

Leeds Student

Leeds Student
Special Issue
24 November
Free

**Student
Union
Finance
Special**

Student Unions R.U.P.

Student Unions will soon house nothing more than coffee bars and sweet machines. This is the warning issued by the National Union of Students (NUS) this week after failing to stall the new student union financing scheme proposed by the Government and to be implemented next year.

To back up this warning was further news of cuts in the education sector aimed at saving a further £80m for the Treasury. Already this term courses have been closed down in several colleges, students on Foundation courses have been refused gran-

ts, replacement staff have not been employed, heating levels in lecture theatres and Halls of Residence have been reduced and, to cap it all, leisure and sporting activities are being drastically cut back.

The new scheme, which suggests that Student Unions should compete for their income with all other sections of the academic establishment, has been heavily criticised by student officials throughout the country. It seems highly likely that student life, as we know it now, will soon disappear, as unions are starved of even their

basic income.

The University Union, which has always enjoyed the best student facilities in Leeds, looks like going through a major crisis. Major concerts, for example, will probably disappear, and economic restrictions may mean that only small unknown bands will be able to play. Sports clubs, whose operations necessitate a high expenditure of the Union's income, will have to play all their matches in Leeds. Other facilities will be badly hit, including a severe cutback in the bar and catering operations, and the possible closure of the record

and bookshops.

The Polytechnic and college unions will be even harder hit, and the latter have appealed to their larger and stronger neighbours to fight on their behalf against the new proposals. Most of the college unions will probably collapse depriving their former members of help and advice on such matters as accommodation, health, social security and so on. One of the Presidents angrily claimed, "With the introduction of two new systems at the same time, union financing and student loans, the Government is out to

destroy us. If we don't act we will have no future to worry about."

Mike Goodman, the University Union Deputy President, added, "It should be pointed out that there is only a small step between these proposals and the introduction of voluntary student union membership. The vast majority of students will not be able to pay a £53 union fee, and the whole thing will collapse. It will be only a matter of time before the NUS suffers the same fate. Unions will become sherry-drinking clubs for upper class students."

eds w... London re... Cross-Country Imperial College Relay... team again showed the... with in spite that... the... who the... team who the... who the...

Bronze medal champions

Champion Nick keeps his crown

Leeds Polytechnic student Nicky Wain powered to his fourth successive British Slalom Championship last year. On his last year, he came tenth in the Ladies' Championship, but this time he has a real chance of taking the title. In the Ladies' Championship, Wain made it a hat-trick of triumphs, along with the Men's and the Ladies' Team Championships last year.

Leeds Polytechnic student Nicky Wain powered to his fourth successive British Slalom Championship last year. On his last year, he came tenth in the Ladies' Championship, but this time he has a real chance of taking the title. In the Ladies' Championship, Wain made it a hat-trick of triumphs, along with the Men's and the Ladies' Team Championships last year.

Poly dominates resounding

Basketball B.P.S.A. North Eastern Championships

The Poly basketball club played host to Teeside, Sheffield and Newcastle Polys in the BPSA North Eastern Championships last Saturday, and three wins out of three gave Leeds a resounding victory.

Call to end rent strike?

Speculation as to the future of the present rent-strike in the University has been increased by the fact that John Baker, University Union Cultural Affairs Secretary, is to table a motion calling for an end to the strike.

Three University men charged as students play major role

Leeds University men were arrested when over 1000 students from all over the country played a major role in the riots of Grunwicks on Monday. One of the hundred or so students from Leeds who joined the riot suffered minor injuries in scuffles with the police.

Why the Union is left holding these babies

All this week the University Union has been involved in a major operation of action on nurseries. Charlie Brobbly, Union Welfare Officer, explains why such action is necessary.

Concerts

SIUXSIE AND THE BANSHIES 21ST OCTOBER UNIVERSITY

Saturday night's Siouxsie and the Banshees, concert, while giving the city's punks yet another chance to don their black leather, chains and dog-collars, was a dead loss as far as value for money and musical entertainment were concerned.

