BITTER SWEET.

**ILKLEY PLAYHOUSE**  
April 29-30 at 7.30pm - Ilkley Players present HARVEY by Mary Chase, a straight play about a 6ft white rabbit.

**LEEDS TOWN HALL (462453)**  
BBC Philharmonic conducted by Edward Downes perform Prokofiev and Glazunov symphonies, and Rachmaninov piano concerto no. 3, pianist Yefim Bronfman, April 30 at 7.30pm.

**CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL**  
Lunchtime piano recital by Stephen Plaistow of Beethoven 'Diabelli' Variations. May 5. Free. 1.05pm.

**LEEDS TOWN HALL**  
Lunchtime organ recital by Jane Watts of Bach, Franck and Guilmant, Tuesday, May 3 at 1.05pm.

## Cinema



**BRADFORD FILM THEATRE (0274 720329)**  
April 29 - Screen 1 - THE BEEKEEPER at 6pm and WISH YOU WERE HERE at 8.30pm; Screen 2 - GOTHIC at 7.45.

April 30 - as above except on Screen 2 - FEAR FANTASY DAYSCHOOL at 10.30 as well.

May 2 at 7.30pm - SUNDAY IN AUGUST (part of the Italian-style comedy season); 3 and 4 at 7.30pm - MORRIS; 5 at 6pm - NEAR DARK and 8.15pm - HOPE AND GLORY on Screen 1; Screen 2 at 7.45pm - A MAN LIKE EVA.

**ODEON (436230)**  
1. THREE MEN & A BABY at 12.50, 3.10, 5.30, 8.20pm.  
2. THE LAST EMPEROR at 2.30, 7.20pm.  
3. BROADCAST NEWS at 5.05, 7.50pm.

**CANNON (452665)**  
Please ring for times  
1. MOONSTRUCK.  
2. FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC.  
3. DEATHWISH 4 at 1.30, 3.40, 5.50, 8.10pm weekdays, 2.20, 4.35, 7.30pm Sun.

**LEEDS PLAYHOUSE (442111)**  
April 29 at 11pm - BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS.  
April 30 at 11pm - WITCHES OF EASTWICK.  
May 1 at 7.30pm - MORRIS.  
May 6 at 7.30pm 7- THE THREE AMIGOS.

**HYDE PARK CINEMA (752045)**  
For a week from April 29 - THE TEMPEST at 7pm and LAST OF ENGLAND at 8.50pm - double feature.  
Late shows at 11pm - April 29 - SHE'S GOT TO HAVE IT and April 30 - CHRISTIAN F.

**COTTAGE ROAD CINEMA (751606)**  
All week at 5.40 and 8.10 (Sunday at 5.10 and 7.40) - STAKEOUT.  
Late show Friday at 10.45 - BETTY BLUE.

**HEADINGLEY LOUNGE (751061)**  
All week at 5.20 and 8pm (Sunday at 4.20 and 7pm) - EMPIRE OF THE SUN.  
Matinees: Sat/Mon at 2pm.

**BRADFORD MUSEUM OF FILM (0274 727488)**  
April 30-May 1 - GARDENS OF STONE at 7.30pm.

## Exhibitions

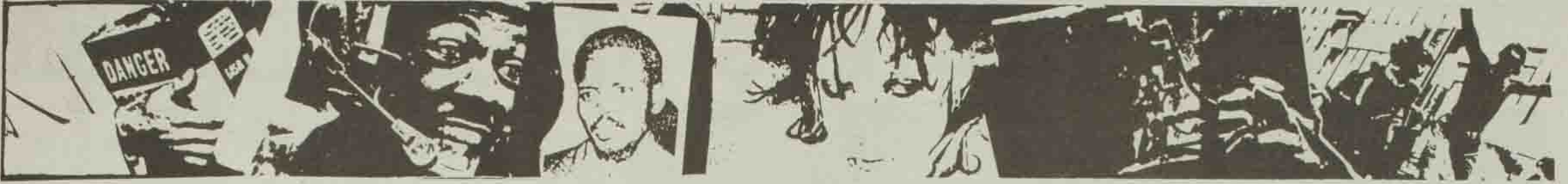


## Classical





# What's on



## Personal



REFLEX DISCOS - for private parties, societies, etc. Leeds 468170.

