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# Rent Strike Call at Beckett Park

by Jane England and Hilary Green

Leeds Polytechnic students are being asked to withhold their Hall fees in protest against the Polytechnic's proposed rent increases for next year. Fees are expected to rise by between 25% and 36%, although the student grant is only going up 7%, and it is feared that this could cause severe financial problems for many residents.

the main issue of contention but there is also bad feeling over the charge being the same for double and single rooms. Promises were made that this would be changed but as yet nothing has come of this.

and has been discussed by the catering committee.

The rent strike, which has been organised by Vice-President for Beckett Park Dave Moutrey, will it is hoped put pressure on the Polytechnic authorities to reconsider the increases, but as Mr Moutrey explained, "we need 100% support from all students for it to be effective."

A third point has been made that the standard of food in the Beckett Park refectory is very poor and declining further in quality. This situation, it is claimed, badly needs improving

\* A motion calling for a similar rent strike by University students will be discussed at the Union OGM on Tuesday.

For the first time ever there are more places available in Hall at Beckett Park than there are students to fill them because of the increasing cost. The fees are

## Election Victory For Tories

In what is seen by many as a surprising result, two Conservative students have been elected as President and Deputy President

of the Polytechnic Union Executive for next year.

President Elect Sean Morris, who is Vice Chairman of Yorkshire

Area Federation of Conservative Students, defeated Loraine Wells, standing for her second term of office, by 524 votes to 124.

As a member of the FCS, Mr Morris was asked for his views on FCS policy to disband the National Union of Students. He replied, "I am totally against it, and I voted against the idea at the FCS conference. Leaving the national union is a coward's way out. NUS needs reform but we cannot do so by pulling out, because there is a need for a National Union." Mr Morris sees the national union's function as a negotiator with the Government and a pressure group for the interests of students, and he said, "It is not fulfilling this role. The extreme views of the National Executive are not representative of students."

Mr Morris believes that disagreements between Conservative students over this issue could lead to the formation of a new, more moderate, Tory student group.

Deputy President Elect Doug Cowie is also a Conservative. He is a final year Education student, and is Education Secretary on this year's Executive.



Pic of Sean Morris by Roger Ball

## In Brief

The University Union minibus service has been improved by the employment of three professional drivers. This will make the service more efficient and reliable. The drivers will be on duty from 8.00 pm, and if you want to use the bus just come to the Union building and ask the Porters. The service is open to all female students and it is still free. It is expected that many women will use the bus after evening studies in the libraries.

The price of a student railcard, which entitles you to half-price British Rail travel, has been pegged at £10, the same as last year. In addition, cards bought from June will be valid for 15 months, even for this year's finalists!

Nigel Fisher, President of Park Lane Student Union, has been elected as next year's General Secretary of Leeds Area National Union of Students. Mr Fisher stated that his first priority will be to develop the smaller unions in colleges in the area, and to strengthen links between the various large and small unions.

Next week is the Polytechnic Union Nursery Week of Action. The nursery matron, Andrea Nicholson, explained that the week is intended to make people more aware of what the nursery provides, as well as raising money. There will be an exhibition of the children's work on the concourse on Tuesday and Wednesday, a jumble sale, a raffle and a disco at Brunswick Terrace on Saturday 9th.

Nursery children will be making collections through the week, and you are asked to give generously to support the nursery.

## Grants Announced

Undergraduate student grants will be increased next September by only 7%, compared with the annual inflation rate of over 12%.

According to Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education, the rate of inflation when the next academic year starts will be 10%. The grant rise was based on this figure, but there is a reduction of 3% so that students "could contribute to the Government's policy of restraining public expenditure".

University Union President Chris Shenton said that the value of the grant had been dropping since 1962 and the latest increase was

"only to be expected".

National Union President David Aaronovitch was more critical. He said, "We presented Dr Boyson (Under Secretary for Higher Education) with all the evidence for what we think is a moderate claim of 21% in view of inflation and expected hall price rises of 30% and more. But he completely ignored us."

As if by way of compensation, Mr Carlisle announced the same day that plans to implement the loans system for students were being shelved for the time being because the scheme would cost too much to get off the ground.

## Xenon Must Go!

If whilst watching television in the University Union you have been disturbed by female orgasmic noises from above, it was not a public act of indecency, but a pinball machine called Xenon.

As well as making moans of ecstasy the loquacious machine also invites players to "try me again". But the powers that be were not amused by this money making novelty. "I was offended", said Chris Jaecker, who

proposed to a Union Council meeting that it should be removed. "It implies the mentality that I play pinball to hear the orgasmic noises of women. There are alternatives that can be used, such as Flash Gordon."

President Chris Shenton pointed out that "We do have policy against sexism, and this contravenes it. If members feel that something is degrading, we should do something about it." So the machine is to be removed.

# tive • Perspective • Perspective • Perspective • Perspective

On March 25, 500 people staged an angry and militant picket of Leeds City Council. Inside, the ruling Labour group was presenting a budget which will lead to severe cuts and massive rent and rate rises. In education, the cuts will lead to the loss of over 200 teachers in Primary education, the equivalent of 26 lecturers in Further Education (which means the loss of a far larger number of part-time staff), and the equivalent of 19 full-time posts at the Polytechnic.

Similar cuts and demonstrations are occurring throughout the country. In Birmingham, 2500 students marched, and the response from Further Education students has been encouraging in Leeds and elsewhere.

