

# COURIER

## TOP TORY SPEAKS



MR. William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, addressed a large and animated audience in the Debating Chamber on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Whitelaw addressed the Chamber for about ten minutes about the need to vote for the Conservatives

and then accepted questions from the floor.

The crowd largely remained orderly throughout the session although heated exchanges did take place between Mr. Whitelaw and speakers from the floor on several contentious issues.

Questions on the National Front and police activity in Northern Ireland particularly provoked heckling and dispute from the floor.

The discreet presence of several security staff ensured that the event went off without incident, although some members of the Labour Club distributing literature were less than politely bundled away from the entrance to the Chamber by a security guard.

Prize for the best catcall goes to the wit, who on hearing a reference to Mr. Whitelaw's future role as a Conservative politician after the election tomorrow, called out — "Yes, as leader of the opposition."

## Heil the Manifesto!

THE election propaganda that papers the walls of the Union reached a new nadir last week.

Pinned to the Union notice board was the following manifesto:

### ARYANS OF GREAT BRITAIN UNITE

(Conservatives and Social Democrats have failed and betrayed our nation. They must be swept away!)  
A PROGRAM FOR BRITISH REVIVAL

1. Compulsory repatriation for Negroes and other racial refuse.
2. Correction Centres for Communists and Prostitutes.
3. Vast rearmament, public works for unemployed and creation of a National People's Force to achieve a military-civilian synthesis.
4. Fusion of T.U.C. and C.B.I. and restoration of differentials for skilled working men. Rewards for talent and industry.
5. Abolition of stagnant parliamentary democracy and class-based politics. Substitution of a vocational franchise and a system of national plebiscites on issues of public importance.
6. Withdrawal from E.E.C. Creation of an Aryan axis over Africa with the formation of an Anglo-Rhodesian-South African alliance. Recovery of territorial possessions and parts of Britain's rightful Empire.

Its author proved to be Ian Johnson, a 2nd year Combined Honours student. It may read like a joke, but it's not, he means it.

"I believe that since the war our country's future has slipped back and this has been due to a total lack of direction and from policy, and I believe that the only way to resume our country's future is a drastic right-wing revolutionary change".

I asked him if he was associated with any established right wing party.

"I have not had a great deal of opportunity to associate myself with a political body".

Mr. Johnson went on to indicate that he had firm plans for activities in the future.

I asked him to be more specific about "right-wing revolution" and if he felt political violence was justified.

"It depends upon the future circumstances, which would hopefully be geared to a higher degree of political consensus ... and orderly change, of course".

Would he describe himself as a 'fascist'?

"A Radical Right-Winger".  
by John Leonard.

## Go for your writ!

LEGAL action is being threatened by the sporting club against Ms. Loraine Monk, Deputy President of the Students' Representative Council, and other officials of S.R.C.

Following the S.R.C. council meeting of March 8th, when it was proposed that a resolution be tabled at the next council meeting to deratify the sporting club, Mr. Jonathan Seed sought legal advice with Gibson and Co., solicitors.

If the resolution is passed the sporting club are threatening to seek an order from the High Court to reverse the decision, and, furthermore, to seek an order that the officers of S.R.C. responsible pay the costs of the High Court application.

The sporting club strongly believe in their right to exist as a recognised S.R.C. society and have every intention of fighting to maintain their existence.

Ms. Monk claimed she had not been informed of the situation and said that "at no time ever, to her knowledge, had there been a proposal at Council to deratify the sporting club". When applying for S.R.C. finance Ms. Monk says that the

# TALLY HO! THE HUNT IS ON

sporting club categorically denied that their activities would include blood sports. As she personally abhors blood sports and believes that most students feel the same way, Ms. Monk feels she has been 'conned' and is 'exceedingly angry' at the threat of being taken to Court.

However, other people present say that what the sporting club was asked was whether it intended to use S.R.C. money to finance its following of blood sports. Mr. Jonathan Seed claims that because the issue was so contentious the sporting club has recognised this restriction and have never used S.R.C. money to finance this area of their activities. Therefore, as the sporting club have not been in breach of any regulations they deduce that to deratify the status of their club would be 'manifestly unfair and unconstitutional'.

Mr. Seed also pointed out that Ms. Monk has repeatedly refused to give the necessary signature to sporting club cheques, even for the withdrawal of money from their own social account. The sporting club considers that whatever her personal views Ms. Monk should do her job without prejudices and discrimination.

A spokesman for the

sporting club commented — "We do not seek to justify our presence through a defence of our activities and sports, but merely on the grounds that we believe in a free and democratic environ-

ment any group of students should be able to form a society and exist without the sort of prejudices and persecution that has been exhibited by certain members of S.R.C.". Wendy Hill.

## SANITY RESTORED ? By Jan Parker

MR. Tony Jones has resigned as President of the Students' Representative Council. His resignation took effect from March 30th.

In an interview with The Courier, he said that his resignation was "purely a personal decision, related to a whole set of circumstances both personal and related to the Students' Union."

A letter from Mr. Jones to Dominic Pinto, Secretary of S.R.C., is posted up in the Union foyer. In it, Mr. Jones says that, "I feel that it is about time someone made a stand against the abuses taking place." When asked by The Courier if he would tell us exactly what these "abuses," and "circumstances related to the Students' Union" were, Mr. Jones said that he would not, merely repeating his obviously well practised

original statement. He emphasised that his letter to Mr. Pinto was a private letter to Dominic that he did not intend to be publicly displayed.

We put it to Mr. Jones that surely students of this University have a right to know what "abuses" if any are taking place in their Union. Mr. Jones agreed, saying, "I am a firm believer that students have a democratic right to know what is going on in their Union." It seems, however, that Mr. Jones does not practice what he preaches, and he still refused to specify what the reasons for his resignation relating to Student Unions were.

He again repeated that it was "a personal decision," a cliché obviously popular with Mr. Jones, as it is the same statement he gave concerning his resignation from the National Union of Students' delegation to

Blackpool in December 1978.

Lorraine Monk, Deputy President of S.R.C. and acting President in Mr. Jones' place, told The Courier that Mr. Jones did not specify any of the "abuses" within the Union "because there obviously hasn't been any."

"All Sabbatical officers are under terrific pressure and I think it was a personal decision. I am sorry if people, especially the University, are led to believe anything else."

In his letter to Mr. Pinto, Mr. Jones speaks of the "petty politics" of student committees, which he believes are "absolutely farcical and to the detriment of the interests of the general student body."

He goes on to say that he has "spent a considerable amount of time working to end this but I feel that it is now futile."

There is no doubt an element of petty politics among Union officials, but to what extent this exists is difficult to judge, as Mr. Jones will not expound on this.

It is also strange that Mr. Jones says he spent considerable time trying to overcome this, when his absence from many student committees was a common criticism of the ex-President. When this was put to Mr. Jones, he stated that he was "not interested" in reply. "I think it is just a frivolous allegation."

Is it?  
If Mr. Jones believed that such a problem existed with student committees, his lack of attendance was not a constructive method of solving this.

Mr. Jones is still President of the Union Management Committee (U.M.C.). The as yet unknown circumstances of his

resignation of S.R.C. "do not relate to that extent to my position as President of U.M.C.," he said.

When asked if he thought that by resigning from one position and not from the other, the division between the two bodies would increase, Mr. Jones answered, "No, not really."

Ms. Monk, however, told The Courier that she thought "it is impossible when you have got two different people that there's not going to be a split."

• There will be an election for a temporary President of S.R.C. next week. The successful candidate will hold office for the rest of the term as non-Sabbatical S.R.C. President.

There will also be an election for the Sabbatical Deputy President of S.R.C. for 1979/80 next week.

Miss Sharon Rowlands, the popular Deputy President Elect, who won by a majority of over 300 votes, has been forced to resign, due to ill-health and an anticipated period of long convalescence.

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# THE PAGE THEY TRIED TO BAN

## Sense or Censor?

Newcastle City Council have returned to their erratic policy of treating cinema audiences like children. Reviewing recent developments in a guest article this week is KEITH JARVIS, a member of our all-conquering "UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE" team.

During the Easter vacation, the Health and Environment Committee of the Newcastle Council decided that the film, "The Beast", directed by Walerian Borowczyk, should not be given a certificate for public exhibition in Newcastle. Seven members of the nineteen-strong committee saw the film and came to this decision, which is disappointing for two reasons.

Firstly, Borowczyk is a director of some international repute and great skill, as will testify those who have seen his earlier films such as "Blanche", "Immoral Tales" — of which "The Beast" was originally intended as a part — or "Story of a Sin", shown recently on BBC-2.

Whilst I am in the invidious position of writing about a film which I have not seen and which, from the reviews I have read, is not, perhaps, a great work, it still seems odd that a piece from a director of such merit and which continues his interest in sexual symbolism and highlights his delving into the "mechanism of

dreams", should be denied to us, whilst this very week we can revel in "Candido Erotico", "Black Emmanuelle" or other tit-and-bum clingfilms in the city.

Secondly this decision seems to form a disturbing contribution to recent film abuse. One of the main offenders was always the good, old ITV. Never known for their caring approach to films, they were up to their old tricks lately when they excised from their screening of Schaffner's "Patton — Lust for Glory" the opening, pre-title sequence which consists of George C. Scott as General Patton talking directly to the camera and giving the audience his ideas on war, duty, honour and his raison d'être as a soldier.

And another hazard to the discerning filmgoer comes in the shape of the much publicised and, in many ways, highly commendable child-sex legislation.

At the risk of being branded a paedophile or pervert, it is, however, unfortunate that one of its ramifications is that films such as "Pretty Baby" by another highly-respected director, Louis Malle, has been much delayed in reaching us and that works of the quality of Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" will be prohibited or, at least, endangered under the aegis of such a law.

Anyway, perhaps the enterprising Tyneside Cinema Club will give us a chance to judge "The Beast" for ourselves.

Keith Jarvis.

## AUTHOR IN 'THREAT TO KNOBS' SHOCK

THE author referred to is 31 year old Ian McEwan, whose play "Solid Geometry" was recently commissioned by BBC-2 for its new series of plays under the collective title of "The Other Side", but amidst some controversy it was never actually filmed.

"Solid Geometry", you see, features a pickled penis murky seen in a specimen jar, which spends most of its time on a table stiffly contemplating the sexual goings on of the play's protagonists and associated events that are occurring under its winking eye; the symbolism was no doubt rampant.

The Beeb, however, well aware of the distress this would cause the simple souls of its flock, and also the problems of giving equal coverage to the right and left bollocks in our current atmosphere of election fervour, duly banished this monstrous work.

However, McEwan is no mere smut merchant; his first book of short stories, nobly entitled "First Love, Last

Rites" won him ga-ga critical praise and the 1976 Somerset Maugham Award, and he now follows that up with a second volume called "In Between The Sheets", which has also been published in paperback by Picador.

True to form, McEwan continues to explore the seamier side of things that go hump in the night, and the result is a dark and disturbing but mightily enjoyable collection; macabre little tales about love between little girls; the hurt felt by an ape when his human lover rejects him; the unkindest cut of all suffered by a bloke who has given VD to two nurses; I'm sure you get the drift.

