

Leeds Students

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

January 19 1990

Three million students affected as lecturers step-up action

Mike Jones

Come to the
Leeds
Student
office in LPU
to collect
your Levi's
prize

Exam boycott spreads to FE colleges

Further Education lecturers have joined with Polytechnic lecturers in imposing chain reactions in an escalation of their long-running pay dispute. A further three million students nationwide are being affected from the exam process.

The three million two-and-a-half-day test-takers and other after a national ballot rejected their latest pay offer on December 15th. A subsequent new pay offer of a 4.5 per cent increase over last year was rejected on Thursday at a national meeting.

The actions are unlikely to be as hard-hitting as the Polytechnic actions which have been in force since November, because college lecturers mainly teach course-based external examinations.

Progress in both disputes has been ruled out until at least the end of the month, following this week's launching of action

Report by
Patrick Johnson

ANAS

"No significant progress was made," claimed NATFHE. "We suggested a number of alternative paths out of the dispute, however, the employers rejected them all."

Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (ATFHE) took in both types of institutions. As their employers are different since polytechnics left the control of local authorities, pay negotia-

tions have been separate yet their results have been similar. The Poly lecturers rejected an improvement offer on 18th December with a 10 per cent increase and a 10 per cent redundancy payment offer.

With the issue of exam papers that have already been set daily to run out during mid-year exams in late February, the action will soon start to bite.

Senior management and top NATFHE members write departments who are currently investigating means are unlikely to be able to cope with the three months of exams. Unannounced marks will not be revealed which will have the most detrimental effect on the attainment of qualifications.

Students at Birmingham Poly have been so supportive of their lecturers that they have demanded that investigations should be by lecturers or they won't of their exams. This has become a major headache for the management at the poly.

NATFHE have described it as "highly effective". Colin Paterson, branch secretary at the Poly's Blackett Park site said that the Polytechnic is protesting that it is business as normal, part of that protest is to try to get papers marked.

"We know this the exam boycott is an inconvenience, although we are trying to limit its effect. We think that student education is the long term is more important



As in their time

than about exam inconvenience. Exam boards are being heavily disrupted with some being the prospect of their being only an external examination present."

Steve Cockerill, the Branch Secretary for the Poly City site, said that the attitude of the Poly pay bargaining council had been "absolutely uncomprehending" and that their members had been "too hard and too unresponsive". Every lecturer has received

a letter from the Poly management asking them to be involved in interviews. There are to find out how much time lecturers would have spent on the examination process and to check their pay for that time.

NATFHE members have planned a mass protest later today at their next meeting as a protest to the poly tactics. Prospective management have so far refused to comment about the pay dispute.

LPSU push for Beckett action

Students at Beckett Park have voted to withhold their vote for two weeks in protest at the Polytechnic's failure to carry out repairs promised last year.

At a meeting of students and Poly officials last November it was agreed that the hall was in a dangerous condition and required urgent repair work.

However, after the Christmas vacation the students did not feel that enough effort had been made. At a meeting at Beckett Park on January 18th voted to refuse to pay their rent for two weeks which is the maximum period it can be withheld without officially being a rent strike.

Rob Hunt, President of the Polytechnic Students' Union, explained that "the fighting is still to see something to, to feel some sense that before the repairs".

Hunt said that the hall do not have adequate washing facilities, with about 70 men and women sharing just seven showers. There also remains considerable concern over the security of the hall.

In a memo to Rob Hunt, Mr Mike Wilkinson at Student Services said: "The Polytechnic management is disappointed with the students' reaction and that without it will be 'unhelpful in all parties'".

Mr Wilkinson agreed that the case for the hall was not satisfactory but would be supported by the end of January. Gas detectors and electronic fire

smoke detectors will be introduced as further safety measures.

Additional security measures are being taken with extra security staff to be engaged at Beckett Park.

Mr Wilkinson pointed out that "the Poly management is responding in a reasonable manner to understandable complaints by the students". He explained that the work will be carried out but specialist equipment takes time to acquire and install.

Students at Beckett Park are planning to continue the offensive against the Poly with an about new strike will not bring rent out if the work is not completed quickly.

See Editorial p6



As in their time

INSIDE THIS FIRST ISSUE OF THE DECADE:

Leeds Student visits Westminster to report on the Loans Bill Standing Ctte. p5

RETROSPECTIVE
Is a new regular series we take a look at the news events of 10 years ago.

Are you def enough to handle the 90s? p8/9

Steve Martin
The man with four videos to give away. Enter our easy competition on p6

The unpleasant experience of watching Last Exit to Brooklyn p6

Tony Wilson interviewed on p7

Television Guide Remote Controlled by Claire Atkinson

F R I D A Y

[illegible]

2	4:00	Southwest Swingin' It
	4:30	Behind the Headlines
	5:00	Clean Slate International Year of Literacy 2003
5:30		Head and Stride
	6:00	After the Day-After: Western-caring, Jeff Moore (1975)
7:30		Get of Our Heads: Focus on the cultural side of The LA's home town
8:00		Public Eye Politics in the 1990s
8:30		Visit Time: Planting for gardens
		Quilt's southeast: Locally, Starting, Not South
9:30		Arms the Green
10:30		Newsnight and another
		Behind the Headlines Sp.
11:30		After: Stephen J. Cooper

[illegible]

C4	4.0 File: Joe McElvaine
	4.5 Countdown: Jon
	5.00 Joe Mary
1.30 Information Technology	
4.00 Staff: Jean French, Nagisa, Pina, and Billy	
4.00 Tokyo Talk with	
4.00 World and Words	
4.00 A-Z News	
7.00 Music: Shania Twigg, Vogue, Wolf, Dorian	
8.00 Journal: Japan's New Capital and Politics in the 1990s	
9.00 Cinema: Road 99 Cars	
9.30 World of Weather News	
10.00 The Golden Hour: Night: Working	
10.30 Music: Live in the Spotlight: Jon and Nick	
11.00 Spring: Spring: Spring: Grandstanding in the Revolution: are we known for innovative science, they are also built mechanisms and complex systems	
11.30 Spring: Summer: The Year: The Year	

S A T U R D A Y

[illegible]

2	10:45 Film: The Charge of the Light Brigade Story by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Directed by Michael Powell. <i>When a greater rearmament is needed</i>
	<i>world could depend now!</i> (1936)
2.45	In the Foot History of Scotland
12	Training Gaps for the Westlands (see programme)
1.28	Recreation The old leisure times
1.30	Montygart A study with English abilities
1.40	Scouting (see "The History of Mounting")
	<i>Scouters Union (Mounting of the 1900s)</i>
4.55	Sea Supply
4.40	Scouting Cinema: They Gird with Their
	<i>Arms on Training Ship and Scoutmen go</i>
4.50	The Scouters' Club (see "Mounting")
1.6	Scouting (see "The History of Mounting")
5.00	Scouting Cinema
8.30	Systems of the World (see "The History of Mounting")
8.50	Scouting Night (see "The History of Mounting")
9.20	Scouting Night (see "The History of Mounting")
9.35	Scouting Night (see "The History of Mounting")
9.45	Scouting Night (see "The History of Mounting")

YTV	6:30	The 17 Chart Show
	7:30	Newsline Canada
	1:00	TV's Home Inland In Dance and Exercise
	1:40	Superintenders
	2:00	Exclamation: Street Style
	2:40	Fine: Garry the Kink
	3:00	Results: Services
	3:30	TV's Home and Evening
	5:00	Breakfast with a Canadian Dance and Exercise series
	6:30	Shed Your Skin, Lose Your Weight
	7:30	The James Brown Video: Chicago Music in India and East Africa, but of situation and then they...
	8:30	International Great Games on the International Culture for the students
	9:45	After: Nightline: Weekend 2000
	10:15	The Tonight Show
	2:00	TV's Home Inland In The Women and Dance: advice for the great of experience