LUMMS CHORUS - Re-auditions for conductor. This Tuesday, 5pm, Great Hall. Please be there.

Cry 'Bollocks' and let fly the dogs of flippancy...

REFLEX DISCOS. Book now for next term. Leeds 468170.

KEVIN - did you get the results of the test? Love Shash and Phil.

NOBODY EXPECTS... THE SPANISH INQUISITION!!!!

Interested in Fishnet Balloon committee? Then come to AGM and party, Wednesday, May 4, 5.30pm OSA. All members and friends welcome.

Yes it's a week late but HAPPY BIRTHDAY MACCS from Beechwood Beast, xxx.

WINDBANDERS!! Rehearsal 5-7 (Clothworkers') Thursday, May 5. NOT Tuesday 3 (yes another 2 hours of bliss). (PS. Emotional Fart will bring cream cakes and daffodils).

"I was absolutely gorn." (The Wright school of drunkards).

The clock was fixed (without the lightbulb) but who dunnit...?

Charles Morris Hall's 21st Summer Ball, June 28. Tickets £30 double, £16 single. On sale: CMH Dining Hall, weekdays 12.30 - 1.30 and 5.15 - 6.15. \* SPECIAL OFFER \* Until Friday May 6. £28 double, £15 single.

... was it the one who had his wardrobe 'tastelessly' ransacked...?

Music Society chorus. Conductor auditions on TUESDAY, MAY 3 at 5pm in the Great Hall.

or was it the one whose Drambuie's tend to flame?

## Nightclub

**FRIDAY**  
The in Scene at Ritzy (£1)  
Friday Bop at Beckett Park  
Alternative Night at The Warehouse (free)  
Student Night at The Phono  
Mile High Club at Ricky's (£1.25)  
Heavy Rock Night at Central Park (£1)  
The Soul Pit at Ricky's (£1.50)  
Refectory Bop (£2/£2.50)

**SATURDAYS**  
Funk/House/Soul at the Warehouse (£2.50)  
Downbeat at Ricky's (£2)  
The Buzz at Ritzy  
Megabop in Tartan Bar (75p/£1)  
Poly Disco in City Site (£1)

**SUNDAYS**  
Alternative Night at Ritzy

**MONDAYS**  
Music Review at Ritzy (£1.25)  
The Mix at Ricky's (£1)  
Lesbian & Gay at Rockshack

**TUESDAYS**  
Kaleidoscope Pop at Ricky's (£1.50)  
Rock and Alternative at the Warehouse. (£1.50).

**WEDNESDAYS**  
Poly Disco in City Site (50p)  
Live Jazz at Coconut Grove (£1.50)  
Student Night at The News (£1)  
The Keep at Ricky's (£1)

**THURSDAYS**  
Thursday Bop in LUU (70p)

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# SPORTS



## BRAVE BOATERS



Leeds Uni Boat Club displayed considerable strength in depth by virtue of their large number of entrants for the recent regional and national championships.

At the North of England Head the men's 1st VIII, using a borrowed boat coped well in difficult conditions to take the silver medal in their class. The National Head in London offered far stiffer competition,

and the remarkably youthful crew of such a standard, produced a respectable performance, without ever challenging for honours.

The women's 1st VIII surprised many members of the club by their storming row from the back of the field, overtaking men's crews but were unable to claim victory as they were declared ineligible on a technicality.

The men's novice VIII, racing for only the second time worked well over the long Chester course, but were disappointed by the result. Despite this, four of the crew were chosen for the 2nd VIII of the University at the National Head.

This was felt to be fair reward for the talents of John Wright, Neil Williamson, Clive and Phil Stenbridge. **JD**

## POLY NEWS IN BRIEF

The Polytechnic men's volleyball won the National Championships, which were held at Beckett Park over Easter.