The Government is planning cuts in Education that will include a cut of 8% in University income - the first time the Universities have faced such a substantial threat. Public sector higher education (polys) is already being hammered, and in Scotland, Callender Park and Hamilton Colleges of Education are due to close in June.

However, it would be misleading and devious to make out any special case for education. Millions are suffering from reactionary policies that say ordinary people should pay for a crisis not



**Paul Hodgkinson,  
General Secretary of  
Leeds Area NUS  
suggests a plan of active  
resistance to  
Government Spending  
cuts.**

of their own making. In Leeds, £1m has been transferred from education to housing and £500,000 from the Social Services. Yet all these services need

more money. We must oppose cuts in all spheres and build a united campaign that involves trade unions and everyone prepared to resist these policies

and their implementation.

This raises the central question of **how** we fight the cuts. I would argue that we need a campaign of

active resistance to the attack on public spending. Councils should refuse to obey Government directives and help a mass movement, basing its strength on the Trade Unions. Unless we begin the fightback by organising those opposing the cuts on such a basis, we have little prospect of getting anywhere. Mass movements are built from beginnings such as the lobby on March 25 in Leeds. We need to give the campaign a direction that will progressively draw more people into action. If all we can offer them is gestures of protest they will soon become demoralised and demobilised.

The National Union of Students is planning 'work ins' and 'public activity' on May 6 and 7, but these will be insufficient in themselves. I hope these views will stimulate debate in all student unions in Leeds. We cannot avoid confronting such questions. Should we negotiate over the implementation of cuts? Or should we refuse to co-operate with these measures in any way? Should Labour councils take a lead and defy Government policy? Or is all we can expect - the cuts imposed in Leeds? The students who protested on March 25 showed that the willingness to fight is there. The future of the campaign will depend on how we take up the central **political** challenge that confronts the entire cuts campaign.

## The People's March For Jobs

Unemployment is the most important issue in this country at the moment. There are already over 2,500,000 people officially registered as unemployed, but the real figure is much higher and the total is rising fast. Every minute one more person is made redundant. By the end of the year the total will be over 3,000,000.

Unemployment is having disastrous consequences across the whole fabric of society and must be reversed. Students are obviously affected, many are now completing degrees with little prospect of a job or future. Even people who do have jobs are insecure, not knowing when their turn will come.

This means that employers are able to use unemployment to weaken the trade unions so the wages and conditions of those who are employed, are worsened.

In addition, many people, justifiably frustrated by unemployment, instead of turning to the Government to alter its policies to remedy the situation, attack weaker minority groups of workers who are in no way responsible for the mass unemployment.

As a result of unemployment the wealth the country produces is obviously decreased. The homes, schools, hospitals, goods and services which the people of this country desperately need could be produced by the unemployed. This is a waste of human talent and means the collapse of in-

dustries which are vital to the country. Unemployment is also very expensive; this year we will pay almost £1.5 billion in benefits for the unemployed. Meanwhile, money that should be used to create useful jobs is wasted on nuclear weapons that can never defend us but only make us a front line target in a nuclear war.

In order to combat unemployment, the People's March for Jobs is a major initiative. The aim of the march is to create a mass movement of people who will call on this government to make unemployment its first priority.

The People's March for Jobs is being organised by the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands, East Midlands and South East regions of the TUC. The trade union and Labour movement have demonstrated recently at Glasgow and Liverpool their commitment to unemployment. In the People's March for Jobs, in addition to the trade unions and Labour movement, a wide range of organisations, well-known personalities and churches are supporting the march as it passes through their area. They all recognise the disastrous and tragic effects unemployment has, not only on individuals but on the whole of society. They are all united in expressing their revulsion against mass unemployment which now affects more than one in ten of the workforce.

The Western leg of the march

starts from Liverpool on 1 May and travels via Manchester and Birmingham to London. Our Eastern leg of the march starts from Huddersfield on 1 May and passes through Leeds, Sheffield and Nottingham, then joins the Liverpool marchers at Northampton, to march together on the final leg to London.

At all the major centres the march passes through there will be concerts, rallies, debates, church services and civic receptions to greet the marchers. In Leeds the march is supported by the Lord Mayor, the leader of Leeds City Council, the leader of the W Yorks Council Labour Group, West Yorkshire church leaders, W Yorks group of Labour MP's, the Regional TUC, Leeds Trades Council, Leeds Labour Party and many unions. National figures supporting the campaign include Spike Milligan, Glenda Jackson, The Who and Brian Clough.

The Eastern leg of the People's March will be in Leeds from Saturday 2 til the morning of Monday 4. The events arranged include a concert by John Cooper Clarke, a folk group from El Salvador, a concert in the Lipman Building and a Civic reception. The marchers will arrive in London on May 29. All those who support the aims of the march are requested to participate in the programme in Leeds. This is a chance to show the government in a big way how the people of this country feel about unemployment.

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Andy Kershaw, Ents Sec

# NUS

## Conference

Conference Report by CA Jaecker  
Photos by Steve Rapport

The NUS Easter Conference is to an OGM what an AGM is to drinking coffee in someone else's flat. It's pretty big, about 700 delegates and 300 observers and full of self-opinionated would-be saviours of the student movement. It has its own language, constructed largely from initials such as "CM", "NOLS", "CARL", "PSHE", with a special vocabulary devoted to its own intestinal rumblings. As an event it is overwhelming, with caucuses, debates, guest speakers, guillotines and elections all conspiring to consume about 5,000 trees worth of wood pulp.