C4	03.00	To the End of the World (Series) Look to another planet for the answers to our deepest questions.
	03.30	John Lee Mahin Wins Love
03.35	Ellen: The Three Degrees	
03.40	Swing With the Double Bass Jamers	
03.45	Shooting Star: Stephen King	
03.50	Ellen: Between Years: Mike	
03.55	Ellen: Mike	
04.00	Breakdown: Cleveland	
04.05	Right to Reply	
04.10	Twisted Eye: New Jersey Test: Doc	
04.15	The World This Week: Current Affairs	
04.30	Europe Express: Current strategy in the EU, employment in EU member countries	
05.00	Current: Sporting News: Sports: Star Line	
05.05	4 Play: When Love Dies: Series Two continued	
05.20	Second Spring: British Doctors: The Future of the U.K. is governed by Nicky Carroll	
05.25	Ann: Annals with back for: American City: Story ends with Russian note: American	

S U N D A Y

1	1.90	Go The Record Europe again
	1.80	East India Division
	1.60	Vince Brown's 10 Great Songs Gunsy, Isaac Jim & Sam Marino
1.05		Clothes Store With the most listed men in the business industry - Jeff Banks.
1.80		Audrey Hepburn's
1.40		In Queen's Store Is there just identified gets on 10/17/77
4.20		Snow And Weather
4.40		Design Of France
1.75		Ten Years, 10'10"
4.00		Language
4.00		Musicalized
5.00		Their Life
5.00		Snow And Weather
5.00		How many
5.00		Music 10/17/77
5.00		Music 10/17/77

2	12:00	Reinvention: West	
	1:00	Rebel Hoop	
	1:30	Thriving	18+
		Weekend: West	
1:30		Idiots: Minutes	
2:00		Reputation: Update	
2:30		Film: Gold Eyes	
4:00		Rebel: Hoop	
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YTV	9:00 <i>Supersize Judge</i>
	9:30 <i>Goats On Sunday</i>
	9:50 <i>Calculus News</i>
1:00	<i>IFB News</i> Interview by <i>Spechtman</i>
2:00	<i>McCloud With Douglas Young</i>
2:30	<i>The World Network - Vancouver Ed.</i>
3:00	<i>Polynesian</i>
3:30	<i>Newsweek Scottish music organization.</i>
6:00	<i>IFB News</i>
6:30	<i>Highway in London</i>
7:00	<i>What We Learn Has Time drama.</i>
8:00	<i>The Two of Us Dr. Carr.</i>
8:30	<i>IFB News</i>
9:00	<i>Agatha Christie's Poirot</i>
10:30	<i>News on 7th Ave Capitalizing on the success of <i>Superman</i> 1978</i>
10:30	<i>The Doctor, Rock, Etern, Green Writing and recording. Live and Hot.</i>
11:30	<i>Superman</i>
1:00	<i>The 17th Street Court House</i>

C4 **5:00 The Molemen**
7:00 *Lead Us to the Stars*
8:00 *Shine on the Solitaires*

4:00 *Swain Springs: Solitaires on a Ship*
4:30 *A Wilderness: Wildlife Down*
5:00 *Solitaires: Night and Day*
5:30 *Shine and Spotlight*
6:00 *American Molemen*
6:30 *Solitaires: New Aquatic Species*
7:00 *People Solitaires: Shine on the Mountains*
(CNR) *Lead Us to the Stars*
8:00 *The Molemen Show: Not an actual show. See Vol. 1*

5:00 *Swain Springs: The Shine and the Sea*
5:30 *Penny Lane: Solitaires and the Sea*
6:00 *Swain Springs: Solitaires on a Ship*
6:30 *Swain Springs: A Moleman of Solitaires: Not a real show. It's a Moleman of Solitaires in New York, Connecticut or the Capital.*

CAMPAIGNS

If you want to be an
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1.00pm

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Return there completed to Lucy Pinner
Exec. by TO GOVERN MONDAY 20
11:50 AM

If you would like to know more about
this, please come and ask me.

SETH is on Monday 12th February
and Tuesday 13th February

new rise in military spending

New figures just released show large increases in the levels of military research awards to Leeds University. The news has shocked students and members of staff at the University which last term saw widespread opposition to the Honorary Degree award for ex-US Secretary of State, Casper Weinberger.

Report by
Kitty Melrose

With the military
But David Morris, University spokesperson, emphatically denied the claims.

"Any relation between an increase in figures and the University's decision to award Casper Weinberger was taken with the utmost political sensitivity in mind of increasing University links

between the two institutions over their claims that the decision to award Casper Weinberger was taken with the utmost political sensitivity in mind of increasing University links

Govt presses on with loans

By Kenneth Roberts

The Government is to proceed with its plans to introduce student loans, despite the complete withdrawal over Christmas of all the major clearing banks from the scheme.

An Parliament announced after the holiday recess last week, there were complaints from the opposition benches that the Commons was being left totally unprepared as to how the scheme would be run and who exactly would run it in the wake of the banks' pull-out.

Suggestions that the plans have been rushed and should be scrapped have been rejected by the Government. Mr Robert Jackson, Minister for higher education, claimed that the banks withdrawal of cooperation under very little difference to the administration of the scheme,

due to start in September, and only need to incorporate students.

Applications for loans would now have to be made by post to the clearing agency which is to be in Glasgow, with payment by direct debit. An attempt by Labour MPs to stop the bill's progress until more information on the mechanics of the scheme could be provided, was defeated by the votes in the Commons.

Anger that so little is known about a scheme which is to cost the tax payer £2.17 billion, and which could have such severe repercussions on the whole system of higher education has been voiced by the NUS. It has accused the Government of "hoaxing" and putting up a facade of confidence when they are in fact scrambling to re-organise. "The Government will have a lot of hands in cross," the NUS said.

Helplines at risk from new bills

By Alan Jones

Several advice phone-lines in Leeds claim their confidentiality is under threat by British Telecom's plans to introduce limited phone-bills in the next three months.

Helpline services, including the British phone bill with Nighthall Day Helpline and Rape Victims, believe the more detailed general advice, at their numbers appear on the British phone bill.

Dr Graham Bell, who runs the Leeds Rape Helpline, said he was not a victim of the University initiative, and with British Telecom, asking them to re-examine their decision.

"No British phone bill with Nighthall Day Helpline would reveal who we were called and even the length of our call," said a High School spokesperson this week. "Very Good, Customer Service" (VCS) said he was not a victim of the University initiative, and with British Telecom, asking them to re-examine their decision.

that application of contracts and other legal issues.

In a new development this week, student peace campaigners at the University revealed that research believed to be part of the 1980's biological warfare research programme, is being relocated to the former Medicine Department for the British Legion Laboratory.

The research, which cost £200,000 to the University, was highlighted in last week's Department for Science and Technology, and is believed to be connected with both anthrax.

A spokesperson for Leeds University (LU) said: "The Government must take a hefty proportion of the blame for this situation which exists in academia, is independence and also education for its purposes has removed from the pursuit of knowledge."

Four year delay for green print room

By Alan Phillips

Recycled paper has finally been introduced at the LU print shop, four years after the scheme was first proposed.

And this week, campaigners who have been pushing for the change since 1983, marked the delay.

Policy for the scheme was passed separately at OGB in 1983, 1984-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89. "Why people had wanted it to happen, came to the Union would have been put in motion, and the contract would have been signed within a week," stressed Eddie Gwynne, who has been involved in the campaign since coming to Leeds in 1983.

