

February 23 1990



# Leeds

# STUDENT

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

# 25,000

# Demo success

The last of a series of national anti-loans demonstrations, held in London last week, has been hailed as a great success by the NUS.

25,000 students marched to a rally in Hyde Park, accompanied by large numbers of police. Traffic throughout the centre of the capital was brought to a standstill.

The only trouble came half-way through the march when a contingent from the Socialist Workers Party set down in the middle of Knightsbridge for a "photo-rail". There were nine arrests for public order offences.

Mayor Starlock, General Secretary of NUS, was delighted at the support by students.

"Again it has been a great success, an energetic but good-natured display of the feeling against the loans scheme."

Rob Hunt, UFSU President, expressed his appreciation of student support for the march. He said that the Hyde

Report by  
Patrick Johnson  
and Tim Symonds

technic shutdown on the same day as the march had also been a great success, with only a limited number of pickets needed to persuade students to stay away.

Rob Hunt said, "Although the bill has gone through the Commons it is not inevitable that loans can be introduced before the next election."

UUS General Secretary, Gillian Anderson, was also pleased by what she called a very successful demonstration, though she felt that support was not as strong as it might have been.

"I am quite pleased that five coaches went but there could have been more."



Photo by Owen Beardsfield

However, we went through a main route in London and spirits were very high."

Dennis Goldberg, a great speaker from the African National Congress, brought support from Nelson Mandela, whom he had spoken to in the plane that morning.

"Students in South Africa have not had our government. In your fighting your own battles we have come to say, 'Dear young boys, now'."

The march was timed to coincide with the third reading of the student loans bill in Parliament that evening. Despite the outbreak of a hard-fought rebellion against the government, morale was high amongst the organisers.

Mayor Starlock was adamant that the battle had not been lost.

"This is the last demo but it's not false and the light is not over yet. We will wait until it is known how the scheme will work, but from then on the campaign will continue."

The bill, which only meets the proposals, must be passed by the House of Lords who have the power to delay it. It is thought that current consensus over the workings of the system will mean trouble for the government.

Simon Hughes, MP, Democrat Education Spokesman, promised support in the Lords for the continuing campaign.

"We will make sure that at that critical place the bill will go to we will defeat it."

Labour's Deputy Education Spokesman, Andrew Smith MP, said that a Labour Government would soon remedy the situation.

"We shall clamp down on so-called loans and introduce grants at their full levels. Education is a right and one that should be available for everyone."

There was also widespread opposition from speakers from former's unions, the ambulance workers and the British Union of Students.

**Inside:**  
VCs proposals for funding education

Analysis — p4  
Comment — p7

**Life in the Mind:**  
Study of the problem of mental illness p6  
Expeditions in progress p11

**Plus:**  
**NINE ZERO**  
Women in Hollywood p4/5  
Pale Saints p3  
The Fall p3

**Nelson Mandela Cartoon**

Dealing with the complaints received about the cartoon in last week's issue — p6  
Editorial — p6  
Letters — p7

## Television Guide Remote Controlled by Claire Atkinson

## FRIDAY

- 1** 9:30 **Children's BBC**  
9:30 **Newsnight**  
9:30 **One O'Clock News** and weather
- 9:50 **Look North**  
9:50 **Magpie** with first big youth story on the 100  
9:50 **Kids Take Reading** plans for books and films  
9:50 **Whodunnit** in the country where there are more birds. *Magpie* on the street that weeklies in the world - *Magpie*  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **Magpie** from London featuring *Magpie*  
9:50 **Magpie** from London featuring *Magpie* in only weekly stories about what a reader's experience with the world with a *Magpie*  
9:50 **News 1950s** in London (London) *Magpie* has got to see a magazine's content in their own words. *Magpie*

- 2** 9:50 **International Beauty** beginning new year's coverage  
9:50 **One O'Clock News** and weather
- 9:50 **Look North**  
9:50 **Magpie** with first big youth story on the 100  
9:50 **Kids Take Reading** plans for books and films  
9:50 **Whodunnit** in the country where there are more birds. *Magpie* on the street that weeklies in the world - *Magpie*  
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- YTV** 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
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- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather

- C4** 9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather

## SATURDAY

- 1** 9:50 **Living Good**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather

- 2** 9:50 **Living Good**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
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- C4** 9:50 **Children's TV**  
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## SUNDAY

- 1** 9:50 **Living Good**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
9:50 **News 1950s** and weather
- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
9:50 **News 1950s**  
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- 9:50 **Children's TV**  
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- 2** 9:50 **Living Good**  
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9:50 **News 1950s** and weather

## SQUARE EYES

Everyone - Nothing Will Stop Us. BBC1 10.10 (Sun. 18)

"You can kill men, but you can't kill ideas!" - said one of *El Escapador*'s Editors four weeks before he was shot dead by one of Colombia's many drug barons.

This newspaper, the second best seller and most highly respected in the country has fought a constant battle against the powerful cartels. As if this wasn't enough they have to fight pressure from a thoroughly corrupt government who would not pass extradition laws to rid themselves of the barons.

Everyone - Nothing Will Stop Us. BBC1 10.10 (Sun. 18)

His present Editor has to wear a bullet proof vest. One of his staff put the situation in a neat shell "Everyone I write it's like a gun to my head". The journalists may never see their paper get to the street since the police escort it has been practised frequently fails to turn up. If it does get to the street it's more difficult to get hold of than a joint since the vendors lives are often threatened. One rather blasé vendor had few regrets "If they kill me someone else will sell them."

Everyone - Nothing Will Stop Us. BBC1 10.10 (Sun. 18)

Previewing soap opera seems a silly thing to do since they're on so often and they're perfectly easy to follow even if you've not seen them in weeks. But after coming close to getting completely shrewed, the new executive producer Michael Ferguson, hopes to rescue Eastenders.

In doing it's a 'soap opera' (preferring to call it a popular drama) isn't he being slightly snobbish about a programme which after all was the BBC's only soap success, and possibly the only

good thing Michael Grade provided for them?

Eastenders, began as an exciting and rivetingly hilarious soap, but after its hero and heroine (Den and Angie) left, it completely lost all its vitality. It became dreary and the characters lives were utterly devoid of happiness. It was ripe for rescue that last Eastenders its most devoted following. Ferguson hopes to reverse this process "I'm trying to ensure that while we deal with conflict, whenever possible the approach will be positive because that's what I believe people respond to." Let's hope it gets better, but *Brooklyn's* still the best.