### The Parties

Almost every political party was represented, including a pupating body of Social Democrats who seemed to take themselves seriously enough for there to be a strong likelihood of a gaudy new rosette at future conferences. As usual these parties diverged and coalesced as the situations demanded.

Remarkably, the party which presented the most disunited front was the Federation of Conservative Students, which is usually the most staid (if ineffectual) of parties.

Basically the FCS, like its parent organisation, has split into two groups, the moderate "wets" and the extreme right. This extreme right group was in control during the conference, and set about milking the conference for all the bad publicity it could get, reasoning that any such publicity would harm the NUS. They published several leaflets for which accor-

ding to D Aaronovitch the sole motivation was to arouse delegates to acts of violence. Their intention, he said, was not to inform but to provoke, and it was only by this being continuously pointed out that they were able only to achieve minimal success. The "wets" of the FCS, including David Bonés of the NUS Executive, and almost all of the FCS members of the Leeds delegations disassociated themselves from the leaflets. It is unlikely that the situation will improve at future conferences, as the FCS annual conference has just elected a hard line right wing executive, and passed policy to actively promote college disaffiliations from the NUS.

### Rent-a-Mob

The Conference itself was often volatile to the point of childishness, with walkouts and aggressive behaviour often setting the tone. Despite this, fairly solid policies were set, and the NUS seems set to continue its evolution from the "Rent-a-Mob" image of which Trevor Phillips spoke to a quieter but more potent force.

The Leeds delegation did not distinguish themselves. Due largely to the lack of interest shown by their own OGM's there was little attempt to contribute to debates. The FE Colleges, who are to suffer most from the government cuts were more active, but it is ironic that the University Union, which contributes more financially to the NUS than any other college or university, contributed almost nothing to the conference itself.



The re-elected President David Aaronovitch

The elections were a bookies dream - all the favourites were placed, and the only outsider to win was such a surprise that nobody thought of tipping her.

El Presidente for the coming year is David Aaronovitch. He only managed to win by 16 votes and would not have been elected at all had it not been for the first transfers of FCS delegates. Aaronovitch's nearest rival was the retiring treasurer Helen Conner, who was the candidate of the National Organisation of Labour Students, and it was her political eligibility which accounted for the narrow margin by which Aaronovitch won. The presidential election was the debut for former Trinity and All Saints President Neil Jacques, at present a student at the University, who distinguished himself as Conference's most conspicuously unsuccessful elections candidate. He stood for the Ecology Party in four separate elections, and fail-

## Elections

ed signally in all of them, despite having the support of the University Union's Vice President Mike Goodman.

For the posts of National Treasurer and National Secretary, there was no real split between the Left Alliance (if anyone has been wondering what happened to the Broad Left, this is it) and NOLS. They shared a candidate in each election, and Alan Watson and Dougie Herd romped home to their respective new posts.

The surprise result of the conference was the election of Independent outsider Hank Hastings. Leighton Andrews was the firm favourite to retain his

post as Vice President Welfare, and was backed by NOLS and the Left Alliance, for whom he was the Official candidate. And yet, he fell in the election, losing by 181 votes. Hastings, who concentrated her election speech on the short-comings of Andrews's performance in his year as VPW, was "very surprised" by the size of her victory. Though she is non-aligned politically, she does not feel that this will prevent her from working with the other members of the executive.

Other successful candidates were: Executive Officers: Tommy Sheppard (NOLS); Jane Taylor (LA); John Anzani (Ind). Executive Member: Trevor Gill (LA); Andy Wilson (NOLS); Paul Goodman (FCS); Sarah Veale (SSA). Executive Committee Member: Steve Cedar (SWSO); Dave Clarke (SSA); Nicky Edwards (LA); Dave Manion (NOLS); Peter Moore (FCS).

## Going Through the Motions.....

### Further Education

A stormy debate preceded the passing of this motion, with accusations passing to and fro, and a walk out from the more volatile of the delegates - who felt that the Universities and larger colleges were not interested in their problems.

However, the motion was passed, and demands that the NUS continue to give Further Education priority, concentrating its campaign around a demand for a non-means tested grant for all 16-19 year olds.

### The Nationality Bill

Policy passed included opposition to the Nationality Bill, with

NUS mandated to affiliate to the Campaign Against Racist Laws and the Anti Nazi League. NUS is to run a series of anti-racist carnivals, revive "Students Against the Nazis", and organise a Week of Action for November, taking up racist legislation and the rise of fascism.

### The Disabled

NUS is to approach the EEC Commission with regard to gaining special funding to improve facilities for disabled students, and carry out a survey of college facilities for the disabled. Local College Students Unions were called upon to do all within their power to improve their own facilities for the physically and mentally disabled, including the



The end of the Conference

provision of special equipment for use by the disabled.

### PSHE

This motion concentrated on the Government's plan to create a national body to run and finance higher education outside the university sector. Basically the motion stated that the plan was intended to further run down Public Sector Higher Education. It pointed out that the PSHE needs a flexible local organisation. Finally it calls for a new system of funding for PSHE based on the principle of fund pooling; the resistance of the DES proposals and the promotion of an alternative which combines national co-ordination with the retention of local control.