He said the year following reports of Union bureaucracy rejecting the scheme.

Former Union officials should share the responsibility for this having taken so long, but we are very grateful that there have been people within this year's executive who have made extensive efforts to see this policy implemented.

"What now remains to be seen is whether this new scheme is properly monitored and published."

Other green activists spoke of the deliberately slow-moving nature of Union bureaucracy, caused by officials who were too busy to prioritise the issue.

Larry Pinner, LUU administrator, Secretary, explained recycled paper is now available in the print room for Union notices, letter heads, and booklets.

The first of a regular series profiling some lesser known local personalities

Unconventionally speaking

by Kitty Melrose

Like Robertson, from Wilton Charles Marketing Services Ltd, is convinced he is not your normal run-of-the-mill business man. "I don't speak conventionally. I don't dress conventionally and my opinions are frequently described as outrageous".

Yes, Mr Robertson does not follow the usual, but as the letters behind the North's First International Technology, Recruitment and Computing Fair, due to open in April, he is no stranger to the hyperbole of the trade.

"Businessmen should get off their facades and offer something rather than debating students as a waste of 'paper's money', he became in a scuffling attack on industry's failure to support further education.

He sits his strong views with such a confidence that his anger seems to be a little bit for his reputation amongst the business community. He is clear



FIRST PERSON

that his views are not just a cry from the trenches of industry and education to profit the community — and, of course, himself.

"This bill will be one of the greatest business opportunities there has ever been in Leeds," he proudly boasts about his latest scheme. It appears that the fair will be held in Leeds into the middle of the next

business world.

In line with his character, Mr Robertson's background is not typical. It began with his work in the media working for CIBC radio and as a radio reporter for the BBC. He moved to Leeds in 1980, where he became a radio reporter for the BBC. He moved to Leeds in 1980, where he became a radio reporter for the BBC.

This Leeds based company, formerly situated in New York, London and Brussels was initially set up as a company which specialised in the recruitment of people with a high level of education and training.

Whether his intentions are genuine or not he is certainly no stranger to student resistance. His friendly and slick manner did him no harm — he quickly had his own side

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VC warns of low morale

The Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, Edward Purkis, has admitted that the morale of staff at the University is low because of poor pay and conditions.

In his Christmas Statement to Court, he warned: "Universities are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff particularly in disciplines closely related with industry and commerce."

His speech was essentially a confidence one, with his comments on financial improvements striking a relieved, rather than cynical, note. The 1988/89 deficit had been less than predicted, and the University is to benefit

**Report by
Danielle Nordley**

from the extra student intake planned over the next three years.

"The good ship 'Leeds University' will survive the current storm," he said in his final words, "but I cannot guarantee that it will emerge other than by very careful attention to both our navigation and our seamanship."

Dr Edward stressed the need for a new emphasis on generating independent income for the University, with the Government's commitment to the principle of the student.

The University had already attracted £10 million investment from the Science and Engineering Research Council, and was receiving funding from the British Steel Company for the second Chair of Metallurgy.

The Vice-Chancellor also criticised aspects of the Government plans to reform the Health Service.

Curtain falls on Playhouse



• *Photo by Robin Tyrell*

by Lisa Cunningham

Saturday night's performance of *Twelfth Night* at the Leeds Playhouse marks not only the end of a production but also the end of an era. The theatre, which has been situated behind the

University Sports Hall for 26 years, is to move to a new site on Quarry Hill Road.

Leeds University originally rented the site out on a long-term lease but this time decided to turn it over to the theatre, which has been situated behind the

was raised for the new building.

For the future of the building, some dubbed as a "gigantic shoebox" because of its shape, the University not prepared to disclose their plans for the site.

In camera

The importance of video taped evidence in child care abuse trials is only coming to the fore. Sarah Bond reports

The sensitive issue of a child giving evidence in court has provoked experts to question the validity of their evidence. If the case is one of sexual abuse, when the child is trying to defend themselves, the ethical questions which arise are even more difficult to answer.

Recently Leeds University hosted "Testimony of a Child", the first multi-media focus on the issue, when experts from all over the world came to Leeds to discuss the issues related to gathering information from children during cases of abuse.

Out of it came the Piggott Report, the main part of which centres around the best way to allow a child to testify. It suggests using video testimony that would be a less traumatic experience for a child than appearing in court. Therefore, it is argued, it could be relied upon to be more accurate.

The method would involve two video tapes. The first is the child's original disclosure.

The second comprises of an informal meeting of the child, the judge, the Prosecution and the Defence. The original tape is played back and the child is asked questions about its contents. This again is taped and it then constitutes the evidence as it is first put forward.

Positive results have come from the session. Detective Inspector Les Vasey, Co-ordinator of the Police Domestic and Child Abuse Units in West Yorkshire said of its findings:

"I think it's absolutely wonderful. It's essential that we encourage these recommendations for the protection of the child."

The next step was to convince the Government and lawyers of its stability. If it is accepted then its potential as a new area for study and training is strong.

A consensus among the experts agreed that the discussions would directly influence the future policy and practice in this sensitive area which ultimately should be seen as a forward move.

NUS calls for demo

by Andrew Brown

A national demonstration will be held this March in an attempt to defeat the latest proposals.

This was decided at the NUS Winter Conference in Blackpool last December which lived up to expectations — it was noisy, far-fetched and after an hour was already twenty minutes behind schedule.

The only at the start, evidenced by the silence's silence for the Canadian women students to march two days before, was soon to vanish.

In her opening speech, Mavis Warburton (NUS President) attacked the "elitist and chauvinist" government policies towards higher and higher education. She called for a fight for free education and against student loans.

As well as the demonstration and a letter-writing campaign to defeat loans, a policy was passed which called for the non-payment and non-implementation of the poll tax.

One surprise of a fairly predictable Conference was the election to the NUS Executive of Tim Farrow, not a member of one of the left groupings, but a Liberal Democrat.

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Leeds Polytechnic
24/1, 31/1, 7/2
at 2pm

Seminar at
Leeds University
7/2
at 5.00 pm

SABBATICAL ELECTIONS 1990/91

You could be:
**LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION'S
ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY
EDUCATION SECRETARY
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
SECRETARY
GENERAL SECRETARY
FOR 1990/91**

Just:
Collect nomination papers from the
PORTER'S OFFICE
during the week beginning
MONDAY 22ND JANUARY
Return them completed to Lucy
Phines in Exec. by 10.00am
MONDAY 29TH JANUARY

If you would like to know more about any of the jobs then please come and ask me.

**VOTING is on Monday 12th February
and Tuesday 13th February**

**February, Berlin Wall Unification,
NOSTRIFIC MEETING!**



MAY, May's Baby Sings!



**THURSDAY AFTERNOON ENGINEERING
PROBLEMS THE CHANNEL TUNNEL SURPRISS
IN CLASSROOM (NUMBER 1000 OF 10000)**



**ITALY WORKS OUT SIGNATURE, ITALY
SUSPICION (IN 10000)**



SEVENTH DEATH OF CAPITAL PARLIAMENT



NUMBER 10000 (10000 OF 10000)



The Professional Driver

IN THE LIGHT OF MR. CLARKE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK THAT WE UNDERTAKE WE HAVE DECIDED TO WORK TO THAT DEFINITION...