And there you have it; what with "Ai No Corrida", which contains a particularly graphic castration scene, due to play the Tyneside Cinema Club soon, this year's big thing suddenly stands revealed in all its naked majesty: cut loose and do the funky neutered stomp, y'awill "Knackers" of The Yard.

## Junco's

OK, so the Canteen's still closed and you're starting to whine and bleat about nowhere to go and nuthin' to see. Well, Page 2 will see you're alright.

The place for the choice cuts amongst you miserable shower to try out is The Cooperage down by the Quayside on a Wednesday night, to get into the

presence of the mighty Junco Partners, who offer upbeers-stained, belching r'n'b that has ungracefully matured over 15 years in the business.

A word to the wise — The Junco Partners may even be on Tyne Tees' "All Right Now" this Friday backing Eric Burdon. Unmissable.

Public Service Message Ends — Courier Page 2 is closing down. Now sod off and enjoy yourselves.

Teen Dreamz.

## NEWCASTLE'S VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT IS:



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## USEC PRESENTS

### FILMS:

- 3rd May TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
- 10th May KLANSMAN
- 17th May NETWORK
- 24th May THE STING
- 31st May DEATH WISH
- 7th June OUTLAW JOSIE WALES
- 14th June SILVER STREAK
- 21st June ROCKY

## CHECK NOTICE BOARD FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF DAND NITES

### DISCOS:

EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY — MIDNITE BAR

## Diary

### CINEMA

#### ABC HAYMARKET

Coma. Complete shows at 2.20, 4.55, 7.35.

#### ABC WESTGATE ROAD

- 1 Battlestar Galactica. 2.10, 5.15, 8.20. Call-out. 1.15, 4.20, 7.25.
- 2 The Deer Hunter. Sun. 3.0 and 7.15. Week 2.15, 7.15.

#### QUEENS

California Suite. 1.05 (not Sun.), 3.35, 6.05, 8.40. Time On Your Hands. 2.55 (not Sun.), 5.20, 7.55.

#### ODEON FILM CENTRE

- 1 Invasion Of The Body Snatchers. 2.50, 5.35, 8.20. Blow Out. 2.15, 4.55, 7.40.
- 2 The Chant Of Jimmy Blacksmith. 2.20, 5.20, 8.15. The Duna Bull. 1.30, 4.30, 7.30.
- 3 Halloween. 1.55, 5.20, 8.50. Death Dealers. 3.35, 6.55.

#### APOLLO, SHIELDS ROAD

- 1 Coma. Mon. - Fri. 5.45, 8.15, Sat. also 12.55, 3.20. Supporting Programme. Mon. - Fri. 5.20, 7.45. Sat. also 2.50.
- 2 Smokey And The Bandit. Mon. - Fri. 5.05, 8.30. Sat. also 1.40. Almost Summer. Mon. - Fri. 6.45, Sat. also 3.20.
- 3 Erotic Exploits Of A Sexy Seducer. Mon. - Fri. 5.20, 8.30. Sat. also 2.30. Confessions Of A Male Escort. Mon. - Fri. 4.10, 7.00. Sat. also 1.05.

#### STUDIOS 1-4

- 1 Smokey And The Bandit. 1.55, 5.20, 8.45. Almost Summer. 3.35, 7.00.
- 2 National Lampoons Animal House. 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Iron Men. 2.55, 5.25, 7.55.
- 3 Candido Erotico. 2.00, 5.25, 8.50. My Nights with Susan, Sandra, Olga and Julie. 3.40, 7.05.
- 4 In Praise Of Older Women. 4.40, 8.30. Black Emmanuelle. 2.45, 6.35.

#### SIDE CINEMA

2nd May: Wild Strawberries.  
3rd May: A Sixth Of The Earth.  
4th, 5th, 6th May: Sawdust and Tinsel.  
9th May: Persona.

#### TYNESIDE CINEMA

Until May 2: Renaldo and Clara, 2.15 and 6.30.  
May 3 - 5: The One and Only, 5.15, 9.00. Heroes, 7.00.  
May 7 - 9: Nineteen Hundred, 8.20.

### THEATRE

#### THEATRE ROYAL

Until May 5: The Merry Widow. Mon. - Fri. 7.30. Sat. 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
May 7 - May 12: Oh What a Lovely War. Mon. - Fri. 7.30 p.m. Sat. 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
May 16 - May 19: Don Carlos, 7 p.m.

#### GULBENKIAN STUDIO

Until May 5: Moving Visions Dance Theatre, 7.30 p.m.  
May 8 - May 12: Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi, 7.30 p.m.

#### NEWCASTLE PLAYHOUSE

Until May 5: Monstrous Regiment in Teendreams.  
May 22 - 26: 7.84 Theatre Company in a new play about the microchip revolution.

#### PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Until May 5: Summer and Smoke by Tennessee Williams, 7.30 p.m.  
May 22 - May 26: Travesties by Tom Stoppard, 7.30 p.m.  
June 18 - 23: Cabaret.

#### SUNDERLAND EMPIRE

May 7 - 12: Fiona Richmond in Yes We Have No Pajamas. Mon. - Thurs. at 7.30 p.m. Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. Tickets £2.50 and £1.80.  
May 14 and week: The Creeper, 7.30 p.m. Mats. Wed. and Sat. 2.30 p.m.  
May 21 and week: George Sewell and Lewis Jones in Who Killed Agatha Christie? 7.30 p.m. Mats. Wed. and Sat. 2.30 p.m.

### MUSIC

#### CITY HALL

May 15, 16, 17, 18: Status Quo.  
May 19: Scorpions.  
May 21: Precautions. A new swing reggae band.  
June 20: Manfred Mann's Earth Band.

#### MAYFAIR

May 11: Iggy Pop.  
May 24: The Dickles.  
May 25: Violinski.  
June 1: No Dice.

#### THE POLYTECHNIC

May 2: Rachel Sweet.  
May 11: The Dole.

## TYNESIDE CINEMA

Pilgrim Street, Newcastle  
Tel. 21507

May-June screenings  
IN THE PUBLIC CINEMA  
(Seats 90p.) include:  
RENALDO & CLARA (aa)  
THE ONE AND ONLY (a)  
and HEROES (aa)  
NINETEEN HUNDRED (x)  
ADVENTURES OF BARRY  
McKENZIE (x)  
and START THE  
REVOLUTION WITHOUT  
ME (a)  
SEMI TOUGH (aa) and  
THE MISSOURI BREAKS  
(aa)  
F.I.S.T. (a) and  
HARLAN COUNTY U.S.A.  
(a)  
REMEMBER MY NAME  
(aa) and  
THE RAIN PEOPLE (aa)  
A WEDDING (aa)  
and IMAGES (x)  
THE LAST WALTZ (u)  
and EASY RIDER (x)

CLUB CINEMA screenings  
(Seats 70p.) include:  
A TRILOGY OF FILMS BY  
BILL DOUGLAS  
AI NO CORRIDA  
THE CHESSPLAYERS  
TATTOOED TEARS  
ANDREI RUBLEV  
WOMEN IN THE MEDIA  
FILMS  
AND CONFERENCE  
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SURREALISM  
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## ARTS

## Royal Theatre

THE present Theatre Royal in Newcastle's Grey Street was built when the old Mosely Street Theatre was demolished in 1836 to enable Richard Grainger's new city centre to be built. The Theatre is now owned by the city of Newcastle who bought it very cheaply in 1973.

The Theatre is financed by Tyne and Wear and seats 1,400 (it sat 1,700 before the fifth level was removed). 380,000 tickets are sold per year which is on average just over 1,000 per night and does not take into account matinee performances. So it can be seen that the Theatre is often not fully booked even, contrary to public belief, for performances by The Royal Shakespeare Company. According to the rules the Theatre keeps back 50 tickets for every performance to be sold on the day.

Michael Grayson is the General Manager of the Theatre and it is his job to plan its programme. He tries to create a balance between opera, ballet, comedy, musicals and serious plays. Apart from the Scottish Opera, the Ballets, and the Prospect Theatre Company, which are offered to Mr. Grayson by the Arts Council, repertory companies either offer a show or Mr. Grayson sees one which he would like to see in Newcastle. The shows he picks are those of companies with a good track record although he says companies sometimes withdraw their offer of a show in which case he has to find, often hurriedly, a replacement, which is sometimes second rate. Mr. Grayson believes that it is better to put on a second rate show than to have the Theatre closed for a week or more, an opinion which is not shared by the Theatre committee. When Mr. Grayson has chosen a show he recommends it to the committee who have the power to overrule his decision, but this they have never done.

In Newcastle the touring rights belong to Scotland which means that Scottish companies should be given preference to English companies where the same show is concerned. However most of the Theatre Royal's shows come from London. There is a contract which states that no play should originate in the Theatre Royal and this is complied with in so far as world and most British premieres are concerned, but regional shows often have their first showing here.

The rule was applied in the 1950's when companies were using shows at provincial theatres as rehearsals, sometimes carrying their books on stage. However the Royal Shakespeare Company's recent productions of 'Wild Oats' and 'The Loving Voyage' had their British premieres at the Theatre Royal.

Mr. Grayson said that at the moment there is a shortage of shows but then went on to say that the Theatre programme is complete up until May 1980, that is if the Royal Shakespeare Company returns. Last year it wasn't known for sure until November that the company were returning.

Next year's return will depend on whether they can be afforded. This season cost the Theatre £256,000 which sounds a lot when compared with the annual turnover of the Theatre which is £611,000. But the R.S.C. ranks with opera, ballet and some comedies as the biggest crowd pullers. The programme for the forthcoming months includes Woody Allen's 'Play it again Sam', 'My Fair Lady', and The Scottish Opera.

Lynne Strutt.

## 'Thieves, Whores and Beggars'

THE THREEPENNY OPERA — Bertolt Brecht.

It is only recently that Brecht's plays have justified in terms of money at the box-office the kind of critical appreciation they have steadily received over the years.

Whereas their quality has never been in serious doubt, producers have been reluctant to stage them given their revolutionary and not so commercial means of theatrical presentation.

Nevertheless 'The Threepenny Opera', Brecht's eleventh and one of his most famous dramas has been produced consistently since its composition in 1928.

The latest production was put on at the Gulbenkian Studio all last week by the Newcastle University Music Society and directed by Stuart Rogers.

The play is based on John Gay's 'Beggars Opera' and set in London about 1900. Although radically modified by Brecht, the general outline is Gay's.

MacHeath secretly marries Polly, daughter of his fellow crook Peachum. Peachum organises his arrest; he flees, but is caught through the treachery of Jenny, a whore. He escapes from jail through another woman, Lucy, but is recaptured and taken to be executed. He is reprieved in a deliberately artificial happy ending.

Brecht is by no means the easiest playwright to stage. His plays require slick co-ordination and a steady crescendo to a climax which reveal the political motivation.

Whereas in Gay the target was the petty obsessions of an aristocracy whose affairs resembled those of the underworld, here it is a capitalist society which allows there to be an underworld at all, and happily this particular production contained

all the diverse qualities and advantages needed to stage Brecht.