### Emergency Motions

The most important was on Cuts. The Government has announced cuts in Public Expenditure which aim to reduce spending on higher education by 8% by 1983/4. The motion, submitted by Park Lane CFE, Thomas Danby College and Leeds College of Building amongst others, condemned the Governments White Paper and called for the establishment of an educational alliance to resist the cuts and argue for an expansion of higher education to ordinary working people. An amendment, also supported by the colleges above, called for support for Rent strikes in halls and a Summer conference to co-ordinate opposition to the White Paper.

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## This week Leeds Student Arts reviews the recent record releases

### Albums

#### "From the Tearooms of Mars ... to the Hell-holes of Uranus." Landscape

Landscape are a band that have usually been treated rather harshly by the media, for they seem to have the knack of popping up on the wrong side of the critic's cool criterion. "Tearooms" should prove that reviewers are usually wrong.

In their early days when it was clever to be clumsy they were stubbornly skillful, and though they played the most accessible jazz in the world, their refusal to use guitar and vocals put them beyond the pale.

Then drummer Burgess surfaced as Spandau Ballet producer and the papers screamed 'Sell-out'. In fact Landscape have always worn colourful clothes and used the most modern technology available. "Tearooms" is the logical extension. It has an intoxicating blend of humour and the bizarre that always made them so refreshing and their use of electricity smacks of the expert and the artist more than the waggon-jumper.

The full version of 'Einstein' is preceded by the sound of a man desperately trying to reach the President by phone, which puts the whole song in a different context and gives the lie to those who criticised the radio version for being shallow.

'Norman Bates' has shades of 'Careful with that axe Eugene' one of the most disturbing tracks

of its era, set in the atmosphere of Ronnie Corbett's 'Sorry'. After 10 listens one still discovers hidden comments.

All the tracks pass the whistle test with flying colours, and the instrumental passages are the most evocatively visual since Stackridge.

In later years, this album could turn out to be the lynchpin of your collection, so make sure you have a copy.

Tom Bliss

#### "Colney Island Baby" Lou Reed RCA

To describe Lou Reed as merely enigmatic would be to understate his position as the all-in outsider. Eluding the propensity of the Rock Press to pigeon-hole, he re-

mains in an ill-defined musical space which he has reserved for himself over nearly fifteen years.

One can track his morphosis through his double compilation album released in 1980, "Rock and Roll diary".

Calmer, yet just as potent, "Colney Island Baby" is the obvious step ahead from its forerunners. The haunting vocals and sly, definitive lyrics, leave us in no doubt that Lou Reed is no closer to resolving his disaffection with the human race than he ever was.

Into the characteristic Rock and Roll framework which has become his trademark he has mingled more of a Country music flavour. Indeed the second side of the album includes a Country classic 'Nobody's Business' though one ought perhaps to

substitute the banjo-playing, pipe-smoking, denim-clad American folkie types for images of leather-clad figures playing electric guitars in smoke-filled bars. 'A Gift', the track opening the second side, is an acrid dig at male egoists.

The title track, encaptures the aspirations of the young American with Bowie's eloquence but perhaps takes the theme a little further than Bowie would ever have dared.

What the album lacks in chic, it gains in the spontaneity of production.

Chris Springham

### Singles

#### "Dancing with the Rebels" The Original Mirrors Mercury

A thunderous beat which would rival Gary Glitter and Adam Ant combined causes one to reflect on whether the Original Mirrors are going to climb the charts with this, their latest offering.

The band supported Roxy Music on their tour of Europe last summer and are releasing this in readiness for their own tour of Britain.

Powerful chanting as backing vocals and a strong lead are the characteristics most outstanding about the single. It has much that is reminiscent of G G's 'Rock and Roll' (Parts one and two), a similar sound and rhythm but is unquestionably more modern, thus modern ears may decide it's worth buying.

Chris Springham

#### Chevy Too Much Loving

What there is to say about Heavy Metal music has all been said already, which leaves little to say about this single.

The title "Too Much Loving" gives the game away right from the beginning. Chevy play straight Americanised Heavy Metal fairly reminiscent of Boston. It has the same old beat, power chords, guitar solos and lyrics about mistreatment by women.

Admittedly they are professional and the sound is nice and glossy but then, so what? There is no originality here, nothing at least that would differentiate them from any other Heavy Metal band, the kind that seem almost to insult the intelligence. Tommy Vance may like them!

Chevy are playing the Ffordre Greene Hotel on March 15th so those of you who are fans can go and stick your heads in a bass bin.

Graham Cooper

the struggles of two Milanese families, we are shown the frustrations and anger of working class people everywhere - the incessant toil at dreary, unnecessary jobs, the problem of affording food apart from dog meat and canary millet and frozen rabbits heads. The play tries to find a solution for the working class, an alternative to the Fascists, the Christian Democrats and the Communists, in Italy where inflation is at 20% and inflation on food is over 30%. The solution that the characters in the play come up with is anarchy - supermarkets are cleared out, canteens looted and the European rail system brought to its knees. Giovanni, (Rod Beddall) a staunch Communist Party member, refuses to

accept this alternative to start with, but eventually it proves too strong an attraction in the face of temptation - a lorry sheds its load of black-market food in the local square.