## New pay offer woos lecturers

**P**olytechnic unions are back on an offer to by lecturers to accept an improved pay offer.

Members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) voted by an eighty per cent majority to accept a 6.5 per cent annual award.

As part of the package there is a further one per cent pay increase from last September.

All the unions were told that had been implemented were immediately withdrawn as part of a recognition of normal working practices.

But some unions may have to be postponed until lecturers have caught up with the backlog of marking and other paper writing.

Chris Price, Poly Director,

**Report by  
Patrick Stansell**

It said to have agreed to take on lecturers time to catch up with last year's annual pressure.

The new package means that most is offered to a senior lecturer, who receive an extra lump sum per annum, and to heads of departments.

One of the previous main lines of contention, that part-time lecturers were to be restricted from national negotiations, has however been removed.

Many lecturers are still very unhappy about their professional situation. The

pay offer acceptance is being seen as an undoubted compromise to so not to harm students.

Steve Corbett, NATFHE branch secretary of the city said: "This is a growing down of education, with the government only recognizing one kind of educational institution, the Universities."

"Only an issue to be paid in the disciplinary situation in the next few years."

"The real things in this pay offer were that the date of pay negotiations has slipped later in the year for 3rd September. This means that there will be a negotiating lull before lecturers in a tight situation immediately" he added.

## Lords threaten loans bill

by Susan Lewis

**A** rebellion of Tory Peers in the House of Lords could scupper the Government's plans to implement the Loans scheme by September.

The rebels, led by Lord Bledsoe, intend to defy Government Whips and join Labour and Democratic Peers in taking an amendment which would

introduce the bill being introduced. It would then have to be sent back down to the Commons to start its parliamentary progress again.

The Education (Student Loans Bill) is to come before the Lords in the second reading at the end of this month.

Lord David Gammans, a Conservative and Tory, said: "The bill is to come before the Lords in the second reading at the end of this month."

produces its effects.

On the possibility of a graduate tax, Lord David Gammans described it as "unpopular and... which deserves further consideration."

But he did not see supporting the abolition, describing the attempt to defer them. Around, however, a small amendment and certainly contrary to convention. "The Government's proposal of a graduate tax is a very serious matter. The bill goes into committee but would not be down to us to discuss it."

## Apathy hits elections

by Stephen Berry

**S**tudent apathy marred this week's 1111 non-substantial elections. There was a margin margin of 6% for the elections of the new Communications and Secretaries.

And only 1% of all names students voted for their former Affairs Officers.

Chris Lifford, an Economics student, was elected to the post of Northern Secretary with an overwhelming victory over his rival candidate, Peter Eury.

Alan Feig, studying German and Law History was returned as the new Communications Secretary, and David Houghton, studying Modern Languages was elected as Northern Affairs

Office.

Larry Palmer, LEU's present Administrative Secretary, said that she was disappointed with the number of voters.

"Last year's turn-out was definitely higher, it seems to me that last year's confidence did a lot more work."

Giles Lifford, said to have been one of the new Secretaries, was surprised at his election victory.

"I don't think I'd get any more if I was asked to be involved in the Union. It's been a great experience of mine ever since I started in London."

The Women's Affairs Office, Miss Fotheringham, is also looking forward to her new responsibilities.

"I don't feel good at the job," she said, "it really interests me."

The voters will take up the 1984-85 year after the Easter holidays.



● Settling off the vote in their new jobs. Two of the winners are Martin Marshall and Claire Lifford.

● Mr. Robin Tyrrell

## Closed shop

by Susan Lewis

**S**tudents at Park Lane PE College are to be temporarily deprived of their student Union shop until safety work is carried out.

Leeds PE Department insisted at the beginning of February that unless a smoke detector and automatic smoke screen be installed within the month, the shop must close.

This was serious because due to lack of time to carry out the repairs, before the deadline.

Union officials Adam Tucker and Melissa Hall felt it could just be another step to intimidate the Union and to restrict our services. They were curious as to why the shop hadn't been criticised before in its eight years of existence.

But Marshall Lifford, Director of Student Affairs, listed a number of safety issues, caused by the general tightening up of Fire Department regulations.

The possibility of storing the oil in the Union, especially for safe storage space.

The staff are afraid about the loss of Union funds during the closure, as it is their main source of income.

## Degrees of reason?

Colin Sampson as Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police is to be awarded an honorary degree by Leeds University. Tom Symonds Reports.

**T**he announcement that Colin Sampson, ex-West Yorkshire Chief Constable, is to be awarded an honorary degree from Leeds University has once again caused some to question the map individuals are chosen for such awards.

Since Sampson has been at Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police in 1983 his career has been under scrutiny. His appointment as the creative Yorkshire Ripper hunter has made his position vulnerable to criticism.

The inquiry investigated allegations that the failure of the police to arrest these homicide

is in questioning, but indirectly to the number of five men arrested. Sub-Officer Paul Victor was acquitted of a charge at Leeds University.

Mr. Gammell, the Minister of the Home Office, said: "The fact that the police have been given the power to arrest these men is a significant step in the investigation of the murders. But the claim was eventually made at the House of Lords in 1985."

A selection representing the bill, said Lord Bledsoe that the bill had an objective to the Government's decision to award a degree to Mr. Sampson and that the bill was a significant step in the investigation of the murders. But the claim was eventually made at the House of Lords in 1985.

Giles Lifford, LEU General Secretary, said that the union did not believe it was wrong to award the degree.

"Although many might not like the job he does, we don't have any particular view about him in his remaining this degree."

But the controversy of the degree is not necessarily popular. The Revolutionary Communist Society of the University has made it one of its policy to have been given an honorary degree.

Mr. Houghton of the R.C.S. said that the violence of the police against students at present demonstrations was unacceptable.

"They are the people who live up against us in the streets. The very idea of honoring someone in the police force at all is unacceptable."

There are also those in Emergency Services Meeting of L.U. who said that the degree was a mistake.

But, they said that the R.C.S. would then start a concerted campaign against the proposed

## Leeds Student Editorial Primary.

Those below have a right to vote in an informal primary for the candidates for Leeds Student Editor.