MARTIN ROSS



STAFF/STUDENT REPS



To provide skills and information for staff/student reps
**Saturday 3 February
and
Sunday 4 February 1990**

If you are a staff/student rep and haven't received an invitation, please contact:
**Nicole Butler: Education Secretary Union Executive
Office: first floor**

HEALTH WEEK

Tuesday 23rd — Magda Koc, a talk on **Acupuncture**, Dora Russell Room 1.00-2.00pm
Wednesday 24th — To help you **stop smoking**: a workshop in the Dora Russell Room 1.00-2.00pm
Thursday 25th — Ruth Kaye will demonstrate **Healing and Stress**
Therapy — Committee Rooms A&B 1.00-2.00pm
Friday 26th — Come and learn some **FIRST AID** in the RHES room 1.00-2.00pm. **COME ALONG!**

In the **RILEY SMITH HALL** during the week:
Food and Nutrition, Opticians, Dental Health, Contraception, Alcohol, Drugs, Relaxation/Stress, Depression/Mental Health, Diabetes/Epilepsy/Asthma/Hay Fever, Health Foods, Alternative Medicines, Women's Health matters
Information for you and your health!

No sleep after Brooklyn

LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN, now showing at the Odéon, was made by the same team as *Chaplin F*. **ADAM MICKELTHAM** found it harrowing viewing.

Last Exit to Brooklyn represents the seething tip-side of the mythology of the American dream begun with *'West Side Story'* and culminated with *'American Dreamer'*. Where the cheery *Platoon* figures discovered 11 miles to Los Angeles; the deadbeat Italians in *'Last Exit'* meet 'Fuck you'. This is an unapologetically white-hot piece of cinema; a film for which a first-class soundtrack would be too apocryphal.

Set in early 1950s Brooklyn, the story

takes place against the background of a particularly bitter strike which has left most local men on the streets. The characters — led by a heartless prostitute, a gleefully brutal pimp and a twisted repressed homosexual — are studiously unsympathetic, and for at least the first half-hour it is difficult for even disgusted fascination to keep you in the cinema.

What emerges is a morose, nihilistic, right-wing society which renders previous efforts at 'gritty realism' effete. Although usually reminiscent of Sergio Leone's smoky, aspatial depiction of New York in *'Once Upon A Time In America'* — particularly the lovingly-choreographed salvages of police strike-breaking — *'Last Exit'* achieves a similar appearance simply because everything in the film is shot through with violence and filth. This feeling is so pervasive that viewing the film becomes an increasingly degrading experience.

Although this might seem an overstatement, the dark claustrophobia and graphic brutality of the film are inescapable. These apparent moments of relief — a wedding, a baptism — are swiftly exploded by the undertone of hopelessness which promises that the happy couple and the newborn child will ultimately be subsumed by the same inhuman cynicism which dominates everything else.

Such feeling makes objective judgement of the film almost impossible, although undeniably effective in conveying its central thesis. *'Last Exit'* indulges in such savagery of despair that you rarely want it to stop as soon as possible. If there is a lesson in this it is not likely to be one a cinema audience wants to hear.



VIDEO

The video of the nineties?

Three of the New Year releases, including the magnificent **MY LEFT FOOT**, reviewed by **ANDREW HARRISON**.

Fear and awe the best of this decade's taste of entertainment as magnetic tape is *My Left Foot*. The somewhat disoriental but still thoroughly weird story of crippled Dublin writer Christy Brown and the enormous left foot, it's the only part of his body he can move with even a

wink of co-ordination, and he uses it to write *Down All The Days* and also do quite a spot of painting.

This is not the sort of film you'd make in the States. For from the golden-haired wheelchair-bound angel, so common in Hollywood treatments of disability, Daniel Day-Lewis recastates Brown as the hard-drinking, frustrated and self-hating but undeniably witty.

Day-Lewis's own performance is an absolute pearl, particularly in a scene when the drunken Brown vents a meal with his speech therapist, her husband's fat and assured readers of the Dublin sherry by having the table cloth off with his teeth.

The film tends towards sentimentality in its portrayal of Brown's flirtation with the nurse Mary, but that's a minor quibble. *Shogun* steamed and witty humor, with a stirring performance by Ray Macfadyen as Brown's cantankerous father, *My Left Foot* is the top raw rental vid of the nineties.

Unlike *Reds*, a thoroughly feeble variant on the *Police Academy* theme but a little less whacky. This time around the apes are based on a loving scheme for FBI agents.

Got help the people of the United States if the FBI is really comprised of High School knob-heads like these characters.

Real life *Beavis and Butt-head* DeMastroy plays one of them — the standard kick-ass beautiful copette. And her roommate buddy is a lot of a bookworm. What extraordinary character juxtapositions ensue! Becca buys the boring one I'm sorry, I'm forgetting the name of the character and the actress her own gun and — presto! — she becomes an ace shot. So in return she boozes! Becca's exam grades from Z to A with the aid of coloured paper clips. Every other cliché in the book is also trotted out — the hunky hotbed trainee whom Becca wants to shag turns out to be a nasty bastard, the girls fail a bank robbery single (double!) handed and ultimately laugh over the shaps. Give it a miss.

Finally if you fancy a hard-on session over a curvy taxi-driving girl *Bad Taste* out. Incredibly disgusting aliens land in New Zealand to turn humans into humanburgers.

Blood spurts. Heads roll. Chisel-jawed chop people go. Bad actors act badly. Ten stars. Check it out.

Thanks to the generosity of Muller, manager of the age and cool Rockmaster Video Library in Bradenford Grove, we are giving away, yes giving away, a great trunk load of sparkling new Steve Martin videos. Sales in your own home and watch the mixer juggling contest from The Jerk frame by frame. Revisit The Man With Two Brains again and again until you can impress your friends by getting the pronunciation of that name just right.

COMPETITION

To become the grand owner of *The Jerk*, *All Of Me*, *The Man With Two Brains* and *Roxanne* simply mail us the name of the extremely lovely female co-star of *Roxanne*.

Scissors down the answer and get it to either our Post or our office by 2.00pm Wednesday. The first correct answer out of the bag gets the vids and the winner will be announced in next week's paper.



BLOCKBUSTERS VIDEO LIBRARY

- 1) *Her Alibi*
- 2) *Grease* — The Return
- 3) *Eightnight 2*
- 4) *My Brother-in-Law* is An Alien
- 5) *Bad Taste*
- 6) *Beavis*
- 7) *Myshogun* Barring
- 8) *Rainman*
- 9) *Dangerous Liaisons*
- 10) *Heath Ledger*

BLEAK SABBATH



The week the **SUNDAYS** release their new LP **READING, WRITING AND ARITHMETIC**. **ANDY PARSONS** is on the job.

Readings, Writing and Arithmetic is an apt title for an album that is actually devoted to the adolescent confusion and anxiety that is commonly associated with late school days. The Sundays, however, shed no new light on this, an already tried lyrical genre.

It is obvious from the outset that The Sundays are fans. They like the Smiths. Such is the strength of their devotion, that they proceed in singing their hopes in the most literal way. Song titles are chosen for their Smiths-like quality: viz. "I kicked a boy" and "Hideous Town." Acoustic guitars are rumored as that. Here's where the story ends: "has a come that passing resemblance to 'Comet's Comet,' a Smith's song featuring the interestingly

popular act of plagiarism.

This musical f----ing could be tolerated if they did anything with it. Too often The Sundays produce raw songs, like the distressingly limp "I won't" and "A Certain Someone." They let Smith's guitar lines beat down behind the intelligence and humor. So Harriet sings excruciatingly cash-handed rhyming couplets like "I joined the army, but it drove me barmy," and "I found a pound, in the underground" — lines that would make the deaf twice with pain.

Can't be sure I still capture the atmosphere of a rainy afternoon with Harriet's voice wistfully drifting away then suddenly reappearing in the foreground. On other occasions, however, she sounds more like a persistent twelve year old in a sub. Her observations on life are so naive and mundane that most fourteen year olds would find them laughable.