The acting and singing (there are 19 songs) was generally strong with the final message of the play being put across with stark brutality.

Neil Pointon as MacHeath had the perfect face and Mancunian accent — which resulted in an incongruous 'Mac the Knife' and Bill Turpy worked hard to convey the timid nature of the detective 'Tiger' Brown.

The band dealt competently with Kurtweil's famous music and the lighting and design were all of a high standard.

It is a refreshing experience to see a Brecht production. More than any other writer he has influenced today's dramatists and his innovative brand of theatrical presentation is at once stark and violent yet containing a humanity both generous and warm.

Steven Swift.

## Will be Has been

CERTAINLY Max Webster is an interesting case of a rock band trying desperately to be different—a characteristic that shows refreshing ingenuity in these days of mainstream American rock which sadly contains the invention and intelligence of a can of sliced peaches.

Max Webster — a Canadian based group — have their second Capitol album released currently — 'A Million Vacations'. They are touring with Rush at the moment and they played the City Hall in Newcastle last week.

The band's concentration on the bizarre — I suppose you could call them the lonosco of rock music — results in an interesting mixture of raunchy rock and roll and unexpected variations on tried and tested rhythms.

They have their own independent lyricist who resides under the name of Pye Dubois and his lyrics contribute to the sense that in Max Webster there has been found something other than just another Canadian rock group.

If you are interested in hearing Max Webster, there is a free sampler of their album — while they last — available from the Entertainments Office on Level six in the Union Building.

The Women's Festival is in full flight and continues until May 12th. David Edgar's new play 'Teendreams' and Pam Gems' award winning play 'DUSA, STAS, FISH AND VI' are among the presentations encompassed by the festival.

The Newcastle Festival starts on June 15th, and that includes productions of 'The Crucible' and 'The Little Prince' plus Live Theatres Bandits and Operation Elvis.

The Newcastle Festival is boasting a line-up of cult heroes. Names such as Allen Ginsberg, of Kesey psychedelia acid test fame, Richard Brautigan of 'Watermelon Sugar' fame and Richard Adams of Myxomatosis fame. Space shortage forbids the adequate extolling of various virtues, but watch out for details.

Thus ends another career column.

Cat. Egory.

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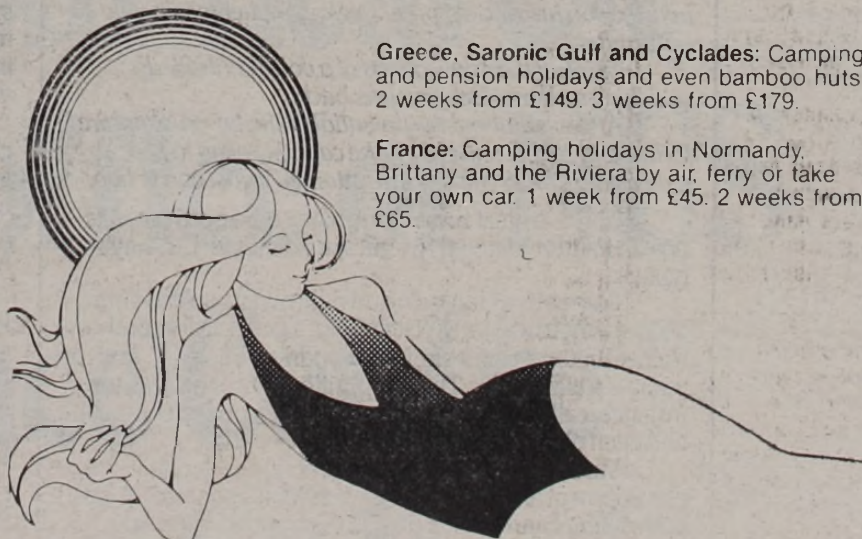
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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

As the Election approaches, I would like to take this opportunity, with the kind co-operation of yourself, to explain the Conservative case to your readers.

We all know that this election is long overdue. Had it been held last October, students could have been spared another academic year of Labour Government. In that year we have not seen any initiatives from the Government to remove the anomalies in the grants structure from which so many students suffer. The Secretary of State has ignored students for the past five years and it is only since the election date was announced that vague promises to change the grants structure have been heard. This approach typifies the Labour campaign and is also typical of the last five years of government in which an ailing administration has sought to buy off votes in order to prolong its own life without offering any real solutions to the problems of unemployment, inflation and low productivity.

Labour's appalling record of misrule might be enough to convince anyone of the need to vote Conservative, but, of course, we must look more positively to the future. A Conservative Government will not promise to solve every problem immediately, but we are prepared to tackle these difficulties and

not run away from them.

One major difficulty faced by many students is a financial one created by an over-bureaucratised and unfair grants system. We will be working towards abolition of the parental contribution and a review of discretionary awards.

All improvements in education, housing and employment are dependent on the creation of wealth. In itself this is dependent on more investment in industry and higher productivity. We believe that a Conservative Government can provide the necessary climate in which industry can be regenerated and real jobs created and as a result of this created wealth, better public services provided. In order to create more confidence in business, personal taxation must be reduced. Many students particularly those in the final year, are looking forward to a secure career in which talent, hard work and initiative are rewarded. Is it any wonder that highly qualified people are emigrating by the thousand as they become disillusioned with current conditions?

The Conservative Party believes that there is hope for the future and that young people have a major role to play in the regeneration that is so desperately needed. More people need to be attracted into industry and the role of the State needs to be reduced. We have already been pressing for schools to make greater efforts to prepare people for the conditions of working life and in the field of higher education, for example, we would encourage any schemes of sponsorship.

Of course, there are other

## Election Publicity Garbage

aspects of life as well as work. Students know only too well the difficulties of finding accommodation and since 1974 and the Government's Rent Act, 400,000 houses have disappeared off the market for renting. At the same time, young couples have found it increasingly difficult — and expensive — to obtain mortgages. The Conservative Party is pledged to reverse these trends by reforming the Rent Act and giving more aid to first-time buyers. There is certainly a brighter prospect ahead with a Conservative government than a Labour government ideologically incapable of posing any other solution than state ownership and control which has proved such a disastrous failure in the past.

Security and independence for the individual are the bywords of Conservative policy. To "set the people free" is our ultimate aim. Only by giving people the opportunities for advancement, initiative and self-help is there any hope for our future. It is we — young people — who will decide the fate of our country and reap the benefits and rewards. If the right choice is made, our future is secure — the right choice is Conservative.

Yours etc.,

EDDIE LONGWORTH,

National Chairman

Federation of Conservative Students.

STUDENTS' UNION,  
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK,  
COVENTRY, CV4 7AL.

Dear Sir,

We would like to bring the following to the attention of your readers:—

"We the undersigned, representatives of the student movement at local and national level, recognise the appalling threat which the prospect of an authoritarian Tory Government led by Margaret Thatcher, Sir Keith Joseph and Dr. Rhodes Boyson poses to the people of this country and specifically to the one million members of the National Union of Students. Whilst recognising that the minority Labour Government faced with difficult circumstances has not introduced everything we desire, nevertheless we note that the record of the Conservative Party in national and local government and the recent statements of their education spokesmen are an indication of their future policies of public expenditure cuts and increased unemployment.

"We deplore attempts by leading Conservative politicians to single out the unemployed, ethnic minorities and students as scapegoats for the economic problems that face us all.

"We therefore, in a personal capacity, call on all students to fully participate in the coming General Election Campaign and to work for the election of a majority Labour Government which will introduce policies of equality, social justice, extension of educational oppor-

tunity, regeneration of British industry and expansion of democracy throughout our society".

### NAME AND POSITION

Alan Christie, Deputy President, National Union of Students.  
Martin Currie, Chairperson, National Union of Students Scotland; National Union of Students Executive.  
Mick Antoniwi, Chairperson, National Union of Students Wales; National Union of Students Executive.  
Helen Connor, Vice President Areas; Treasurer Elect, National Union of Students.  
Pete Silkin, Vice President Areas Elect, National Union of Students; Chairperson Sussex Area National Union of Students.  
Phil Dixon, Executive Officer, National Union of Students; President, Warwick University.  
Fiona McTaggart, Vice President Education; Vice President Services Elect, National Union of Students.  
John Merry, Vice President Services, National Union of Students.  
John Rabone, Executive Committee Member, National Union of Students.  
Keith Leadbetter, Executive Committee Member, National Union of Students, Scotland.  
Doug Moir, President, Mature Students' Union.  
Tony Buroh, General Secretary, London Students' Organisation.  
Allan Dodd, Executive Member, British Universities Sports Federation; Universities Athletic Union; President Elect, Warwick University.  
Dave Hanson, Chairperson, Humber-side Area N.U.S.; Vice President, Hull University.  
Pete Elliott, Convenor, North West Area N.U.S.  
Steve James, Convenor, Cardiff Area N.U.S.  
Bill Howard, Convenor, Tyne and Wear Area N.U.S.  
Andy Parsons, Chairperson, Birmingham Area N.U.S.  
Steve Gleeson, Convenor, Tayside Area N.U.S.  
Carolyn Maxwell, Convenor Wessex Area N.U.S.  
Keith Hallam, President College of Ripon and York St. John.  
Susan Barstead, Deputy President College of Ripon and York St. John.  
Trevor Lloyd, Area Organiser, North Yorkshire N.U.S.  
Mary Attenborough, President, Imperial College London.  
Malcolm Brain, Deputy President, Imperial College London.  
Mike Elkin, Hon. Secretary,

Imperial College London.  
Mark Smithies, Deputy President, University of London Union.  
Richard Williams, Executive Member, National Association of Student Travel Offices.  
Frank Devine, Secretary, Warwick University.  
Alan Watson, Convenor, Coventry Area N.U.S.; Secretary Elect, Warwick University.  
Will Richardson, General Secretary, London School of Economics.  
Steve Bradbury, Social Secretary, London School of Economics.  
Pete McCabe, President, Hull University.  
Tom Lynch, President, Queens University, Belfast; Universities National Committee, N.U.S.  
Andrew Lovelady, President, York University.  
Ken Gordon, Cultural Affairs Officer, Warwick University.  
Bob McLean, Senior Vice President, Aberdeen University.  
Ronnie Nicol, President, Glasgow College of Technology.  
Lauren Hickey, President Elect, Middlesex Polytechnic.  
Paul Barton, President, Middlesex Polytechnic.  
Heather Mitchell, President, Jordanhill College of Education.  
Mark Cooke, Treasurer Elect, Warwick University.  
Pete Murray, President Elect, Jordanhill College of Education.  
Stuart Hepburn, President, Stirling University.  
Clare Johnson, President, Birmingham College of Food and Domestic Arts.  
Yogesh Yashvee, Treasurer, Bournemouth College of Further Education.  
Jon Craig, President, Southampton University.  
Steve Lydon, President, Wolverhampton Polytechnic.  
Ray Harding, Vice President, Wolverhampton Polytechnic.  
Francis Quigg, Vice President, Wolverhampton Polytechnic.  
Cate Clarke, President, Loughborough University.  
Jon Skewes, Deputy President, Loughborough University.  
Pat Bates, President, Bishop Grossette College.  
Andy Collins, President, Richmond on Thames College.  
Sally Shrier, Social Services Officer, University College London.  
Dick Quibell, Universities National Committee, N.U.S.; Deputy President Elect, Leeds University.  
And twenty-two other signatures omitted through lack of space.  
Phil Dixon, President.  
Frank Devine, Secretary.  
(Signed in a personal capacity)

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PAGE 16 DAILY MIRROR,

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# LES FEMMES

NEWCASTLE Women's Festival was first conceived many months ago by a small committee of the Student Union which allocates funds to promote "cultural events" for students.