Please attend at the Polytechnic office at 1pm next Wednesday

Robin Perrie  
Kamal Ahmed  
Neil Amos  
Kitty Melrose  
Patrick Johnson  
Suzannah Kinsella  
Andy Skillen  
Alison Phillips  
Stephanie Bentley  
Ed Gyde  
Tim Whitwell  
John Rigby  
Tim Singleton  
Andy Pemberton  
Damian Whitworth  
Andy Harrison  
Richard Hollins  
Phil Smith  
Peter Eavis

Martin Ross  
Adam Higginbotham  
Claire Atkinson  
Andy Glass  
Barry Cawston  
Liz Bell  
Anthony Keavary  
Sam Gosling  
Julian Priest  
Robin Tyrrell  
Colin Prosser  
Gay Flashman  
Sarah Bond  
Simon Manby  
Carolynne Elliot  
Mary Williams  
Sara Mason  
Nick Isaac  
Michael Hann  
Tom Symonds



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# MacGregor rejects Parkes loans plan

by Alan Phillips

A graduate tax scheme proposed by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in place of student loans has been flatly rejected by Secretary of State for Education, John MacGregor.

CVP members had agreed unanimously to administering loans, following the withdrawal of the High Street banks, only if loans requirements were made through a graduate tax.

But at Monday evening of the first meeting between MacGregor and the CVP since the Roper Paper on Student Loans was published, the Secretary of State refused to even discuss the graduate tax proposal.

Now the CVP are pledging to cooperate with loans only so far as the law requires.

And they are demanding no payment for all legally imposed work.

Chairman of the CVP, and Vice-Chancellor of Leeds



• Sir Edward Parkes

University of Edward Parkes, told Leeds Student of his fears for higher education in the light of the graduate tax scheme having been discussed in favour of Student Loans.

"It seems to me to suggest that the government is deter-

mined to push this measure through as an act of political law, rather than listening to sensible argument."

"It will simply tear away students from their academic landings, who have an understandable objection of

getting into debt."

He told this would only enhance the middle-class values of Universities.

CVP representatives told MacGregor at Monday's meeting that they recognised some of the cost of expansion should be borne by the direct beneficiaries.

Their graduate tax scheme was intended to incorporate this with the availability of grants which would be later paid back in a proportion of National Insurance or tax, if the individual's income was above average earnings.

The CVP's own alternative scheme has also come under fire, being regarded as a half-way house to the State scheme.

U.U. Education Secretary, Nicola Butler told Leeds Student: "I think any form of student loans scheme or graduate tax will deter people from entering higher education and will be very damaging to the education system."

She told the CVP proposals would also have had "catastrophic consequences for access to Higher Education

and Principals, to discuss alternative remedies to the situation.

Students included with governing government grants from institutions with "no platform" policies, applied for example racist or fascist speakers.

by this time

Good Smith, the largest barber in the small town of Hyde Park Corner, fits into student life in much the same way as the Union food service in the Oldham shop. What he does may not be spectacularly exciting, but he's there and he's cheap.

Good then students and others arrive and help in a variety of ways he deals with problems ranging from students writing in to helping them find work during the summer.

Under no illusions as to why he is popular, "cheap" in his simple manner, he also claims to be more of a friend than the other hairdressers.

"Then people, but they're not rapping them off." Good's philosophy is one price only (£1).

Good is a hairdresser who believes that a quack is a quack. Look both ways and he is proud to be a Yorkshireman, strongly believing for instance that Yorkshire County Cricket team should consist only of the parent club. Students inclined to disagree may remain silent in order to stop the hairdresser's rant and raves becoming too loud.

He once gave up hairdressing to be able to watch football on Saturday afternoons, but the call of the



## FIRST PERSON

clucking scissors drew him back.

Despite physical appearances for loans he has not been cut in mind for five years, but this summer he is going to the Fair Holiday Club, "you've got to laugh at it," he says.

He took over the business on Hyde Park Corner in 1972, but has been coming here all his life. The previous barber was not particularly involved with students, they didn't get their hair cut in those days.

In 1972 he was charging 45p for a haircut and, according to him, he was doing it for a year.

His hair cut the shop has just been extended by twelve years, so thousands more students may yet witness their precious locks in Good's scissors.

## Backbenchers pressure govt for NUS reform

to leave them

The government is again considering major reforms of the NUS and Student Unions, in response to mounting pressure from Conservative

backbenchers.

Proposals include ending government funding of the NUS, statutory membership of student unions and introducing voluntary Student Union affiliation to the NUS.

However, Secretary of

State for Education, John MacGregor has opposed to university and polytechnics in an attempt to restrict legislation.

At a meeting between MacGregor met with representatives of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors

and Principals, to discuss alternative remedies to the situation.

Students included with governing government grants from institutions with "no platform" policies, applied for example racist or fascist speakers.

## PASTIFICIO

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(Student Union Card that is)

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# Going for the young vote

Home Office ponders prospect of 18 year old MPs

**Monday 20th February 1980**  
Lord Fraser revealed that he really was a fat misanthropic man and suggested that if someone was old enough to die for their country then they should be old enough to stand for Parliament. Arriving at the respectable age of eighties, the peerly grand old man, should move more than getting drunk in the local houses, seeing that that area is to what interests most people on arriving at the threshold of the probably subliminal prime candidates for membership of the House. Not that it matters, nor one agreed with him.

**New evidence casts doubts upon guilt of Birmingham Six**

**Tuesday 19th February 1980**  
Doubts were beginning their ready journey towards serious inquiries over the validity of the trial concerning the Birmingham Six. Patrick Hill and William Power, two of those convicted, had gone through trials which supposedly found traces of explosives on their hands.

The very expert who had said that these tests were 99% certain of producing a correct result, John Yelverton, revealed that he too wasn't so sure. Apparently positive results could have equally been produced by the presence of cigarette smoke rather than nitro-glycerine.

Lord Denning, admittedly not quite as old then as he is now, still stuck by his guns



and said that the case should not be reopened. This questionable official sanctioned the equally questionable official that the incriminations were not bearing up in the police cells but only by the prison officers, when it was too late to affect their consciences. Well, that's OK then, so further questions? M'lord.

The veritable Lord should have got involved in seeing bootprints earlier in his career, can't do as much damage there at least.

**Prior announces curbs on picketting**

**Wednesday 20th February 1980**

The judiciary, that well known friend of the status, were given extra powers to curb

serenaders picketting during strikes by that at least well known friend of the great British worker, Mr Jim Prior. Considering the fact that it was the undersecretary for Employment Secretary by Mrs Thatcher it is surprising that he was willing to carry the can for the Iron Lady.

It seems that no one was too sure about what the new proposals actually meant. Jim Prior stood about a bit and finally came out with the argument that trade unions should not be taking action for some unreasonable motive. He followed this by saying that any action by a union must be 'reasonably capable of furthering the trade dispute in question. No wonder Maggie seethed him. Thanks Jim, clear to go!