However, the excesses of anarchy lead to a total breakdown of reality and order, with dead men coming to life and pregnant men. Unfortunately, the humour such as it is based on this pantomime element, and not on political satire, which worked so well and so originally in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. The political rhetoric is overplayed and empty, and one is left with an ultimate feeling of disappointment. Despite the efforts of a good strong cast, the script is lacking in conviction and message.

Cat Smith



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# Roz Kay meets Roald Dahl.

Roald Dahl sells 2 million books a year. As three quarters of these are for children, he was a fitting choice to open Austicks' new childrens' bookshop in Leeds last month. At 65, with 5 spinal operations due to war injuries behind him, and with the addition of two steel hips as a result of osteo-arthritis, he is active, assertive, and successful. Sitting imposingly in the middle of a cluttered room at the back of the shop, he prepared to run the interview for me. With justifiable good humour, he took as a starting point the fact that, apart from himself, there are no writers of both adults' and childrens' fiction who produce enduring best sellers.

Dahl began to write after the war, almost by accident, and has long been acclaimed a master of the difficult art of short story writing. His childrens' books are hugely successful - 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is still topping the best seller list after 20 years, and 'James and the Giant Peach', which he prefers, is not far behind.

To illustrate the difficulty of writing for children, he told a story about a New York publishing firm, which some years ago came up with the idea of compiling an anthology of stories for children by the great modern writers in English; among them Updike, Graves,

Greene and Dahl. No one turned down the invitation to contribute. Dahl made a face as he recalled how bad the submitted stories were. "Guaranteed to anaesthetise any child in five minutes" he commented. The project was abandoned. Dahl's own contribution, 'The Magic Finger' still sells well.

The secret of writing for children, he says, lies in the state of mind. "Interest in kids", he said firmly. "You have to be a jokey sort of nipper at heart, the type who likes knock knock jokes." He has never tested his work out on his family first. He feels that "You must know yourself whether you've written something good or not."

Discipline is required for the writing. Dahl works from 10 til 12 in the morning and from 4 til 6 in the evening. "All ideas come at the desk" he says. "Outside the workroom, you shut yourself off, and just mooch around washing and shaving and so on." It is vital to keep the momentum going. You stop when you're going well, so you want to get back to it the next day - shut your mind off, and you can't wait to get back." Ideas do not consciously come from other people, though experience is vital. "I'm very much against encyclopaedias" he said, slightly obscurely. His knowledge of antique furniture, pictures and wine - all of which

have come into his stories - stems from personal interest; he collects all three, and his cellars at home contain 400 bottles of wine.

As for putting a moral into a story - "It must be pure entertainment" he said vehemently. "A moral is a very dangerous thing. Children don't want to be taught things." He now prefers writing for children, enjoying the challenge. "An adult's learnt to concentrate. If there are a few dull pages, he keeps reading anyway, but a child will just throw it away and go to the telly. You've got the telly to compete with."

Many of his short stories have been adapted for television. 'Tales of the Unexpected' has been sold to 42 different countries, and is especially popular in Norway, Dahl's native country. "I was wildly pleased with the first two or three" he said, "but then they took tremendous trouble over them." He complained that they meddled with his plots. "I've taken so much trouble with the construction of a story - months - they look solid, but if they're mved around they shatter."

What about the type of story? "I hate science fiction; impossible stuff," he said. "The fun is in making them just possible." The supernatural holds an appeal for him, though here again he has his



Roald Dahl

reservations. "I've longed to write a ghost story, but they all lose me, because there's a point where you can't believe them."

By this time the shop was seething with excited children, with a few parents helplessly trying to gain control. Dahl read a

couple of witty poems, yet to be published, before making a brief speech and sitting down to autograph copies of his latest book, 'The Twits'. As I struggled to the door, the shop manager grinned at me warningly, "Don't forget to mention us," he said.

## Over Easter English National Opera North came to the Grand Theatre

March 26th Tosca  
April 4th Magic Flute

Enon's recent productions of Puccini's *Tosca* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* were both wonderful and I've still to decide which one I preferred.

The first assault on our senses that *Tosca* made was on our noses. Act I in set in a sacristy and the audience was willed into a drugged stupor by the con-

tinuous wafting of incense over the pit. The stage with its fantastic Baroque set of huge marble pillars, gloomy paintings of ecstatic virgins and dusty light was soon brought to life however by the appearance of Tosca herself (Elizabeth Vaughan) who from then on dominated both the stage and our attention with a very remarkable performance.

*Tosca* is a tragedy, superbly Gothic and melodramatic, concerned with the unhappy end of

*Tosca* and her lover Cavardossi. Their untimely end is brought about primarily by the machinations of Scarpia, a thoroughly excellent villain and excellently portrayed by Geoffrey Chand. At the end of a very tense and very touching Act II, Tosca is almost forced to make love to Scarpia to save Cavardossi from execution but at the last moment stabs him with a knife from the dinner table. Almost as horror-stricken as Tosca herself is, we watch her desperately trying to wipe away the blood from her hands with an intensity equal to Lady Macbeth's.

As Puccini's haunting score has already foretold us, the lovers are doomed to failure. Cavardossi,

awaiting the firing squad, makes a heart rending attempt to write Tosca a final love letter of farewell and Tosca's grief at the discovery of her dead lover was so beautifully done as to be almost unbearable.