They lost the BPSA cup last year after winning the event for the previous seven years, and they were mildly confident about winning the trophy this year.

Leeds achieved the aim of their coach, by not losing a set in the entire competition.

After defeating their preliminary league opponents, they won through to the semi-finals. They beat Huddersfield Poly, 15-13, 16-14 in a close fought match, and went on to the final to beat PCL in three

straight sets.

Also, on May 7 the Polytechnic sports night is held. There are the presentations to the clubs and individuals who have distinguished themselves throughout the last year. The event is held at the Beckett Park site, and there are awards for leaving officers of various clubs.

## EASTER ORIENTEER

The Easter holiday is always a busy month for the Orienteering Club and this year was no exception as Leeds University was hosting the student championships on the North Yorkshire Moors the weekend after Easter. That weekend is traditionally reserved for the JK festival, an annual gathering that mixes high level competition and high jinks, with competitors coming from throughout Europe.

The team travelled south on Good Friday in high spirits, and enjoyed some good races at Goodwood Park on the South Downs.

The pick of some fine performances came from Rachel Spoonley who finished fourth in the W21 class. Thomas Somers Cocks was the highest placed of the Leeds runners in the men's class.

The relays were staged on an army training area and predictably this proved to be very physically demanding, a test of stamina as much as skill. After two tiring races there were many mistakes as fatigue caused lapses in concentration. But the Leeds quartet competing in the men's open for the JK trophy all saved their best run of the weekend for the last finishing fifth amongst the universities. Alum Powell and Cocks led the way for Leeds coming in ninth at the halfway stage. Andrew Chilton and Malcom Erskine both ran well to give the team a creditable 24th in an experi-

enced field of truly international flavour.

The JK was a relaxing interlude (? Ed.) from the hectic preparations for the student championship. Preparations for this event had started last summer in preparing courses and generally organising the event for 500 competitors.

The individual event was held at Newtondale, the same area as was used for last year's JK. Rachel Spoonley's careful planning ensured that the event was won by the best orienteers not just the best runners. This point was proved by the success of Andy Kitchin and Yvette Hague of Sheffield and Edinburgh Universities respectively.

The relays were held at Ilkley Moor, the choice proving inspired as the open moorland provided an excellent view for the spectators below. Steve Farnworth's ingenious planning produced a variety of courses whilst maintaining fairness between the teams. The favourites, Cambridge University, won the men's race while the three London University runners all ran steadily to win the women's race.

The weekend was widely acclaimed as one of the best ever. This is a testament to the organisational skills of BSSF co-ordinator Thomas Somers Cocks, and a tribute to the tremendous team spirit which helped to make the event such a success.

**Malcom Erskine**

This year the Alternative Prospectus is to be given an overhaul. New features are to be introduced and everything is to be updated. One of these new features is to include the personal opinions of first year students of the University, the Union and life generally.

Below is a form which, if you would like to complete, would be reproduced and featured in the Alternative Prospectus in a form similar to the Leeds Student manifestos that appear every time there is a Union election. The alternative Prospectus is a Union publication, not a University one and although no personal attacks or irrelevant criticisms should be made, what is wanted is your personal opinion, no repercussions will occur! If you would like to appear in the Alternative Prospectus, fill in the form and return it to Rob Murray in Executive.

A T T A C H  
P H O T O  
O F  
Y O U R S E L F

For this issue of the Alternative Prospectus, I would like to include your personal viewpoints of University life. If you wish to be in the issue, just write a few lines and return it to Rob Murray, Education Secretary, Executive Office.

Thanks, you will soon be famous!

Name: .....

Course: .....

What I thought when I arrived: .....

What I think now: .....

University's good points: .....

University's bad points: .....

# SPORTS



## KICK THE RACISTS OUT!

Leeds United have begun a fight against the racists who have plagued the club over the last few years.