**Cousins' day of Gold**

**Thursday 21st February 1980**

At last a bit of good news. Get the champagne and wait the travellers into the street for our men Robin Cousins. He had done his little best and to win gold in the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. After the medal went the usual 'happy' interview he disappeared and began to make himself a reputation in the professional entertainment world. Pity, nowadays we have to rely on the likes of that horrible little Robin Edwards for any chance of singing 'Up the Girls' during the season of snow.

**Scots on the rocks**

**Friday 22nd February 1980**

And once... more sport. Heated talks were continuing between the football authorities, Lord Fems their wads, and Lord on Transport and British Rail who were a right scuffed old lot having, for the comparatively time, to transport a load of tons of scolding Scots to the famous slaughter the season to at Wembley.

A report by the London Transport representative, Mr Cape (who wasn't sure that his staff could, revealed that fans were more intent on beating each other, than on general passivity) rather than watching a game of football. The plan seemed to be for travelling supporters that they should make the most noise possible in England before reentering back north of the border. Really lads, is that any way to treat a country that gives you the Conservative Government?

The transport authorities sent a letter to the Home Office asking for the fans to be moved permanently to Scotland. Magic! If you can't solve the problem, then at least make it.

**Written by Kamal Ahmed**

## NUS SPRING CONFERENCE — continued

Simon Pollock  
Law  
NUS Spring Conference  
Renato Labi  
Gillian Anderson



Will you kindly reduce the cost when the poll is taken this April? But there is enough housing to accommodate mass students, or will they live in cars? Will NUS ever do anything about the evils of racism and fascism? Vote for a LAMOUR JONES! who CAN'T. Vote SIMON POLLOCK 5.

Joel Passio  
Economic & Social  
Studies  
NUS Spring Conference  
Amenda Golden  
Renato Labi



We must have an NUS representative of all students — maintain the grade system, delaying the vote scheme, once and for all. Nothing must be brought up to the assembly standards to protect student welfare. Vote for a candidate who is concerned with students, no political or religious — vote Passio 1.

Patricia Sharma  
Economics  
NUS Spring Conference  
Rob Pear  
Nigel Hensley



I am an independent candidate, who is against the extremist organisations which control NUS. If you want to "push the extreme left", and use NUS influence and have a new direction, Vote Sharma 1.

## HOW ABOUT BEING THE FIRST SPORTS SECRETARY?

**You would have to**

- Chair General Athletics Committee
- Liase with Sports Office
- Assist the Financial Affairs Secretary with the funding of Athletics Club
- Represent the Union on sporting bodies.

Just collect papers from the PORTERS during the week beginning **MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY** Return them to Lucy in Exec. by **MONDAY 5TH MARCH**

**Voting-Monday 12th  
and Tuesday 13th March**

**Voting is on  
Mon 26th and Tues 27th  
in WU Foyer**

## SERVICES

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## PERSONAL

Blondie good girl up at nothing else

J. T. T. - You scratch "Get your 30 off"

In the bathroom there were not alone you were great

Red Dineen - you're your sister's "Get your 30 off"

Happy Birthday Leach

"Come to me that - it could be a dog and something else"

Jeff - You're not an ad for you 300, a just an ad for you

Wes. Equine Man 3000. Tel

Leach/Leach/Leach/Leach 23 to 25

## Model is Dineen

Ford, Rose produced the Police station set

Big thanks to Tom, Bill, Tom, etc. all the friends, late changes, everyone else helped to decide money to 3000. We could! Love, John. It without you Love John and Leach

Leach/Leach/Leach/Leach 23 to 25

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## SOCIAL SERVICES SECRETARY

### Responsible for

#### — Grants

#### — Accommodation

#### — Overseas, mature, post graduate & part-time students

This is a non-sabbatical Exec position. You would work as part of a team with other Exec members & welfare staff.

### IF INTERESTED

Collect papers from the union porters' office during the week beginning

**Monday 26th February**

Return them to

**Lucy in Exec by 10.00 a.m. by**

**Monday 5th March**

**VOTING IS ON MONDAY 12TH & TUESDAY 13TH MARCH**

## Corporal Punishment

The corporal will have trouble negotiating my specially placed bottle



against my better judge ment / assisted him



Then when I saw the corporal attempting to relax during the exercise I attempted to motivate him



The corporal appeared to be staggering but only as expected after completing the gruelling course



David & David School Leach/Leach/Leach/Leach 23 to 25

MARTIN • ROSH DIE

# Bowels and Bureaucracy

Rob Sturges looks at the revival of LUU Expedition Society

Some on earth do people get an expedition? I frequently get asked this question and it is not least interesting why people usually associate expedition with images of Scott of the Antarctic, and life or death struggles against a hostile wilderness.

Fortunately the mortality rate of expeditions has fallen dramatically since then, which is good news for all potential explorers. Indeed the success of ventures like Operation Bligh has helped to promote the idea of expeditions for the young and a growing number are being sent out from British Universities. At Cambridge for example, over twenty expeditions are organised each year.

It was with this intention that the LUU Expedition Society was revived last year after having lain dormant for

over a decade. A member of staff, Dr Anton from the Department of Biology was then chosen to be the Honorary President of the Society. His involvement in Operation Bligh and then Operation Bligh, as the Director of Research, made him an ideal choice to help would-be explorers form expeditions.

The effect has been quite noticeable — in the space of a year a number of world-wide research projects have been planned for the summer of 1990. They range from evolutionary research in Romania to an anthropological study of Bedouin Villagers in Jordan. The places to be visited are as diverse as the projects while one team of Leeds students will be operating in the lawless Orangean swamps of Botswana, another intends to conduct a microbiological

survey at altitudes of up to 10,000 ft in the Himalayas.

However despite this there is still a dearth of interest in the Expedition Society. There is potential for a far greater number of expeditions to be sent out and now is the time of year to start planning projects for the summer of 1991.

But a joint Yorkshire trip to the National Park in Idaho is already being organised.

Planning an expedition is a lengthy process that requires a positive commitment from its members but it does offer the chance to travel to regions that would not normally be visited by the average tourist. The first step that should be taken is to identify an area of the world to go to in conjunction with a project that can be performed there. The current climate of media hype surrounding 'Green' issues pro-



Camel safari in North Korea, 1989

File by K. Thompson

with those willing to carry out research into the environment, and so such projects are really scientific.

The other hand there is great scope for Arts students to participate in expeditions, and aspects of the study can often be combined with other activities like climbing or water-skiing canoeing.