Critics have argued that her

obsession with childlike qualities of innocence and wonderment, provide the basis of the charm of The Sundays. Certainly they're charming — if you enjoy being tucked up in a room with a cluttered third form girl, intent on telling you about her problems with boys, how her parents don't understand her and how she's considering committing suicide. There's nothing wrong with singing about suffering, just as long as you do it with grace, wit and style. Sadly, neither of these in the company of The Sundays' integral adolescent angst, and the urge to cleanse the pathetic and rather teenage Harriet in love with an enormous pick axe, is almost too much to bear.

The Sundays are enraptured in the indie ghetto, and what's worse they're happy to be there. They have identified themselves with the second rate content to be a medium sized fan, in a period no one cares about anymore.

Singles reviewed by Richard Hollins Supplied by Crash Records

Greatest O'Connor: "Working Company 2 U" (Image)

It's a basic seven hour and fifteen days since you took your first breath. It's a great way to start a record. Not as good as "I just blew in to the windy city, the windy city is making pretty, but it ain't got no color yet." On no airs, "but stay all the same, I mean, ain't that what breaking up is like, after all? An agonizing burst of angry seconds? Don't you should wait to life your desperation?"

What "Working Company 2 U" seems to lack is a sense of feminine modesty and pathos. It is too fast, and too casual for it's own good. O'Connor giving it all that I couldn't blame it on the sunbathing, though. On the moonlight. On the party times. I'd blame it on the booze, this — the booze. That or Phineas, who wrote this incredibly atrocious single.

[Richard Hollins]



The Fall: "Telephone Thing" (Phonogram)

Just when I thought the Fall were going to get boring — they got boring anyway. Mark E. Smith, the man with the world's largest and most flamboyant collection of hats, but also the most boring, starts with a nibble of downtown disco, a collaboration with Cold Cut, repeats with sampling, saxophone and Euphonium sounding serious. I'd hoped that a might sound like Russ Abbot's "Anemone." Smith doing his Mancunian-Ram. This over a beat, in this cooking. That would have been terrific. But alas.

Public Enemy: "Welcome To The Terror Zone" (Def Jam)

Public Enemy have never recorded anything as extreme as this. Perhaps, neither, and impressively powerful. It seems there moving away from the usual "It's 9 o'clock in the late P.M. The over-achieving Flavor Flav, with his imperious, "Yo-yo" and "Yeah Boy," is thankfully buried at the back of the mix, leaving Chuck D to get on with the business of spreading the word.

LOUD and proud — a definite and noisy groover.

The Field Mice: "The Autumn Stone" (Dunoon)

I've seen it, heard it, tasted it all before. The pretentiously wistful sound, the unacceptably jaunty tune, it's just another one of those brittle and wistful homilies to lost innocence, full of brass, adolescent sentiment about the disappearing aspects of growing up.

Apparently, people want to bawl like this with their wrong hand, eager to recapture the cute, inept quality of their childhood. These Field Mice're leading astray. But they're probably got four-deeds of spunk, and really — you aren't a queer — go anywhere near them. Perhaps.

Two free tapes to anyone who comes into the Leeds Student office wearing a duddiecoat.

The Psychobelle Furs: "House" (J&B)

Richard Butler has been responsible for some monstrous moments on his cocaine-fueled vocals giving his songs a sense of crazy desperation. I particularly like the line about his hair on his lips, and never taping just like this. But "House" is with a blatantly Americanised backing it's more than a heads-down boogie. Plus — it's a fine single alone again.

BOONS

DOMESTIC SERVICE

EDWARD LIMONOV, one-time thief and psychiatric patient, recently had his second novel "BIG BUTLER'S STORY" (Alcove £4.50) published in Britain. It's general critical acclaim.

RICHARD HOLLINS thinks it's terrific.

In Butler's Story isn't as much the story of what the Butler Saw, but what the Butler did, who he did it with, and who. I long ago realised how facile "rubbish everything up" writes Limonov, the book's espionage being lower, and poet, depicting as of life's most interesting moments and pleasures. Mixing them up with prohibitions and restraints. "Don't you dare!" But I do. So Limonov does some things. Some nice things, some beautiful things. He sleeps with lots of women for a start. An awful awful awful lot of women.

Fucking is very important to Limonov's Limonov. An insouciant and cool character, he indulges his sexual urges and fantasies with Byronic cast. His sexual notes of a story that is a tale, confessing to his every brutal conquest with useful candour. This is either I do this, here I do it. "Take it or leave it and go fuck yourself properly. So let it go or leave it and go fuck someone else."

Everyone wants to make that life sleeping continuously through his fingers like beautiful and interesting. He

writes, "We have only one life after all and there's almost less of it. In his life, a world of adventures and beauty, dangers and pleasure, he makes every effort to add to his stock of experience. A self-styled opportunist, he chances himself for not moving in with a woman, but of female beauty, the seductive Mary Ellen. It's real excitement. Edward would move in with Mary Ellen and fuck her with his past doing. There is a tick in his for the security satisfaction.

He meets a girl called Jenny, a pretty sophomoric, a "liferative girl," who arrives in his feelings of both love and respect. He goes to despise her and despise her because she was an idiot. The girl had in fact dreamed of her two years while living in his filthy hotel and chugging in his heterosexual wedding or looking with priorities or other men. She abandons him for the transparent charm of L.A.'s Hollywood. People are like. Limonov's misable dreamer Limonov.

His employer, Brian Grey — a brilliant deal in a "gorgeous girl" — is the naive embodiment of the American dream, impossibly wealthy and impossibly dressed, he swimmers through life with perfunctory ease. Like the girl who is planning to write a book entitled "Star, like the Italian goddess and Godfather who come to keep Limonov's previous novel off the bestsellers — a book which could Thank you, you're thinking transfer! You can go to hell — his master is this rather than the "heaven, give shapeless shower out," who Limonov despises, who Limonov dreams of penning letters.

THE SEX NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED NEXT WEEK

THE CHRISTIANS release their new LP **"COLLOUS"**, this week **INEL SMITH** gave it the once over.

Oddly, never wrecked at the prospect of having to produce a "worthy" successor to their anonymous debut album and its staple content of soft sad pastiche. The Christians have decided to follow the maxim: "If a girl's broke, don't fix it." As a consequence, they don't take any risks and as a result exclude any sense of adventure from the proceedings. As such, "Colloous" is a musical carbon copy of their first LP, seamless in its infectious arrangements and insipid backing vocals, with Gary Christian's serene croon as the centric piece. The lyrical concerns are basic to the point of cliché, expounding his monotone and robotically optimistic view of his life, but will work out eventually "see deep down people are never really sad." The reality of this aside, his ideas are expressed so clumsily that any attempt to take them seriously is given a good kicking — "I know that I'm far from clever, I know that I don't fit in, But that's what I'm good for nothing. 'Cause I see my ship's coming in." — Alas, even the notoriously humorless Mr. Bore is made as laugh when he made one of his many stabs at the guitar. At least, it should be noted.

However this could have been overruled with a few good tunes but with the exception of the relatively jaunty "Glorious One" there is very little to turn along to. Even the current single

"Waves" is only really for being the only below the second and third of course is "what an achievement, but despite that "winner" complaints, the Christians can be accused of keeping the comfortable monotone towards their playing style and sounding to maintain evenness. That will seem as no surprise to anyone well, perhaps all but a certain Mr O'Andy.

WHAT ABOUT

SPORT SEX LIFESTYLE TV AND FILM MUSIC POLITICS



- 1) Who will be the most important politician of the nineties?
- 2) I will. We are the Democrats like me. We are all self-started and concerned individuals who care about the planet and its policy will going to make sure it has a future.
- 3) Clara Fulten, Peter Mandelson, Gordon Brown and possibly Sarah Palin if she gets her hair cut. Definitely not John Major.
- 4) Min Thacker, George Bush, Dan Quayle, Gorbachev. Gorbachev and Bush have made the world a safe and profitable place to be. They will go on and on and on.