The club is being helped in their new fight by Leeds Trades Union Council and Leeds Anti-Fascist Action.

The two bodies have produced a report, 'Terror on our Terraces: the National Front, Football Violence and Leeds United.' This was compiled after United asked for details of NF activities around the club.

The Leeds National Front regularly appears in the top three of the weekly list of the countries top NF paper sales. The Front sell in two places in Leeds, on Saturdays, Lands Lane and at Elland Road when a home game is scheduled.

Along with this intimidatory presence outside the ground, the racial taunting of black players has given Leeds the unenviable reputation for racial hatred along with their long term reputation for violence.

The report states that the two reputations go hand in hand. "Many Leeds fans arrested for violence and holl-



• Leeds United at Elland Road recently.

ganism are also prominent local fascists," said local anti-fascist contact, Paul Bowman.

Whilst most Leeds fans go to a match to watch the club play football, a minority go to cause trouble and hurl racial abuse. These 'fans' bask in their fascist views and their whiteness, as past issues of 'Bulldog' attest to.

Two letters from Leeds United's 'service crew' say they

are white and proud of it, "just as England should be."

"We want to reclaim Leeds United for the true supporters," said Bowman.

Leeds Anti-fascists have leafleted the ground twice in recent matches and have been rewarded with 'official' messages signed by all the Leeds players asking for strong vocal support not racial harassment. These have been distributed to

supporters by the club.

These moves come after reports of racial abuse at Elland Road in the national press. Andy Gray then of Crystal Palace, called Leeds ground the "worst of the lot." But away from home the racist element seems to disappear.

"Many of the fascists don't even go into the match. They sell their papers and go home at three o'clock," said Bowman. "Otley and Bradford area NF organisers come to the city each week, as Leeds is a focus point. This reflects badly on the reputation of the city."

The city council, who own Leeds ground, say that anyone convicted of racial offences is likely to be banned from all council property, yet two convicted fascists still sell regularly outside the ground each week.

"The war against the racists still has much to do, but we have had encouraging progress at Elland Road. The NF have been left virtually unattacked for the last seven years, for the last two years we've been trying to stop them, but we still have a lot of work to do," says Paul Bowman.



Political controversy has become as much part of the Olympic tradition as the lighting of the Olympic flame, and what more fitting metaphor could one hope for to describe the recent developments within the International Amateur Athletics Federation. It was all looking suspiciously straightforward until now with a record number of countries due to participate. But the tiny pitter-patter of barefeet across the Veldt has thrown the whole circus into confusion.

Enter Zola Budd, probably the worst athlete ever to cause sensation in the world of athletics. Her achievements and tribulations have been the talk of both front and back pages from Capetown to Caithness for the last four years and in 1988 she is back with a vengeance after a relatively quiet 87.

Budd has become a master of disingenuousness affecting her little girl lost look whilst reciting carefully scripted statements to the effect of "Why's everyone ganging up on me?" This supposed innocence betrays the calculating Budd hired by the Home Office and the British Athletics Association as a 'hit-man' to scupper the chances of Mary Decker in 1984. This year her task is even more ambitious: to insist on participation to the extent of forcing a withdrawal by all black countries leaving the way clear for the Brit's to pick up a couple of bronzes.

Ron Pickering, the oracle of Crystal Palace, has cast his judgement saying that Zola has obeyed the letter but not the spirit of the law and thus has shamed the once proud name of British athletics. For those of you unfamiliar with this 'proud name' business it is a myth created around the success of *Chariots of Fire*. But is Budd truly more sinned against than sinning? Is she the Eric Liddel of Wittwaterstrand? One thing is for sure: if she was prepared to sacrifice her own desire to participate it would make things a lot easier for everyone else.

She has hidden behind the clap-trap excuse of "not mixing sport with politics" for too long. It is high time she affirmed her British status by making a public declaration against apartheid and back that up by not returning to her country of origin.

The Leeds Student says: "Zola should learn that she can't have her cake and eat it, it's high time she decided once and for all what colour she wants her passport to be."

