

SHORTS

EXAM DEATH

The pressures of final exams appear to have accounted for the tragic death of Polytechnic student Michael Greenwood, from Blackburn. He fell to his death from a tower block only a few hours before his final exams in Biochemistry were due to start. His friends and tutors were deeply shocked by the news, as Michael was regarded as a 'model' student and was working very hard. There were no suspicious circumstances.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Guild accountant Bill Liddell was in the limelight again a few weeks ago when he appeared for the fifth time on ITV's 'This is Your Life.' This time he was talking about Jimmy Tarbuck, who merited an hour-long programme. They have been friends for many years, Bill being one of Jimmy's all-time favourite players. He played for Liverpool from 1948 until 1962. Jimmy has a favourite 'team' of what he considers to be Liverpool's most exciting ever players, including such famous names as Graeme Souness, Ian Callaghan, Ray Clemence and Chris Lawler, as well as Mr Liddell himself. He enjoyed his fifth appearance on television — the former occasions being for Sir Matt Busby (twice-before and after Munich) Bill Shankley and Bob Paisley. "It's an experience," he said. When does he get a programme for himself?

RETURNING CONTROVERSY

After careful checking of Guild records it has just been discovered that Neil Lewis, the Returning Officer in Guild Elections until a recent Guild Council motion requested his resignation, had not been re-elected for at least five years. This means his term of office ran out three years ago anyway. This has cast renewed doubts on the validity of the recent, and very controversial, sabbatical elections. But what about the previous three?

Clearly, nothing can be done about years gone by, but this year's President-Elect and Deputy President-Elect must be seeing the moment when they can finally get down to sipping their coffee and bouncing around the first floor as ever further and further away. Will this mean a re-election? If so, when? Do you care?

TECHNICAL THEFT

Deputy President Gareth Hughes admitted to being "shocked, shocked!" at the discovery of his ransacked office on Monday. This was no ordinary theft — every last stick of furniture from his office had disappeared and only a few posters remained. Investigations revealed that the culprits were in fact Technical Committee, who had hidden the items in the Guild archives.

Steve Jones of Tech claimed the plot was instigated by the Deputy President Elect, Ms Pam Rowland but this claim was vehemently denied. Mr Hughes now has his furniture restored and has installed a dog patrol around his desk.

J.U.M.PED UP

Pam Rowland, the popular Deputy President-elect, has just been elected by Guild Council to the prestigious Joint Union Management Committee (the Guild moneybags), overwhelmingly defeating all opponents, including Dominic Myers, the blue-eyed boy of the Geography Department and Executive — and Special Constable in the Merseyside police force — who was standing for the third time. Perhaps Dominic's defeat was due to his over-confidence: "As I intend to be on J.U.M. next year ..." But then, who knows: fourth time lucky?

NOT FARING WELL

Welfare and NUS Officer, Wendy Beetlestone is not a well woman. She was taken ill on Sunday 17th April, the day before the start of term, and was taken to the Royal to be operated on. She is now recovering with friends in Heswall. Get well soon, Wendy. We quite like you really.

LABOUR AND LESBIANS DOMINATE EASTER CONFERENCE

by Simon Robinson

The NUS Ordinary Conference held during the Easter vacation at Warwick University was dominated by the election of officers to the Executive and predictably, was a rout by the National Organisation of Labour students. Neil Stewart maintained his position of President, whilst Alan Watson retiring was replaced by Phil Woolas. Vice Presidents for Education and Welfare were filled by Tommy Sheppard and Sara Veale respectively. Jane Taylor, an independent socialist, won the election for National Secretary.

Neil Stewart in his election speech stressed that "It was time for a new politics based on democratic ideas."

The vote was overwhelmingly in his favour, gaining 425 out of 694 votes. The closest election was that for Vice President of Education in which Tommy Sheppard beat Jan Mellor by the skin of his teeth, only six votes.

The only 'new boy' to the full time posts, is Phil Woolas, the new Treasurer. His predecessor Alan Watson was probably the most unpopular of the Exec Committee, since the dispute over his crossing NALGO picket lines to continue work at NUS Offices in Endsleigh Street, London.

The two 'juicy' debates during conference were those on 'Women' and 'Lesbian and Gay Liberation.'

The motion on Women tabled by Manchester University, was passed unanimously, despite a few dissenters who felt it was advocating the break up of the family unit. It now being NUS policy to condemn any form of sexism on any level, and to actively encourage the role of women in all sections of society, particularly that of education. This was manifested when Sara Veale asked that women be co-opted onto the European delegation which had already been decided, this was duly ceded.

The Lesbian and Gay Liberation debate had Liverpool University as being one of the tabled colleges. There was no speech however, by any of the delegation on the issue. NUS policy on this now includes active support for the 'Gay Pride march', the 'London Gay Workshops, Lesbian Line Gay Icebreakers, and GEMME. (Lesbians with disabilities)' Also to strongly protest at the anti-Gay activities of the Police. The debate was similar in nature to that of 'Women' since only a small minority dissented from the progression of gay and lesbian rights and were soon shouted down if they attempted to speak against the current of conference opinion. John Anzani, the member of Executive who had recently

been accused of being a paedophile, paid lip service to the amendment whereby Conference supported an age of consent to protect children from sexual abuse, which was passed, at the same time to a certain degree trying to clear his name.

The Federation of Conservative students, although keeping a low profile at the conference, did manage to get one position on the Exec for Simon Spalding who will be a part time officer. At the Caucus, the Feds had been debating the decision to run candidates for the NUS Executives, some feeling that they would, in a General Election year, do the Conservative party more good by not standing for Exec, and therefore exposing the NUS for being a non-pluralistic organisation, i.e. dominated by labour. However eventually they did agree on entering candidates, but with little joy.

The major NOLS Caucus invited Neil Kinnoch, Shadow Education spokesman, to speak, who apart



Neil Stewart

from being highly entertaining, showed how polished a politician he is, and a good tip is a future leader of the Labour party. He described the buying of Trident I Missiles as 'Putting Star Wars weapons in the hands of those with Crimean Minds!' The SDP

Alliance was scorned as a 'Parasitic Growth on politics, being traitors, tricksters and egotrippers who would discard anyone who didn't serve their purposes!'

The conference ended in controversy. In one election an FCS student had stood on the platform with a 'Hang Nelson Mandela' sticker on his jacket. This enraged a large number of delegates who chanted 'No platform for racists or fascists'. The time lost in the confusion meant that no emergency motions were heard. Whilst genuine, the protest had been self-defeating, in losing valuable conference time.

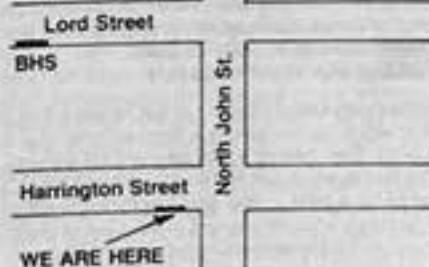
This was the first time an NUS conference had been held at a University venue, and although a little more claustrophobic than the Winter Gardens in Margate, was a resounding success, both administratively and financially, saving thousands of pounds of students' money, and therefore must set a precedent for further conferences.

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