- 1) What will make music change in the nineties?
- 2) The need to reach a listening audience which wants more than false pop day-after-day. But without necessarily creating music which addresses the issues of the day, and the end of the 7-inch single.
- 3) Technology and the recordable CD. (CDs won't really change but will be able to make expensive sound my music, CD-Rs & portable and will be in for a long time. The record companies will fight as well as end R&D.
- 4) The A1 Man And Hat.

- 1) Will the breakfasting Bill generate a hybrid shape in the UK?
- 2) As there will be no and now channels available for a reasonable fee, high quality TV will be there for the sort of people who appreciate it. And if everyone else wants to watch them and I suppose they will be able to.
- 3) The first thing you do is not buy the channel when the BBC is in use. It's bad & bad. And make sure you have a strong voice - you'll need it.
- 4) More choice means more freedom means better quality means more. Higher means better means better.

- 1) What will be the accessory of the nineties?
- 2) A variant on the Pigeon Organizer which stores notes of your children at play (Shakya Derek Cherry).
- 3) Cerebral. 5-9 aspect ratios, carry for crossing flooded parts of town.
- 4) Portable videophone, feature in the clothing store, bridge which reads: 'I'll catch you later, I'm tied up right now.'

- 1) What will be the new condom phenomena?
- 2) Non-erectile condoms that filter out everything but active sperm, so you can avoid safety and offense.
- 3) The all-over body condom, protecting you from AIDS, pregnancy, flu, and Cow Disease, killing urethra, potato lesions and salmonella threat.
- 4) Mutual condoms that play "Gerald Rind" by Marvin Gaye, "I Was Too Hot" by George Michael and selections from Queen's films.

- 1) What will be the hot spots of the next ten years?
- 2) Proximity to a lake, water and wind and, for the first time.
- 3) Nearside Fudge League, live cat shooting, roller skates, taking off Linda's Hair and foot.
- 4) Computer-generated Roman arena warping poor people.

- 1) Who will be the most important politician of the nineties?
- 2) I don't see who.
- 3) I don't see who.
- 4) I don't see who.

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THE SUNDAY

CORRESPONDENT

WHAT'S ON GUIDE

FILM

Video

Upper Briggate Leeds L31
Tel 4 202211/438230
C2.80, £2.00 with 90p card.
Screening 5-5.12.95 11.30
1 **WEN HAMP MY SALLY**
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
2 **LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN**
10.20am, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
3. **TURPIN & HOOK**
10.20pm, 3.04pm, 5.35pm, 8.10pm
4. **ERSENKUNSTEN** 8
12.45pm, 3.00pm, 5.30pm, 8.00pm
5 **UTTERAL WEAPON**
12.45pm, 3.00pm, 5.30pm, 8.00pm
Best performance only on 3rd Screen.
BURNER & CO.
12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm only
Cinema

Star Line, Leeds, L51
Tel 4 6101344/0044
Jamaican C2.50, £1.50
with full card before film on weekends
Film times and prices on Sundays

1 **PARENTHOOD**
2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm
Late night Sat only, 11.30pm
2 **LAND BEFORE TIME**
12.30pm, 10.00pm only
3 **CHILDREN**
11.00pm, 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm
Late night Sat only, 11.30pm
4 **SUCK TO THE FUTURE 8**
10.00pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Late night Sat only, 11.30pm

Cinema

Headingley Leeds, L85, Tel 761804
Refugee now C2.45, ordinary C2.00, £1.30
with 90p card.
THE DELICIOUS
4.40pm, 7.00pm, 9.20pm
10.00pm, 7.30pm, 9.20pm
Late show Fri & Sat 10.30pm
SEA, LIES AND VIOLENCE

Cinema

Headingley Leeds, L85
Tel 761804/761805
C1.80, 1.80pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm
TURNER & HOOK
8.00pm, 8.20pm, 8.40pm, 10.00pm, 11.30pm

Video

Briggate Road, Headingley, Leeds L85
Tel 761804
C2, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm
MY LEFT FOOT

Cinema

10.00pm
BETTING IT RIGHT
11.30pm
Late show Fri at 11.30pm
10. THE RIGHT THING
Late show Sat 11.30pm
LAST OF SEEN
12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Mendham and Tinsdale
C1, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm

Full Film Screen

Support Backlot: Lecture Theatre at Tyne
Went's
THE THIRD MAN
Sat 3.30pm, Sun 11.30pm
Queen Wilkes in the 1949 classic.

GIGS

Business of Rock

Price Lane Tel 413229
Fri 10pm
THE BROWLERS & THE ATTIC
11.30pm

Sat 20th
NEW TURNERS ALL STARS
& THE MIRROR BOYS
Sun 21st
NEW STUBBS AND THE ALL STARS
12.1
Mon 22nd
PINTURE & SUPPORT
12.30pm
Thurs 26th
BLU BUD & BUDON IMPACT
12.30pm

The arena

370 Roundhay Road, Tel 400094
Fri 18th
THE UNDERGROUND (crownsouth)
Mon 22nd
TONY CLAVETTE (ROCK)
Tuesday 23rd
KID'S BOYS JAZZ BAND

ARTS

City Art Gallery

The Headline, Tel 482185
LEEDS FINE ART EXHIBITION
Starts Thurs 23rd, until 19th Feb. Free entry.

THEATRE

The Grand

New Briggate, Tel 459354 Mon 22nd, Jan-
Sat 21st
JOSEPH AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL
DREAMCAST
(Tickets 14.00/5.00/5.00)

The Civic Theatre

Castleford Street, Tel 662443
Fri 18th, & Sat 20th
CINDERELLA (C2.00)
Mon 22nd/Sat 27th
"JOE AND HIS QUEST FOR THE STOLEN
PRINCESS" 11.30

Leeds North

New Briggate
Fri 18th
"DON PASQUALE"
6.4-7.20

Quintessence Theatre

Prince's Wharf, Bradford RD74 730000
CINDERELLA
Starting Jan 21st/22nd
Tickets 4.50/4.50

CLUBS

Blacks

Merion Way Leeds 2, Tel 431448
THE WORLD
Blacks 11 with union card
Beer 50p a chop,
selected spirits cheap.

St. George's

51 New Briggate, Leeds 1, Tel 432224
Monday-Fri before 10.30, £1 after with
union card, Beer 70p a pint

The Archway

19 St James St, Leeds 1 Tel 488287
Tuesday 12 with union card, 90p Chop.

The Blues

Quintessence Hotel Bldg, City Square,
Leeds 1
Tel 441263
Wednesday, £1 with union card

Blacks

8 Merion St, Leeds 1, Tel 455116
THE BLUE 4024 CLUB
Thursday 11.30 with union card

Le Phosphore

15 Merion Centre, Leeds 2 Tel 433888
Student nights on Thursday & Friday

MISC

Mon 22nd Jan
LIVE NETWORK PRESENT
An evening with BBC TV Leeds Watch
around 10pm (see for yourself) programme on BBC
TV Leeds. Then talk to Harry Graham and
hear about his job as BBC Leeds North
producer and journalist. Please Theatre,
Leeds. Admission only 50p

LIVE PROS ROCK & ROCK SIDE DISCO
Heavy Mix Bar in L15, 8.45pm, members
free before 9.00pm

Tues 23rd Jan
BO CLUB ANNUAL DINNER
Marquise Hall, 7.30pm-8pm, £15

J&SIC POLITICAL SITUATION
Hill House, 8.00pm prompt. Free

J&SIC SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Hill House, 8.00pm prompt. Free. Very
important meeting. All members must
attend.