Problems will, of course, be encountered in organising an

expedition but it is a rewarding experience in itself to overcome these. The most difficult stage for any trip is the fund raising. Limited funds are available from the University Expedition Fund and there are also travel grants from the Union. Nevertheless, it is often necessary to apply to charities and secure the following figure is the amount for sponsors.

If you are at all interested in forming or helping with an expedition for the summer of 1991 then there will be a meeting in the Original Club pub in Huddersley on Thursday 1st March.

Discussions will include troubles with foreign bureaucracy and travel problems, both of the latter may not have had there — but then look what happened to him!

# Student pedalling power set to cross the world

The 'Vorbildung' Dales? Born there, Europe, the Alps, France, Italy and Spain? Seen it, Ireland and Central America? Done it. What next?

Chris James, Helen Davies, Jonathan Green and Mark Wright are between them planning to cycle across four continents in search of adventure and excitement.

These journeys will take them from their home in England overland to Australia and then Canada to Argentina. Through their epic adventures they hope to raise money for third world charities while fulfilling personal ambition.

Chris and Helen set off from Charing Cross, London, last November. On 15 February on their journey to the other side of the world, recent Leeds University graduates, they have been working to raise funds for the trip.

These roads will take them through Europe to India, the Middle East and the Himalayas during spring and summer, travelling through China, Thailand and Indonesia over year and their aid-raised arrival in Australia May 1990. The journey will be £12,000 under.

Jonathan and Mark, also University graduates, intend to leave in August this year, after Jonathan has finished his exams. They will travel from



Jonathan Green and Mark Wright heading for Argentina.

Cambridge where they should be completely baffled during their travels.

Chris says it is the bicycle is the best method of travel, allowing the rider to come into close contact with the countryside and the people they will meet, while causing no environmental damage.

Desire visions of emerging material and political Britain are tempered by the dangers and discomforts which inevitably replace 'home' as a point of reference. 'Could you sleep every night in a cramped one-person tent, pack it up the next morning, carry it between 50 and 60 miles, unpack it that evening and do it all over again for a year?'

Notes of dubious quality will provide relief from extreme heat and dehydration. The crossing seems and does seem to be a daunting task, but it is a challenge that is worth the effort.

The prospect of riding in a civil war or being attacked by bandits is also worrying. Jonathan and Mark do not intend to camp beyond Central America, say the risks. The realities of world politics also impinge suddenly on the route for the two.

Jonathan and Mark do not intend to camp beyond Central America, say the risks. The realities of world politics also impinge suddenly on the route for the two. Jonathan and Mark do not intend to camp beyond Central America, say the risks. The realities of world politics also impinge suddenly on the route for the two.

campuses have their uses.

Jonathan and Mark's American friends in the official Leeds University expedition, with 1991 the Duchess of East among the patrons. They hope to raise £25,000 for Action Aid and Streetwise International, an organisation helping for the rights of children.

On their way through South America they intend riding organisations caring for children who are the victims of deprivation and persecution. Information gathered will help Streetwise International highlight what they call a 'silent emergency' in order to produce the will to bring about improvements.

Chris and Helen ride a lot for International. Jonathan, a charity helping Third World countries with its mail-to-mail engineering technology.

The charity will be £12 per student. More details are available from Ross Anderson at the Poly Sports Office.

# Round up

LUU Men's HOCKEY 20th drew clear of the relegation area with a convincing 3-0 victory over fellow Huddersley League strugglers, Appleton on Saturday.

A post-herb had back from Elliot Moss, backed up by a solid team performance, ensured that the Old team's challenge to the 1st team was never challenged despite being held at 1-1 for most of the first half.

Tables are being requested for next term's Intra-Annual CRICKET competition in which Doncaster Hall will be looking to retain their title.

Forms are available from Sue Jackson at the University Sports Office.

Leeds Poly are leading the list of what is a hoped will be an annual outdoor RAIL KNOX DU competition.

The event is open to all students and will be run on a semi-contact basis. It will last all day starting at 9am, and will include a demonstration.

The entry list will be £12 per student. More details are available from Ross Anderson at the Poly Sports Office.

Finally, Leeds Student is most pleased not only to have worked with Maffell, but also to have beaten her normally — not on the dance floor but on the FOOTBALL pitch.

Maffell, who belong to the Geography department, lost 5-5 in what was the Student Union's first 100-mile relay since October.

February 23rd Leeds Echo 21



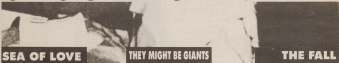


MAGAZINE  
VOLUME 2 23 February 1990

A LOOK AT HOW HOLLYWOOD REPRESENTS WOMEN



# SHOOTING WOMEN



SEA OF LOVE

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS

THE FALL

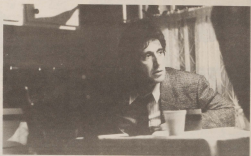
# SEAL OF APPROVAL

Al Pacino's new film *SEA OF LOVE* is currently showing at the Odeon. ADAM WISHTHURSTHILL changed his surname to Gorkovskiy and went along.

**R**arely do bedroom love-scenes have only one protagonist. This is the rationale that saves confused audiences attempting to explain the series of rising dead a. feels as the effortless sound of a deep-throated crooning "Come with me into the sea of love welcomes it into a soft lit apartment at the beginning of 'Sea of Love'. Here the song and the [brightest] apocryphal that accompanies it, in deep in this film, and drastically alter expectations of what formulaic thriller are supposed to be all about.

In 'Sea of Love', conventional structures which have previously undergone only minor cosmetic tweaks are subjected to intricate structural alterations, founded to rely on Al Pacino's performance. Cast as a veteran New York police detective, Frank Keller, who has descended into dejected alcoholism in the wake of his losing the opportunity for a pithy and disbelievable characterisation are immense. However, when he is assigned to investigate a series of homicide murders, and falls in love with the prime suspect, Helen (Ellen Barkin), his alcoholism lends an important dimension to the film.

Drinking and working provide the only permanent niches for a man bereft of sleep, emotional support. Therefore when he glimpses a chance of finding such support in a relationship with a potential psychopath, he grasps



uncertainly at it and is dragged into further confusion and anxiety. Unable to investigate her background for fear of discovering she is guilty, though increasingly suspicious that she is, Keller's relationship with Helen is built upon further questioning and deepening sex.