Barely able to sustain any more sorrow, it was with relief then that I went the following week to see Mozart's more light-hearted work. It seems remarkable that one opera company should be able to excell in two totally different atmospheres but *The Magic Flute* was as brilliant as *Tosca*.

Prince Tamino is enlisted to rescue the kidnapped daughter of the Queen of the Night. Accom-

panied by the Queen's bird catcher Papagallo the two encounter no end of adventures (including initiation into the mysteries of Isis) before everything ends happily and they are re-united with their loved ones. As in *Tosca* though the music again of course sets the mood, in this case most notably with Mozart's delightful and memorable overture.

In a comic opera like this one it was fitting that the villains, Sarastro the Moor and the Queen of the Night, should be splendid in a pantomimeish sort of way. This is in no way detracted from their merit as serious performers however, especially in the case of Rosemary Ashe whose quite incredible voice threatened to shock people out of their seats. In fact, I wonder if seats were necessary at all that night (except perhaps to sink back in afterwards). On at least two occasions I'm sure all the women in the audience were tempted to run on stage to comfort the doleful Papageno (Michael Lewis) who was ready to hang himself in his despair.

Performers, sets, lighting, and costumes in both productions were all at the truly excellent standard that Enon remarkably manages to maintain time after time. Anyone who thinks of opera only as something dreary that they were dragged to see unwillingly when they were ten years old should really give it another try. With seats available for as little as £1.50, you really don't know what you're missing.

Patti Hewstone

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Up To May 29th

# Living In The City ... Living In The City ... Living In The City ... Living In The City ... Living In The City

Sergeant Jane McGill works as a Community Affairs Officer in the notorious inner city area of Chapletown. In an interview with Fiona Mallon she told us about her work.

The Community Affairs Division was set up in 1975 after relations between the ethnic communities and the police reached an all time low on bonfire night when blacks rioted in the streets of Chapletown. Twelve police cars were overturned and two policemen were seriously injured. A major rethink in police policy resulted in an Inspector being appointed to the area, given special duties to build up better communication with the residents and work towards a system of mutual co-operation. Five years later the Division is flourishing, and I spoke to Sergeant McGill about her work in Chapletown.

First, she explained that the Community Affairs Division takes in the whole community; the Poles and Jews as well as the West Indians and Asians. The area has many problems due to the poor environmental conditions, bad housing and poor facilities, and these problems aggravate the social problems with which the area is faced.

As the police system becomes more bureaucratic and institutionalised there is a need for per-

sonal contact on the streets, someone who is familiar with the difficulties people face living in Chapletown, and who understands the cultural differences which, when problems arise, require specialised knowledge. Jane sees herself as this liaison between the police and the community. The aim is to make the police service available to the community, particularly now that the local bobby is no longer on the beat, and there is a need to build up a relationship with people on the area so that they don't see the police continually in an authoritarian role, but also in an assisting and co-operating way. Much of Jane's work involves taking over where the social services have left off, or where they cannot deal with cases. Often she plays a positive role, using her authority to ensure a particular part of the area is kept clean by the Cleansing Department, which prevents environmental conditions from getting worse. Petty vandalism can be contained; if residents complain, a special patrol may be sent to the area.

Again, where a resident is having difficulty with electricity bills often it is the police who are the initiators in getting something done about it. The relationship with the social services is a co-operative one, with the police intervening to prevent further hardship, particularly in protecting

## Jane McGill

children. Jane explained that she is often called to case conferences when children are brought to hospital and the doctors suspect that their injuries may be non-accidental. A visit to the parents can often prove the best deterrent to any further harm coming to the child. She explained that when a child needs to be brought into care immediately, the police are often called in to issue a place of safety order, which can remove a child from its parents if it appears to be in danger of abuse or neglect.

Apart from the role as a liaison with the public, Jane fulfils a special advisory and practical role as an expert on the special problems which occur within the ethnic communities, particularly problems of culture conflict amongst young girls. Much of her work is preventative. She has the responsibility of making policemen aware of the cultural differences, so that they don't unwittingly cause insult or provoke members of the ethnic groups. Often, this requires

lessons in common courtesy when in particular ethnic households. For example, it is extremely provoking to light a cigarette in a Sikh house, and policemen should not ask to speak to Muslim women unless it is absolutely necessary.

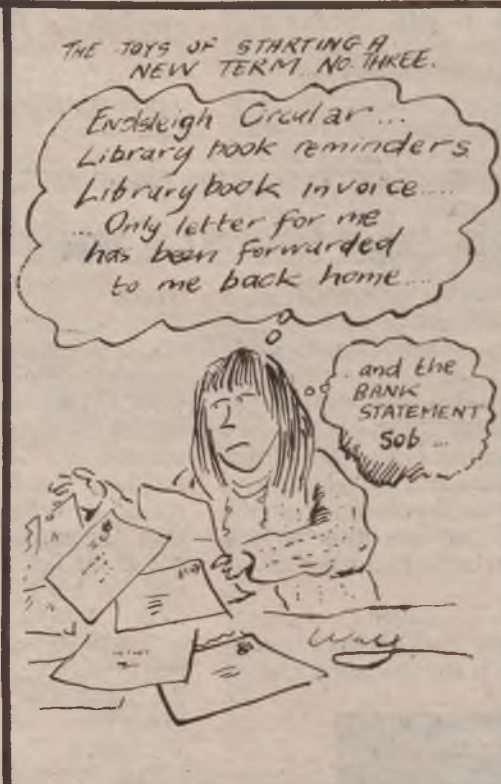
Similarly, West Indians tend to be, by character, more boisterous and demonstrative than whites, and this may seem offensive or aggressive to the ordinary policeman.