From this grandiose title the idea for a women's festival was born, for we concluded that if we were to follow the racial harmony week (that spotlighted 10% of our student population), a women's festival would appeal to an even larger part of the student body — though the percentage of women at our university is only 33% even in these enlightened times... well, perhaps that's why the festival grew, because they aren't enlightened times, and though this is a celebration of women's achievements, it is impossible not to touch on the problems women face in nearly every area you can name.

For a start, though there are hundreds of women writing, few have been printed and the difficulty found in drawing up lists of famous women that have "made it", particularly in such fields as film making, or producing books, is very great as the lists are microscopic and, though several women's theatre groups have sprung up in the past decade, they can still be counted on two hands.

In Newcastle, Northern Arts have not helped by stopping their grant to MAJOR DIVERSION, who, as a result, are unable to perform the three plays they were first booked to play and are now doing two other shows "Poverty Trap" and "Hidden

from History" while they wait to see if Northern Arts will change their mind.

The first major decision we took was that it was ridiculous for us to be putting on these events unless they were open to the general public, and for that reason we tried to put as many things on in the town as we could. Unfortunately the prejudice that there is in some areas against students organising anything, meant that there were only a few places we could try; the Tyne-side Cinema is one, the Newcastle Playhouse another. The Laing Art Gallery is putting on an exhibition of paintings and silverware made by women.

The next big decision was in extending the Festival to a fortnight—we had planned so many events and it seemed a pity not to carry them all through. We could have narrowed the spectrum of subjects in favour of a greater depth of study, but felt that this would have cost us the general appeal we are hoping for.

Lastly, the programme is centred on the arts, an emphasis which in some ways we regret. The difficulty, in a Festival celebrating the positive achievements of women, is that events based on science and engineering topics are still hard to organise.

However, we think this Festival is a fine demonstration of women's contribution to society other than in the (very important) spheres of homemaking and childrearing, and marks the achievements of the past ten years struggle for equality and recognition.

There is still a long way to go.

## THEATRE

As part of the first Newcastle Women's Festival there will be a series of theatrical events in the Playhouse and the Gulbenkian Studio:

## GULBENKIAN STUDIO

Telephone: 29974

Wednesday, May 2 to Saturday, May 5 at 7.30 p.m.

**MOVING VISIONS DANCE COMPANY** in "Macbeth"

Tuesday, May 8 to Saturday, May 12 at 7.30 p.m.

**BAG AND BAGGAGE**

in Pam Gems' award winning

"Dusa, Fish, Stas, and Vi"

Friday, May 11 at 1.10 p.m.

NUTS in

"Sylvia Plath — A Dramatic Portrait"

Thursday, June 7 to Saturday, June 9 at 7.30 p.m.

**YORK UNIVERSITY DRAMA SOCIETY** in "King Lear"

Wednesday, June 13 to Saturday, June 16 at 7.30 p.m.

**NUTS** in "The Bear"

by Anton Chekhov and

"Female Transport"

by Steve Gooch

## NEWCASTLE PLAYHOUSE

Telephone: 23421

Tuesday, May 1 to Saturday, May 5 at 7.30 p.m.

**MONSTROUS REGIMENT** in "Teendreams"

by David Edgar

Tuesday, May 22 to Saturday, May 26 at 7.30 p.m.

**7:84 THEATRE COMPANY** in "Big Square Fields"

by John McGrath

For further details of programmes and booking for all shows, contact Playhouse Box Office open daily Monday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (8 p.m. on performance days).

**MONSTROUS REGIMENT** at the Newcastle Playhouse, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, in "Teen Dreams" by David Edgar with Sue Todd. Tuesday, May 1st, to Saturday, May 5th, at 7.30 p.m. (£1.80).

For their second visit to the Playhouse, **MONSTROUS REGIMENT** are bringing their latest production "Teen Dreams". Over a span of ten years from 1968 to 1978, the play looks at the changes wrought in some women's lives by the new respect for their demands which grew through those years: "Frances the teacher dreams of high-minded politics, while her pupils dream of boyfriends, love and romance. When the dreams collide, the lives of both change course dramatically".

David Edgar's most recent play, the highly acclaimed "Mary Barnes", has recently been seen at the Royal Court Theatre in London. His previous work includes "Destiny", which was first performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company and subsequently produced on B.B.C. Television.

Friday, May 11th, at 1.00 p.m., Gulbenkian Studio



The female voice of protest.

A dramatised reading by students of Newcastle University Theatre Society of "Sylvia Plath", a compilation of her work by Barry Kyle.

**BAG AND BAGGAGE** at the Gulbenkian Studio, Kings Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, in "Dusa, Stas, Fish and Vi" by Pam Gems. Tuesday, May 8th, to Saturday, May 12th, at 7.30 p.m. (90p).

**BAG AND BAGGAGE** make their first visit to the Gulbenkian with Pam Gems' award-winning play. The Company have been in existence for one year, based in Cardiff, doing work specifically of interest to women.

"Dusa, Stas, Fish and Vi", which has only recently finished a long run in the West End, examines the problems facing four young women with the advent of "equality". Both poignant and witty, the play is one of the best pieces of contemporary writing on the seventies.

## CHILDREN'S STORIES

**PAM GEMS** is the author of "Queen Christina" and "Plaf", both of which have been produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Gulbenkian.

**BRUVVERS THEATRE GROUP** at the Students' Union, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne, in "Pulcinella" ("Punchin' 'ell out of 'er").

**BRUVVERS**, a North East theatre group based in Byker, use the Punch and Judy format to illustrate the socialisation involved in everyday children's stories of the roles of male and female—in particular, children's acceptance of male aggression and violence as normal.

Wednesday, May 9th. 1 p.m.

**BERYL** and **THE PERILS**

The Perils came together in July 1978 after doing drama workshops at the Women's Arts Alliance, London. This all-woman collective brings their personal experience to their scriptwriting and improvisation.

"Is Dennis Really the Menace?" Wednesday, May 2nd, 8 p.m.—Socialist Centre, Jesmond.

"Is Dennis Really the Menace?" examines the sexuality of today's woman. Using a very direct and accessible comic strip style, they appeal to all kinds of audiences.

"Nuts". Monday, April 30th, 8 p.m., Student Union Canteen/Refectory, Kings Walk.

"Nuts" examines women and madness and explores the nature of the female psyche in the male consciousness which is our world.

## Brief

MORNING/AFTERNOON

**WEDNESDAY 2nd**

1 p.m., FILM: "EGA Stays OK"; plus Discussion, "Women and Health", Student Union.

**THURSDAY 3rd**

1 p.m., FILM: "Home Movie". GAYSOC Talk, Student Union.

**FRIDAY 4th**

1 p.m., TALK: Margaret Walters, "Pornography, Advertising and Art", Student Union.

STREET THEATRE.

**SATURDAY 5th**

2 p.m., TALK: Sue Todd, "Women and Theatre", Playhouse.

**SUNDAY 6th**

**MONDAY 7th**

U.K. HOLIDAY.

**TUESDAY 8th**

1 p.m., TALK: Jane Cousins, "Sex Education", Student Union.

**WEDNESDAY 9th**

1 p.m., Theatre: BRUVVERS in "Pulcinella" (as in "punchin' 'ell out of 'er"), Gulbenkian Studio; plus Discussion, "Male Violence".

**THURSDAY 10th**

1 p.m., Theatre: MAJOR DIVERSION, "The Poverty Trap", plus Workshop, Gulbenkian Studio.

**FRIDAY 11th**

1 p.m., SYLVIA PLATH. A Dramatised Reading followed by a Discussion, Gulbenkian Studio.

**SATURDAY 12th**

"WOMEN AND THE MEDIA" CONFERENCE at TYNESIDE FILM THEATRE and STUDENT UNION. 2 p.m., Discussion: "Women and Media", Student Union.

**SUNDAY 13th**

"WOMEN AND THE MEDIA" CONFERENCE at TYNESIDE FILM THEATRE and STUDENT UNION.

ALL EVENTS OPEN



# Guide

EVENING

8 p.m., Theatre: BERYL and THE PERILS, "Is Dennis Really the Menace", Socialist Centre, Jesmond. DISCO, Student Union.

7.30 p.m., Anthology: Women's Poetry. 2nd to 3rd.

7.30 p.m., FILM: "La Vie Revée (Dream Life)", Tyneside. 2nd to 3rd.

7.30 p.m., MONSTROUS REGIMENT: "Tea Dreams", Newcastle Playhouse. 2nd to 5th.

6 p.m., TALK: Fay Weldon, Novelist, Student Union.

7.30 p.m., Show: GINGERBREAD. 8 p.m., USEC Concert: GIRLS SCHOOL, Canteen/Refectory.

7.30 p.m., LECTURE: Nina Hibben, *Women and Film*, "Sex Goddess", Tyneside Film Theatre.

7.30 p.m., FILM: "Riddle of the Sphinx", Tyneside Cinema.

7.30 p.m., FILM: "Women and Ireland", Student Union. 7.30 p.m., "DUSA, STAS, FISH & VI"—Bag and Baggage, Gulbenkian Studio. 8th to 12th.

7 p.m., POETRY: Ruth Fainlight. 8 p.m., Concert: HOT POINTS, Canteen.

7 p.m., POETRY: Elaine Feinstein. DEBATE: "The Women's Liberation Movement has gone too far", Debating Chamber. DISCO, Cochrane Lounge, Student Union.

7.30 p.m., DISCUSSION: "Women and Politics". Speaker: Maureen Colquhoun, M.P., Student Union. DISCO, Student Union.

7.30 p.m., FILMS: "The All Round Reduced Personality" plus "Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts", Tyneside Cinema.

7.30 p.m., Theatre: MAJOR DIVERSION, "Hidden from History" Tyneside Film Theatre.

EN TO THE PUBLIC

## WOMEN WRITERS

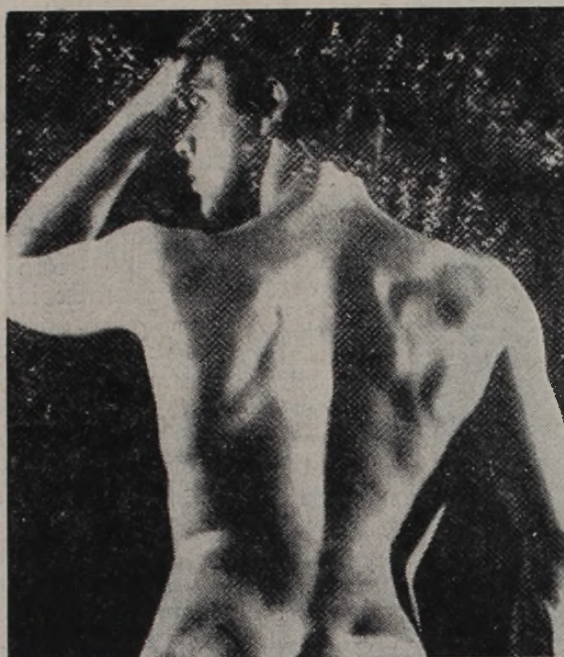
JANE COUSINS — Sex Education — Tuesday, May 8th, 1 p.m.