The speed of the plot and Pacino's

portrayal of drunken compulsion ensure that the audience further questions to the same conclusion as the belaboured detective, making any comfortable and objective Pacino oeuvre practically impossible. When a character confesses "I'm sorry, I wasn't", the audience shares Keller's frustration that everything in life is doomed to

tragic disintegration.

The major flaw of 'Sea of Love' is that its resolution grows, against the grain, that everything is not, the conclusion of an upstart ending in a film reduced to a pair of dark foreboding grows a disappointing concession to American cinematic niceties.



## GREY AREAS

**WHEN I FALL IN LOVE** may be a song by Nat King Cole but it is also now a rather dodgy sounding film starring Dennis Quaid. However, CALVIN WOOLSTON discovered that it wasn't worth completely panicking.

**O**n the face of it the idea of a film entitled 'When I Fall In Love' doesn't set the pulse racing. Further does the prospect of spending time in the company of an American college football hero known as the "Grey Ghost" and his childhood sweetheart "Bliss." But hang on in there because despite the somewhat leader plot, the heart of this film is in the right place.

Co-star Taylor Hackford's career path across twenty-five years, through the movies and television, following the progress of one Gavin Grey (Dennis Quaid) from his youthful college days in 1958 to a painful maturity. We see given the full benefit of make-up, prosthetic, and documentary footage (a.k.a. 'The Rock And Roll Years').

Quaid, fresh from playing Jerry Lee Lewis in 'Great Balls Of Fire' has done his merited acting job and comes with the physical and emotional decline of the boy that with better hands and the hottest leg in Louisiana, Jessica Lange provides a strong supporting performance as "Bliss", the one time Marilyn Davis who saves Grey from the attentions of politicians and glory seekers.

Running parallel to this are the very different lives of Grey's adoring cousin Danny (Thomas Hurns) who becomes a history professor and Carl Lumbly's portrayal of a contemporary black player who denies himself fame as a footballer for the sake of politics and business.

It's not all that clear who comes out best but Grey's reduction that the legend of the "Grey Ghost" belongs to the past ensures him to start a second life and romance with "Bliss". It's a sentimental message but the film manages to successfully balance this farcical side of American myth with the reality of human frailty.

# NUTTY BOYS

Leads guitar hopefuls, THE NUTTY BOYS, have just released their new LP, *The Comforts of Madness*, and will be playing at the Warehouse on the 27th of this month. PAUL SMITH assesses the latest offering of this seriously escalated band.

Perhaps it is not so strange, but even though they have only released one record so far, the delightfully reckless *Nutty Boys* are the presence of *Sniff E.P.* It is perfectly all right to where the *Nutty Boys* are coming from. Their references have been quoted to the point of cliché but what is crucial in understanding their music is the manner in which they approach it and their presence in the euphoric spirit of freedom. Heck, they are so enamoured with the idea of leaved guitar sounds, even the gaps between tracks are elegantly filled with squalls of noise. However, their saving grace is their complete lack of pretension, such as that inherent in their easily reformist contemporaries, The Sundays.

So ignoring the inflated claims made on their behalf, *The Comforts of Madness* is a reassuringly adventurous debut album which elevates the *Nutty Boys* above the greater world of the 'indie' ghetto, and for above any of the famous contemporaries, that will inevitably be made.

The opening "May the world is unconvincing, lacking both melody and power but "You know the world is real" is a stunning example of a voice riding the waves of the surging guitar and finally belittling the "real" accusations. *Sea of Sound* is an apt title as the cleverly textured guitars and the accompanying feedback conjure up images of the arctic yet coastal scene, far more effectively than any sampler could. And Little Hammer with its

space acoustic arrangement positively glows with understated beauty.

Underable highlights, but even these gain in comparison with the ubiquitous "Sign of you", this *Nutty Boys* between the aforementioned and much lauded

syndicates of power and melody and quite simply encapsulates the spirit of their appeal: the contrast between the two, which is handled far more subtly than other so-called noise merchants.



Singles reviewed by  
Richard Hollins  
Records supplied by  
Crash Records

**Perpetuum Socium - "Loaded E.P."**  
(Cassette)  
"Loaded" is the sound of Being Bizarre and his cohorts finally letting the lo-tech groove. Groove being the operative word as most disc spinners. And the *Perpetuum Socium* is the towering rock beast that the *Perpetuum* have recently melted into, restructuring it into the side of beautifully stepped down ancient noise.

The method is fairly simple. Take the actually quite fine "I'm losing more" and some samples, tone down (and out) any unnecessary guitars (i.e. all of them), stretch out the groove and even the all too common sound of some heavy band regaining tempo is all but disguised.

**Mass Attraction - "It's never spurned"**  
(EP/album)  
Since the demise of Soft Cell, Mass Attraction's main problem has been finding a song that is good enough to carry his voice and yet still manage to keep the steady stream of cash rolling into the coffers. Now, after what is the most satisfactory album in his solo career, last year's rather good set of *Jealous Best* cover versions, the unimpeachable band "Jealous" had illustrated just what he can do with some good material. This over-produced and underused album piece of someone else has no focus whatsoever.

**On Heat - "Back Live"** (EP/album)  
Nothing more than some innocuous front edged disc track, taking a fragmented and accurate view of the Yellow Sub "The Blue". Complete with lyrics that are obviously meant to be seen and not heard, I mean "We've got a thing and it's called roller love - it really could be a success... if so, it will definitely get On Heat firmly on the road to being The Modern Romance of the nineties.

**The Morning Hillbillies - "Your own sweet way"** (EP/album)  
Mark Murphy's 1990s update of the Irish and traditions of being a magazine and having a wee harem. The Morning Hillbillies are yet another vehicle for an ageing rock star and his attempts to get "back to his roots". So, with this in mind, Mark puts in more guitars and backing vocals.



takes out the keyboards, and "Your own sweet way" rather aptly puts voices along. A real treble medium price number of a record.

**Blackfoot - "Gang of one"** (EP/album)  
The spring guitar solo kicks are misanthropic about where Blackfoot are coming from, and going to, into touch. Despite the over-saturated chug, Blackfoot come to bury the nothing class in their subtle populations, not to praise them, and in doing so turn up the cause of the club-festive youth. I was looking guilty of some serious underage drinking. But leaving the typical minority aside, it is a fantastic rap to a rock - the volume of sensuality in "Black" - more used as an instrument of accusation and triumph, to great effect, which takes the honours.

# RIDING FOR A FALL

THE FALL have just released their new LP, cheekily entitled *Extricate*. MICHAEL HANN gives it a considered listen.