Most of family life is strong and unified within the Asian community but difficulties arise due to the 'inferior' position of women when it conflicts with western ideas.

In general, arranged marriages are extremely successful but recently, due to the restrictions on immigration, there has been a rise in the number of badly arranged marriages. This can cause all sorts of problems with battered wives and wives who want to leave their husbands. Particularly in the first category,

women will refuse to complain to the police to get help. Young girls are also experiencing problems of conflict when their education tells them to question situations, while in the issue of their prospective husbands they are allowed no dialogue with their parents at all. The police become involved because the social services won't recognise this as a problem and because of the underlying threat of violence from the family if the girl won't co-operate with their plans. It is vital in this case to have someone who is fully aware of the problems and who is able to offer alternative solutions. For this reason, Jane keeps in close contact with specialists who can advise her on the options open to young people, in special hostels and so on.

In showing the police acting in a responsive manner like this, it is hoped that feelings of bitterness and resentment will decrease, and co-operation will become a more active part of police and community relations. Jane explained that often the best community relations work can be done by doing the small jobs well, like opening doors when people have locked themselves out or, as happened quite recently, helping a father in distress. He was babysitting and couldn't get his small son's pyjamas on!



## Leeds University Union

Ordinary General Meeting  
Tuesday 5 May 1981  
Riley Smith Hall 1.00 pm

### Ordinary Members Business

1. Expression of No Confidence on Executive and Union Council for disbanding the Conservative Society.
2. Rent Strike - hall and flat fee increases
3. Peoples March For Jobs
4. Irish Rugby Football Union - tour to South Africa
5. Anti Racist Carnival
6. Bans on Marches

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# Sport • Sport • Sport • Sport • Sport

## Orienteering BUSF/UAU Report

The BUSF and UAU Championships were held this year near Durham, and, following on from a strong build-up throughout the season, the University had its most successful championships yet.

The individual event was held in appalling conditions with heavy rain and strong winds. Even so, Jane Robson showed what a good winter's training can do by finishing 2nd behind Allyson Stewart of Stirling, and 1st in the UAU competition. Ruth Hancock also ran an outstanding race to finish 7th (UAU 5th) in her first major championship. The men, however, suffered badly in the conditions in the 'A' race and only Maurice Calvert ran anywhere close to form, finishing 13th out of 160 (9th UAU), but the 'B' race saw Nigel Burt and Roger Parker finish 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Overnight the weather changed completely and the Relays were held in a warm Kellas Plantation near Consett. In the mens race Mark Elsegood brought the 'A' team in 15th on the first leg, with Roger Parker and Pete Martin only 2 seconds apart for the 'B'

and 'C' teams (the 'C' led the 'B') in 23rd and 24th. Pat Blashill, in spite of a 5 minute mistake, managed to hand over to Maurice Calvert in 10th position who then recorded the 5th fastest time of the day to bring Leeds in 5th (4th UAU) the best position ever, except for the 1977 win. In the 'B' team Andy Kelly and Nigel Burt ran steadily to gradually climb through the placing and finish 15th and 3rd 'B' team.

However, the best performance came from the Womens team. Helen Pilling, recovering from a series of disastrous runs, brought the team in 5th to hand over to Ruth Hancock 6 minutes down on Edinburgh. Although a minute slower than Helen, Ruth had a strong run to whittle the lead down to 4 minutes and bring the team back 2nd. After her run the previous day, Jane Robson then proceeded to make the whole affair seem so easy, and brought the Leeds team back in 1st place, with a 9 minute margin of victory, as Edinburgh slipped to 3rd, and Loughborough came 2nd. Leeds thus retained the BUSF and UAU womens trophies after a very successful weekend.

## World Record

On the 18th March the world 400 x 1/4 mile continuous relay record was squashed.

Over 30 athletes from Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester universities got together at the Firs Sports Ground, Manchester. They broke a long standing record by over 16 minutes. The new record now officially stands at 7 hours, 2 minutes and 7.5 seconds.

In order for the old record to be broken each 1/4 mile lap had to be run in under 65 seconds but with such athletes as Gareth Brown running several laps under 52 seconds this proved to be no problem.

## Karate

At the NKA Karate Tournament which was held at Leeds, on Sunday 26 April, Leeds Poly took three first places and a second place: C. Dulai won the Junior Kumite (Fighting), M. McDonald won the Junior Kata (Patterns) and H. Lee won the Intermediate Kata. The Poly team also took second place in the team Kumite. L. King got into the ladies and Intermediate Kata finals but was unfortunate not to get a placing in the first three.

A mention also for P. Francis who came second at the Newcastle Karate tournament in the Junior Kumite held on the 15th March.

## Volleyball

Mens and Womens volleyball teams achieved outstanding victories in the BPSA Finals held on Wednesday 18 March.

The Womens team achieved a sweeping victory by beating Thames Poly, last year's winners, by two sets to nil with powerful servings from Karen Gregson and Stella Wilson, accurate setting from Liz Clarke, and agile back court work from Carol Fletcher.