As a freelance journalist, Jane Cousins has worked as a researcher on Churchill's biography, and as a research assistant for Sir Harold Wilson. In TV and Radio she has worked on "World in Action" (Granada) and a sex phone-in programme for Picadilly Radio, Manchester.

Her book "Make It Happy—What Sex is All About" (Virago 1978) is perhaps the most inclusive and frank book ever written on the subject for teenagers. In her talk she will be considering the sexism involved in sex education.

MARGARET WALTERS, "Pornography, Advertising and Art" — Friday, May 4th, 1 p.m., Student Union.

Margaret Walters teaches English at Reading University. Her book *The Nude Male* was published last year and is a feminist exploration of the nude male in art from the early Greeks to the 20th Century. Her literary interests include Simone de Beauvoir. In her talk Ms.



Pornography ..... or Art?

Walters will compare women's and men's images in advertising and art.

FAY WELDON, "Women and the Novel" — Saturday, May 5th, Student Union.

A major writer—proof that the novel tradition is still flourishing—who has attracted wide critical praise, and feminist interest. Her latest novel *Praxis* was published earlier this year following, among others, *The Fat Woman's Joke*, *Female Friends*, *Remember Me*, and a play *Mixed Doubles*.

ELAINE FEINSTEIN, Poetry Reading — Thursday, May 10th, 7 p.m.

A poet, novelist and translator, Elaine writes regularly for *Bananas* and *The Listener*. Her first volume of poetry (*In a Green Eye*) was published in 1966, most recently *Some Unease and Angels*. She has written six novels, amongst which *Children of the Rose* and the *Crystal Garden* are in Penguin. Her translations include the *Selected Poems of Marina Tsvetayeva* (Penguin), and her play *Breath* was performed as a B.B.C. Play for Today in 1975.

RUTH FAINTLIGHT, Poetry Reading — Wednesday, May 9th, 7 p.m.

Ruth Fainlight is American by birth and was on close terms with Sylvia Plath, though hers is a much quieter voice. Amongst her publications—*Cages*, 1966; *To See the Matter Clearly* and *Other Poems*, 1968; *The Region's Violence*, 1973, and *Another Full Moon*, 1976—all books of poetry. She has published a book of short stories *Daylife and Nightlife*, 1971 and is included in *Penguin Modern Stories 9*, 1971.

## WOMEN AND MEDIA CONFERENCE

Saturday and Sunday, May 12th and 13th — Tyneside Cinema. Registration Fee £2. Free Crèche.

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday afternoon — 2 p.m., Students' Union.

Sunday — workshop, including how to use video equipment.

Showing of Film in Ways of Seeing series by John Berger — "The Nude and The Naked".

Details from Audrey Edwards, Tyneside Cinema.

# LES FEMMES

There will be an Exhibition of Women's Art in the exhibition room at the Tyneside. Any women using two-dimensional media may submit their work to Audrey Edwards at the Tyneside Cinema, no later than Friday, May 4th. All works must be mounted.

## SOCIALS

Discos in the Student Union, Women DJ's on Thursday, May 3rd and Thursday, May 10th, 1979. Friday, May 11th Canteen.

## POLITICS

On April 30th, there will be a General Meeting in the Student Union to discuss sexism in education with a woman speaker from the National Union of Students.

On Tuesday, May 1st, there will be a discussion following the film "Union Maids" and "Stand Together" in the Student Union, on the role of women and trades unions. Hopefully, representatives from many Trades Unions will be present.

After the showing in the Union of the film "EGA Stays—OK?", on May 2nd, there will be a discussion on women and health. Speakers will include doctors and medical students who will discuss both the problems of women breaking into the medical profession and the "oppression" of women by that profession, in terms of the way the profession refuses to let them choose how to live—e.g. abortion and childbirth.

On Friday, May 4th, there will be a Debate in the Student Union: "Women—The Inferior Sex?", which will include consideration of whether the women's

rights movement has gone "too far".

On Tuesday, May 8th, there will be a film about women in Ireland shown in the Union, followed by a discussion about the particular oppression of women in that country.

On Wednesday, May 9th, following the BRUVVERS performance of "Pulcinella", there will be a discussion on violence done to women, with particular reference to violence in the home. Speakers include members from Newcastle Women's Aid Refuge, Gulbenkian Studio.

On Friday, May 11th, there will be a discussion on women and politics in the Student Union. Maureen Colquhoun, MP, will be a speaker.

There will be a Conference on "Women and the Media" at the Tyneside Film Theatre on Saturday/Sunday, May 12th/13th, which will include discussion on how the media presents women and how difficult it is for women working in the media.

## MUSIC

### GIRLS SCHOOL

All girl T-shirt and jeans heavy rock group currently on tour with Motorhead. May 5th, 8 p.m., Canteen/Union.

### HOT POINTS

North East rock and roll band with feminist leanings. May 9th, 8 p.m., Canteen/Union.

If you want any further information concerning the Women's Festival contact Loraine Monk, c/o The Students Union, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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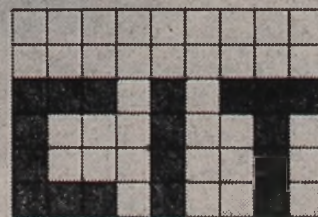
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# IZAL

"We don't want to come here and cause trouble. We don't want to stop anybody enjoying themselves, we just want somewhere to go".

That is the view of Stephen Corbett, 19, a Newcastle punk. He comes to the Union because it is too violent for him and his other punk friends in town.

"We come to the University on Thursdays and Fridays for the Level Six discos, and we get signed in outside. Often students won't sign us in because they think we cause trouble. I have stood outside for an hour before".

Steve, who is unemployed, has red spiky hair and wears make up. He says he is victimised for the way he dresses. "I get insulted because I wear make-up and punk clothes, I get called a puff".

Steve used to come to the Canteen. "I started coming to the University when the Canteen opened. I was in every night. It was a great place, so friendly, it was something special. We came here, met our friends, had a drink, there was no trouble".

"When that finished, that's when I started coming to the Union, because there isn't any where else".

"We don't mean anybody any harm, if people push me, I don't push back, I just want to come up to Level Six and have a good time, and meet different sorts of people because it is more interesting".

What Steve and his friends want is a live venue where they can see live bands in a nice atmosphere, but they don't want to fight. "I'm not in favour of trouble. If any one gets insulted, punched, kicked, or drinks get spilt, it's obvious that they are going to get upset, but we don't want to get involved, we don't want to get thrown out of the University".

Steve and his friends don't go out in town because it is too violent. "There aren't that many places in town to go to. The Mayfair on a Friday night, well, you risk your nose. You go in on your own, you get beaten up, you go in with friends and there is a big fight". I would never go there, it's just too violent".

"There is also the Polytechnic, but you have to get signed in there as well".

Steve talked about the Clash concert at the Poly last term. "The only experience I have had with the Poly was at the Clash. We were stood outside, it seemed as though the Poly created the whole situation themselves".

"We wanted to see the Clash, I had a ticket. I couldn't get in because I didn't have a Union Card, and they stopped signing people in".

"There was a door broken, and people were chanting 'Send for Joe (Strummer)'. We thought if we saw the band, they would let us in. There would have been no violence, the trouble was caused by the tension outside at the beginning".

Steve was helping to organise the Guildhall when punk bands were on. "We wanted to get something going. We thought of putting out a magazine as well, telling everyone what gigs were on in Newcastle, but we didn't have enough money. To get a magazine started, you need about £30.00, when you are on the dole, coming out with a few quid, once you've had a drink, there's not much left for a magazine". That's why the University is so good because it's fairly cheap".

"In general the University is a good place for the towns people to come to. "I wouldn't want to come here as a student, because I'm not career minded".

Steve likes most of the students he meets. "Most of the students I know don't like being students. I know most of the Entertainments Committee, and I get on well with them. The ones I don't like are the bigots, you know, part of this great elitist group".

Jimmy Boyle, one of Steve's friends, is another punk who likes coming to Level Six. "It's hard to get signed in because there is something about the punks causing all the trouble. When there is trouble it is hard to keep out of it if you are provoked all the time, and we get the blame for it".

Jimmy, "Rat" to his friends, has blond spiky hair, but he doesn't wear make up. He wears spiky dog collar round his neck. He is unemployed and he comes from Walker. "There is nothing to do in Walker for young people, that's why I like coming here. If we can't come here any more, I don't know what we will do".

There are tentative arrangements going on at the moment for associate membership for townfolk, which will allow them into the University Union, and the Canteen. Nigel Wild, next year's President of the Students Representative Council and Union Society, commented:

"What is likely to happen is that all students will automatically be members of the Canteen, and that a membership for non-students will be limited to roughly 1,600 people. Membership of the Canteen will be allowed by reciprocal agreement to enter the Union Building. As far as I am concerned, I have no objections to associate membership".

Andy Woodman, Social Secretary, and Union Publicity and Events Officer, remarked: "We have never wanted to turn towns folk away from the University, where possible, just because they are not students. Most of them look after the building as much as students do".



## NOW WASH YOUR HANDS

MADELAINE DYER



# Industry and the graduate.

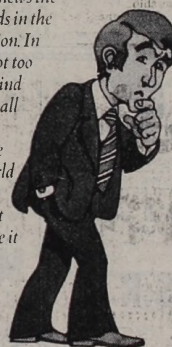
Views about industry, especially among graduates and others not actually engaged in it, have a tendency to be both dramatic and odd. For example:



SCENE: Back in the Manager's Office after a special meeting

"Braithwaite, as your department head I want to tell you that my colleagues and I were very proud of the way in which you stood up to the Director this morning. It takes courage and confidence to tell the leader that his facts are wrong and his conclusion illogical, and I must tell you that we were all extremely impressed by your own incisive grasp of the factors involved. It's that kind of fearless, clear-

headed thinking that renews the faith of all of us old hands in the up-and-coming generation. In the final analysis, it is not too much to say, that your kind of new approach makes all the difference between success and failure in the intensely cut-throat world of business. I am sure that your next employer will appreciate it to the full."



Is it really like that? Well there's one place where it isn't - and that's at Rank Xerox Engineering Group. If you want to know the facts about how one of Britain's top technological companies handles graduate development and the Braithwaites of tomorrow, then phone Roger Walker on Welwyn Garden City 35794. Rank Xerox Engineering Group, Bessemer Rd., Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL7 1HE

In the evenings and at weekends an answering service is available on 0908-312870.