Mark E. Smith has not been the same since he stopped singing about football hooligans. "Kicker Conspiracy" is the Fall song, spelling ball all over the turntable is a mish of unruly guitars and bass. Unfortunately, that was seven years ago and there has been very little worthwhile stuff from the Fall since, barring "The Wonderful and Frightening World Of...LP".

*Extricate* is Mark E. Smith's much heralded change of direction, and he was gone the whole way: colour, affect on the sleeve, faces and close up of the songs, and an all-star production team including Coburn and Adrian Sherwood. And what are the results? Wet and mispel. "Bill is Dead" is probably the worst Fall song yet. Smith should not be singing "these are the greatest times of my life", he should return to "George Best Togs" or "Rollerballer". The transition to women does not work. A generation grew up with this man, and a generation expects something better than sentimentality.

The title is always half the fun of



a Fall LP, and this time we have got "Sing Harry" and "Pocoon Double Feature" amongst others. But once again, when are these compared with the golden past of "There I Was" "Classic Man" or "More Pouty Thing 54-7". Nothing, that's what. The Fall surrendered all valid claims on our affections when they became a design covers band, and there is nothing in this LP to reason their claims.

On an old Fall live LP Smith heckled a member of the audience: "Are you still doing what you did ten years ago? Well don't make a career out of it." He should have followed his own advice.

## NINE ZERO CREDITS

EDITOR - ROBIN PERRE

MUSIC EDITOR - ANDREW PEMBERTON

ARTS EDITOR - DAMIAN HETWORTH

ARTS SLUR - ANDY BURGESS

AND MICHAEL HANN

FEATURES EDITOR - GUY FLAHERTY

# DOOMY HOLLYWOOD

# VAMPS AND

**H**ollywood has a lot to answer for: the U.S. film industry is not only the largest in the world, providing entertainment for the biggest markets, but is also an immense financial concern. What part have women played in the nice Hollywood's fortunes? SUE COOPER assesses the stereotyping and passivity of women on celluloid.

As in almost every sphere of American society, the dollar dominates film culture — without a potential market success, films simply are not made. Thus, production is carried out with a mass audience in mind to maximise profit, reflecting, as well as influencing, the trends and attitudes around us. How women are viewed on screen therefore reveals much about how women are generally seen within, and by, society. As the U.S. is arguably one of the most liberated and open societies in terms of attitudes to, and opportunities for, women, a scrutiny of its film culture makes a mockery of any notion that male chauvinism and the accompanying attitudes to women, are on their way out.

Women tend to be badly represented in the film industry, both in terms of their involvement in production and, more importantly, their portrayal on screen. Almost universally, women are represented through archetypes, with minimum character structure conforming to male ideals and interpretations. Screen stars, both male and female, represent ideals, but female screen personas are seen as metaphors for all women. Male dataproducts, the images of women presented are either appendages of fantasies of men — they are not stable, innovative forces in their right. They neither instigate nor mould the narrative; they are present in film to act as recognition or reassurance to the male protagonist.

Women in film are almost universally defined in terms of sexuality — they display greater characteristics rather than individuality. In the interwar period, stars like Mae West succeeded in the patriarchal studio system by embodying a transgressive strength — but is, strength defined in male terms and conforming to male interpretations. With broad shoulders and luscious curves, actresses like Charlotte Gilbert and Dietrich made their name with images conforming to the dominant male-oriented ideology. West was forceful and compelling in that she chased men (but she only had two kinds — domestic and foreign) rather than being receptive. This still conforms to the notion that

getting a man and marriage is the mainstay of a existence. Even an independent woman is not so independent of her need for a man. In addition, like West were typified with their personalities being subverted by their screen personas. They became merely metaphors for certain characteristics.

The war created an increasingly important role for women, but this was not reflected in screen as female archetypes still represented in general. Women played either evil vamps or mothers figures redeeming their men. In *Casablanca* only in relation to men, bringing out all that is in them, redeeming them. Her life decisions are for her men. Other box-office hits included *Double Indemnity* and *Sunset Boulevard* in which females like Stenwick and Gloria Graham embodied, only side of female nature (as interpreted).

Although women in the 1940s were often strong and decisive entities, they were not seen as a part of their individuality. Actresses like Ava Gardner, although beautiful, embodied a coldness which was sympathetic. The way roles were left to women like Betty Grable who appeared kindly very late.

By the 1950s, things had taken a turn for the worse with a crisis in feminism in the U.S. The image of women as purely a one-dimensional sex was really not off, typified by Monroe, but also other blondes like Jayne Mansfield. Monroe has represented the ultimate object of male lust — she on screen as nothing more than her sexuality, caring, vulnerable, soft and sensual (contrasting with the other images of West, Gilbert, Stenwick et al). She is a focus for male sexual fantasy. In *The Seven Year Itch* her character has distinct from Monroe her name — she is known only as 'Mr. Goo'. As she is the embodiment of a sexual ideal, she is



# Virgins

need a name as this would represent some kind of indecisive identity, she is not a person, but an object of desire who cannot be touched and must be captured and controlled, as she is in *'Blue Sky'* and *'How To Succeed In A Millionaire'*.

In contrast to this purely sexual image, the late 1950s also saw a boom in the virginal archetype. Doris Day and, later, Julie Andrews represented the virtuous subprofessional virgin image. By definition, a virgin is a woman untouched and therefore waiting or in need of a man, thus both the established virginal and sexual icons are male definitions and ideals of women.

By the mid-1960s, the film industry hit a slump and widescreen films were rare. At the same time, feminism came into its own, threatening men's dominant position in society. The Horne archetype gave way to a more sensitive portrayal of women, whose characters embodied both sexiness and strength. Actresses like Bette Midler, Al MacGrath and Faye Dunaway found fame but these stars retained female bids for the real state and money careers such as McQueen, Reynolds and Newman. Hollywood worked to perpetuate the myth of the nuclear family in films like *'Kramer vs Kramer'* where the woman is seen to betray the family defying women in terms of their male partners and/or families. Romantic comedies became popular in Hollywood, underwriting the male myth that all a woman needs is a man — even careerist women are simply filling time, waiting for Mr. Right, who will collect their identities through love and marriage.

As men still control the cinematic medium, things have changed very little in the 1990s. It is very rare for a film to have a female protagonist. Male-centred narratives are still the norm. Even films like *'Honey, I Shrunk The Kids'* which attempt to portray women as successful individuals, fail in that the story is still centred around a man. Some directors have attempted to break the mould, like Claudia Weill with *'Girlfriends'*, but have given in to commercial considerations and returned to orthodox images. This

reflects an underlying tension — that cinema audiences prefer, or are willing to accept without question, the male-centred ideology which abounds in popular culture. Hollywood always produces for the market and the market provides a selling place for male heroes and interpretations.