Adam Batstone

## VOLLEY BALL

With only three defeats in league fixtures this season (and all to teams who were beaten on the return visits) LUU men's volleyball 1st XI are hopeful of topping the Yorkshire Premier League for a second year running. This would be a welcome boost to a season marred by disappointment at tournament level.

Being put out of the UAU championships by the eventual runners-up, Loughborough, caused a blow in confidence which may account for the poor performance in the Student Cup. Victory against Bradford was little consolation for the inability to perform well in the student competitions.

However, despite the departure of a few members of the squad at the end of this year the team are hoping to carry on the consistent form next season.

Patrick Clare



Atkins setting every ball accurately along the net, Sarah Bartcham hitting fiercely through the middle. Having taken the second set 15-10 the Poly ladies continued to improve with Lisa Brownsword hitting strongly through the outside and Cally Athey proving herself to be a versatile player by dunking and smashing from an unfamiliar position in the centre.

The third and fourth sets went quickly, 15-6 and 15-10 and Bev Walters and Jane Herring who played two sets each, proved themselves to be valuable members of the squad. The next major competition for the Poly team is the BPSA finals over two days towards the end of April, where the ladies must be favourites to win, the main challenge coming from Liverpool Polytechnic.

Lisa Brownsword

## ATHLETICS

The University Athletics Club started the summer term with an event in Durham last Saturday. Despite a good turnout, and some excellent performances, the club could only muster fourth place behind strong local competition for the Rowlands and Wimpenny trophies.

In the track events, where times were slow due to the blustery conditions, the new members were the most impressive. Kevin Craven and Wayne Page battled in the 100m sprint (over an incorrectly measured distance!) and came third and fifth. Peter Sedders was third in the 110m hurdles and William Hamilton fourth in the 400m hurdles. After a disappointing fourth place for Mike Gillan in the 400m sprint, he had the

crowd cheering in the 4x400m relays where he pulled Leeds up from last to fourth place in a superhuman last leg. The women didn't fare so well until Leslie Lake came second in the 1,500m.

But in the field events Leeds made a strong impression dominating the results. William Hamilton won the triple jump, followed closely by Fook Long Lee in second and both won their sections of the long jump, Fook with an enormous leap of 6.35m. In the javelin Pete Sedders threw 41.4m to come second, and in the shotput 10.32m to come fourth.

All in all, the results show encouraging form and good prospects for the team in the team's forthcoming events.

## CRICKET PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

The Men's Cricket Club 1st XI brushed aside a weak Liverpool University team last week.

Sent into bat on a slow, early season strip, which was nevertheless a credit to the grounds-men, Leeds' innings was one of ebb and flow, with two useful partnerships (70 from Ahye and Cox, 35 from Ross and Healy in just four overs) proving the difference between the two sides. The 183-7 total off 45 overs was a success considering the early collapse to 45-3.

Once the reply was underway, one sensed that Liverpool had less chance of winning than the lone constable had of finding the stuff stolen from the dressing room during tea. The Leeds opening attack was a

more effective defence, as the opposition failed to seize the initiative. Cox's left-arm spin put the pressure on and two fine spells of seam bowling from Jones and Hanlin helped to end the game.

The 2nd XI had a miserable day, collapsing from 52-3 to 61 all out, with only Murgatroyd, King and Armstrong reaching double figures. Despite captain Murgatroyd's tactical prowess, defeat was inevitable, although a poor pitch and Leeds' persistence made things closer than they might have been. King's testing spell of chinamen (4-11) was not enough and Liverpool won by four wickets.