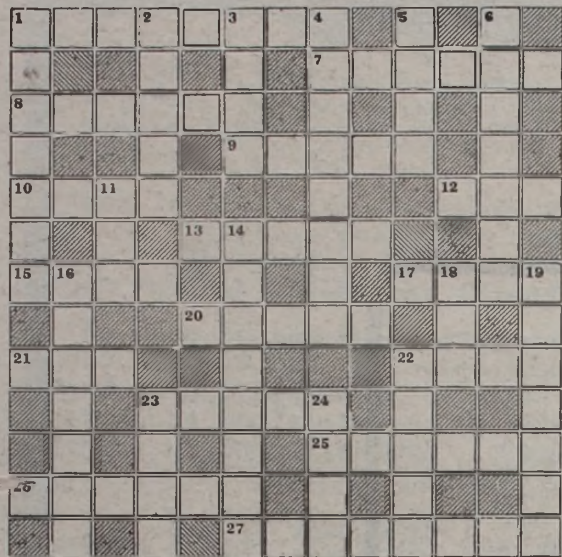
We are looking for physicists, engineers and chemists. All career opportunities at Rank Xerox are open to both men and women.

**RANK XEROX**  
ENGINEERING GROUP



## COURIER CROSSWORD No. 7

by Nick Morgan



## CLUES

## ACROSS

1. Blood-Feud (8)
7. Payment Later (6)
8. Ready for Work (2,4)
9. Decree (5)
10. Every (4)
12. Household Animal (3)
13. Lives in Asia (5)
15. Quality (4)
17. Behind Time (4)
18. Produce (5)
21. Large (3)
22. Latin for 'He Loves' (4)
23. Unoccupied (5)
25. Stop Forcibly (6)
26. Beneficial Liquid (6)
27. French Policeman (8)

## DOWN

1. Vicious (7)
2. End of Life (5)
3. Story (4)
4. Make Active (8)
5. Below Ankles (4)
6. Colouring Matter (7)
11. Trick (3)
14. Reposing (8)
16. Belief (7)
18. Goal (3)
19. Give Claim To (7)
22. Large Artery (5)
23. Prepare (4)
24. Spun Thread (4)

This week's solution see page 11.

## N.F. THREAT

ON Thursday, April 26th, the National Front had five minutes of air-time on all three television channels at 5.55 p.m. At the same time, in ten cities around the country, members of the Anti-Nazi League picketed TV stations in protest.

The arrangements under which the parties are allocated 'election broadcasts' are entirely ad hoc. They are reached by agreement between the broadcasting authorities and the major parties. There is no legal obligations to provide them time at all. All the same, the advertisements of the N.F. have been defended on the grounds that any party must be given time.

## VIOLENCE

Anti-fascists and anti-racists do not agree that the N.F. is 'any party'. The N.F. is committed to the 'repatriation of black people, vast numbers of whom are born and bred in the United Kingdom. Many members have been convicted of violence against black people and socialists, and leaders of the Front have been involved in neo-Nazi activities.

## HITLER WORSHIPPERS

There may be people who believe their public face of respectable racism, but there is ample reason to believe that the Hitler worshippers

have control and they intend to emulate their hero as soon as they get the chance. The ascendancy of the N.F. would herald a vicious assault on black people and other ethnic minorities, trades unionists, socialists and myriad other social groups.

## THUGGERY

The Anti-Nazi League opposes the racist propaganda and thuggery of the N.F. wherever it can by peaceful means. On this occasion they hoped to aid the struggle of the media-workers in the Campaign Against Racism in the Media, and gain time to answer the lies of the Front.

The Newcastle picket, outside the BBC TV station in New Bridge Street, was an amiable affair, about 50 strong. People wandered about selling each other badges, or waved banners and chanted 'No Plugs for Nazi Thugs — We demand the right to reply' at passing buses. After a few minutes a policeman came out from behind the Beeb's glass doors, wandered up to the tallest man present and chatted to him. The police appeared unruffled by a banner pointing the finger at the Special Patrol Group for the killing of Blair Peach at Southall.

It was considered a fairly successful initiative by the people there and highlights the determination of anti-racists and anti-fascists to answer scapegoat politics, particularly from the N.F. even if mistakes or setbacks occur which need to be dealt with, such as the riots which erupted last weekend.

Paul Hubert.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

ADS.: 2p. per word, minimum 10p.

**SIMON DOOKER** — Farewell. Your long and celebrated career as star of Personal Column has finally finished.

**MR. DORMOUSE** — I love you, always — RUFUS.

**NO JOB?** Career opportunities in warmer latitudes. If you are physically fit, over 5' 10" and seeking a secure future, top salary and pension scheme, travel, action and adventure tannoy Mr. Vereker who will be in the Union on Thursday.

**OPERATION TYNE** successful. Home run chaps see you in Rio Andy — JOHN.

THANK to the Level 6 Stotty Bread stealer who ripped off my lunch 25/4/79. hope you choke. — MARCUS (B.S.A.)

6 1 2 9 0 5  
for information or just  
a chal ring  
N...HTLINE

**A.G.M. FELL WALKERS SOCIETY**  
Thursday, May 3rd. Room 27,  
7.30 p.m. All members please  
come and vote or stand for next  
year's Committee.

IN A RUT? The Posers never are!

**UNIVERSITY BABYSITTING SERVICE**  
Anyone requiring a babysitter  
Anyone wishing to babysit (rate  
approx. 60p. per hour)  
See babysitting book at Porter's  
Lodge, Union, and make contact  
with a babysitter near you.

**THE DAILY NEWS SHEET**  
has now begun.  
Every day there will be a list of  
the events happening in the town  
and in the University. Available  
outside the Porter's Lodge. If  
there is anything your society is  
doing that you want to advertise,  
please give in the information  
before 10.00 a.m. of the day  
before you wish the information  
to be published, to Leigh in the  
General Office (Level 6).

(Continued on page 11)

## Country Fare Restaurant

6 BIGG MARKET  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

10% discount off all meals  
7.30 a.m. — 6.30 p.m.  
20% discount off all meals  
value £1 or over between  
6.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.  
on production of Union Card

## CLOUD NINE

Specialists in  
Modern English Ceramics

142, MANOR HOUSE ROAD, JESMOND,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE. Tel.: (0632) 817511  
Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## N.U.S.R.C.

I GIVE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING BYE-ELECTIONS TO  
BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th, 1979 BETWEEN THE  
HOURS OF 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. IN THE UNION  
FOYER.

**President of S.R.C.**  
for 1978/79

(The successful candidate will hold office until July 31st,  
1979 and will NOT be sabbatical, unless an existing  
sabbatical officer stands for this position).

**Deputy President  
of S.R.C.**  
for 1979/80

(The successful candidate will hold office from July 1st, 1979  
to July 31st, 1980 and will be sabbatical).

Nomination papers are available from the Permanent  
Secretary's Office, Level 6, and should be returned no later  
than 10.00 a.m. on Friday, May 4th, 1979.

Hustings (in the case of contested elections) will take place  
at 1.10 p.m. in Mixed Common Room (L6) on Tuesday,  
May 8th, 1979.

DOMINIC PINTO,  
Secretary.

N.U.S.R.C. and  
UNION SOCIETY

**Meetings for the week  
2nd to 9th May, 1979**

WEDNESDAY, 2nd MAY, 1979

S.R.C. Executive Committee at 4.00 p.m. in the Level 6 Com-  
mittee Room.

FRIDAY, 2nd MAY, 1979

UNION SOCIETY Executive at 1.00 p.m. in the Level 6 Com-  
mittee Room.

TUESDAY, 8th MAY, 1979

N.U.S.R.C. Council at 5.15 p.m. in the Debating Chamber.  
N.U.S.R.C. Services Committee at 1.00 p.m. in the Level  
6 Committee Room.

WEDNESDAY, 9th MAY, 1979

S.R.C. Executive Committee at 4.00 p.m. in the Level 6  
Committee Room.

## DEBATES

**"CAPITALISM HAS NOT, CANNOT  
AND WILL NOT DEVELOP THE THIRD  
WORLD"**

Proposed by: A. F. Carter, Leeds University

Seconded by: Peter Burnett, Dept. Politics Newcastle

Opposed by: Prof. Alec Nove, Glasgow University

Seconded by: John Femi-Ola, Dept. Politics Newcastle

FRIDAY, MAY 4th, 7.30 p.m. DEBATING CHAMBER

Come along for some real intellectual stimulation

★ ★ ★

**"WOMEN'S LIBERATION HAS GONE  
TOO FAR"**

THURSDAY, 10th MAY 8.00 p.m. DEBATING CHAMBER

A contentious little number in the middle of women's  
fortnight.

★ ★ ★

**"NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE NECES-  
SARY TO MAINTAIN WORLD PEACE"**

The most significant debate this century.

Not to be taken with a pinch of SALT.

SATURDAY, 12th MAY, 7.30 p.m. DEBATING CHAMBER



## SPORT

## BADMINTON

ONE MINUTE you're up the next you're down (said the actress to the Bishop) and this could well prove to be the case with the mixed 11's and the Men's 1 team in the leagues.

Both teams narrowly lost their last games of the season 6-4. In the case of the mixed 11's the defeat at the hands of Haddon ruins the slight hopes of promotions that there were. For the Men's 1's it means frequent changes of underwear until the final league positions are released because that is how close it is going to be.

This then is the last badminton report for this season as there is no badminton at Eldon Square this term. It only remains for me to say sorry to anybody whom I may have offended throughout the season (I am not really). Maybe the world of English literature and scoop reporting will not drop so low next season when Sheona Norris takes over from me in writing these words of wit (although I can think of a better word that rhymes with wit).

Finally, good luck to all those members leaving this year, especially to Pam Coulthard, Angela Cliff, Neil Clifford, Mohamed Afzal and John Frain if he goes.

## TRAMPOLINING

## NEWCASTLE COLLEGES INDIVIDUAL TRAMPOLINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Championships were held on Saturday, 17th March, 1979, in the Main Gym of Newcastle University's Physical Education Centre. This was the weekend of the terrible snows and despite chaotic transport problems only five competitors failed to turn up.

The competition ran very smoothly with no major judging disagreements. There were two sections: Grade A, with a tariff (degree of difficulty) of 0.8 or greater, and Grade B with a tariff of 0.7 or below. The turnout was a little disappointing in Grade B, but those who competed did very well considering their limited six months trampolining experience. The very high standard in the Grade A section was very encouraging and the medals were keenly fought.

RESULTS:— GRADE A: Gold medal — Ann Monks. Silver medal — Susan Moffat. Bronze medal — Helen Dallas. GRADE B: Gold medal — Gill Davidson. Silver medal — Karen Eyre.

I would like to thank John Hannard, University Trampoline coach, for being superior judge (even at a few hours notice); Shelley, Pat and Georgia for judging and recording and finally Gill Davidson for the sandwiches and drinks. This is the first competition of its kind and I hope it will be repeated in future years.