The Mens team began in devastating form against last year's winners, Wolverhampton, by taking the first set 15 - 0, a feat which reflects all the time and effort put in by players, and coach George Bulman. Leeds regained the Championship with a convincing 15 - 5 victory in the final set, thus winning two sets to nil. Leeds' strength was their team work, held together by Captain, Dave Brennand.

In the preliminary matches against North London, South Bank and Preston, Neil Dewsnip, Nadeem Hussein, Ed Schofield made a big contribution in getting the team to the final. This, together with some awesome spiking from setter Richard Reyes and blocker Colin Toal, led to the Mens Championship returning to Leeds for the third time in four years.

## Trampolining

Leeds Polytechnic came away from the BPSA Trampoline Championships held at the end of last term, with resounding suc-

In Grade one, the 'A' team won first place with the 'B' team beaten into third place by Wolverhampton.

In the individual events the ladies came out on top with Irish Jackson in first place followed by Julie Richards second and Carolyn Barritt in third. Jane Jones came fifth.


In the men's individual event, Derek Dawson achieved second position while Neil Parkinson took fourth place.

In Grade two, the Leeds Poly 'A' and 'B' teams came second and third respectively with Wolverhampton taking first place.

## Announcement

The Sports page relies on the Captains of the sports concerned to provide reports to either the Polytechnic Leeds Student Office (by the Info point in the Union), or the Office in the University Union by 2.00 pm on Monday afternoons.


Being Bank Holiday this coming Monday please could you bring any reports to the Office at 155 Woodhouse Lane, first floor. Thankyou  
Sports Editor



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# Dateline

## Cinema

### Hyde Park

Tonight and tomorrow;  
John Hurt in  
**Midnight Express** 8.20,  
**Taxi Driver** 6.20

Late Night Movie; Friday and  
Saturday at 11 pm, Woody Allen  
in **Everything About Sex** plus  
cartoons  
Sunday for 7 days; Woody Allen  
double bill,  
**Manhattan**,  
Sunday 8.25, week 8.40  
**Annie Hall**

Sunday 6.45, week 7.00.

### ABC 1

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**Superman II**  
12.50, 4.15, 7.35  
Friday at 11 pm,  
**The Way of the Dragon**  
plus **Fist of Fury**  
Sunday and all next week;  
**Superman II**.

### ABC 2

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**The Long Good Friday**  
2.35, 5.30, 8.30 plus  
supporting programme  
1.45, 4.35, 7.35  
Sunday and all next week;  
as this week.

### ABC 3

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**Ordinary People**  
1.55, 5.05, 8.20  
supporting programme  
4.05, 7.20

Sunday and all next week;  
**Elephant Man**

### Odeon 1

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**Airplane**  
1.45, 5.20, 9.00  
plus **Heaven Can Wait**  
3.20, 7.00  
Sunday and all next week;  
**Tess**

### Odeon 2

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**Lemon Popsicle**  
1.30, 5.05, 8.40  
Sunday and all next week;  
**Stir Crazy**

### Odeon 3

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**Popeye** 2.00, 4.45, 7.35  
Sunday and all next week;  
as this week.

### Cottage Road

Tonight and tomorrow;

**Manhattan**, 5.20, 8.45, plus  
**Annie Hall**, 7.10  
No details available for next  
week.

### Tower

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**One Flew Over the Cuckoos**  
Nest, 2.10, 5.05, 8.00  
Sunday and all next week;  
**Jaws** plus **Jaws 2**.

### Lounge

Tonight and tomorrow;  
**Ordinary People**, 5.50, 8.40  
Sunday and all next week;  
no details available.

## Theatre

### Playhouse

Until 9th May  
**We Can't Pay? We Won't Pay!**  
Tues 8 pm, Wed-Sat 7.30 pm.

### Grand

Until 16th May  
**Jesus Christ Superstar**  
Seats from £2.

## Misc

### LUU Peace Society

Tuesday 5th  
**The War Game**  
1 pm, Rupert Beckett Lecture  
Theatre, 30p  
Wednesday 6th, Prof Beetham,  
Politics, 1pm, LG15, New Arts  
Block.  
Thursday 7th, Mr D W Davies,  
Economics, 1pm, LG15,  
speaking on What Is Peace?

### Menwith Picnic

Mon 4th, protest for a Nuclear  
Free Yorkshire. Menwith Hill  
USAF Base, nr Harrogate.

### Mayday disco

Charles Morris Hall,  
Friday 1st, Late Bar, 50p,  
8.00pm.

### Central Club

Every Friday night at 2, Central  
Road (behind Woolworths)  
Tel: 33550. Featuring John  
Randi from Pennine Radio,  
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2.00.

### English Society

Theatre trip to Manchester  
Royal Exchange. Measure for  
Measure. Wed 6th, Tickets £2.50  
members, £3.00 non-members  
including coach. From  
committee and Union Extension.  
1 - 2 Mon, and Tues.

## Personal

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Fifi's fabulous teeth strike again.

Stand and deliver love Adam  
Ant.

Mummy says Badger's a very nice  
boy.

Rumour; John Fyfe washes over  
Easter.

Roses is a pape.

Will you lie about your age on  
the 7th Gill? Love Adam Ant.

Cycling dormouse loses crisps  
playing Monopoly.

Badgers adamant my facial  
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