Tony Ross

## SPORTS DIARY

### MEN'S CRICKET

Wednesday, April 27

LUU v Liverpool Poly

Inter-Mural

AFC v Novices

J. Baillie v Luigis

Barbier v Colchem

Thursday, April 28

Inter-Mural

Fuel v Sadler

LUU MCC v Devonshire

Lyddon v Clapham

### MEN'S FOOTBALL

Sunday, April 24

Pathology v Micro-biology

Tuesday, April 26

Leeds Judean v Maccabi

Wednesday, April 27

Leeds Judean v Liverpool

Haroldeans

Thursday, April 28

Yob LUU v Ealandians

Biochem v Biology

### MEN'S RUGBY

Tuesday, April 26

Pathology v Kitson College

Sun Alliance v Eagle Star

LEEDS

## STUDENT

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

## Are NUS's days numbered?

The future of the NUS looks increasingly bleak this week following the announcement that Kenneth Baker is to launch a top-level inquiry into the activities of student unions and their funding of the national organisation.

And yet NUS have claimed they have nothing to fear, and have cautiously welcomed its arrival.

The inquiry, which plans to involve vice-chancellors and directors, as well as the NUS, appears to be concerned with pre-empting more radical attempts by Tory MPs to fundamentally change the Union's affiliation structure and hence, weaken its power. It follows a prolonged series of attacks on the NUS by various right-wing groups, notably The Freedom Association, who have expressed their opinions on the 'Marxist and militant' NUS with both increasing vociferousness and success in the last ten years.

Their anger is centred around the ironic fact that the government are forced to fund the NUS, who sponsor many causes not particularly in tune with Thatcherite think-

ing. Their claims to represent the 'true' student feelings are, however, not borne out by recent disaffiliation votes at Wolverhampton and Bristol Polytechnics, despite rather intensive propaganda campaigns.

Nevertheless, their efforts have culminated in last month's proposed amendment to the Education Bill by Tim Janman MP calling for an end to the NUS 'closed-shop'.

At present, affiliation fees - which totalled £1.84m last year - are paid by student unions for the NUS collectively.

Whilst individual unions can disaffiliate from the NUS - and about 20 have done - individual members are unable to do so. Janman's motion, which was condemned in an emergency motion of the NUS Easter Conference, attempts to change this by preventing individual student unions from affiliating collectively. Instead the heavy responsibility is passed on to the conscience of every individual member who can decide whether to opt in.

If successful, the motion would effectively destroy the NUS. It could also

prompt demands for more radical measures, such as voluntary membership of particular student unions.

NUS sources confirmed that they were pinning their hopes of survival on Kenneth Baker's well-known objections to the plans, which emerged following a recent leak to student officers. He is known to favour an opting-out rather than opting-in scheme.

"We have a feeling that they are not looking at individual membership," Leeds Student was told this week, "although obviously we will have to wait and see what the terms of reference are."

It is conceivable that Baker may, however, be forced to placate his more radical backbenchers - over 120 Tory MPs have supported Janman's motion - and offer an alternative, but equally dangerous solution. This fact cannot be disguised by NUS bravado, who are admitting that a union based on individual affiliation would be a "totally different creature."

Neil Amos

## You jessie, Jackson!

Mr Robert Jackson, the Minister responsible for higher education, claimed this week that the present grant system inhibits access to universities and polytechnics, despite being "Probably the most generous in the world in terms of the amount provided for each student."

Speaking at a London conference organised by the Association of University Teachers and the Standing Conference on University Entrance, Mr Jackson argued that the system is "rationed" because of its high cost and restriction on numbers, and that the introduction of loans would improve the situation.

A new survey of student income shows that despite a fall in real terms in the value of grants, income has gone up by 5.5 per cent since the last NUS review five years ago. Mr Jackson attributes the increase to increased parental contributions, holiday earnings and borrowing, and describes the average post-graduate (if you make it that far) overdraft of £340 as "reasonable"; ignoring the possibility that students have had to tap other income sources because of the decline of the grant.

There has been some debate among vice-chancellors about charging for tuition, and Mr Jackson considered that this would not be a deterrent to access.

Professor B. Saul, Vice-Chancellor of York University was more critical however, claiming a tuition fee would be a "suicidal route to expansion," whilst Ms Diana Warwick, AUT General Secretary, argued that ministers were "morally obliged" to prove that a loans-based system would widen admission.