## FENCING

## BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SPORTS FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Amateur Fencing Association Headquarters in London was the venue for this year's British Universities Fencing Championships. Numerous international fencers contributed to the high standard of the competition. Cambridge, Edinburgh, London and Oxford were the four Universities which dominated the competition. Newcastle figures as the top 'provincial University' there. Overall the Newcastle Men's team gave its best performance ever at this event.

Our epee result was creditable with two quarter-finalists, Anton Pollard and Edward Zakrzewski and a semi-finalist Tim Wilson. Tim had a disappointing competition being the only fencer there who could consistently beat the three medalists, but not get a place in the final.

It was in the foil competition that we had our best results. Anton reached the quarter-finals, Zak the semi-finals and Tim the final. This is the best result at this weapon Newcastle has ever had. Credit once more must go to Tim.

In the sabre championship Anton and Tim both reached the quarter-finals. Regrettably for Zak history repeated itself when victory in his last semi-final fight, which would have taken him into the final, eluded him.

Teams:— Anton Pollard, Tim Wilson, Edward Zakrzewski Sabre/Poll/Epee.

## NORTH-EAST INDIVIDUAL FOIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Newcastle University's strength in the North-East was again exercised in the recent North-East Individual Foil Championship. This was held in Darlington.

Edward Zakrzewski and Tim Wilson were really on form. They remained unbeaten throughout the entire competition until the final. After incurring one defeat each in the final they had to fence against each other for the title. Zak eventually won bringing back the trophy to the University after a three year absence.

To date Newcastle University has won all the senior individual and team championships in the North-East.

## WINTON CUP REPRESENTATIVES

The following fencers qualified to represent their respective section at Loughborough in this Inter-Section Championship:— Anton Pollard — North-East. Tim Wilson — West Scotland. Edward Zakrzewski — North Yorkshire.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Newcastle University will get its chance to make a hat-trick of North-East Championship victories in the North-East Individual and Team Epee Championships on the 20th May. We are the defending champions at this event.

Next weekend a competition is being held for the Newcastle Novices, people with less than three years fencing experience, on Sunday, 6th May. This competition is being put on at the P.E. Centre by the Union building.

Finally, Anton Pollard will be the North East representative in the final series of the National Novice Championship being held at Cardiff on the 12th May.

## SWIMMING

THE B.U.S.F. Swimming and Water-Polo championships at Blackpool's Derby Baths gave the Newcastle team a good excuse for an easier holiday.

The first 3 days were devoted to water-polo. And for the first time for many a long year a Newcastle player made the U.A.U. first team, but this is hardly surprising as the player in question was budding superstar Geoff Hurley.

The U.A.U. first team dominated the earlier rounds of the tournament but inexperience told when they were outwitted in the final match by the more established London University side. Final placings: 1st London. 2nd U.A.U. 1. 3rd N. Ireland. 4th U.A.U. 11.

After an impressive performance during the tournament, Geoff went and got himself selected for the British Squad to compete in the world students games in Mexico this summer, which helped to alleviate the disappointment of losing the championships.

## Seawater and Alcohol

Leaving Geoff in the pub we returned for the swimming. Last year the ladies team lost the B.U.S.F. Championships by 1 point; this year they lost yet again — but by a bit more, finishing in 11th place. Helen Cracknell made 2 finals and the rest of the team made a lot of noise. Led by Captain, Judy Martin, they spent most of the day in the pub, but managed to appear for any event in which Newcastle were represented.

The men's team took the championships more seriously. Russell Greaves narrowly missed the 400m freestyle final by swimming a bit too slowly. The 4 x 100m freestyle relay had high hopes of reaching the final, but these sank rapidly when one of the four found the combination of seawater and alcohol too great an obstacle to surmount. Although the rest of the team didn't do as well, their hearts were in the right place.

Returning to Newcastle for the new term, provided a pool can be found, the visit of Aberdeen and Birmingham for the McLeod-Benefit match on the 20th May is the last chance loyal supporters of the Newcastle team have to see many of these stalwart stars perform in Newcastle colours.

## TENPIN BOWLING

THE ten pin bowling team travelled down to Ilkeston to play in the national quarter finals. Newcastle had gained a very disappointing draw against Liverpool, the three time national champions.

A very noisy and enthusiastic game ensued between the teams with Liverpool finally coming up on top 12 to 4. An excellent effort was put up by the Newcastle Cheapies C team (Spurious Yiggles) who won all their games and took Newcastle's four points. The team consisted of Captain Canada (Pete Shaw), Dave Renshaw, Rob Moore, Warren Hepples and Phil Walker.

## New National High Pin Fall

Though Newcastle were knocked out, it was a very satisfying result. Liverpool bowled a new national high pin fall while Newcastle bowled a season high of over 8,700 pins. This pinfall would have beaten any of the other qualifiers. The four points taken from Liverpool were the most points Liverpool had given up in the past three years to any team.

The true highlight of play came when it was announced that Ian McKee had been chosen for the national team. Ian ended the year with a 182 tournament average and held national high game and series. We all wish Ian the best of luck and good bowling.

New officers for next year's Club were also announced and included: Jill Turner, President elect taking over from John Lewis. Ian McKee, Captain elect taking over from Chris Marks. Pete Shaw (C.C.) Secretary, already installed and elected taking over from Dave Renshaw and Rob Moore our new Treasurer taking over from Jill Turner.

## MOTOR CLUB

Once again at the end of last term the motor club held their twice yearly 12-car rally, which offered a fine opportunity to shorten the life of a motor car. Conditions were extremely treacherous with snow covered roads providing hard driving particularly on the Hexham Moors.

C. Bates/A. Malley (Mini) led from start to finish but were closely followed by J. Wall/G. Lawes (Escort) who at the halfway halt were only two minutes behind the leaders. The only other threat to the leaders were S. Buckley/J. Clark (Imp) who maintained third position throughout.

Three retirements came at the halfway halt which included the only ALL women crew V. Wootton/S. Howes (Fiesta) and also joint favourites A. Deatry/Gill Daglish (Noddy Car) who went out following the departure of the car's steering rack from the body after a dispute with a bank.

## Communication Breakdown

The severe arctic conditions proved a problem on the second half. One stage being cancelled seconds before the cars were due to pass through. However, a communication breakdown led to S. Wilson/A. Thompson (Mini) and R. Whittaker/A. Laing (Renault) attempting the stage, the Mini plunging into a snow bank resulting in extensive damaging, although able to finish.

A steady drive by J. Graham/R. Davies (Mini) gave them 4th place. The other finisher was T. MacPherson/T. Roberts (Fiesta) authors of "How to Approach a Time Control From the Wrong Direction" who really showed they knew their subject.

## ATHLETICS

LAST weekend the University Athletics Club made its first venture down to Durham for the Rowland and Wimpenny meeting.

Although conditions were cold and windy our athletes performed well. In particular Greg Dedes winning the shot and discus, Anne Robinson winning the discus and finishing second in the shot, Bill Foster winning the 800 metres, Lindsay Benjamin coming fourth in the 200 metres and Iain Adams coming third in the 400 metres. These helped the team to finish sixth overall out of the twelve universities.

Next week, we are hosting the UAU championships at Gateshead stadium, where the best university athletes in England and Wales including various international athletes will be competing.

This promises to be a very classy and entertaining meeting and spectators are more than welcome. The meeting starts at six o'clock on Saturday, 5th May for mainly preliminary rounds and heats, and at 11.30 a.m. Sunday, 6th May for a full programme of track and field finals. So be there!

## SOCCER

## NORTHERN COMBINATION LEAGUE CUP FINAL

May 10th at St. James' Park

THIS season the University Soccer Club has had varying success, but the 1st XI has had a great run in the League Cup. Having beaten Rose Villa 6-0 and Ryton 2-0 in preceding rounds, they scored a tremendous 1-0 victory over League and Cup Champions Westschoke in the semi-final.

Now on May 10th they play against High Pit in the cup final at St. James' Park, the home of Newcastle United, kick off 7.30 p.m.

We hope that as many people as possible will come along that evening to lend their vocal support towards a great victory.

Tickets are 20p to stand and 35p for a seat. GET YOURSELVES THERE!

## Solution to Crossword No. 7

Across: 1. Vendetta; 7. Credit; 8. On Call; 9. Edict; 10. Each; 12. Pet; 13. Asian; 15. Tone; 17. Late; 18. Beget; 21. Big; 22. Amat; 23. Empty; 25. Arrest; 26. Lotion; 27. Gendarme; Down: 1. Violent; 2. Death; 3. Story; 4. Acivate; 5. Feet; 6. Pigment; 11. Con; 14. Sleeping; 16. Opinion; 18. Aim; 19. Entitle; 22. Aorta; 23. Edit; 24. Yarn.

N. W. H. Morgan.

## PERSONAL ADS CONTINUED

S.R.S. A.G.M.  
TUESDAY, MAY 15th, 1.00 p.m.  
Venue to be arranged.  
EVERYONE WELCOME

LOOK OUT THE RUTS, the posers are back!!

FELL-WALKERS A.G.M. THURSDAY  
MAY 3rd, Room 27, 7.30 p.m.  
All members please try to attend for election of next year's Committee. Slide show afterwards.

2-3 months posts available in France and Germany as AU PAIRS DURING VACATION

Euro - Personnel

(London)  
Derwent House,  
179 Hempstead Road,  
Watford, Herts.  
Registered Agency, S.A.E. for details.

WANTED — 1/2 tickets for "The Jam" Concert, Sunday, 6th May. Contact — Courier Office.

DON'T FORGET to order your copy of the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette.

TO ALL THOSE in Middlesbrough Cricket Club — many thanks for the pints, lads!

TO JOHN AND JANICE — a definite date. May 10th 7.30 8.00.

## FOOD CO-OP

NOW OPEN  
Committee Room C — Level 5  
Open: Tuesday 12 noon - 2 p.m.  
Friday 12 noon - 2 p.m.  
If there is anything you make or bake, why don't you sell it in the FOOD CO-OP.

TO THE CITY CLEANSING DEPARTMENT — sorry about Newgate Shopping Centre!

## LIVING ROOM

JESMOND: Place available in Flat Q, Easton Hall, Jesmond — until end of term. Contact — Anne Forster at above address or phone Newcastle 657911 after 5.00 p.m.

## Wilson &amp; Young

The new HONDA EXPRESS £189  
Ring us for details  
Seaton Delaval 481657  
Boundary Way,  
Seaton Sluice

## MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Sunday, May 6th

A FUN BUT COMPETITIVE MOTOR CLUB EVENT  
NON MEMBERS WELCOME  
NO ENTRY FEE

PRIZES  
YOU WILL REQUIRE O.S. MAP 88 (Tyneside)  
HALF-WAY HALT AT A PUB  
FOR DETAILS OF START SEE MOTOR CLUB  
NOTICE BOARD IN UNION FOYER



## N.U.S: Slogans and Flour Bombs

"ONE million members—one movement." This was the slogan that hung above the National Union of Students' five-day Conference in Blackpool.

At times one was led to question its validity as the inevitably diverse political lines were taken on every conceivable issue with each political block dutifully voting at the right time. Then this Conference, billed as the most important for years did in fact totally review the National Union of Students' Constitution — interspersed by various angry scenes.