It could be argued that for women's representation in film, things have got worse. The 1990s have seen a run of masculine adventure films such as *'Rambo'*, *'Indiana Jones'* and the Vietnam films. Militaristic and macho heroes are on the rise, as is violence against women in film — women are inherently seen as victims, rather than perpetrators of violence. The 1990s have very much been a decade of the *action* — women are still represented through the romantic interest or as the mother figure.

Archetypes are less constricting in the 1990s, but women are still defined in relation to men. Strong women still represent male characteristics such as Sigourney Weaver in *'Glory'* and *'Working Girl'*. Careerist women are still waiting for Mr. Right (who seems to be taking a long time) such as Kathryn Turner in *'Rescuing the Sinner'*. Stars like Meg Ryan and Laura play women defined by their femininity, a more subtle interpretation of the sex icon archetype.

Although female narrative films are rare, even rarer still are films in which it is essential that the protagonist is male. Productions like *'Annie Hall'*, *'Back to the Future'* and even *'Indiana Jones'* would work equally well with a few role reversals and adaptations. But, as film production is a male preserve, male interpretations are to be expected.

The representation of women in film clearly indicates the preponderance of men in society.

The basic assumptions made about women are made about groups in society. Film reflects and mimics life, thus unless women realise their capabilities and change their expectations, they will be confined to supporting roles and the age of the heroine, the virgin and the vamp will be here to stay.

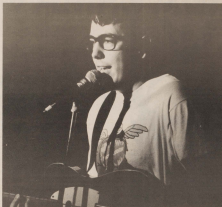
# BIG FUN

Last week, critics' favourite **THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS** came to the Duchess of York. **JASON DUMM** was there to see what all the fuss is about.

**A**rtists, even more than students, find it hard to be happy without veering toward reality, so it is indeed a blessing that TMOG cannot examine the human condition without giggling. They get big laughs out of the fact that, despite having only eighty seats to play with, most of us find time to be jealous, hateful, bigoted, paranoid or conceited. It's a laugh, then!

But tonight was no cross-dressing comedy. Their theatrical sense of the absurd, a fairly vital ingredient when mixing blistering rock guitar with a Fellini accordion and a tuba, derives directly from their enthusiasm. I thought the theme is obscured by their telegraphic delivery: the premise is that TMOG have straggled their shoelaces at all the big issues. The songs are facilely classed together to favour a xenophobic point like "Why Am I Black?", or "Should I Be Black?" Five from such concerns, they flip up and down in the realm of possibilities, that part of your head that hasn't been numbed by everyday language or habitual experience. So "Bedhouse in Your Soul" is a love song, but you'd have to be in the know to see it as such.

The song structures are anything but structured, quirky stage gestures that would bridge the chasm of attention spans. The duo themselves are equally as marginal, guitarists limping through with his instrument like he was hiding something embarrassing from the view. It's all glossed with the malice that helped them to displace U2 from the top of the US college charts, proving that there is justice in the world, even if there is precious little logic to enter. *They Might Be Giants* are the best rock act since *Pink Floyd*. No doubt.



## THEATRE

- ACTION CO-ORDINATOR
- ENTS SECRETARY
- LEEDS STUDENT EDITOR

**Nominations open:**  
10am Monday 26th February

**Nominations close:**  
2pm Friday 2nd March

**Papers available from the  
PORTERS' OFFICE**

**VOTING:**  
Cross-campus on  
**MONDAY 12th and  
TUESDAY 13th MARCH**

## ANIMAL PASSIONS

THE ONE OFF THEATRE COMPANY  
(ex Leeds Poly students) last week  
presented Edward Albee's 2001  
STORY in the spring season at the  
Theatre in the Mill in Bradford. **JANE  
ANDERSON** thinks it's worth going  
along.

**T**he scene was set: a funeral parlour, bench, half white, half black in a secluded suburb of Manhattan's Central Park. Enter Peter Francis Maguire playing *Mr Average American* who is confronted by Gerry (Chris West) the archetypal 'yul' who just will not go away.

The two actors earned their roles well in a play that confuses and suffocates the action. Gerry, complete with black eyes, black nostrils, black jeans, black everything and camp New York accent, was convincingly menacing. His black obsessions monopolised a confused, lonely homosexual life spent trapped up in a badly apartment, coping with — amongst other animals — his car, every business stolen weekly. Gerry clearly expects Peter — the man who appears to have accomplished the American Dream — as part of his nightmare too. Peter is like a married man and publisher is revealed as waste pen full of nagging hypocrisies.

When Gerry manages to visit Peter into killing him, the violent ending is somewhat predictable, in a play that was generally interesting, the climax took a turn for the melodramatic, culminating when Peter crashed off stage in a shocked realisation of his homicidal life the audience realised that the tension of the play had been shed at last.

**SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS** is currently running at the Grand Theatre. **ANDREW HARR** went along, eager to see if Barry McGuigan's acting extended to more than "Yes Mr. Lawrence."

**W**hy is pantomime such an essential part of the British cultural experience? It seems very odd that a hangover from the days of music hall, something so unashamedly — there is no better word — vulgar, should retain such a grip on our affections. Thus I was extremely surprised to see a virtually full house at the Grand on a wet and windy night in mid-February.

It is very tempting to make cheap jokes at anything featuring such talents as Linda Lusard, Barry McGuigan and Sir Francis, but 'Snow White' was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

'Cockapop' had not prepared me for the real comic talents of Sir Francis, who managed to achieve his way through a series of disasters, collapsing acts and disorganising props amongst them. Unfortunately, Francis was forced to carry the show alone in the absence of any other half talented individuals. Linda Lusard brought to acting what Sir Francis brought to singing, and Barry McGuigan might perhaps consider retiring to some living for a while — perhaps several hundred years — before coming back on to the stage.

However, the greatest disappointment was the singing. No cantabile style songs for us. No, instead we had Linda singing along to a pre-recorded version of Bonny's "I've Been So Long Yul", thanks, but no thanks.

Pantomime is not necessarily about what happens on stage though, it is about the audience, and about participation. Pantomime does not set out to offend so individualised excursions, it sets out to encourage audience participation. Snow White, in spite of some minor flops, succeeded admirably at this.