Wed 24th Jan
J&SIC LEARNATHON
Hill House. Every Wednesday 1pm - 2pm.
Free. Everyone welcome.

Thurs 25th Jan
WED BRIGGATE
— CH2's Gem Sale — an "The New Europe
— is the Cade Bar over?" 81 Evans, 10pm,
all welcome.

THURSDAY REMOTE
Gathering 500. Grounds Director 7.30pm.
Free. Members. This House believes the art of
being a good lover is knowing what to
leave.

J&SIC WEDGARD
Play's night, 8pm onwards, £1
members. Tickets available from committee
members and at doors.

J&SIC
Shedder in 4.07pm Friday. Shedder out
5.20pm Saturday. Shed in Hill Street
Shedder.

LUU ENTS PRESENT

Feb 1
Faith No More **£5.50 ADV.**

Feb 7
The Red Hot
Chili Peppers **£5.00 ADV.**

Feb 26
The Quire Boys **£4.50 ADV.**

Mar 13
The Fall **£6.00 ADV.**

Mar 16
The House of Love **£6.00 ADV.**

Mar 20
Curiosity Killed The Cat **£7.00 ADV.**

AT LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Tickets from:

CRASH RECORDS (Merriam Centre)
& LUU (0532) 314236

Keep that pressure on

Leads Polytechnic Students' Union campaigned as its most successful campaign for many years, but terms when it persuaded the Polytechnic authorities to take action over the alcohol sale of the halls of residence at Beckett Park.

With the threat of a damaging report, as well as at her secretary's insistence, the Vice-Chancellor the Polytechnic acted with considerable good will to improve the quality and safety of life at Beckett Park.

They have put in new lighting, advertised for more security staff, started the phasing out of the most noisy systems - which found the students to visit a certain number of music in the refectory - and presented a review of the catering services at Beckett's.

As no more improvements have been made it is said that the Poly Union have, once again, had to react to the threat of a visit aimed to force the Poly to continue with the repairs.

The lights that have been put in are, by the Poly's own admission, no better than before and other steps that the Poly promised would be taken before Christmas have still not begun.

They verbally agreed to replace the locks on the front doors with self-locking ones over the Christmas period. The deadline for this work is now the end of January.

The improvement of showers was originally to be treated as a matter of urgency. The Poly now admit they might "suffer to some degree".

While the Poly is to be applauded for the action it has already taken it must not be allowed to rest on its laurels.

The excuses they have proffered are undoubtedly valid, but to ensure the outstanding work is done to bring Beckett Park up to an acceptable standard, then the whole matter must not be allowed to recede from people's memories.

The Poly Union have led an admirable campaign and it is refreshing to see the residents of Beckett Park enjoying the quality which a university is fashionable amongst students. Such must now keep the pressure on the Poly authorities until all the work which has been promised is completed.

Letters

Off the shelf

Dear Editor,
I was intended to read the article on Pornography that appeared in your Dec. 8th issue.

It raised the subject of what I hope to be a major United campaign for this issue. The campaign against pornography.

"OFF THE SHELF" is a campaign initiated by the NLS women's campaign and aims to persuade WH Smiths to drop the sale and display of pornographic magazines.

Challenging attitudes to pornography is a long and difficult process, but it is here and now that we can begin. The campaign in the Union will be launched this Wednesday (20th Jan) at 1.00 pm, in Committee Rooms A and B. We have a speaker from the Campaign Against Pornography, followed at 2.00 by workshops. At the end of the afternoon there will be a trip to WH Smiths to take pornography "Off The Shelf".

I hope that as many women as possible will participate in the freedom. The road to freedom starts here.

Yours sincerely,
Gillian Andrews.

The Student loans bill is now at the committee stage. Kamal Ahmed went along and wasn't impressed.

Watching a standing committee in the debating the House of Commons is a miniature. Members from one side get up, say their piece and are immediately and publicly contradicted by someone from the other side. And like Big Brother down the hall, in the standing committee, as long as you have a majority what you say goes.

The discovery that the Tories have that necessary majority on the student loans committee, which is supposed to look at the plans in depth and allow for debate and change, will surprise few people. During the Christmas vacation the banks finally made up their minds to let the student loan scheme go for a risk and pulled out of the scheme.

Now, politicians are never apt to admit that anything is going wrong with their legislation so surely this is the case. The Tories are calling for an adjustment to the committee so that the Conservatives could recommend the bill which now had a winking green light in its eye.

Not a lot of it. You would have thought that at least they would have been a few embarrassed members. There wasn't any of that either. No, the sick Tory representatives on the committee were and still are present, determined to act as if nothing has happened.

"The banks were merely involved in the administrative side of the student loans bill. Their withdrawal means no difference to the people or its implementation."

So said Robert Jackson, the true MRP Higher Education minister, without the slightest intimation of a shudder. But old Jack Straw, the Labour Education Spokesperson, could only say and lament that it was obvious that all the Government members had totally lost their heads from head office. It only, he continued, we could cast our minds back to June when Labour had a point in calling "On The Shelf". The campaign believes that all the Government members had totally lost their heads from head office. It only, he continued, we could cast our minds back to June when Labour had a point in calling "On The Shelf". The campaign believes that all the Government members had totally lost their heads from head office.

And, they'll look at alternative measures that

Dear Editor,
Rachel Browder, LCU Students' Officer, is putting a lot of energy into the anti-pornography campaign launched last year called "Off The Shelf". The campaign believes that getting WH Smiths to stop stocking pornographic magazines will help prevent women getting ripped. I think Rachel is not only a worthy but also contributing to the climate of censorship fostered under Thatcher.

Pornography is undoubtedly disgusting to women and offensive to most people with a critically functioning brain. Considerable pornography is only the far end of a spectrum of magazines and newspapers which carry biased and anti-women views. Pornography is the product of a society which treats women as second class and is set objects. I believe we need to address the wider problem of women's position in society before we can realistically hope to prevent women getting ripped.

More worrying, though, is the campaign's blatant demand for censorship. I would have thought that since the sale on Indian and gay bookshops under the "Obscene Publications Act" has been banned, all powers of censorship will ultimately be used by the authorities against Indian and gay left wing and other establishment people.

No Rachel, don't make me like a New Year's resolution to stop worrying about a newspaper's shop shelf and do something about

the best way to administer the loans was by way of the professional financial institutions. You see the thing was that the Government were not absolutely sure of their attitude in this field. Not exactly, look at the poll tax.

Mr Baker has been known to suffer from foot in mouth disease before, but this was to be a particularly bad attack. He stumbled on about how sufficient number of the banks had shown a positive interest in the loans scheme to allow it to work. Presumably then, if there were not enough banks interested, and the figure was in about as low as it goes, the scheme would struggle. Of course Mr Brown wasn't around to answer such questions. Maybe he knew something the rest of us didn't when he gladly accepted to move to the Chairmanship of the Conservative Party.

Back in the real world of 1980 Simon Hughes was keen to put forward his vision on

Politicians are never apt to admit that anything is going wrong with their legislation

the standards of the committee procedures. "This committee cannot know what it is talking about."

Quite. But does this actually matter? Not necessarily. It does not seem that the committee stage will make any great changes to the bill. Whatever one side may tell us about the fact that the loans scheme is unlikely to break even until 2010 or that the system in the United States is running at a deficit rate of 9.1% which is unlikely to be enough in many analyses on the other. This is partly political in its intent and whether it is a young man, or old one, that matters who work to take a different line, let us say just is this a complete wash in the club's one with students in mind.