Most notable among these was perhaps a well timed demonstration supposedly against the imposition of quotas on the intake of overseas students. North East London Polytechnic staged this and at one point Trevor Phillips, President of N.U.S. was narrowly missed by a flour bomb. Due to this, the unprecedented event of the adjournment of Conference at 11.30 p.m. took place.

### RAISED TEMPERERS

Temperers were again raised among certain delegates as a guest speaker from the Anti-Nazi League concluded his speech by an attack upon the Conservative party as a racist party. No right of reply was then granted by the Chairman of Conference to the Conservatives present.

The events of Conference were at times incredibly dull yet the consequent effect of this Conference upon the Constitution will be enormous. Cross-campus ballots for the election of all delegates to Conference has now become a recommendation of N.U.S.

The Women's Movement within N.U.S. has been granted the right to have one closed and one open Conference and to exist largely as an autonomous body.

The delegate entitlement of Universities and Polytechnics calculated on their size has been raised in conjunction with the acceptance of part-time students in N.U.S. Constitution.

N.U.S. Conference is a peculiar phenomenon — fifteen hour sessions in Conference Hall followed by four hour drinking sessions tends to produce a strange atmosphere after four days. People seem to exist in a state of suspended animation quite oblivious to the outside world.

With a newly reviewed Constitution and the re-election of Trevor Phillips as President of N.U.S., Alan Christie as Deputy President and Dave Aaronovitch as Secretary one wonders whether this remarkable event will ever really change.

Hilary Newman.

## MEMBERS' BALLS OFF

HEARD the one about the major social event of the year?

Well the ball that nobody was talking about was the Life-Members Ball which was to have been resuscitated, after a five-year coma, in the Civic Centre a week last Saturday.

Two thousand five hundred life-members of the Union were mailed with instructions about a buffet/dance-type Ball, and invited to attend at the give-away price of £3.00.

Who would want to miss such a chance? Well, it seems quite a few did because up until the final date for cancelling the venue, only four applications had been received.

It was claimed, however, that after the cancellation, just before Easter, "A whole mass of applications came

through."

Meanwhile, the Graduation Ball goes ahead on Saturday, 30th June (tickets costing £6/head can be obtained from Union President, Tony Jones, from this moment).

The date has been changed from the Friday, which it was last year, to the Saturday this year, because the large congregations are a day later this year. The fact that the bar extension is until 2.00 a.m. on Saturday makes the day "even more appealing."

The Ball, at the Civic Centre, will include three buffet sittings and diverse entertainments, such as a Steel Band. Courier understands that the pop group, 'Lindisfarne', have also been approached (but they don't take sweeties from strange men).

## REBATE SCANDAL

THE Hall Fees Rebate Scandal (as exclusively reported in "Courier" last term) seems to have drawn to a tame conclusion.

At a meeting, last week, of the Residential Accommodation Committee, it was decided that no rebate at all would be given to the students resident in Castle Leazes Halls of Residence who had protested that they were due for some money in recompense for their loss of heating last term.

To give a rebate, the Committee explained, would mean a major policy change which would then enable them to put surcharges on the fees anytime there were food or wage rises.

A spokesman for the Leazes' Junior Common Room Committees said that they had accepted the R.A.C.'s decision and were not going to take the matter any further, unless specifically requested to by their members.

## BRICKS AND MORTAR

FAST and present election promises of Union expansion may well materialise into bricks and mortar.

Students returning to University in October should find that work has commenced on the conversion of the University Refectory for student occupation.

Recent developments in the continuing negotiations over the expansion of the Union indicate brighter prospects of financial assistance from the University.

Work is expected to commence on the Refectory Level 2 by October, and by the following January, the major conversion work on the present Union building should have started.

For example, outside walls near the Lower Bunroom will have to be demolished as part of the process of connecting the

Refectory and Union building.

So in addition to the now well established "new term, new prices" effect, Union coffee seems likely to assume a somewhat more gritty flavour next year.

But as Loraine Monk, acting President, pointed out, a little inconvenience must be endured for the sake of better facilities in the future.

"I am afraid that students will experience problems with the catering, particularly the hot meals service, and the Union building won't be a very comfortable place, but it's needed, it's been needed for ten years, and when it's completed there will be much improved facilities for all."

John Leonard.

## NEWS BRIEF

### FESTIVAL

Festival fever is already beginning to mount in Newcastle as the 900th anniversary of the city gets nearer.

Included in the plans for the huge festival over the summer months is a large industrial exhibition to be held on the University campus.

The date of the exhibition has not yet been finalised but it will be out of term time, sometime in mid-summer.

The exhibition is to be in two parts:

- (1) — Industry Today — a Trade Fair.
- (2) — Technology Tomorrow — to show how present research in the University departments can help the future of local industry.

The Exhibition is to be held in temporary structures in the car-park in front of the Playhouse Theatre and in the University departments.

### RAG

THE Rag Committee have announced a temporary figure of £7,524 profit for Rag '79,

which is a £1,000 improvement on the amount raised last year. The final figure is expected to be in excess of £8,000 and will be posted up on the Rag board as soon as collection boxes and money from sponsors have been returned.

Rag Treasurer, Suhail Din, although pleased with the results, expressed the Rag Committee's disappointment at the activities of a small minority of people who marred the overall success of the event.

He also hoped that there would be greater participation by students in next year's Rag and better liaison between the Polytechnic and the University.

### LICENSE THREAT

MORE trouble occurred last Friday night in the Refectory when XTC played the Ballroom. The Bamburgh Room was broken into and serious damage done — this despite the presence of twenty U.S.E.C. Stewards — commissioned specifically to maintain order and to protect the building.

Details of how the break-in occurred are vague, but it is known that some spirits and money were stolen from the room close to the Ballroom where the band played.

Licensee Mr. George Elliott, in view of this latest incident, has refused to issue bar licenses for such events in the future where guarantees cannot be given that outsiders will not attend the

concerts.

Now the prospect of live progressive music in the future looks bleak.

Punishment of Luxury and Girls School have already been cancelled and Mr. Elliott is not prepared, as he sees it, to put his head on the chopping block any more by issuing licences which run the risk of being abused.

As well as the robbery, other violence occurred.

A fight between some punks developed on Level 2 while XTC were playing, presumably after an argument over a girl. A glass was thrown and one of those involved received a deep gash in the arm. Windows were broken in the Refectory and the Agric Building.

Steven Swift.

### T.W.A.N.U.S.

THE Tyne and Wear Area National Union of Students has agreed to appoint its first Sabbatical convener as from next year.

T.W.A.N.U.S. covers 19 colleges from Ashington to Durham and it works to develop small college student unions — nine technical colleges in the region do not have functioning unions. Co-ordination and co-operation between Unions is important and T.W.A.N.U.S. works to develop and enhance this co-ordination.

The Area Handbook will cover Newcastle University, Newcastle Polytechnic and Sunderland Polytechnic along with several other technical colleges.

## LOCAL NEWS

### DOUBLE VOTE

A mix-up has led to voters in Amble being instructed to vote twice in the General Election, at two separate polling stations.

Conservatives who are fighting the knife-edge Berwick constituency are warned about the confusion the mix-up may cause.

The situation has arisen because of pressure on officials through the district and Parliamentary elections being held on the same day, said acting returning officer Mr. Alfred Groome.

Voters in Amble have received two polling cards—one telling them to go to the town's old polling station and the other, correct card, directing them to the new one.

Mr. Groome dismissed the suggestion that anyone will be confused.

"We have put a notice in the paper advising people of what has gone wrong and we have gone round the doors telling people. We will have a member of staff at the old polling station redirecting anyone who turns up there," he said.

### WOMAN BURNED

A woman was seriously ill in Newcastle General Hospital after setting herself alight with turpentine.

Two workmen cleaning street lights tried to smother the flames with paper bags as she stepped out of a telephone kiosk where, it is understood, she had tried to contact a social worker.

Then they dashed to their truck for a fire extinguisher. All the time, widow Mrs. Peggy Hastings, of James Street, Seahouses, was screaming.

"She was a human torch. She just stepped out of the phone box and was on fire," said one eyewitness, Mr. John Gregory.

He was in his house at Main Street, North Sunderland, when he saw Mrs. Hastings "burning from head to toe."

"The two light cleaners had gone to help her, and I dashed into my garage for an old rug to smother the flames. By the time I got across the street with it they had quelled the fire," he added.

Northumberland County Council would not confirm that Mrs. Hastings had spoken to a social worker, but said she had contacted the social services department last Friday.

### N.F. BOYCOTT

Television chiefs have scrapped a programme on a constituency election battle because of Labour's boycott of the National Front.

A late night "live" talk show on Tyne Tees Television was to have included all four General Election candidates for Darlington.

But Labour's Ted Fletcher has refused to appear in "Hastings 79" alongside National Front candidate Harold Outhwaite.

Mr. Fletcher's agent, Terry Johnston, said: "Tyne Tees did approach us, but we had to decline because the National Front were invited to appear on the same programme."

The directive was issued by Labour's headquarters in London.

Mr. Outhwaite declined to comment on the Labour Party boycott.

### TEACHING SANCTIONS

Teachers in more than 20 North-East schools imposed sanctions over their 36.5 per cent pay claim.

Co. Durham and North Tyneside were the first to be hit by the National Union of Teachers' action, which may spread to Cleveland this week.

NUT district officer Ian Whittaker warned "The real crunch will come on Monday, when it will affect schools throughout Cumbria, Durham and North Tyneside."

Leaders of Gateshead's 1,400 NUT members yesterday decided to advise teachers to take action from next Friday. But as most schools will be on holiday, the full impact will not be felt until Tuesday, May 8 — by which time every authority in the region will be hit unless settlement is reached in the national pay claim.

The NUT is banning voluntary activities, including collecting dinner money, marking dinner registers, lunchtime supervision, out-of-hours activities, and using private cars for work.

## HALL FEES

MORE problems concerning accommodation at the University have arisen between the Students' Representative Council and the Residential Accommodation Committee.

In a meeting with the R.A.C. last week, S.R.C. Deputy President, Loraine Monk, challenged the Committee on its ruling that those first year students in Halls of Residence would be allowed out of Hall in the opening term, but that those not in their first year at University would be required to stay all year—or else be liable to legal action.

Ms. Monk fought the Committee and fortunately persuaded it to relax its rules.

Those previously committed to spending an entire year in a Hall of Residence will now be allowed to leave in "exceptional circumstances" and if a "suitable" replacement is found.

Ms. Monk criticised the attitude of the R.A.C. as being "like landlord to tenant" and for the lack of genuine concern it sometimes shows towards the problems of students.

S.R.C. is to accept a 13% rise in Hall fees proposed by the University.

The rise corresponds to the increase in the student grant, but the National Union of Students has advised all student unions to fight any rise above 13%.

## GRADUATION BALL

LAST YEAR, THREE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE APPLIED FOR TICKETS AS THE NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE. DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED ..... FRUSTRATED ..... ETC., ENSURE YOUR FAMILY ORDER TICKETS FOR SATURDAY, 30th JUNE, IN WRITING, IMMEDIATELY, FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.