Karen Thornton

## CLSM Gaysoc vows to struggle on Triangle wrangle

The saga of the banned Gay and Lesbian Society at Leeds City College of Music continues. An Open Meeting to discuss the ban, imposed by the Director Joseph Stones, was to be held last night at the Polytechnic and was to be attended by Labour Councillor Garth Frankland and Dr Austin Allen, a Bradford teacher who was sacked (and later reinstated) after revealing to a class of school children that he was gay.

Clive Spendlove and Madeline Holloway, Chairperson and Treasurer respectively of the outlawed music college society were also due to deliver reports.

The plight of the society was revealed in Leeds Student last term describing how Stones had banned it because he claimed, amongst other things, that it would spread the risk of AIDS and influence those who were unsure of their own sexuality.

Meetings on LCCM grounds are not allowed and instructions are given by Stones to have all notices taken down that advertise the society's events. Richard Mills, President of LCCM Exec said that Stones' ban on meetings could contravene the 1986 Education Act which states that such meetings are allowed and that anyone can participate.

Mills also said that Stones claimed that only two people wanted to join the society (which is not actually true).

"His stance on this point is irrelevant - there is nothing in

the constitution of the college which lays down guidelines about the number of members of a society," Mills said.

He explained that five weeks ago he wrote to the NUS asking for legal advice but this has not yet materialised, which he described as "very frustrating."

Clive Spendlove was hopeful that the matter would be resolved soon and he told of a small but active anti-gay faction present at the college which has been sending hate-mail. Spendlove said that the fight, "Will and must continue," and he took heart from the way the issue is threatening to become national. A member of the Arts Lobby of the Stop the Clause (29) campaign has been in touch with the Shadow Arts Minister Mr Mark Fisher, and Leeds MPs will be alerted. The Guardian newspaper were due at Thursday's meeting and the BBC's 'Brass Tacks' programme have expressed interest in the story.

John Rigby

## News from NUS conference

● NUS's Spring Conference elected 27-year-old Maeve Sherlock as National President over Easter.

Sherlock, this year's NUS Treasurer, beat off challenges from Independent Lembit Opik and hard Left candidate Simon Pottinger to ensure that the National Organisation of Labour Students will dominate NUS at least for the next year.

Full story page ten.

● NUS is launching a South African Scholarship Fund scheme of its own to supplement the work of colleges up and down the country.

In conjunction with student travel experts STA, the national union is making £30,000 available to support black South African scholars who would

Two university students were re-manded on unconditional police bail until May 23 recently on three charges of criminal damage.

The two students, John Britton and Matt Hodson, were amongst four people caught daubing pink triangles over the Daily Express building in London's Fleet Street on the night of April 9. They are all pleading guilty to the charges.

"It was an action against the Daily Star which is published by Express newspapers, and in particular against the Ray Mills column and its vicious homophobia," said John.

Mills once used his column to describe the Terrence Higgins Trust, one of the largest organisations supplying information on AIDS to heterosexuals and homosexuals in this country as "The woofler apologists named after the first British queer to die of AIDS."

Since the incident at the Express building Mr Mills' column has been dropped from the Daily Star.

The case is to be heard at the Guildhall magistrates court in the city of London.

Jay Rayner

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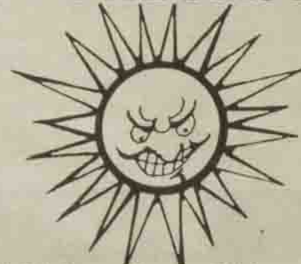
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WEATHER  
FORECAST

Valid from 12 noon Friday

**Friday:** Cloud thickening, rain from mid-afternoon, maximum temperature 10°C 50°F, moderate easterly wind.

**Saturday:** Wet at first becoming brighter with occasional showers in the afternoon, maximum temperature 12°C 54°F, light south westerly wind.

**Sunday:** Mainly dry with sunny intervals, rain towards evening, maximum temperature 12°C 54°F, moderate south east wind.

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