One of the lighters from the line corner put the issue to rest of most Labour's deliberations. Telling us of the thousands that Mr Straw attempting to change fundamental parts of the bill, he said:

"If you could imagine for a moment, The Tories like a mouse trying to make law to an elephant. This means that it will do good

women's inequality?" After all, with international Women's Day in March and the Government's attempt to constitutional rights, this woman's story can be said something useful to do.

Yours sincerely
June Wetherburn (BCN)

Sadness of Christmas

Dear Editor,
Somebody has to do to the challenge of your leading article "Carnage crusade for Christmas". It might as well be us.

It is understandable that there was a midwinter festival long before the birth of Jesus came to be celebrated (which did not happen until many years after his death, incidentally). And it is almost certainly a good idea that there should be some quiet time and in the time of the year when there are short days and long nights.

There is also good reason why the birth of Jesus should be truly celebrated. Birthdays are a good reason for having fun, and the birthday of this special person should be celebrated more than most.

So be it said. But there are problems even Christmas. For many an increasing time of goodwill. Yet, you people can be most generous when they are happy themselves, but be careful about the "trickle-down" theory of looking to the needy. This is what Thatcher and Co. know as a general policy for our society.

If you and I spend hundreds on enjoying

but you have to achieve his check."

Hopefully the critics in Rugby and Leeds, for whom the speaker of these words is Member of Parliament, realise that they have in their hands a man who must be a hero for a hero. With such a wide imagination he must be someone to watch for.

So what about the role of the NLS in all this? Setting aside the proceedings were two young students, Marie, Sherry and Tim. Walford. They had bought their tickets and seats but at least the President and Press Officer of "our" NLS were paying attention. A full 100 but it has to be 100 for achievement. Oh well, they may be in the club about what to do to stop the loans going through but they certainly know which side their bread is buttered. At the end of proceedings Robert Jackson announced that it was now off to the Government. Marie and Tim had a good laugh with him about that, maybe enjoying pains for future career prospects.

The Conservative were very brave at the NLS for forcing the banks to pull out of the loans scheme. Their action has limited choice for the students who have to use dual study with the Department of Education and Science, they proceed in London. The action for this piece of news is unknown, probably the same Conservative believing that he helped the Tory members in the committee. Anyhow, given the NLS result where it is due, at least the Government thought it was their fault.

There we have it then. If you want to know the best of one of the most important pieces of legislation to affect students then just look through the Government's actions and the loans will all be there in black and white. A certain Mrs Thatcher obviously had done just that. When asked about the withdrawal of funds from the scheme she came out with a carefully prepared statement. Clearly a lot of late night rehearsal had gone into this one.

"It is a shame that the banks have pulled out," it will certainly stop the possibility of students having a choice about where they get their loans from. The withdrawal does not, however, affect the policy of introducing student loans.

It is it good enough for her then, unfortunately, it will have to be good enough for all of us.

ourselves and then less men a free or more in the charity box, then we may find ourselves not have done good while the gross inequalities of our society have actually been worsened.

The not thing about Christmas can be that these important matters are overlooked not only that we may not remember that they have and I have been remembered. This is what some "Right-on" Scrooges are concerned about. GCT
Yours sincerely, Paul King
(Scapular)

Leeds Student welcomes letters on any subject.

Send to:
The Editor,
Leeds Student,
PO BOX 157,
Leeds, LS1 1UH.

Leeds Student will be back to normal next week with 20 pages and the return of NINE ZERO magazine.

Poly men set for honours

by Craig Smith and Tim Gough

Leeds Poly Rugby League team will be looking to win through to their first major final of the season this Wednesday. They take on Sheffield University in the semi-final of the Students Rugby League (SRL) Cup at Bocket Park.

Last year Leeds University won the title but this season the Poly team has been the one to catch the eye. They are presently battling with Newcastle Poly and Middlesbrough University for honours at the top of the Students Rugby League and on January 31 take on Sheffield Poly in the RFLA semi-final.

Five members of the Poly team are in the provisional British student squad of 25 for the clash with France at Calais in March. England will also play Wales on Feb 28. The Poly has 8 representatives in the RFLA squad.

Meanwhile, on New Year's Day, the Poly sponsored the Shires Winter Championship clash between Leeds and Hull. It was the first time a polytechnic had undertaken such a task, but because of the recent success of the

Leeds Poly side it was felt appropriate that the Polytechnic should seek publicity via the Headingley-based club.

Although those attending the game saw Poly Director Christopher Price and two well-known student rugby players from the Polytechnic, Henry Sharp and James Hazzard, who have both captained the Poly team, which has won the RFLA cup in five years out of the last seven, both have won international honours and those played in the Leeds team a couple of seasons ago.

Although it is doubtful that the Poly will sponsor another match with the near future, it is hoped the coverage they received on the day and the subsequent publicity in the match day programme for the end of the season will be of great benefit.



Action from the SRL Quarter final with Newcastle. Leeds now face Sheffield for a final place.

By Neil Edwards

Leeds' Cup dreams laid to rest

by Andrew Barnes

It was back to the future for Leeds in the 1984 RFL Cup on Sunday, when the halings which dogged their way in the season returned to send them spinning out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at the hands of Bradford Northern.

The 8-24 goal at Headingley saw Leeds back in their bad old ways, defence like a rusty screw, in-terment bonus headed one-man attacks and a chronic inability to string together more than three half-dozen passes.

A noble first half saw Leeds trailing by 14 points to 8, conceding — among others — the debut of Chris to Bradford captain Paul Finken, when the Leeds defence allowed a gap he could have driven a tank through.

Despite a typically insouciant try from dependable Carl Gillson, Leeds were never close to sleeping their mark on the match.

as they did recently against Wigan.

But if the first half was an unduly sight for the Leavers, the second was a nightmare of unbelievable refereeing which left even the Northern fans sob-eyed with incredulity.

Headingley referee Colin Morris seemed content to hold three-way discussions with Haskin and the rest of the Northern side, yet sent off Leeds' outstanding Craig Coleman for what must have been a death threat judging by Morris's severity.

Only a brief sort of inspection from Roy Powell and Gerry Dwyer salvaged any pride for the Headingley crowd in the shape of a try for Shirey.

But without Coleman's influence Leeds were on their way out, which must bode ill for the Leavers' immediate future. Coleman's last game for Leeds is expected to be Sunday's Shires Winter Championship fixture against Newcastle. Plus ça change...

FOOTBALL

United back to business again

by Billy Miller

Last Saturday's success away to Blackburn will surely signify the end of an uncharacteristically dicky patch for Leeds United.

Previous to that, they had staggered through four matches without a victory although they have emerged unscathed at the top of the table. The twelve period kicked off

with a second thinking of a past life. Brighton side, memorable only for the club's fabulous kick away kit. Three first half goals each, the league, but a failure to score the rest after the break perhaps provided hints that the Leeds case time was in need of a review.

Now came an all-time clash at Bristol Lane, where the division's top two teams fought out a 2-2 draw and provided the level of entertainment expected of such a titanic struggle. But it was a different story at Burnley the next week where the Leeds team alleviated their relegation fears with a surprising 1-0 win.

The Newcastle encounter with the visit of underdogful Chelsea but Joe Royle's team left with a point and the sort of peace that suggests their relegation hopes are far from certain.

While league form, however, it was hoped some light relief would come in the game of a just down Wednesday. Poly, by which were the sacrificial Leeds, but forgot the script and left with a 1-0 win under their belts.

And so to last Saturday, when the run ended with a superb 2-1 success at Ewood Park with debutant Lee Chapman making his first. It would now appear that United have weathered the storm. It is certainly hard to envisage anything stopping them now.



Neil Martin — carried off at Blackburn with injured knee ligaments.

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