Pounding out the beat

The Police Saturday 10th Feb

The Poly assembly hall is a box with netball lines on it. It's kind of special. Dances, they're phenomenally good. It has been a top-five hit.

thay

he sang with a band's. From 1977-8 he took singing lessons at the School and sang in churches. I know much he knew about before the audition. He and said "I'd never heard of My finance saw the advert. My fiancée told me about 'phoned them up and went and sang a jazz tune. They said and sang me back, which they day. They gave me a song which I learnt back into the here I am moment.

Fever rises in Southside show

At best the Pretenders can be taut and incisive, as in 'Tattooed Love Boys' and 'Brass in Pocket', their performance on Sunday, though, showed that at worst they can be self-indulgent and non-descript. It was a set which was split between the sublime and the slow numbers.

Young Pretenders

At the beginning of their set the Pretenders ability to escape without lots of face seemed unquestionable: long and highly dramatic production was brought to a close by a burst of white light revealing on stage, plunging into a tense and shimmering 'Wait'.

Union says no to nukes

The University Union is to step up its opposition to the use of nuclear power. Monday's meeting of Union Council decided to affiliate to Students Against Nuclear Energy, to campaign for the closure of existing nuclear plants and to publicise Harmsworth Day, March 29th. It also agreed to set up an information week next term, from April 28th to May 2nd.

Leeds joined in cuts opposition

University Union is to be far over 500 people attended an OGM on the subject, which he interprets as a sign that students are concerned. A short-term aim of the campaign is to force the Government to review its policy on cuts in higher education.

Free Briton say anti-Soviet protestors

Various political parties marched on the Russian Embassy, only to find that the embassy would not accept a 2,500 name petition organised by Mr. Klymchuk's parents and NUS. Trevor Phillips, NUS Secretary and convener of the committee in defence of Mr. Klymchuk said: "We are one of our members and we are doing our best to help him. We are using every method at our disposal at home and abroad."

Nigeria pays fees after colleges take hard line

Polytechnics and further education colleges this week reported that their tough tactics over the Nigerian students' non-payment of fees have paid off.

If Student Unions go on strike, why should students mourn their departure? The reason that students should fight for their unions is very basic. Whether they realise it or not, Unions affect the entire student life. The obvious things that miss the student are the cheap bars, canteens, day to day activities, clubs, shops, newspaper, and building are likely to belong to a society of students from the English Soc to the Judo Club will disappear. All of these particular activities which would become remnants of the past.

Less directly, and more importantly, students would become more independent. There is no financial help, no advice on courses, no minimal political welfare. Students would find that they had the resources and demands to educational establishments or the

Leeds Student Union here at three years. Without some glimpses into cuttings could become

HIGHLIGHTS

UNION TO AID CAMBODIANS

Union wins first round

University Union has won the first round of its fight to offer some financial support to the Cambodians.

Leeds Student

Leeds Student
Special Issue

24 November
Free

Student
Union
Finance
Special

Time To Fight Back

**GOVERNMENTS NEW PLANS FOR
FINANCING STUDENT UNIONS WILL AFFECT
WELFARE, SPORTS + EVERY CLUB + SOCIETY
DEFEAT THE PROPOSALS DEMONSTRATE
NOV 28 IN LONDON AND GLASGOW**

Despite the black picture we have painted for the future, these proposals can be held up, if the Government and the public are made aware of the strength of our opposition to them. The National Union of Students has organised a demonstration and march through London and it is essential that every student should join this, if the Student Unions are to get their message across. That message must be - we will not lie down and allow you to change the system without consulting us, and we will not allow this to become the first in a series of steps towards the running-down of further and higher education in Britain. If you care about your sports club, your social life, your cultural and educational activities, then come on the march and get involved with making sure that those things will be there next year. And don't think that if you are a finalist this won't affect you, it will. Researchers, lecturers, teachers, and administrators in education will be directly affected, while many more professions will be affected in ways we can't yet envisage.

The march is in London on November 28th (this Friday), and if it is successful it will make the Government think again. Its success depends upon **your** support.

November 28th - Be There